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Cover image: Title, Fast Food, drawn by Kyle Lane of Picton Ontario, Winner of the 2004 Outdoors Card Artwork Contest.

Cette publication est également disponible en anglais. Pour en obtenir un exemplaire, prière de composer le 1-800-667-1940 ou d'aller à [www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca). On peut aussi en obtenir un exemplaire au bureau le plus proche du ministère des Richesses naturelles.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

This booklet is prepared for convenience only. It summarizes legislation from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act and regulations under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, as well as the federal Fisheries Act and the Ontario Fishery Regulations. For further information on specific regulations, please contact a local Ministry of Natural Resources office. For more information about obtaining copies of these acts and regulations, contact the Ministry of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Branch, Fisheries Section, P.O. Box 7000, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8M5.

Find the  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
online at:  
[www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca)

Be sure to visit the  
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[www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/fishing](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/fishing)

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# Changes to Recreational Fisheries Management in Ontario Are Coming



Ontario is developing a new ecological framework for recreational fisheries management. The goal of these changes is to maintain healthy fish communities, enhance public involvement, provide for ongoing monitoring and assessment, as well as make fishing regulations easier to understand.

Starting in 2007\*, there will be:

- 20 new Fisheries Management Zones (to replace the existing 37 fishing divisions) – see map.
- Some new seasons, catch and possession limits, and length limits.

Fisheries Management Zones will become the unit of management for the majority of lakes, rivers and streams in Ontario. The new zones were developed based on ecological and social factors. Generally, fish populations will be managed, monitored, assessed and regulated at the zone level.

For more information on the ecological framework, proposed regulations and maps of the new Fisheries Management Zones, please visit: [www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/fishing](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/fishing)

\* Timing is subject to regulatory approval of proposed changes.



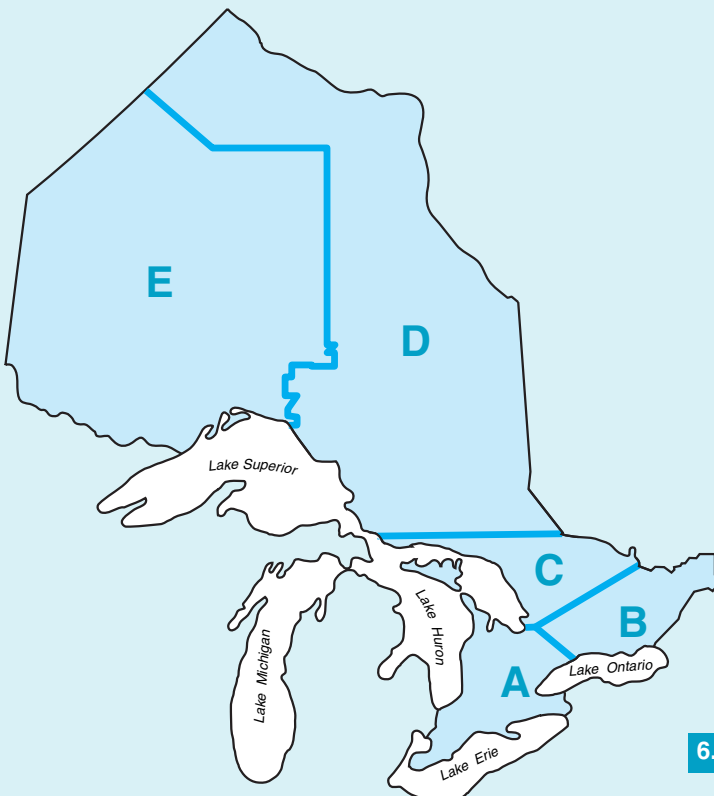
## How to Use This Summary

To help you quickly find the fishing information you need, we have divided Ontario into five regions, labeled A, B, C, D and E (below). All information for a region is grouped together.

Each region is broken into fishing divisions. The general regulations for each division are found in the division/species table following the regional map. Once you have read the general regulations, be sure to check for any Exceptions to the general regulations which may apply to the waterbody you will be fishing.

Many regions feature additional fishing opportunities that you won't want to miss. These special opportunities are listed as additional fishing opportunities following the regional map.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT NEW REGULATIONS AND CHANGES FOR 2005 & 2006 ARE PRINTED IN RED.**



**NEW!**

The open seasons and sanctuary close times provided in this summary reference the way the dates are often expressed in the regulations (e.g. 1st Sat. in May, last day in Feb. or Labour Day); rather than an actual calendar date. Refer to the Quick Reference Table for the corresponding calendar dates in 2005 and 2006 (see page 9).

In order to ensure you are complying with the regulations, please follow these easy step-by-step directions.

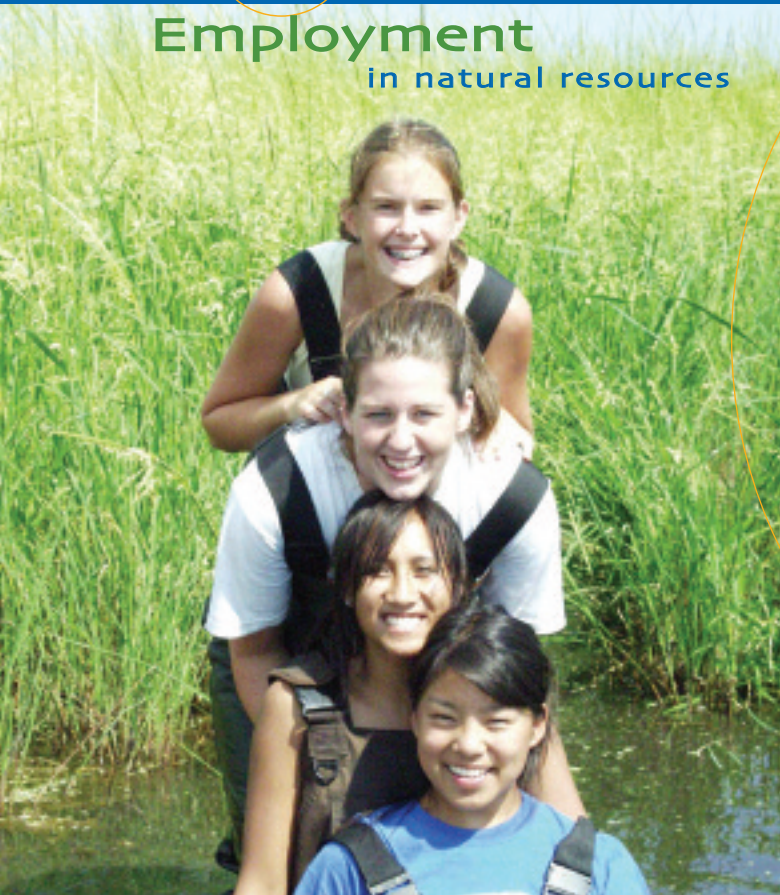
1. Ensure that you have the right kind of fishing licence (pages 1-3).
2. Understand and comply at all times with the General Fishing Regulations (pages 3-8).
3. Refer to the area map in the region where you plan to fish:  
Southwestern Ontario ..... Map A .....Page 11  
Southeastern Ontario ..... Map B .....Page 19  
Central Ontario ..... Map C .....Page 30  
Northeastern Ontario ..... Map D .....Page 47  
Northwestern Ontario ..... Map E .....Page 67
4. Determine the division in which you plan to fish.
5. Once you have determined the division you plan to fish in and the species you wish to fish for, you **MUST**:
  - Refer to the Division/Species Table for that map area to ensure that you are:
    - fishing during an open season;
    - complying with the catch, possession, and size limits.
  - Check the “General Notes” and “Bait and Gear Restrictions” listed after the Division/Species Table.

**AND**

  - Check the “Exceptions to the General Regulations” (following the Division/Species Table) for the body of water or general area in which you will be fishing and comply with the exceptions that are shown. Note: some waters are grouped with other waters that have the same regulatory exceptions. These will generally be listed under the largest or most significant water body.  
**Note:** in some cases lower limits are stated in the exceptions that apply only to Sport Fishing Licence holders. If no conservation licence limits are stated for exception waters, then the conservation licence limit is the same as for the rest of the division and can be found in the Division/Species Tables.
6. If you are not sure whether you can fish at a certain time and place, or if you have any questions about the regulations, contact the local Ministry of Natural Resources office. See listings on pages 83 and 84.
7. Also, don't forget to review the additional fishing opportunities in each map area to make the most of your fishing experience.
8. Non-residents fishing in the Border Waters area should refer to pages 72 and 73.



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# species at risk

In Ontario, 31 freshwater fish species are species at risk – extirpated (gone from Ontario but exist elsewhere), endangered, threatened and special concern. Most of these species are not well known to anglers with the exception of the endangered aurora trout. The decline in fish populations is caused mainly by habitat loss and the invasion of exotic species. The Ministry of Natural Resources is working with partners in recovery planning for several fish species and watersheds.

As of June 2004, the federal Species at Risk Act provides protection to threatened, endangered and extirpated species and their habitats. The harvest of the following species, without appropriate permits, is now prohibited:

- Extirpated species: gravel chub and paddlefish
- Endangered species: Aurora trout in Whitepine Lake, Whirligig Lake, and Campcott Lake (regulated fish sanctuaries), northern madtom and pugnose shiner
- Threatened species: lake chubsucker, eastern sand darter and spotted gar.

Also, the harvest of two provincially-listed threatened species – the cutlip minnow and the redbside dace – is prohibited under the Ontario Fishery Regulations.

To learn more about Ontario's species at risk, visit [www.OntarioParks.com/english/sar.html](http://www.OntarioParks.com/english/sar.html)

*Aurora Trout, endangered; photo: Ed Snucins*



act today  
so they have tomorrow

# Recreational Fishing Licence Information for Residents of Ontario and Canada

Most Canadian residents need to purchase a licence to fish in Ontario. Except for the one-day fishing licence option, a resident fishing licence has two parts; an Ontario-issued three-year Outdoors Card and a fishing licence tag. Two types of fishing licence tags are available: a Resident Sport Fishing Licence tag and a Resident Conservation Fishing Licence tag.

**Resident** — For the purpose of obtaining a fishing licence, a resident is defined as a person whose primary residence is in Canada and who has lived in Canada for a period of at least six consecutive months during the 12 months immediately before applying for a licence.

**Outdoors Card** — An Outdoors Card is a plastic, wallet-sized identification card to which your Ontario fishing licence tag is affixed. It acts as a durable carrier for your licence tag for three calendar years. A complete and valid licence to fish consists of an Outdoors Card plus a fishing licence tag. If you do not have a current Outdoors Card, a temporary paper licence enables you to fish until you receive your Outdoors Card in the mail or the temporary licence expires.

**Resident Sport Fishing Licence** — The Resident Sport Fishing Licence tag is for anglers who wish to have full catch and possession fishing privileges. It is available for one or three-year periods. Catch and possession limits are specified on the Division/Species Table following each regional map in this summary. The limit for the angler with a Resident Sport Fishing Licence is indicated with an “S”.

**Resident Conservation Fishing Licence** — The Resident Conservation Fishing Licence tag is ideal for the angler who wishes to live release the majority of fish caught, or in the case of certain species, all of the fish caught. It is available for one or three-year periods. Catch and possession limits are specified on the Division/Species Table following each regional map in this Summary. The limit for the angler with a Resident Conservation Fishing Licence is indicated with a “C”. The holder of a Resident Conservation Fishing Licence tag must quickly and carefully live release all fish of the following species: muskellunge; Atlantic salmon; lake sturgeon; and aurora trout.

## Who does NOT need to purchase a Fishing Licence?

1. Residents of Canada who are under 18 years of age or 65 years of age or older, and are in possession of their Birth Certificate.
2. Disabled Canadian residents, if they are eligible for and in possession of EITHER:
  - a Canadian National Institute for the Blind National Identity Card; OR
  - an Ontario Ministry of Transportation disabled person parking permit.
3. Canadian residents who are in possession of their Birth Certificate and who require the direct assistance of, and are accompanied by, another person to fish and to follow applicable fishing laws due to a condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability, a learning disability or dysfunction, or a mental disorder.

Those who qualify to fish without purchasing a fishing licence as indicated above, may fish with the same catch and possession limits as holders of a Resident Sport Fishing Licence tag. Additionally, they have the same responsibilities as those who have purchased an Outdoors Card and fishing licence tag and must abide by all regulations.

## Do Aboriginal people need an Outdoors Card?

Members of Ontario Aboriginal communities, having established aboriginal and treaty rights, do not require an Outdoors Card or Ontario fishing licence tag to take fish for personal use within their traditional or treaty territory. Personal use is defined as for food, social or ceremonial purposes.

Individuals should be prepared to provide identification when showing their community membership. Members of Aboriginal communities fishing outside of their traditional or treaty areas must have a valid Ontario Outdoors Card and fishing licence tag.

## How do I get an Outdoors Card if I have never had one before?

A resident of Canada who has never had an Outdoors Card may apply for an Outdoors Card to go fishing in one of two ways. The method you select depends on how soon you want to go fishing:

1. **If you can wait**, you can submit an Outdoors Card application and payment to the Outdoors Card Centre through the mail. You will receive the card and fishing licence tag you selected in approximately four to six weeks. To have an application mailed to you, call the Outdoors Card Centre from anywhere in Canada at **1-800-387-7011**.
2. **If you want to fish right away**, a temporary paper licence and Outdoors Card Application are available from more than 2,000 licence issuers across the province.

## How do I renew my expired Outdoors Card?

You may renew your Outdoors Card in any of five ways:

- By connecting to the Internet at [www.outdoorscard.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.outdoorscard.mnr.gov.on.ca) and using your VISA or MasterCard. You will need your Outdoors Card number and date of birth to complete this transaction. Please allow two to three weeks for your card to reach you.
- By using the toll-free automated telephone system and your VISA, MasterCard or American Express credit card. Be sure to have your Outdoors Card number on hand when you call. Call **1-800-288-1155** and allow two to three weeks for delivery.
- At more than 70 ServiceOntario Kiosk locations. ServiceOntario Kiosks accept VISA, MasterCard and American Express transactions as well as bank debit cards. You will need your Outdoors Card number when you renew. Please allow two to three weeks for delivery.
- By mail, using the renewal package sent to you in the fall of the year in which your Outdoors Card expires. For the convenience of Outdoors Card holders, a renewal package is sent automatically so you can renew before your current card expires. Payment may be made by VISA, MasterCard, American Express, cheque or money order. You will receive your card four to six weeks after you submit your renewal application. If you have misplaced your package, call **1-800-387-7011** for a replacement.
- By purchasing a “Resident Sport Fishing Licence and Outdoors Card Application” **OR** a “Resident Conservation Fishing Licence and Outdoors Card Application” from a licence issuer.

The fee for either of these includes the cost of the one-year fishing licence and the three-year Outdoors Card.

### What else should I know about my Outdoors Card?

Here are other important things to keep in mind:

- You must notify the Ministry of Natural Resources of any address or name change **within 10 days of the change**. You can change your address or name by calling the Outdoors Card Centre at **1-800-387-7011** toll-free from anywhere in Canada. To change your address (only) go online to our Internet site at: [www.outdoorscard.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.outdoorscard.mnr.gov.on.ca), or visit one of the more than 70 ServiceOntario Kiosk locations.
- You must carry your Outdoors Card and fishing licence tag on your person whenever you are fishing. If a Conservation Officer asks to see your Outdoors Card, the law states you must show it.
- Your Outdoors Card is not transferable to another person – it provides privileges to you alone.
- You may legally apply for one Outdoors Card only. It is an offence to attempt to obtain more than one card. It is also an offence to provide false information on a card application.

- One-year fishing licences expire December 31st in the year printed on the licence.
- Three-year fishing licences expire at the same time as the Outdoors Card, on December 31st of its third year. Your card's expiry year is the two numbers following your 15 digit card number.
- If you have applied for an Outdoors Card and have not received it in the stated timeframe, call the Outdoors Card Centre at **1-800-387-7011**.

**If your Outdoors Card is lost or stolen or if you need more information about Outdoors Cards or fishing licences call the Outdoors Card Centre from anywhere in Canada at 1-800-387-7011.**

**NEW!**

### ELECTRONIC LICENSING

If you are an Outdoors Card holder, visit the Ministry of Natural Resources' E-Licensing website at: [www.outdoorscard.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.outdoorscard.mnr.gov.on.ca).

You may be eligible for instant fishing privileges.

## Residents of Canada Fishing Licence Options

**Residents of Canada Fishing Licence Options:** The 2005 one-year licence fees stated in this summary are in effect from January 1, 2005 until December 31, 2005. The 2005 three-year fees are subject to change after August 31, 2005. The 2006 one-year licence fees stated in this summary are in effect from January 1, 2006 until December 31, 2006. The 2006 three-year fees are subject to change after August 31, 2006. For the location of the licence issuer nearest you, contact the Ministry of Natural Resources. A list of Ministry of Natural Resources offices is provided on pages 83 and 84.

Licence Type	Available From	2005 Fees	2006 Fees
Outdoors Card plus three-year Resident Sport Fishing Licence Tag	By mail (new application or renewal), by phone (renewal only) at 1-800-288-1155, over the Internet (renewal only) at <a href="http://www.outdoorscard.mnr.gov.on.ca">www.outdoorscard.mnr.gov.on.ca</a> , or visit a ServiceOntario Kiosk (renewal only)	\$73.50	\$75.00
Outdoors Card plus three-year Resident Conservation Fishing Licence Tag	By mail (new application or renewal), by phone (renewal only) at 1-800-288-1155, over the Internet (renewal only) at <a href="http://www.outdoorscard.mnr.gov.on.ca">www.outdoorscard.mnr.gov.on.ca</a> , or visit a ServiceOntario Kiosk (renewal only)	\$45.75	\$46.50
Resident Sport Fishing Licence (one-year) and Outdoors Card Application (Outdoors Card is included in this fee)	2000+ licence issuers throughout the province	\$28.50	\$29.00
Resident Conservation Fishing Licence (one-year) and Outdoors Card Application. (Outdoors Card is included in this fee)	2000+ licence issuers throughout the province	\$19.25	\$19.50
One-Day Fishing Licence	Most licence issuers throughout the province	\$10.00	\$10.00
Three-year Outdoors Card only (no licence tags). This Outdoors Card becomes a licence only when a one-year licence tag (see prices below) is affixed	By mail (new application or renewal), by phone (renewal only) at 1-800-288-1155, over the Internet (renewal only) at <a href="http://www.outdoorscard.mnr.gov.on.ca">www.outdoorscard.mnr.gov.on.ca</a> , or visit a ServiceOntario Kiosk (renewal only)	\$6.00	\$6.00
One-year Resident Sport Fishing Licence Tag (for holders of a valid Outdoors Card)	2000+ licence issuers throughout the province	\$22.50	\$23.00
One-year Resident Conservation Fishing Licence Tag (for holders of a valid Outdoors Card)	2000+ licence issuers throughout the province	\$13.25	\$13.50
<b>ONTARIO RESIDENTS ONLY:</b> If you wish to both fish and hunt, you may apply for an Outdoors Card (hunting / fishing version) which provides for both privileges. Call the Outdoors Card Centre for complete details	For information on this option call the Outdoors Card Centre at 1-800-387-7011. To renew your Outdoors Card (hunting / fishing version) with a credit card, call 1-800-288-1155 or visit our Internet site at <a href="http://www.outdoorscard.mnr.gov.on.ca">www.outdoorscard.mnr.gov.on.ca</a> , or visit a ServiceOntario Kiosk	Various	Various



## Recreational Fishing Licence Information for Non-Residents

**Non-Resident Sport Fishing Licence** — The Non-Resident Sport Fishing Licence is for anglers who wish to have full catch and possession fishing privileges. Catch and possession limits are specified on the Division/Species Table following each regional map in this summary. The limit for the angler with a Non-Resident Sport Fishing Licence is indicated with an “S.”

**Non-Resident Conservation Fishing Licence** — The Non-Resident Conservation Fishing Licence is ideal for the angler who wishes to live release the majority of the fish caught, or in the case of certain species, all of the fish caught. Catch and possession limits are specified on the Division/Species Table following each regional map in this summary. The limit for the angler with a Non-Resident Conservation Fishing Licence is indicated with a “C.” The holder of a conservation fishing licence must quickly and carefully live release all fish of the following species: muskellunge; Atlantic salmon; lake sturgeon; and aurora trout.

### I live outside of Canada. Do I need a licence to fish in Ontario?

Anyone who lives outside of Canada is considered a non-resident for the purposes of fishing licence regulations. Most non-residents need a fishing licence to fish in Ontario. Specifically:

- Non-residents 18 years of age and over must purchase a fishing licence.
- Non-residents under 18 years of age may fish without a licence if accompanied by an adult who has a valid Ontario fishing licence. Any fish caught are part of the catch and possession limit of the adult who holds the licence. As another option, non-residents under 18 years may purchase a licence and any fish caught apply to the catch and possession limits of that licence.

**Non-residents 65 years of age or older are not exempt from licencing.**

**Note:** Non-residents camping on Crown lands in Northwestern Ontario are subject to conservation licence limits in the following Fishing Divisions: 20, 21, 22, 22A, 24, 30, 31, 33 and 34, except for in the border waters area (see pages 72 and 73).

For non-resident groups of children (at least five people under the age of 18 years accompanied by a licenced adult) there is a special licence for members of an organized camp. This licence is available from Ministry of Natural Resources offices (see pages 83 and 84).

### Where can I purchase a non-resident fishing licence?

Non-resident anglers may purchase a fishing licence that is effective immediately at more than 2,000 locations throughout the province. Licences are often available from tourist outfitters' camps and lodges, summer camps, sporting goods stores or bait dealers. In smaller communities they may be available at general stores or other retail establishments. A range of licences is offered to suit individual needs. Non-resident fishing licences are also available through the mail by calling the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources at **1-800-667-1940**.

## Non-Resident Fishing Licence Options

The 2005 non-resident fishing licence fees shown below are in effect from January 1, 2005 until December 31, 2005. The 2006 non-resident fishing licence fees shown below are in effect from January 1, 2006 until December 31, 2006. For the location of the licence issuer nearest you, contact the Ministry of Natural Resources. A list of Ministry of Natural Resources offices is provided on pages 83 and 84.

Licence Type	Available From	2005 Fees	2006 Fees
Sport Fishing Licence – valid for the calendar year	2000+ licence issuers throughout the province	\$62.50	\$64.00
Conservation Fishing Licence – valid for the calendar year	2000+ licence issuers throughout the province	\$38.00	\$39.00
Eight-day Sport Fishing Licence*	2000+ licence issuers throughout the province	\$40.00	\$41.00
Eight-day Conservation Fishing Licence*	2000+ licence issuers throughout the province	\$23.50	\$24.00
One-day Sport Fishing Licence (Great Lakes and connecting waters including Lake St. Clair, Rondeau Bay, St. Lawrence River and Lake St. Francis)	Licence issuers located on the Great Lakes	\$16.50	\$17.00
Non-resident Angling Licence for a Member of an Organized Camp	Ministry of Natural Resources offices	\$4.00 per child	\$4.00 per child
Lake St. Joseph tag	Lake St. Joseph tourist operator from whom accommodation is obtained	No charge	No charge

\* **Eight-day fishing licences are valid for 8 consecutive calendar days – a calendar day is a 24 hour period starting at 12:00 a.m.**

## General Fishing Regulations

### Angler's Glossary

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

**Artificial Fly** – An artificial fly means a single or double hook dressed with silk, tinsel, wool, fur, feathers or other similar material. It does not include a fly that has either a weight to cause the fly to sink or a spinning device.

**Barbless Hook** – A barbless hook means a hook that was made without a barb or has had its barb either completely removed, or compressed so that it is 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**. The **possession** limit is the number you are allowed to have in your possession on hand, in cold storage, in transit, etc. Possession limits

are the same as one day's catch limit except where otherwise specified. For some species there are no limits. In these cases no reference will be made to a limit in this fishing summary. If you catch a fish after reaching the daily catch or possession limit for that species, the fish must be released immediately back to the water. Refer also to size limits.

**Coarse fish** – includes: gar family, bowfin, catfish family, burbot, freshwater drum or sheepshead.

**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 do the following:

- Stop and inspect a vehicle, boat or aircraft
- Ask questions relevant to the inspection
- Inspect buildings or other places
- Search with a warrant
- Search without a warrant in circumstances requiring immediate action
- Seize items related to an offence
- Arrest anyone the Conservation Officer believes has committed, is committing, or is about to commit an offence.

**Export of Fish** – A recreational angler may, on leaving Ontario, take the designated possession limits for fish captured from a specific waterbody. An export permit called a "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Export Permit" is required to export any sturgeon (in whole or part) from Canada. For more information, contact the closest MNR office (see pages 83 and 84).

**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 during certain times of the year. Fish sanctuary areas are not always marked with signs. If you are at all uncertain, check with the local MNR office before fishing.

**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 (see Exceptions to the General Regulations) and for ice fishing in many areas (see Ice Fishing, page 5). A fishing line must not have more than four hooks attached. Where an artificial lure is used, each double or treble hook attached to it is considered to be one hook. In all other situations, a double hook counts as two hooks; and a treble hook counts as three hooks.

**Lead Sinkers and Jigs** – It is illegal to use or possess lead fishing sinkers or jigs in Canada's national parks and wildlife areas. Further information is available from the following Environment Canada web site: <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/fishing>.

**Live Holding Boxes** – If you use a live holding box or impounding device, it must be clearly marked with your name and address unless it forms part of or is attached to a boat. Any fish in holding boxes are part of your limit. Live holding boxes are not permitted in Div. 34 unless they form part of, or are attached to the boat.

**Open Seasons** – Fishing season opening and closing dates vary depending on the species and the area. **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 (such as sucker and rock bass) have a year-round open season.

**Packaging Fish for Transport or Storage** – When you are exporting, transporting or storing fish, you must ensure that the fish can be easily identified and counted. Where length limits apply, you must also ensure that the length of the fish can be determined except as described in "Transporting Sport Fish in Ontario" (Refer to page 6).

**Shore Meals** – Fish which are consumed as part of a shore lunch on the same day are also part of your daily catch limit.

**Size Limits** – 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**. Provincial regulations are established using the metric system. If you catch a fish in a restricted size range, you must release it immediately. The conversion to inches has been rounded to one decimal place for the convenience of anglers.

**Specially Protected Amphibians (frogs)** – Blanchard's cricket frog, Fowlers toad and Gray treefrog are protected in Ontario and may not be captured or used as bait.

## GENERAL PROHIBITIONS - IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- Sell any angler-caught fish, crayfish, leeches, frogs or spawn, including angler-caught yellow perch taken from the waters of Lake St. Francis. Only holders of commercial fishing and commercial bait licences may sell their catch
- Possess a spring gaff, snagger, or spear gun for the purpose of fishing. No person shall take fish with a gaff or snare. A gaff may be used to assist in landing fish caught by lawful means
- Catch or kill a fish by impaling or snagging it with a hook through any part of the body other than the mouth - any fish hooked in this way must be released immediately
- Possess a spear for the purpose of fishing on or within 30 m (98.2 ft.) of the edge of any waters except when fishing in accordance with the regulations (refer to Non-angling Methods, page 7)
- Use artificial lights to attract fish except:
  - To fish for smelt, or to fish for lake whitefish or lake herring with a dip net
  - 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 (81.8 ft.) of a pound net or fish culture cage or fish within 22.9 m (75 ft.) downstream from the lower entrance to any fishway or canal, obstacle, or any device designed to assist fish around an obstacle
- Transfer live fish or live spawn from one body of water to another without the authorization of the Ministry of Natural Resources
- Abandon fish or permit the flesh to spoil for fish taken by a person who has lawfully caught and retained it by recreational fishing

New regulations are proposed that will put in place an all year-round closed angling season for American eel in Ontario. When these regulations take effect, if you accidentally catch an American eel, it should be immediately returned to the water.



## Ice Fishing

The fishing regulations outlined in the General Fishing Regulations, the Division/Species Tables, and the Exceptions to the General Regulations apply to ice fishing. Please note the following additional information:

- Up to five lines may be used for ice fishing in Labyrinth Lake, including Waterhen Creek (Div. 19) downstream of Access Road bridge (Territorial District of Timiskaming)
- In most other circumstances, two lines may be used for ice fishing except in some waterbodies in Divs. 7, 15, 16 and 29 (see “Exceptions to the General Regulations”) and
- You may use a tip-up for ice fishing, but must remain within 60 m (197 ft.) of any line with which you are fishing. At all times, you must have a clear and unobstructed view of the lines being used.

### Ice Hut Registration

Ice fishing huts must be registered with the local MNR office if they are on any of the following waters:

- Any part of Divs. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 12A, 15, 16 (Georgian Bay including Colpoys Bay, Severn Sound and Owen Sound) & Div. 29
- Lakes Couchiching, Simcoe, Puslinch, Nipissing, Temagami, Scugog, Timiskaming, Manitou (Div. 28) and Trout Lake (in the city of North Bay)
- Chesley Lake (Bruce County, Div. 4)
- Long Point Bay on Lake Erie (Norfolk and Haldimand Counties) west of a line from the survey point at Turkey Point Marina to Pottohawk Point
- The waters of Div. 18 lying north of Hwy. 17 in the Sudbury district and
- The waters of Divs. 17, 18 & 23 lying in the Sault Ste. Marie district.

### Hut Removal Dates

Ice fishing huts must be removed by the following dates:

**March 1** in Div. 8 and Lake Scugog (Div. 6)

**March 15** in:

- Chesley Lake (Bruce County, Div. 4)
- Percy, Seymour, Cramahe, Brighton and Murray Twps. (Div. 6)
- Div. 7 except that part in Cashel Twp.
- Div. 9 except Oso, Olden, Kennebec and Kaladar Twps.
- Divs. 10 & 11
- Div. 12 waters lying south of a line running east/west through the intersection of Hwy. 17 and Hwy. 533
- Div. 12A
- Tudor Twp. (Div. 15)
- Lake Simcoe
- The part of Long Point Bay on Lake Erie (Norfolk and Haldimand Counties) that lies west of a line drawn from the survey point at Turkey Point Marina to Pottohawk Point
- The part of Div. 4 in Simcoe and Dufferin Counties, and
- Div. 16 (Georgian Bay, including Colpoys Bay, Severn Sound and Owen Sound).

**March 31** in:

- Lake Timiskaming (Div. 18)
- Lake Temagami (Div. 26)
- Lake Nipissing (Div. 27)
- Lake Manitou (Div. 28)
- Waters south of, and including the French and Mattawa Rivers (except where earlier dates are listed); Trout Lake (North Bay, Div. 18); the waters of Div. 18 lying north of

Hwy. 17 in the Sudbury district; and the waters of Divs. 17, 18 & 23 lying in the Sault Ste. Marie district.

## Bait

### Bait-fish

In most areas of Ontario, only the following fish may be used as bait:

- Minnow family (except carp, goldfish, cutlip minnow, red-side dace, lake chubsucker, and gravel chub)
- Mudminnows, white sucker, sticklebacks, darters (except eastern sand darter), trout-perch and sculpins
- Lake herring
- Crayfish.

In the Great Lakes, the St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara, St. Lawrence and St. Marys rivers, Lake George, Lake St. Francis and Munuscong Lake, alewife and yellow perch may also be used as bait.

**Note:** The use or possession of live fish for bait is not allowed in certain waters. (see “Bait Restrictions” (pages 24, 50 and 74) and the “Exceptions to the General Regulations”, or contact your local MNR office)

- Live smelt may not be used as bait in Ontario. There are restrictions on the use of dead smelt (see “Exceptions to the General Regulations” or contact your local MNR office).
- Gobies may not be used as bait.

### Other Types of Bait

Leeches, worms and northern leopard frogs may be used as bait.

**NOTE: Salamanders may NOT be used as bait in Ontario, however, artificial salamander lures may be used.**

## Capture of Bait by Anglers

### Bait-fish

Only resident anglers with a valid Ontario fishing licence or those who qualify to fish without purchasing a licence (see page 1) may capture their own bait-fish for personal use, using a bait-fish trap or dip net. Resident anglers may have no more than 120 bait-fish caught under the authority of a valid fishing licence in their possession at any time.

**Note:** Non-resident anglers cannot take bait-fish for personal use by any means.

#### 1. Bait-traps

- To catch bait, **resident** anglers may use only one bait-fish trap (no more than 51 cm (20 in.) long and 31 cm (12.2 in.) wide), and it must be clearly marked with the name of the user. A trap can be used day or night at any time of the year in all divisions, except Divisions 13 and 23 (see the “Exceptions to the General Regulations” for additional restrictions).

#### 2. Dip Nets

- To catch bait, **resident** anglers may use only one dip net. It must be no more than 183 cm (6 ft.) on each side if square, or 183 cm (6 ft.) across if circular
- Dip nets may only be used during daylight hours (after sunrise and before sunset)
- A dip net may be used in all divisions, except Division 13.

### Leeches

Only **resident** anglers with a valid fishing licence may capture their own leeches for personal use, subject to the following restrictions:

- **Resident** anglers may have no more than 120 leeches caught under the authority of a valid fishing licence in their possession at any time
- To catch leeches, anglers may use one leech trap (that does not exceed 45 cm (17.7 in.) in any dimension)
- Traps must be clearly marked with the holder's name.

### Frogs

Resident and non-resident anglers with a valid fishing licence may capture in one day, or at any time possess no more than 12 northern leopard frogs for their own use. Blanchard's cricket frog, Fowlers toad, and the Gray treefrog are specially protected amphibians in Ontario and may not be captured for use as bait.

### Worms

- There are no restrictions on the capture of worms for use as bait.

### Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles

Holders of valid fishing licences may catch and retain bullfrogs and snapping turtles during open seasons. For details on harvest areas, season dates and catch and possession limits, see the *Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary* under Game Amphibians and Reptiles or contact your local MNR office.

### Import of Bait

- It is illegal to bring live fish, leeches, crayfish or salamanders into Ontario for use as bait.

### Release of Bait

Anglers must **NOT** release live bait into waters other than the waterbody where the bait was originally captured.

## Transporting Sport Fish in Ontario

Anglers need to ensure they are transporting fish in compliance with the regulations, which help protect fisheries resources.

The fish that you catch and keep may be cleaned. However, please remember that fish taken from waterbodies where size limits are in effect must be readily measurable at all times, 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 primary residence and you are not engaged in sport fishing or
- Being transported overland.

In addition, when packaging fish you must ensure that a Conservation Officer can determine:

- The number of fish you have and
- The species of fish that you have in your possession.

## Tips For Transporting Packaged Fish

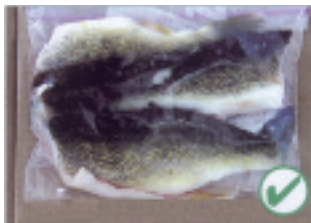
1. Package each fish individually or arrange your fish in a clear freezer bag. Place the fillets flat in the bag. A layer of water can be added to further protect the fillets before freezing. **DON'T** freeze your fillets in a container such as a milk carton or margarine tub. A large lump of fillets frozen in bags is also not acceptable. **Remember, fish must be packaged in such a way that they can be easily counted.**
2. Ensure you leave at least a large patch of skin on all fish fillets for identification purposes. Since anglers often transport various species of fish, it's their responsibility to ensure each and every fillet of their catch can be identified.
3. Conservation Officers may inspect your catch at any time. Always have your fish and your licence easily accessible. Pack your coolers of fish last and where they can be quickly inspected. It's inconvenient for anglers to have to unload a vehicle to find licences and coolers.
4. If a Conservation Officer inspects the sport fish you're transporting and finds they are improperly packaged:
  - Your catch may be seized for evidence
  - You could get a ticket and be fined
  - You may have to attend court, usually close to where the inspection took place, which may be far away from where you live.
5. If you have questions about any regulation, contact the Ministry of Natural Resources office in the area that you intend to fish.



- Frozen fish fillets without skin attached
- Species cannot be identified
- Numbers can be counted



- Fillets frozen in a block
- Numbers cannot be counted
- Species cannot be determined on all fillets



- Walleye fillets properly packaged
- Whole skin attached
- Can be counted and identified



- Walleye fillets
- Patch of skin attached
- Can be counted and identified



- Perch fillets (left), walleye fillets (right)
- Patch of skin attached



- Pike fillets
- Individually packaged

## Tips on Live Release of Fish

Using proper handling and release techniques improves fish survival. Here are some tips for successful catch-and-release:

### Angling

- Use barbless hooks; avoid using live or organic bait
- Reduce the time a fish is played.

### Handling

- Keep the fish in the water as much as possible and handle the fish gently
- Reduce handling that removes the slimy protective coating on fish
- Do not squeeze or touch the gills. Grasp the fish just behind the gill covers. For panfish and bass, it is best to grasp the fish by the lower lip
- Use long-nose pliers to remove the hook quickly without tearing or injuring the fish. If the fish is hooked deeply, cut the line and leave the hook in when the fish is released

- Never put a fish that you may release on a stringer, use a functional livewell or release the fish immediately

Remember that all fish kept (in a livewell, on a stringer, etc.) and not immediately released count towards your daily catch and possession limit.

### Photographing

- Be ready ahead of time! Take pictures quickly, minimizing the amount of time the fish is out of the water
- Hold the fish in a horizontal position, supporting its weight with your arm and hands. Do not hold large fish in a vertical position.

### Releasing

- Revive the fish before letting it go. Hold the fish upright in a swimming position in the water, moving the fish slowly forward and backward so water runs through the gills
- Ensure the fish is breathing and can swim away under its own power before it is released.

**Remember: The Future of Fishing is in Your Hands.**

## Non-Angling Methods of Capturing Fish

Subject to specific conditions and in specified areas, anyone with a valid **Resident Fishing Licence** may fish using angling gear, one dip net, one seine, bow and arrow or spear. Opportunities and restrictions on non-angling activities are outlined in the following tables. Licence holders may also obtain, without charge from MNR offices, the permit required to dip net for pink salmon, whitefish and herring in specified areas of the province.

Persons with a valid **Non-Resident Fishing Licence** may fish with a single dip net or seine net for smelt, and a bow and arrow for carp, sucker and coarse fish under the conditions outlined below.

**Coarse fish include: gar family, bowfin, catfish family, burbot, freshwater drum or sheepshead.**

Before fishing, check the Map Specific Regulations for the area and waterbody you will be fishing in for any exceptions or additional restrictions.

**Unless the regulations specifically state otherwise, all fishing by means other than angling must be done after sunrise and before sunset (during daylight hours).**

### Restrictions on Equipment

**DIP NETS** may be no more than 183 cm (6 ft.) on each side if square, or 183 cm (6ft.) across if circular.

**SEINES** may be no more than 10 m (32.8 ft.) long and 2 m (6.5 ft.) high.

**SPEAR** – Fishing with a spear, or having a spear within 30 m (100 ft.) of the edge of a body of water, is illegal except in the circumstances noted below.

Species	Method of Capture	Open Season	Waters
<b>Northern Pike</b>	- bow and arrow - dip net - spear	March & April	Waters of Divisions 1 and 2 excluding the waters of Lake Erie fronting Norfolk and Haldimand Counties, and Division 3 excluding waters in the County of Essex and the waters in Note 1 (see page 8) and excluding those parts of the Thames, Sydenham & Ausable Rivers in Division 3.
	- bow and arrow - dip net - spear	January, February, March & April	Waters in the County of Essex (Div. 3).
<b>Smelt</b>	- dip net - seine	March, April & May (day or night)	All waters except the following: Divisions 4, 6, 13, 22, 22A, 24, 30, and 31; those parts of the Thames, Sydenham & Ausable Rivers in Division 3; the waters in Note 1 (see page 8) (Div. 3); those parts of the Thames and Ausable Rivers in Division 4; waters in that part of the Regional Municipality of Durham in Division 6; and all the streams and rivers in the Counties of Bruce and Grey (excluding waters in Division 4 listed under "Additional Fishing Opportunities for Rainbow and Brown trout", see page 14); the Trent River and the part of Peterborough County in Division 7.



## Non-Angling Methods of Capturing Fish (continued)

Unless the regulations specifically state otherwise, all fishing by means other than angling must be done after sunrise and before sunset (during daylight hours).

Species	Method of Capture	Open Season	Waters
<b>Carp, Sucker &amp; Coarse Fish</b>	- dip net	March, April & May	All waters except Divisions 6, 13 and waters in Notes 1 & 2 (see below) of Divisions 3, 4 and 9.
	- bow and arrow	May 1 - July 15	Walkhouse Bay of Lake Huron (Robinson Twp.) and waters in Division 17.
	- spear	April & May	All waters except the following: the waters of Lake Erie fronting Norfolk and Haldimand Counties (Div. 2), the waters of Lake Huron fronting the Counties of Lambton, Bruce and Huron (Div. 35), Divisions 3, 5, 6 and 13, waters in the Counties of Bruce, Dufferin, Grey & Simcoe (Div. 4), waters in the City of Toronto, in the Regional Municipalities of Peel and York, waters in Morrison Twp. (Div. 15), the Rideau River between Hog's Back Dam and the Ottawa River (Div. 9) and the waters of Georgian Bay fronting the Counties of Bruce & Grey (Div. 16).
	- spear	March & April	Division 3 except waters in Note 1 (see below) and excluding those parts of the Thames, Sydenham and Ausable Rivers in Div. 3.
<b>Carp &amp; Sucker</b>	- bow and arrow	May, June & July	Waters in Division 8; the St. Lawrence River, including Lake St. Francis (Divs. 11 and 12A); and the Ottawa River downstream from the Chaudière bridge fronting the City of Ottawa (formerly the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton) and the United Counties of Prescott & Russell (Div. 12).
<b>Sucker &amp; Coarse fish</b>	- bow and arrow	March & April	Waters of Divisions 1 and 2 excluding the waters of Lake Erie fronting the Norfolk and Haldimand Counties, Division 3 excluding the waters in Note 1 (see below) and, the waters of that part of Division 4 in the Counties of Brant, Oxford, Perth, and Wellington and the Regional Municipalities of Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth, and Waterloo and Division 35, excluding Walkhouse Bay of Lake Huron (Robinson Twp.).
<b>Sucker</b>	- bow and arrow	April & May	Division 19.
<b>Carp</b>	- bow and arrow	May 1 - June 15	Divisions 1 and 2 except the following: the waters of Lake Erie fronting Norfolk and Haldimand Counties; the waters of Lake Ontario (Div. 8) fronting Haldimand and Hamilton Townships and the Municipality of Clarington, the City of Oshawa and the Town of Whitby and the waters of Walkhouse Bay of Lake Huron in Robinson Twp. (Div. 35).  The County of Simcoe and the Holland River in the Regional Municipality of York (Div. 4); Division 5 except the Beaver River (also known as Beaverton River) and tributaries (Brock Twp.).
	- bow and arrow	May, June and July	Waters of Lake Ontario (Div. 8) fronting Haldimand and Hamilton Townships and the Municipality of Clarington, the City of Oshawa and the Town of Whitby.
	- bow and arrow	March 1 - June 15	Waters in the Counties of Brant, Oxford, Perth & Wellington and in the Regional Municipalities of Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth & Waterloo (Div. 4); Division 3 except for waters in Note 1 (see below).
	- bow and arrow	May 1 - August 15	Waters in the County of Huron (Div. 4).
	- bow and arrow	Sat. after 2nd Fri. in May to July 31	Division 6.
	- bow and arrow	June & July	Rideau River between the dam at Burritts Rapids and Lock 17 and the dam in the West Branch Rideau River at Long Island and Lock 16, including Kemptville Creek to County Road 43; waters in the Counties of Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott and Russell (Div. 9).
<b>Pink Salmon, Whitefish &amp; Herring</b>	- dip net	contact local MNR Office for details	All divisions.

**Note 1:** The following waters are exceptions as noted in the table:

- Waters in the Township of Delhi
- Waters in the Township of Norfolk & north of Concession 3 in the former township of South Walsingham (Div. 3)
- Young's Creek in the City of Nanticoke in Norfolk and Haldimand Counties (Div. 3)
- Grand River and tributaries downstream of the Onadaga and Tuscarora Twps. line to Lake Erie.

**Note 2:** The following waters are exceptions as noted in the table:

- The part of Division 6 within the Regional Municipality of Durham and all the streams and rivers in the Counties of Bruce and Grey (excluding waters in Division 4 listed under "Additional Fishing Opportunities" on page 14)
- The Rideau River between Hog's Back Dam and the Ottawa River
- The Thames, Sydenham and Ausable rivers.

# Laws to Help Stop the Spread of Invading Species

**H**armful introduced species are often spread unknowingly. As an angler or boater, you should always take precautions to help stop the spread of invading species. You should also be aware that there are laws in place to help ensure that unauthorized introductions do not take place.

**NOTE:** It is illegal to possess a ruffe unless you are taking the fish to MNR for identification. Also, new regulations are proposed that will make it illegal to possess a number of invasive fish, including round goby, tubenose goby and any species of snakehead.

## Moving Live Fish

Many new populations of non-native fish species have been established through unauthorized stocking or release. This practice is illegal and can cause great harm to existing fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.

**A licence is required for all fish (including live spawn) transfers and stocking into Ontario waters, and a licence is required to ship or transport live fish, other than bait-fish, taken from Ontario waters.**

Also, take care when cleaning smelt. Do not rinse equipment or dump entrails into a lake or river. Fertilized smelt eggs can easily invade new waters.

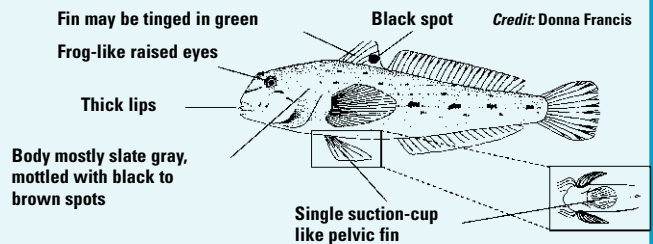
## Aquarium Fish

Releasing unwanted aquarium pets into natural waters can harm the environment and is illegal. Never release or flush pets, plants or water from aquaria, backyard ponds or water gardens. If you have an unwanted aquarium pet, you can return it to a local pet store, donate it to a school or contact the Fish Rescue Program at **1-800-563-7711**.

## Round Goby

The round goby is a serious threat to North American waters. Since its discovery in the St. Clair River in 1990, this bottom-dwelling fish has rapidly spread to many areas of the Great Lakes and inland waters. Once established, populations typically increase quickly. The round goby can displace native fish, eat their eggs and young, take over optimal habitat, spawn multiple times a season, and survive in poor quality water — giving them a competitive advantage.

Anglers should know how to identify the round goby. Often, they are the first to discover round gobies because these aggressive fish are easily caught by hook and line.



### What you can do...

- Your help to report new sightings and to prevent their spread is vital
- Never use gobies as bait. It is against the law. Always dispose of your unwanted bait on land or in the trash. Never dump your bait bucket into a waterbody. If you catch a round goby do not throw it back alive!

For more information or to report a sighting call the **Invading Species Hotline 1-800-563-7711** or your local MNR office.

By spreading the word and taking action against invading species you can help conserve Ontario's healthy fisheries!

## QUICK REFERENCE TABLE FOR DATES

Date Reference	2005	2006	Date Reference	2005	2006
Sat. before 2nd Sunday in Feb.	Feb. 12	Feb. 11	Sat. before Victoria Day	May 21	May 20
Last day in Feb.	Feb. 28	Feb. 28	Fri. before 4th Sat. in May	May 27	May 26
1st Sat. in Mar.	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Fri. before last Sat. in May	May 27	May 26
2nd Sat. in Mar.	Mar. 12	Mar. 11	4th Sat. in May	May 28	May 27
Last Fri. in Apr.	Apr. 29	Apr. 28	1st Sat. in June	June 4	June 3
Fri. before last Sat. in Apr.	Apr. 29	Apr. 28	1st Mon. in June	June 6	June 5
Last Sat. in Apr.	Apr. 30	Apr. 29	Fri. before 2nd Sat. in June	June 10	June 9
Fri. before 1st Sat. in May	May 6	May 5	Fri. after Thur. closest to June 14	June 17	June 16
1st Sat. in May	May 7	May 6	Fri. before 3rd Sat. in June	June 17	June 16
Fri. before 2nd Sat. in May	May 13	May 12	3rd Sat. in June	June 18	June 17
Sat. after 2nd Fri. in May	May 14	May 13	Fri. before 4th Sat. in June	June 24	June 23
2nd Sat. in May	May 14	May 13	Fri. before last Sat. in June	June 24	June 23
Fri. before 3rd Sat. in May	May 20	May 19	Last Fri. in June	June 24	June 30
Fri. before Victoria Day	May 20	May 19	Last Sat. in June	June 25	June 24
Fri. after 2nd Sat. in May	May 20	May 19	Sat. after last Fri. in June	June 25	July 1
3rd Fri. in May	May 20	May 19	Labour Day	Sept. 5	Sept. 4
Sat. after 3rd Fri. in May	May 21	May 20	Tues. after Labour Day	Sept. 6	Sept. 5
3rd Sat. in May	May 21	May 20			

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