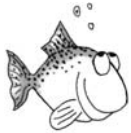


FRESHWATER FISHING SYNOPSIS 2006-2007



All anglers of any age must comply with all regulations set out in this Synopsis as well as any in-season changes as made public by the Ministry. The regulations described in this Synopsis do not apply to tidal waters.

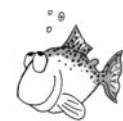


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PROVINCIAL
REGULATIONS

Region **1**
VANCOUVER
ISLAND

Region **2**
LOWER
MAINLAND

Region **3**
THOMPSON
- NICOLA

Region **4**
KOOTENAY

Region **5**
CARIBOO

Region **6**
SKEENA

Region **7**
OMINECA
- PEACE

Region **8**
OKANAGAN

You and the law.

The British Columbia Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis is intended for general information purposes only. Where there is a discrepancy between this Synopsis and the Regulations, the Regulations are the final authority. Regulations are subject to change from time to time and it is the responsibility of an individual to be informed of the current Regulations.

In-Season Regulation Changes posted on the Web

For an on-line copy of this Synopsis or to check for in-season regulation changes, go to:
www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations/intro.html



Front Cover:

Dean River steelhead about to be released
Credit: Keith Douglas (BritishColumbiaPhotos.com)



Please refer to Page 4 "How to Use This Synopsis" before looking up fishing regulations in this booklet.

NEED HELP? Refer to page 4.

The sale of advertising pays for a significant portion of this publication. The Ministry of Environment neither endorses products or services offered in the advertising nor accepts any liability arising from the use of such products or services.

Minister's Message

British Columbia has deservedly earned a reputation as one of the premier recreational fishing destinations in the world. The enormous geographic scope and diversity of aquatic habitats within our province provides a wealth of fishing opportunities for more than 20 species of game fish.

There are wild populations of rainbow, bull (Dolly Varden) and cutthroat trout across the province that provide fabulous angling in both streams and lakes. Our steelhead fishing attracts anglers from around the world, and the turbid Fraser River hides sturgeon giants that can be caught and released within an hour's drive of downtown Vancouver. In addition, the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. provides high-quality hatchery trout for stocking into hundreds of lakes across the province, many of which are at a catchable size.

Along with this diversity of fish, there is a wide array of groups and individuals who rely on

these fisheries resources for recreational opportunities and economic benefits. The Ministry of Environment wants to ensure all British Columbians have an opportunity to contribute to the management of these important resources. To this end, the Fish and Wildlife Branch has recently completed several initiatives that have involved public participation.

The Quality Waters Strategy was recently completed and is now being implemented to ensure that the world-class wild fisheries of the province are properly resourced and managed for the benefit of both present-day and future anglers.

The Ministry also recently completed an extensive consultative process that resulted in the development of a Steelhead Stream Classification Policy. This policy (see Notice below) will provide the framework for the continued conservation of the province's highly valued wild steelhead populations – while at the

same time enhancing steelhead angling opportunities.

I look forward to working with the recreational anglers of the province, and with all the residents who have a stake in the diverse fisheries resources that British Columbia has to offer.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful 2006-07 fishing season for both our resident anglers and for the many visitors who come to partake of these wonderful angling experiences.

Sincerely,



Barry Penner
Minister of Environment



Major Regulation Changes for 2006/2007

NOTE: New regulations and amendments are highlighted in GREEN.

Region 1: On a trial basis, portions of the lower Nanaimo and Oyster rivers have been opened to fishing (see the Tables for details).

- Numerous small lakes have amended gear restrictions or quotas/size limits (see Tables).

Region 2: A portion of the Cheakamus River remains closed to fishing following the CNR derailment.

- To protect holding cutthroat spawners, Ruby Lake is closed near its outlet.

Region 3: Thompson River is now a Classified Water only from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31.

- Edith, Horseshoe and Isobel lakes have reduced rainbow trout quotas.

Region 4: Due to the discovery of illegally introduced northern pike, the entire watershed of Haha Creek is closed to fishing (see Notice, p. 50).

- Slokan River is now open seasonally; all trout & char must be released and a bait ban is in effect (see Tables).
- The Upper West Arm of Kootenay Lake is only open to kokanee fishing from May 20 to May 31.
- See Tables for changes on Champion Lakes #1 & #2, Cherry, Sowerby, St. Mary and Summit lakes; Gold Creek and Little Slokan Lake's tributaries.

Region 5: "Whale" Lake (Gustafsen Lake area) is closed to winter fishing and all rainbows must be released.

- The quota for kokanee on Tye Lake is increased to 10 per day.

Region 6: All steelhead must be released from the Skeena and Nass watersheds from June 1 to Dec. 31.

- To protect vulnerable lake trout, Hill-Tout Lake is closed to fishing.
- The water-specific restrictions have been removed from Cicuta Lake and its inlet stream.

Region 7A (Omineca): Winter closures, new gear restrictions and/or quota changes are in effect for the following lakes: Byers, Carp, East Hautete, Hautete, "Little Tomas," "Lower Beaverpond," "Mt. Milligan," Nakinilerak, Pacific, Portage, Tomas, and Witch, and the lakes of the McLeod River watershed (above War Falls).

- A bait ban is now in place on the Nechako River downstream of the Hwy. 27 bridge.

Region 8: Okanagan Lake may be opened to kokanee fishing (see Notice, p. 90).

- The water-specific restrictions have been removed from Upper Collier Lake.

Please refer to the Regional Water-Specific Tables for details.

Regulation changes of a more local significance and not cited above are included in the Regional Water-Specific Tables and highlighted in green.

NOTICE TO ANGLERS

The ministry recently established a new **Steelhead Stream Classification Policy**. The intent of the policy is to set out consistent management guidelines for the conservation of **wild steelhead stocks** in B.C., while allowing for the development and maintenance of angling opportunities.

This policy was developed based on sound scientific knowledge and extensive consultation with stakeholders. The policy establishes stream classification categories for wild and hatchery augmented waters, and associated procedures and regulations for each category. **The policy continues to allow retention of hatchery steelhead, but only allows catch and release fishing for wild steelhead.** Currently there is no retention of wild steelhead in most of the province, but this change will affect certain streams in Region 6 (Skeena). **These changes will not come into effect until the 2007/08 fishing season.** The final policy document may be accessed at: www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/home/steelhead.

NOTICE TO ANGLERS

Last year we posted a notice alerting anglers of a **proposal to adopt a province-wide bait ban in all streams**. Anglers were invited to submit their comments and concerns. The Ministry would like to thank the many anglers who took the time to provide us with constructive feedback. Upon review of this information and further discussions with fisheries managers, **it was decided not to proceed with this proposal**. Any future restrictions on bait usage in streams will be considered on a water-specific basis.

We welcome your suggestions.

Please send comments to: The Synopsis, Ministry of Environment, Fish and Wildlife Branch, PO Box 9363 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria, BC V8W 9M2



SALMON REGULATIONS



The management of salmon fisheries in B.C., in both tidal and fresh waters, is the responsibility of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). **The regulations for salmon fishing in fresh water are not included in this Synopsis**, but are available from any DFO Office or through the on-line Freshwater Salmon Supplement at DFO's website (www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/recfish).

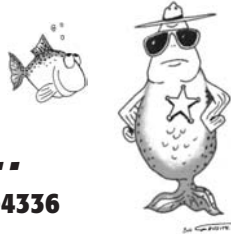
To fish for salmon in fresh water, however, a provincial Non-Tidal Angling Licence is required (see page 6).

To retain any salmon caught in fresh water, your provincial Non-Tidal Angling Licence must be validated with a Non-Tidal Salmon Conservation Stamp (see page 7 for details).

Please note that when fresh waters are closed to fishing or have gear restrictions outlined in this Synopsis, these regulations apply to fishing for salmon as well as for non-salmon species.

REPORT SALMON VIOLATIONS...

Please call 1-800-465-4336



For information on salmon regulations, please contact your nearest DFO office (listed on the Regional Maps in this Synopsis).

■ Visit DFO's website, www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/recfish, for updated salmon regulations.

■ DFO's website also has information on salmon identification, packaging salmon for transport, and obtaining a Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence online.

Salmonid Sport Head Recovery Program

Is your salmon or steelhead missing its adipose fin?

Heads from salmon or steelhead with a missing adipose fin should be submitted to the nearest Sport Head Recovery Depot. The heads may contain implanted coded-wire tags with information important for management and research.

For more information on this program and the locations of the recovery depots, please refer to DFO's website (see above) or call toll free: 1-866-483-9994.

1. Check any sport-caught salmon or steelhead that you retain to see if the ADIPOSE fin is missing.



2. If so, please bring the head to a Sport Head Recovery Depot.

By participating in the Sport Head Recovery Program, you will be entered into an annual prize draw. You will also receive information on the origin of your fish.

Exotic Alert: Atlantic Salmon in B.C.

The Ministry of Environment encourages anglers to report the catch of Atlantic salmon in lakes and streams near the west coast of the province. Anglers are asked to pay special attention to salmon with unusual spotting and eroded fins.

Atlantic salmon can be identified by:

- 8-11 anal fin rays (Pacific salmon have 11-13 rays)
- Very noticeable, large, black spots on the gill cover (not common on native salmon)
- Large scales and black spots on the back
- May have very noticeably eroded or worn fins from containment in net-pens



2 - 3 Large Black Spots on Gill Cover

8-11 Anal Fin Rays

Report any captures or sightings of Atlantic salmon to the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo, 250-756-7000 (collect). The entire fish (including entrails) should be saved, preferably frozen, for positive identification and biological sampling, with as much information as possible regarding date, location and method of capture.

HOW TO USE THIS SYNOPSIS



1st Read and understand the **PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS** beginning on page 6. All anglers must abide by these province-wide regulations on all waters in B.C.

In this section you will find information on:

- ▶ Licensing Requirements
- ▶ Definitions you should know
- ▶ Allowable fishing methods
- ▶ Rules on bait usage
- ▶ Quotas and size limits
- ▶ Protected species & "No Fishing" Areas
- ▶ Cleaning, transporting & exporting fish
- ▶ Licence suspensions and prohibitions
- ▶ Examining your licence, gear, and catch
- ▶ Penalties for breaking fishing laws

2nd Read and understand the **REGIONAL REGULATIONS** for the region in which you wish to fish (see Regional Boundaries map below).

The Regional Regulations are listed on the first page of each regional chapter. In these sections you will find information on regulations which apply region-wide, such as:

- ▶ Regional Daily Catch Quotas, Possession Quotas and Annual Quotas
- ▶ Other General Restrictions which apply region-wide, including:
 - Spring closures
 - Species closures
 - Catch and release periods
 - Bait and tackle restrictions, and
 - Special Notices (such as for steelhead and bull trout fishing)

3rd LOOK UP THE LAKE OR STREAM which you plan to fish in the Regional Water-Specific Tables following the Regional Regulations:

IF YOUR LAKE OR STREAM DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE REGIONAL WATER-SPECIFIC TABLES, NO SPECIAL REGULATIONS ARE IN EFFECT. THEREFORE, YOU MUST ONLY FOLLOW:

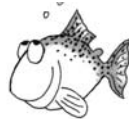
- ▶ The Provincial Regulations and
- ▶ The Regional Regulations for the Region you will be fishing in.

IF YOUR LAKE OR STREAM DOES APPEAR IN THE REGIONAL WATER-SPECIFIC TABLES, YOU MUST FOLLOW:

- ▶ The Provincial Regulations,
- ▶ The Regional Regulations for the Region you will be fishing in, AND
- ▶ Any EXCEPTIONS or ADDITIONS listed for your water in the Table.

Note:

EXCEPTIONS to regional trout/char size limits or quotas DO NOT APPLY to species of trout or char to be released.



PLEASE DO NOT OVERLOOK REGULATIONS ON TRIBUTARIES AND WATERSHEDS!

There are regulations on some waters that are not specifically listed by name in the tables. **Watch for:**

- ▶ An asterisk (*) indicates that a regulation applies to all tributary streams that flow into the named body of water, including tributaries of tributaries;

Determine whether your stream is a tributary subject to special regulations.

- ▶ "Watershed" - a regulation on a watershed applies to all of the lakes and streams whose water eventually flows into the named waterbody (e.g., Fraser River watershed).

If you do not know which watershed your lake or stream is a part of, consult the B.C. Recreational Atlas, or check with a Fish and Wildlife Regional Office or DFO Office.

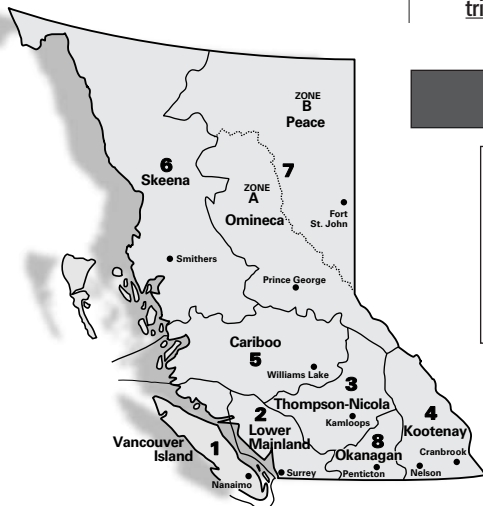
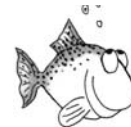
4th **IN-SEASON REGULATION CHANGES** may have been adopted after this Synopsis was published. These will be emailed to distribution list subscribers, listed on the Fisheries web site, and posted on Fishing Notices in the field.

If you would like instant notification of in-season regulation changes, please subscribe to our email distribution service. To sign-up, send a message from your email address to: majordomo@majordomo.env.gov.bc.ca, with the following text in two lines (exactly as shown):

subscribe fish_regulations_changes end

You may also check for in-season changes by visiting the Fisheries web site at www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw. Click on the "Fishing" tab at the top, scroll down to "In-Season Regulation Changes," and click on the appropriate region.

If you have questions about in-season changes, please call the appropriate Fish and Wildlife Regional Office listed below.



Regional Boundaries in British Columbia

For more information

Please contact any of the various Fish and Wildlife Regional Offices, the Conservation Officer Service Offices, provincial hatcheries, or the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Offices listed by region in this Synopsis.

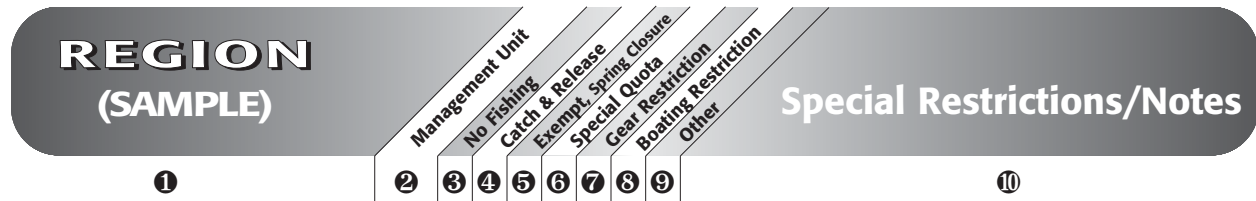
Fish and Wildlife Regional Offices

Nanaimo: 2080A Labieux Rd., V9T 6J9250-751-3100
Surrey: 10470-152nd St., V3R 0Y3604-582-5200
Kamloops: 1259 Dalhousie Dr., V2C 5Z5250-371-6200
Nelson: 401-333 Victoria St., V1L 4K3250-354-6333
Cranbrook: 205 Industrial Rd. G, V1C 7G5250-489-8540
Williams Lake: 400-640 Borland St., V2G 4T1 ...250-398-4530
Smithers: 3726 Alfred Ave., V0J 2N0250-847-7303
Prince George: 4051 18th Ave., V2N 1B3250-565-6135
Fort St. John: 400-10003 110th Ave., V1J 6M7 ...250-787-3411
Penticton: 102 Industrial Place, V2A 7C8250-490-8200

HOW TO READ THE REGIONAL WATER-SPECIFIC TABLES



The Regulations listed in the Water-Specific Tables are EXCEPTIONS or ADDITIONS to the Regional Regulations. What follows is an explanation of the information in each column of the tables (up to 10 columns):



① Column 1

This column lists waters with restrictions not covered by the Regional Regulations. An **asterisk (*)** means the regulation applies to tributary streams as well. A fish symbol (🐟) means the lake is stocked. **Not all stocked lakes are listed in the Tables**; see page 88. A **CW** symbol means that this is a Classified Water; see page 7.

② Management Unit (M.U.)

This column lists one or more Management Units only as a reference to help you locate your target lake or stream. **Not all applicable M.U.'s may be listed.** Consult the B.C. Recreational Atlas or Regional maps for Management Unit boundaries.

③ No Fishing

All forms of sport fishing are prohibited for all species in the waters with a dot in this column. Look for more details about closure dates and areas in the "Special Restrictions/Notes" column.

④ Catch & Release

You may fish for the species named in the "Special Restrictions/Notes" column, but you must release any that you catch. You must return your fish to the water as quickly and carefully as possible (see "Releasing Fish", page 11).

⑤ Exempt, Spring Closure

Some regions have a closure during the spring on all streams to protect spawning fish. Where possible, we have created fishing opportunities in sections of these streams by exempting them from the general spring closure. Exempted streams have a dot in the column titled "Exempt, Spring Closure". Look for additional information in the "Special Restrictions/Notes" column.

⑥ Special Quota

If a species of fish has quotas or size limits that differ from the regional restrictions for that species, a dot will appear in this column. The species name will appear in the "Special Restrictions/Notes" column with more information.

⑦ Gear Restrictions

A dot in this column is always followed by at least one of the following messages in the "Special Restrictions/ Notes" column: single hook, single barbless hook, artificial fly only, fly fishing only, or bait ban (see definitions, pages 8 and 9).

⑧ Boating Restrictions

Boating restrictions are adopted for either fisheries management or public safety reasons. A dot in this column will be followed by one of these messages in the "Special Restrictions/Notes" column:

No angling from boats... you may use a boat or other floating device for transportation in these waters but you may not angle from that boat.

No angling from power boats... you are not allowed to angle from a power boat on these waters.

No power boats... you are not allowed to use a boat powered by any type of motor on these waters for any purpose.

Electric motors only... you may use only battery-powered electric motors. In addition, wind or human propelled craft may be used. Boats may not be equipped with internal combustion or steam engines.

Engine power restrictions... do not exceed the engine power (given in kilowatts) listed in "Special Restrictions/ Notes" when boating in these waters.

Speed Restriction... do not exceed the speed limit listed in "Special Restrictions/Notes" when power boating in these waters.

No towing... do not tow a person on water skis, a surf board or other water toy.

No vessels... you are not allowed to use a boat or raft of any type.

Please note: most boating restrictions are the responsibility of the **Transport Canada Marine**. They are published here as a courtesy to anglers but, due to space limitations, may not be complete. For more information write to the Transport Canada Marine, Office of Boating Safety, 501-1230 Government St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 3M4, or call 250-363-0394.

⑨ Other

This column is used to draw your attention to additional information in the "Special Restrictions/Notes" column.

⑩ Special Restrictions/Notes

This column clarifies dots in other columns or provides additional information such as:

Age restricted... you may fish in these waters only if you are less than 16 years of age (residents under 16 do not need a licence to fish - see page 6), or are in possession of a valid Non-Tidal Angling Licence indicating either B.C. Senior or B.C. Disabled.

🐟 - Denotes age restriction

Classified Water... a Classified Waters Licence is required either all year or for some shorter period of time (see Classified Waters Licences, page 7).

No fishing for... you may not deliberately fish for the species named even if your intention is to release any fish that you may catch. If you accidentally catch a fish of the species named, you must release it as quickly and carefully as possible (see "Releasing Fish", page 11).

Dates... restrictions may apply for all or part of the year. **When no date is listed, the restriction applies all year.**

When a date is listed, the restriction applies only for that period of time. Start and end dates are inclusive.

Fish consumption advisory... in waters where fish consumption may present a human health hazard.

Parts of waters... many restrictions, particularly in streams, only apply to a portion of the named body of water. In these cases, the part to which the restriction applies is described.

Tributaries... when all restrictions cited apply to both the named body of water and its tributaries, an asterisk (*) is placed in the first column. When only some restrictions apply to the tributaries then an asterisk is placed after the relevant restriction cited in this column.

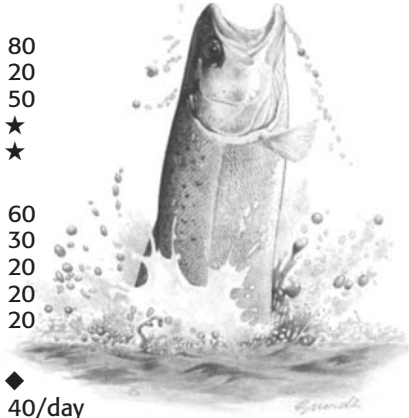


LICENSING REQUIREMENTS



All annual licences are valid for the current licence year, April 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007, commencing on date purchased. Licences are not transferrable and are not valid unless signed by the licence holder. Note: G.S.T. not included in fees listed below.

Licence Type	Resident ⁺ (B.C. Residents)	Non-Resident ⁺ (Residents of Another Province or Territory)	Non-Resident Alien ⁺ (Residents of Another Country)
Basic Licences			
Annual Angling Licence	\$ 36	\$ 55	\$ 80
One Day Angling Licence ^①	\$ 10	\$ 20	\$ 20
Eight Day Angling Licence ^①	\$ 20	\$ 36	\$ 50
Annual Licence for Disabled	\$ 1	★	★
Annual Licence for Age 65 Plus	\$ 5	★	★
Conservation Surcharges (see page 7)			
Steelhead	\$ 25	\$ 60	\$ 60
Non-Tidal Salmon	\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 30
Kootenay Lake Rainbow Trout	\$ 10	\$ 20	\$ 20
Shuswap Lake Rainbow Trout	\$ 10	\$ 20	\$ 20
Shuswap Lake Char	\$ 10	\$ 20	\$ 20
Classified Waters Licences (see page 7)			
Classified Waters Licence (annual)	\$ 15	◆	◆
Class I Waters Licence	◆	\$ 40/day	\$ 40/day
Class II Waters Licence	◆	\$ 20/day	\$ 20/day



- ① You may buy as many One Day and Eight Day Licences as you need, but only one Annual Licence.
- + See definitions of "resident", "non-resident" and "non-resident alien" on page 8. Members of the armed services and students returning to B.C. may be eligible to purchase licences at the Resident rate. For more information, contact a Government Agent. See below *
- ★ Fee reduction not available. Regular licence required.
- ◆ Not available. See "Classified Waters Licences", page 7.

Note: Most licence fees include a surcharge for the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund. For information on HCTF programs, refer to centrefold.

If you are 16 years of age or OLDER:

- ▶ You must have a valid basic licence to sport fish for any species of fish in non-tidal waters (**including salmon**) - see definition of "fish" on page 8.
- ▶ You must purchase appropriate supplementary licences and stamps.
- ▶ You must carry your licence while sport fishing and, if asked, produce it for inspection by a Conservation Officer, Fishery Officer, RCMP constable, Park Ranger in a park, or an Officer under the *Wildlife Act*.
- ▶ Basic and supplementary licences and stamps are not valid in National Parks (except for Pacific Rim National Park and the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve during the 2006-07 season).

If you are UNDER 16 and a resident of B.C.+:

- ▶ You may sport fish without any licence or stamp (but must abide by the regulations).
- ▶ You do not need to be accompanied by a licence holder.
- ▶ You are entitled to your own quota of fish.

If you are UNDER 16 and not a resident of B.C.+:

- ▶ You do not require any licence or stamp to sport fish, but you must be accompanied by a person 16 years or older who holds the appropriate licences and stamps.
- ▶ Any fish you keep must be counted as part of the catch and possession of your accompanying licence holder.

- ▶ If you want to catch and keep your own quota of fish, you must buy a licence and any necessary supplementary licences and stamps.

If you are a resident of B.C.+ and disabled:

You may qualify for a reduced fee licence.

- ▶ To get an application form, contact any Government Agent Office*, visit our web site* and click on "BC Disabled Fee Reduction", or write to:
Fish and Wildlife Branch,
PO Box 9363 STN PROV GOVT,
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9M2

Note: No refunds will be made on licences purchased at the full price.

If you are an Indian as defined in the Indian Act (Canada) AND a resident of B.C.+:

- ▶ You are not required to obtain any type of fishing licence or stamp to sport fish in non-tidal waters.

What to do if you lose your licence:

- ▶ A duplicate licence must be obtained prior to resuming fishing.
- ▶ Do not attempt to buy a new licence. You are only allowed one annual angling licence per year.
- ▶ Go into any provincial Government Agent Office* or angling licence vendor and request a Statement of Loss form.
- ▶ Complete the Statement of Loss form, certifying: (i) that the licence has been lost or destroyed; and (ii) the number and species of fish retained under the authority of all Conservation Surcharge Stamps attached to the lost licence.

- ▶ Pay the fee for a duplicate licence (\$10 for a basic annual licence, Classified Waters Licence or Conservation Surcharge Stamp for steelhead or non-tidal salmon; \$1 for a basic annual licence for a senior citizen or person with a disability).
- ▶ Note that duplicate licences are **NOT AVAILABLE** for the One or Eight Day Licences, or Conservation Surcharge Stamps for Kootenay Lake rainbow trout, Shuswap Lake rainbow trout or char.

Where to buy a licence:

- ▶ Non-tidal licences are available from nearly 1300 vendors and 58 Government Agent offices throughout the province. Many vendors are retail outlets which provide a wide range of angling advice, gear and services.
- ▶ A complete list of vendors, including several outside the province, is on our web site*.
- ▶ Licences are also available by mail from one of the Government Agent offices. For a list of these offices and for an application package, refer to our web site*. Please do not place an order without obtaining more information from one of these offices.

- + See definition of "Resident", page 8.

* Go to the Ministry's web site www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw and click on "Fishing" at the top of the page, and then on "Licence Vendor Search".

CONSERVATION SURCHARGES



The front of the basic licence contains boxes for up to five annual Conservation Surcharge Stamps described in detail below. These stamps are valid for the licence year, (i.e., to March 31). **Anglers who purchase more than one short-term licence (i.e., One Day or Eight Day Licences) should keep the current licence and the original licence with its Conservation Surcharge Stamps together while angling.** Moving the stamps to the new licence will invalidate them.

Steelhead

Your basic licence must be validated with a Conservation Surcharge Stamp **if you intend to fish for steelhead anywhere in B.C. (whether you intend to keep or release your catch)**. In addition, a steelhead stamp is mandatory when fishing **on most classified waters** during certain specified periods, even when fishing for species other than steelhead. Refer to the regional tables for dates and exceptions.

This stamp is available with all annual and short-term basic licences, but you are **limited to one stamp per year**, regardless of how many short-term licences you buy. Follow the recording instructions on the back of your angling licence after catching and keeping a steelhead. Please retain your basic licence for the entire licence year as you may be requested to complete an annual steelhead survey.

Note: The ANNUAL province-wide quota for steelhead is 10, whether hatchery or wild in origin. Most wild steelhead must be released – check the Regional Water-Specific Tables for details.

Non-Tidal Salmon

Your basic licence must be validated with a Conservation Surcharge Stamp **to keep a salmon of any legal size or species** (other than kokanee) **from non-tidal waters**. A stamp is not required if you intend to release all salmon caught. You must record your retention of **adult chinook** salmon on the back of your basic angling licence. Note: “Adult Chinook” are defined in the **Freshwater Salmon Supplement** published by DFO (see page 3 of this Synopsis).

Kootenay Lake Rainbow Trout

Your basic licence must be validated with a Conservation Surcharge Stamp **to keep rainbow trout over 50 cm from the main body of Kootenay Lake**. You must record your retention on the back of your basic angling licence. No Conservation Surcharge Stamp is required if you release all Kootenay Lake rainbow trout over 50 cm.

Shuswap Lake Char

Your basic licence must be validated with a Conservation Surcharge Stamp **to keep char over 60 cm caught in Shuswap Lake***. You must record your retention on the back of your basic angling licence. No Conservation Surcharge Stamp is required if you release all Shuswap Lake char over 60 cm.

Shuswap Lake Rainbow Trout

Your basic licence must be validated with a Conservation Surcharge Stamp **to keep rainbow trout over 50 cm from Shuswap Lake***. You must record your retention on the back of your basic angling licence. No Conservation Surcharge Stamp is required if you release all Shuswap Lake rainbow trout over 50 cm.

* Shuswap Lake includes the main body of Shuswap Lake, Little Shuswap Lake, South Thompson River between Shuswap Lake and Little Shuswap Lake, Seymour, Anstey and Salmon arms and Mara Lake.



CLASSIFIED WATERS LICENCES

The classified waters of B.C. are highly productive trout streams. These streams are classified as either **Class I** or **Class II** and are listed in the Water-Specific Tables for each Region. The Classified Waters Licensing System was created to preserve the unique fishing opportunities provided by these waters, which contribute significantly to the province's reputation as a world-class fishing destination.

All anglers required to buy a basic angling licence must also purchase a Classified Waters Licence before fishing on a stream during the period when it is classified:

This licence is required in addition to the basic angling licence and any other stamps required by regulation. Also note that a **Steelhead Conservation Surcharge Stamp** is required at all times when fishing for steelhead, or when fishing classified waters

during the period when steelhead are known to be present. The specific times when a Steelhead Stamp is mandatory are listed in the Water-Specific Tables for each Region.

If you are a B.C. resident:

Your Classified Waters Licence may be purchased from a provincial licence vendor. It is an annual licence. This means you can fish on any Class I or Class II water in the province during the year the licence is valid.

If you are a non-guided “Non-Resident” or non-guided “Non-Resident Alien” angler:

Your Classified Waters Licence for Class I or Class II waters may be purchased from a provincial licence vendor. It is sold on a per diem basis and is date and water-specific. Although anglers may purchase as many Classified Waters Licences as they wish, each licence may not exceed 8 consecutive days.

EXCEPTION: Non-Resident Aliens may only purchase one Classified Waters Licence for the Dean River.

Note: Non-guided Non-Resident Aliens wishing to fish the classified section of the Dean River should refer to page 59 of this Synopsis.

If you are a GUIDED “Non-Resident” or a guided “Non-Resident Alien” angler:

Your Classified Waters Licence for Class I or Class II waters may be purchased from a provincial licence vendor or directly from a licensed angling guide. It is sold on a per diem basis and is date and water-specific. Although anglers may purchase as many Classified Waters Licences as they wish, each licence may not exceed 8 consecutive days.

EXCEPTION: Non-Resident Aliens may only purchase one Classified Waters Licence for the Dean River.

Non-Guided, “Non-Resident Aliens” wishing to fish the Classified section of the **Dean River** please see page 59 for more details.

DEFINITIONS YOU SHOULD KNOW



adipose fin ... see diagram on page 96.

adult chinook salmon ... defined in the Freshwater Salmon Supplement (see page 3 in this Synopsis).

anadromous... swimming up rivers from the ocean to spawn (for example, steelhead).

above ... when used in reference to a lake or stream means "upstream of".

angle ... see page 9.

angler ... a person who angles.

annual ... the licence year, beginning April 1 and ending on March 31.

artificial fly ... a single-pointed hook that is dressed only with fur, feathers, hair, textiles, tinsel and/or wire, and to which no external weight or external attracting device is attached. Two or more hooks tied in tandem is not permitted. Where gear is restricted to artificial flies, floats and sinkers may be attached to the line.

bait ... see page 9.

barbless hook ... a hook without a barb on any part of the hook, including both the point and shank. Existing tackle may be modified by completely removing the barb, or by crimping the barb down so that its point is flush against the shaft.

below ... when used in reference to a lake or stream means "downstream of".

bull trout ... any bull trout that you catch and keep must be counted as part of your Dolly Varden quota.

char ... any fish of the genus *Salvelinus* (brook trout, lake trout, Dolly Varden and bull trout).

chumming ... see page 9.

Classified Waters ... see page 7.

confluence ... a place where two streams meet.

creek ... see streams.

day ... a legal fishing day runs from midnight on one night to midnight on the following night.

down-rigging ... see page 9.

fish ... means fin fish, shellfish and crustaceans (such as crayfish) in any life stage, including eggs.

fly fishing ... angling with a line to which only an artificial fly is attached (floats and sinkers may not be attached to the line).

hatchery trout ... in many waters, hatchery trout may be harvested but wild trout must be released. Hatchery trout are marked before stocking by removal of their adipose fin (see illustration, page 96). Therefore, hatchery trout must have a healed scar in place of the missing fin.

ice fishing ... see page 9.

kokanee ... a land-locked sockeye salmon.

landed immigrant ... a permanent resident of Canada (as defined in federal statute).

length ... to determine whether your fish is of legal size, measure from the tip of the fish's nose to the fork (near the centre) of the tail.

Management Unit ... a Management Unit is a subdivision of a region. For detailed maps of Management Units, the British Columbia Recreational Atlas is available at many bookstores.

max ... abbreviation for maximum.

min ... abbreviation for minimum.

non-resident ... means **you are not a "resident"**, but (a) you are a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant, **OR** (b) your **primary residence is in Canada**, AND you have resided in Canada for the immediately preceding 12 months.

non-resident alien... means you are neither a "resident" nor a "non-resident".

ordinary residence ... a residential dwelling where a person normally lives, with all associated connotations including a permanent mailing address, telephone number, furnishings and storage of automobile; the address on one's driver's licence and automobile registration, where one is registered to vote. A motor home or vessel at a campsite or marina is not considered to be an ordinary residence.

possession quota ... the number of fish of any species that an angler may have in his/her possession at any given time, EXCEPT at place of **ordinary residence** (see above). In most instances, the possession quota is two times the daily quota. See Tables for exceptions.

power boat ... a boat driven by an electric, steam or internal combustion engine.

resident ... means **your primary residence is in British Columbia, AND** (a) you are a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant, **AND** have been physically present in B.C. for the greater portion of each of 6 calendar months out of the immediately preceding 12 calendar months, **OR** (b) you are **NOT** a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant, but have been physically present in B.C. for the greater portion of each of the immediately preceding 12 calendar months.

quotas ... see page 10.

river ... see streams.

roe ... see page 9.

set line ... see page 9.

single hook ... a hook having only one point. (In contrast, a treble hook is a hook having three points on a common shaft). **Note:** use of a treble hook is permitted unless "single hook" is specified.

slough ... a stagnant channel or backwater.

snagging (foul hooking)... hooking a fish in any other part of its body than the mouth. Attempting to snag fish of any species is prohibited. Any fish willfully or accidentally snagged must be released immediately.

spear fishing ... see page 9.

sport fishing ... fishing for recreation and not for sale or barter. Sport fishing includes angling, spear fishing, set lining and crayfish trapping.

steelhead ... a rainbow trout longer than 50 cm in waters where anadromous rainbow trout are found. Both hatchery and wild steelhead may be found in B.C. waters.

streams ... flowing waters (rivers, sloughs and creeks). Note that standing water behind a beaver dam on a stream is considered part of the stream.

stream mouth ... the point at which the surface elevation of a stream and the water body into which it flows are the same, except as posted by signs or markers, or otherwise defined.

tributaries ... all streams that contribute to a larger stream or to a lake.

trout ... all regulations that apply to trout (as a group) also apply to char unless char are specifically excluded.

watershed ... all the streams and lakes that drain the land into a named waterbody, including the named waterbody itself.

wild trout ... trout not marked as hatchery fish. Look for a normal adipose fin (see illustration, page 96) or an unhealed scar in place of that fin, if missing.

year ... the period beginning April 1 and ending March 31 (the licence period).

Freshwater game fish are defined as follows:

Trout	Other
➤ rainbow trout	➤ kokanee
➤ steelhead	➤ Arctic grayling
➤ cutthroat trout	➤ burbot (ling)
➤ brown trout	➤ white sturgeon
Char	➤ black crappie
➤ Dolly Varden	➤ northern pike
➤ bull trout	➤ yellow perch
➤ lake trout	➤ walleye
➤ brook trout	➤ goldeye
Whitefish	➤ inconnu
➤ lake whitefish	➤ crayfish
➤ mountain whitefish	
Bass	
➤ largemouth bass	
➤ smallmouth bass	

Allowable Fishing Methods

Although angling is the most popular form of sport fishing in British Columbia, there are other methods that you can use to take fish. Your basic fishing licence entitles you to:

angle ... fish (with or without a rod) with one fishing line to which only **one hook, one artificial lure OR one artificial fly is attached.**

down-rig ... angling with a downrigger is permitted, provided the fishing line is attached to the downrigger by a quick-release mechanism.

ice fish ... with one line and one lure, artificial fly or other terminal attractor. It is your legal responsibility to warn other people of the existence of your ice hole and remove your ice hut before ice breakup.

set line ... you may only fish with a set line (an unattended line) in lakes of Region 6 & in lakes of Zone A of Region 7. You are allowed to use only one line with one hook (**no smaller than 3 cm** from point to shank - see below). **Any game fish that you catch other than burbot must be released.** Set lines must be marked with angler's name, address and telephone number.

Set Line Hook
(shown 1/2 size)



spear fish ... means to fish with a spear or an arrow that is propelled by a spring, an elastic band, compressed air, a bow or by hand. No spear fishing for "game fish" (see definition, page 8) or salmon, except burbot may be spear fished in Regions 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8. No spear fishing of any kind in Region 1.

trap crayfish ... with any number or size of traps for personal consumption. You must release all fin fish caught in your trap. To help sustain crayfish populations, you should release any crayfish that are less than 9 cm in total length as well as those bearing eggs or young.

All other methods of taking fish are illegal.

It Is Unlawful To....

- ▶ Use **barbed hooks** or a hook with more than one point in any stream in B.C.
- ▶ **Angle with a fishing line to which more than one artificial fly is attached** (i.e., use "dropper flies").
- ▶ Use a **light** in any manner to attract fish, unless the light is submerged and attached to the fishing line within 1 m of the hook.
- ▶ Fish with **nets**, including dip nets, minnow nets, gill nets or cast nets.
- ▶ **Snag (foul hook) fish** (see definition, page 8). Any fish willfully or accidentally snagged must be released immediately.
- ▶ Use **more than one fishing line, EXCEPT a person who is alone in a boat on a lake may angle with two lines.**
- ▶ **Place any fishing gear in any water during a closed time** (a "no fishing" period).
- ▶ **Angle with a fishing line to which more than 1 kg of weight is attached** (this does not apply to downrigger weights).
- ▶ **Waste the fish you catch.** If your fish is not suitable for eating or if possession is illegal because of quotas, size limits or closed seasons, return the fish quickly and gently to the water.
- ▶ **Release fish in a harmful manner** if you are not going to keep your catch. Follow the catch & release tips outlined on page 11.
- ▶ **Buy, sell or barter** or attempt to buy, sell or barter any fish caught by sport fishing.
- ▶ **Damage or interfere with a trap set for furbearers.** If you believe the trap has been set illegally, report it to a Conservation Officer.
- ▶ **Have any live fish in your possession in the wild, or move any live fish or live aquatic invertebrates around the province or transplant them into any waters of B.C.** Do not keep angled fish alive in a "livewell" or other device, or on stringers, and never use live fish as bait or release your aquarium fish to the wild. **"High-grading" is illegal.**
- ▶ **Enter or cross cultivated land, posted land, private land or Indian Reserve land without proper permission.**
- ▶ **...Please refer** to additional restrictions and requirements on pages 10-12.



Rules on Bait Usage

Definitions

"Bait" is any foodstuff or natural substance used to attract fish, other than wood, cotton, wool, hair, fur or feathers. It does not include fin fish, other than roe. It includes roe, worms and other edible substances, as well as scents and flavourings containing natural substances or nutrients.

Roe ... you must not have more than 1 kg of roe (fish eggs) in your possession for use as bait unless the roe was obtained from a commercial source that lawfully obtained that roe, or you have in your possession the freshly dressed fish from which the roe in excess of 1 kg was taken. Carry a receipt with you if you purchased roe from a commercial source.

Aquatic invertebrates ... you may use freshwater invertebrates (eg. aquatic insects and crayfish) in streams as bait unless a bait ban applies. **When fishing at a lake, you may not possess or use freshwater invertebrates for bait.**

Chumming ... attempting to attract fish by depositing any substance in the water, is prohibited.

Fin fish... the use of fin fish (dead or alive) or parts of fin fish other than roe is prohibited throughout the province, with the following exception: You may use the head of fin fish or the headless body of fin fish as bait, **only**:

- (a) when sport fishing for sturgeon in Fraser River (Regions 2 and 7 only), or
- (b) when set lining in lakes of Region 6 or in lakes of Zone A of Region 7.

Use of LIVE bait is strictly controlled...

to limit the spread of undesirable and non-native species.



Quotas

For all game fish, there is a quota or limit on the number of fish you may keep.

Refer to the Regional Chapters for Regional Daily Catch Quotas and to the Regional Water-Specific Tables for special quotas on some individual waters.

Daily catch quota ... the maximum number of fish of a given species, group of species, or size class that you may keep in one calendar day.

Possession quota ... no more than twice the daily quota unless otherwise specified (see definition, page 8).

Monthly catch quota ... the maximum number of fish that you are allowed to keep in one calendar month.

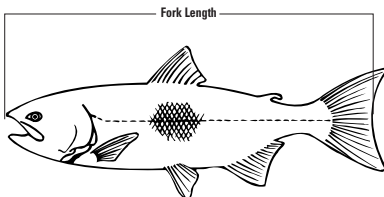
Annual catch quota ... the maximum number of fish that you are allowed to keep in one licence year (April 1 to March 31).

Quotas are not cumulative: you cannot take a quota from each region that you fish. A good rule of thumb is this: never have in your possession while at or near any lake or stream, more fish than the allowable quota for that lake or stream. Check the Regional Regulations and Tables for daily catch quotas for B.C. sport fish.

Size Limits

Size limits protect fish of certain sizes.

Measure your fish from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail to determine its legal length.



Size limits are listed with quotas in the Regional Regulations and in the Regional Water-Specific Tables. If you catch a fish protected by a min. or max. size limit, release it as quickly and carefully as possible (see "Releasing Fish," page 11).

Minimum size limits allow fish to spawn at least once before they can be caught and kept.

There is no general minimum size limits for trout/char in lakes, EXCEPT where specifically indicated in the Regional Daily Catch Quotas or for waters listed

in the Regional Water-Specific Tables.

Maximum size limits allow larger fish to be released to provide future fishing opportunities.

Protected Species

It is illegal to fish for or catch and then keep any of the protected fish listed below.

If you accidentally catch one, you must release it right away where you captured it. The fish on this list are considered to be at risk in Canada. Their status has been determined by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

Charlotte Unarmoured Stickleback

Enos Stickleback

Green Sturgeon

Nooksack Dace

Shorthead Sculpin

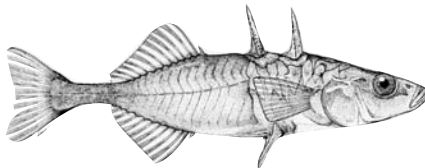
Umatilla Dace

Giant Stickleback

Lake Lamprey

Salish Sucker

Speckled Dace



Giant Stickleback (Illus. by Charles Douglas. With permission of the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa)

For information on any of these species, please enter its common name (given here) on Environment Canada's web site: www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca/search/default_e.cfm

"No Fishing" Areas

Most waters in B.C. are open to fishing for some species 24 hours of the day, every day of the year.

There are five basic exceptions:

- ▶ "No fishing" areas (see Regional Tables);
- ▶ Within Ecological Reserves (this page);
- ▶ Within 23 m below the lower entrance to any fishway, canal, obstacle or leap;
- ▶ Within a 100 m radius of any government facility operated for counting, passing or rearing fish (e.g., fishway, fish hatchery, aeration system) unless otherwise designated; and
- ▶ Within National Parks unless a specific location is identified as being open (see "National Parks" on this page).

Not all "no fishing" areas are posted with signs. Make sure you read the Regional Regulations for the area in which you will be fishing. If you have any questions, call or write the local Fish and Wildlife Regional Office.

Ecological Reserves

Fishing is prohibited in Ecological Reserves in B.C. A complete list of ecological reserves is available from BC Parks headquarters at: PO Box 9398, STN PROV GOVT, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9M9, or on the BC Parks web site: www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks

Provincial Parks & Recreation Areas

Individuals visiting a Provincial Park or Recreation Area should be aware that the *Park Act* and its regulations apply, as do the sport fishing regulations in this Synopsis.

NOTE: the use of horses, motor vehicles, motorcycles, snowmobiles, other self-propelled vehicles or bicycles is generally prohibited in Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas except where specifically authorized. All motor vehicles on park roads must be licensed. Use of aircraft to arrive at or depart from some parks is restricted.

National Parks

The seven National Parks within British Columbia are: Kootenay, Yoho, Glacier, Revelstoke, Pacific Rim, Gwaii Haanas and Gulf Islands.

Freshwater fishing is prohibited in National Parks unless opened under the National Parks Fishing Regulations. Where open, anglers require a National Park Fishing Permit to fish in Park waters.

A provincial angling licence is not valid unless otherwise stated for any fresh water within National Parks or National Park Reserves.

National Park Fishing Permits and regulations are available at park visitor centres and at some local commercial outlets. The National Parks Fishing Regulations may be also viewed on the internet under the "Legislation and Regulations" button at parkscanada.pch.gc.ca, or contact Parks Canada at 1-800-748-7275.

For the 2006-07 fishing season only, the provincial freshwater regulations in this Synopsis will be in effect for the non-tidal waters in **Pacific Rim National Park and the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve** and a provincial angling licence will be required. Also note that all fresh waters within **Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve** are closed to fishing throughout the year.



Transporting and Exporting Fish

In order to enforce quotas and size limits, our officers must be able to count, measure and identify your catch.

If you caught the fish yourself you must:

- ▶ Keep your angling licence handy while travelling.
- ▶ Transport no more than your legal limit.
- ▶ Ensure your fish can be identified, counted and measured if necessary (see "Now Wrap it Right", below).

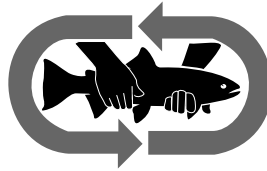
If you are transporting fish for someone else:

- ▶ Obtain and carry a signed letter from that person with the following details: the angler's name, address, telephone number and fishing licence number; when and where the fish were caught; the date and place at which you were given the fish; the number, species and size of the fish that you have been given and the name and address of the person to whom the fish are to be delivered.
- ▶ If you will be exporting the fish from B.C., carry the letter and insure that it is available for inspection by fishery enforcement and/or customs officers if requested to do so.

If someone else caught the fish and gave it to you for your personal consumption:

- ▶ Keep in your possession a signed letter from the angler until you have eaten the fish.
- ▶ The letter should list the name, address and telephone number of the angler who gave you the fish; the number, species and size of the fish; and when and where the fish were caught.

Releasing Fish - The Gentle Way



There is a growing trend among anglers to catch and release, unharmed, a part of their allowable catch. As well, more restrictive regulations on specific waters can severely limit the angler's allowable harvest. A fish that appears unharmed may not survive if carelessly handled, so please abide by the following:

1. Play and release fish as rapidly as possible. A fish played for too long may not recover.
2. **Keep the fish in the water as much as possible.** A fish out of water is suffocating. Internal injuries and scale loss is much more likely to occur when out of water.
3. Rolling fish onto their backs (while still in the water) may reduce the amount they struggle, therefore minimizing stress, etc.
4. Carry needle-nose pliers. Grab the bend or round portion of the hook with your pliers, twist pliers upside down, and the hook will dislodge. Be quick, but gentle. **Single barbless hooks are recommended**, if not already stipulated in the regulations.

5. Any legal fish that is deeply hooked, hooked around the gills or bleeding should be retained as part of your quota. **If the fish cannot be retained legally, you can improve its chances for survival by cutting the leader and releasing it with the hook left in.**

6. If a net is used for landing your catch, it should have fine mesh and a knotless webbing to protect fish from abrasion and possible injury.

7. **If you must handle the fish, do so with your bare, wet hands (not with gloves).** Keep your fingers out of the gills, and don't squeeze the fish or cause scales to be lost or damaged. It is best to leave fish in the water for photos. If you must lift a fish then provide support by cradling one hand behind the front fins and your other hand just forward of the tail fin. Minimize the time out of the water, then hold the fish in the water to recover. If fishing in a river, point the fish upstream while reviving it. When the fish begins to struggle and swim normally, let it go.



Photo: Brian Chan

GREAT CATCH! NOW WRAP IT RIGHT!

A guide to cleaning and canning your catch in non-tidal waters (for all species except salmon)

To comply with the law, follow these simple guidelines when you clean and transport your fish.

- ▶ **Do not can, bottle or fillet fish** caught by sport fishing in non-tidal waters **except at your permanent residence (commercial canning of these fish is not permitted).**
- ▶ **Leave the head, tail and all fins on your catch** until you

get them to your permanent (ordinary) residence. We suggest you immediately remove the gills and internal organs of any fish you keep to reduce spoilage.

- ▶ Do not freeze fish together in an unrecognizable block.
- ▶ Please refer to the fish cleaning guidelines in "Angling Safety in Bear Country" on page 20.

ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE



Provincial
Regulations

Penalties for Breaking Fishing Laws

The penalty for fishing offences against the *Fisheries Act* is a **fine of up to \$100,000, a prison term of up to 12 months, or both**. If an enforcement officer finds any fish illegally caught or held, or any equipment, vehicle, vessel or other item used in the commission of an offence, the officer may seize them without a warrant. Depending on the severity of the offence, you may be issued a fine by ticket or required to attend court.

Notice to Violators

LICENCE SUSPENSIONS & PROHIBITIONS

Did you know? Under Section 24 of the *Wildlife Act*, the Director of the Fish & Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Environment, may prohibit you from holding a hunting and/or fishing licence for a specified period (up to a 30-year prohibition). The period will depend on the severity of your offence and is independent of any fine or suspension which may be imposed by a court of law upon your conviction for fish or wildlife offences. Please refer to www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/enforcement.html for details. It pays to become familiar with the fish and wildlife regulations and to abide by them.

MARINE TRAINING AND CONSULTING

Inspection

If asked, you must allow a Conservation Officer, Fishery Officer, RCMP Constable, Park Ranger in a Provincial Park, Park Warden in a National Park or an Officer under the *Wildlife Act* to examine your fishing licence, gear and catch.



Photo: Vance Hannah

Conservation Officer Service

Illegally Introduced Alien Sport Fish...A Growing Concern!

(See HaHa Creek Closure p. 50)



The presence of alien sport fish in B.C.'s lakes and streams is not new. However, now there are over six times as many freshwater systems containing these alien species than since they were first documented in the early 1950's. Historically, several species were intentionally released under government authorization into a limited number of waters, but the vast majority of more recent occurrences have been the result of illegal transfers by individuals wishing to create angling opportunities. Several species introduced into B.C. by illegal means have now established self-sustaining populations. These species include smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, yellow perch, black crappie, pumpkinseed sunfish, walleye (in southern B.C. where they are not native) and most recently northern pike (also in southern B.C. where they are not native). These alien species represent a major threat to our native fish and our world-renowned sport fisheries for native trout

and other native species. These alien fish feed on native fish (especially the eggs and juveniles) and compete for limited resources such as food and specialized habitat. Alien fish tend to be voracious feeders – many are predators – and have high reproduction rates that allow them to quickly outnumber native fish. In addition, these species are adept at spreading from the original introduction site so that new populations may become established upstream and downstream over time. Negative impacts, particularly on native trout in southern B.C., have been reported as native populations are replaced by these alien species. While

some alien fish may provide limited angling opportunities, their populations frequently expand at a rapid rate until they become stunted in growth (especially in smaller lakes) and no longer support a viable fishery of any sort.

Illegally Introduced Alienscont'd on page 89



Northern Pike (Introduced Alien in Southern B.C.)

KOMBAT KOMBO

DELUXE WALL TENT

BRIGHT WATERS
GUIDE SERVICE

THE FISHIN' HOLE

RUSSELLS

STEELHEAD RECOVERY PLAN



The Greater Georgia Basin Steelhead Recovery Plan

Wild and hatchery steelhead in 58 of the largest watersheds in the Greater Georgia Basin (from Juan de Fuca Strait north to Johnstone Strait) have experienced serious declines in the last decade, and a majority have been classified as "conservation concern" or "extreme conservation concern" by provincial biologists.

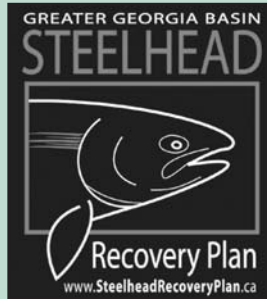
Causes of the Decline

Lower steelhead numbers result from decreased freshwater productivity combined with sharply reduced survival during the ocean phase of their life cycle. The poor ocean conditions are beyond our control and must be balanced by improved freshwater rearing conditions if wild stocks are to survive.

Recovery Objectives

Since the scope of this problem was identified in the late 1990s, provincial fisheries biologists have worked closely with non-government partners, like the BC Conservation Foundation, in developing recovery plans for individual watersheds and steelhead populations. This work led to the release of the Greater Georgia Basin Steelhead Recovery Action Plan in 2002, by A.F. Lill and Associates Ltd., working with the Ministry of Environment under sponsorship of the Pacific Salmon Foundation.

The action plan's primary objective is to stabilize and restore wild steelhead stocks and habitats to healthy self-sustaining levels. A secondary objective is to maintain and restore angling opportunities, which benefit both local communities and the provincial economy.



Recovery Strategies

In 2005/06 steelhead recovery activities on Vancouver Island and in the Lower Mainland received about \$1.3M in direct funding support. An increasing share of annual budgets is being directed to habitat restoration projects including nutrient enrichment, improvement of rearing habitat, placement of spawning gravel, flow augmentation and erosion/sediment control. Projects now involve an increasing number of rivers with a combination of treatments designed to improve sustainability of the entire fish community, including steelhead. For example, since 2002 rearing habitat has been increased by 19,000 m² through the installation of large woody debris jams in 11 rivers. We have also treated about 725 km of streams with nutrients in 20 watersheds to increase primary productivity and subsequent juvenile fish growth and survival.

More Support Needed

In the coming months, provincial staff and their BCCF partners will work closely with the sport fishing community, conservation and stewardship organizations, First Nations and industry to increase investments in steelhead recovery projects for priority waters within the Greater Georgia Basin. We encourage anglers and non-anglers to support this work which is critical to the preservation of this magnificent species on the south coast.

For more information on the Greater Georgia Basin Steelhead Recovery Plan, visit our web site at www.steelheadrecoveryplan.ca or contact regional fisheries staff in Nanaimo (250-751-3100) or Surrey (604-582-5200).

FISH SPECIALIST!

DOORSEFIN ADVENTURES INC

MINISTRY OF FORESTS

WOOD-MIZER SAWMILL

ANGLING ETHICS

Over 400,000 anglers enjoy fishing British Columbia's waters. If we are not careful, the popularity that recreational freshwater fishing enjoys may compromise not only the experience anglers are seeking, but also contribute to decline of some fish stocks, impact fish habitat and increase conflicts between anglers.

Respect fish and treat them humanely.

Keep fish immersed in water until you identify the species and its size. Help us look after our fisheries by limiting your harvest to your needs and never exceeding the legal limit. Practice "catch and release" when appropriate or required (see page 11).

Limit catch & release angling.

Catch and release (C & R) done correctly results in high survival rates. Since sub-lethal impacts may occur, multiple captures through excessive C & R can affect individual fish. Don't practice C & R when fish may be under stress:

- ✓ while spawning
- ✓ in hot weather or warm water

Practise courtesy toward other anglers and respect their rights.

Share the water with other users. Practise good angling etiquette by:

- ✓ moving around a water body in patterns appropriate to your gear and local conditions;
- ✓ leaving adequate room between other anglers and yourself, especially flyfishers.

Respect public and private property.

Always ask permission before entering private property, including Indian Reserve land. Leave natural areas as you found them, keep campsites clean and be careful with campfires.

ROTATIONAL ANGLING

Courtesy and Common Sense - Enjoying the Experience and Sharing the Opportunity.



Rotational angling is a system which can work well regardless of gear type, so long as each angler respects the others' methods.

As angling pressures increase because of population growth, expanding recreational time and improved access to our rivers and streams, the need for courtesy and an angling code of conduct has become more evident.

"Rotation angling" is a system designed to encourage everyone on a stretch of river to fish sequentially through it, whether wading or from a boat. It was designed to allow each angler an equal opportunity to spend some time in the prime pools and riffles. Simply stated, it means starting at the head of a pool or run and following the immediate downstream angler at a courteous distance, with everyone progressing at a reasonable pace.

While rotation angling is not applicable to all waters and conditions, it has become an accepted practice on many of our Classified Waters.

THE BASIC RULES ARE:

- ✓ Avoid entering the water downstream of another angler who is already fishing, unless invited to do so;
- ✓ Leave adequate room between the downstream angler and yourself but do not remain stationary unless no one is following you;
- ✓ After catching a fish, step out of the line and return to the head of the pool, or start of the line;
- ✓ If you are not sure about the local etiquette, avoid any problems by first inquiring about the procedures from the anglers already on the water.

Co-existing with Spawning Salmon

Angling opportunities provided for some species of fish (e.g., trout, char, whitefish) may have negative impacts on holding or spawning salmon in the same river system. In many cases, angling for salmon is prohibited during times when angling for other species remains open. Anglers can minimize disturbances or incidental hooking of salmon by adopting these simple voluntary measures:

Gear Selection

Use fishing gear which will effectively avoid hooking salmon. For example, use fly fishing gear with a floating line and a dry fly. Sinking lines or spoons are not recommended as spawning salmon can be easily foul hooked. If the target species is smaller than the spawning salmon, use of a light tippet is a good added measure.



Sockeye Salmon

Bait Selection

If bait is allowed, avoid using bait types which aggressively attract salmon. Using bait such as worms, grasshoppers or other insects will effectively avoid salmon yet attract other species such as trout and whitefish.

Wading the River

Concentrate angling activity in areas of the river where salmon may be less prevalent. For example, avoid deep pools where salmon are

holding prior to spawning. Also, avoid areas of shallow water where you observe concentrations of spawning salmon and their redds (gravel "nests"). Salmon redds are generally between 1-2 square meters in size and may be recognised by the appearance of clean looking gravel which is loose and soft underfoot, as opposed to firmer and darker gravel nearby. When newly formed, redds will appear to be a depression with a mound of gravel on the downstream side. Eggs will be buried in the mound of gravel and for several metres downstream. Walking on the redds may kill buried eggs, so please avoid them entirely.

With the cooperation of knowledgeable anglers, it is often possible to maintain angling opportunities which might otherwise be eliminated to protect vulnerable fish. Please adjust your angling techniques accordingly.

Help Protect Our Aquatic Habitats From Alien Invaders!



The introduction of alien species is the second greatest threat to biodiversity globally after habitat loss. Alien species are species not native to a particular ecosystem. In B.C., they have been introduced through various means, including intentional introductions and accidental transfers on equipment, in water and as parasites. These aliens often flourish in new environments because they have no natural enemies. Already, alien aquatic species have devastated some of our freshwater ecosystems and sport fisheries through habitat degradation and negative interactions with native species (including competition, predation and interbreeding).

Examples of harmful alien species spreading in B.C.'s aquatic ecosystems:

Yellow perch and bass proliferate quickly and compete with and feed on native fish, possibly diminishing sport fisheries for native species (e.g., rainbow trout).

Bullhead feed on native fish species and degrade habitat. The introduction of brown bullhead into Hadley Lake on Lasquiti Island resulted in the global extinction of a stickleback species pair.

Eurasian water milfoil spreads quickly, degrading fish habitat and impairing boating, swimming and fishing activities. This plant has been identified as a major threat to sockeye in Cultus Lake.



Yellow Perch

Copyright Shedd Aquarium/www.fishphotos.org

Bullfrogs proliferate quickly and compete with or feed on native amphibian species, birds and fish. They are implicated in the decline of some native frog populations in southern B.C.

YOU CAN HELP!

1. Do not move live fish – Moving any aquatic animal or plant between waterbodies can impact biodiversity. Movement includes deliberate transfer as well as unintentional movement of microscopic organisms (e.g., parasites and diseases). It is **illegal** to possess or move live fish without a permit. It is also **illegal** to use live fish for bait or hold live fish in a “live well” on your boat. See “Rules for Bait Usage” on page 9.

2. Do not move fish parts - Don't use parts of fish caught in one waterbody as bait elsewhere. Furthermore, dispose of all fish guts and non-consumable parts appropriately (see “Angling Safety in Bear Country” on page 20 for disposal suggestions).

3. Report illegal activities – If you see any activities associated with the intentional or accidental movement of live fish and other aquatic organisms, please report these activities to 1-877-952-7277.

4. Thoroughly wash all boating and fishing gear

– Transfer of aquatic alien species may occur through the movement of unwashed equipment from one waterbody to another. You can reduce this threat by cleaning your gear every time you visit a new waterbody in case your gear has been exposed to infested waters. Before you leave the boat launch: (1) drain the water from motors, bilges, transom wells and other containers; and (2) remove plant parts, mud and other organisms from all gear (e.g., boots, boat, anchor and trailer). In addition, wash and sun dry your boat, tackle, nets, waders and other equipment prior to use in another waterbody.

Alien Invaderscontinued on page 89

SURPLUS HERBY'S

ADVENTURE TEARDROPS

BOATING INFORMATION

Fluctuating Lake & Reservoir Levels

Water levels in lakes and especially reservoirs can fluctuate over the year. These fluctuations result in a change in the location of stream mouths (please check the definitions of "streams" and "stream mouths" on page 8). Note that a stream flowing through the drawdown portion of a reservoir basin is not considered to be part of the reservoir. Anglers are reminded that because lake and stream regulations may differ, care must be taken to ensure that the proper regulations are followed.

Does my boat need to be registered?

All recreational vessels under 15 gross tons and powered by an engine 10 horsepower (7.5 kilowatts) or more must be licenced. The licencing process is free of charge through **Canada Border Services Agency** (refer to the blue pages in your telephone directory for the telephone number of the nearest office).



Photo: Brian Chan



Milfoil

Boating Safety

For important information on regulations related to boating safety, including:

- Operator competency requirements;
- Horsepower restrictions related to the age of operators;
- Universal Shoreline Speed Restrictions; and
- Proper use of Personal Flotation Devices (including inflatable PFDs),

Please contact Transport Canada Marine's Office of Boating Safety toll-free at 1-800-267-6687, or visit their web site at www.boatingsafety.gc.ca and click on "The Safe Boating Guide."

Many B.C. waters have boating restrictions in place. Please refer to the Regional Water-Specific Tables in this Synopsis for boating restrictions on individual waters and page 5 for an explanation of the various types of restrictions.

Eurasian Watermilfoil Alert

Eurasian watermilfoil and other non-native aquatic plants can create environmental, recreational and economic problems in our waters.

Important:

- ▶ **Thoroughly inspect your boat and trailer and remove all aquatic plants before launching and after leaving the water.**
- ▶ **New infestations can develop from even small plant fragments.**



Photo: David J. Eagan

An on-line brochure on Eurasian Watermilfoil is available at: www.env.gov.bc.ca/wat/wq/brochures/milfoil.html. For further information on aquatic plants and weeds go to www.env.gov.bc.ca/wat/wq/wq_aquatic.html, or one of the many other websites on Eurasian Watermilfoil.

LUND ALUMINUM BOATS

RED WILLOW

River Boating Etiquette and Safety

For your safety and the enjoyment of everyone using the river, please:

Keep boat launch areas clear so that all boaters have equal access.

Don't mix alcohol and boating. You will need your best reflexes to keep you, your boat and other stream users safe. It's illegal to operate a boat while impaired.

Limit your speed (particularly when entering corners) to avoid collisions with other boaters, anglers, swimmers and hidden obstacles. Respect the Universal Shoreline Speed Restriction (10 km/hr within 30m of the shore).

Be careful when boating at dawn and dusk, or in other conditions of limited light or visibility.

Refrain from running your boat through water being fished by others. Go slowly or drift by anglers along the shoreline. Be considerate of others.



Photo: Mark Beere

Avoid sensitive habitats such as shallow water, spawning areas, and wildlife nesting or foraging areas.

Give animals crossing the river the space and time to do so. It's illegal to harass wildlife.

Pack out your garbage. Old fishing line, litter, fuel and oil damage fish habitat, endanger aquatic life and reduce water quality.

DEAKIN EQUIPMENT

FUGAWI

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Advertising

How To Find Fish in Small Lakes

Many anglers look at lakes as mysterious black holes that give no clues about where to drop a line or where the fish actually live. Rivers, on the other hand, have currents to define pools, riffles and runs, all of which are important living spaces for trout and other fish species.

A close look at a small lake will reveal prime feeding and resting areas frequented by trout. A typical small lake is shaped like a soup bowl, with a deeper middle portion surrounded by shallow water extending to the shoreline. The shallow water or shoal areas of a lake produce

the majority of the food that trout eat. Here the sun can penetrate to the lake bottom and allow green plants to grow which provide the habitat for such food sources as shrimp, mayflies, damselflies, dragonflies, caddis flies and leeches. The effects of the sun and photosynthesis can often be felt in water as deep as six metres.

The next time you go fishing, take a look at how far out the aquatic plant life extends from the shore. During the spring months when the shallow water is still cool, trout will feed right into water less than one metre deep. As the water warms, trout will feed in the deeper parts of the shoal. The really hot summer temperatures finally force the fish off the shoal during daylight hours. At night, when the water cools, trout will often return to the shoals to feed.

A transition zone occurs as the shallower shoal water quickly deepens to the mid-part of the lake. This slightly deeper water is called the drop-off and it generally marks the outer limits of rooted aquatic plant growth because the water is now too deep for sunlight penetration. The drop-off zone makes excellent trout habitat. Here the water remains cool and well oxygenated even during the warm summer months and it is deep enough to provide protection from predators such as loons, ospreys and otters. Trout can leave the drop-off zone to feed for short periods of time on the shoal and then return to the deeper water

refuge. The drop-off zone is always an excellent place to fish and finding the drop-off is easy in clear-water lakes. All you have to do is just follow the shallow water out until the lake bottom can no longer be seen; a good pair of polarized sunglasses can really help. In stained or algae-laden water, the drop-off can be found with an electronic depth sounder or by referring to a contour map of the lake.

See page 88 for information on how to obtain bathymetric (depth) maps for many lakes in the province.



Photo: Brian Chan

GOABC

BERRY'S BAIT AND TACKLE

**INTERIOR OFF ROAD
EQUIPMENT
05/06
1/4 PAGE**

ANGLING SAFELY IN BEAR COUNTRY



Bears are found throughout B.C., frequently near streams. Black bears and grizzlies have a keen sense of smell, which may attract them to freshly-caught fish, fish guts, spawning grounds and bait such as fish eggs. Here are some simple precautions to help you avoid bear encounters and conflicts:

- Clean your fish** a good distance away from camp.
- Dispose of fish guts** at the same location the fish was caught by puncturing the bladder and dropping in deep or rushing water, well away from heavily used shoreline areas. Avoid disposal in shallow water or where likely to wash up on the beach, bank or boat launch. Burial or burning is not recommended and please **do not place in garbage receptacles!**
- Remember not to wipe your hands** on your clothing after cleaning fish or handling fish or bait such as fish eggs.
- Bears can be drawn to many types of food** – not only fish and bait, but also groceries or garbage. Take precautions both while fishing and at your camp. Keep fish eggs in well-sealed and secure containers.
- Make your presence known** by talking loudly or making noise, particularly along streams and in areas where there is bear sign such as droppings, tracks, or claw or bite marks on trees.
- While fishing, if a bear approaches** within 50 m (or 100 m for a female with cubs), reel in or cut your line and leave the area immediately.



Photo: BC Parks

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