

# 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.