

PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS

ALLOWABLE FISHING METHODS

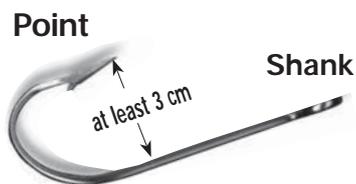
Although angling is the most popular form of sport fishing in British Columbia, there are other methods that you can use to take fish. Your basic fishing licence entitles you to: **angle ... fish (with or without a rod) with one fishing line to which only one hook, one artificial lure OR one artificial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

