1 PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS (and Licensing Requirements)
Find these general regulations on pages 6-11.

2 REGIONAL REGULATIONS
Find these regulations at the beginning of each Regional chapter.
(The map on this page shows B.C.’s nine regions.)
Region 1 Vancouver Island ............. 13
Region 2 Lower Mainland .............. 22
Region 3 Thompson-Nicola ........... 31
Region 4 Kootenay ..................... 39
Region 5 Cariboo ....................... 47
Region 6 Skeena ......................... 56
Region 7A Omineca ..................... 67
Region 7B Peace ......................... 72
Region 8 Okanagan ..................... 76

3 WATER-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS
There may or may not be special regulations which apply to your lake or stream. Here’s how to find out:

LOOK FOR THE LAKE OR STREAM you plan to fish in the Water-Specific Tables following the Regional Regulations for your Region.

A. IF YOUR LAKE OR STREAM DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE WATER-SPECIFIC TABLES, NO SPECIAL REGULATIONS ARE IN EFFECT. THEREFORE, YOU MUST ONLY FOLLOW:
• The Provincial Regulations AND
• The Regional Regulations for the Region.

B. 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, AND/OR
• The Water Specific Regulations.

REGULATIONS ON TRIBUTARIES. If an asterisk (*) is listed next to a lake or stream listed in the Water Specific Tables, then those regulations also apply to any tributary streams that flow into that lake or stream (see page 5).

4 IN-SEASON REGULATION CHANGES may have been adopted after this Synopsis was published. These will be:
  - Click on “In-Season Regulations Changes” and select the appropriate Region
• listed in Fishing Notices posted in the field, and
• Distributed via RSS (Really Simple Syndication) to subscribers.

RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF REGULATION CHANGES VIA RSS
In-Season Changes - Notification
Anglers can be notified of in-season or recent regulation changes through RSS. RSS is an internet-based technology that allows users to sign up for instant web updates and is a convenient way to be notified of changes to regulations. To sign up for this service, visit the Fish and Aquatic Habitat Branch website, click on the RSS icon, and subscribe to the In-Season Regulation Changes feed.

Angling, Hunting, and Trapping Public Engagement
The public can review and provide feedback on proposed changes to fish or wildlife related policies or regulations through the provincial Angling, Hunting and Trapping Public Engagement Website, online at http://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/pub/ahte.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
please contact any:
• Fish and Wildlife Regional office
• Conservation Officer Service office
• Fisheries and Oceans Canada office
listed on the first page of each Regional chapter

LOOKING FOR A DEFINITION?
See page 96
Welcome to freshwater fishing in British Columbia. With over 20,000 lakes and 750,000 kilometres of streams, our province has world class recreational freshwater fishing opportunities for everyone: from novices to expert anglers. Freshwater fishing holds important cultural, recreational and economic significance to British Columbia. This synopsis is a comprehensive guide to the regulations, policies, and practices that ensure sustainable fishing. Please keep up-to-date on in-season regulation changes by monitoring the fish and wildlife branch website (http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations/) and help spread the word when in-season regulation changes are enacted.

Your licence fees at work: Since 2015, 100% of the revenue generated from basic fishing licenses has gone to the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, which is dedicated to the enhancement and conservation of B.C.’s freshwater fish resources. In addition, 100% of the surcharge revenue from angling licence sales goes to the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation to provide grants for fish conservation projects. This means every dollar goes towards research, conservation and education programs, improving angler access and improving the fishing experience.

The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC is a key partner in B.C.’s fisheries, delivering the stocking programs, learn-to-fish programs, and running the BC Fish Health Lab. For example, each year the Society’s program raises and releases over 8 million trout, char and kokanee into 800 lakes and streams around British Columbia. For more information purchasing your freshwater fishing licence, please visit: https://www.fishing.gov.bc.ca

The rich diversity of fish and wildlife in B.C. is invaluable to our province, and an integral part of our way of life. Our government is committed to working with Indigenous peoples, stakeholders, other governments and fish and environmental advocates to protect that diversity in the face of challenges such as climate change. I would like to thank the staff, volunteers, partners and stakeholders for their ongoing dedication to protecting our province’s aquatic ecosystems and resources for the enjoyment of all British Columbians.

Wishing you all safe and memorable angling in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

### MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2019-2021

#### PROVINCE WIDE
- When fishing, you are legally required to produce your fishing licence and government issued photo ID upon request of an officer.

#### REGION 1 - VANCOUVER ISLAND
- No Fishing from July 15 to August 31 in streams within Management Units 1-1 to 1-6, with exceptions.
- Increased regional bass quota from 4 to unlimited, except Elk, Beaver, Fuller, Langford, Prospect, Quennell, Shawnigan, Westwood, and Spider Lakes where the quota remains at 4.
- Increased regional perch quota from 20 to unlimited.
- Brown trout quota changes on Lois, Rooney, and Tadjiss Lakes.
- Regulation simplification on Comox Lake
- Revision of gear restrictions on Qualicum River and tributaries.

#### REGION 2 - LOWER MAINLAND
- No Fishing from May 15 to July 31 in the Fraser River areas of Jesperson’s Side Channel, Herring Island Side Channel and Seabird Island north Side Channel.
- Lengthened segment of the Brunette River
- No Fishing area.

#### REGION 3 - THOMPSON
- Prohibition on fishing for, and retention of, bass and perch region wide.
- Rainbow trout harvest opportunities on the Clearwater and Mahood Rivers.
- Little Windy Lake open to fishing.
- All steelhead fishing opportunities in the Thompson Region are closed.
- Water specific regulations implemented for Minnie and Stoney Lakes.

#### REGION 4 - KOOTENAY
- Increased regional bass quota from 8 to unlimited on numerous waters (see water specific regulations).
- Increased kokanee quota on Arrow Lakes.
- Opening of the Revelstoke reach of the Columbia River to angling.
- Brook trout, lake trout, and brown trout restrictions removed on the Salmo River.
- Regulation simplification on Whiteswan Lake.

#### REGION 5 - CARIBOO
- Catch and release of all bull trout caught in streams from August 1 to October 31.
- Increased lake trout quota on Horse Lake.

#### REGION 6 - SKEENA
- No fishing on Gosnell Creek, Glacier Creek, and the Thautil River from August 1 to September 30.
- No fishing on Magar Creek from August 1 to October 31.

Further angling regulation changes regarding the Kitimat, Lakelse and Zymoetz Rivers and the use of bait in all Skeena streams are under consideration. Check the in-season angling regulation change website prior to fishing these water bodies.

#### REGION 7A - OMINECA
- No changes

#### REGION 7B - PEACE
- No changes

#### REGION 8 - OKANAGAN
- Prohibition on fishing for, and retention of, bass or perch region wide; see the waters specific regulations table for exceptions.
- Increased brook trout quota from 5 to 20 on Jewel Lake.
- Increased kokanee quota on Wood Lake.
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/

The sale of advertising pays for a significant portion of this publication. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development neither endorses products or services offered in the advertising nor accepts any liability arising from the use of such products or services.

Front Cover: Elk River in the Kootenay’s Dana Harrison @kootenaykid
The conservation of B.C.’s native fish species is the highest priority of the provincial Freshwater Fisheries Program

Recreational fisheries for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) like bass and yellow perch will not be encouraged or further developed

Every effort to eliminate the risk AIS pose and to prevent their further spread will be made by the Province and its partners

The problem

- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) threaten native fish, their ecosystems and the recreational fishing opportunities they support - this means fish like trout and char are at risk!
- Uninformed people intentionally or accidentally moving AIS fish from one waterbody to another is the main cause for the spread of invasive fish in B.C. - this is ILLEGAL!

B.C.’s response

- New introductions of AIS fish will not be tolerated
- All waterbodies with new detections will immediately be closed to fishing for that species
- Some waterbodies with high-risk introductions may be closed indefinitely to ALL fishing
- Where feasible high risk AIS will be eradicated from watersheds
- Where eradication is not immediately feasible, measures to manage risk and prevent AIS spreading such as special regulations will be implemented
- For a restricted list of lakes, AIS may be managed as a regulated fishery which could be terminated should risks of AIS increase

What AIS fish are we talking about?

- **BASS** - largemouth and smallmouth
- **YELLOW PERCH** - except in the lower Peace watershed where they are native
- **NORTHERN PIKE** - except in B.C.’s northern drainages where they are native
- **BLACK CRAPPIE**
- **WALLEYE** - except in B.C.’s northeastern drainages where they are native

See centre glossy pages for pictures of these aquatic invasive species

Never release unwanted aquarium pets into the wild.

**What can you do to help?**

- Check your fishing regulations for AIS in your region.
- Learn about AIS, what fish they include and where they may occur (to download the invasive species App go to [https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/invasive-species/index.htm](https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/invasive-species/index.htm)).
- Where fishing regulations permit, harvest the invasive fish.
- Where fisheries for the invasive fish are closed, you must not target these species and any incidental catches must be released.
- If you suspect your catch is a new introduction, harvest it (or take a photo if regulations require release) and report to your regional fisheries office.
- To report any violations, like suspected illegal introductions of fish, contact toll free at 1-877-952-7277 (RAPP) or report violators online at: [www.rapp.bc.ca](http://www.rapp.bc.ca).
- Persons convicted for a first offence of the illegal movement of aquatic invasive species could be fined up to $100,000 and/or a prison term of up to 12 months, and for a second offence a fine of not more than $200,000 and not less than $2,000 and/or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years.
- Follow rules on bait usage (no fin fish, alive or dead) on p. 9.

**IT IS ILLEGAL TO POSSESS LIVE FISH OR RELEASE LIVE FISH INTO B.C.’S LAKES OR STREAMS**
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:

1. Waters with Special Restrictions
   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.

   A (cw) symbol means that this is a Classified Water; see page 8.

2. Management Unit (M.U.)
   This column lists one or more Management Unit’s only as a reference to help you locate your target lake or stream and to distinguish waters in a region with the same name. Not all applicable M.U.’s may be listed. Consult the B.C. Recreational Atlas or Regional maps for Management Unit boundaries.

3. Exceptions to the Regional Regulations
   “Catch and Release”
   You may fish for the named species, 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 the Gentle Way”, page 11).

   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.

   “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 the Gentle Way”, page 11).

   “Bait Ban”... the use of natural bait (see definition of bait on page 9) is prohibited in waters with a bait ban. Bait may be banned year round or seasonally. During the period when bait is banned it is banned for all angling and for all species.

   “Single Hook”... it is prohibited to angle with a hook with more than one point on waters that are subject to a single hook restriction. Single hook restrictions may be in place year round or seasonally. Where single hook restrictions are in place on a water body it applies to fishing for all species. Often single hook restrictions are combined with barbless hook restrictions and termed “single barbless hook”.

   “Barbless Hook”... it is prohibited to use a hook with a barb on waters subject to barbless hook restriction. Barbless hook restrictions may be in place year round or seasonally. Where barbless hook restrictions are in place on a water body it applies to fishing for all species. Often barbless hook restrictions are combined with single hook restrictions and termed “single barbless hook”.

   Dates... restrictions may apply for all or part of the year. When no date is listed, the restriction applies all year. Start and end dates are inclusive.

   Youth/Disabled Accompanied Waters
   Authorized Angler... A person that is under 16 years of age or a disabled resident. Companion... A person who accompanies and attends an authorized angler. A person must not angle in a Youth/Disabled Accompanied Water unless the person is an authorized angler or a companion to an authorized angler. An authorized angler can be accompanied by up to two companion anglers.

   BOATING RESTRICTIONS
   Boating restrictions are adopted for either fisheries management or public safety reasons. The various restrictions include:

   • 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 powered boats... you are not allowed to angle from a boat equipped with a motor on these waters.
   • No powered boats... boat motors of all types (internal combustion, steam and electric) are prohibited on these waters.
   • Electric motors only... you may use only battery-powered electric motors. All other types of motors (internal combustion, steam) are prohibited on these waters. In addition, wind or human propelled craft may be used.
   • Engine power restrictions... boat motors cannot exceed the engine power (given in kilowatts) listed in the “Exceptions” column.
   • Speed Restriction... boats equipped with motors cannot exceed the speed limit listed in the “Exceptions” column.
   • No towing... do not tow a person on water skis, a surf board or other water toy.
   • No vessels... boats and rafts of all types are prohibited.

   Please note: most boating restrictions are the responsibility of Government of Canada, Marine Transportation. They are published here as a courtesy to anglers but, due to space limitations, may not be complete. For more information:

   Marine Transportation
   Office of Boating Safety
   700-800 Burrard St
   Vancouver BC V6Z 2J8

   or call 604-666-2681

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.
All annual licences are valid for the current licence year, April 1st to March 31st, commencing on the date purchased. Licences are not transferrable. Note: Taxes not included in fees listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licence Type</th>
<th>Resident $</th>
<th>Non-Resident $</th>
<th>Non-Resident Alien $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(B.C. Residents)</td>
<td>(Residents of Another Province or Territory)</td>
<td>(Residents of Another Country)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basic Licences</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Angling Licence</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>One Day Angling Licence *</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight Day Angling Licence *</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Licence for Disabled</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Licence for Age 65</td>
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<td>55</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conservation Surcharge Stamps (see page 7)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steelhead</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Tidal Salmon</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kootenay Lake Rainbow Trout</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shuswap Lake Rainbow Trout</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shuswap Lake Char</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>White Sturgeon Conservation Licences (see page 7)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>One Day</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight Day</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Classified Waters Licences (see page 8)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Classified Waters Licence (annual)</td>
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<td>Class I Waters Licence</td>
<td>$40/day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class II Waters Licence</td>
<td>$20/day</td>
<td>$20/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* You may buy as many One Day and Eight Day Licences (covering 8 consecutive days) as you need, but only one Annual Licence.  
† definitions of “resident”, “non-resident” and “non-resident alien” on page 96. Members of the Canadian armed services and students returning to B.C. may be eligible to purchase licences at the Resident rate. For more information, contact a Service BC Centre.  
◆ Not available. See “Classified Waters Licences”, page 8.

Note: Most licence fees include a conservation surcharge administered by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation.

**PROOF OF IDENTITY AND AUTHORIZATION:**
► When fishing, you must produce your angling licence and photo ID, on the request of an officer.

**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 96.  
► 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.

**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 fee reduction on your basic licence.  
• To get an application form contact any Service BC Centre or write to:  
  Fish and Aquatic Habitat Branch  
  PO Box 9363 STN PROV GOVT  
  Victoria BC V8W 9M2

**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.

**MÉTIS:**
► A reminder that all Métis individuals intending to sport fish in non-tidal waters are required, under the *Wildlife Act*, to hold appropriate angling licences and stamps, and comply with all angling regulations.

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU LOSE YOUR LICENCE:**
► You must be in possession of a valid licence prior to resuming fishing.  
► Do not buy a new licence. You are only permitted one annual angling licence per year.  
► If you lose the licence that you purchased on-line, you can:  
  • Reprint it from the Internet,  
  • Get a Service BC Centre to reprint it for you, or  
  • Get a licence vendor to reprint a copy (there may be a fee).  
► Your retention record (see page 7) must be transferred to the new copy.

Note: Refunds will not be issued for licences already purchased at the full price.
E-LICENSING
Non-Tidal Angling Licences are available on-line. The Non-Tidal (Freshwater) Fishing E-Licensing system allows anglers to register to obtain an Angler Number and purchase their basic Non-Tidal Angling Licence, Classified Waters Licences, White Sturgeon Conservation Licences and Conservation Surcharge Stamps, at any time.

WHERE TO BUY A LICENCE
To purchase your non-tidal angling licence on-line or for further information, please go to www.fishing.gov.bc.ca.
Anglers may also obtain electronic licences from their local Service BC Centre or any licence vendor who may offer this service. For a listing of Service BC Centres and licence vendors, go to http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/licences/#Purchasing

CONSERVATION SURCHARGES
Your basic angling licence can be validated with up to five annual Conservation Surcharge Stamps described in detail below, plus a White Sturgeon Conservation Licence. The stamps are valid for the licence year (April 1 to March 31).

Note: If a copy of your basic licence is reprinted, all your retention records must be transferred to the new copy.

STEELHEAD
Your basic licence must be validated with a Conservation Surcharge Stamp if you fish for steelhead anywhere in B.C. (whether you 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. You must immediately record your retention of hatchery steelhead on your basic angling licence. 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 hatchery steelhead is 10. All wild steelhead must be released.

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 release all salmon caught. You must immediately record your retention of adult chinook salmon on your basic angling licence.

For definition of adult chinook see page 90.

For regulations related to angling for salmon in B.C. visit the Fisheries and Oceans Canada website at https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/index-eng.html

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 immediately record your retention on 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 immediately record your retention on 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, Little Shuswap Lake, South Thompson River between Shuswap Lake and Little Shuswap Lake, Seymour, Anstey and Salmon arms and Mara Lake. You must immediately record your retention on your basic angling licence.

No Conservation Surcharge Stamp is required if you release all Shuswap Lake rainbow trout over 50 cm.

WHITE STURGEON
You must purchase a White Sturgeon Conservation Licence, in addition to your basic licence, if you fish for white sturgeon in the Fraser River Watershed (including tributaries) from the CPR Bridge at Mission to and including Williams Lake River in the Cariboo. This is a catch-and-release only fishery - all sturgeon must be released. See Guidelines for Angling White Sturgeon in B/C. at www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/docs/ws_guidelines.pdf. Please note that this is the only white sturgeon fishery in the province’s non-tidal waters.
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 protect 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 is valid for the licencing year. This means you can fish on any Class I or Class II water in the province during the year.

**If you are a NON-GUIDED “Non-Resident” or NON-GUIDED “Non-Resident Alien”:**
Your Classified Waters Licence for Class I or Class II waters 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.** A first-come-first-serve booking system is in place for these Kootenay Class II waters: Michel Creek, Skookumchuck Creek and the Wigwam River.

**If you are a GUIDED “Non-Resident” or a GUIDED “Non-Resident Alien”:**
Your Classified Waters Licence for Class I or Class II waters is sold on a per diem basis and is date and water-specific. If guided, confirm with your angling guide before purchasing your licence. Although anglers may purchase as many Classified Waters Licences as they wish, **each licence may not exceed 8 consecutive days.**

**EXCEPTION:** Non-Resident Aliens (whether GUIDED or NON-GUIDED) may only purchase one Classified Waters Licence for the Dean River per licence year.

**NOTE**
NON-GUIDED Non-Resident Aliens wishing to fish the Class I - Main Section of the Dean River should refer to pages 48 and 50 for details.
ALLOWABLE FISHING METHODS

Your basic fishing licence entitles you to:
- fish (with or without a rod) with one fishing line to which only one hook, one artificial lure OR one artificial fly is attached.
- angle with a downrigger, 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.
- fish with a 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)

- fish with a spear or an arrow that is propelled by a spring, an elastic band, compressed air, a bow or by hand. Only non-game fish (such as carp) may be speared, except burbot which may also be speared in Regions 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8. No spear fishing of any other game fish (as defined on page 96), pacific salmon or protected species (page 10) is permitted anywhere in B.C. No spear fishing of any kind is permitted in Region 1, 2 and 4.
- 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 fin fish and crayfish are illegal.

IT IS UNLAWFUL TO....

Use barbed hooks or a hook with more than one point in any river, stream, creek or slough in B.C. (Note: the use of barbed hooks in lakes is permitted, unless noted in the Regional Water-Specific Tables).
- Angle with a fishing line to which more than one artificial fly is attached (i.e., to 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
- 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 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 and 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 furbears. 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

“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 (e.g. aquatic insects and crayfish) in streams as bait unless a bait ban applies. No person shall use as bait or possess for that purpose any freshwater invertebrate (this includes the aquatic stage of any insect, such as dragonfly nymphs or caddisfly larvae) at a lake.

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

Fin fish... means all fish other than crustaceans, echinoderms, molluscs, shellfish and marine mammals. 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 Region 2 only on the Fraser River, Lower Pitt River (CPR bridge upstream to Pitt Lake), Lower Harrison River (Fraser River upstream to Harrison Lake), or
(b) when set lining in lakes of Region 6 or in lakes of Zone A of Region 7.
**PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS**

**QUOTAS**
For all game fish, there is a quota or limit on the number of fish you may retain.
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 quota** … the maximum number of fish of a given species, group of species, or size class that you may retain in one calendar day.
- **Possession quota** … no more than twice the daily quota unless otherwise specified (see definition, page 96).
- **Monthly quota** … the maximum number of fish that you are allowed to retain in one calendar month.
- **Annual quota** … the maximum number of fish that you are allowed to retain in one licence year (April 1 to March 31).
- **Quotas are not cumulative:** you cannot possess a quota from each region that you fish. As a general guideline, 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 B.C. waters, 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 retain any of the 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 and are legally protected by federal statutes.

![Fish illustration](image)

**SHORTHEAD SCULPIN**
- Cultus Lake Sculpin
- Enos Lake Stickleback
- Misty Lake Stickleback
- Nooksack Dace
- Paxton Lake Stickleback
- Rocky Mountain Sculpin
- Shorthead Sculpin
- Salish Sucker
- Vananda Creek Stickleback
- Vancouver Lamprey
- Western Brook Lamprey (Morrison Creek population)
- White Sturgeon (Nechako, Upper Fraser, Kootenay and Columbia populations)

For more information on protected species, please visit Environment Canada’s website at www.sararegistry.gc.ca.

**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 BC V8W 9M9 or on the BC Parks website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/eco_reserve/ecoresrv/ecoresrv.html.

**BC PARKS**
Individuals visiting a Provincial Park, Conservancy, Recreation Area or Protected 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, Conservancies and Recreation Areas except where specifically authorized. All motorized vehicles on park roads must be licensed. The use of aircraft to arrive or depart from some parks is restricted. Activities in parks may be regulated by signs posted on site. More information can be found at BC Parks website http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/

**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 open 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 also be viewed at www.pc.gc.ca by selecting a park and clicking on “Activities,” then “Fishing,” or by contacting Parks Canada at 1-888-773-8888.

All fresh waters within Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Gulf Islands National Park Reserve are closed to fishing throughout the 2019-2021 season.

For information about the 2019-2021 season, contact Parks Canada.
WRAP IT RIGHT!

Restriction on cleaning and canning your catch in non-tidal water (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” in the Centre Colour Section.**
- **The management of salmon fisheries in B.C., in both tidal and freshwater, is the responsibility of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Information about packaging and transporting salmon is available at [https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/salmon-saumon-eng.html](https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/salmon-saumon-eng.html).**

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 or possess no more than your legal limit.
- Ensure your fish can be identified, counted and measured if necessary (see “Wrap it Right”).

**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 the fish they catch (catch and release). A fish that appears unharmed may not survive if carelessly handled, so please abide by the following:

- **Play and release fish as rapidly as possible.** A fish played for too long may not recover. Keep fish immersed in water unless you have chosen to legally harvest the fish. A fish out of water is suffocating. Every second a fish is out of the water decreases its chance of survival by 1%. Also, internal injuries and scale loss are much more likely to occur when a fish is out of the water.
- **Keep the eyes of a fish covered, if possible, when unhooking it.** Fish don’t have eyelids or pupils that constrict; therefore, their eyes cannot adjust to an increase in light intensity. Covering a fish’s eyes in shallow water (without touching the eyes or pushing down on the gills) can reduce the amount they struggle and minimize stress.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Nets used for landing your catch, should have fine mesh and a knotless webbing to protect fish from abrasion and possible injury.**
- **If you must handle the fish, do so with your bare, wet hands (not with gloves).** Gloves can remove the protective slime that aids in their survival. Keep your fingers out of the gills, and don’t squeeze the fish or cause scales to be lost or damaged. Leave fish in the water for photos. If you must lift a fish that will be subsequently released, 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. If the fish cannot remain upright on it’s own, hold the fish in the water to recover. If fishing in a river, point the fish upstream; when it begins to struggle and can remain upright let it go.
- **Fish out of water. Taking a fish out of water can harm fish.** If you plan on releasing the fish you catch make every effort to keep it in the water.
WHO NEEDS AN ANGLING GUIDE LICENCE?

In British Columbia a person commits an offence if a person does not hold a valid angling guide or assistant angling guide licence and acts as a “guide for fish” or offers to do so.

A person acts as a “guide for fish” when a person does one or more of the following activities for compensation or reward (either received or promised):

1. Accompanies another person and assists that person to angle; OR
2. Attends another person at or near an angling site in a way that directly or indirectly assists that person to angle; OR
3. Transports another person to and from an angling site, or between angling sites, for the purpose of angling.

It is also an offence for an angling guide to employ another person to “guide for fish” if that person does not hold an assistant angling guide licence.

Note: There are exemptions from the angling guide licensing requirements for certain uses of aircraft and motor vehicles for commercial purposes. There are also exemptions for some fishing school operations. For more information about angling guide requirements and exemptions please contact a Fish & Wildlife Regional Office.

IS YOUR ANGLING GUIDE LICENCED?

Anglers who use the services of an unlicenced angling guide risk being convicted of an offence.

Anglers securing the services of an Angling Guide can be certain that person is licensed by:

- Asking to see their current Angling Guide Licence (or Assistant Angling Guide Licence); OR
- Confirming their status by contacting FrontCounter BC (FCBC) at one of the following:
  - By Phone: Toll free at 1-877-855-3222, from outside North America ++1-778-372-0729
  - By Email: FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca

HOW TO BECOME AN ANGLING GUIDE

Detailed information on basic eligibility, the Angling Guide Exam, and the subsequent steps to obtaining a new Angling Guide Licence is available on the FCBC website www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/info/.
DEFINITIONS YOU SHOULD KNOW

adipose fin ... see diagram on page 10.
adult chinook salmon ... see page 90.
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”.
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. Where areas are restricted to “fly fish only” floats and sinkers may not be attached to the line or fly.
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”.
chumming ... see page 9.
Classified Waters ... see page 8.
confluence ... a place where two streams meet.
creek ... see streams.
daily quota ... the maximum number of fish of a given species, group of species, or size class that you may keep in one calendar day.
day ... a legal fishing day runs from midnight on one night to midnight on the following night.
fish ... means fin fish, shellfish and crustaceans (such as crayfish) in any life stage, including eggs.
fishing ... means fishing for, catching or attempting to catch fish by any method.
fly fishing ... angling with a line to which only an artificial fly is attached (floats, sinkers, or attracting devices may not be attached to the line when fishing is restricted to “fly fishing only”).
hatchery trout ... in some waters, hatchery trout may be harvested but wild trout must be released. In these waters, hatchery trout are marked before stocking by removal of their adipose fin (see centre colour section). Therefore, these hatchery trout must have a healed scar in place of the missing fin.
kokanee ... a land-locked sockeye salmon.
landed immigrant ... a permanent resident of Canada (as defined in federal statute).
licence year ... the period beginning April 1 and ending March 31.
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 their 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.
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.
river ... see streams.
set line ... a fishing line that is left unattended in the water.
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 other than the mouth. Attempting to snag fish of any species is prohibited. Any fish willfully or accidentally snagged must be released immediately.
spare fishing ... fishing with a spear or arrow that is propelled by a spring, an elastic band, compressed air or a bow or by hand.
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.
streets ... 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.
troll/char ... 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 ... in some waters, hatchery trout may be harvested but wild trout must be released. In these waters, wild trout will not be marked as hatchery fish and will have a normal adipose fin (see illustration on page 10), or will have an unhealed scar in place of that fin, if missing.

Freshwater game fish are defined as follows:

Trout
- rainbow trout
- steelhead
- cutthroat trout
- brown trout
- lake trout
- brook trout
- Dolly Varden
- bull trout*
- lake whitefish
- kokanee
- mountain whitefish

Other
- Arctic grayling
- burbot (ling)
- white sturgeon
- black crappie
- northern pike
- yellow perch
- walleye
- goldenv
- inconnu
- grayfish

Char
- Arctic grayling
- burbot (ling)
- white sturgeon
- black crappie
- northern pike
- yellow perch
- walleye
- goldenv
- inconnu
- grayfish

Bass
- largemouth bass
- smallmouth bass

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