

ANGLERS' HANDBOOK

and 2018 Summary of Regulations





Conservation Officers have authority to carry side arms, make arrests, and lay charges. They can also seize vehicles, equipment, weapons, and illegal fish & game.

We are Conservation Officers—Nova Scotia's game wardens. Here to protect you, and your natural resources.

Call 1-800-565-2224 to report illegal activity novascotia.ca/nse/conservation-enforcement



Table of Contents

Minister's Message	2
New for 2018	3
Catch and Release	4
Special Management Areas	5
Proposed Changes for 2019	6
Seasons, Bag Limits, and Size Limits	7
General Regulations	9
Licences	11
Nova Scotia Recreational Fishing Areas Map	12-13
Recreational Fishing Area 1	18
Recreational Fishing Area 2	24
Recreational Fishing Area 3	28
Recreational Fishing Area 4	32
Recreational Fishing Area 5	40
Recreational Fishing Area 6	44
Winter Fishing Opportunities in Nova Scotia	48
The Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative	51
Inland Fisheries Division Activities	53
Tagged Fish	58
Definitions	59

Please Take Note

This is a summary prepared for the information and convenience of the anglers of Nova Scotia. Consult the Wildlife Act, the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, and the Federal Fisheries Act and regulations when interpreting and applying the law. These regulations can change at any time.





ON THE COVER: Photo by: Matt Dort

Message from Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture



Sportfishing in Nova Scotia generates more than \$58 million each year. As an angler myself, I'm committed to seeing this industry grow to its full potential. This helps create prosperous rural communities.

Fishing is a healthy outdoor experience that can be enjoyed by anyone – 67,000 anglers in 2017. Strong demand for fishing licences continues, up 12 per cent over just two years. Most of our anglers are residents, and many of those are seniors.

New efforts are being made to attract anglers from the rest of Canada and abroad. Our intention is that visitors will enjoy sportfishing as much as we do. At the same time, we are recruiting more children with Learn to Fish and encouraging women

to participate more through Becoming an Outdoors Woman.

A clear vision for sustainability is a key for managing both resources and growth. We are listening to anglers, who tell us that conservation is paramount. Anglers are helping protect the fishery for future generations by voluntarily practicing catch-and-release and by limiting their harvest. Through their contributions to the Sportfish Habitat Fund, anglers have restored over one million square meters of fish habitat and supported worthy projects such as adding lime to the West River Sheet Harbour.

We are bringing in some licencing changes after listening to angling organizations. We heard that different types of fishing licences are needed. A new licence for 16 and 17-year olds will build interest in sportfishing. This free licence removes financial barriers for youth, while teaching the responsibility to follow regulations. Resident and non-resident anglers can now purchase a one-day salmon fishing licence. We have also removed the requirement for possessing a salmon tag since catch-and-release is now mandatory for Atlantic salmon. We have also adopted the definition of disability to align with the new *Accessibility Act* to better provide services for anglers with permanent disabilities.

This year we celebrate the 90th year of operation for the Frasers Mills Fish Hatchery commissioned in 1928. One of three provincial fish hatcheries, each year Frasers Mills raises over one million speckled trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon which are stocked in over 200 lakes and streams across Nova Scotia.

Please introduce a friend, family or visitor to the excitement of sportfishing. We offer free sportfishing weekends that do not require a licence. Mark your calendars for June 2 to 3, 2018 and February 16 to 18, 2019.

As a final and important note, let us all put safety first while we are on the water.

New for 2018_

Please review each Recreational Fishing Area (RFA) for a complete description of the following changes or additions for the 2018 season.

Location, County	Changes or additions		
St. Marys River, Guysborough Co.	Reduced bag limit for trout. Bag limit three (3) trout of which only 1 may exceed 35cm (13.8 in.)		
Wallace River, Cumberland Co.	Reduced bag limit for trout. Bag limit three (3) trout of which only 1 may exceed 35cm (13.8 in.)		
Maccan River, Cumberland Co.	Changed bag limit for trout. Bag limit three (3) trout of which only 1 may exceed 35cm (13.8 in.)		
River Philip, Cumberland Co.	Changed bag limit for trout. Bag limit three (3) trout of which only 1 may exceed 35cm (13.8 in.)		
St. Francis Harbour River, Guysborough Co.	Reduced bag limit for trout. Bag limit one (1) trout which must exceed 35cm (13.8 in.). Oct 1 to Oct 31, brown trout, catch and release only, bag limit one (1) rainbow trout, which must be greater than 35cm (13.8 in.)		
West River, Antigonish Co.	Reduced bag limit for rainbow trout in September. Bag limit one (1) rainbow trout which must exceed 35cm (13.8 in.)		
Micmac Lake, Halifax Co.	Extended season for smallmouth bass. Apr 1 to Dec 31		
Banook Lake, Halifax Co.	Extended season for smallmouth bass. Apr 1 to Dec 31		
Like Milo, Yarmouth Co.	Extended season for smallmouth bass. Apr 1 to Dec 31		
Middle Lake, Yarmouth Co.	Extended season for smallmouth bass. Apr 1 to Dec 31		
Doctors Lake, Yarmouth Co.	Extended season for smallmouth bass. Apr 1 to Dec 31		
Raynard's Lake, Yarmouth Co.	Extended season for smallmouth bass. Apr 1 to Dec 31		
Wentworth Lake, Digby Co.	Extended season for smallmouth bass. Apr 1 to Dec 31		
Gaspereau Lake, Kings Co.	Extended season for smallmouth bass. Apr 1 to Dec 31		
All Counties	Bag limit for chain pickerel increased to 100 chain pickerel per day		

CATCH & RELEASE



Conservation minded anglers are becoming more aware of the increased pressures and stress on Nova Scotia's fisheries resources. Studies have shown that adopting proper catch and release techniques, and careful handling helps to ensure fish health and survival.

- Using artificial flies and lures increases the chances of survival. Live bait is often swallowed deeply which increases the risk of injury to the fish. Cut the line if a hook is swallowed deeply, the fish will work the hook out with time.
- 2) Using circle hooks or barbless hooks can reduce harm to released fish.
- Do not play a fish until exhaustion. Use equipment heavy enough to play a fish rapidly.
- 4) Keep air exposure to a minimum. Avoid beaching a fish as this will remove the protective slime and can lead to infection later.
- 5) Do not lift the fish out of the water by the tail. This can damage the spine of the fish.
- Avoid squeezing the fish between the pectoral (chest) fins, this is where the heart is situated.
- 7) Do not touch the gills and avoid placing fingers under the gill plate.
- 8) Take the time to revive the fish. Support the fish by placing a hand under the belly and keep the fish underwater. If in moving water, face the fish into the current while continuing to support it. Keep a relaxed grip on the tail and when it is ready, the fish will swim away.

Special Management Areas

Special Management Areas have been used to reduce harvest and improve angling opportunities for both smallmouth bass and trout. Anglers have reported that some speckled trout fisheries have changed and overfishing is one of the factors believed to be responsible for declines in fisheries in some areas. Other important factors include habitat loss and competition with aquatic invasive species such as smallmouth bass and chain pickerel.

Studies in Nova Scotia and in other provinces and states indicate that special management regulations have been successful in improving recreational fisheries by increasing the number of larger fish caught by anglers. Since the establishment of the Special Management Area initiative, provincial catches, catch and releases, and licence sales have increased. Regulations in Special Management Areas may affect bag limit, season length, length limit of fish retained, and gear type. Popular

sea run trout fisheries seem to benefit most from changes in regulations and the need for a consistent approach in regulation design has been requested by anglers. In response, the Inland Fisheries Division has implemented some changes to sea run trout fisheries that are currently under special management.

Anglers have identified potential locations for Special Management Areas through the Recreational Fishery Advisory Council process. Anglers who are interested in regulation changes or other issues related to management of fisheries are encouraged to participate in the Recreational Fishing Advisory Councils.

For additional information, please review the Trout Management Plan and additional reports and publications available on our website www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing or by contacting the Inland Fisheries Division, (902) 485-5056



NOVA SCOTIA SALMON ASSOCIATION

Regional Council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association acts on behalf of Atlantic salmon and trout in advocating conservation and wise management.

The Association is supported by individual memberships and affiliate associations. Together, our collective conservation efforts have been invaluable in promoting public awareness, education, and river habitat restoration.

2018 marks the 20th Anniversary of the NSSA's management of the NSLC Adopt A Stream program! The program is delivered on behalf of the recreational angling community and conservation groups across the province. To learn more visit www.adoptastream.ca.

For more information about the NSSA, the activities of our affiliates, to become a member or to donate to the Nova Scotia Salmon Association please contact us.

PO Box 396 Chester NS B0J1J0 Email: nssasalmon@gmail.com

Visit www.nssalmon.ca

Proposed Changes for 2019 _____

The following regulation changes are being considered for the next season. Several were initiated by anglers and sportfishing organizations through the Recreational Fishing Advisory Councils (RFACs).

Location	Proposed changes		
North River, Victoria Co.	Change bag limit for trout. Bag limit three (3) trout of which only 1 may exceed 35cm (13.8 in.)		
Trout Brook, Inverness Co.	Change bag limit for trout. Bag limit three (3) trout of which only 1 may exceed 35cm (13.8 in.)		
St. Marys River, Guysborough Co.	Extending the downstream boundary of the Special Trout Management Area to the government wharf at Sonora.		
South River, Antigonish Co.	Change bag limit for trout. Bag limit three (3) trout of which only 1 may exceed 35cm (13.8 in.)		
Lakes in RFA 3, 4 and 5	Additional lakes will be reviewed for extended smallmouth bass seasons (Apr 1 - Dec 31)		

If you are interested in any of the above listed areas or have others that you believe would benefit from regulation changes, please contact the Inland Fisheries Division to find out about the next Recreational Fisheries Advisory Council meeting in your area. The purpose of the RFAC is to advise the public of fisheries management issues. Contact the Inland Fisheries Division, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, PO Box 700, Pictou, Nova Scotia, BOK 1H0, phone (902) 485-5056, email inland@novascotia.ca or visit our website: www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing



Ken with an Atlantic salmon

Seasons, Bag Limits, and Size Limits

For all species, the possession limit is the same as the bag limit, regardless of the number of days of fishing. The daily bag limits apply in the aggregate. This means that the number of fish that may be retained in any one day applies regardless of the number of areas fished. Caught and released fish are not considered as part of the bag limit, except for Atlantic Salmon. All season dates are inclusive.

SPECKLED (BROOK) TROUT, BROWN TROUT, LAKE (GREY) TROUT AND RAINBOW TROUT

Season: Apr 1 to Sep 30

Sep 1 to Sep 30, No speckled trout may be retained.

Bag limit: 5 fish, of any one species or any combination of trout species. Note: Lake (grey) trout are found in Sherbrooke Lake, Lunenburg County and Dollar Lake, Halifax County. Trout found in other lakes are normally speckled (brook) trout.

EXCEPTIONS:

Specific bag limits, size limits, gear restrictions, and seasons are in effect on several waters that are listed in each Recreational Fishing Area. From Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained, and the use of natural bait is prohibited for all trout species in all waters, including Special Management Areas, exceptions are listed under Recreational Fishing Areas.

SMALLMOUTH (BLACK) BASS

Season: Apr 1 to Oct 31, except for Special Bass Management Areas, Extended Seasons and selected waters in RFA 2.

Bag limit: 3 fish in Special Bass Management Areas. A maximum length limit of 35cm (13.8 in).

Bag limit: 5 fish in RFAs 3, 4, and Kings and Annapolis Counties of RFA 5.

Bag limit: 25 fish in selected waters of RFAs 1, 2, 6, and Hants County of RFA 5.

LANDLOCKED SALMON CLOSED ALL YEAR.

Except for the following waters and dates: **Apr 15 to Sep 30,** Gabarus Lake, Cape Breton County.

OPEN ALL YEAR, Goose Harbour Lake, Guysborough County.

Apr 1 to Sep 30, Lake Charles, Lake Williams, Lake Thomas, Fletchers Lake, Shubenacadie Grand Lake, Little Grand Lake, Scraggy Lake, Lake Charlotte. Halifax County.

Bag limit: 2 fish. Minimum size limit, not less than 35 cm (13.8 in.), measured from the end of the nose to the fork of the tail (see diagram page 56). All salmon over 63 cm (24.8 in.) must be released. It is no longer required to tag landlocked salmon between 48cm and 63cm

WHITE PERCH, YELLOW PERCH, BROWN BULLHEAD, AND WHITE SUCKER.

Open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout, or smallmouth bass. Extended seasons specific to perch are listed in each Recreational Fishing Area.

Bag limit: 25 fish.

CHAIN PICKEREL

Open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout or smallmouth bass. Extended seasons specific to pickerel are listed in each Recreational Fishing Area.

Bag limit: 100 fish

LAKE WHITEFISH

The open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout, or smallmouth bass. **Baq limit: 8 fish.**

PRIVATE PONDS AND U-FISH OPERATIONS

There are no bag limits, season restrictions, gear or size regulations for fish caught in a legally constructed private pond or a licenced commercial U-fish operation; however, a receipt from the pond operator is required during transportation and storage of the fish.

ENFORCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The management of sea going (anadromous) Atlantic salmon, striped bass, eel, shad, sturgeon, gaspereau, Atlantic whitefish and smelt is the responsibility of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture manages all other freshwater fish species. Enforcement of sportfishing and salmon fishing regulations falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Nova Scotia Environment. (see page 12).

ATLANTIC SALMON

The Summary of Salmon Fishing Regulations is available upon request or with the purchase of an Atlantic salmon licence. For changes to angling seasons, please contact the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) at (902) 221-7264.

STRIPED BASS Gulf Region

The tidal and non-tidal waters of the Northumberland Strait from the New Brunswick border to Cape North.

At the time this handbook was printed, information on management measures and seasons for Southern Gulf Striped bass was not available. Please consult the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Gulf Region's Internet page for details about Striped bass regulations at www.inter.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/FAM/Recreational-Fisheries or search by keywords: "DFO Gulf Region recreational fisheries".

Maritimes Region

The inland and coastal waters of Nova Scotia, from Cape North Maritimes Region along the Atlantic coast and the waters of the Bay of Fundy, to the New Brunswick border. **Bag limit: 1 fish,** with a minimum size limit, not less than 68 cm (26.8 inches) overall length, measured from the tip of nose to the tip of tail. Tidal waters open all year, except closed Apr 1 to Jun 30 on the Annapolis River from Hebbs Landing near the confluence of Ray Brook (grid reference 0313214 4964708, map 21A/14) upstream to the highway bridge at Lawrencetown.. The open season for striped bass in inland waters corresponds to the open season for sportfish (salmon, trout, and smallmouth bass) in those waters.

From May 10 to Jun 10, the daily fishing quota for striped bass in the waters of Grand Lake and the Shubenacadie River downstream to its confluence with the Stewiacke River, and the Stewiacke River downstream from the highway bridge (Pollock Bridge) in Stewiacke East to its confluence with the Shubenacadie River, will be zero (0) fish per day (hook and release only).

From May 10 to Jun 10, only artificial fly, and unbaited lure with a single hook may be used when angling in the waters of the Shubenacadie River downstream from the CN Railway Bridge at East Milford to its confluence with the Stewiacke River, and Stewiacke River downstream from the highway bridge (Pollock Bridge) in Stewiacke East to its confluence with the Shubenacadie River.

SHAD

No closed season in tidal waters. For inland (non-tidal) waters, the open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout, or smallmouth bass. **Bag limit: 5 fish.**

GASPEREAU

No closed season in tidal waters. For inland (non-tidal) waters, the open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout, or smallmouth bass. Bag limit applies to netting and angling. For dip netting, no license is required, but yearly and weekly times apply. **Bag limit: 20 fish.**

SMELT

Except in waters closed to angling for all fish species, tidal waters are open Aug 1 to May 31 (closed Jun 1 to Jul 31).

Kennetcook River, Meander River, Herbert River, St. Croix River and Avon River, Hants County, dip netting permitted Apr 1 to Jun 15 except closed Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Other areas, dip-netting permitted Apr 1 to Jun 15 except closed Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. **Bag limit: 60** maximum possession, not more than 30 of which may be harvested by dip net.

Grand Lake, Halifax County, open Jan 1 to Sep 30, bag limit reduced to 24 smelt by angling.

EEL

No closed season in tidal waters. For inland (non-tidal) waters, the open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout, or smallmouth bass. The waters along the Northumberland Strait and Gulf of St. Lawrence from the New Brunswick border to Cape North, minimum size limit, not less than 53 cm (21 in) measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. The inland and coastal waters of Nova Scotia, from Cape North along the Atlantic coast and the waters

of the Bay of Fundy, to the New Brunswick border, minimum size limit, not less that 35 cm (13.8 in) measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. Bag limit: 10 fish.

NOTE:

Special provisions and winter seasons may be in place for trout, white perch, yellow perch and chain pickerel in selected waters. Consult each Recreational Fishing Area for expanded angling opportunities for some of these species. The Datum type used for grid references to identify boundaries for specific fishing areas is NAD 27.

Inland waters: The boundary between inland and tidal waters is defined under Schedule II of the Maritime Provinces Fishery Regulations. A list of the inland water boundaries for the major rivers in Nova Scotia can be found at www. novascotia.ca/fish/. For the locations of other inland water boundaries not on the list, please consult the local office of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

General Regulations

GUIDES

Non-residents do not need a guide to fish in Nova Scotia. For a list of guides, visit our website: www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing

FISHING METHODS AND EQUIPMENT No one is allowed to:

- possess fish that were caught by any person
 while fishing for recreational purposes or
 sport purposes and that have been skinned,
 cut, packed or otherwise dealt with in such
 a manner that (1) the species cannot be
 readily determined; (b) the number of fish
 cannot be readily determined; (c) where
 weight is used to determine catch limits,
 the weight of the fish cannot be readily
 determined; and (d) where size limits are
- applicable, the size of the fish cannot be readily determined.
- possess live fish of any species except under circumstances outlined in the Live Fish Possession Regulations http://www.novascotia.ca/JUST/ Regulations/regs/fcrlivefish.htm.
- use an artificial light or flame of any kind (including light emitting lures), for fishing in non-tidal waters, or while fishing for salmon in tidal waters.
- use a set-line or trawl for fishing in non-tidal waters.

- fish in non-tidal waters by jigging, snaring, spearing, or using a bow and arrow, or assist in landing any fish caught by such means.
- use dynamite or any other explosive for fishing or destroying fish, or use anything that might cause unnecessary destruction of fish.
- use a gaff of any kind to land a sportfish caught by angling.
- angle for Atlantic salmon except with a single barbless artificial fly.
- angle in non-tidal waters with more than 1 fishing line or with a fishing line having more than 3 separate hooks.
- angle in tidal waters for sportfish with more than 1 fishing line or with a fishing line to which more than 3 hooks are attached.
- angle in tidal waters for non-sportfish with more than 5 fishing lines or with a fishing line to which more than 6 hooks are attached.
- keep any sportfish if it is hooked in any part
 of the body other than the mouth. The fish
 shall immediately be returned alive to the
 water from which it was taken.
- angle in non-tidal waters unless an open season for sportfish is in effect in those waters
- angle for sportfish during that part of the day beginning 2 hours after sunset and ending 2 hours before sunrise. This does not apply when angling for smallmouth bass or brown trout during any of the night fishing seasons listed for each Recreational Fishing Area.
- fish with an artificial fly that has more than 2 hooks
- fish for, kill, or retain any spent or slink salmon or salmon fry, parr, or smolt (see drawings page 39).
- fish within 23 m (26 yds) downstream of any fish ladder.

ACCESS TO WATER

Certain rights and responsibilities of anglers and protections for landowners are provided in the Analina Act. Any resident of the Province has the right to go on foot along the banks of any river, stream or lake, upon and across any uncultivated lands and Crown lands for the purpose of lawfully fishing with rod and line in such rivers, streams or lakes, Uncultivated land means land that is in its natural wild state. and includes also land that has been wholly or partially cleared, but is otherwise in its natural state. The rights of anglers under the Act therefore does not extend to cultivated land **such as farmland.** The rights of anglers under the Act also does not in any way limit or restrict the right of any owner or occupant of land to compensation for actual damages caused by any person going upon or across such lands for the purpose of angling and shall not be construed to give the right to build any fires upon such lands.

SPECIAL NOTES

No one is allowed to fish within the posted boundaries of a licenced aquaculture site or a privately owned fish pond without permission of the owner. Angling is not permitted in many municipal watersheds or water supply areas. Please check with your local municipal authority before venturing into these areas.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Any fish taken by recreational fishing is for domestic use only and may not be sold or hartered
- No person who is fishing for personal use or sport purposes may waste any fish that is suitable for human consumption.

Licences

You are required to purchase a general fishing licence or a salmon fishing licence to angle in the waters of Nova Scotia, with the following exceptions:

If you are required to possess a licence, you must carry it with you while fishing.

- No licence is required to angle in tidal waters; however, seasons and bag limits are still in effect. (See details for each Recreational Fishing Area, and Seasons, Bag Limits, and Size Limits (pages 7-9), for more information.) The boundaries of tidal waters are defined by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and are listed on the Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture website. Check each Recreational Fishing Area for tidal water closures.
- No licence is required to fish in legally constructed private ponds or U-fish operations (commercially licenced aquaculture operations), nor do seasons or bag limits apply. Permission to fish must be obtained from the owner.
- Residents 65 years of age and older may purchase a General Fishing Licence at a reduced rate.
- Residents and non-residents under the age of 16 years do not require a licence.
- Residents and non-residents with permanent disabilities may qualify for a General Fishing Licence at no cost which is available from Department of Natural Resources offices.

- No licence is required for recreational dip-netting of smelt or gaspereau. Seasons and bag limits are still in effect.
- Lost licences can be replaced at your local Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources office.
 2018 fishing licences are valid from the date of issue to March 31, 2019.
- A provincial fishing licence is not valid in a national park. A special licence may be required. Check with a federal park warden or contact one of the national parks listed on page 12 and 13.
- It is an offence not to have your signature and address on a licence.

NEW FOR 2018

Residents and non-residents age 16 and 17 years are eligible for a general or salmon fishing licence at no cost.

Non-residents have the option of purchasing multiple one-day or seven-day fishing licences as long as dates don't overlap. The price of the non-resident full season general fishing licence has been reduced and the non-resident general seven-day licence is no longer available. See vendors for details on licence prices.

Licence Stubs

You are required by law to return your completed licence stub at the end of the fishing season. The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture relies upon anglers to provide the information needed to manage fish populations.

The information on the licence stubs is used to indicate overall trends in fish catches around the province. It is important that you send in your licence stub even if you did not fish, so that we can get an accurate picture of the status of sportfish catches.

Nova Scotia Recreational Fishing Areas

To allow management on a regional basis, the province is divided into six Recreational Fishing Areas (RFA's). Each RFA has a Recreational Fisheries Advisory Council that is open to the public and consists of anglers and volunteer sportfishing organizations with participation from other government agencies. The Inland Fisheries Division meets annually in each RFA to present research and discuss and develop regulations, enhancement opportunities and other sportfishing initiatives.

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Inland Fisheries Division (Provincial)

PO Box 700. Pictou. NS B0K 1H0 Phone: (902) 485-5056. Fax: (902) 485-4014

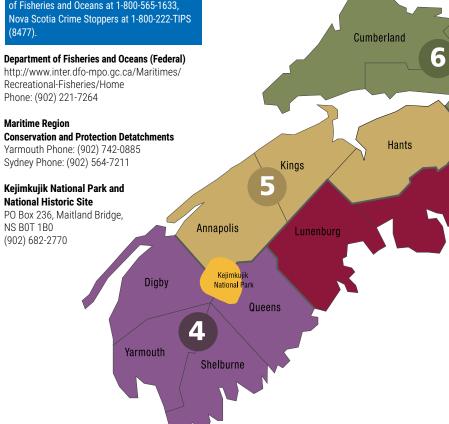
www.novascotia.ca/fish/ E-mail: inland@novascotia.ca

Report illegal fishing activities to Nova Scotia Environment at 1-800-565-2224, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans at 1-800-565-1633. Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Department of Environment (Head Office)

Barrington Tower 1894 Barrington Street Suite 1800 PO Box 442 Halifax NS B3.J 2P8 Phone: (902) 424-3600

Fax: (Main) (902) 424-0501



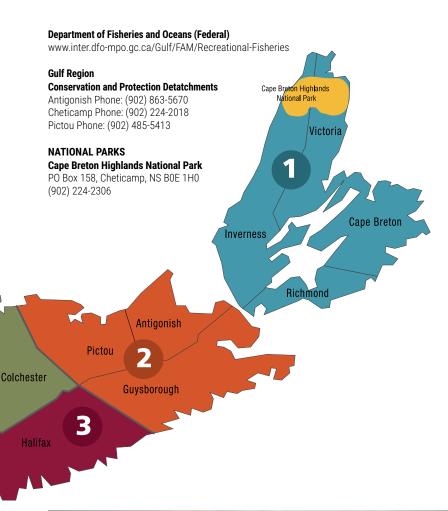




Photo: Andrew Lowles

SPECIES PROFILE BROWN TROUT (SALMO TRUTTA)



Habitat: Brown trout are native to Europe and Western Asia. Their range spread throughout the world by human introduction in the late 19th century, and they are now well established in several Nova Scotia watersheds. Brown trout prefer cool clear rivers and lakes with covered areas where they can take shelter. They can tolerate slightly higher temperatures than native trout species, and often take advantage of lower reaches of rivers and streams.

Diet: Brown trout are opportunistic feeders that eat insect, and larger prey such as worms, crustaceans, fish, salamanders, frogs and mice as their size increases.

Description: Brown trout get their name from the brown or golden-brown hue to their bodies. They can closely resemble Atlantic salmon, but key differences in their appearance can be found on page 27. Helpful hints to identify brown trout include:

- · Their sides are silvery or golden-brown, and bellies are white or yellowish.
- Dark spots, sometimes encircled by a pale halo, are plentiful on the back and sides.
 Spotting can also be found on the head and fins along the back, and rusty-red spots on the sides.
- The large adipose fin in front of the tail has a reddish hue.
- Sea-run brown trout have a more silvery colouration and the spotting is less visible.

Spawning and Growth: Brown trout return to the stream where they were born to spawn in late fall. The female digs a nest (redd) in the gravel and lays eggs, which are fertilized and covered over the winter months. The young trout (fry) emerge in the spring and begin taking natural food. Brown trout fry are aggressive and establish territories in quiet pools or shallow, soft flowing waters soon after they emerge. As brown trout age, they move to cobble and riffle areas, and eventually deeper pools. Adult brown trout live longer and grow larger than native speckled trout, making them a popular sportfish.

Sea Trout: Although genetically the same, some populations of brown trout migrate to sea, where they may spend several growing seasons feeding in coastal waters.

Fishing facts: Brown trout can be caught with a variety of equipment including lures and streamer-type flies. Night fishing opportunities for brown trout in select areas or rivers provide extra fishing time for adventurous anglers.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

Mercury

Traces of mercury have been detected in certain species of freshwater fish. The Nova Scotia departments of Health and Wellness, Environment, and Fisheries and Aquaculture advise people to limit consumption of these freshwater fish:

- · Brook trout
- Smallmouth bass
- White perch
- Yellow perch
- · Chain pickerel

If you frequently eat fish (more than four meals/month), you are advised to choose smaller size fish and fish such as brook and rainbow trout more often than other species in the list above.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (Pcbs)

Scientific research suggests that over a number of years, eating a steady diet of contaminated fish may be harmful to human health. Trout caught in two lakes in Nova Scotia showed levels of PCBs that are above the acceptable guidelines established by Health Canada.

As a precaution, we advise the public not to eat fish taken from Five Island Lake and Sheldrake Lake. Catch and release regulations are in place for Five Island Lake and Sheldrake Lake, and other lakes in this area (see Recreational Fishing Area 3).

The full advisory is available at novascotia.ca/nse.

The advisory may be revised as new or additional data becomes available.

For further information, contact the Nova Scotia Department of Environment at 1-800-565-3611.





Photo: George Taylor



Cape Breton, Inverness, Richmond and Victoria Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 1

SEASONS

SPECKLED (BROOK) TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Tidal Waters - Apr 15 to Sep 30.
Inland Waters and the Bras d'Or Lake -

Apr 1 to Sep 30 except the waters referred to in the listings below.

From Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas except the Cape Breton Highlands Management Area and those waters with extended seasons for trout. The use of natural bait is permitted year round in Bras d'Or Lakes.

NOTE: The following regulations **do not apply** to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive.

CAPE BRETON COUNTY

The following waters are open Apr 15 to Sep 30. Belfry Lake.

Catalone River, downstream from the outlet of Belle Lake, including **Catalone Lake**.

Gabarus Lake.

Gaspereau River, downstream from the outlet of Gaspereau Lake.

Gerratt Brook, downstream from the outlet of Kelly Lake.

Lorraine Brook, downstream from the outlet of MacVickers Lake.

Mira River, downstream from the highway bridge at Victoria Bridge.

Salmon River, downstream from the stillwater at Silver Mine.

INVERNESS COUNTY

The following waters are open **Apr 15 to Sep 30**. **Margaree River**, downstream from the highway bridges at East Margaree.

Southwest Margaree River, downstream from the Scotsville bridge to the bridge at Margaree Forks

Northeast Margaree River, (see Special Trout Management Area page 19).

Skye River, downstream from the lower East Skye Glen Bridge to the Highway 105 Bridge.

RICHMOND COUNTY

The following waters are open Apr 15 to Sep 30. Framboise River, including Middle River Framboise, Northeast Framboise River, and Bagnells River.

Grand River, downstream from the highway bridge at the head of Loch Lomond. **L'Archevegue Lake**.

Marie Joseph Brook, downstream from the outlet of Upper Marie Joseph Lake.
River Inhabitants, downstream from the Highway 105 bridge at Kingsville.
River Tillard, downstream from the bridge at Sporting Mountain.

Rory's Pond. St. Esprit Lake.

VICTORIA COUNTY

Ingonish River, downstream to the Cabot Trail Highway bridge, including tributaries, Apr 15 to Sep 30.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND SPECKLED TROUT

OPEN ALL YEAR. The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31.

Petite Lac, Inverness County.

Levers Lake, # 20 Dam Pond, Cape Breton County.

Eco-Trail Pond, Isle Madame, Richmond County. **Dalem (Round) Lake**, Victoria County.

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

MARGAREE RIVER, INVERNESS COUNTY

Upstream from the highway bridges at East Margaree to the bridges at Big Intervale on the Northeast Margaree and to the bridge at Margaree Forks on the Southwest Margaree including the Gallant River upstream from its confluence with the Margaree River to the highway bridge on the East Margaree Road.

Jun 1 to the end of all fishing seasons: artificial fly only. During the artificial fly season, angling is only permitted between the hours of 6 am and 10 pm for all species.

Apr 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one may be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released. Bag limit three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one may be over 35 cm (13.8 in).

Northeast Margaree River, upstream from the bridges at Big Intervale. CLOSED ALL YEAR.

LAKE O'LAW BROOK, INVERNESS COUNTY

Upstream from its confluence with the Northeast Margaree River to the outlet of First Lake O'Law. Apr 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one may be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released. Bag limit three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one may be over 35 cm (13.8 in), natural bait prohibited

RIVER DENYS, INVERNESS COUNTY

Including tributaries, **Denys Basin and Indian Pond**, downstream to a line drawn true north from Martin Point on the western end of Boom Island to grid reference 653148 5084898 on the opposite shore across the Boom Channel.

May 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one may be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one may be over 35 cm (13.8 in), natural bait prohibited.

TROUT BROOK, INVERNESS COUNTY

From a point 96 m upstream from the Highway 395 Bridge to a point 137 m downstream from the same bridge lying between two markers set 45m apart in Lake Ainslie.

Apr 1 to Sep 30, artificial fly only.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit five (5) brown or rainbow trout. Upstream waters including tributaries, CLOSED ALL YEAR.

GRAND RIVER, RICHMOND COUNTY

From the highway bridge at the community of Grand River, upstream to the highway bridge at the head of Loch Lomond (including **Black River Pond**), not including tributaries.

Apr 15 to May 31, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited,

Jun 1 to Sep 30, artificial fly only.

Apr 15 to Aug 31, Bag limit one (1) trout total length 35 cm (13.8 in) or longer.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released. Bag limit one (1) brown or rainbow trout, only one may be over 35 cm (13.8 in).

Downstream from the highway bridge at Grand River to a line drawn between Red Head (grid reference 684988 5052445) and Black Point (grid reference 687315 5053249),

Apr 15 to Aug 31, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited. Bag limit one (1) trout total length 35 cm (13.8 in) or longer.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released. Bag limit one (1) brown or rainbow trout, only one may be over 35 cm (13.8 in), single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

NORTH ASPY RIVER, VICTORIA COUNTY

Upstream from the Bay St. Lawrence Highway bridge to the Cape Breton Highlands Park boundary. Apr 15 to May 31, bag limit five (5) trout.

Jun 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one may be over 35 cm (13.8 in) single hook lure or artificial fly only, natural bait is prohibited.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one may be over 35 cm (13.8 in), single hook lure or artificial fly only, natural bait is prohibited.

BADDECK RIVER, VICTORIA COUNTY

Upstream from the 105 Highway bridge including the **North Branch Baddeck River, Peter's Brook and Canes Pond**, excluding tributaries.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one trout may be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer. single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one may be over 35 cm (13.8 in), single hook lure or artificial fly only, natural bait is prohibited.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, rainbow and brown trout only, barbless artificial fly only, bag limit three (3) trout (rainbow or brown), of which only one (1) may exceed 35cm (13.8 in) total length or longer.

MIDDLE RIVER, VICTORIA COUNTY

Upstream from the Highway 105 Bridge to the Cabot Trail Highway Bridge near Finlayson, including tributaries except Indian Brook.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one trout may be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one may be over 35 cm (13.8 in), single hook lure or artificial fly only, natural bait is prohibited.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, rainbow and brown trout only, barbless artificial fly only, bag limit three (3) trout (rainbow or brown), of which only one (1) may exceed 35cm (13.8 in) total length or longer.

Upstream from the Cabot Trail Highway Bridge near Findlayson, including tributaries, CLOSED ALL YEAR

NORTH RIVER. VICTORIA COUNTY

Upstream from the tidal pool to a point at the benches marked by a fishery officer, including tributaries.

May 15 to Sep 30, artificial fly only.

Jul 15 to Aug 31, upstream from the Little Falls pool, as marked by a fishery officer, to the Benches, as marked by a fishery officer, **CLOSED TO ANGLING**.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released. Bag limit five (5) brown or rainbow trout. Waters upstream from the benches marked by a fishery officer including tributaries, CLOSED ALL YFAR

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS

This management area is the area enclosed by the following boundaries:

105 highway from the St. Anns exit (exit 11) to the Hunters Mountain exit (exit 7);

Cabot Trail Highway from the Hunters Mountain exit (exit 7) to the Victoria/Inverness County line; Victoria/Inverness County line to the Cape Breton Highlands National Park boundary;

Cape Breton Highlands National Park boundary to the Cabot Trail Highway at Ingonish;

The Cabot Trail Highway at Ingonish to the 105 Highway at St. Anns (exit 11).

OPEN ALL YEAR, bag limit ten (10) speckled trout, natural bait allowed all season.

Note: The following waters are not included in the Cape Breton Highlands Management Area.

Baddeck River, North Branch Baddeck River, Peter's Brook and Canes Pond, not including tributaries to those rivers. Barachois River, not including tributaries. Indian Brook, downstream from the confluence of the east and west branches, not including tributaries. Ingonish River, not including tributaries. North River, downstream from a point at the benches marked by a fishery officer, not including tributaries. Middle River, including tributaries.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND BROWN TROUT

The tidal waters of the Bras d'Or Lakes:
OPEN ALL YEAR ANY GEAR. NOT INCLUDING
WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL
SPECIES.

St. Patrick's Channel, St. Andrews Channel, and Sydney River (between the dam and a line drawn between Point Edward and Liscomb Point), OPEN ALL YEAR.

For areas open all year, the bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, Oct 1 to Mar 31.

Minimum size limit for rainbow trout is 35cm (13.8 in) in the **Bras d'Or Lakes, ALL YEAR**.

WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES

(1) waters of the Baddeck River upstream from the Hwy 105 bridge; (2) Northeast (inside) of the East Bay Sandbar; and (3) waters upstream from Black River bridge in Dundee; (4) waters upstream from Crowdis Bridge in river Deny's Basin; and (5) waters upstream from Mackenzie Brook Bridge near South Side Basin of River Deny's which remain closed to all angling for all species, Jan 1 to Mar 31.

Waters inside the Boom Channel including River Denys and all of River Denys Basin are closed to trout angling, Oct 1 to Mar 31, CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES Apr 1 to Apr 30.

NIGHT FISHING FOR BROWN TROUT

Salmon River, Cape Breton County, downstream from the highway bridge near Rock Elm to its confluence with the Mira River, Apr 15 to Aug 31.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

CLOSED ALL YEAR, except the following:

Blacketts Lake, Cape Breton County. Lake Ainslie, Inverness County. Apr 1 to Oct 31. Bag limit (25) bass.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See page 7)

Cape Breton Highlands National Park

A National Parks general fishing permit or National Parks salmon licence as well as a park entry permit is required to angle in the park. For more information contact the Park Office (see page 13).

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO NATIVE SPECIES SUCH AS SPECKLED TROUT

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

LIVE POSSESSION AND ILLEGAL INTRODUCTIONS

The intentional or accidental introduction of fish or other aquatic organisms from one lake or stream to another can negatively affect local fish populations through competition, disease, or genetic changes. Under the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, no one is allowed to possess live fish in Nova Scotia unless authorized under the Live Fish Possession Regulations or release live fish into the waters of the province except under licence by the Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

LIVE BAIT

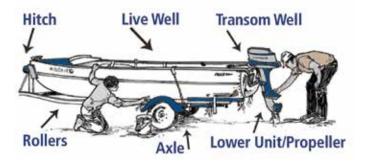
Unwanted fish species can be accidentally spread by releasing unused live bait therefore threatening local fish populations. Do not discard bait unless it was caught from the water body in which you are fishing. It is illegal to use certain species as bait or to possess them for bait (whether alive or dead). These include chain pickerel smallmouth bass, goldfish, yellow perch, brown bullhead, white perch or any fish not taken from provincial waters.

INFORMATION FOR BOATERS

Some aquatic species can survive more than two weeks out of water. Adopting the following recommendations will help reduce the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species.

- CLEAN your boat, motor, trailer, and boating equipment such as anchors and fishing gear, centerboards, rollers, and axles. Remove any animals and plants that are visible before leaving any waterbody. Rinse your boat and equipment that normally gets wet with hot tap water (greater than 40°C), or spray your boat and trailer with high pressure water (250 psi).
- DRAIN water from the motor, live well, bilge and transom wells while on land immediately before leaving the waterbody.
- DRY your boots, waders, boat, tackle, trailer, and other boating equipment in the sun for 5 days (recommended) to kill harmful species that were not visible at the boat launch.

WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS



REPORTING INVASIVES

Report illegal introductions or sightings of introduced species by calling 902-485-5056 or 1-888-435-4040 or email XMARinvasive@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca or inland@novascotia.ca. If possible please provide a date, location and picture.



Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 2

SEASONS

SPECKLED (BROOK) TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Tidal Waters - Apr 15 to Sep 30.
Inland Waters - Apr 1 to Sep 30 except the waters referred to in the listings below.
From Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except waters with extended seasons for trout.

NOTE: The following regulations **do not apply** to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive.

ANTIGONISH COUNTY

Brierly Brook, downstream from the bridge on the Schoolhouse Road, Apr 15 to Sep 30.

Pomquet River, downstream from the 104

Highway bridge, Apr 15 to Sep 30.

Tracadie River, from the highway 4 bridge at

Monastery to a point located 400m downstream, marked by a Fishery Officer, Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling.

GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

Country Harbour River, downstream from the highway bridge on the Borneo Road, including Country Harbour Lake to a point 300 m downstream of the Iron Bridge, May 15 to Sep 30.

Ecum Secum River, downstream from the outlet of Judd's Pool near New Chester, Apr 15 to Sep 30.

Liscomb River, downstream from the outlet of Big Stillwater Lake, Apr 15 to Sep 30. From a point 70 m upstream from the highway bridge at Liscomb Mills to a point 23 m downstream from the entrance to the fish ladder, not including tributaries, Jun 1 to Sep 30, artificial fly only.

PICTOU COUNTY

Barney's River, the Middle Branch Barney's River downstream from the 104 Highway Bridge at Barney's River Station (not including the East Branch Barney's River which flows through Marshy Hope), and the West Branch Barney's River downstream from the wooden bridge near Avondale Station (grid reference 555954 5051231), Apr 15 to Sep 30.

French River, downstream from the confluence of the East and West branches, Apr 15 to Sep 30. River John, downstream from the confluence of the East and West branches including the Salmon Hole, Apr 15 to Sep 30. Sutherlands River, downstream from Park Falls, Apr 15 to Sep 30.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/ OR SPECKLED TROUT

Cameron Lake and Gillis Lake, Antigonish County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

Goose Harbour Lake, McKeen Lake and Pringle Lake, Guysborough County, OPEN ALL YEAR. Dryden Lake and Gairloch Lake, Pictou County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31.

NIGHT FISHING FOR BROWN TROUT

James River, Antigonish County, from the water supply dam at grid reference 568078, 5050765 downstream to its confluence with the West River, Apr 15 to Aug 31.

River John, Pictou County, from the West Branch Bridge downstream to the Welsford Bridge near Welsford, not including tributaries, Apr 15 to Aug 31.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

CLOSED ALL YEAR except the following: Lansdowne Lake and Middle River, including Middle River Reservoir, Pictou County. Apr 1 to Sep 30. Bag limit (25) bass.

CHAIN PICKEREL

Apr 1 to Sep 30, except the following: Black Lake and West Branch Lake, Pictou County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Sep 30, except the following: Cameron Lake, Gillis Lake, Antigonish County,

OPFN ALL YFAR

Goose Harbour Lake, McKeen Lake, Pringle Lake, Guysborough County, OPEN ALL YEAR. Gairloch Lake, Pictou County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See Page 7)

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

GUYSBOROUGH (MILFORD HAVEN) RIVER, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

Downstream from the bridge at West Interval to the Highway 16 bridge near Boylston. **May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout**, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in).

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in), natural bait prohibited.

SALMON RIVER, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

From the outlet of Salmon River Lake downstream to its confluence with Chedabucto Bay. **May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout,** only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in), not including tributaries.

Jul 1 to Sep 30, downstream from a point 50 m below the Highway 16 Bridge at Cooks Cove, artificial fly only.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), of which only one (1) may exceed 35cm (13.8 in) total length or longer.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, brown trout, catch and release only, barbless artificial fly.

ST. FRANCIS HARBOUR RIVER, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

From the outlet of Goose Harbour Lake downstream to its confluence with Chedabucto Bay.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit one (1) trout which must be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit one (1) trout (either brown or rainbow) which must be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer. Single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, brown trout, catch and release only, bag limit one (1) rainbow trout which must be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer, barbless artificial fly only.

ST. MARY'S RIVER, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

Upstream from the highway bridge at Sherbrooke to the 347 Bridge near Aspen on the East River, St. Mary's and upstream to the highway bridge at Glengelg on the West River, St. Mary's, Apr 1 to Apr 14, CLOSED TO ANGLING, Apr 15 to Sep 30, bag limit three (3) trout of which only 1 may exceed 35 cm (13.8 in.), artificial fly only.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (either brown or rainbow) of which only 1 may exceed 35 cm (13.8 in.).

Upstream from the 347 bridge near Aspen on the East River, St. Mary's to the Guysborough County boundary and upstream from the highway bridge at Glenelg on the West River, St Mary's, to South Brook near Trafalgar:

Apr 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout of which only 1 may exceed 35 cm (13.8 in.), May 26 to Sep 30, artificial fly only.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), of which only one (1) may exceed 35cm (13.8 in) total length or longer.

Pools closed to all angling, Jun 15 to Sep 30, include: Cumminger Pool, Foot Bridge Pool, Ford Pool, Indian Man Pool, McKeen Pool, Silvers Pool, Sutherlands Pool, details of pool closures are available from DFO.

contd. on page 26

West/South River Special Trout Management Area Open May 15 - Sep 30 Natural bait prohibited. Artificial fly and unbaited lure only Open May 15 - Sep 30 Artificial Fly only Open Apr 15 - Aug 31 Bag: bag three (3) trout, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in) Sep 1 - Sep 30 Bag: bag three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in), natural bait prohibited

WEST RIVER, ANTIGONISH COUNTY.

See map above

The Beaver River, downstream from the outlet of MacEacherns Lake, including the Cameron Lakes to its confluence with the Ohio River, and the West River, downstream from the Bridge at Addington Forks to a line drawn true north from grid reference 583545 5054009 at Williams Point to the opposite shore, May 15 to Sep 30, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited. The Ohio River, downstream from the bridge at the outlet of St. Joseph Lake to the Bridge on the West River at Addington Forks, May 15 to Sep 30, artificial fly only.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit one (1) trout which must be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit one (1) trout (either brown or rainbow) which must be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer.

SOUTH RIVER. ANTIGONISH COUNTY

See map above

From the bridge that marks the outlet of Loch Katrine (South River Lake) to a point 400 m downstream from the railway trestle in Antigonish Harbour, Apr 15 to Oct 31.

From a point 400 meters downstream from the railway trestle to the Williams Point boundary of the West River Management Area to the outflow of Antigonish Harbour, Apr 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in).

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (either brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in), natural bait prohibited.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, rainbow and brown trout only, barbless artificial fly only, bag limit two (2) trout, (either brown or rainbow).

From the dam immediately upstream from Fraser's Mill Fish Hatchery downstream to the bridge over the Old Pinevale Road, **CLOSED ALL YEAR**.

EAST RIVER, PICTOU COUNTY

From a line drawn from Dunbar Point to Pine Point (including Big Gut) upstream to the Springville Bridge on the East Branch, May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in).

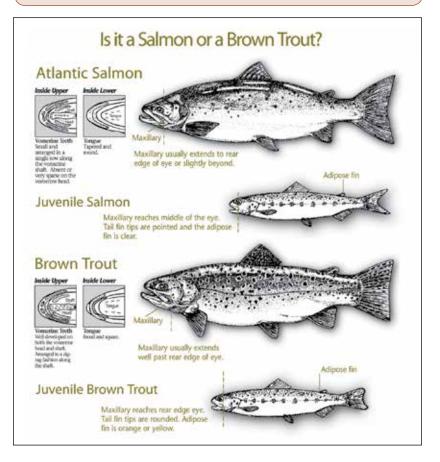
From Springville Bridge on the East Branch upstream to and including Hunters Lake, and from the confluence of the West Branch upstream to the outflow of West Branch Lake. Apr 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in).

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in), natural bait prohibited.

WEST RIVER, PICTOU COUNTY

Downstream from the Highway 104 bridge, May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in).

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in), natural bait prohibited.





Halifax and Lunenburg Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 3

SEASONS

SPECKLED TROUT, BROWN TROUT, LAKE (GREY) TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Tidal waters of Halifax County (Halifax Harbour and East) - Apr 15 to Sep 30. Tidal waters of Halifax County (West of Halifax Harbour) and Lunenburg County - Apr 1 to Sep 30.

Inland waters - Apr 1 to Sep 30 except the waters referred to in the listings below.

From Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except for waters with extended seasons for trout.

NOTE: The following regulations **do not apply** to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive

THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS ARE IN PLACE TO PROTECT ENDANGERED ATLANTIC WHITEFISH WHILE ANGLING OTHER SPECIES IN LUNENBURG COUNTY

The waters of Minamkeak Lake, Milipsigate Lake and Hebb Lake upstream from the dam at its outlet, including the waters joining these lakes but not including other tributaries to them except the waters of an unnamed tributary to Hebb Lake that are downstream from a straight line across that tributary from grid reference 374167 4909763 to grid reference 374183 4909763 as marked by a fishery officer. Angling season open only from Jul 1 to Sep 30, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited. Angling season for all species closed before Jul 1 and after Sep 30.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

OPEN ALL YEAR. The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31.

Albro Lake, Lewis Lake and Round Lake at Jerry Lawrence Park, Maynard Lake, Penhorn Lake, First Lake, Cow Bay Pond, Halifax County. Beck Lake, Hutt Lake, Sucker Lake, Lunenburg County.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Oct 31. Bag limit five (5) bass, except Special Bass Management Areas, Extended Seasons and the following:
Halifax County, east of Highway 102 and its junction with Highway 118 and its junction with Highway 111, CLOSED ALL YEAR, except the following lakes: Banook Lake, Bissett Lake, Charles Lake, Lake Egmont, Loon Lake, Micmac Lake, Miller Lake, Porters Lake and Russell Lake.

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

Grand Lake (Shubenacadie) and Morris Lake, Halifax County, including those portions occurring in Hants County, Apr 1 to Dec 31. Big Mushamush Lake, Lunenburg County, Apr 1 to Dec 31.

Bag limit three (3) bass, maximum length 35cm (13.8 in.), except from May 1 to Jun 15, no smallmouth bass may be retained.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Dec 31. Banook Lake and Micmac Lake, Halifax County.

CHAIN PICKEREL, WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31 except the following:
Micmac Lake, Red Bridge Pond, Grand Lake
(Shubenacadie), Powder Mill Lake, Morris
Lake, Russell Lake, Kinsac Lake, Fish Lake
(near Oakfield), Bisset Lake, Beaver Bank
Lake, Beaver Pond (near Kinsac Lake) and
Lake Egmont, Halifax County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31 except the following: Albro Lake, Lewis Lake and Round Lake at Jerry Lawrence Park, Maynard Lake, Penhorn Lake, First Lake, and Cow Bay Pond, Halifax County.

Sucker Lake, Lunenburg County, OPEN ALL YFAR

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See Page 7)

ARTIFICIAL FLY ONLY

Fishing is permitted with artificial flies only in the sections of the following rivers during the times listed. Other methods are permitted during the remainder of the open season. If in doubt as to the extent of these restrictions, please contact the local Federal fishery officer.

HALIFAX COUNTY

Moser River, upstream from the highway bridge at Moser River, not including tributaries, May 26 to end of all fishing seasons.

Sackville River, from a point 50 m below the Shore Drive Bridge, near Bedford, upstream to a point 200 m upstream from the Lucasville Road Bridge, not including tributaries, Jun 1 to the end of all fishing seasons.

Little Sackville River, from the confluence with the Sackville River upstream to the outlet of Feely Lake, not including tributaries, Jun 1 to the end of all fishing seasons.

West River Sheet Harbour, from the concrete piers located downstream of the Highway 7 Bridge upstream to the Killag River, not including tributaries, May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons.

LUNENBURG COUNTY

Gold River, from the Highway 3 bridge upstream to the Larder River, not including tributaries, May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons.

WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES

HALIFAX COUNTY

East River Sheet Harbour from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans barrier dam upstream to Malay Falls, including tributaries, closed Apr 1 to Apr 14.

East River Sheet Harbour, from the Powerhouse at Ruth Falls downstream 200m, including tributaries, closed Jun 1 to Sep 30.

Ingram River, from a point 23 m downstream from the Highway 3 bridge to a point 23 m upstream from that bridge, including tributaries. CLOSED ALL YEAR

Kirby River, from a point 15 m downstream from the Highway 24 bridge to 15 m upstream from that bridge, including tributaries, closed Jun 1 to Sep 30.

West River Sheet Harbour, upstream from the Killag Road bridge, Closed Jun 1 to Sep 30.

LUNENBURG COUNTY

Gold River, from a point 200 m upstream from the Highway 3 Bridge upstream to the Larder River, including tributaries, closed Apr 1 to May 14.

Gold River, the Dipping Pool located between the Cable Pool and the Kill Devil Pool, including tributaries, closed May 15 to Aug 15. Wallace Brook, from Petite Riviere at Crousetown to a point 180 m upstream, including tributaries, closed Apr 1 to Sep 30.

KEY New Germany **LaHave River Sections** Lake Morgan Falls to a point 90m downstream Apr 1 to May 31 Single hook lure or artificial fly Morgan Falls only, natural bait is prohibited Apr 1 to May 25 Artificial fly only May 26 to end of all fishing seasons Wentzells Lake. Rhyno Lake CN Raih Meaghers Grant Bridge Silver Hill Brook Lower Meaghers Frant **KEY** Gibraltar Musquodoboit **River Sections** Crawford's Bridge Open May 1 - Sep 30 Saddleback Lak Any gear to Aug 31 Open May 1 - Sep 30 Fly only uaver Lake Open Jun 1 - Sep 30 Any gear to Aug 31 Paces Lalor Chapel Island Chezzetcool tak Head of Jedore Petpeswick Inlet HWY 107 West Jedore Pleasant Point Bayers Point Naufits Point

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

EAST TAYLOR BAY LAKE, HALIFAX COUNTY

Including all lakes and tributaries flowing into East Taylor Bay Lake. Bag Limit two (2) speckled trout, Apr 1 to Aug 31.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, natural bait prohibited.

MUSQUODOBOIT RIVER, HALIFAX COUNTY. See map page 30

From the mouth of Musquodoboit Harbour to Chapel Island, May 1 to Sep 30, any gear to Aug 31. From a point 300 m downstream from the Highway 7 bridge to Chapel Island, Jun 1 to Sep 30, any gear to Aug 31.

From a point 300 m downstream from the Highway 7 Bridge, upstream (including Bayers Lake) to a point 100 m above Crawfords Bridge, May 1 to Sep 30, artificial fly only. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released.

From a point 100 m above Crawfords Bridge upstream to the Hwy 224 Bridge in Upper Musquodoboit, May 1 to Aug 31, any gear.

From the mouth of Musquodoboit Harbour upstream to the Hwy 224 Bridge in Upper Musquodoboit, **bag limit three (3) trout**, only one may be over 35 cm (13.8 in).

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in), natural bait prohibited.

LAHAVE RIVER, LUNENBURG COUNTY See map page 30

LaHave River from Silver Hill Brook upstream to the South end of Wentzells Lake, Apr 1 to May 25, single hook lure or artificial fly only, natural bait is prohibited. From May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons, artificial fly only. Bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be over 35 cm (13.8 in) in length. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released.

LaHave River upstream from north end of Wentzells Lake to south end of New Germany Lake, West Branch of the LaHave River to Rhynos Lake, North Branch of the LaHave River upstream from north end of Wentzells Lake to south end of Sherbrooke Lake from Apr 1 to May 25, any gear. May 26 to end of all fishing seasons artificial fly only. Bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be over 35 cm (13.8 in) in length. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in).

LaHave River from Morgans Falls to a point 90 m downstream Apr 1 to May 25, any gear. From May 26 to May 31, artificial fly only. CLOSED TO ANGLING, Jun 1 to end of all fishing seasons.

Pools closed to all angling, Jun 15 to Oct 31, are: Cooks Falls, Veinotes Pool, Oak Run, Bruhms Bridge Pool, Dauphinees Run, Wentzells Eddy, Foot of Wentzells Lake, Cemetery Pool, Fancys Pool, details of pool closures are available from DFO.

PETITE RIVIERE, LUNENBURG COUNTY

From the Highway 331 Bridge upstream to Hebb Lake.

Apr 1 to Jun 14, single hook lure or artificial fly only, natural bait is prohibited.

Jun 15 to end of all fishing seasons, artificial fly only.

Bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be over 35 cm (13.8 in) in length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one (1) may be over 35 cm (13.8 in) in length.

CATCH AND RELEASE WATERS

The following lakes in Halifax County will be catch and release only:

Birch Hill Lake, Blueberry Lake, East Duck Lake, Five Island Lake, Five Island Lake Run, Frederick Lake, Holland Marsh Lake, Hubley Big Lake, Jacket Lake, Lizard Lake, Sheldrake Lake and Woodens River (downstream from the outflow of Hubley Big Lake, including all lakes and tributaries). Single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.



Digby, Queens, Shelburne and Yarmouth Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 4

SPECKLED TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Inland and Tidal Waters - Apr 1 to Sep 30 except the waters referred to in the listings below.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except waters with extended seasons for trout. All season dates are inclusive.

NOTE: The following regulations do not apply to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive.

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

First, Second, Third, and Fourth Christopher lakes, Queens County.

Bag limit two (2) trout.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, natural bait prohibited.

CATCH AND RELEASE WATER

Big Meadow Brook, Tusket River, Yarmouth County

Upstream from Highway 203 near East Kemptville, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

Everitt's Lake, Digby County, OPEN ALL YEAR. Hidden Hills Lake and Victoria Lake, Queens County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

Beaver Dam Lake, Shelburne County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined. Oct 1 to Mar 31.

NIGHT FISHING FOR BROWN TROUT

Mersey River, Queens County, downstream from Lake Rossignol to the dam at Cowie Falls, Apr 1 to Oct 31.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Oct 31, bag limit five (5) bass, except the Special Bass Management Areas and Extended Seasons.

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

Salmon River Lake, Digby County.
Ten Mile Lake, Little Ten Mile Lake, and the Mersey River, Queens County.
Kemptback Lake, Ogden, Parr, and Petes Lakes and Vaughn Lake, Yarmouth County.
Apr 1 to Dec 31, bag limit three (3) bass, maximum length 35cm (13.8 in.), except from May 1 to Jun 15 no smallmouth bass may be retained

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Dec 31. Wentworth Lake, Digby County. Doctors Lake, Lake Milo, Middle Lake and Raynards Lake, Yarmouth County.

Night fishing is permitted during the open season in Salmon River Lake, Ogden, Parr, and Petes lakes and the Mersey River, downstream from Lake Rossignol to the dam at Cowie Falls.

CHAIN PICKEREL, WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except the following:
Annis River and Kiack Brook, Yarmouth County, including all lakes and tributaries.
Walls Lake, The Ponds in Port Latour, Bakers Flats on Cape Sable Island, and Lake George, Shelburne County, OPEN ALL YEAR.
Louis Lake, Queens County, OPEN ALL YEAR.
Meteghan River, Digby County, including all lakes and tributaries. OPEN ALL YEAR.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES (See Page 7)

NOTE: Kejimkujik National Park & National Historic Site. A National Parks general fishing permit as well as a park entry permit is required to angle in the park. For more information contact the Park Office (See page 12).

ARTIFICIAL FLY ONLY

Fishing is permitted with artificial flies only in the sections of the following rivers during the times listed. Other methods are permitted during the remainder of the open season. If in doubt as to the extent of these restrictions, please contact the local Federal fishery officer.

OUEENS COUNTY

Medway River, from the Highway 103 bridge upstream to McGowan Lake, not including Ponhook Lake or tributaries, May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons.

Mersey River, from the upstream abutment of the highway bridge on Bridge Street in Milton to the dam at Cowie Falls, May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons.



Photo: Corey Bowen

WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES

DIGBY COUNTY

Salmon River, downstream from the Route 1 Highway Bridge approximately 500 m to a line drawn across the Salmon River from grid reference 726822 4881333 to grid reference 726803 4881420, including tributaries, May 1 to Dec 31.

QUEENS COUNTY

Medway River, from a point 100m downstream from the highway bridge at Harmony upstream to, but excluding McGowan Lake including tributaries, Jun 1 to Dec. 31

Medway River, the "Lake Pool", upstream from the highway bridge at highway 210 at Greenfield, to a straight line drawn from grid reference 352032 4903571 to grid reference 352155 4903817 (immediately above the small island at the outlet of Ponhook Lake), Jun 15 to Dec 31

Medway River, from the highway 210 bridge at Greenfield downstream to the highway 103 bridge, Jun 15 to July 31.

YARMOUTH COUNTY

Tusket River, from the highway bridge crossing the canal at the southern end of Lake Vaughn downstream to the powerhouse dam, including tributaries, Apr 1 to Jun 30.

NOVA SCOTIA SPORTFISH HABITAT FUND



In 2017, the Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund raised \$320,000 through a \$5.91 levy on fishing licences. A total of \$281,147 was provided to fish habitat restoration projects undertaken by 23 community groups through the Nova Scotia Salmon Association's NSLC Adopt-A-Stream program. These projects were responsible for the restoration of 160,625 square meters of spawning, rearing, over-wintering, and summer holding habitat for fish. Fish migration was improved to 114 km of habitat by remediating fish passage at 37 culvert crossings and repairs to 2 fishways. Bank stabilization protected 6,020 square meters of riparian habitat and 2354 trees were planted along rivers and streams.

In addition to these projects, the Nova Scotia Salmon Association received \$25,000 for a liming project on the West River Sheet Harbour and \$10,000 for catchment liming by helicopter in the same watershed.

To learn more about the Fund visit our website: http://novascotia.ca/fish/funding-programs/

Set Young Salmon and Trout Free

Note the differences in these fish:

Salmon Parr

- · Black spots on back and sides, and a forked tail
- · No markings on fins or tail
- · Large eye



Salmon Smolt

- Silvery with black spots on upper sides and cheeks and a forked tail
- Large eye



Brook (Speckled Trout)

- · Tail is nearly square
- · Large fin on back (dorsal) has irregular markings
- · There are no black spots, and the eye is smaller
- · Lower fins have a white leading edge

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation

Nova Scotia



CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS



The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation (ASCF) is a non-profit organization established through a one-time grant of \$30 million from the Government of Canada. Income generated by this trust fund supports projects and activities contributing to conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and salmon habitat.

The Foundation helps achieve healthy and sustainable wild Atlantic salmon stocks in Atlantic Canada and Quebec through active working partnerships among volunteer conservation groups, Aboriginal organizations, governments, and others.

Nova Scotia projects funded by the ASCF in 2017 were led by:

Dalhousie University (Sterling)	\$15,000	Nova Scotia Salmon Association	\$20,137
Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation	\$15,000	Pictou County Rivers Association	\$7,500
Cheticamp River Salmon Association	\$9,500	Sackville Rivers Association	\$5,000
Inverness South Anglers Association	\$5,000	St. Mary's River Association	\$25,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING DETAILS OF THESE PROJECTS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.salmonconservation.ca

STAFF PROFILE, INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION, NSFA



Amber Creamer is the Sportfish Development Officer with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Inland Fisheries Division in Pictou. Amber's work focuses on promotion and development, outreach and growing the sportfishing industry in Nova Scotia, including the coordination of the Learn to Fish Program. Amber has a Bachelor of Science and Master of Marine Management degrees from Dalhousie University. She started working for the Department in 2014 as a Coastal Resource Coordinator with the Department's Marine Division and as a Licencing Coordinator with the Aquaculture Division in Shelburne. Amber says she has been fortunate to work with great people and make many friends within the Department. She is active in the community and helps the Department fundraise for the United Way. Amber enjoys curling in the winter, and taking her young cousins Jake and Lyla fishing in the spring.



Photo: Matt Dort

CANADA'S AQUATIC SPECIES AT RISK

Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA), created in 2003 to prevent Canadian wildlife species from becoming extinct, includes prohibitions that make it illegal to kill, harm, harass, capture or take a species listed as endangered or threatened under SARA or to destroy their critical habitat.

In Nova Scotia, the inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon and the Atlantic whitefish are listed as endangered and protected under SARA. It is important that anglers do not catch or retain either of these species.

Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon:

This population occupies rivers that empty into the upper Bay of Fundy (blue area on map). The main characteristic that identifies the difference between an Atlantic salmon and a Brown trout are shown below. Other differences are found on page 41.



Brown Trout (mouth extends beyond eye)
Illustrations by: J. O. Pennanen/Atlantic Salmon Federation®

Atlantic whitefish: The Petite Rivière Watershed in Lunenburg County (red area on map) is home to the only known population of Atlantic whitefish. Atlantic whitefish differ from the more common Lake whitefish in that the Atlantic whitefish jaw extends to its snout, has a smaller pectoral fin ray and smaller scales than the Lake whitefish.

Please report any sightings of Atlantic whitefish to Fisheries and Oceans Canada at 902-354-6030.



Atlantic whitefish

If you catch an Atlantic whitefish or Inner Bay of Fundy Salmon, release it immediately in the location of capture with the least amount of harm possible.

TO REPORT A FISHING VIOLATION, CALL 1-800-565-1633; OR, REPORT ANONYMOUSLY TO NS CRIME STOPPERS AT 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

For more information / Pour obtenir plus de renseignements www.sararegistry.gc.ca or www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/



LIVE RELEASE C	LIVE RELEASE CATEGORY					
Species	Length x G	irth	Year	Angler	Location	County
Brown Trout	29.0 in X 15.	5 in	2016	Dan Boudreau	River John	Pictou
Smallmouth Bass	23.0 in x 17.0) in	2007	Kevin Corkum	Big Mushamush Lake	Lunenburg
Speckled Trout	16.0 in x 8.0) in	2013	Neil Graham	River Denys	Inverness
Striped Bass	41.0 in x 27.0) in	2005	Pat Young	Fullers River	Richmond
CATCH AND KEE	P CATEGORY					
Species	Weight		Year	Angler	Location	County
Brown Trout	18.20 lbs		2007	Charlie LaHey	Mira River	Cape Breton
Chain Pickerel	6.94 lbs		2016	Christopher Wood	Harris Lake	Yarmouth
Landlocked Salmon	4.40 lbs		1988	H. Macdonald	Grand Lake	Halifax
Rainbow Trout	10.20 lbs		2002	Reggie MacLeod	Bras d'Or Lake	Cape Breton
Smallmouth Bass	4.50 lbs		1990	Robert Hasenack	Kinsac Lake	Halifax
Speckled Trout	6.75 lbs		1945	Alex Stephens	Blackett's Lake	Cape Breton
Striped Bass	57.90 lbs		2008	Christian LeVatte	Bras d'Or Lake	Cape Breton
White Perch	2.22 lbs		2013	Sawyer Olmstead	Reiners Pit	Colchester
Yellow Perch	1.20 lbs		2013	Ryan Gould	Fish Lake	Halifax
YOUTH LIVE RELI	EASE CATEG	ORY				
Species	Length x G	irth	Year	Angler	Location	County
Brown Trout	20.0 in x 10.5	in	2013	Alex Graham	South River	Antigonish
Smallmouth Bass	20.0 in x 14.0	in	2009	Ian Keefe	Mattatall	Cumberland
Speckled Trout	16.7 in x 10.3	in	2009	Josh MacMillan	West River	Antigonish
Rainbow Trout	15.5 in x 8.0) in	2011	Neil Graham	South River	Antigonish
YOUTH CATCH A	ND KEEP CA	TEGO	RY CA	TEGORY		
Species	Weight	Year	r	Angler	Location	County
Brown Bullhead	1.08 lbs	2007		Alex Cunningham	Raynards Lake	Yarmouth
Brown Trout	4.00 lbs	2011		Georgina Marshall	River John	Pictou
Chain Pickerel	3.99 lbs	2007		Marcel Boudreau	Hibbards Lake	Yarmouth
Rainbow Trout	3.18 lbs	2017		Ayden Yhard	Bras d'Or Lake	Inverness
Speckled Trout	3.40 lbs	2009	1	Aidan Doucet	Lochabor Lake	Antigonish
Yellow Perch	0.76 lbs	2016		Sarah Henderson	Mersey River	Queens
SMALLMOUTH B	SMALLMOUTH BASS TOURNAMENT ANGLING (weight for 5-fish bag limits; all fish released)					
Weight	Year	Angl	er		Location	County
19.54 lbs	2014	Cody	Lohnes,	Rob Weagle	Big Mushamush	Lunenburg
17.26 lbs	2009	Rob Mailman, P		, Peter Lavender	Mersey River	Queens
15.60 lbs	2008	Rod Goodwin, Ian		n, lan Ross	Ogden, Parr, Petes Lakes	Yarmouth
15.56 lbs	2003	Conrad Corporon, Bernard Corporon		oron, Bernard Corporon	Lac d'en Bas	Digby
15.51 lbs	2005	Jim Langthorne, Ian Langthorne Kempt Back lake		Kempt Back lake	Yarmouth	
	Nova Scotia Sportfish Registry PO Box 700 Pictou NS BOK 1H0 Phone: (902) 485-5056 Fax: (902) 485-4014 E-mail: inland@novascotia.ca Website: http://novascotia.ca/fish/					

NOVA SCOTIA SPORTFISH REGISTRY



Annapolis, Hants and Kings Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 5

SEASONS

SPECKLED (BROOK) TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Inland and Tidal Waters - Apr 1 to Sep 30 except the waters referred to in the listings below.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except waters with extended seasons for trout.

NOTE: The following regulations do not apply to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified.

All season dates are inclusive.

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

CORNWALLIS RIVER. KINGS COUNTY

Downstream from the South Bishop Road bridge to the Highway 101 Bridge, Apr 1 to Aug 31, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited, bag limit one (1) trout (either brown or speckled) which must be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer, night fishing permitted.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all specked trout must be released, only brown trout may be retained, bag limit one (1) brown trout which must be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer, single hook lure or artificial fly natural bait prohibited.

Entire river Oct 1 to Oct 31, brown trout only, catch and release, barbless artificial fly only.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

Rumsey Lake, Annapolis County, May 15 to Oct 31

Sunken Lake, Kings County, May 15 to Oct 31 and Jan 1 to Mar 31.

Silver Lake near Lakeville, Kings County, Apr 1 to Sep 30 and Jan 1 to Mar 31.

Meadow Pond and St. Croix Pond, Hants County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31. Note: not all lakes contain rainbow trout.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except Special Bass Management Areas.

Annapolis County, bag limit five (5) bass. Kings County, bag limit five (5) bass. Hants County, bag limit twenty-five (25) bass.

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

Black River Lake, Little River Lake, Methals Lake, and Aylesford Lake, Kings County.

Panuke Lake, Hants County.

Apr 1 to Dec 31, bag limit three (3) bass, maximum length 35 cm (13.8 in.) except from May 1 to Jun 15 no smallmouth bass may be retained, night fishing is permitted.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Dec 31. Gaspereau Lake, Kings County.

CHAIN PICKEREL WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except in the following: Lily Lake (Cogmagun Pond), Hants County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

Lake Paul, Lake George, Nicholas Lake and North River Lake, Kings County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except in the following: Springfield Lake, Annapolis County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

Woodward Sandford Lake, Hants County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES

KINGS COUNTY

Gaspereau River, from a point 152m downstream from the highway bridge at White Rock (Deep Hollow Road Bridge) to point 213m upstream from that bridge, including tributaries, CLOSED ALL YEAR.

Gaspereau River, from the White Rock power station upstream to the first highway bridge, including tributaries, CLOSED ALL YEAR.

Gaspereau River, White Rock Pond, from a point 152 m downstream from the bridge at White Rock (Deep Hollow Road Bridge), downstream to the first highway bridge upstream from the White Rock Power Station, Apr 1 to May 1, single hook lure or artificial fly.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES (See page 7)

NOTE: Kejimkujik National Park and National Historic Site A National Parks general fishing permit as well as a park entry permit is required to angle in the park. For more information contact the Park Office (See page 12).



Photo: Colin Buhariwalla



Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure and pride that we introduce to you in this insert the Mi'kmaq concept and tradition of NETUKULIMK.

Grand Council of Mi'kmag

The Mi'kmaq Aboriginal people of Nova Scotia have been harvesting animal, fowl, fish and plant life for over 10,000 years. We have managed this harvest within our own communities since time immemorial and continue to do so today. Our past, present and future Mi'kmaq society and economy is based on the use of the natural resources. Conservation and management of these resources have and still are an important part of Mi'kmaq culture. We have an intimate knowledge of the land, waters and natural life in and around Mi'kma'ki, our traditional territory, part of which is present day Nova Scotia.

After European contact some 500 years ago, the Mi'kmaq and the British established formal agreement for a co-existence and friendship relationship through a series of Nation to Nation Treaties.

"When the English began to make their new homes in our land our fore fathers protected the liveli-hood and survival of the Mi'kmaq by signing Treaties with their Kings. Throughout the seasons the Treaties have remained."

Grand Chief Donald Marshall Sr. October 1, 1986

Today the Mi'kmaq harvest the natural resources through a concept known as Netukulimk. Netukulimk includes the use of the natural bounty, provided by the Creator, for the self-support and well being of the individual and the community at large. Without limiting the meaning of the concept of Netukulimk, the objective includes achieving adequate standards of community

nutrition and economic well being, without jeopardizing the integrity, diversity or productivity of our native environment.

The Constitution of Canada has entrenched Aboriginal and Treaty Rights within the laws of Canada. As a result of this, the courts have upheld the rights contained in the Treaty of 1752 and the underlying Aboriginal right that the Mi'kmaq have to harvest natural resources in Nova Scotia under their traditional authority and quidelines.

Article 4 of the Treaty of 1752 states in part:

"It is agreed that the said Tribe of Indians (Mi'kmaq) shall not be hindered from, but have free liberty of hunting, fishing and fowling as usual..."

On October 1, 1993 the Premier of Nova Scotia, the Honourable John Savage formally proclaimed on behalf of Nova Scotia 'the Government of Nova Scotia recognizes all Treaties which were signed in good faith between the Crown and the Mi'kmaq".

In Nova Scotia there are some 70,000 sportfishermen and some 77,000 sport hunters within the nonnative community. The total Aboriginal harvesting community represents ½ of 1 per cent of the total non-native population hunting and fishing today.

We have made our peace and friendship and we have agreed to co-exist and co-share. Today it is time to work together to ensure that all our children will have the same right or privilege to access animal, fowl, fish, and plant life in the future.

For more information about our work and concerns about our natural environment contact:

The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq Main Office

57 Martin Crescent, PO Box 1590 Truro, NS, B2N 5V3 Tel. 902.895.6385, Toll Free. 1.877.892.2424 Fax. 902.893.1520

Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

4102 Shore Road, Eskasoni, NS, B1W 1M4 Tel (902) 379-2163, Fax (902) 379-2250

Native Council of Nova Scotia

129 Truro Heights Road, P.O. Box 1320 Truro, NS, B2N 5N2

Toll Free: 1-800-565-4372, Direct: 902-895-1523

Fax: 902-895-0024



Mi'kmaq Salmon Harvesting in Nova Scotia

Why can the Mi'kmaq keep salmon when it is illegal for others to do so? Why can the Mi'kmaq fish using methods considered illegal under federal law? Here's why.

Traditionally, the Mi'kmag fished for both large and small salmon using spears and snares during the day and night, and have utilized other methods such as trap nets, weirs, rods and gill nets depending on fishing area and availability of the resource. As the first peoples of the ancestral and unceded lands and waters of Mi'kma'ki, we have both Aboriginal (inherent) and Treaty (negotiated) rights. These rights are protected under the Constitution Act (1982, s. 35). Constitutional protection means that when there is a conflict between the fishing practices of the Mi'kmag and federal and/or provincial law. Mi'kmag practice supersedes those laws. Conservation of the species is the highest priority; once the conservation of the species is met, priority of access is first to the Aboriginal fishery (R. v. Sparrow, 1990).

Because of the shared concern for the sustainability of Atlantic salmon in Nova Scotia, Mi'kmaq, Federal, and Provincial governments are working together to ensure that conservation targets are met before any Mi'kmaw harvest occurs. A message from

ASSEMBLY OF NOVA SCOTIA MPKMAQ CHIEFS



Our Rights. Our Future.





Photo: Andrew Lowles



Colchester and Cumberland Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING ARFA 6

SPECKLED (BROOK) TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Tidal Waters - Apr 15 to Sep 30.
Inland Waters - Apr 1 to Sep 30, except the waters referred to in the listings below.
Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except in waters with extended seasons for trout.

NOTE: The following regulations do not apply to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified.

All season dates are inclusive.

COLCHESTER COUNTY

Chiganois River, downstream from the CN Railway bridge at Belmont, including tributaries, May 15 to Sep 30.

KEY

Stewiacke River Sections

Apr 15 - Aug 31, any gear except
May 10 - Jun 10 and Sep 1 - Sep 30,
single hook lure or fly only

May 10 - Jul 15, single hook lure or fly only
Jul 16 - Sep 30 fly only

Apr 1 - Aug 31, any gear
Sep 1 - Sep 30, natural bait prohibited

Debert River, downstream from the CN Railway bridge, including tributaries, May 15 to Sep 30. Economy River, downstream from the confluence with Callaghan Brook, including tributaries, May 15 to Sep 30.

Folly River, downstream from the CN Railway bridge, including tributaries, May 15 to Sep 30. French River, downstream from the 246 Highway Bridge at Oliver, Apr 15 to Sep 30.

Great Village River, downstream from the confluence with Spencers Brook, including tributaries, **May 15 to Sep 30**.

North River, downstream from the confluence of the West Branch North River, including tributaries, May 15 to Sep 30.

Portapique River, downstream from the confluence with Matheson Brook, including tributaries, **May 15 to Sep 30**.

Salmon River, downstream from the confluence with Greenfield Brook, including tributaries, **May 15 to Sep 30**.

Waugh's River, downstream from the 256 Highway Bridge at The Falls, Apr 15 to Sep 30.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

River Hebert, downstream from the bridge near the tree nursery in the Chignecto Game Sanctuary, including tributaries, May 15 to Sep 30.

Shinimicas River, downstream from the No. 6 Highway bridge, including tributaries, Apr 15 to Sep 30.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

Angevine (Dewars) Lake, Harrison Lake, Isaac

Lake, Cumberland County. OPEN ALL YEAR. Deyarmont Lake, Colchester County, OPEN

ALL YEAR.
The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31.

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

STEWIACKE RIVER, COLCHESTER COUNTY see map page 44

Downstream from the CN railway bridge near McKay Siding, Apr 15 to May 9 and Jun 11 to Aug 31, any gear permitted. May 10 to Jun 10, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait prohibited.

Upstream from the CN railway bridge near McKay Siding to the highway bridge farthest upstream in Upper Stewiacke, not including tributaries, **May 10 to Jul 15**, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

Jul 16 to Aug 31, artificial fly only. Bag limit one (1) trout that must be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bbag limit one (1) trout (brown or rainbow) that must be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer.

Upstream from the highway bridge farthest upstream in Upper Stewiacke, Apr 1 to Aug 31, any gear permitted.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, natural bait prohibited.

Night angling for brown trout is permitted from the Lansdowne bridge downstream to the bridge in Stewiacke East during the open season.

MACCAN RIVER, CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Downstream from the highway 2 bridge at Southampton, Apr 1 to May 14, catch and release, artificial fly only. May 15 to Aug 15, bag limit three (3) trout of which only 1 may exceed 35 cm (13.8 in.), any gear permitted. Aug 16 to Sep 30, artificial fly only, catch and release only.

RIVER PHILIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Downstream from the Mountain Road Bridge (Spencers Bridge) in the Community of River Phillip. Apr 1 to May 14, artificial fly only, catch and release only.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout of which only 1 may exceed 35 cm (13.8 in.), any gear permitted.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow) of which only 1 may exceed 35 cm (13.8 in.), natural bait prohibited, all speckled trout must be released.

Night angling for brown trout is permitted upstream from the Mountain Road Bridge (Spencers Bridge) not including tributaries, **May 15 to Aug 31**.

WALLACE RIVER. CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Downstream from the Highway 4 Bridge at Wentworth Center, Apr 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout of which only 1 may exceed 35 cm (13.8 in.).

Sep 1 to Sep 30, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow) of which only 1 may exceed 35 cm (13.8 in.), natural bait prohibited, all speckled trout must be released.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

CLOSED ALL YEAR, except the following: Angevine Lake, Big Lake, Mattatall Lake, Cumberland County, Apr 1 to Oct 31. Round Lake, Colchester County, Apr 1 to Oct 31. Bag limit (25) twenty-five bass.

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

Shortt's Lake, Colchester County, Apr 1 to Dec 31, bag limit three (3) bass, maximum length 35 cm (13.8 in.), except from May 1 to Jun 15, no smallmouth bass may be retained.

CHAIN PICKEREL

Apr 1 to Sep 30, except the following: Shortt's Lake, Colchester County, OPEN ALL YEAR

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Sep 30, except in the following: Smiths Lakes and Long Lake, Cumberland County, Jan 1 to Sept 30. Angevine (Dewar) Lake, Harrison Lake, and Issac Lake, Cumberland County, OPEN ALL YEAR Shortt's Lake, Colchester County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES (See Page 7)



Photo: Mark Dort



Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters

PO Box 654, Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

Tel: (902) 477-8898

E-mail: info@nsfah.ca Website: www.nsfah.ca

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters is a volunteer, non-profit organization of hunters, anglers, and outdoors people dedicated to conservation and the wise use of our natural resources.

As demand on wildlife increases, sports people in Nova Scotia need a solid, firm, and experienced voice to air their concerns.

The NSFA&H has been that voice for over 88 years. Your support is needed to assure that quality hunting and fishing continue in the future. To join the NSFA&H, complete and mail the coupon with \$20.00 to the above address. Family membership \$30.00. Donations are accepted, and receipts for charitable donations can be provided.

Membership Application (Photocopy and mail)

Name			
Address			'
Postal Code			
☐ Cheque or mone	y order U Visa U Maste	rCard Card No.	
Signature		Expiry Date	
5.gatare			

CASA

Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers

2858 AGRICOLA STREET • HALIFAX • NS • B3K 4E7

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SMALLMOUTH ANGLERS (CASA) was formed in 1988 to promote the sport of angling, particularly for Smallmouth Bass; to share the friendship, camaraderie, and experience of our fellow anglers; to support and improve those conservation measures that promote quality fisheries; and to extend courtesy and respect to all those who share our waters.

When you join CASA and support those important conservation measures, you will receive a CASA membership card, newsletter, as well as the right to attend seminars, tournaments, the annual meeting, and more.

To become a member of CASA, or to learn about our activities or contact us please visit our website.

WWW. CASA-WEBSITE.COM



Our mission: to restore wild Atlantic salmon

to their native rivers.

Please join. Help make it happen

For details: www.wildsalmonunlimited.com

E-mail: admin@wildsalmonunlimited.com



WINTER FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN NOVA SCOTIA

For those who love the outdoors, winter fishing is an ideal recreational sport. **Fishing licences for 2018 are valid until Mar 31, 2019.** If you anticipate taking part in a winter fishery, please keep your licence and return your completed licence stub at the end of March.

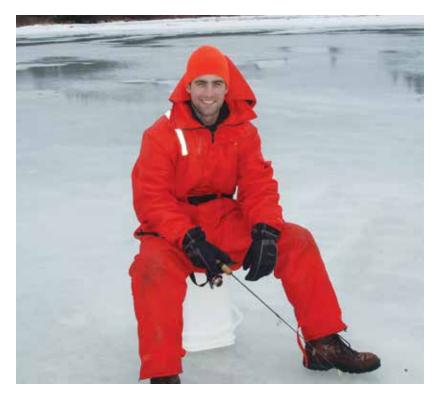
Season: Jan 1–Mar 31. Anglers are reminded that the following waters are open for angling in the winter regardless of ice cover; please check ice thickness before venturing out to fish. Waters open for trout are also open for perch species.

SPECKLED TROUT: BAG LIMIT 10 FISH

Cape Breton Highlands Special Trout Management Area.

RAINBOW TROUT & BROWN TROUT: BAG LIMIT TWO FISH

The tidal waters of the Bras d'Or Lakes, NOT INCLUDING: (1) waters of the Baddeck River upstream from the Hwy 105 bridge; (2) Northeast (inside) of the East Bay Sandbar; and (3) waters upstream from Black River bridge in Dundee; (4) waters upstream from Crowdis Bridge in River Deny's Basin; and (5) waters upstream from MacKenzie Brook bridge near South Side Basin of River Deny's, which remain closed to all angling. Waters inside the Boom Channel including River Denys and all of River Denys Basin are closed to trout angling from Jan 1 to Mar 31.



SPECKLED TROUT AND RAINBOW TROUT

The daily bag limit for speckled and rainbow trout is two (2) fish.

County	Lake	Speckled Trout	Rainbow Trout
Antigonish	Cameron Lake	1	1
Antigonish	Gillis Lake	1	1
Cape Breton	Levers Lake	1	1
Cape Breton	No. 20 Dam (Beacon Street) Pond	1	1
Colechester	Deyarmont Lake	1	
Cumberland	Angevine (Dewars) Lake	1	1
Cumberland	Isaac Lake	1	
Cumberland	Harrison Lake	1	1
Digby	Everitts Lake	/	1
Guysborough	Goose Harbour Lake	1	/
Guysborough	McKeen Lake	/	
Guysborough	Pringle Lake	1	
Halifax	Albro Lake	/	/
Halifax	First Lake	1	
Halifax	Cow Bay Pond	/	
Halifax	Round Lake	1	/
Halifax	Lewis Lake	1	/
Halifax	Maynard Lake	1	1
Halifax	Penhorn Lake	1	/
Hants	Meadow Pond	1	/
Hants	St. Croix Pond	1	
Inverness	Petit Lac	1	1
Kings	Silver Lake	1	/
Kings	Sunken Lake	1	1
Lunenburg	Sucker Lake	1	1
Lunenburg	Hutt Lake	✓	
Lunenburg	Beck Lake	1	
Pictou	Gairloch Lake	✓	1
Pictou	Dryden Lake	✓	
Queens	Hidden Hills Lake	1	1
Queens	Victoria Lake	1	
Richmond	Eco Trial Pond (Isle Madame)	1	1
Shelburne	Beaver Dam Lake	1	✓
Victoria	Dalem (Round) Lake	1	

CHAIN PICKEREL, WHITE PERCH, AND YELLOW PERCH

The daily bag limit for Chain Pickerel is one hundred (100). The daily bag limit for White Perch and Yellow Perch is twenty-five (25).

NOTE: White and yellow perch may be harvested (25 fish, each species, per day) in all waters open to winter angling for trout.

County	Lake	Chain Pickerel	White Perch	Yellow Perch
Annapolis	Springfield Lake		1	1
Colchester	Shortts Lake	1	1	1
Cumberland	Long Lake		1	1
Cumberland	Smiths Lake		1	1
Digby	Meteghan River, including all lakes and tributaries	1	1	1
Halifax	Morris Lake	1	1	1
Halifax	Russel Lake	1	1	1
Halifax	Grand Lake (Shubenacadie)	1	1	1
Halifax	Fish Lake	1	1	
Halifax	Bissett Lake	1	1	1
Halifax	Powder Mill Lake	1	1	1
Halifax	Micmac Lake	1	1	1
Halifax	Red Bridge Pond	1	1	1
Halifax	Beaver Bank Lake	1	1	1
Halifax	Beaver Pond (near Kinsac Lake)	1	1	1
Halifax	Kinsac Lake	1	1	1
Halifax	Lake Egmont	1	1	1
Hants	Lily Lake (Cogamun Pond)	1	1	1
Hants	Woodward Sanford Lake		1	1
Kings	Lake George	1	1	1
Kings	Nicholas Lake	1	1	1
Kings	North River Lake	1	1	1
Kings	Lake Paul	1	1	1
Pictou	Black Lake	1	1	1
Pictou	West Branch Lake	1	1	1
Queens	Louis Lake	1	1	1
Shelburne	Walls Lake	1	1	1
Shelburne	Lake George	1	1	1
Shelburne	Ponds in Port LaTour and Bakers Flats, Cape Sable Island	1	1	1
Yarmouth	Annis River	/	/	1
Yarmouth	Kiack Brook (Near Belleville South), including all lakes and tributaries	1	1	1

THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES RESEARCH COOPERATIVE



Photo: John MacMillan

The freshwater fishery in Nova Scotia has experienced several changes associated with habitat loss and exploitation. In response, the Inland Fisheries Division has expanded research initiatives related to fish ecology, water quality, habitat, fisheries management, and Atlantic salmon enhancement by creating the Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative (FFRC). 2018 marks the 11th consecutive year that fisheries management initiatives were supported by the FFRC.

Response of trout and salmon to restoration initiatives

Eight sites were electrofished to determine population densities of trout and salmon in several streams in Antigonish County. This year, 2018 will be the seventh year of a study with Kris Hunter, Saint Francis Xavier University, to determine the impact of common habitat restoration techniques. Over the next four years, the sites will be evaluated on an annual basis.

Medway River Angler Creel Survey

Amanda Lavers, Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, is evaluating the trout fishery in the upper Medway River system. Public access to much of this region was formerly controlled by Bowater Mersey Paper Company Limited. Anglers have expressed concern as removal of gates may result in increased angling pressure. The data could be used as baseline for the development of a Special Trout Management Area.

Aluminum Toxicity and Speckled trout and Atlantic salmon

Dr. Shannon Sterling, Dalhousie University, is investigating the importance of aluminum toxicity in stream systems and identifying restoration techniques to improve aquatic conditions. Recent sampling has demonstrated that some systems reach toxic levels for salmon. This project will provide an improved understanding of habitat conditions in several important trout and salmon rivers in Nova Scotia.

Genetics of Speckled trout in small streams

The Division has been working with Dr. Danielle Rizzante, Dalhousie University, to evaluate the genetic differences in speckled trout in small streams in North Mountain, Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia. Trout captured by electrofishing, were sampled for DNA and released. Results demonstrate the importance of maintaining the genetic integrity of Nova Scotia's wild speckled trout.

Provincial Genetics of Speckled trout

Genetic samples were collected from 680 trout from eleven locations across Nova Scotia. Dr. Shauna Baillie is working with the Gene Probe Lab at Dalhousie University to assess the genetic diversity of trout in Nova Scotia.



The Becoming an Outdoors Woman's Program offers

- A 3-day workshop designed for women, 18 years and older
- Classes introduce participants to a variety of fishing, hunting and other outdoor experiences
- Instructors willing to share their knowledge and passion in a fun and nurturing environment



This workshop is for you if...

- You are a beginner and want to try something new but don't know how to get started
- You know how to do some activities and would like to improve on these or try others
- You are looking for fun and fellowship in the great outdoors

Upcoming Workshop:

Fall BOW, September 21-23, 2018, Brigadoon Village, South Alton, Kings County

If you would like more information, please contact us at: bownovascotia@gmail.com or visit us on-line www.bownovascotia.com



Photo: Carl Kennedy

Inland Fisheries Division Activities Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Inland Fisheries Hatchery Stocking Programs

Growing fish and delivering smiles is the mission of the Provincial fish hatcheries. The smiles could be on a seasoned angler, cradling an Atlantic salmon in the Margaree River, a grade 5 Learn to Fish student, catching their first pan-sized brookie, or an urban angler with a silver rainbow trout. The Province operates three hatcheries; Fraser's Mills Hatchery, in Antigonish Co., Margaree Hatchery, in Inverness Co. and McGowan Lake Hatchery in Queens Co. Stocking initiatives are probably the most visible and popular of Inland Fisheries' management activities.

Beginning in late March, approximately 200 lakes are stocked with Speckled (Brook) trout and Rainbow trout as part of our Spring Recreational Trout Stocking Program. Trout are generally of catchable size, and in addition to providing angling opportunities, serve to reduce pressure on vulnerable wild stocks. Many provincial and municipal parks are located on lakes which are stocked; as are many barrierfree fishing facilities. Last spring, more than 53 derbies received trout from Fraser's Mills. Margaree and McGowan Lake hatcheries. These social events are cherished by many organizers and communities as a means of introducing voungsters to the enjoyment and comradery that angling provides. The hatcheries supplied trout for over 46 Learn to Fish events, providing kids the opportunity to take up a sport they can enjoy for a lifetime. An additional 200 lakes are stocked each fall, usually after the angling season closes, as part of our Fall Fisheries Enhancement Program. Speckled trout account for most of this effort but Brown trout and sea-run Atlantic salmon populations are also enhanced at this time of year. The hatcheries also provide Rainbow and Speckled trout to 22 lakes in late fall to support the provinces winter trout fishery.

ATLANTIC SALMON ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The cultural and economic importance of the Atlantic salmon fishery is recognized by the Province of Nova Scotia. The Inland Fisheries. Division's Atlantic Salmon Enhancement Program was developed in 2006 and involves on-going consultation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and other stakeholders. The program objective is to provide increased opportunities to angle Atlantic salmon. The rivers selected have salmon populations which are relatively stable but could benefit from additional enhancement. The Department relies heavily on the assistance from volunteer groups (NSSA affiliates, river associations, watershed stewardship organizations, etc.) to provide help with broodstock collection, stocking juvenile salmon and to provide local traditional knowledge.

Since 2006, eight rivers have had their populations enhanced with fry, parr or smolt from the Fraser's Mills or Margaree fish hatcheries. The rivers are: Baddeck River, Mabou River, Margaree River, Middle River (Cape Breton), River Philip , St. Francis Harbour River, West River (Antigonish), West River (Pictou), and Waugh's River. Hatchery enhancement is a critical factor in maintaining an open catch and release fall season on the Baddeck and Middle Rivers. In the fall of 2017, eggs were obtained from wild broodstock collected from Baddeck River, Middle River, Margaree River, Mabou River, Grahams River and West River Antigonish.

For information on any of the above programs, visit our website: www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing or contact Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Inland Fisheries Division at (902) 485-5056.

FRASER'S MILLS HATCHERY



2018 marks the 90th year of operation for Fraser's Mills. Built in 1928 as part of the Government of Canada's hatchery system, Fraser's Mills has essentially been rebuilt since the Province of Nova Scotia took over its operation, in 1982. The site has outdoor raceways and circular ponds as well as hatchery buildings. Four species of salmonids are grown at this hatchery; speckled (brook) trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and sea-run Atlantic salmon. It is the primary trout broodstock (adult parent fish) facility in Nova Scotia; and is an excellent place to view the thousands of broodstock required to supply eggs for the stocking program. Annual distribution from this hatchery usually exceeds 1,000,000 eggs, fry, parr, yearlings and adult fish.

MCGOWAN LAKE HATCHERY



The McGowan Lake Hatchery, built in 1987, has helped to ensure the future of speckled trout fishing in western Nova Scotia, a region with many acid-stressed lakes and streams. This hatchery utilizes a unique water treatment facility to counteract the acidic nature (low pH) of the McGowan Lake water supply and an oxygen generation and injection system to rear nearly 1,000,000 Speckled trout which are released annually as fry, fall fingerlings and yearlings.

MARGAREE FISH HATCHERY



The historic Margaree hatchery first opened in 1902 and has been supporting the economically and culturally important Atlantic salmon and trout fishery for over a century, as well as attracting visitors, from around the world, to the scenic Margaree Valley. The Province of Nova Scotia has operated this hatchery since 2008; providing approximately 250,000 salmon parr and smolt for the Margaree and other Atlantic salmon rivers and 250,000 trout, for selected lakes on Cape Breton Island.

All of our hatcheries have visitor interpretation centres which are open to the public. These provide an opportunity to learn more about the hatchery operations and other aspects of recreational angling in Nova Scotia. Schools and other groups can call to arrange a tour, view photographs, posters, artifacts and displays on a variety of subjects.

FOR WEEKLY SPRING STOCKING UPDATES OR A COMPLETE LIST OF STOCKED LAKES PLEASE VISIT:

www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing

You may contact our hatcheries at the telephone number below:

Fraser's Mills Fish Hatchery Antigonish Co., NS (902) 783-2926

McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery Queens Co., NS (902) 682-2576

Margaree Fish Hatchery Inverness Co., NS (902) 248-2845

Sportfish Resource Management

Trout Management

One focus of sportfish management is native speckled trout. Our staff contribute to a number of initiatives, some partially funded through the Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative. Projects are often undertaken with assistance from numerous volunteers from angler organizations across the province.

River Denys Special Trout Management Area Study

Growth of wild speckled trout is rapid in productive estuarine waters and the abundance of trout attracts much angling pressure on exploited sea run fisheries. STMAs are used to reduce harvest and improve the quality of the sport fishery. Regulation changes were made in 2012 and included an opening date to May 1, a reduced bag limit to 3 trout and only one may exceed 35cm in length. A trout tagging project has been undertaken to assess the impact of new regulations on this system. Over 340 trout were tagged in the Denys Basin before the season opened. During the first 45 days of the angling season, 234 anglers were interviewed, the catch was measured, weighed and scales were sampled to age the catch. After the creel survey, live traps were placed in the river to capture upstream migrating sea trout. The results will be analyzed and published.

Cape Breton Highlands Trout Management Area Study

Speckled trout have an amazing ability to fill available cold-water habitat. Under some circumstances recruitment can lead to overpopulation and crowding. As a result, many lakes in the Cape Breton Highlands support an abundance of relatively small trout compared to other lakes and rivers. The size of the trout catch in Larkin Lake and Round (Doyles) lakes was evaluated to detect any changes that may have occurred since the implementation of the increased daily bag limit and the year-round fishery.

Smallmouth Bass Management

Smallmouth bass continue to be a popular sportfish in Nova Scotia. Management projects for this species focus on assessing regulations, evaluating changes in populations over time, population estimates and lake ecology. It is equally important to develop better access to lakes and consider other ways to improve angling opportunities for this species.



Photo: Andrew Lowles

Tournament Monitoring

Data are collected annually at various smallmouth bass tournaments to monitor changes and trends in population structure, fish size and condition on several lakes throughout Nova Scotia. The Department continues to work cooperatively with organized smallmouth bass organizations throughout Nova Scotia.

Invasive Species Initiatives

Effective sportfish management must also consider the importance of preventing further illegal introductions of aquatic invasive species. We are working with the Aboriginal community, angling associations, and provincial and federal enforcement agencies to develop effective strategies. Ongoing outreach and education, risk assessment and research focusses on documenting and understanding the impacts of invasive species on native fish communities.

Chain Pickerel Database

This invasive species is known to be a voracious predator, but little is known about their biology in Nova Scotia. A long-term database is being assembled with specimens collected throughout the province.

Cannon Lake, Queens County

Smallmouth bass were illegally introduced and have subsequently established a population in Cannon Lake which directly flows into the waters of Kejimkujik National Park. This project is designed to assess the impacts and reduce the risk to native fish communities through attempting to control smallmouth bass abundance.

Petite Rivere

Boat electrofishing is being assessed as a method used to control aquatic invasive species which are negatively impacting endangered Atlantic whitefish.



Sportfish Extension/Education

Nova Scotia's Learn to Fish Program

Staff and volunteers delivered the L2F program throughout the province for the tenth exciting year in 2017. Youth in schools, after school organizations, and community events explored our province's fisheries in the classroom component, and were thrilled to apply their knowledge in the outdoor fishing workshop.



L2F is geared towards youth grades 4 to high school, and consists of two main components. The first is a classroom presentation that consists of an introduction to freshwater sportfish in Nova Scotia, conservation education of freshwater resources, habitat characteristics, angling equipment (how to assemble a fishing rod and attach tackle), safety, ethics, respect, importance of healthy living and outdoor recreation. Following the in class session, students are given the opportunity to participate in an exciting hands-on outdoor sportfishing workshop at a nearby lake or pond.

Students learn safety-based casting, baiting the hook, catch and release techniques, how to appropriately harvest fish, sportsmanship and to follow leave no trace principles. The Learn to Fish program recruits the next generation of stewards of our aquatic resources, by teaching safe and ethical angling skills to youth.

In 2017, L2F was delivered 50 times, reaching more than 1000 youth. Programs were completed with schools, Cubs, Scouts, Girl Guides, 4-H, the IWK Hospital, and recreation day camps. A small number of sessions were held in collaboration with community groups, and open to anyone from the community to sign up for. The number of community L2F sessions will be increased in 2018 to encourage entire families to learn the skills of fishing together.

The L2F program has received tremendous support from the people of Nova Scotia and the angling community. We wish to thank the Hants West Wildlife Association for delivering sessions in their area, as well as many other angling associations, volunteers, teachers, staff and sponsors who assisted in numerous ways. Your contribution is greatly appreciated by youth who gained a lifelong skill and passion.



A memorable day on the water, fishing with a friend.
It's a day you'll never forget!
BUT something is missing...

Complete the Picture,
Wear your LIFEJACKET

For additional boating safety tips
Visit <u>csbc.ca</u>



Made possible with

Canada

sible with a financial contribut Transport Canada.

Tagged Fish

The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans tag fish throughout the province as part of their management programs.

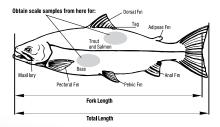
If you catch a tagged fish, please note the tag number, length of fish, date and place of capture.

A sample of scales (taken from the area just behind and below the top or dorsal fin), the fork length of the fish (from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail), and the weight of the fish are useful measurements to understand growth rates (see diagram below). Although some of this information is impossible to obtain if the fish is released, the Department would still like to hear from you. For trout and smallmouth bass, please contact the Inland

Fisheries office in Pictou at the address on page 12. They will tell you the history of the fish including where and when it was tagged.

Please report tags found on Atlantic salmon by returning the tags to the address printed on them.

OBTAINING SCALES AND MEASURING LENGTH



LAKE INVENTORY PROGRAM

The Lake Inventory Program produces detailed information sheets on various lakes throughout the province. These information sheets contain a bathymetric (depth) map as well as data on water quality, stocking and fish species present. With information sheets currently available for over 1000 lakes, innovative GIS technologies are also now being utilized to expand the analysis capabilities on provincial waters, enhance data accuracy and provide a modern cartographic product.

Bathymetric maps for many popular lakes and an index of information sheets are available, online at:

www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing

Information sheets are available, free of charge, by writing to:

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries Aquaculture Attention: Information Officer

PO Box 700, Pictou, NS BOK 1H0 Tel: (902) 485-5056 E-mail: inland@novascotia.ca

Definitions

ANGLING - fishing with a line to which one or more hooks are attached and that is held in the hand or attached to a rod that is held in the hand or closely attended.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES - an aquatic organisms that, when or if introduced into Canadian fisheries waters, has or is likely to have harmful consequences to fish or fish habitat or the use of fish.

ARTIFICIAL FLY - a single hook or double hook or two single hooks dressed with materials likely to attract fish, and to which no weight, spinning device, or natural bait is attached.

FLY FISHING - angling by the use of an artificial fly or flies that are attached to a line or to a leader that is attached to a line.

HOOK - a single, double, or treble hook with or without barbs on one shank or shaft.

CIRCLE HOOK - type of fish hook which is sharply curved back in a circular shape.

JIGGING - fishing by manipulating one or more hooks so as to pierce a fish in any part of its body instead of luring the fish to take the hook or hooks into its mouth

NATURAL BAIT - any form of bait in its natural form. Natural bait includes, but is not limited to: worms, minnows, corn nibblets, pork rind.

NON-RESIDENT - anyone who is not a resident of Nova Scotia

PROVINCIAL WATERS - waters upon any shore or land, or on, or in any lake, river, stream or watercourse, wholly or partially within the province, or over which the province has authority to legislate with respect to fishing within the province.

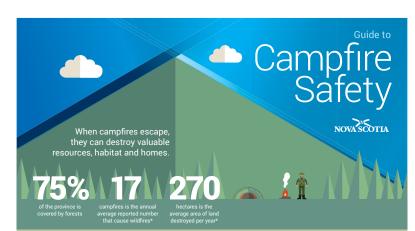
RESIDENT - anyone who permanently or ordinarily lives in Nova Scotia for the last 2 months. A resident also includes officers of the diplomatic or consular service of any foreign country stationed in Nova Scotia and members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Canadian Armed Forces stationed or born in Nova Scotia. Anyone born in the Province of Nova Scotia who owns real property in the province is considered a resident.

SPORTFISH - Atlantic salmon, landlocked salmon, trout, and smallmouth bass.

TOTAL LENGTH - The length of a fish measured from the tip of its nose to the end of its tail.

SINGLE HOOK LURE - a lure with only one hook attached – see above definition for hook.





Building STEP Choose a safe site



Is burning allowed?

Check the daily burn restrictions at novascotia.ca/burnsafe or 1 855 564 2876







around and above your fire



Prepare the site by scraping the ground down to bare soil (1m radius)

Burninc

Campfires should be less than 0.5m high x 0.5m wide. Small hot fires are easier to cook over and put out. Use fire starters, kindling and dry wood.



Doing it safely





Keep a pail of water and a shovel nearby



Watch children and



If it's windy, do not

Always put out your campfire before leaving the area. Your fire is out when the ash doesn't hiss, no smoke comes from the ashes and the remnants are cold to the touch.

Cold to the touch means you're done



Pour a lot of water on it



with a stick or shovel



the ash is cold to the touch



March 15 - October 15 campfires are not allowed between 8am-2pm. Check the daily burn restrictions at novascotia.ca/burnsafe or 1 855 564 2876 Abide by local municipal bylaws. To learn more visit novascotia.ca/campsafe



We are a provincial group of recreational smallmouth bass anglers whose mission is to promote all freshwater fishery resources and support smallmouth angling opportunities.

www.rbans.ca

PO Box 20034, Bridgewater, NS B4V 3W3



rout Unlimited Canada

Join Trout Unlimited Canada and be part of the solution!

Trout Unlimited Canada is the nation's leading conservation organization promoting the wise use and conservation of our coldwater resources.



In Nova Scotia TUC sponsors local chapters, such as the Tusket River Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada. The Tusket River TUC Chapter is heavily involved in the Big Meadow Brook project and, with the financial sponsorship of Trout Unlimited Canada, runs the Province's newly refreshed River Watch program.

If you want to help preserve our coldwater fish and trout fishing heritage, why not have a look at what we're up to at: http://www.tightlines.ca/tuskettuc/

Community Group Partnerships

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following groups for their continued support with our fieldwork projects, stocking strategies, education programs, sportfishing derbies and tournaments.

ACAP Cape Breton

Albert Bridge Recreation Association

Antigonish Rivers Association

Annapolis Fly Fishers

Annapolis Valley Bass Club

Apaqtuwaq Fisheries COOP

Bass River Fire Department

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Black River Environmental Committee

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation

Blue Mountain Fire Departement

Boys and Girls Club of Lower Sackville

Bras d'Or Wildlife Association

Bronzeback Bassers

Canadian Association of Smallmouth

Anglers

Cape Breton Anglers Association

Cape Breton Wildlife Association

Cheticamp River Salmon Association

Clean Annapolis River Project

Clean Nova Scotia

Cobequid Salmon Association

Cumberland County River Enhancement

Association

Dartmouth North Community Centre

Digby East Fish and Game Association

East Shelburne County River Association

Enfield Volunteer Fire Department

Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Service

4-H Tatamagouche

Friends of Cornwallis River

Guysborough Fish & Game Association

Habitant River Trout Association

Habitat Unlimited

Halifax Metro Transit

Halifax Wildlife Association

Hants County Wildlife Association

Hants West Wildlife Association

Highland Sport Club

HRM Community, Culture & Economic

Development

Inverness South Anglers Association

Kings County Wildlife Association

LaHave River Watershed Enhancement

Foundation

LaHave Salmon Association

Lake Ainslie & Margaree River Heritage

Association

Lakeside Smallmouth Bass Club

Lansdowne Outdoor Recreation Development

Association

Lunenburg Wildlife Association

Mabou & District Community Development

Association

Margaree Salmon Association

Medway River Salmon Association

Middle River Watershed Development

Association

Mi'kmaw Conservation Group

Mulgrave & Area Lakes Enhancement Project

Mulgrave Recreation Department

New Waterford Fish & Game Association

Nine Mile River Association

Noel Shore Game Protection Association



North Colchester River Restoration Association Nova Bassmasters Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters Nova Scotia Salmon Association Pagtknek Fisheries Enterprise Petite Riviere Association Pictou County Rivers Association Port Morien Wildlife Association Queens County Fish & Game Association Responsible Bass Anglers of Nova Scotia Richmond Wildlife Association Rockingstone Heights School Sackville Rivers Association Salmon River Salmon Association South Shore Volunteer Fire Department Sheet Harbour & Area Ground Search & Rescue Shelburne County Fish & Game Association Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental

Protection Society
South Shore Wildlife Association
South Shore Bassmasters

Springhill Police Services
St. Mary's River Association
Stewards of River Denys Watershed Association
Strait Area Fish & Game Association
Town of Amherst
Trout Unlimited
Two Rivers Wildlife Park
Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources
Tusket River Environmental Protection
Association
Westchester Volunteer Fire Department

Wildlife Habitat Advocates

Bigger Than Ever



The new Super Licence includes Fishing and Small Game Hunting

You could spend the rest of your life fishing and hunting all over Nova Scotia—Free!

Announcing the 26th Licence of a Lifetime Lottery from the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters. This year, we will be awarding two (2) lifetime licences to two (2) lucky applicants.

That's right, you could hunt and fish from Sydney to Yarmouth, from Amherst to Canso – all over the province, every year, for the rest of your life. And best of all, you'll never have to buy another Fishing*, Small Game** or Deer‡ hunting licence.

You can buy a ticket as a gift for a friend or relative by entering their name in the "Gift for" section of the ticket at the time of purchase.

It's easy to enter: just copy and complete the attached form and mail it along with your entry fee. We will fill out your tickets and send you the stubs. Enter as often as you like, and good luck!

Name:		
Address:		
City/Town:		
Postal Code:	Telephone: _	
You may pay by using your –	M/C U VISA U	Cheque (enclosed) \square payable to Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Card number:		expiry:
Signature:		
Gift for:		

One Entry - \$5.00 3 Entries - \$10.00 7 Entries - \$20.00

Rules

- Open to Nova Scotia residents only.
- Entry forms are to be completely filled out in ink or typed.
- The licencee is subject to the laws respecting hunting in the same manner as with any hunting licence.
- This licence is not transferrable, and may be cancelled, suspended, or forfeited in accordance with the law.
- Incomplete, illegible, or improperly filled out entries will not be accepted, and entrants will not be notified or have fees refunded.
- All entries must be postmarked no later than December 5, 2018 – entries postmarked after December 5, 2018 will be included in next year's draw.
- All entry fees are non-refundable do not send cash

- Make cheque or money order payable to: Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, P.O. Box 654, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2T3.
- Draw date is December 12th, 2018.
- * Not including salmon—sponsored by the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- ** Not including migratory birds
- ‡ The Deer and Small Game Licences are sponsored by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.

