

# 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 <sup>+</sup> (B.C. Residents)	Non-Resident <sup>+</sup> (Residents of Another Province or Territory)	Non-Resident Alien <sup>+</sup> (Residents of Another Country)
<b>Basic Licences</b>			
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	★	★
<b>Conservation Surcharges (see page 7 in this section)</b>			
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
<b>White Sturgeon Conservation Licences (see page 7 in this section)</b>			
Annual	\$25	\$60	\$60
One Day	\$8	\$15	\$15
Eight Day	\$15	\$30	\$30
<b>Classified Waters Licences (see page 8 in this section)</b>			
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<sup>☼</sup> 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](http://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 Lake<sup>1</sup>. **You must immediately record your retention on your basic angling licence.**

No Conservation Surcharge Stamp is required if you release all Shuswap Lake char over 60 cm.

## SHUSWAP LAKE RAINBOW TROUT

Your basic licence must be validated with a Conservation Surcharge Stamp to **keep rainbow trout over 50 cm** from Shuswap Lake<sup>1</sup>. **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.

<sup>1</sup> 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 portions<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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](http://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/](http://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.