

WELCOME TO THE ONLINE FRESHWATER FISHING REGULATIONS SYNOPSIS FOR THE 2010-2011 FISHING SEASON

In this printer-friendly version we have re-organized the synopsis by:

- Consolidating the **Provincial Regulations**, plus the **Regional Regulations** for each of the nine regions
- Creating separate sections for
 - » **Other Important Information**
 - » **The Feature Articles**
 - » **The Family Fishing Waters** suggested for each region, and
- Collecting all the synopsis photos into a new **Photo Gallery**.

If you are interested in the advertisements that supported the published paper version of the synopsis, please refer to the original synopsis in pdf format at [\[url\]](#)

NOTE: There are only a few regulation changes for the 2010-2011 fishing season. Please check the separate "**In-Season Regulations Changes**" site [\[url\]](#), organized by region, for changes, updates, and reminders before going fishing.

Some Reminders for the 2010-2011 Fishing Season

Region 2: All waters in the **Squamish River Watershed**, including **Cheakamus River** and other tributaries, are closed to the retention of all steelhead, including hatchery steelhead. This is to facilitate the restoration of populations affected by the 2005 rail spill.

Region 4: The ministry's new **zero-tolerance policy on the illegal spread of fish** has been implemented in this region on a pilot basis. Please refer to the article on **Illegal Fish Introductions** [\[url\]](#). The region is now **CLOSED** to bass, yellow perch, walleye and pike fishing, **EXCEPT** as noted in the regional tables, where new quotas are listed for some existing fisheries.

- The **Upper West Arm of Kootenay Lake** is only open to kokanee harvest May 1 - 31.

Region 5: Due to the presence of illegally introduced bass in the lakes of the **Beaver Creek watershed**, all those lakes are closed to bass fishing.

Region 8: **Okanagan Lake** may again be opened to kokanee fishing on a trial basis this summer. Please monitor the **In-Season Regulations Changes** [\[url\]](#) for details.

2010 Survey of Recreational Fishing in Canada

Every five years British Columbia participates in a national survey of sport fishing, which summarizes angling activity within British Columbia and across Canada. This survey is the only consistent source of data on topics such as expenditures, angler preferences and attitudes on a variety of issues that affect fishing.

This survey will be mailed out early in 2011 to a sample of randomly selected resident and non-resident anglers who purchased fishing licences in 2010. If you receive a survey, please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it as soon as possible. We value your contribution to the improvement of sport fishing opportunities in British Columbia.

FRESHWATER FISHING REGULATIONS SYNOPSIS 2009-2011

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REGIONAL REGULATIONS

Each of the following Regional sections contains regional contact information, region-specific regulations, Management Unit boundary maps, and tables detailing water-specific regulations.

REGION 1	VANCOUVER ISLAND
REGION 2	LOWER MAINLAND
REGION 3	THOMPSON-NICOLA
REGION 4	KOOTENAY
REGION 5	CARIBOO
REGION 6	SKEENA
REGION 7A	OMINECA
REGION 7B	PEACE
REGION 8	OKANAGAN

To check for recent regulation changes, go to www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations/ and click on "In-Season Regulation Changes."

WE WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS.

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

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Angling Ethics
Angling Safety in Bear Country
Boating Information
Fluctuating Lake and Reservoir Levels
Does my boat need to be registered?
Eurasian Watermilfoil Alert
Boating Etiquette and Safety
Boaters' Proof of Competency
Dean River Draw (Region 5)
Family Fishing Weekend
Fish Consumption Advisories
Fish Identification Photos
Fish Tagging in B.C.
Fisheries Web Links
Free "Catch Fishing" Booklet
Message from the Director
West Nile Virus Information

FEATURE ARTICLES

Bull Trout in the Peace Region
Fishing in the City
New Zero-Tolerance Approach to
Illegal Fish Introductions
Okanagan Lake Kokanee
Regulations Simplification
Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!
Westslope Cutthroat
White Sturgeon Recovery
Feature Articles from Past Editions

SUGGESTED FAMILY FISHING WATERS

PHOTO GALLERY

FRONT COVER: Cameron Schmidt fishing
an isolated pool on Williston Lake.
Mark Gass

REMEMBER

When fishing in B.C., you must follow:

1. Provincial Regulations
2. Regional Regulations
3. Water-Specific Regulations, if applicable
4. Recent regulation changes, if applicable

HOW TO USE THIS SYNOPSIS

Where to find the regulations which apply to you

1 PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS (and Licensing Requirements)

Find these general regulations in this section, labelled Provincial Regulations, pages 1-13.

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	.....	page Region 1-2
Region 2	Lower Mainland	.....	page Region 2-2
Region 3	Thompson-Nicola	.....	page Region 3-2
Region 4	Kootenay	.....	page Region 4-2
Region 5	Cariboo	.....	page Region 5-2
Region 6	Skeena	.....	page Region 6-2
Region 7A	Omineca	.....	page Region 7A-2
Region 7B	Peace	.....	page Region 7B-2
Region 8	Okanagan	.....	page Region 8-2

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.

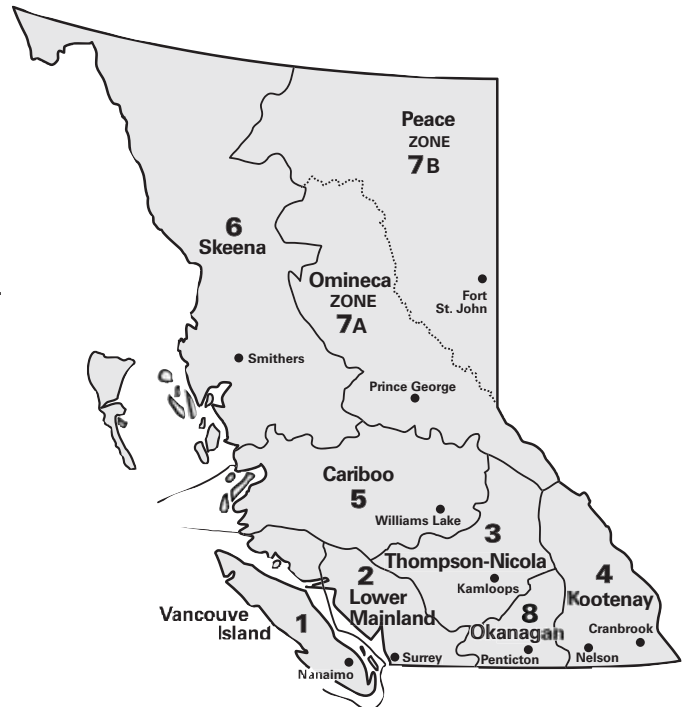
B. IF YOUR LAKE OR STREAM DOES APPEAR IN THE REGIONAL WATER-SPECIFIC TABLES, YOU MUST FOLLOW:

- The Provincial Regulations,
- The Regional Regulations for the Region, AND/OR
- Any EXCEPTIONS or ADDITIONS listed for your water.

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

4 IN-SEASON REGULATION CHANGES may have been adopted after this Synopsis was published. These will be:

- posted on the Ministry of Environment/Fish and Wildlife Branch website, www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations
- 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.



**BRITISH COLUMBIA'S
FISH AND WILDLIFE REGIONS**

RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF REGULATION CHANGES VIA RSS

We have adopted a new system for notifying anglers of in-season or recent regulation changes. RSS is an internet-based technology that allows users to sign up for instant web updates. It is a convenient way to be notified of changes to regulations. To sign up for this new service, visit the Fish and Wildlife Branch website, click on the RSS icon, and subscribe to the In-Season Regulation Changes feed.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

please contact any:

- Fish and Wildlife Regional Office
- Conservation Officer Service Office
- Provincial Hatchery
- Fisheries and Oceans Office

listed on the first page of each Regional chapter

SALMON MANAGEMENT IN FRESH WATER

SALMON REGULATIONS IN FRESH WATER

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/fm-gp/rec/index-eng.htm).

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

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 in this section for details).

SALMON SPORT HEAD RECOVERY PROGRAM

Is your chinook or coho salmon missing its adipose fin?

Heads from chinook and coho salmon with a missing adipose fin should be submitted to the nearest Salmon 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 Salmon Sport Head Recovery Program, you will be entered into an annual prize draw. You will also receive information on the origin of your fish.

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

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

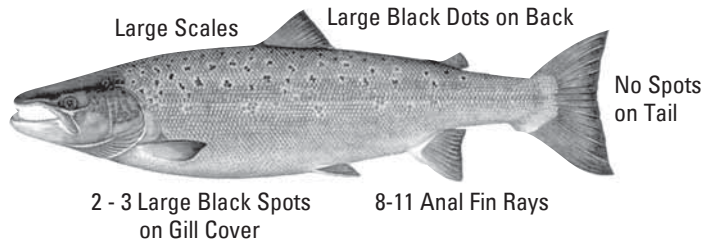


EXOTIC ALERT: ATLANTIC SALMON IN B.C.

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. **Note: the daily catch quota for Atlantic salmon is unlimited in fresh (non-tidal) water.**

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

- Visit DFO's website, www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/index-eng.htm, for updated salmon regulations.
- DFO's website also has information on salmon identification, packaging salmon for transport, and obtaining a Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence online.

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

**REPORT SALMON VIOLATIONS...
PLEASE CALL 1-800-465-4336
IN GREATER VANCOUVER 604-607-4186**

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:

MANAGEMENT UNIT <small>(NOT ALL SHOWN - SEE PAGE 5)</small>		EXCEPTIONS TO THE REGIONAL REGULATIONS
ADAM RIVER (EXCEPT Eve River) *	1-10	Trout/char release above Eve River; artificial fly only above Eve River, to Highway 19 bridge
AHNUHATI RIVER *	cw 1-15	Class II water Apr 1-Oct 31; Steelhead Stamp mandatory Apr 1-June 30
ALICE LAKE	1-13	No trout over 50 cm; bait ban, single barbless hook
AMOR LAKE	1-10	Trout/char daily quota = 2
1.	2.	3.

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; see article on stocking (URL).**

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

2. Management Unit (M.U.)

This column lists one or more Management Units only as a reference to help you locate your target lake or stream 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 & 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", page 11 in this section).

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 the **Transport Canada Marine**. They are published here as a courtesy to anglers but, due to space limitations, may not be complete. For more information write to the:

Transport Canada Marine
Office of Boating Safety,
620-800 Burrard St., Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2J8

or call 604-666-2681.

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

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

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.

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.

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. For the tidal regulations go to: www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/index-eng.htm

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.

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

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

Licence Type	Resident ⁺ (B.C. Residents)	Non-Resident ⁺ (Residents of Another Province or Territory)	Non-Resident Alien ⁺ (Residents of Another Country)
Basic Licences			
Annual Angling Licence	\$ 36	\$ 55	\$ 80
One Day Angling Licence *	\$ 10	\$ 20	\$ 20
Eight Day Angling Licence *	\$ 20	\$ 36	\$ 50
Annual Licence for Disabled	\$ 1	★	★
Annual Licence for Age 65 Plus	\$ 5	★	★
Conservation Surcharges (see page 7 in this section)			
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
White Sturgeon Conservation Licences (see page 7 in this section)			
Annual	\$25	\$60	\$60
One Day	\$8	\$15	\$15
Eight Day	\$15	\$30	\$30
Classified Waters Licences (see page 8 in this section)			
Classified Waters Licence (annual)	\$ 15	◆	◆
Class I Waters Licence	◆	\$ 40/day	\$ 40/day
Class II Waters Licence	◆	\$ 20/day	\$ 20/day

- * 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 13 in this section. 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 Service BC Centre. ☼
- ★ Fee reduction not available. Regular licence required.
- ◆ Not available. See "Classified Waters Licences", page 8 in this section.

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

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 (fresh) waters, including salmon - see definition of "fish" on page 13 in this section.
- ▶ You must purchase appropriate supplementary licences and stamps.
- ▶ **You must carry your licence while 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 2010-11 season (see page 10 in this section).

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 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:

- ▶ 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 in this section) must be transferred to the new copy.
- ▶ In exceptional cases, "old-style" paper licences may be issued by guides and some licence vendors. If you lose one of these "old style" paper licences, visit any Service BC Centre or licence vendor for further instructions.

+ See definition of "Resident", page 13 in this section.

☼ For a listing of Service BC Centres and licence vendors, go to <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/lvs>

PURCHASING LICENCES

NEW! E-LICENSING

Non-Tidal Angling Licences are now available on-line. The new 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 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://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/lvs>.

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 (i.e., to March 31). **(Anglers who purchase more than one short-term "old style" paper 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.)** 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 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. **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
– 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 immediately record your retention of adult chinook salmon on your basic angling licence.**

Note: "Adult Chinook" are defined in the *Freshwater Salmon Supplement* published by DFO (see page 4 in this section).

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 Lake¹. **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 Lake¹. **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.

¹ 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.

WHITE STURGEON

You must purchase a **White Sturgeon Conservation Licence**, in addition to your basic licence, **if you intend to fish for white sturgeon** on the lower and middle portions² of the Fraser River watershed (which includes the Fraser's tributaries). This is a catch-and-release only fishery - all sturgeon must be released. Please note that this is the only white sturgeon fishery in the province's non-tidal waters.

² From the CPR Bridge at Mission to and including Williams Lake River in the Cariboo

CLASSIFIED WATERS LICENCES

The classified waters of B.C. are highly productive trout streams. These streams are classified as either **Class I** or **Class II** and are listed in the Water-Specific Tables for each Region. The Classified Waters Licensing System was created to 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 may be purchased on-line or from a licence vendor. It is an annual licence. This means you can fish on any Class I or Class II water in the province during the year the licence is valid.

If you are a NON-GUIDED "Non-Resident" or NON-GUIDED "Non-Resident Alien":

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

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 on-line or from a licence vendor. It is sold on a per diem basis and is date and water-specific. Although anglers

may purchase as many Classified Waters Licences as they wish, **each licence may not exceed 8 consecutive days.**

EXCEPTION: Non-Resident Aliens (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 Region 5-2 and 5-4 ([URL](#)) for details.

ANGLING GUIDES IN B.C.

WHO NEEDS AN ANGLING GUIDE LICENCE?

In B.C. a person commits an offence if he/she 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 he/she 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.

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 PASB web site www.env.gov.bc.ca/pasb/applications/process/angling_guide.html.

IS YOUR ANGLING GUIDE LICENCED?

Anglers who use the services of an unlicensed 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 his/her current Angling Guide Licence (or Assistant Angling Guide Licence); OR
- Confirming his/her status by calling the Permit and Authorization Service Bureau (PASB) in Victoria at 250-387-2928 (toll free in B.C.: 1-866-433-7272).

FINDING A LICENCED ANGLING GUIDE

For additional information and areas of operation, you may refer to the list of licensed Angling Guides on the Ministry of Environment's web site: www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/guide/. This list includes only licensed guides who have authorized the Fish and Wildlife Branch to publish their business information on the Ministry of Environment's website.

PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS

ALLOWABLE FISHING METHODS

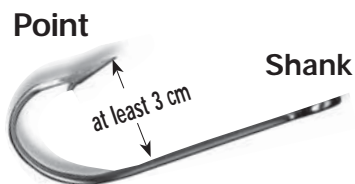
Although angling is the most popular form of sport fishing in British Columbia, there are other methods that you can use to take fish. Your basic fishing licence entitles you to: **angle ... fish (with or without a rod) with one fishing line to which only one hook, one artificial lure OR one artificial fly is attached.**

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

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

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

Set Line Hook (shown 1/2 size)



spear fish ... means to fish with a spear or an arrow that is propelled by a spring, an elastic band, compressed air, a bow or by hand. 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 13 in this section), pacific salmon or protected species (page 10 in this section) is permitted anywhere in B.C. No spear fishing of any kind is permitted 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 river, stream, creek or slough in B.C. (Note: the use of barbed hooks or hooks with more than one point is permitted in lakes, 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** (see definition, page 13 in this section). Any fish willfully or accidentally snagged must be released immediately.
- ▶ Use **more than one fishing line, EXCEPT** a person who is **alone in a boat on a lake** may angle with two lines.
- ▶ **Place any fishing gear in any water during a closed time** (a "no fishing" period).
- ▶ **Angle with a fishing line to which more than 1 kg of weight is attached** (this does not apply to downrigger weights).
- ▶ **Waste the fish you catch.** If your fish is not suitable for eating or if possession is illegal because of quotas, size limits or closed seasons, return the fish quickly and gently to the water.
- ▶ **Release fish in a harmful manner** if you are not going to keep your catch. Follow the catch & release tips outlined on page 11 in this section.
- ▶ **Buy, sell or barter** or attempt to buy, sell or barter any fish caught by sport fishing.
- ▶ **Damage or interfere with a trap set for furbearers.** If you believe the trap has been set illegally, report it to a Conservation Officer.
- ▶ **Have any live fish in your possession in the wild**, or move any live fish or live aquatic invertebrates around the province or transplant them into any waters of B.C. Do not keep angled fish alive in a "livewell" or other device, or on stringers, and never use live fish as bait or release your aquarium fish to the wild. "High-grading" is illegal.
- ▶ **Enter or cross cultivated land, posted land, private land or Indian Reserve land without proper permission.**
- ▶ ...Please refer to additional restrictions and requirements on pages 10-12 in this section.



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. **When fishing at a lake, you may not possess or use for bait any freshwater invertebrates; this includes the aquatic stage of any insect, such as dragonfly nymphs or caddisfly larvae.**

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.



PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS

QUOTAS

For all game fish (see page 13 in this section), there is a quota or limit on the number of fish you may keep. For other species of fish (which are not protected), there is no quota (any number may be kept).

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 13 in this section).

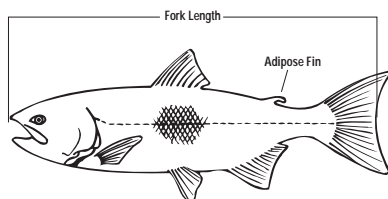
Monthly catch quota ... the maximum number of fish that you are allowed to keep in one calendar month.

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

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

SIZE LIMITS

Size limits protect fish of certain sizes.



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

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

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, catch and retain, or have in your possession 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.

Cultus Pygmy Sculpin	Shorthead Sculpin
Giant Stickleback	Nooksack Dace
Umatilla Dace	Speckled Dace
Salish Sucker	Green Sturgeon
Vananda Creek Stickleback	
Vancouver Lamprey	
Paxton Lake Stickleback	
Enos Lake Stickleback	
Morrison Creek Lamprey	
Charlotte Unarmoured Stickleback	
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.

MOST WATERS ARE OPEN

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

"NO FISHING" AREAS

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 website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/eco_reserve/ecoresrv/ecoresrv.html.

BC PARKS

Individuals visiting BC Parks, either a 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 BC Parks except where specifically authorized by a sign or Park Officer. All motor vehicles on BC 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.pc.gc.ca by selecting a park and clicking on "Activities," then "Fishing," or by contacting Parks Canada at 1-888-773-8888.

For the 2010-2011 fishing season only, the provincial freshwater regulations in this Synopsis will be in effect for the non-tidal waters in **Pacific Rim National Park Reserve** and a provincial angling licence will be required.

All fresh waters within **Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve** and **Gulf Islands National Park Reserve** are closed to fishing throughout the 2010-2011 season.

PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS

HANDLING YOUR CATCH

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” ([URL](#)).

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 “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 anglers to catch and release, unharmed, a part of their allowable catch. 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 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.

- **Roll fish onto their backs (while still in the water).** This may reduce the amount they struggle, therefore minimizing stress, etc.
- **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).** 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.

ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

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.

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.

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.



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.

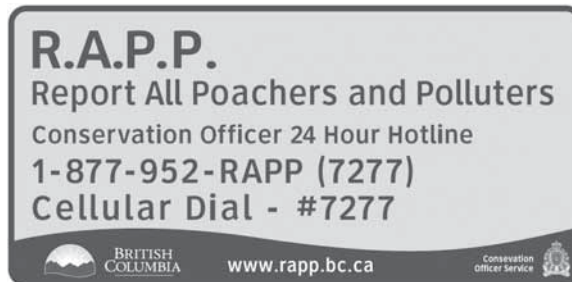
Available 24/7

Use This Number to Report:

Violations of Fisheries, Wildlife or Environmental Protection Laws (except salmon related violations which should be reported to Fisheries and Oceans Canada at 1-800-465-4336).

Wildlife/Human Conflicts where public safety is at risk.

Look for this sign along highways and forestry roads in British Columbia



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.

DEFINITIONS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1 cm

adipose fin ... see diagram on page 10 in this section.

adult chinook salmon ... defined in the [Freshwater Salmon Supplement](#) (see page 4 in this section).

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 in this section.

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 in this section.

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 in this section.

Classified Waters ... see page 8 in this section.

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 in this section.

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 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 illustration on p. 10 in this section). Therefore, these hatchery trout must have a healed scar in place of the missing fin.

ice fishing ... see page 9 in this section.

kokanee ... a land-locked sockeye salmon.

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

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.

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 ... see page 9 in this section.

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.

spear fishing ... see page 9 in this section.

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 ... 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 in this section), or will have an unhealed scar in place of that fin, if missing.

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

2 cm

3 cm

4 cm

5 cm

6 cm

7 cm

8 cm

9 cm

10 cm

11 cm

12 cm

13 cm

14 cm

15 cm

16 cm

17 cm

18 cm

19 cm

20 cm

21 cm

22 cm

23 cm

24 cm

25 cm

Freshwater game fish are defined as follows:

Trout

- rainbow trout
- steelhead
- cutthroat trout
- brown trout

Char

- Dolly Varden
- bull trout*
- lake trout
- brook trout
- lake whitefish
- mountain whitefish

Bass

- largemouth bass
- smallmouth bass

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

Other

- kokanee
- Arctic grayling
- burbot (ling)
- white sturgeon
- black crappie
- northern pike
- yellow perch
- walleye
- goldeye
- inconnu
- crayfish