



# Wildlife Facts

## TAKE YOUR FAMILY FISHING

Fishing is a great way to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and spend time with your children, introducing them to the great outdoors. It's easy - if you've never fished you can learn along with your kids. It's inexpensive - a simple rod and reel, with bait and a bobber, will get you off to a good start. And, most importantly, it's fun!



The Island boasts some of the best angling in some of the most beautiful natural areas you will find anywhere.

### Brook Trout Fishing

The brook trout fishery is by far the most popular and plentiful of the inland fisheries in Prince Edward Island. Brook trout, also known as speckled trout, can be found in virtually all streams, river and ponds. Island fish sometimes exceed 6 pounds (3 kilograms) in weight but are more commonly in the pan-sized range - quarter to half a pound.

There are three basic approaches to brook trout fishing: stream and river fishing, pond fishing and salt water fishing.

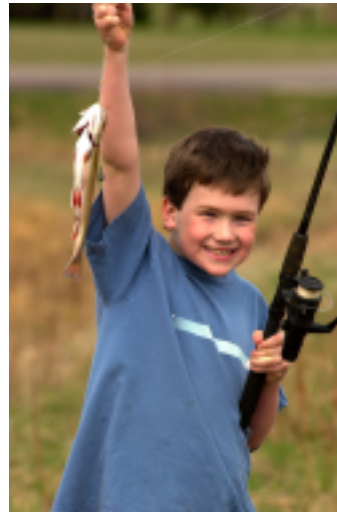
### *Stream Fishing*

Brook trout fishing in streams and rivers is popular throughout the April 13 to September 15 season. Bait and flies are the two major options, although lures are often used. Bait is the handiest when you are boxed in by overhanging tree cover on smaller streams. Fly fishermen prefer the larger rivers such as the Dunk, West and Morell, beginning about mid-May and continuing throughout the season. Bigger fish tend to be caught early in the spring or when sea-run brook trout move upstream in mid-summer. Otherwise, the majority of fish caught are likely to be in the "pan-sized" category.

Brian Simpson Photos

### *Pond Fishing*

Pond fishing for brook trout follows much the same pattern, with bait the preference in the first month of the season, and fly fishing predominating late May to early June.



### *Salt Water Fishing*

Mid-April to mid-June is the best period for brook trout fishing in the tidal portions of rivers. This type of salt water fishing is by far the most productive for catching brook trout of trophy size. Salt water beauties are taken at low tide by fly, bait and lures in June and July on some rivers such as the Cardigan, Brudenell, Montague and Hillsborough, West, Dunk, Mill and Trout.

## Gearing Up

The type of water being fished will suggest the equipment to be used. On streams and rivers, waders are a valuable aid to mobility, while the use of a boat will improve opportunities on a pond. Light spinning, casting, or fly tackle is usually used and worms are the choice bait. Both wet and dry flies will produce good results when using the most popular hook sizes 10 to 14. A partial list of popular fresh water flies includes par bell, royal coachman, coachman, white miller, mystery, queen-of-the-waters, king-of-the-waters, teal and red, dark montreal, bloody butcher, march brown, cow dung, brown hackle, grey hackle, mosquito, blue dune, and black gnat.



In salt water, popular baits other than worms include sand shrimp, gudgeons, smelt and silversides. Popular salt water flies include red ibis, blockhouse, orange shrimp and orange shrimp variations. Bobbers and bell sinkers are useful additions to the salt water tackle box. Waders are almost essential. Lures may be fished from shore or

troiled behind a slowly-moving outboard. Some suggestions for lures are daredevil, Canadian smelt, Al's goldfish, luck strike, and silver and gold spin doctor.

## Rainbow Trout Fishing

Sea running rainbow trout inhabit many south shore rivers such as the Cardigan, Souris, West and Dunk. The Dunk River, in particular, offers excellent fishing throughout the season. The majority of rainbows caught are pan-sized, although fish in the seven to eight pound range have been angled.

Rainbow populations in Glenfinnan and O'Keefe Lakes are maintained through stocking. The best lake angling is during the spring from mid-April to mid-June and in late summer from late-August through September. In July and early August high water temperatures limit fishing opportunities.

The same equipment used for brook trout will also work for rainbows. The rivers can be bank fished or waded, while a boat is more convenient for fishing the lakes.

Rainbow Trout may be angled in winter at Glenfinnan and O'Keefe Lakes from the first Saturday in January to the last Sunday of March. Daily catch is restricted to five fish.



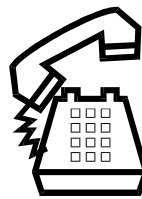
## Atlantic Salmon

Without a doubt, the powerful Atlantic salmon is the most challenging inland fish to be found in Prince Edward Island waters. Angling opportunities are somewhat limited due to the two factors:

- The size of salmon runs entering Island waters are small when compared with that of neighbouring provinces.
- Since Island waters are not large, angling usually occurs on a few larger rivers, primarily the Mill, Dunk, West and Morell Rivers.

Atlantic salmon angling is restricted to fly fishing. The orange shrimp, red ibis, mickey finn and red and green butts are favourites of Island fishermen. Here too, waders are an advantage in providing mobility. A separate licence is required to fish for salmon. One grilse may be harvested per day with a season limit of seven fish. Anglers should refer to the *Angling Summary* for river-specific restrictions.

## Further Information?



The *Angling Summary* published annually by the Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Environment is an excellent source of information on regulations, fishing ethics, and safety. It is available at all Access PEI Centres or online at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/fae>. For further information on sportfishing in Prince Edward Island, contact the department at (902) 368-4683.