

2019-2020 BC Freshwater Fishing Synopsis FAQs

Salmon and Saltwater Fishing

Freshwater Salmon Regulations

The management of salmon fisheries in B.C., in both tidal and freshwater, is the responsibility of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Unlike previous years, DFO's regulations for salmon fishing in freshwater are not included in this Synopsis.

Barbless hooks are required for salmon fishing in all freshwater, as well as all tidal waters in B.C.

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

For information on all the salmon regulations, please contact the [Department of Fisheries and Oceans \(DFO\)](#)

Saltwater Sport Fishing Regulations

The tidal recreational fishery includes harvest of a wide array of fish and shellfish species. However, the bulk of the effort has traditionally focused on salmonid species, particularly coho, chinook and steelhead, as well as lesser numbers of cutthroat and Dolly Varden. In addition, there is a growing interest in sport fisheries targeting on sockeye, pink and chum salmon as well as groundfish (halibut, ling cod, rockfish, flounder, sole etc.) and shellfish (clams, crabs, mussels, oysters, octopuses, scallops, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, shrimp and prawns) species.

Under the federal *Fisheries Act*, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is responsible for the day-to-day management of tidal recreational fisheries and in-river salmon fisheries. In addition, the department is responsible for the protection of fish habitat.