# Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis 2007-2008

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## Regional Regulations

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

**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.

**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

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*Front Cover: Enjoying a fine autumn day fishing in the Skeena Region. Credit: The Kozak Collection (www.kozak.bc.ca)*
Welcome to another year of fabulous fishing in British Columbia. Our diverse aquatic ecosystems are home to a multitude of fish species that provide anglers with an incredible range of angling opportunities. For example, steelhead return to rivers from Vancouver Island to the Skeena watershed, trout inhabit both small and large lakes and rivers throughout B.C. and char species thrive in the cold, clear waters of our interior lakes and rivers.

Both B.C. residents and visitors alike often travel great distances to enjoy these world-class fisheries. As a result, B.C. has deservedly earned a reputation as a premier fishing destination.

Children introduced to fishing at a young age gain an appreciation of the natural world and become motivated to participate in activities away from television or video games. Among its many benefits, angling encourages parents, children, and friends to spend time together outdoors and promotes a healthy lifestyle. The Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. (www.gofishbc.com) provides hatchery-raised trout for stocking in numerous lakes around B.C., some of which are highlighted in this year’s Synopsis. In addition, lakes and streams abound with many other species and wild fish that offer anglers of all ages and abilities hours of excitement and satisfaction.

In 2004, the Province invested $7 million in the Living Rivers Trust Fund. In May of 2006, the Premier tripled the fund to $21-million. Last November, the B.C. Government dedicated $10 million from Living Rivers to be used in a collaborative effort designed to restore and maintain healthy and diverse salmon, steelhead and trout populations in the Fraser River watershed.

That, combined with $10 million from the Government of Canada, means a total of $20 million set aside for this vital watershed. The Living Rivers Trust Fund will help protect and restore B.C.’s rivers, including fish habitat, ensuring the future for B.C.’s waterways and the angling opportunities they provide.

All the very best for a successful 2007-08 angling season.

Sincerely,

Barry Penner
Minister of Environment

Major Regulation Changes for 2007/2008

Please refer to the Regional Water-Specific Tables for details • NOTE: New regulations and amendments are highlighted in GREEN.

REGION 1: The lower portions of numerous East Coast/Vancouver Island streams are reopened to fishing. These include: Chemainus, Cluxewu, Englishman, Little Qualicum, Puntedge, Quatsat, and Quinsam rivers.
- Water-specific gear restrictions are removed for Oyster River.
- Seasonal closures are instituted on the Gold and Muchalat rivers.
- Water-specific restrictions are in place for Reginald Lake.
- Haslam Creek is closed to fishing.
- No changes to the existing regulations on Cowichan River.

REGION 4: Due to the presence of illegally introduced northern pike, Haha Lake remains closed to fishing (see Notice on p. 50). The rest of Haha Creek watershed is reopened.
- The Upper West Arm of Kootenay Lake is only open to kokanee harvest from May 19 to May 21.
- The daily kokanee quota for a number of lakes is increased from 10 to 15.
- The water-specific restrictions are removed from Fish Lake.
- Burbot must be released on Columbia and Windermere lakes.
- See the Tables for changes on Cartwright and Loon lakes, St. Mary River.
- The fall closure is rescinded on Big Sheep, Little Sheep and Kitchener (Meadow) creeks.

REGION 5: The Fraser watershed upstream of Williams Lake River is closed to all fishing for white sturgeon; see the article on p. 39 for details.
- Water-specific restrictions are in place for Patenaude Lake.
- To retain a bull trout from Chilko Lake, it must be at least 60 cm in size.

REGION 6: In accordance with the new Steelhead Stream Classification Policy (see Notice below), all wild steelhead must be released. Hatchery steelhead may be retained from Kitimat River.

REGION 7A (Omineca): The region is closed to all fishing for white sturgeon; see the article on p. 39 and Notice on p. 78 for details.

REGION 7B (Peace): Several watershed-wide restrictions are replaced with species-specific release requirements during spawning periods - see the new Regional Daily Catch Quotas on p. 84.
- The minimum harvest size for rainbow trout is removed.
- Pine River downstream of the Hasler Road bridge is reopened to harvest.
- Carbon and Little Carbon creeks are reopened to fishing.
- Chowade River upstream of the Horseshoe Road Bridge is closed Aug. 15 to Oct. 15.
- All fish must be released from Burnt River.
- The standard winter closure of Nov. 1 to Apr. 30 applies to Beatie, Carbon, Clearwater and Simpson lakes.

REGION 7C: For information on the kokanee fishery on Okanagan Lake, see the Notice on p. 90.
- Water-specific restrictions are in place for Kentucky SE Pothole.

NOTE: Water-specific restrictions are in place for Kentucky SE Pothole.

NOTE: Rule changes of a more local significance and not cited above are included in the Regional Water-Specific Tables and highlighted in GREEN.

Steelhead Stream Classification Policy

As introduced in last year’s edition of this synopsis, a Steelhead Stream Classification Policy has been implemented by the Ministry of Environment. The intent of the policy is to set out consistent management guidelines for the conservation of wild steelhead stocks throughout B.C., while allowing for the development and maintenance of first class angling opportunities. The final policy document may be reviewed at: www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/home/steelhead

The development of the policy was based on sound scientific knowledge and extensive consultation with stakeholders. It establishes stream classification categories for wild and hatchery-augmented waters, and associated procedures and regulations for each category. Under the new provincial policy retention of hatchery steelhead is permitted, but wild steelhead may not be retained and must be released. For quite some time there has been no retention of wild steelhead in most of the province, but the new policy does affect certain streams in Region 6 (Skeena). This change comes into effect on April 1, 2007, the beginning of the 2007/08 fishing season.
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.

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

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

Salmon Sport Head Recovery Program

Is your salmon missing its adipose fin?

Heads from salmon 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.

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

Report any captures or sightings of Atlantic salmon to the Atlantic Salmon Watch Program by calling toll free 1-800-811-6010.

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: majorjomo@majorjomo.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/fish. 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 6J9 . . . . . . . . .250-751-3100
Surrey: 10470 152nd St., V3R 0Y3 . . . . . . .604-582-5200
Kamloops: 1299 Dalhousie Dr., V2C 5Z5 . . . . . .250-371-6200
Nelson: 401-333 Victoria St, V1L 4K3 . . . . . . .250-354-6333
Cranbrook: 205 Industrial Rd. G, V1C 7G5 . . . . . .250-489-8540
Williams Lake: 400-640 Borland St, V2G 4T1 . . .250-398-4530
Smisthen: 3726 Alfred Ave., V1J 2N0 . . . . .250-847-7260
Prince George: 4051 18th Ave., V2N 1B3 . . . . . .250-565-6135
Fort St. John: 400-1000 110th Ave., V1J 6M7 . . . .250-787-3411
Penticton: 102 Industrial Place, V2A 7C8 . . . . .250-490-8200

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### 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):

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<td>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. <strong>Not all stocked lakes are listed in the Tables</strong>; see page 88. A CW symbol means that this is a Classified Water; see page 7.</td>
<td>Management Unit (M.U.)</td>
<td>This column lists one or more Management Units only as a reference to help you locate your target lake or stream. <strong>Not all applicable M.U.s may be listed.</strong> Consult the B.C. Recreational Atlas or Regional maps for Management Unit boundaries.</td>
<td><strong>No Fishing</strong></td>
<td>All forms of sport fishing (see page 9) 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.</td>
<td>Catch &amp; Release</td>
<td>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).</td>
<td>Exempt, Spring Closure</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Special Quota</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Page 5
All annual licences are valid for the current licence year, April 1, 2007 - March 31, 2008, 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Licences</th>
<th>Resident* (B.C. Residents)</th>
<th>Non-Resident* (Residents of Another Province or Territory)</th>
<th>Non-Resident Alien* (Residents of Another Country)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Angling Licence</td>
<td>$ 36</td>
<td>$ 55</td>
<td>$ 80</td>
</tr>
<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>
<td>$ 1</td>
<td>★</td>
<td>★</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Licence for Age 65 Plus</td>
<td>$ 5</td>
<td>★</td>
<td>★</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 (covering 8 consecutive days) 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.

**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 2007-08 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 (see listing on our web site*) or write to: Fish and Wildlife Branch PO Box 9363 STN PROV GOVT Victoria, B.C. V8W 9M2

Note: Refunds will not be issued for licences already 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 Government Agent office or angling licence vendor (see listings on our web site*) and request a duplicate licence.

➢ You will be asked to complete a Statement of Loss form certifying: (1) that you are no longer in possession of the original licence, and (2) the number and species of fish retained under the authority of all Conservation Surcharge Stamps affixed to the lost licence.

➢ Pay the fee for a duplicate licence - $10.60 for each item lost: basic annual licence, Classified Waters Licence, or Conservation Surcharge Stamp (for steelhead or non-tidal salmon); $1.06 for a BC Senior or BC Disabled basic annual licence).

➢ Note: Duplicate licences are NOT AVAILABLE for One Day 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 Angling Licences are available from nearly 1,300 licence vendors and 58 Government Agent offices throughout the province.

➢ Many vendors are retail outlets that also provide a wide range of angling advice, gear and services.

➢ A complete list of Government Agents and Licence Vendors, including several outside the province, is available on our web site*

➢ Licences are also available by mail from any one of the Government Agent offices. For more information and an application form, please contact one of these offices directly.

✚ See definition of “Resident”, page 8.

*Ministry’s web site: go to: www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish then select:

 Licensing Requirements

Licence Vendor Search (includes Government Agents),
Lost Licences, or
BC Disabled Fee Reduction

Page 6
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 after catching and keeping a steelhead stamp. 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.

Note: The ANNUAL province-wide quota for hatchery steelhead is 10. All 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 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.

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

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 (whether GUIDED or NON-GUIDED) may only purchase one Classified Waters Licence for the Dean River.

Note: NON-GUIDED Non-Resident Aliens wishing to fish the Class I - Main Section of the Dean River should refer to pages 59 and 63 for details.
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.
brassless 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, sinkers, or attracting devices 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.
kokane … 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 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).
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set Line Hook (shown 1/2 size)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Diagram of set line hook" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **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 accidently 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.

**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 (Region 2 only), or
  - (b) when set lining in lakes of Region 6 or in lakes of Zone A of Region 7.

- **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.

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 of that size 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 Regionals 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).

White Sturgeon (new—see page 39 for exceptions)
Columbia Mottled Sculpin (new)
Cultus Pygmy Sculpin (new)
Paxton Stickleback (new)
Vananda Stickleback (new)
Morrison Creek Lamprey (new)
Charlotte Unarmoured Stickleback
Enos Stickleback
Green Sturgeon
Nooksack Dace
Vancouver Lamprey
Shorthead Sculpin
Salish Sucker
Umatilla Dace
Speckled Dace

For more information on protected species, please visit Environment Canada’s web site at 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 also be viewed at www.pcr.gc.ca by selecting a park and clicking on “Activities,” then “Fishing,” or by contacting Parks Canada at 1-888-773-8888.

For the 2007-08 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.

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” in the Centre Colour Section.**
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. It pays to become familiar with the fish and wildlife regulations and to abide by them.

**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.

**REPORT ALL POACHERS AND POLLUTERS**

The Conservation Officer Service, Ministry of Environment, has established a partnership with the Provincial Emergency Program Call Centre to operate a toll-free hotline that allows you to report known suspected poachers and polluters.

The RAPP program is simple, safe and effective. It is based on the principle that someone other than the criminal has information that can solve the crime.

**What you can do:**

1. **Familiarize** yourself with current regulations.
2. **Record relevant details** of suspicious activities, such as: time, date, location, descriptions of violators and/or vehicles. Photographs are useful.
3. **Report** any fish, wildlife or environmental offences as soon as possible to the Provincial Emergency Program Call Centre.

Report all Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) operates in cooperation with the B.C. Wildlife Federation. The B.C.W.F. pays rewards up to $2000 for information leading to the conviction of persons who have violated laws related to the protection of fish, wildlife, or the environment, or damaged the property of companies or individuals who provide access to hunters and anglers.
B.C.

’s lakes and streams are home to over 80 species of freshwater or sea-run native fish, many of which support an impressive array of recreation angling opportunities for which the province is world-renowned. Our freshwaters are also becoming home to a growing number of non-native (alien) fish species. While these species may have been established in some regions for decades, we are now seeing an unprecedented rate of spread of some sport fish species into regions where they were previously not found. In particular, southern and interior regions of B.C. have reported new occurrences of yellow perch, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, black crappie, pumpkinseed sunfish and northern pike. While bass were introduced into a few lakes by provincial authorities early in the 20th century, the recently reported occurrences are almost certainly due to deliberate and illegal activities of individuals intent on creating new fisheries. British Columbians place a high value on native species and the recreational opportunities they support. Illegal introductions pose a new threat to B.C.’s native fisheries especially in waterways with connections to other systems that allow fish to expand their presence. Species such as yellow perch are highly prolific and can quickly outnumber their native counterparts, competing for food and resources. Bass and pike are aggressive predators known to feed on small fish including young trout, salmon and sturgeon.

While non-native species may support fisheries in other locales, an uncontrolled expansion in B.C. will be at the expense of our high-value native fisheries.

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You Can Help!
Protecting our native aquatic systems and the fisheries they support is a high priority and a responsibility that we all share. Report any suspicious activity related to the illegal transfer of live fish to the Conservation Officer Service (1-877-952-7277). It is ILLEGAL to release alien species or any other live fish into B.C.’s lakes or streams, an offence which holds a penalty of up to $100,000 for first time offenders, and/or a prison term of up to 12 months for a second offence. In addition, a REWARD of up to $20,000 is available to anyone providing information leading to the successful prosecution of individuals responsible for illegal activities under the provincial Wildlife Act, or the illegal transfer of alien fish species into B.C. waters. This reward is ongoing and is supplied by the B.C. Wildlife Federation, in co-operation with the Ministry of Environment.

Ministry Response
The Ministry of Environment is developing policy to address the issue of illegally introduced sport fish. Actions will focus on preventing further illegal activities and minimizing impacts where illegally introduced sport fish species already occur. Where possible, these species will be removed from waterbodies. Where new introductions are reported, strict measures to prevent expansion will be undertaken including possible fishing closures. The Ministry recognizes that some historically-established fisheries for non-native species support popular recreational opportunities. In such instances, a risk assessment will weigh the conservation risks and recreational benefits.

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

ILLEGALLY INTRODUCED ALIEN SPORT FISH

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The impact may be irreversible in many cases, and there is no guarantee that a viable fishery would be created; we may simply lose an existing native fishery and be left with a stunted population of an alien species.

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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.

**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.
When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plant parts, or other aquatic organisms before transporting equipment.
- Drain water from equipment before transporting (motors, bilges, and transom wells).
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, anchors, fishing gear, boots, waders, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish, or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.
- Do not use parts of fish caught in one water body as bait elsewhere.

In addition:

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-RAPP (7277).

Note: 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.

For visitors to B.C. and residents returning from outside of B.C. – Boating and fishing gear exposed to waters outside of B.C. may transport alien diseases, parasites, or molluscs from distant watersheds into the province. If there is a possibility that your gear has been exposed to infested waters, please take additional care to thoroughly cleanse and sterilize it as follows:

- Chlorine (regular household) bleach is a very effective disinfectant which can kill most organisms if used in the right concentrations. To kill resistant disease spores found in the mud, use either (i) 50% solution (1 part chlorine to 1 part water)—dip equipment into the solution or wipe or spray it on, OR (ii) 10% solution (1 part chlorine to 9 parts water) and soak your equipment for 10 minutes. Then rinse thoroughly to avoid damaging gear. Alternatively, pour nearly boiling water over your gear and allow it to cool. For gear and waders exposed to waters containing New Zealand mud snails, freezing for 8 hours or a 24-hour soak in 1% salt water solution is also effective.

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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.

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.