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New for 2006

Please review each Recreational Fishing Area for a complete description of the following changes or additions for the 2006 season.

1. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is pleased to announce the implementation of a new 1-day General Fishing Licence available to both residents of the province and non-resident anglers. This licence is not valid for Atlantic salmon.
2. A Special Trout Management Area has been established on the Aspy River, Victoria County (see page 13)
3. A delayed opening season has been established on a tributary of Hebb Lake, Lunenburg County, to provided additional protection to endangered Atlantic whitefish (see page 22).
4. A Special Trout Management Area has been established on the Musquodoboit River, Halifax County (see page 22).
5. Winter angling opportunities have been developed on Everitts Lake, Digby County (see pages 30 & 42).

Minister's Message



The 2006 *Angler's Handbook and Summary of Regulations* includes information on angling regulations, licence fees and sportfishing seasons. We continue to work closely with anglers and volunteer sportfishing organizations, through the Recreational Fisheries Advisory Councils and the Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee to improve angling in Nova Scotia. Special Management Areas and regulations are implemented to ensure our goals of conservation and enhanced sportfishing opportunities are met. I encourage all anglers to become familiar with the regulations for the areas you intend to fish.

This past year, my Department introduced the Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund to support the restoration and protection of fish habitat and increase access to the sport fishery. I am pleased that approximately \$215,000 was raised which enabled eighteen volunteer organizations to complete habitat restoration on 35 watercourses around the Province. A summary of these projects appears elsewhere in this handbook.

In 2005 my Department enhanced our efforts to promote the sportfishing industry in Nova Scotia and to increase the opportunity for anglers to fish for Atlantic salmon. In 2006 we will work with our federal partners and angling organizations to maintain continued angling access to this traditional game fish which has provided tremendous economic benefit to rural communities.

I invite all Nova Scotians to participate in the annual Sport Fishing Weekend to be held June 3 and 4, 2006. During this weekend, residents may fish without a general fishing licence. It is a great opportunity to get the whole family involved and to introduce new anglers to sportfishing. Bag limits and all other regulations still apply.

Sportfishing is a popular recreational activity that contributes significantly to Nova Scotia's economy. We are fortunate to live in a province with a wide variety of angling opportunities and few things in life offer the peace, tranquillity and relaxed pace of sportfishing.

It is my hope that everyone has a safe and successful fishing season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris d'Entremont".

Chris d'Entremont
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

This is a summary prepared for the information and convenience of the anglers of Nova Scotia. It has no legal force or effect. 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. For changes to angling seasons, please contact the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (see page 26).

Les règlements contenus dans cette brochure sont aussi disponibles en français sur notre site Web, à l'adresse www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/sportfishing.

REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING ACTIVITIES

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

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Special Management Areas

Special Management Areas have been used to improve angling opportunities for both smallmouth bass and trout. Recent and past studies have indicated that brook trout production is limited in



Nova Scotia and a change in the provincial trout resource has occurred. Overfishing is one of the main factors believed to be responsible for declines in fisheries in some areas. Other factors include habitat loss and competition. New regulations in

Special Management Areas may affect bag limit, season length, a length limit of fish retained, and gear type. In other provinces and many states, special management regulations have been very successful in improving recreational fisheries by increasing the number of larger fish caught by anglers. In Nova Scotia, ongoing monitoring is required to assess the impact of new regulations on trout and bass fisheries.

Interest in Special Management Areas has increased in Nova Scotia. The locations of Special Management Areas have been identified by anglers and supported through the Recreational Fishing Advisory Council process. Anglers that are interested in Special Management Areas are encouraged to participate in the Recreational Fishing Advisory Councils.

Proposed Changes for 2007

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has proposed to implement **Nova Scotia's First Winter Sportfishing Weekend, February 3 – 4, 2007**. During these two days, residents may fish without a general licence in the areas currently open for the winter fishery (see list on page 42). Similar to the annual sportfishing weekend in June bag limits and all other sportfishing regulations will apply. Please watch the website or contact us for updates regarding this new initiative.

The following regulation changes have been forwarded for consideration and were initiated by anglers and sportfishing organizations at the most recent Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (RFAC) meetings. These changes will be reviewed during the 2006 spring and fall RFAC meetings.

Location	Changes requested
Baddeck River, Victoria County	size limit to protect larger trout in the population
River Denys, Inverness County	delayed opening season until May 15
Lake O Law Brook, Inverness County	develop a Special Trout Management Area
South River, Antigonish County	reduce the bag limit
West River, Antigonish County	amend gear restriction to artificial fly only
Tangier Grand Wilderness Area	develop a Special Trout Management Area
Guysborough (Milford Haven) River, Guysborough County	delayed opening season until May 15, reduced bag limit
Cape Breton Highlands Management Area	remove bait prohibition in September

If you are interested in any of the above listed areas, or have others that you believe should be included as Special Management Areas or would benefit from regulation changes, please contact the Inland Fisheries Division to find out about the next RFAC meeting in your area. The purpose of the RFAC is to give a voice to the public in fisheries management issues. Contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Inland Fisheries Division, PO Box 700, Pictou, Nova Scotia, B0K 1H0, phone (902) 485-5056, email inland@gov.ns.ca or visit our website: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/sportfishing

You May Have One That Looks Like This But You Don't Have This.

The Blue Fox® Vibrax spinner looks deceptively close to the other French blade spinners. But this is the lure with a cunning difference. Hidden inside the bell housing is the unique patented Vibrax® gear which counter-rotates to help



keep your line from twisting, and also emits high-frequency vibrations. The double sound source of the blade and the resonator combine to call fish from as far as 40 feet away and trigger them into striking. Nothing works quite like it.

The Blue Fox Super Vibrax is available in sizes and colors for all species of fish, including the Salmon' Trout "hot" colors and the trophy size Vibrax Musky Buck™ for big northerns and musky.

Vibrax spinners are constructed of the finest quality materials, from the

brass stamped body, blade and internal gears to the Premium VMC® hooks and stainless steel shaft. A 45° mid-depth blade allows the bait to run 2 to 4 feet.

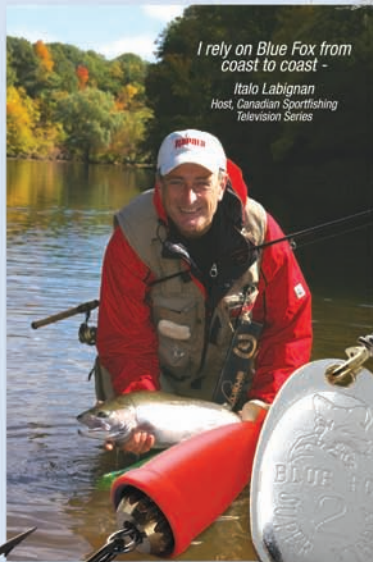
Vibrax Shallow
60° blade
design



For shallow water situations, Blue Fox has developed the new Vibrax Shallow. This skinny water stalker features a 60° shallow-depth blade which allows it to skim the water surface down to 2 feet. This lure works well over shallow structure or when fish are surface feeding with precise and irresistible action.

Fished deep or buzzed just under the surface, the Super Vibrax is making itself heard by trophy fish and trophy fishermen, the world over.

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Extra Single
SI-wash Hook
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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:

- 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, Other Angling Seasons and Bag Limits, page 50, for more information.) The boundaries of tidal waters are defined by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. 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 licensed 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 (see Fees below).
- No licence is required for recreational dip-netting of smelt or gaspereau. Seasons and bag limits are still in effect.
- Residents and non-residents under the age of 16 do not require a licence except for salmon. For further information, see the Summary of Salmon Fishing Regulations.

If you hold a general fishing licence or a salmon fishing licence you must provide the information required in the report issued with the licence within 7 days of the close of the season. This applies even if you did not catch anything.

Fishing licences for 2006 are valid from the date of issue to March 31, 2006. Extended fishing seasons are being developed in some areas. If you anticipate taking part in a winter fishery in 2006–07, please keep your licence and return your completed licence stub at the end of March.

If you are required to possess a licence and/or tags, you must carry them with you while fishing. 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 24. It is an offence not to have your signature and address on a licence.

Fees (15 percentage HST tax included)

Residents 13 years of age and under have the option of either purchasing their own salmon licence and tags or fishing under the supervision of a person who has a valid salmon licence and tags. For those persons fishing under supervision, any grilse caught and retained must be tagged with the supervising person's tag.

1. General Fishing Licences are available from all district offices of the Department of Natural Resources and from vendors authorized to issue fishing licences.

Resident \$24.13

Resident (Senior) \$5.75 (65 years & older)

Non-resident (Seasonal) \$54.74

Non-resident (7-day) \$30.25
(available from fishing guides and selected vendors)

1-Day (resident and non-resident) \$11.88

2. Salmon Fishing Licences are available from all district offices of the Department of Natural Resources and selected vendors (8:30 am–4:30 pm, Mon.–Fri.) as well as from provincial camping parks (7 days a week).

Resident Salmon Fishing Licence

(16 years and older) \$36.37

Resident Salmon Fishing Licence

(under 16 years) \$11.50

Non-resident Salmon Fishing Licence

(seasonal) \$134.35

Non-resident (7- day)

Salmon Fishing Licence \$54.74

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 Agriculture and Fisheries 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.

Help Protect your Wildlife



Lead shot, and to a lesser extent lead sinkers and jig heads, have been found to cause poisoning and death in waterfowl, eagles, and loons. Lead shot, sinkers, and jig heads are already banned or proposed to be banned in some areas such as national parks. They can be replaced with alternatives made of tin, brass, steel, tungsten, bismuth, or antimony. Bismuth sinkers and jigs are manufactured in Canada. By using non-toxic fishing gear, anglers will help protect the environment. Birds and other wildlife often become entangled in discarded fishing line, tackle and other materials. The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries encourages you to dispose of unused fishing tackle responsibly and to consider the use of bismuth or other non-toxic materials. It is an offence to harass wildlife.

Bag 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.

There is no bag limit for fish caught in a legally constructed private pond or a licensed commercial U-fish operation; however, a receipt from the pond operator is required during transportation and storage of the fish.

Caught and released fish are not considered as part of the bag limit, except for Atlantic Salmon (see the *Summary of Salmon Fishing Regulations*).

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

Not more than 5 maximum possession 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:

- Musquodoboit River, Halifax County
Bag limit: 2 trout on the entire river, not including tributaries, upstream from a line across the mouth of the Musquodoboit Harbour, drawn from Bayers Point to Nauffts Point.
- Christopher Lakes (First, Second, Third and Fourth), Queens County
Bag limit: 2 trout.
- From Jan. 1 to Mar. 31 the bag limit for rainbow trout is reduced to 2 fish per day.
- After Aug. 31 no speckled (brook) trout can be retained. The bag limit reduced to zero (0), hook and release only, from Sept. 1 to Sept. 30, except for the Cape Breton Highlands Management Area.
- Reduced bag limits may also be in effect on several waters listed under Special Trout Management Areas. See each Recreational Fishing Area for regulations pertaining to these areas.

LANDLOCKED SALMON

Bag limit—2 maximum possession.

LAKE WHITEFISH

Bag limit—8 maximum possession.

SMALLMOUTH (BLACK) BASS

Not more than 5 maximum possession except the following:

- **Spawning season.**
From Apr. 17 to June 6 no smallmouth bass may be retained in all waters except in the High Harvest Fisheries.
- **Trophy fisheries.**
Bag limit—3 maximum possession.
- **High harvest fisheries.**
Bag limit—10 maximum possession.

SHAD

Bag limit—5 maximum possession.

STRIPED BASS

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. Bag limit—1 maximum possession—except along the Northumberland Strait and Gulf of St. Lawrence from the New Brunswick border to Cape North, where the season is closed.

WHITE PERCH, YELLOW PERCH, CHAIN PICKEREL, WHITE SUCKER AND BROWN BULLHEAD

Bag limit—25 maximum possession.

GASPEREAU

Bag limit—20 maximum possession.

EEL

Bag limit—10 maximum possession.

SMELT

Bag limit—60 maximum possession. Not more than 30 maximum possession by dip net.

ATLANTIC SALMON

The *Summary of Salmon Fishing Regulations* is available upon request or with the purchase of an Atlantic salmon licence.

Size Limits

ATLANTIC SALMON

See the Summary of *Salmon Fishing Regulations*.

Eel

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 50 cm (19.7 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 than 35 cm (13.8 in.) measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail.

Landlocked Salmon

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 55). Anyone wishing to retain landlocked salmon

between 48 cm (18.9 in.) and 63 cm (24.8 in.), measured from the tip of the nose to the fork in the tail (see diagram page 55) must tag it immediately with a valid salmon tag. Salmon tags are available only with the purchase of an Atlantic salmon angling licence. All salmon over 63 cm (24.8 in.) must be released.

SPECKLED TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND SMALLMOUTH BASS

Size limits may be in effect in **Special Trout and Bass Management Areas**. See each Recreational Fishing Area for regulations pertaining to these species.

STRIPED BASS

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 than 68 cm (26.8 inches) overall length, measured from the tip of nose to the tip of tail.

Other Angling Seasons

STRIPED BASS

Tidal waters open all year, except closed Apr. 1 to June 30 on Annapolis River from Hebbs Landing 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.

Waters along the Northumberland Strait and Gulf of St. Lawrence from the New Brunswick border to Cape North. CLOSED ALL YEAR.

SMELT

Apr. 1 to June 15 for dip-netting, except closed Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

NOTE: Special provisions and winter seasons may be in place for rainbow 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.

WHITE PERCH, YELLOW PERCH, SHAD, GASPHEREAU, BROWN BULLHEAD, CHAIN PICKEREL, LAKE WHITEFISH, WHITE SUCKER, EEL.

No closed season, except that no one is permitted to angle in inland (non-tidal) waters unless an open season for a sportfish—salmon, trout, and smallmouth (black) bass—is in effect in those waters.

ATLANTIC SALMON

The *Summary of Salmon Fishing Regulations* is available upon request. For changes to angling seasons, please contact the Department of Fisheries and Oceans at (902) 426-5433 or (902) 426-1781.

U-FISH OPERATIONS

Seasons do not apply for fishing in a legally constructed private pond or licensed U-fish operation; however a receipt from the pond operator is required while transporting the catch.

Boating Safety

DO YOU USE YOUR BOAT FOR SPORTFISHING? IF SO, YOU ARE A RECREATIONAL BOATER AND THIS MESSAGE IS FOR YOU...



COLD SHOCK

Cold shock is the body's involuntary response to immersion in cold water. Several things happen to your body when you fall into cold water:

You will immediately begin to gasp for air, potentially taking large amounts of water into your lungs

Your heart rate will increase due to cold, and panic. You may experience heart failure
Your heart will work harder in order to keep blood and heat around internal organs, limiting blood flow to the arms and legs.

Your muscles will tighten, making treading water difficult, and swimming next to impossible.

Recently, cold shock has been the topic of extensive research. Dr. Gord Giesbrecht has introduced the 1-10-1 Rule. Basically, the typical person in cold water has minute to

control breathing minutes to get out of the water hour before hypothermia sets in
Your greatest source of protection from the effects of cold water immersion is to wear a Canadian approved flotation device. There are many types on the market today, designed specifically for your water activity. Choose a device that offers the most protection and comfort for your activity, and wear it. Remember, it is mandatory to carry a properly fitting Canadian approved flotation device for each person onboard your boat. Wearing one can save your life.

For more information on cold shock and flotation devices please call the Office of Boating Safety 1-800-267-6687 or visit www.boatingsafety.gc.ca.

To read more of Dr. Giesbrecht's research visit <http://www.umanitoba.ca/physed/giesbrecht>. A video on survival tips in cold water can be found at: <http://www.exn.ca/video/?Video=exn20020325-icewater.aspx>



CASA

Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers
P.O. Box 2051, Fall River, Nova Scotia, B2T 1K6

The Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers (CASA) was formed in 1988 to serve and enrich the habitat for smallmouth bass; to share the friendship, camaraderie, and experience of our fellow anglers; to support and improve those conservation measures that allow a self-sustaining smallmouth bass fishery; and to extend courtesy and respect to all who share our waters.

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

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

www.novascotiafishing.com/clubs/casa

NOVA SCOTIA SALMON ASSOCIATION

Regional Council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation
1030 Beaverbank Road, Beaverbank, NS B4G 1A9
Fax: (902) 864-9148
E-mail: nssa@ns.sympatico.ca
Website: www.novascotiasalmon.ns.ca

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association is a regional council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation and acts on behalf of Atlantic salmon and trout in advocating conservation and wise management.

The association is supported by an individual membership and affiliate associations. Together, our collective conservation efforts have been invaluable in promoting public awareness, education, and in-river enhancement projects.

In an effort to support the ongoing conservation activities of our affiliate associations, the board readily accepts donations to the Nova Scotia Salmon Association. All funds received are solely directed towards financing activities to promote the conservation of Atlantic Salmon in Nova Scotia.

For further information on the association and the activities of our affiliates, to become a member or to donate to the Nova Scotia Salmon Association please contact us at the address provided or visit our website.

www.novascotiasalmon.ns.ca

