

A man and a young child are fishing together on a grassy bank next to a blue lake. The man, wearing a dark cap and a blue fishing vest, stands behind the child, who is wearing a red and white jacket and a dark cap. They are both looking towards the water. The background shows a line of trees under a clear sky.

*Prince
Edward
Island*
CANADA

Environment,
Energy and Forestry

Angling Summary 2006



For many Prince Edward Islanders, fishing is not just a pastime, but a passion. Even on the cold, wet April days, these angling enthusiasts can be found at their favourite fishing hole. And many of them volunteer considerable time throughout the season protecting and enhancing the resource. Whether you get out to fish every day or once a year, my department wants to hear your views on the future of the recreational fishery over the next several months.

Earlier this year, about 25 recreational fishing, wildlife conservation and watershed groups recommended several changes to angling regulations. Our department appreciated the input from the representatives of these groups, especially considering the vast amount of experience and knowledge that these people represent. However, the recreational fishery on PEI is enjoyed by thousands of Islanders, most of whom are not represented in existing organizations. We want to take the time and give anglers every opportunity to share their views before considering whether changes in the regulations are needed to ensure a healthy fishery into the future - and if so, what fisheries management measures would be most effective.

You will notice that included in this year's angling summary is a tear-out, postage paid survey. It is one way in which we will be garner public input on the management of the recreational fishery. It will also ask anglers their opinions on how the Wildlife Conservation Fund licence fees should be used. This is your yearly financial contribution so please ensure that you take the opportunity to have a say in how the funds are disbursed. We are also looking at other ways to allow anglers to share their views including a telephone survey. Many Islanders have been sending email to environment@gov.pe.ca to express their opinions and we certainly appreciate the input we've received to date. I am encouraging all anglers to get involved. It doesn't matter if you fish with bait, lures or flies - you are all recreational anglers. By working together we can ensure that there is a healthy fishery well into the future.

A reminder that the Province will once again be supporting Family Fishing Weekend. During the weekend of May 19-22, residents may fish without an angling licence. Take this opportunity to introduce someone to fishing. We have a wonderful resource in this province, one well worth sharing!

Have an enjoyable fishing season.

Jamie Ballem, Minister
Environment, Energy and Forestry



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This booklet contains a summary of the fishing regulations and other information for persons who plan to fish in Prince Edward Island.

Because this is a summary, not all of the laws contained in the *Wildlife Conservation Act* or regulations are included. For additional information contact the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry or any of the Conservation Officers listed in this book.

This is a summary prepared for the information and convenience of persons who plan to fish in Prince Edward Island. The original act and regulations should be consulted for all purposes of interpreting and applying the law. The rules contained in this angling summary are in compliance with the Maritime Provinces Fisheries Regulations in respect to close times, limits and quotas subject to variation under the authority of The Fishery General Regulations.

The laws are subject to change at any time.

What's New for 2006

Creel Limit Reduced in Wilmot River

The creel limit on the Wilmot River has been reduced from ten to **six fish per day**, of which only one may be greater than 35 cm. The possession limit remains at ten trout. The reduction in the creel limit is a conservation measure. Monitoring has shown that trout populations on the Wilmot River have been slow to recover following two fish kills in 2002.

General Information

Definitions

“Angling” means fishing with a line to which one or more hooks are attached and that is held in the hand or attached to a rod that is held in the hand or closely attended.

“Artificial fly” means a single or double hook dressed with silk, tinsel, wool, fur, feathers or any combination of those or other materials commonly used in making artificial flies, but does not include a fly that has a spinning device, or a weight that causes the fly to sink.

“Barbless hook” means a hook that was made without a barb or a hook that has all of its barbs compressed to be in complete contact with the shaft of the hook, except those barbs on the shank that are designed solely to retain bait.

“Chumming” refers to the practice of using any material to attract fish to a particular location while angling.

“Daily limit” refers to the lawful capture and retention of fish during a day, with angling restricted to the period of two hours before sunrise to two hours after sunset in any given day. The daily limit is one’s possession limit and is interpreted to be the only legal limit one can possess.

“Fly fishing” means angling by the use of an artificial fly or flies that are attached to a line or to a leader that is attached to a line.

“Grilse” means a salmon that is less than 63 cm but not less than 35 cm in length.

“Hook” means a single, double or treble pointed hook on a common shank or shaft, with or without barbs.

“Jigging” means fishing by manipulating one or more hooks so as to pierce a fish in any part of its body instead of luring the fish to take the hook or hooks into its mouth.

“Possession limit” is interpreted to be one’s daily limit.

“Resident” means a person who has resided in Prince Edward Island for a period of six months immediately preceding the time that residence becomes material under this act or regulations.

“Sport fishing” means fishing for pleasure and not for sale or barter.

“Sport fish” means salmon and trout.

General Prohibitions

General Angling

It is unlawful to:

1. use a gill-net or trap-net for fishing in non-tidal or inland waters, unless authorized by the Maritime Provinces Fisheries Regulations;
2. use an artificial light or flame of any kind for fishing in non-tidal or inland waters;
3. jig, snare or spear fish of any kind in non-tidal or inland waters;
4. have in your possession an untagged salmon;
5. fish with an artificial fly that has more than two hooks;
6. angle with more than one fishing line or with a fishing line having more than three separate hooks;
7. angle salmon except by fly fishing;
8. angle within a 100-metre radius of any facility operated by or on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans or the province for the purpose of counting passage or rearing of fish;
9. angle within a fishway or within 25 metres downstream of the lower entrance of a fishway, canal, obstacle or leap;
10. angle in non-tidal or inland waters that are frequented by any sport fish during the closed time for that sport fish;
11. angle during the time period extending from two hours after sunset to two hours before sunrise; (please refer to table on page 5)
12. export any trout from the province without a valid angling license and then only in accordance with the possession limit of 10 trout;
13. litter at any time or place – conviction may result in loss of angling privileges;
14. operate a motor boat while intoxicated;
15. chum while angling for trout or salmon;
16. possess, use or sell fish eggs as bait for angling;
17. retain any sport fish alive while angling. All fish must be:
 - a) immediately released alive back to the wild; or
 - b) killed immediately and counted towards the daily bag limit.
18. angle for striped bass;
19. introduce or re-locate live fish species into the waters of Prince Edward Island.

Official Sunrise and Sunset

All Times Listed Are Local Times

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Date	Sunrise	Sunset
Apr. 11-20	6:27 DST	8:00	Aug. 11-20	6:10 DST	8:20
Apr. 21-30	6:10 DST	8:12	Aug. 21-31	6:24 DST	8:03
May 1-10	5:52 DST	8:25	Sept. 1-10	6:37 DST	7:43
May 11-20	5:40 DST	8:37	Sept. 11-20	6:50 DST	7:24
May 21-30	5:30 DST	8:49	Sept. 21-30	7:02 DST	7:04
May 31-June 9	5:23 DST	8:58	Oct. 1-10	7:14 DST	6:44
June 10-19	5:20 DST	9:04	Oct. 11-20	7:29 DST	6:27
June 20-30	5:22 DST	9:08	Oct. 21-28	7:43 DST	6:09
July 1-10	5:27 DST	9:05	Oct. 29-Nov. 10	6:57 AST	4:53
July 11-20	5:36 DST	9:00	Nov. 11-20	7:12 AST	4:41
July 21-31	5:46 DST	8:50	Nov. 21-30	7:26 AST	4:32
Aug. 1-10	5:58 DST	8:37			

DST – Daylight Saving Time

AST – Atlantic Standard Time

Note:

Anglers are reminded that it is illegal to angle during the time period extending from two hours after sunset to two hours before sunrise.

Did You Know?..... Size Matters!

Brook trout grow quickly in PEI's productive waters and by three years of age, are approximately 30 cm (12 inches) in length. The largest brook trout are those that spend time in salt water. Although not common, these sea-run trout may grow to seven lbs. or more. Brook trout produce about 1,200 eggs per pound of fish weight. Therefore, the big, wary fish that avoid being caught are those that make the most valuable spawners. Restrictions on the harvest of trout longer than 40 centimetres, the practice of catch and release fishing, and the imposition of conservation zones are useful management techniques to enhance the province's trout fishery.

Angling Licenses

Trout

Trout angling licences can be obtained from authorized vendors and Access PEI centres throughout the province. Winter ice fishing licences are available from selected vendors and Access PEI centres.

Trout licences (resident and non-resident) entitle the licensee to angle brook and rainbow trout only. Youth under the age of 16 years are not required to obtain a trout angling licence.

Resident \$9.35 + GST = \$10

Courtesy Licence-Free

Available to residents only. Issued to anglers 65 years of age and over and includes the spouse of the licence holder.

Non-Resident \$18.70 + GST = \$20

Licence is valid for entire season for the licence holder. In addition, spouse and dependents may angle on this licence for a period of two weeks from date of issue.

Non-Resident Daily Permit \$6.51 + GST = \$7

Valid for date of purchase and the following two days.

Winter Ice Fishing \$4.67 + GST = \$5

A special licence to participate in this fishery is required for those who do not possess a trout licence.

Atlantic Salmon

Salmon licences are available from Access PEI centres and a limited number of vendors. To angle for Atlantic salmon, one requires an Atlantic salmon angling licence in addition to a trout licence. All anglers, including youth under the age of 16 years, must obtain a salmon licence. Four tags are issued with each salmon licence.

Atlantic Salmon \$9.35 + GST = \$10

Wildlife Conservation Fund Licence

The Wildlife Conservation Fund was established in 1998 as a means to generate new funds in support of wildlife conservation. Licensed anglers, hunters, and trappers support the fund through a one-time annual contribution, represented in the purchase of a special licence. In 2006, the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry officially transferred administration of the Fund to the Wildlife Conservation Fund Committee. The Board is currently composed of the following:

- 3 representatives from the hunting community
- 3 representative from the angling community
- 1 representative from the trapping community
- 1 representative from community watershed groups
- 1 representative for non-consumptive users
- 1 representative from the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry

The Board welcomes input from the general angling community and can be reached at: (902) 892-7513 or through email at: [**wcf@isn.net**](mailto:wcf@isn.net)

All licensed anglers are required to be in possession of a Wildlife Conservation Fund Licence. Youth under the age of 16 are exempt from this licensing requirement.

Wildlife Conservation Fund \$18.70 + GST = \$20

For seniors 65 years of age and over:

Wildlife Conservation Fund \$12.15 + GST = \$13

For further information and a list of vendors, please call the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry's Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division, (902) 368-6080.

Boating Safety

Anglers are reminded that a Pleasure Craft Operators Card is required to operate any motorized craft under four metres. Further details may be obtained by phoning the Boating Safety Info Line at 1-800-267-6687. When fishing from a boat, anglers are required to have a personal floatation device for each person in the boat, as well as a bailer and a safety throw line.

WHY USE BARBLESS HOOKS?

It is no secret that the mortality rate when releasing fish caught on lure or fly is considerably lower than that of bait fishing. However, using hooks without barbs, even when fishing with bait, can greatly improve the survival of fish caught and released. Studies have shown that the mortality rate when fishing with bait on a barbed hook is roughly 30%. This drops to approximately 8% for bait on barbless hooks. Angling mortality using barbed lures and flies is approximately 5%, dropping to ~2.5% using barbless hooks. Of course, care must be taken when handling and releasing fish to ensure a successful release.

It is not difficult to transform a "barbed" hook into a "barbless" hook. Simply take a pair of pliers or a hemostat and compress the barb so it lies flat against the shaft of the hook. Talk to anglers who regularly use barbless hooks and they will tell you that they do not notice a difference in their ability to hook and retain fish. It is far easier to release little fish caught on barbless hooks. An added bonus is the ease at which barbless hooks can be removed from your thumb! Give barbless hooks a try!

Season Dates and Creel Limits



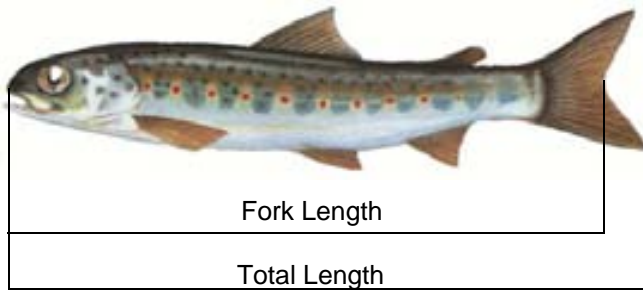
Trout

Open season – April 15 to September 15, inclusive; all waters with the following exceptions:

- Glenfinnan and O'Keefe Lakes – have an extended season (see page 16)
- Morell River – has an extended season and conservation closures (see page 11)
- Trout River (Coleman) – has a special Trout Management Zone with shortened season and specific regulations (see page 15)
- Wilmot River – Marchbanks Pond has an extended season for trout (see page 16)

Daily catch limit of 10 trout, of which not more than one trout (either rainbow or brook) may be greater than 40 cm in fork length (see diagram below).

Possession Limit – In your possession, in the field and elsewhere in storage, you may have no more than 10 trout in total.



Atlantic Salmon

Open Season - All waters June 1 to September 15, inclusive; except for Morell River (see page 11) and waters noted in the table on the following page.

Daily possession limit of one grilse (35-63 cm in length).

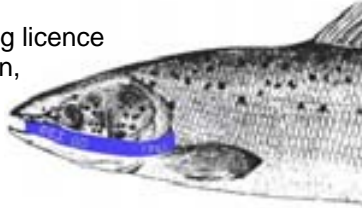
Daily catch and release limit of not more than two (grilse or salmon).

Season limit of four grilse retained (35-63 cm).

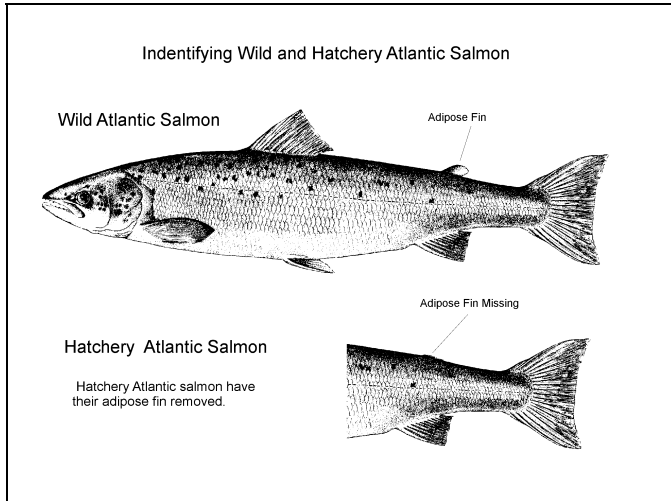
All salmon greater than 63 cm or less than 35 cm in fork length must be released immediately with the least possible harm to the fish.

Angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to an artificial fly as defined in Definitions, page 3. It does not include a fly that has a spinning device or weight that causes the fly to sink; however, a fly so altered can be used to angle for trout.

Every holder of an Atlantic salmon angling licence shall immediately, upon killing any salmon, attach a tag to it by inserting one end of the tag through the mouth and locking the tag.



“Length”, in relation to a salmon, means the distance measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail.



Extended Season: The following waters are open to salmon fishing, **catch and release** using **barbless hooks only**:



River	Date	Location
Mill River	September 16 to October 31	Downstream from Howlan highway culvert (Route 148)
Trout River	September 2 to October 31	Downstream from Leards Pond in Coleman (Route 140)
Dunk River	September 16 to October 31	Downstream from Scales' Pond, West Newton (Route 109)
West River	September 16 to October 31	Downstream from Green Bay highway culvert (Route 249)
Morell River	September 16 to November 30	See page 13

Waters with Special Regulations

Morell River

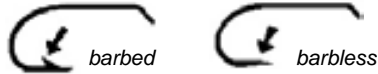
1. On any day, an angler who holds a salmon licence must cease all angling on the Morell River for that day after:
 - a) one grilse has been retained; or
 - b) two fish, either salmon or grilse, have been caught and released, whichever occurs first.
2. Grilse captured on the Morell River may be retained (one per day) while the season is open on that section of the river and must be tagged immediately when caught (see page 9).
3. From April 15 to September 15, in the lower section of the Morell River from MacKay's to the mouth of the river (railway bridge), trout may be taken on any tackle. This section of river is closed to all angling after September 15.
4. Any Atlantic salmon taken by lure or bait must be released immediately with the least possible harm to the fish.
5. Please note that the portion of the Morell River from Mooney's Pond to MacKay's will be closed to angling for a period of approximately two weeks during the month of May. This is a management closure to allow stocked salmon smolts to migrate to sea. All anglers are advised to check with local newspapers and to observe closure signs posted along the Morell River in early May.
6. The section of the East Branch of the Morell River containing the old Crane's Pond dam site is closed to all angling for the period July 1 to October 15. The section of river affected includes all waters 250 metres upstream of the highway bridge on Route 355. This closure is in effect as a conservation measure to protect trout broodstock.
7. Portions of the Morell River are to be angled only by fly fishing after June 1. The restriction applies to Leard's Pond, Riverton, the West Branch below Leard's Pond, all that section of the East Branch below the Hazelgreen Road (Route 329); and the main section of the river from the point of union of the West and East Branches to MacKay's in the Bangor area. See table and map on pages 13 and 14.
8. The extended season from September 16 to November 30 is for Atlantic salmon only, using barbless hooks.

9. For the period September 16 to October 15 inclusive, salmon angling is restricted to those areas on the Morell River as defined in Section 7 above.
10. From October 15 to October 31 inclusive, salmon angling is restricted to that portion of the Morell River downstream from the Forks to MacKay's.
11. Salmon angling on Leard's Pond is permitted from June 1 to November 30 inclusive.

Catch and Release

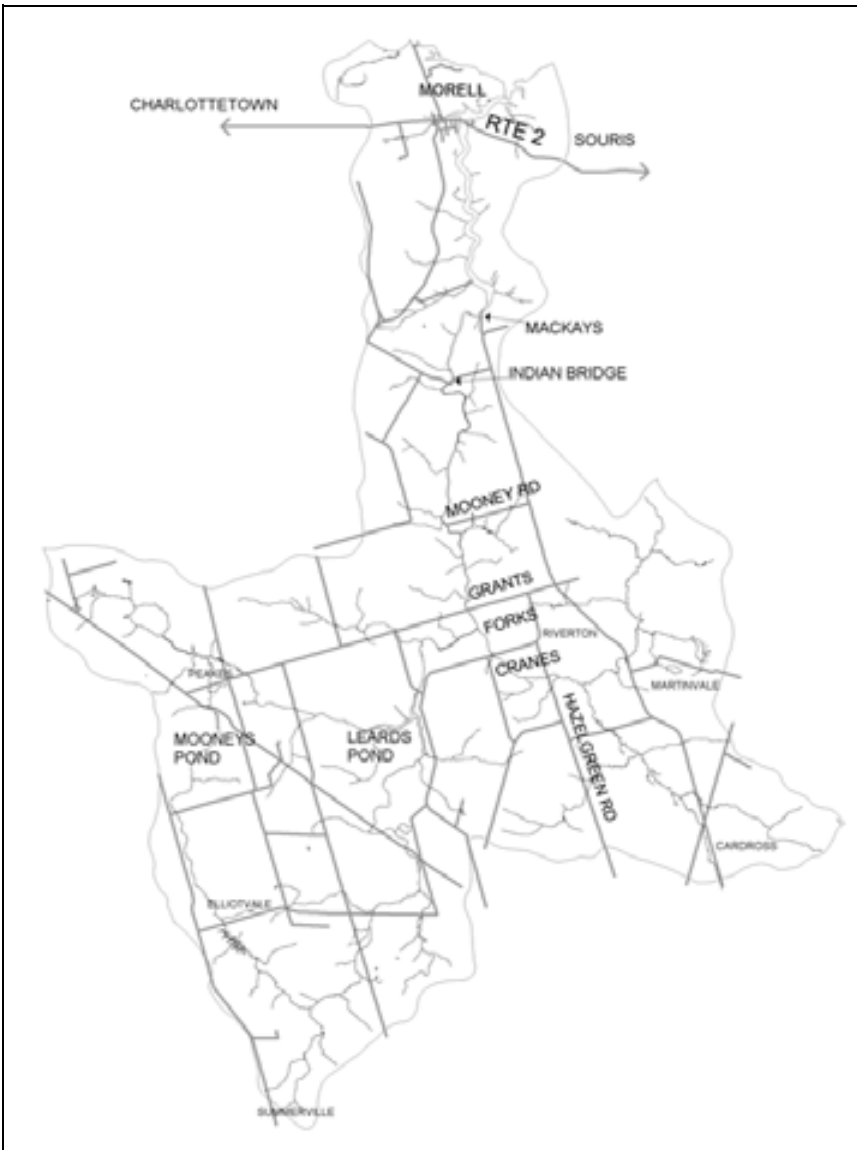
Anglers are becoming increasingly aware of the fragility of our environment and the pressure on the Island's fishery resources. More anglers are discovering the enjoyment and sense of satisfaction that can be obtained by releasing fish. When practising catch and release fishing, the following steps should be considered:

- Use the right gear:
 - barbless or pinched hooks are easier to remove
 - artificial lures, not bait, reduce the chances of deep hooking
- Minimize handling: retrieve your fish quickly and release it immediately
- Keep the fish in the water
- Use only a knotless, mesh net
- Remove the hook carefully
- Cut the leader if necessary
- Hold the fish gently in a natural swimming position, facing upstream until it revives.



Morell River						
Section	Trout		Salmon Fly-Fishing Only			
	April 15 to May 31	June 1 to September 15	June 1 to September 15	September 16 to October 14	October 15 to October 31	November 1 to Nov. 30
MacKay's to Forks	Lure Bait Fly	Fly	Open	Open Barbless Hooks Only Catch and Release	Open Barbless Hooks Only Catch and Release	Closed
Forks to Hazelgreen Rd.	Lure Bait Fly	Fly	Open	Open Barbless Hooks Only Catch and Release	Closed	Closed
Forks to Leard's Pond	Lure Bait Fly	Fly	Open	Open Barbless Hooks Only Catch and Release	Closed	Closed
Leard's Pond	Lure Bait Fly	Fly	Open	Open Barbless Hooks Only Catch and Release	Open Barbless Hooks Only Catch and Release	Open Barbless Hooks Only Catch and Release

Morell River



Trout River

There is a Trout Management Zone in place on the Trout River in Coleman which includes:

Leards Pond in Coleman (Route 140) downstream to a point 200 metres below Goffs Bridge at Route 12:

Open trout season is Monday, May 1 to September 1, 2006

Daily bag limit and possession limit of six (6) trout, of which only one may be greater than 35 cm

Trout River (Coleman)



Wilmot River

Marchbanks Pond

Angling within Marchbank's Pond is extended from September 16 to October 31, 2006. The extension affects the part of that Wilmot River between the road stream intersection at Highway 120 (McMurdo Road) and the intersection of Klondike Brook with the Wilmot River at grid reference 46673776. (Tributary at upper end of pond on south side). Catch and release fishing with fly, using barbless hooks.

Creel Limit Reduced in Wilmot River

The creel limit on the Wilmot River has been reduced from ten to **six fish per day**, of which only one may be greater than 35 cm. The possession limit remains at ten trout. The reduction in the creel limit is a conservation measure. Monitoring has shown that trout populations on the Wilmot River have been slow to recover following two fish kills in 2002.

Glenfinnan and O'Keefes Lakes

Glenfinnan and O'Keefes Lakes are stocked with rainbow trout in support of a put and take fishery.

- Open season for rainbow trout is April 15 to November 15
- Daily catch limit of 5 rainbow trout, only one greater than 40 cm
- Possession limit of 5 rainbow trout

Please Note: In 2005, the Prince Edward Island's Chief Health Officer issued a public advisory on the consumption of fish from O'Keefes Lake. Regular monitoring of fish in O'Keefes Lake has indicated that mercury levels in some fish can be in excess of recommended guidelines. The P.E.I. Department of Health and Social Services advises the public that women in the child bearing years and children 8 years of age and younger should avoid eating trout from O'Keefe's Lake. It is to be noted that this advisory is provided as a precaution since toxic effects from mercury at the levels found in O'Keefe's Lake do not occur unless the fish is eaten frequently. Fish from other lakes, ponds or brooks on P.E.I have not been found to have mercury above the national guidelines.

Winter Ice Fishing

Winter ice fishing is restricted to Glenfinnan and O'Keefes Lakes. Those anglers wishing to participate in the winter ice fishery should retain both their Trout Angling License and the Wildlife Conservation License. Anglers who lose or discard either of these licenses will be required to purchase a Winter Ice Fishing License and/or Wildlife Conservation License.

- Winter ice fishing from the first Saturday of January (January 6, 2007) to Saturday, March 31, 2007.
- Catch limit and possession limit as outlined above

Ice Safety

Traditionally, some ponds and rivers are iced over on opening day of the angling season, while the winter trout fishery is dependent on ice. To avoid a potentially life threatening situation, practise caution when fishing on ice.

- For your safety there should be at least 15 cm (six inches) of ice or more for small groups of people; and 25 cm (10 inches) or more for snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles.
- Plan to fish with a friend.
- Children should be supervised by an adult.
- Dress warmly – wear a hat, scarf and mitts.
- Wearing a personal floatation device like a floater coat is a good idea when ice fishing.

Should you break through the ice, extend your arms flat on the ice surface and kick your feet. Try to squirm the upper part of your body onto the ice. Once out of the water, roll quickly to one side away from the edge. Once you reach safety, get to shore and warm yourself by building a fire and getting into dry clothing.

All in a Name...

All species of trout and salmon belong to the same family of fish - the *Salmonidae*. Brook trout are part of the genus or group called *Salvelinus* or char, while rainbow trout is more closely related to salmon. The brook or speckled trout is the most common salmonid on Prince Edward Island. Brook trout who spend some time in salt water are the most prized by sport fishers. These are known as sea trout and can grow as large as 7 lbs or more!

Brook trout, speckled trout, sea trout. Call them what you like, but these are all the same fish.

Foxley River Fish Tagging Project

In October 2004, 260 tagged trout were released at two locations in Foxley River. By October 2005, 77 tags had been returned by anglers. This return rate of roughly 30% is very high when compared to similar studies. Most of the fish were caught around MacLeans Bridge and Floyd Milligan's Pond, however two tagged fish were caught moving up the Trout River. In 2006, 423 additional tagged fish were stocked within the Trout River and Foxley River systems.



This study would not be possible without the participation of anglers. I would like to thank all of the anglers who returned tags in 2005. The Foxley River project is providing valuable information regarding the success of stocking trout in estuarial waters.

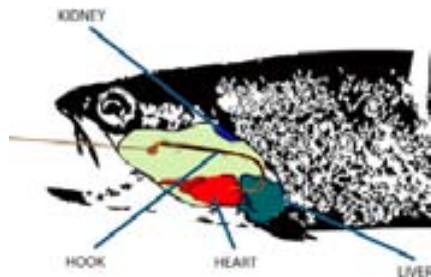
If you catch a tagged fish, please contact our office at (902) 368-5000. A small cash reward will be offered for each returned tag.

Where Does the Hook Go?

Many anglers are unaware of the location of vital organs in a fish. When fish are hooked in the lips or jaw area, mortality can be less than 1%.

However, fish that are "deep hooked" in the esophagus or gills suffer a high mortality rate. Studies have shown that many fish which are deeply hooked suffer major internal damage to the heart, stomach or liver.

The fish may appear unharmed and swim away, only to die a few hours later. Use equipment and techniques which will allow you to catch and release fish unharmed.

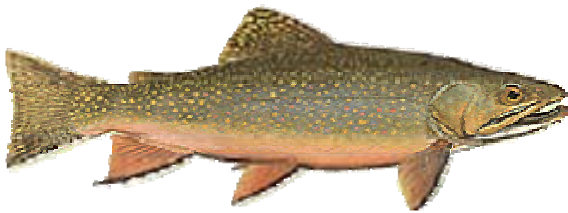


Is it a salmon or brook trout?

Anglers may confuse brook trout with Atlantic salmon, particularly in the spring when “slink” salmon are in the rivers. “Slink” or “black” salmon are fish that returned to the river the previous year, spawned in the fall, and are preparing to return to sea again in spring. Unlike fresh salmon, these fish tend to be dark and rather thin. If you hook a slink salmon, please take care when releasing the fish to ensure minimal harm. To distinguish between the two fish, look for the telltale spots on the body of the brook trout (orange and red spots fringed with blue) and white edge on the fins.



Atlantic salmon “slink”



Brook trout



Take Your Family Fishing on the Long Weekend in May!

Take your children fishing and let them experience the great outdoors and enjoy a life long pleasure that comes from fishing. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry encourages parents to share the weekend of May 19-22, 2006 with their kids fishing. In support of this adventure, no license will be required to fish over the Victoria Day long weekend, May 19-22 inclusive.

River History

In the 2005 angling summary, I asked anglers to consider sharing old photos of rivers, ponds, or angling. Eric Arsenault of Stratford took me up on the challenge and submitted a number of photos of the West River. I am including a couple of these wonderful pictures taken by Mac Irwin, a former Commodore of the Charlottetown Yacht Club, in 1930.



Crosby's Mill, Bonshaw.



The bridge below Crosby's Pond, Bonshaw.

If you are interested in sharing your photos, please contact me at (902) 368-6082. All original photos will be returned.

Rosanne MacFarlane
Freshwater Fisheries Biologist
PEI Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry

**Report
Litterers!**
Call the hot
line toll free
1-866-368-5024



**Report poachers and
polluters!**
Call Crime Stoppers
toll free
1-800-222-8477

For further information, contact:
 Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division
 Environment, Energy and Forestry
 11 Kent Street, PO Box 2000
 Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8
 Tel: 368-4683
 Fax: 368-5830



For enforcement of any of the environment acts or regulations, during regular working hours call the conservation officer at any of the Regional Services Centres or the Charlottetown Office.

Sandra Keough	859 8800	Alberton
Roland Richard	854-7250	Wellington
John Clements	888-8000	Summerside
Chuck Gallison	368-5000	Charlottetown
Paul Walker	838-0600	Montague
Wade MacKinnon	687-7000	Souris
John Clements	368-4808	Head, Investigation and Enforcement Section

For environmental emergencies only or enforcement, after normal office hours, phone 1-800-565-1633 (toll-free). This is not an information service.

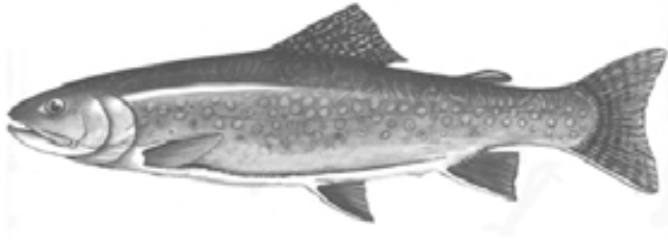
Access PEI Centres

Queens County		Prince County	
Charlottetown	368-5200	Alberton	853-8622
		O'Leary	859-8800
Kings County		Summerside	888-8000
Montague	838-0600	Tignish	882-7351
Souris	687-7000	Wellington	854-7250

Fish Identification

Brook trout (speckled trout)

- Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins colored with a leading edge of white.
- Back and dorsal fin vermiculated (wormlike pattern)
- Sides pigmented with orange and red spots fringed with blue.
- Black spots "not" present on the body.



Atlantic salmon parr (juvenile salmon in freshwater).

- Eleven dark bars separated by a single row of red spots on the lateral line.
- Tail fin forked more so than trout species.



Rainbow trout (juvenile in freshwater)

- A band of pink to red coloring the sides
- Five to 10 dark oval parr marks spaced along the side straddling the lateral line.
- Black spots on the dorsal and tail may be visible.



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Recreational Fisheries Management on PEI

It is no secret that the quality of fish habitat in our rivers and streams has deteriorated over the years. The primary cause of this habitat degradation is sedimentation - sand and silt entering streams, filling in pools and ponds, and covering spawning gravel. The sediment originates from such sources as agricultural fields, clay roads, and industrial and residential development. The public reacts quite strongly when images of dead fish appear in the media, a result of chemical run-off. However, the overall impact of sediment on fish populations is far more severe. Although many community groups have been working diligently to restore instream habitat, it is a long term process.

With an apparent decline in the numbers of brook trout and the perilously low numbers of Atlantic salmon in our rivers, there are a number of regulatory tools available to fisheries managers which can assist in providing a sustainable recreational fishery. The following summary is intended to provide a background on a few of these measures.

Creel Limit

Placing a limit on the number of fish allowed to be harvested each day is a means of limiting the total harvest of trout and of distributing the catch amongst the angling population. We can have the same creel limit in all rivers across the province or reduce the limit in those areas where over harvest is believed to be a problem. We currently have a special management zone on the Trout River in Coleman in which the creel limit is set at six rather than ten trout per day. Other rivers may have reduced creel limits to allow fish populations to recover following a fish kill.

Angling Season

With some exceptions, the angling season for trout on Prince Edward Island traditionally opens on April 15, closing on September 15. Trout which spend time in saltwater migrate from the river to estuaries and bays in early April. Other trout overwinter in these saltwater areas. In April, these "sea trout" feed vigorously on the abundance of food found in coastal areas, their growth rate is accelerated and their flesh becomes firm and pink - these are the fish most prized by anglers. Some anglers believe that until the trout have had a chance to "fatten up", they are more vulnerable to angling and there is potential for overharvest. That is why there are anglers who would prefer to see the opening of the season delayed up to two weeks. Other anglers take an opposing view, believing that trout feed more actively when the water temperature increases, thus delaying the season would actually increase harvest. We can have a consistent opening day in all rivers or delay the opening in a river where there is intensive angling pressure. Currently, the Trout River in Coleman is the only river where the season opening is delayed until May 1.

Trophy Trout

Currently, anglers are allowed to retain one large trout (40 cm or 16") per day. It is these large trout that are the most valuable broodstock in our rivers. Trout produce approximately 1200 eggs per pound, therefore one 4 lb fish is equivalent to 8 half pound trout. These big fish are genetically suited to survive in a particular river and are what we would like to see around to spawn in autumn. Would reducing the size limit from 16" to a smaller size be acceptable to protect broodstock? Or, do we look at another method, possibly the use of trout tags, to do the job. For example, trophy fish being harvested would have to be tagged and anglers would be restricted to a certain number of trout tags per year.

Gear

Studies have shown that using barbless (or pinched down) hooks greatly decreases the mortality of trout when caught and released, even when fishing with bait. Refer to page 8 in the summary for more information on barbless hooks.

Stocking

Prince Edward Island has a long history of fish stocking. The current salmon fishery on P.E.I. is entirely dependent upon stocking because the remaining native runs of salmon found in approximately 25 rivers are too low to support a catch and keep fishery. Brook trout are also stocked in various rivers on P.E.I. to provide fish in areas of intensive harvest (e.g. Morell River), to provide new angling opportunities (e.g. in estuaries such as Foxley River) and to provide a source for stocking in the event of a fish kill. With the federal and provincial governments no longer funding the Cardigan Fish Hatchery, the future of fish stocking on Prince Edward Island remains uncertain.

Angler Survey

We are interested in getting your input on matters related to the recreational fisheries on Prince Edward Island. Some anglers feel that the quality of fishing has declined for a number of reasons and believe that more restrictions are needed to ensure a sustainable fishery into the future. Others feel that current regulations are sufficient. What do you think?

Please take a few minutes to complete the attached survey and drop it into the mail. No additional postage is needed if mailed on Prince Edward Island.

If you would like to provide additional comments, you are invited to email the Department of Environment at environment@gov.pe.ca.



PEI Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry
Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown PE C1A 7N8

Angling Survey

Do you feel that the creel limit for trout on P.E.I.:

- a) should remain at 10 trout per day
- b) should be lowered to 6 trout per day
- c) should be increased

Regarding the creel limit, do you prefer:

- a) the same creel limit for all rivers on PEI
- b) reduced limit on certain rivers

Opening day of the angling season is currently April 15. Would you support:

- a) leave the opening date as it is, April 15
- b) delay the opening until May 1 throughout the entire province
- c) delay the opening on certain rivers
- c) a weekend opening (e.g. third Saturday in April)

Do you currently use barbless hooks? Yes No

* definition of barbless hooks is included on page 3 of the Summary

Would you support the mandatory use of barbless hooks on P.E.I. Yes No

Please provide the percentage of time you spent fishing by location and by method:

Location	% of time		Method	% of time
Saltwater (bays, estuaries)			Fly fishing	
Rivers			Spin casting with bait only	
Fresh water ponds			Spin casting with lures only	
			Spin casting with lures & bait	
TOTAL TIME	100%		TOTAL TIME	100%

Please provide the approximate percentage of time you spent fishing for trout in the following time periods

Time Period	% of Time
April 15 to May 31	
June 1 to July 15	
July 16 to the end of the season	
TOTAL TIME	100%

If you fished in 2005, how many brook trout did you catch that were greater than 35 cm (14") in length? How many of these did you keep? Caught _____ Kept _____

Would you support the concept of trophy trout tags? (E.g. an angler would be restricted in the number of large trout that could be kept. Any trout greater than a specific length would have to be tagged).

Yes No

Each licensed angler, trapper and hunter on Prince Edward Island is required to purchase a Wildlife Conservation Fund license. How do you think these funds should be allocated?

Please rate your priorities for the allocation of these funds (1 being extremely important and 5 being not important.)

Allocation	Rating	Allocation	Rating
Fish habitat enhancement		Education and public awareness	
Fish stocking		Upland game enhancement	
Research and monitoring		Natural areas acquisition or restoration	
Non-game enhancement		Wetland enhancement	
Impoundment (pond) management		Other (specify) _____	

What is your postal/zip code? _____