

2022 Fishing Ontario

Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary

(Effective January 1, 2022)



Image: Sophia Nazari
Artwork Title: Search for Perch
Overall winner: 18th Annual Kids'
Fish Art Contest

Increased winter angling opportunities for Lake Trout in FMZ 6




Changes to the movement, possession and use of baitfish and leeches in Ontario

Lake Nipissing changes for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, Muskellunge, Northern Pike and Walleye

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Cover Photo: The annual Kids’ Fish Art Contest is a great way for students across the province to learn about Ontario fish species and their habitat. This year’s cover features the overall winner of the 18th Annual Kids’ Fish Art Contest, a Yellow Perch titled “Search for Perch” drawn by Sophia Nazari. For more information on the contest and how you can participate visit ontario.ca/fishartcontest

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advertisements nor accept any liability arising from the use of such products or services.

This summary is meant as a convenient reference only, and is neither a legal document nor a complete collection of the current laws. For details on the current rules, see the federal *Fisheries Act*, *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations*, *Ontario Fishery Regulations* and *Variation Orders*, and *Species at Risk Act*, as well as the provincial *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* and regulations, *Invasive Species Act*, and *Endangered Species Act*. The maps in this summary are intended as a guide only, with more detailed maps of Zone boundaries available at ontario.ca/fishing or local NDMNRF offices.



Message from the Minister

Ontario offers the very best recreational fishing opportunities in the world. With a tremendous diversity of species in our waterways, there's enough variety and challenge to keep anglers busy for a lifetime.

As Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF), I acknowledge the close connection Indigenous communities have with Ontario's waters, and the vital role fishing has played in their culture, commerce and history. My ministry is deeply grateful for all the recreational anglers that fish Ontario's waters; you support our province's recreational fisheries and contribute to a sustainable industry worth approximately \$1.75 billion per year.

During COVID-19, many Ontarians have discovered that angling is the perfect pastime to get away from crowds, get outdoors with family, and safely participate in a longstanding Ontario tradition.

However, for those businesses that depend on out-of-province tourists, the past two years have proved challenging. My ministry is committed to doing all we can to support tourism operators and outfitters through this tough period.

The cover art for this summary is "Search for Perch" by Richmond Hill's Sophia Nazari — the overall winner of the 18th annual Kids' Fish Art Contest. The other winners of the 18th annual contest are Brampton's Jennifer Gerardi and Oxford Mills' Alexis Dibben. My sincere congratulations go to all three amazing artists.

Every year, NDMNRF invites students from Grades 4–12 to enter the Kids' Fish Art Contest for a chance to win fishing gear and art supplies. This contest allows Ontario's young artists to showcase their talents and learn about our native fish species and habitats.

Our government is taking steps to protect the province's lakes, rivers, and fisheries from the threat of invasive species and fish diseases while

increasing business certainty for the commercial bait industry in 2022. Please see page 18 for information regarding the use and movement of baitfish and leeches in Ontario. These changes help us protect our fisheries from harmful invasive species and fish diseases.

There are changes to regulations for Lake Nipissing on pages 91–92 that will help protect the lake's muskellunge, northern pike, and walleye fisheries. We are also providing increased angling opportunities for bass on Lake Nipissing with a new, extended season.

We are also providing increased winter angling opportunities for lake trout in Fisheries Management Zone 6. For more information, please see page 47.

My ministry has continued the important work of safeguarding Ontario's recreational fisheries throughout the pandemic. Ministry staff have undertaken stocking, monitoring, research, and enforcement efforts with safety protocols in place, and I'm very grateful for their hard work and dedication.

Looking ahead, NDMNRF will continue to protect and preserve Ontario's recreational fisheries so future generations of anglers can enjoy our beloved pastime.

I encourage you to read the rules and regulations listed in this summary and to be safe as you discover everything Ontario's recreational fisheries have to offer.

The Hon. Greg Rickford

Minister of Northern Development, Mines,
Natural Resources and Forestry

What is the Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission?

The Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission consists of members representing all regions of Ontario that have a range of experience, knowledge, and insight related to fishing, hunting, and trapping activities in Ontario.

The FWHC has responsibilities to provide advice and make recommendations to the Minister, related to the promotion of fish and wildlife activities, and the operation of the Fish and Wildlife Special Purpose Account (SPA).



For more information visit: <https://www.pas.gov.on.ca/Home/Agency/377>



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www.huntandfishontario.com

Click "helpful links" for information on getting started.

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How to Use this Summary

For recreational fishing purposes, Ontario is divided into 20 Fisheries Management Zones. Please follow these step-by-step instructions to be sure that you comply with the regulations.

1. Make sure that you have a valid Ontario fishing licence by reviewing the **Recreational Fishing Licence Information** section (page 6).
2. Carefully read the **General Fishing Regulations** (page 10), **Bait** (page 18), and **Invasive Species and VHS** (page 21) sections. Here you will find information that applies to fishing in all Zones, including the following:
 - Glossary of Terms
 - General Prohibitions
 - Provincial Possession Limits
 - Catch and Retain Rules
 - Transporting and Packaging Fish
 - Ice Fishing and Huts
 - Non-Angling Methods of Fishing
 - Boundary Waters
 - Crown Land Camping Regulations
3. Using the **Fisheries Management Zones Map** (page 5), determine the Zone in which you plan to fish. For a more detailed map, see the Zone section to identify the Zone's boundaries.
4. At the start of each Zone, the **General Information** section indicates regulations and information that are applicable to the Zone. Regulations are then broken down into five distinct categories. The following categories and descriptions will assist you in identifying the regulations that are applicable to your waterbody:

Zone-wide Seasons and Limits

- Defines the season and limits for all species present in the Zone. Unless otherwise stated in the Species Exceptions or Waterbody Exceptions, these seasons and limits apply to all waterbodies within the Zone.

Species Exceptions

- If a waterbody's limits and/or seasons for a particular species are different from the rest of the Zone, this will be indicated in the Species Exceptions.

Additional Fishing Opportunities, which provide anglers with increased limits and/or extended seasons, are also included as Species Exceptions.

Waterbody Exceptions

- Some waterbodies have regulations that are unique to them and very different from other waterbodies in a Zone. In many cases, these waterbodies have a combination of various regulations including Species Exceptions, Bait Restrictions, Gear Restrictions and/or Fish Sanctuaries. Where applicable, these waterbodies are indicated in the Waterbody Exceptions and highlighted under the General Information at the beginning of each Zone.

Bait Restrictions

- There are some areas and waterbodies within the province where the use and/or possession of live bait is prohibited. Where this is the case, these areas and waterbodies are indicated in the Bait Restrictions section. Zone-wide Bait Restrictions in Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 are indicated in the General Information section.

Fish Sanctuaries

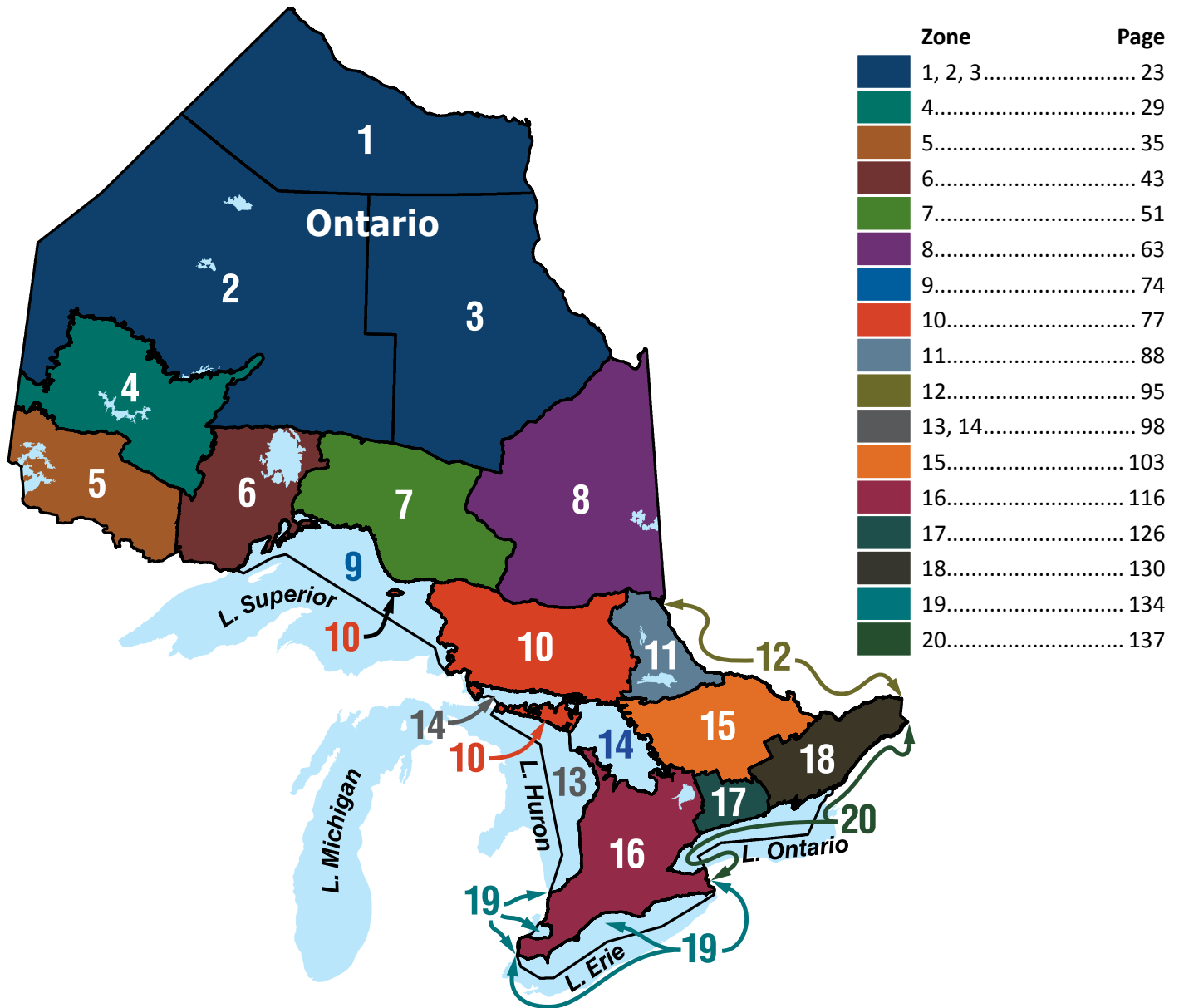
- Fish Sanctuaries include waterbodies or portions of a waterbody where no fishing of any kind is permitted for all or part of the year. Where applicable, these areas and waterbodies are indicated in the Fish Sanctuaries section.

It is important to note that some waterbodies listed as Additional Fishing Opportunities in Zones 5, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 17 may also be listed under Waterbody Exceptions, Bait Restrictions and Fish Sanctuaries. In all other Zones, waterbodies are only listed under one section.

5. If you are a non-Canadian resident fishing in northwestern Ontario, there are additional regulations that are applicable to you. Refer to the **General Fishing Regulations** section for more information.

New regulations and information in this Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary have been highlighted in bold red font for your convenience.

Fisheries Management Zones Map



Updates for Anglers

- To protect our lakes and rivers from harmful invasive species and fish diseases, Ontario has established four Bait Management Zones that affect the movement, use, and possession of baitfish and leeches.
 - Increased winter angling opportunities for Lake Trout in FMZ 6. See FMZ 6 (page 43) for more details.
 - Lake Nipissing changes for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Muskellunge, and Walleye. See pages 91-92 for more details.
- To learn more about the changes that are new for this year, anglers can visit ontario.ca/fishingupdates.

Recreational Fishing Licence Information

Below are rules and regulations for fishing in Ontario. Please read the following section carefully.

Most people require a Recreational Fishing Licence or deemed licence to legally fish in Ontario. You must carry your Outdoors Card or Licence Summary whenever you are fishing. If requested, you must present these documents to a conservation officer. An **Outdoors Card** is a plastic, wallet-sized card valid for three calendar years and used for administration purposes. In addition to your Outdoors Card, you will need to carry the following when you are fishing, depending on when you purchased your fishing licence.

Licence Summary: A document that lists all valid fishing and hunting licences. The Licence Summary can be either a printed copy or saved as a digital format, or the box printed on the back of your Outdoors Card indicating a 3- or 1-year fishing licence.

The province of Ontario sells two different types of Recreational Fishing Licences.

- **Sport Fishing Licence:** For anglers who want full catch and possession fishing privileges. In this summary, S refers to limits under a Sport Fishing Licence (e.g. S-4 = catch and possession limit of 4).
- **Conservation Fishing Licence:** A reduced catch and possession limit licence that is ideal for anglers who want to live-release the majority of fish caught. In this summary, C refers to limits under a Conservation Fishing Licence (e.g. C-2 = catch and possession limit of 2).

Contact Us

For more information on purchasing an Ontario fishing licence, visit huntandfishontario.com, or call the NRISC at 1-800-387-7011 or 1-800-667-1940.

Residency Definitions

Ontario Resident: A person whose primary residence is in Ontario and has lived in Ontario for a period of at least six consecutive months during the twelve months immediately before applying for a licence. This also includes a member or civilian employee of the RCMP or Canadian Armed Forces, or their immediate family, who is stationed and resides in Ontario for at least one month.

Canadian Resident: A person who is not an Ontario resident, whose primary residence is in any part of Canada and has lived in Canada for a period of at least six consecutive months during the twelve months immediately before applying for a licence.

Non-Canadian Resident: A person who is neither an Ontario nor Canadian resident.

When You Don't Need to Purchase a Fishing Licence

Instead of purchasing and carrying an Outdoors Card and Recreational Fishing Licence, persons described below carrying the specified documents while fishing may use them as a fishing licence. Catch and possession limits for a Sport Fishing Licence apply in these situations.

Regardless of residency, a person who has been issued any of the following documents may use it as a fishing licence:

- An accessible parking permit issued under Ontario's *Highway Traffic Act*
- The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) national identity card

The persons described below can carry a licence, permit, certificate or identification card issued by a federal, provincial or territorial government of Canada that indicates their name and date of birth and use it as a fishing licence:

- Ontario and Canadian residents who are **under 18 or 65 years of age or older**.
- Individuals, regardless of residency, who require the direct assistance of another person to fish and to follow applicable laws due to a disability defined in the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*. If the accompanying person is only assisting, they do not require a fishing licence, but must have one if they engage in fishing.

Recreational Fishing Licence Information

- A person, regardless of residency, who also holds a black and white photocopy or printed version of an accessible parking permit issued under Ontario's *Highway Traffic Act*.

Finally, Ontario residents who are active members or veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces can use one of the following documents as a fishing licence:

- Canadian Forces Identification Card (NDI 20)
- Record of Service Card (NDI 75)
- Canadian Armed Forces Veteran's Service Card (NDI 75)

Family Fishing Opportunities

Ontario and Canadian residents are also provided four opportunities throughout the year to fish without having to purchase a fishing licence. These dates include:

- Family Fishing Weekend (February 19-21, 2022)
- Mother's Day Weekend (May 7-8, 2022)
- Father's Day Weekend (June 18-19, 2022)
- Ontario Family Fishing Week (July 2 to 10, 2022)

Government issued identification is required and anglers must follow catch and possession limits for Conservation Fishing Licences. For more information on these fishing opportunities, contact the Natural Resources Information and Support Centre at 1-800-387-7011 or 1-800-667-1940 or visit ontario.ca/page/licence-free-family-fishing.

Requirements for Indigenous Persons

Many Indigenous communities in Ontario hold Aboriginal or treaty rights to fish. NDMNRF is committed to respecting these constitutionally-protected rights. After conservation goals are met, Aboriginal and treaty rights to fish take priority before allocation and management of the resource for other purposes.

Aboriginal rights to fish stem from customs, practices or traditions that are integral to the distinctive culture of an Indigenous community. Treaty rights to fish are reserved through treaties between the Crown and Indigenous peoples. Aboriginal and treaty rights are collectively held and are associated with an Indigenous community's traditional or treaty territory. These rights are not generic and different communities may hold different rights.

Aboriginal and treaty rights to fish can be exercised using modern means.

Members of Indigenous communities exercising an Aboriginal or treaty right generally do not require an Outdoors Card and Ontario fishing licence when fishing for food, social or ceremonial purposes within their traditional or treaty territory. Indigenous individuals should be prepared to provide identification showing their community membership if requested by conservation officers. Members of Indigenous communities fishing outside of their traditional or treaty area must hold a valid fishing licence and follow the corresponding seasons, limits, slot sizes and gear restrictions, or have permission from a First Nation to fish within their traditional or treaty territory (R v. Shipman et al., 2007). This is also applicable to members of Indigenous communities from the United States fishing in Ontario waters.

Non-Canadian Residents

Anyone who is not an Ontario or Canadian resident is considered a non-Canadian resident for the purposes of fishing licence regulations. Most non-Canadian residents require an Outdoors Card and Recreational Fishing Licence to fish in Ontario, including those 65 years of age or older. The following exceptions apply:

- Non-Canadian residents under 18 years of age may fish without an Outdoors Card and licence if accompanied by a person who has a valid Ontario Recreational Fishing Licence. Any fish kept are part of the catch and possession limit of the person who holds the licence. Alternatively, non-Canadian residents under 18 years of age may purchase an Outdoors Card and Recreational Fishing Licence to have their own limits.
- Non-Canadian youth, under 18 years of age, attending an organized camp that provides meals and accommodates a minimum of five campers may use a government issued photo identification (or a photocopy) together with a camp identification card as a deemed licence to fish. The camp identification card must state the name and location of the camp, the name and date of birth of the camper and the dates that the camper is at the camp.

Recreational Fishing Licence Information

These campers must follow conservation limits.

Non-Canadian residents camping on Crown lands in northwestern Ontario are subject to Conservation Fishing Licence limits. See Crown Land Camping Regulations for more details.

Applying for your Outdoors Card and License

The delivery time for an Outdoors Card is approximately 20 days. If you've applied for an Outdoors Card and haven't received it within the stated timeframe or have additional questions related to your Outdoors Cards, call 1-800-387-7011 or 1-800-667-1940. The following are rules about Outdoors Card:

- You must notify the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry within 10 days of any changes to your name, contact information, address and/or residency. You can update your information by calling 1-800-387-7011 or 1-800-667-1940, or online at huntandfishontario.com.
- Your Outdoors Card, Recreational Fishing Licence or Licence Summary is not transferable to another person – they provide privileges to you alone.
- **All fishing licence products are issued on a calendar year basis from January 1 to December 31.**
- 1 year fishing licences expire December 31 of the year printed on the licence, while 3-year fishing licences expire December 31 of its third year.
- It is an offence to attempt to obtain more than one Outdoors Card or provide false information when applying for your Outdoors Card, Recreational Fishing Licence or Licence Summary.
- If your Outdoors Card, Recreational Fishing Licence or Licence Summary is lost or stolen, you can reprint your Licence Summary online at no charge and/or order a replacement plastic card for a fee. You can also visit a local licence issuer or participating ServiceOntario centre that offers NDMNRF services for replacement.
- New anglers are able to purchase their first Outdoors Card online at huntandfishontario.com.
- Outdoors Cards are not required when purchasing a 1-day licence.

Licence Fees

The 2022 annual licence fees are in effect from January 1 to December 31, 2022. For the location of the licence issuer nearest you, visit ontario.ca/outdoorscard or call 1-800-387-7011 or 1-800-667-1940.

The following licences are available on the internet or through all licence issuers. 3-year Sport and Conservation Fishing Licences can also be purchased through our automated telephone licensing line when renewing your Outdoors Card (1-800-288-1155).

All products with a fee are subject to HST.

- Some anglers qualify to use other documents instead of purchasing and carrying an Outdoors Card and Recreational Fishing Licence. For more information visit: ontario.ca/page/fishing-licence-canadian-residents
- **Outdoors Card** \$8.57 for Ontario, Canadian, and Non-Canadian residents.
- **Ontario Residents**
 - 3-year Sport Fishing Licence (\$79.71)
 - 1-year Sport Fishing Licence (\$26.57)
 - 3-year Conservation Fishing Licence (\$45.21)
 - 1-year Conservation Fishing Licence (\$15.07)
 - 1-day Sport Fishing Licence (\$12.21)
- **Canadian Residents**
 - 3-year Sport Fishing Licence (\$167.43)
 - 1-year Sport Fishing Licence (\$55.81)
 - 3-year Conservation Fishing Licence (\$100.29)
 - 1-year Conservation Fishing Licence (\$33.43)
 - 1-day Sport Fishing Licence (\$15.21)
- **Non-Canadian Residents**
 - 3-year Sport Fishing Licence (\$249.57)
 - 1-year Sport Fishing Licence (\$83.19)
 - 3-year Conservation Fishing Licence (\$158.13)
 - 1-year Conservation Fishing Licence (\$52.71)
 - 1-day Sport Fishing Licence (\$24.86)
 - 8-day Sport Fishing Licence (\$54.38)
 - 8-day Conservation Fishing Licence (\$31.52)

Glossary of Terms

Additional Fishing Opportunities – There are some waters where regulations for certain species are more liberal than the Zone regulations. These include areas where anglers may fish for a species during part or all of the time when the season is generally closed in the Zone and include extended and open all year seasons. Often these additional opportunities are provided through fish stocking.

Aggregate (Combined) Limits – Aggregate or combined limits are catch and possession limits for a combination of fish species. Where there are aggregate limits, you may not catch and retain a separate limit of each species. In this summary, aggregate limits are referred to as combined limits and apply to Walleye and Sauger, Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, and Black and White Crappie.

Aggregate Limits for Trout and Salmon (including Splake) – Throughout the province there are standard aggregate limits for all species of trout

and salmon in combination. You may only catch and keep in one day or possess no more than five trout and salmon in total under a Sport Fishing Licence (S-5) or two trout and salmon in total under a Conservation Fishing Licence (C-2). In addition to the aggregate limit, you may not exceed individual species limits where they are otherwise stated.

Angling – Angling means fishing with a line that is held in the hand or attached to a rod that is held in the hand or closely attended.

Artificial Fly – An artificial fly means a single or multi-pointed hook dressed with lightweight silk, wool, fur, feathers or similar material, but does not include other types of artificial lures or organic bait. Wet flies, dry flies and streamers are all considered artificial flies.

Artificial Lure – An artificial lure means a spoon, plug, jig, artificial fly or other such device that is designed to catch fish by means of angling.

Has your Outdoors Card expired?

More than 340 000 residents fishing and hunting Outdoors Cards expired on

December 31, 2021

If your Outdoors Card has expired, renew it today:

- Online: ontario.ca/outdoorscard
- By phone: 1-800-288-1155
- In person: at a participating ServiceOntario or licence issuer

Ontario has moved to a single version Outdoors Card for all anglers and hunters. Your hunting accreditation will be documented within the licensing service.



Bait – Bait includes live or dead animals, plants or parts. There are some areas of the province where the use of any form of bait is not allowed.

Bait Management Zone – In Ontario, four Bait Management Zones (BMZ) affect the movement, possession and use of baitfish and leeches. See Bait (page 18) for more details.

Baitfish – There are 48 species of fish that may be used as bait. See Bait (page 20) for more details.

Barbless Hook – A barbless hook means a hook without barbs or one that has barbs that are compressed so as to be completely in contact with the shaft of the hook.

Catch and Possession Limits – The **catch limit** is the number of fish you are allowed to catch and keep in one day and includes fish that are not immediately released and any fish eaten or given away. Catch limits apply to each individual and any fish gifted to another person count towards your catch limit even if they are gifted to a member of your fishing party.

The **possession limit** is the number of fish you are allowed to have in your possession on hand, in cold storage, in transit, or anywhere. Possession limits are the same as one day's catch limit except where otherwise specified. If you catch a fish after reaching the daily catch or possession limit for that species, the fish must be released immediately. If the limit is zero, anglers may practice catch and release only, and any fish caught must be released immediately.

Check Stations – Conservation officers operate random “Fish Check Stations” throughout the year. At these stations, conservation officers collect information on fish taken and make sure that regulations are being followed in order to better manage our fisheries resources. Remember to keep all licences, equipment and fish easily accessible for inspection.

Competitive Fishing Events – Live release boats for competitive fishing events must have a licence in order to transport the catches of multiple anglers and be in possession of more than an individual's possession limit of fish.

Conservation Officers – Conservation officers enforce fisheries regulations in the Province of Ontario. They have powers of inspection, arrest, search and seizure under the various statutes they enforce, including the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* and the *Fisheries Act*. When carrying out their duties, conservation officers may:

- Stop and inspect a vehicle, boat or aircraft
- Ask questions relevant to the inspection
- Inspect buildings or other places
- Require assistance to complete inspections
- Enter onto private property to perform their duties
- Search with a warrant
- Search without a warrant in circumstances requiring immediate action
- Seize items related to an offence
- Arrest anyone they believe has committed, is committing, or is about to commit an offence.

Crappie – For the purpose of this summary, crappie includes both Black Crappie and White Crappie.

Exceptions – In specified waterbodies or for particular species, there are exceptions to the general regulations established for each Zone. These include Species Exceptions (e.g., size, limits, seasons), Waterbody Exceptions (e.g., a combination of Species Exceptions, Fish Sanctuaries, Gear or Bait Restrictions), Bait Restrictions and Fish Sanctuaries.

Some waters are grouped with other waters that have the same regulatory exceptions and these will generally be listed under the proper name for the largest or most significant water body. If there is nothing stated in the exceptions, then the regulations for the Zone apply.

Export of Fish – A person may, upon leaving Ontario, take no more than the designated limits of fish.

Fish Sanctuaries – No fishing of any kind is permitted in a Fish Sanctuary. Some bodies of water, or parts of them, are declared Fish Sanctuaries for all or part of the year. Fish Sanctuaries are not always marked with signs. Sanctuary dates are inclusive: all dates including the first and last dates stated in the summary are closed.

Fisheries Management Zone or Zone – The province is divided into 20 Fisheries Management Zones (FMZ) for which there are general regulations that establish seasons, limits and size limits for popular fish species.

Hook – A hook includes a single-pointed or multiple-pointed hook on a common shaft but does not include a snagger or spring gaff. The number of hooks includes any single-pointed or multiple-pointed hooks that are part of a lure.

Hooks and Lines – An angler may use only one line, unless otherwise stated in the regulations. Two lines may be used when angling from a boat in parts of the Great Lakes and for ice fishing in many areas. A fishing line must not have more than four hooks attached.

Immediate Release of Fish – All fish that are caught unlawfully or are illegal to possess (e.g., during the closed season, prohibited size, exceed the catch and possession limits) must be immediately released at the place and time of capture. This includes fish that may be injured during catch. This rule does not apply to invasive species (e.g., goby), which should be destroyed and not released back into any waters.

Lead Sinkers and Jigs – It is illegal to use or possess lead fishing sinkers or jigs in Canada's National Parks and National Wildlife Areas.

Live Holding Boxes – If you use a live holding box or impounding device, it must be clearly marked with your name and address and it must be legible without having to lift the box, unless it forms part of or is attached to a boat. Fish in holding boxes are part of your catch and retain or possession limits. Always monitor fish in your possession; allowing fish to waste is an offence.

Livewell – A livewell is a compartment designed to keep fish alive. It must be attached to or form part of a boat, hold a total volume of not less than 46 litres (10 gallons) of water, have the capacity for water exchange and be aerated at all times when live fish are being held in it. Livewells should be drained and emptied of all contents, including live fish, before being transported overland.

Muskellunge – For the purposes of this summary, Muskellunge includes Muskellunge and hybrids of Muskellunge and Northern Pike.

Open Seasons – Fishing season opening and closing dates vary depending on the species and the area. Dates are inclusive: all dates including the first and last dates stated in the summary are open or closed. It is illegal to attempt to catch fish for which the season is closed, even if you are going to release them. Fish accidentally caught during the closed season must be immediately released back to the water. Unless stated otherwise, species that are not listed (e.g. Rock Bass) have a year-round open season for angling.

Pacific Salmon – For the purpose of this summary, Pacific Salmon include Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon and Pink Salmon.

Plant-based Bait – bait made from one of the following:

- 1) bait that is made entirely from plants (for example, corn), or
- 2) primarily from plants (for example, boilies and doughballs), and cannot: contain visible pieces of fish or animal parts, be fish or animal flavoured, or include poultry eggs (except if they are used to bind ingredients together).

Primary Residence – The place with which a person has the greatest connection in terms of present and anticipated future living arrangements and the activities of daily living. For greater clarity, a person may only have one primary residence. See Bait (page 19) for more details.

Size Limits – All size limits refer to total length which is a measure from the tip of the mouth with the jaws closed to the tip of the tail, with the tail fin lobes compressed to give the maximum possible length.

Sunfish – For the purpose of this summary, Sunfish includes Pumpkinseed, Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Northern Sunfish, Orange-spotted Sunfish and their hybrids.

General Fishing Regulations

Units of Measure – Provincial regulations use the metric system. Converting from imperial units to metric units can be done using the following conversion ratios:

- 1 inch is equal to 2.54 cm
- 1 foot is equal to 0.305 m
- 1 mile is equal to 1.609 km

General Prohibitions

In Ontario, it is illegal to:

- Transport live fish, other than baitfish, taken from Ontario waters or to transfer or stock any live fish or spawn into Ontario's waters without a special licence to transport or stock fish.
- Fish for or possess any species of fish listed as Endangered or Threatened under the provincial *Endangered Species Act* and/or federal *Species at Risk Act*.
- Sell or buy any recreationally caught fish (including taxidermy mounts), crayfish, leeches, frogs or fish eggs. Only holders of commercial fishing or commercial bait licences may sell their catch.
- Take fish with a gaff, snare, snagger or spear gun, or possess a spring gaff, snagger or spear gun, or a snare for the purpose of fishing, within 30 m of any waters. A spear is only permitted within 30 m of any waters when it is being used in accordance with non-angling methods of capturing fish (page 15). A gaff, other than a spring gaff, may be used to assist in landing fish caught by lawful means. A spring gaff includes any device which uses a mechanical spring, other than the fishing rod under tension, to set the hook for an angler.
- Catch or retain a fish by impaling or snagging it with a hook through any part of the body other than the mouth. Fish hooked in this way must be released immediately.
- Take fish by any means other than angling, spear, bow and arrow, dip or seine net or baitfish trap. See Non-angling methods of capturing fish (page 15) and Bait (page 18) for more information.
- Use artificial lights to attract fish except when fishing for Rainbow Smelt, Lake Whitefish or Lake Herring (cisco) using a dip net or if the light is part of a lure attached to a line used in angling.
- Use dynamite or other explosives to take or destroy fish.

- Fish within 25 m of a pound net or cage in which fish are held for culture.
- Fish in any manner within 23 m downstream from the lower entrance to any fishway, obstruction, or leap.
- Abandon fish or permit the flesh to spoil, if the fish is suitable for human consumption.

Provincial Possession Limits

While the regulations for a specific Zone limit the number of fish an individual can catch and retain from that Zone, provincial possession limits restrict the total number of fish of a given species a person can have in their possession (including storage) which have been harvested from more than one Zone. Note that aggregate limits for trout and salmon (including Splake) also apply. Always check the regulations for the Zone in which you are fishing to ensure that you aren't exceeding the catch and possession limits for that Zone. The provincial possession limits are as follows:

- Atlantic Salmon..... 1
- Aurora Trout..... 1
- Brook Trout 5
- Brown Trout 5
- Channel Catfish 12
- Crappie..... 30
- Lake Trout 3
- Lake Whitefish 25
- Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass combined 6
- Muskellunge..... 1
- Northern Pike..... 6
- Pacific Salmon 5
- Rainbow Trout..... 5
- Splake..... 5
- Walleye or Sauger combined 6
- Yellow Perch..... 100

General Fishing Regulations

Catch and Retain Rules

Generally, daily catch limits include all fish that are retained for any period of time and not immediately released.

Anglers fishing from a boat may catch, hold, and selectively live release more Walleye, Northern Pike, Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass than the daily limit, provided:

- The fish are held in a livewell with a mechanical aerator operating at all times.
- The fish comply with any applicable size limits.
- The Sport or Conservation Fishing Licence daily catch and retain limits for Walleye or Northern Pike are not exceeded at any one time.
- No more than six Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass (combined) are held at any one time for

fish caught under a Sport Fishing Licence.

- The Conservation Fishing Licence catch and retain limits for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass (combined) are not exceeded at any one time for fish caught under a Conservation Fishing Licence.

Anglers are reminded to closely monitor the condition of fish held in a livewell. Only fish that are in such a condition that they will survive may be released. Releasing a fish that will not survive and allowing the flesh of that fish to be wasted is an offence. Any fish not live released are part of your catch and possession limit.

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COMMERCIAL FISHERIES IN ONTARIO

Commercial fisheries are part of Ontario's heritage, providing healthy food, creating hundreds of jobs and contributing to the province's economy.



The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry is committed to the sustainable management of recreational, subsistence and commercial fisheries.

Interference with lawful commercial fishing in any way, including tampering with fishing gear, nets, and traps, is prohibited under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act and can be unsafe.

To learn more about commercial fishing in Ontario, please visit
www.ontario.ca/commercialfishing.

Ontario

General Fishing Regulations

Transporting Sport Fish

It is illegal to stock fish without a permit or transport live fish overland, other than baitfish, without a permit. Sportfish transported overland must be dead and should be transported on ice, not in a livewell filled with water. Anglers need to ensure they are transporting fish in compliance with the regulations, which are designed to protect fisheries resources. The fish that you catch and keep may be cleaned, but must be readily measurable at all times if they are from waterbodies where size limits exist, unless the fish are:

- Being prepared for immediate consumption
- Prepared at an overnight accommodation for storage
- Being transported on the water from a temporary overnight accommodation to your residence and you are not engaged in sport fishing
- Being transported overland

Tips for Packaging Fish

1. All fish must be packaged so that they can be easily counted and identified, not just those with limits.
2. To ensure fish can be easily counted, package each fish separately, or arrange fillets spread flat in a clear freezer bag. Do not freeze fillets in container or a large lump frozen together in bags.
3. Since anglers often transport or store various species of fish, it is their responsibility to ensure every fillet of their catch can be easily identified. Ensure you leave at least a large patch of skin on all fish fillets for identification purposes. Some species (e.g. Lake Whitefish or Lake Herring (cisco)) may require additional identifying features such as the head.
4. Conservation officers may inspect your catch at any time. Always have your fish and your licence easily accessible, and place coolers of fish where they can be easily inspected.
5. If a conservation officer inspects fish captured through sport fishing and you are transporting them improperly packaged your catch may be seized for evidence, you could get a ticket and be fined and/or you may have to attend court

close to where the inspection took place, which may be far from where you live.

6. The following pictures demonstrate examples of improperly packaged fish since they are frozen in a clump, cannot be identified or counted and no skin is attached to the fillets.



7. The following pictures demonstrate examples of properly packaged fish since they can be identified and counted easily, the skin is attached to the fillets and they are not frozen in a large clump.



Bullfrogs

Holders of valid Recreational Fishing Licences may catch and retain Bullfrogs during the open season. For details on the current harvest areas, season dates and catch and possession limits, see the Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary.

Ice Fishing

Two lines may be used for ice fishing except in a limited number of waters. You must be within 60 m at all times of any line or tip-up you are using when ice fishing and you must have a clear and unobstructed view of the lines being used at all times. Any spring-loaded device which sets the hook for an angler may not be possessed within 30 m of any waters.

General Fishing Regulations

Ice Hut Registration

Ice fishing huts must be registered online (ontario.ca/icefishing) if they are being used in the following Zones and must be removed by the dates indicated below. Once registered, an ice hut can be used anywhere in Ontario. Additional approvals may be required for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. Individuals only need to register once. If your ice hut already has a registration number then you do not need to re-register. You do not need to register an ice hut that is a tent made of cloth or synthetic fabric that has a base area of seven square metres or less when erected.

- March 1 - Zones 17 and 20
- March 15 - Zones 14, 16, 18, 19 and 12 (below Timiskaming Dam)
- March 31 - Zones 9, 10, 11, 15 and 12 (above Timiskaming Dam)
- Removal dates and registration do not apply in Zones 1-8 and 13

It is an offence under the *Public Lands Act* to leave your ice hut out after ice break up, regardless of whether registration and removal dates apply. Ice hut registration numbers must be at least 6.3 cm in height and clearly displayed on the outside of the hut.

Multiple Lines for Common Carp

Anglers in Fisheries Management Zones 12 to 20 may use up to three lines while targeting Common Carp. To use more than one line, you must meet all of the following conditions:

- use baits that are plant-based or artificial corn
- when fishing from shore, each line you use must be no further than 2 metres (6 feet) away from another line you are using
- when fishing from a vessel (such as a boat), all lines must be on board the vessel with you

The following are not allowed when fishing with multiple lines for common carp:

- baits like worms, leeches or baitfish
- artificial lures including soft plastic lures

When targeting common carp with more than one line (up to three), the restrictions listed above apply to all lines that an angler is using.

Non-Angling Methods of Capturing Fish

Ontario and Canadian residents and non-Canadian residents with a valid Recreational Fishing Licence may fish with one dip net, one seine net, one spear or a bow and arrow for the species and during the periods outlined below. If the Zone is not identified below, then there is no open season for that species.

Dip nets: may be no more than 183 cm on each side if angular, or 183 cm in diameter if circular.

Seine nets: may be no more than 10 m long and 2 m high.

Spears: cannot be possessed on or within 30 m of the edge of any waterbody except when fishing for carp and White Sucker as described within the Non-Angling Methods of Capturing Fish

Bow and arrow: includes all longbows. Longbows are considered a firearm under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*.



New Ice Fishing Hut?
Register online at
ontario.ca/icefishing

ontario.ca/icefishing

Ontario 

General Fishing Regulations

People fishing with a longbow who handle or discharge it without due care for people or property may be liable to a fine and/or imprisonment. Any injury requiring treatment by a physician that is caused by the discharge of a firearm while it was possessed for fishing must be reported to a conservation officer.

Bowfin

Season: May 1 to July 31 in Zones 10, 13, 14, 19

Method: Bow and arrow during daylight hours only

Limit: No limit

Common Carp

Season: May 1 to July 31 in Zones 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 (except Algonquin Park), 16, 18, 19, 20

Season: second Saturday in May to July 31 in Zone 17

Method: Bow and arrow, spear, and dip net during daylight hours only

Limit: No limit

Lake Herring (cisco)

Season: October 1 to December 15 in Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15 (in designated waters only in Zones 11 and 15; contact local district office for details)

Method: Dip net day or night

Limit: No limit

Lake Whitefish

Season: October 1 to December 15 in Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15 (in designated waters only in Zones 11 and 15; contact local district office for details)

Method: Dip net day or night

Limit: Same as angling limit in Zone

Rainbow Smelt

Season: March 1 to May 31 in Zones 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (except Algonquin Park), 16, 18, 19, 20

Season: second Saturday in May to May 31 in Zone 17

Method: Dip net and seine day or night

Limit: No limit

Be careful when cleaning Rainbow Smelt and do not rinse or dump entrails into a lake or river as fertilized eggs can easily invade new waters.

White Sucker

Season: March 1 to May 31 in Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (except Algonquin Park), 16, 18, 19, 20

Season: second Saturday in May to May 31 in Zone 17

Method: Bow and arrow, spear, and dip net during daylight hours only

Limit: No limit

Boundary Waters

Anglers who fish in waters that lie both in Ontario and another province or state must include the total number of fish caught anywhere in those waters as part of the number caught and kept or possessed under the Ontario recreational fishing regulations when bringing those fish into Ontario.

Ontario-Quebec Boundary

Anglers may fish in the following waters with either an Ontario Resident Fishing Licence or a Quebec Resident Fishing Licence.

- Clarice Lake (48°20'N., 79°32'W.).
- Labyrinth Lake (48°14'N., 79°31'W.).
- Lake St. Francis (45°08'N., 74°25'W.) and the waters of the St. Lawrence River between the easterly side of the dam at the Robert H. Saunders Generating Station and the Ontario-Quebec boundary.
- Lake Timiskaming (47°20'N., 79°30'W.).
- Ottawa River (45°34'N., 74°23'W.) lying south of the dam situated in Temiscamingue, Quebec.
- Raven Lake (48°03'N., 79°33'W.).

Ontario-Manitoba Boundary

Anglers may fish in the following waters with either an Ontario Resident Fishing Licence or Manitoba Resident Fishing Licence and must follow conservation or sport possession limits applicable within their respective province.

- Davidson Lake (50°21'N., 95°09'W.).
- Frances Lake (51°43'N., 95°08'W.).

General Fishing Regulations

- Garner Lake (50°48'N., 95°11'W.).
- High Lake (49°42'N., 95°08'W.).
- Mantario Lake (49°95'N., 95°10'W.).
- Moar Lake (52°00'N., 95°07'W.).
- Ryerson Lake (50°23'N., 95°09'W.).

Crown Land Camping

Most Crown land and Conservation Reserves in Ontario are available year-round for personal, temporary use, at no cost. Restrictions may apply in some areas as indicated by the posting of signs, or land use planning or management direction, which is accessible on ontario.ca by searching the “Crown Land Use Policy Atlas” or the “Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Planning” webpages. In addition, some areas may have restricted travel zones for forest fire prevention, closed access roads or specific areas posted with signs to prohibit all or certain kinds of uses or travel.

Canadian Residents

Canadian residents can camp on Crown land and Conservation Reserves for free up to 21 days on any one site in a calendar year. For the purposes of camping on Crown land or a Conservation Reserve, a resident of Canada includes both Canadian citizens as defined in the *Citizenship Act* (Canada) or individuals who have resided in Canada for at least 7 months during the preceding 12 month period.

Non-Canadian Residents

Non-Canadian residents 18 years of age or older, require a permit to camp on Crown land in Northern Ontario (north of the French and Mattawa rivers) and in a Conservation Reserve anywhere in Ontario. Non-Canadian Resident Crown land camping permits are \$9.35 (plus tax) per person per day. In addition to any local access restrictions, non-Canadian residents are also prohibited from camping in designated Green Zones in Northern Ontario at any time of year. For more information on purchasing a permit, a map of Green Zones and other requirements related to non-Canadian resident Crown land camping, visit ontario.ca/crownlandcamping.

Fishing Restrictions for Non-Canadian Residents

Holders of non-Canadian resident fishing licences who are camping on Crown land in Zones 2, 4, 6 and the portion of Zone 5 that lies outside of the Border Waters Area, may not take fish in excess of the conservation catch and possession limits. Holders of non-Canadian resident fishing licences camping on Crown land in the part of Zone 5 identified as the Border Waters Area must follow the Zone 5 regulations. For more information on the boundary of these waters and applicable fishing limits, contact the nearest ministry office or visit ontario.ca/page/fisheries-management-zone-5-fmz-5.

There are also exceptions for the Winnipeg River (Zone 5) and the Sydney Lake Area (Zones 2 and 4) that affect non-Canadian resident fishers - see Waterbody Exceptions for Zones 2, 4 and 5.



THIS just got easier

Now you can buy your non-resident of Canada Crown land camping permit online, before leaving home.

ontario.ca/crownlandcamping

Ontario 

Bait Management Zones (BMZ) Map

Ontario is divided into four BMZs that affect the movement, possession and use of baitfish and leeches. BMZ boundaries are generally based on FMZ boundaries. Baitfish or leeches, whether live or dead, may not be transported into or out of a BMZ, with some limited exceptions described on page 19.

Southern BMZ – consists of FMZs 16, 17, 18 and the part of 20 that is within the County of Prince Edward.

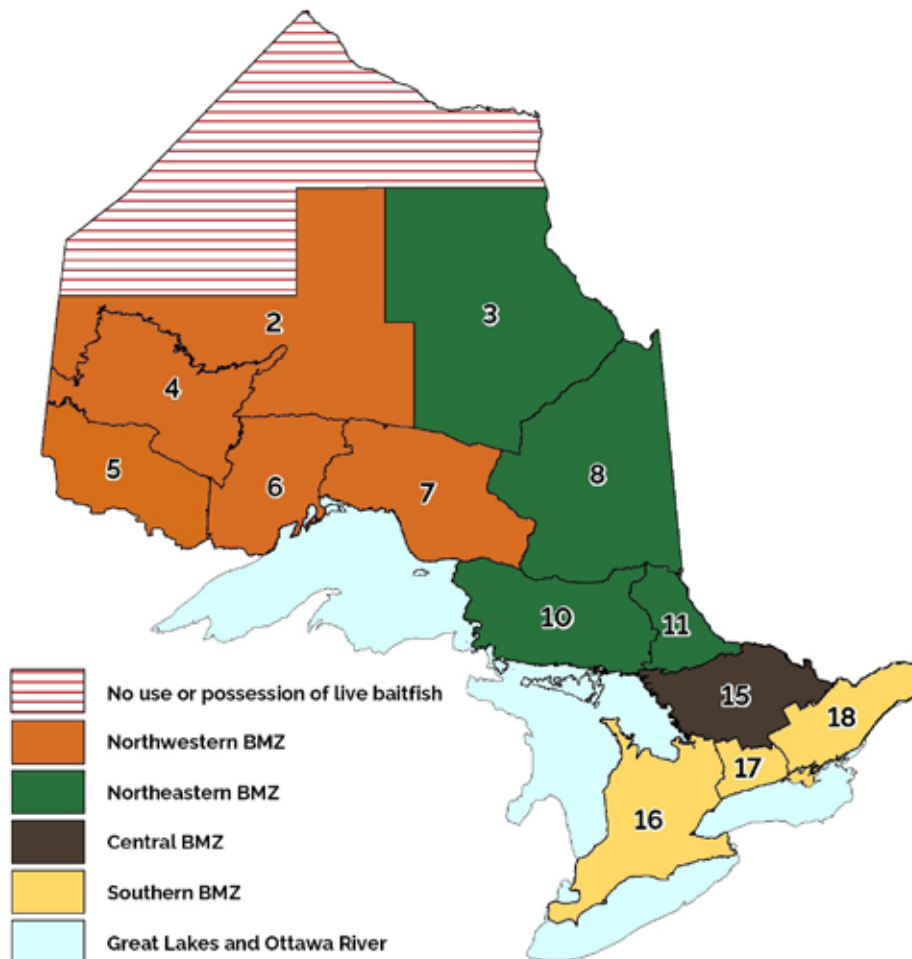
Central BMZ – consists of FMZ 15.

Northeastern BMZ – consists of FMZs 3, 8, 10, and 11 except the part of FMZ 10 that is within Cockburn Island, Michipicoten Island, St. Joseph Island, and Manitoulin Island.

Manitoulin Island is defined as all islands that can be accessed by land south of the causeway connecting Great LaCloche Island and Whitefish River First Nation (known as Swift Current Bridge), including Manitoulin Island, Great LaCloche Island, Little LaCloche Island, and Barrie Island.

Northwestern BMZ – consists of FMZ 2 south of the 11th baseline at latitude 51°48’11”N. and east of longitude 89°00’00”W., and FMZs 4, 5, 6, and 7 except the part of FMZ 6 that consists of St. Ignace Island and Simpson Island

Refer to www.ontario.ca/baitfish and www.ontario.ca/fisheries-management-zones for more information and detailed maps of FMZ boundaries.



Bait

It is illegal to (or attempt to) deposit or release into, or within 30 m of, any waters:

- live or dead bait or baitfish, including fish eggs, gametes or fish parts
- the water, soil or other materials used to hold any of these items

The capture and use of live bait is not allowed in some waters – please ensure you check the rules for the waterbody that you intend to fish.

It is illegal to bring any crayfish, salamanders, live fish or leeches into Ontario for use as bait. New rules on transport of baitfish or leeches also make it illegal to bring baitfish or leeches, whether live or dead, into a BMZ. Persons coming into Ontario in areas where BMZs abut the border of the province must ensure they are not bringing these commodities with them.

Effective January 1, 2022, there are new requirements for anglers regarding the movement and personal harvest of baitfish and leeches in Ontario.

Movement of Bait and Leeches

To help protect our waters from harmful invasive species and fish diseases, four BMZs now affect the movement, possession and use of baitfish and leeches (see page 18). Baitfish or leeches, whether live or dead, may not be transported into or out of a BMZ with some limited exceptions. The following rules apply when using baitfish or leeches for fishing:

Receipts

Anglers using or possessing baitfish or leeches for fishing in a BMZ where their primary residence is **not located** (see page 11), must obtain them from the holder of a commercial licence and be able to immediately produce a legible receipt upon request by a conservation officer. Baitfish or leeches, whether live or dead, can only be possessed or used within two weeks following the date on which they were obtained. The receipt must list the location and date it was obtained from

the commercial licence holder, the business name (if applicable), commercial licence number, and quantity of baitfish or leeches obtained.

Receipts are not required when an angler is using baitfish or leeches in the BMZ where their primary residence is located or for other forms of bait (e.g. worms).

Personal Harvest

Anglers are only permitted to personally harvest baitfish and leeches in the BMZ where their primary residence is located (see page 11).

Great Lakes and the Ottawa River

Baitfish and leeches may be moved from an adjacent BMZ into the Great Lakes or Ottawa River, provided they are not moved through another BMZ. They can only be moved out of the Great Lakes or Ottawa River into an adjacent BMZ to be disposed of immediately more than 30 m from the water.

With respect to the movement of baitfish and leeches, the Great Lakes and Ottawa River are defined as:

Great Lakes

- FMZs 9, 13, 14, 19, and 20, except for the part of FMZ 20 that is within the County of Prince Edward
- The portions of FMZ 6 consisting of St. Ignace Island and Simpson Island
- The portions of FMZ 10 consisting of Cockburn Island, Michipicoten Island, St. Joseph Island, and Manitoulin Island. Manitoulin Island is defined as all islands that can be accessed by land south of the causeway connecting Great LaCloche Island and Whitefish River First Nation (known as Swift Current Bridge), including Manitoulin Island, Great LaCloche Island, Little LaCloche Island, and Barrie Island.

Ottawa River

- All of FMZ 12

Dead Baitfish Species

Dead Lake Herring (Cisco), Longnose Sucker, and White Sucker may be moved into or out of a BMZ only if they are for the purposes of consumption.

Permitted Baitfish

Bait regulations protect rare and endangered species, conserve biodiversity and prevent the spread of invasive species. Anglers are responsible to ensure that any live fish in their possession intended for use as bait are permitted baitfish species.

Only the fish species listed below are considered permitted baitfish and may be used live as bait:

Minnows

- Blackchin Shiner
- Blacknose Dace
- Blacknose Shiner
- Bluntnose Minnow
- Brassy Minnow
- Central Stoneroller
- Common Shiner
- Creek Chub
- Emerald Shiner
- Fallfish
- Fathead Minnow
- Finescale Dace
- Golden Shiner
- Hornyhead Chub
- Lake Chub
- Longnose Dace
- Mimic Shiner
- Northern Redbelly Dace
- Pearl Dace
- Redfin Shiner
- River Chub
- Rosyface Shiner
- Sand Shiner
- Spotfin Shiner
- Spottail Shiner
- Striped Shiner

Suckers

- Longnose Sucker
- Northern Hog Sucker
- Shorthead Redhorse
- Silver Redhorse
- White Sucker

Sticklebacks

- Brook Stickleback
- Ninespine Stickleback
- Threespine Stickleback

Sculpins

- Mottled Sculpin
- Slimy Sculpin

Darters and Logperch

- Blackside Darter
- Fantail Darter
- Iowa Darter
- Johnny Darter
- Least Darter
- Rainbow Darter
- River Darter (northwestern Ontario only)
- Tessellated Darter
- Logperch

Others

- Central Mudminnow
- Lake Herring (cisco)
- Trout-Perch

Limits and Capture Methods

Baitfish

Limit: 120 (includes those caught or purchased)
Only Ontario and Canadian resident anglers may capture baitfish. **Anglers are only permitted to personally harvest baitfish in the BMZ where their primary residence is located.** Only the following methods may be used:

- One baitfish trap no more than 51 cm long and 31 cm wide can be used day or night. Baitfish traps must be clearly marked with the licence holder's name and address.
- One dip-net no more than 183 cm on each side if angular or 183 cm across if circular, during daylight hours only (after sunrise and before sunset).

Dip-nets and baitfish traps may not be used in Algonquin Park.

Leeches

Limit: 120 (includes those caught or purchased)
Only Ontario and Canadian resident anglers may capture leeches. **Anglers are only permitted to personally harvest leeches in the BMZ where their primary residence is located.** Only the following methods may be used:

- Only one leech trap no more than 45 cm in any dimension can be used day or night to capture leeches. Leech traps must be clearly marked with the licence holder's name.

Bait

Crayfish

Limit: 36

- Must be used in same waterbody where caught.
- May not be transported overland.
- May be captured using methods outlined for baitfish above.

Frogs

Limit: 12

- Only Northern Leopard Frogs may be captured or used as bait.

Salamanders

- May not be captured, imported, or used as bait in Ontario.

Chumming

Chumming (baiting an area to attract fish) is allowed for Common Carp and for attracting other fish species, but only with plant-based baits.

Plant-based Baits

Plant-based means baits made from one of the following:

- entirely from plants (for example corn), or
- primarily from plants (for example boilies, doughballs), and cannot:
 - contain visible pieces of fish or animal parts
 - be fish or animal flavoured
 - include poultry eggs (except if they are used to bind ingredients together)

Invasive Species and Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

Invasive Species

Invasive species are often spread unknowingly. As an angler or boater, you should always take precautions to help stop invasive species. *Ontario's Invasive Species Act, 2015* regulates activities to prevent the introduction and spread of species that negatively affect Ontario's biodiversity and/ or economy. Federal regulations also prohibit the introduction of all aquatic species to an area where they are not naturally found.

For more information on invasive species laws and regulations in Ontario, visit www.ontario.ca/invasivespecies. To report a sighting call the Invading Species Hotline 1-800-563-7711 or visit www.eddmaps.org/Ontario.

Prohibited Invasive Species

In Ontario, it's illegal to import, possess, deposit, release, transport, breed/grow, buy, sell, lease or trade these species:

Fish

- Bighead Carp
- Black Carp
- Grass Carp
- Prussian Carp

- Silver Carp
- Snakeheads (all species in the snakehead family)
- Stone Moroko
- Tench
- Wels Catfish
- Zander

Invertebrates

- Common yabby (a crayfish)
- Golden mussel
- Killer shrimp
- Marbled crayfish
- New Zealand mud snail
- Red swamp crayfish

Plants

- Brazilian elodea (Brazilian waterweed)
- European water chestnut
- Hydrilla
- Parrot feather
- Water soldier

Additionally, it's against the law to possess, transport or release live Round Goby, Tubenose Goby, Rudd or Ruffe in Ontario or to import zebra or quagga mussels into Canada.

Restricted Invasive Species

In Ontario, the following plant species are illegal to import, breed/grow, buy, sell, lease or trade, or to possess or transport within a provincial park or conservation reserve:

- European Frog-bit
- Carolina Fanwort
- Yellow floating heart

Sale of Prohibited Invasive Species

Only the following prohibited invasive species may be imported, possessed, transported, bought or sold:

- dead and eviscerated (gutted) Bighead Carp, Black Carp, Grass Carp, Prussian Carp, Silver Carp, Tench, Zander or snakeheads
- dead red swamp crayfish that have been prepared for human consumption (e.g., cooked)

Boating Rules

It is illegal to transport watercraft and watercraft equipment (any thing that is used to aid in the operation, movement or navigation of a watercraft including ropes, fenders or anchors) overland unless:

- drain plugs or other devices used to control drainage have been removed or opened to allow water to drain out, and
- reasonable measures have been taken to remove any aquatic plants, animals, or algae from the watercraft, watercraft equipment, vehicle, and trailer.

Persons who move watercraft or watercraft equipment overland must additionally ensure that prior to arriving at a launch site, the watercraft, watercraft equipment, vehicle, and trailer are free of all aquatic plants, animals, and algae.

In addition to the rules above, if you are boating in waterbodies where European water chestnut or water soldier plants exist, you must:

- Take reasonable precautions to prevent transport and deposit of plants outside the infested area to other parts of the waterbody (e.g., avoid boating through the infested area if you can)
- Dispose of these plants so they don't end up back in any waterbody

In general, avoid running boats through aquatic plants as propellers can break aquatic plants loose and spread invasive species.

Fishing

If you happen to catch a prohibited fish, invertebrate or plant, you must immediately destroy it in a way that ensures it cannot reproduce or grow.

There are new rules regarding the movement, possession and use of baitfish and leeches in Ontario to protect our lakes and rivers from harmful invasive species and fish diseases. See Bait (page 18) or visit www.ontario.ca/baitfish for more information.

Round Goby

Round Goby have become widely established in southern Ontario and Lake Huron and have negative impacts on native fish. It is illegal to use gobies as bait or have live gobies in your possession. Anglers should know how to identify Round Goby since these aggressive fish are easily caught by hook and line. If you catch a Round Goby (or any invasive species) it should be destroyed as it cannot be released live into any waters. Report any new sightings.

Goby

Fin may be tinged in green

Frog-like raised eyes

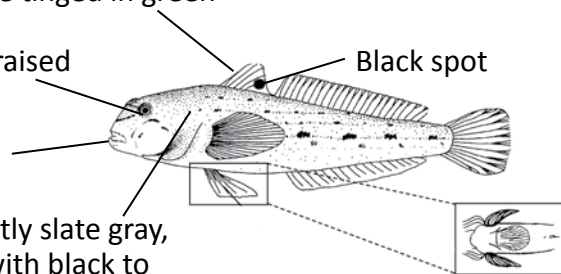
Thick lips

Body mostly slate gray, mottled with black to brown spots

Credit: Donna Francis

Black spot

Single suction-cup like pelvic fin



Help Slow the Spread of VHS

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is an infectious disease of fish that has been documented in Ontario. Infected fish may show some of the following signs: pale gills and organs, bloated abdomen, bulging eyes, bleeding of the body and organs, or a darker body colour. VHS is not a threat to human health. Fish carrying the VHS virus are safe to eat and handle.

More information is available at www.ontario.ca/page/viral-hemorrhagic-septicemia-vhs or call the Natural Resources Information and Support Centre at 1-800-667-1940.

Species Exceptions

Atlantic Salmon, Brown Trout, Pacific Salmon and Rainbow Trout

Additional Fishing Opportunities

Season: open all year

Limits: Zone-wide limits apply

- Cobourg Brook (Cobourg Creek or Factory Creek) - between the southerly limit of the C.N.R. right-of-way and Lake Ontario
- Gages Creek - between the southerly limit of the C.N.R. right-of-way and Lake Ontario
- Ganaraska River - between the southerly limit of the C.N.R. right-of-way and Lake Ontario
- Regional Municipality of Durham - all waters lying between the southerly limit of the C.N.R. right-of-way and Lake Ontario

Season: open from fourth Saturday in April to December 31 (extended fall season)

Limits: Zone-wide limits apply

- Northumberland County - all waters downstream of Highway 2, except the Ganaraska River which may only be fished downstream of the south side of the C.P.R. bridge
- Regional Municipality of Durham - all waters between Highway 2 and the southerly limit of the C.N.R. right-of-way

Walleye

Season: January 1 to March 1 and second Saturday in May to December 31

Limits: Zone-wide limits apply

- Crowe Lake (44°29'00"N., 77°44'00"W.) - Marmora Township, and the waters of the Crowe River (Marmora and Rawdon Townships)

Season: Zone-wide seasons apply

Limits: S-3 and C-1; none between 37-55 cm

- Balsam Lake (44°34'54"N., 78°51'10"W.) - Bexley Township, including the waters of the Gull River upstream to the dam at Coboconk, the waters of the Rosedale River between the Trent dam at

Rosedale upstream to Balsam Lake, the waters of the Trent Canal between the upstream lock at Rosedale upstream to its junction with the Rosedale River and the waters of the Trent Canal between Balsam Lake and Mitchell Lake

- Mitchell Lake (44°34'46"N., 78°56'54"W.) - Eldon Township, including the waters of the Trent Canal between Mitchell Lake and Balsam Lake, and the waters of the Trent Canal between Mitchell Lake and lock number 36 at Kirkfield

Waterbody Exceptions

Lake Scugog and Scugog River - All waters of Lake Scugog and Scugog River - including waters south of Highway 7A, Blackstock Creek, Nonquon River, as well as the Scugog River to the Trent Severn Dam in Lindsay, Mariposa Brook and East Cross Creek

- Walleye - closed all year

Lake Scugog - Scugog Township, 100m on both sides of Highway 7A (causeways)

- Fish Sanctuary - no fishing from January 1 to Friday before second Saturday in May and November 16 to December 31

Scugog River - Lindsay in Ops Township, from Trent-Severn Dam to Ops-Fenelon Boundary

- Fish Sanctuary - no fishing from January 1 to Friday after second Saturday in May and November 16 to December 31

Trent River

- Fish Sanctuary - No fishing from January 1 to Friday after second Saturday in May and November 16 to December 31 in the following areas:

- Healey Falls - Seymour Township, all water flowing from the north-westerly side of the bridge on County Road 50 to Crowe Bay
- Village of Hastings, 500 m upstream of the dam and 1 km downstream of the dam

Trent River - waters from the first dam (Number One) above Lake Ontario upstream to Lock Number 9 (Myers Lock) at the head of Percy Reach

- Walleye - open from January 1 to March 1 and second Saturday in May to December 31

Fish Sanctuaries

No fishing - closed all year

- Cobourg Brook - Town of Cobourg, from the downstream side of the lamprey barrier downstream to the south side of the King Street Bridge
- Ganaraska River - Town of Port Hope, from Highway 401 downstream to the south side of the Jocelyn Street Bridge

No fishing - January 1 to Friday before the second Saturday in May and November 16 to December 31

- Chemong Lake - Smith and Ennismore Townships, 100 m on both sides of causeway (Bridgenorth Causeway) on County Road 16
- Crowe River - from the Marmora Dam downstream to the north side of the Highway 7 bridge
- Gannon's Narrows - Harvey and Ennismore Townships, within 100 m of both sides of the causeway on County Road 16
- Lake Scugog- see Waterbody Exceptions

No fishing - January 1 to Friday after the second Saturday in May and November 16 to December 31

- Bobcaygeon River - Bobcaygeon, from Trent-Severn Dam to Pigeon Lake and Little Bob Dam to Pigeon Lake (100 m from Little Bob Dam)
- Burleigh Falls, Perry's Creek, Stony Lake - Smith and Harvey Townships, Trent-Severn Dam to Stony Lake
- Fenelon River - Fenelon Falls in Fenelon Township, from Trent-Severn Dam to second power line 1 km downstream
- Fishog River - from the mouth of the river at Head Lake (44°45'N., 78°54'W.) to the base of the waterfalls approximately 1.5 km upstream

- Gull River - Coboconk in Bexley and Somerville Townships, from Trent-Severn Dam downstream to narrows approaching Balsam Lake
- Katchewanooka Lake - Young's Point in Smith and Douro Townships, from Trent-Severn Dam to the downstream (west) side of the Highway 28 bridge
- Lovesick Dams - former Townships of Smith and Harvey, 100 m downstream from each dam
- Lower Buckhorn Lake (Buckhorn) - Smith and Harvey Townships, from Trent-Severn Dam to a point 400 m below the dam
- Otonabee River - Peterborough, from Trent-Severn Dam at Lock 19 to Bensfort Bridge at County Road 2 (20 km downstream)
- Pigeon River - Omemee in Emily Township, from Omemee Dam to C.N.R. bridge
- Rosedale River - Rosedale in Fenelon Township, from the Trent-Severn Dam to Cameron Lake
- Scugog River - see Waterbody Exceptions
- Talbot River - Kirkfield in Carden Township, fronting Concessions 7, 8 and 9
- Trent River - see Waterbody Exceptions



CONSERVE THE MUSKELLUNGE

Caught and released a muskie 36 inches or longer? Submit details to Muskies Canada and receive a Certificate of Appreciation and Release Award Decal.

Visit the Muskies Canada website for more information www.muskiescanada.ca



ServiceOntario Centres

Hunting and fishing licences, as well as a variety of permits, are available at participating ServiceOntario locations.

To find the nearest participating ServiceOntario location, please visit ontario.ca/serviceontario or call 1-800-387-7011 or 1-800-667-1940

Fishing Licences – All Ontario, Canadian and Non-Canadian Resident licences and Outdoors Cards.

Hunting – All Resident licences, Non-Resident licences, Outdoors Cards, replacement licence summaries and tags, Hunter Education Exam/Certificate submissions, Big Game Draw/Allocation entry.

Permits – Non-Resident Big Game Export Permits, Non-Resident Crown Land Camping Permits.

Authorized Licence Issuers

Ontario, Canadian and Non-Canadian Resident licences and Outdoors Cards are also available at authorized licence issuers across the province. For the nearest location and services offered visit ontario.ca/licenceissuers or call 1-800-667-1940 or 1-800-387-7011.

Specialized services and information are available by making an appointment at a ministry office (see contact information on page 141).

Services include:

- Licence to Transport or Possess Live Fish
- CITES Permit
- Commercial Bait Fish Licences
- Lake Whitefish Dip Netting

Other Information

For questions about Ontario's natural resources, fishing and hunting licences and Outdoors Cards, please contact the Natural Resources Information and Support Centre at 1-800-667-1940 or 1-800-387-7011 or NRISC@ontario.ca.

You can also visit us online at:

ontario.ca/ndmnr ontario.ca/outdoorscard
ontario.ca/fishing ontario.ca/hunting
huntandfishontario.com

Report a Bear Problem: 1-866-514-2327 (TTY) 705-945-7641

Report a Resource Violation: 1-877-847-7667

Lake Ontario Management Unit (Zones 16, 17, 18, 20)

41 Hatchery Lane, R.R. 4
Picton, ON K0K 2T0
(613) 476-2400

Lake Erie Management Unit (Zones 16, 19)

659 Exeter Rd., London, ON N6E 1L3
(519) 825-4684

Upper Great Lakes Management Unit Lake Huron Office

(Zones 13, 14, 16, 19)

1450 Seventh Ave. E.
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2Z1 (519) 371-0420

Upper Great Lakes Management Unit Lake Superior Office

(Zones 6, 7, 9, 10)

435 James St. S., Suite 221E
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S8
(519) 371-0420

Call for Appointment

**To be transferred to local district offices please
call 1-800-667-1940
or 1-800-387-7011**

Southern Region

Algonquin Park (Zones 11, 15)
(613) 637-2780

**Greater Toronto Area/Aurora District
(Zones 16, 17, 20)**
Aurora NDMNRF Office:(905) 713-7400

Aylmer District (Zones 13, 16, 19)
Aylmer NDMNRF Office:(519) 773-9241

Bancroft District (Zones 15, 16, 17, 18)
Bancroft NDMNRF Office:(613) 332-3940
Minden NDMNRF Office:(705) 286-1521

Guelph District (Zones 13, 16, 19, 20)
Guelph NDMNRF Office:(519) 826-4955
Vineland NDMNRF Office:(905) 562-4147

Kemptville District (Zones 12, 15, 18, 20)
Kemptville NDMNRF Office:(613) 258-8204

Midhurst District (Zones 13, 14, 15, 16)
Midhurst NDMNRF Office:(705) 725-7500
Owen Sound NDMNRF Office:(519) 376-3860

**Parry Sound District
(Zones 10, 11, 14, 15, 16)**
Parry Sound NDMNRF Office:(705) 746-4201
Bracebridge NDMNRF Office:(705) 645-8747

Pembroke District (Zones 11, 12, 15, 18)
Pembroke NDMNRF Office:(613) 732-3661

**Peterborough District
(Zones 15, 17, 18, 20)**
Peterborough NDMNRF Office:(705) 755-2001
Kingston NDMNRF Office:(613) 531-5700

Northwest Region

Dryden District (Zones 4, 5, 6)
Dryden NDMNRF Office:(807) 223-3341
Ignace NDMNRF Office:(807) 934-2233

Fort Frances District (Zone 5)
Fort Frances NDMNRF Office:(807) 274-5337
Atikokan NDMNRF Office:(807) 597-6971

Kenora District (Zones 4, 5)
Kenora NDMNRF Office:(807) 468-2501

Nipigon District (Zones 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9)
Geraldton NDMNRF Office:(807) 854-1030
Nipigon NDMNRF Office:(807) 887-5000

Red Lake (Zones 2, 4)
Red Lake NDMNRF Office:(807) 727-2253

Sioux Lookout District (Zones 2, 4, 5)
Sioux Lookout NDMNRF Office:(807) 737-1140

Thunder Bay District (Zones 4, 5, 6, 9)
Thunder Bay NDMNRF Office:(807) 475-1471

Northeast Region

Chapleau District (Zones 7, 8, 10)
Chapleau NDMNRF Office:(705) 864-1710

Cochrane District (Zone 1, 2, 3, 8)
Cochrane NDMNRF Office:(705) 272-4365
Moosonee NDMNRF Office:(705) 336-2987

Hearst District (Zones 3, 7, 8)
Hearst NDMNRF Office:(705) 362-4346
Kapuskasing NDMNRF Office:(705) 335-6191

Kirkland Lake District (Zones 8, 10, 11, 12)
Kirkland Lake NDMNRF Office:(705) 568-3222

North Bay District (Zones 8, 10, 11, 12, 15)
North Bay NDMNRF Office:(705) 475-5550

Sault Ste. Marie District (Zones 9, 10, 14)
Sault Ste. Marie NDMNRF Office:(705) 949-1231
Blind River NDMNRF Office:(705) 356-2234

Sudbury District (Zones 10, 11, 14)
Sudbury NDMNRF Office:(705) 564-7823

Timmins District (Zones 8, 10)
Timmins NDMNRF Office:(705) 235-1300

Wawa District (Zones 7, 9, 10)
Wawa NDMNRF Office:(705) 856-2396



Lucky Strike, an Ontario fishing tackle manufacturer for over 90 years, is proud to recommend our best selection in lures for some of Ontario's most popular game fish.

LUCKY STRIKE'S RECOMMENDED LURES FOR ONTARIO'S GAMEFISH

SMALLMOUTH BASS



Commonly referred to as smallies or bronzebacks the Smallmouth Bass are a thrill to catch because of their fierce fighting qualities.

Main Diet: Crayfish, frogs, insects and fish eggs.

RECOMMENDED LURES:

Crankbaits, worm harness and spinnerbaits



Yellow Perch Live Series

WALLEYE



Walleye are one of the best tasting catches in Ontario. They get their name from their large glassy eyes which are very sensitive to sunlight. Dusk and dawn are ideal times for catching this favourite.

Main Diet: A wide variety of other fishes, especially perch.

RECOMMENDED LURES:

Lead-free jigs with grubtail or minnow and spinners



June Bug Spinner

LAKE TROUT



Lake Trout are found in deep water where they can retreat to cooler depths in the summer. Temperatures around the 10°C/50°F mark are preferred by this prized catch.

Main Diet: insects, opossum shrimp, herring and smaller trout.

RECOMMENDED LURES:

Trolling spoons with a wide range of colours



Warden's Worry

MUSKELLUNGE



An Ontario favourite due to the Musky's fierce darting attack and because of their large size. The Canadian angling record from Blackstone Harbour, Georgian Bay, Ontario is 29.48 Kg, or 64.99 lbs.

Main Diet: other fish, frogs, small mammals and waterfowl.

RECOMMENDED LURES:

Large plugs, bucktail spinners, spoons and spinner baits



O' Wooden Musky Plug

Catch Fishing

www.catchfishing.com

Lucky Strike presently manufactures close to 2,000 different tackle items and landing nets. If you want to purchase any of the above favourites check with your local tackle retailer or contact Lucky Strike at 1-877 LURES4U (587-3748) or www.luckystrikebaitworks.com for more information.

Basket Net



Lucky Strike provides Ontario's anglers with a wide variety of equipment to land their catch safely and quickly. New designs incorporating flat bottom landing net bags with rubberized mesh, cradle the fish, presenting it to the angler for easy handling.



NORTHERN PIKE



Pike are solitary and are found in lakes and rivers where the water is still or in slow currents. Females grow larger, faster and live longer than males; life span is up to 26 years.

Main Diet: Over 90% of the diet for adult Pike are other fish, mainly Yellow Perch and shiners. Frogs, crayfish, mice, muskrats and ducklings provide meals as well.

RECOMMENDED LURES:

Trolling Spoons and Plugs of red and white colour combinations are most effective



Secret Weapon Spoon

CHINOOK SALMON



Chinook Salmon have been stocked in the Great Lakes region which has enhanced the sportfishing and tourism industries of Ontario. More commonly known as King Salmon, this fish species is sought after by anglers because of their fierce fighting power and size.

Main Diet: Freshwater herring, smelt, crustaceans and insects.

RECOMMENDED LURES:

Flutter spoons on downriggers and .75 to 1.3 ounce spoons for flatlining. Silver combinations and glow in the dark colours are popular



RAC Spoon

LARGEMOUTH BASS



Most popular in Southern Ontario the Largemouth Bass can be found in calm shallow areas of lakes and large river bays. Unlike it's cousin, the Smallmouth Bass, it favours heavy aquatic vegetation and submerged logs.

Main Diet: A variety of fishes, insects, leeches, crayfish, frogs and mice.

RECOMMENDED LURES:

Soft plastic worms and frogs, surface baits, crankbaits and jigs



Margo Mallard

BROOK TROUT



Other common names for this fish are Speckled Trout, Squaretail and Brookie. Specks can be found in Central and Northern Ontario streams and lakes, usually in less than 20°C water. Favourite spots are shaded areas like under fallen trees, underneath banks, and behind rocks.

Main Diet: Food includes aquatic insects, various fish including their own young, frogs, salamanders and mice.

RECOMMENDED LURES:

Spinners, spoons, plugs, jigs, wet and dry flies



Victor Spoon Spinner



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