HOW TO USE THIS SYNOPSIS
Where to find the regulations which apply to you

Remember
When fishing in B.C., you must follow:
1. Provincial Regulations
2. Regional Regulations
3. Water-Specific Regulations
4. In Season Regulation Changes

1 PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS (and Licensing Requirements)
Find these general regulations on pages 6-11.

2 REGIONAL REGULATIONS
Find these regulations at the beginning of each Regional chapter.
(The map on this page shows B.C.’s nine regions.)
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Region 3 Thompson-Nicola ............ 29
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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
   • The Water Specific Regulations.

REGULATIONS ON TRIBUTARIES. If an asterisk (∗) is listed next to a lake or stream listed in the Water Specific Tables, then those regulations also apply to any tributary streams that flow into that lake or stream (see page 5).

4 IN-SEASON REGULATION CHANGES may have been adopted after this Synopsis was published. These will be:
   • posted on the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations/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.

RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF REGULATION CHANGES VIA RSS
Anglers can be notified of in-season or recent regulation changes through 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 service, visit the Fish and Wildlife Branch website, click on the RSS icon, and subscribe to the In-Season Regulation Changes feed.

Fish and Wildlife Branch
Angling, Hunting, and Trapping Public Engagement
Anglers, hunters, and trappers can review and provide feedback on proposed changes to fish or wildlife related policies or regulations through the provincial Angling, Hunting and Trapping Public Engagement Website, online at http://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/pub/ahte.

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.

LOOKING FOR A DEFINITION?
See page 96
Welcome to the 2015-2017 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis.

It is no wonder that British Columbia is world renowned for the quality and diversity of our fishing opportunities. B.C. contains over 20,000 lakes and 750,000 kilometres of streams. Whether you are a veteran angler with your own secret fishing spot or a youth casting a lure for the first time, there will be an experience right for you.

To encourage mentoring of young or disabled anglers, the Province has passed amendments to the Age Restricted Water regulations making certain lakes available to anglers of all ages, provided they accompany and attend a youth under the age of 16 or a disabled angler who is actively angling. Many of the waters that are subject to this new regulation – now referred to as “youth/disabled accompanied waters” – are stocked with catchable rainbow trout, providing an above-average angling opportunity for newcomers. To find a lake designated as Youth/Disabled Accompanied visit http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2015/02/regulation-changes-encourage-family-fishing.html or read more on page 5 of this synopsis.

Much of B.C.’s fish stocking is undertaken in partnership with the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC. The Society is dedicated to the enhancement and conservation of B.C.’s freshwater fish resources for the benefit of the public.

Each year, the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC stocks about 800 lakes and streams with over eight million trout, char, and kokanee produced from the society’s hatcheries, increasing our contribution by $3 million, to a total of $10 million for 2015/16. This will considerably increase the good work the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. does on behalf of B.C.’s anglers, at no additional cost to anglers.

This year the cover photo depicts a couple of young anglers enjoying success on Bowron Lake, and was submitted by Fernando Barbosa.

I wish anglers of all ages a safe and enjoyable two years building wonderful fishing memories.

Sincerely,

Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

MINISTER’S MESSAGE

MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2015-2017

PROVINCIAL
• Age Restricted Waters have been changed to Youth/Disabled Accompanied Waters. See page 5 for details

REGION 1
• Artificial fly only on Gordon River upstream of Bugaboo Creek when open
• No retention of wild rainbow trout over 50cm and gear restrictions on Magie, Great Central and Sprout Lake
• New No Fishing zones on the Kokish River
• Trout catch and release only on Martha Lake
• Fly fishing only and No Fishing sections on the Toquart River
• Removal of Age Restricted Waters classification for Bings, Rogers and Willows Creek and Chase and Millstone Rivers

REGION 2
• Reduced Sumas River hatchery steelhead quota
• Prohibition on retention of bull trout from Alouette Lake
• No Fishing section on the Coquihalla River
• Chehalis, Chilliwack, Cultus, Harrison, Lillooet and Pitt Lake no retention of wild trout/char over 50cm
• Allowance of the use of dead fin fish as bait on portions of the Pitt and Harrison Rivers
• Night Fishing closure on non-tidal portions of the Fraser, Pitt, and Harrison Rivers
• Removal of Age Restricted Waters classification for One-Mile Lake
• Seasonal No Fishing regulation on Silver Lake
• Trout/char quota changes on Ross Lake
• Quota revisions on Wahleach (Jones) Lake

REGION 3
• Seasonal addition of Rose, Tulip, and Hamilton Lakes to Youth/Disabled accompanied waters
• Regulation simplification for the Thompson River downstream of Kamloops Lake

REGION 4
• Increased brook trout quota for Box and North Star Lakes
• Increased walleye daily quota on portions of the Columbia and Kootenay Rivers
• Regulation simplification for Twin, Alces (Moose) and Botts Lakes
• Revisions to kokanee, trout, and char quotas on Kootenay Lake
• New Bull trout minimum length and boundary for the Upper Arrow drawdown area
• Removal of whitefish season on the Illecillewaet River
• Increased angling opportunities for Whiteswan Lake and it’s outlet stream
• Removal of Kootenay Lake Upper West Arm bait ban
• Trout/char quota reduction on Upper Halgrave Lake

REGION 5
• Trout quota size restriction on Kestrel Lake
• Trophy lake regulations implemented for Sardine Lake
• Trout/char quota changes on Quesnel Lake

REGION 6
• Cutthroat trout release for Deena Creek
• Extension of seasonal bait ban on the Kitsumkalum River

REGION 7A - No Changes

REGION 7B
• Walleye retention on Swan Lake permitted

REGION 8
• Quota, bait ban, and seasonal No Fishing revisions to the Kettle, Granby, and West Kettle Rivers
• Lost Lake regulation simplification
• No Fishing on lower segments of Okanagan Lake tributaries
• Osoyoos Lake year round gear restrictions and seasonal size limits on kokanee retention
• Seasonal inclusion of a portion of Shannon Lake (the netted off area at the south end of the lake) and Hall Road (Mission) Pond in Youth/Disabled Accompanied Waters
• Regulation simplification on the Shuswap River
• Seasonal kokanee quota and revised No Fishing for Kokanee periods on Wood Lake
• Okanagan River - Non retention of trout
**FRESHWATER FISHING REGULATIONS SYNOPSIS**

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**WE WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS.**

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

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

The sale of advertising pays for a significant portion of this publication. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations neither endorses products or services offered in the advertising nor accepts any liability arising from the use of such products or services.

Front Cover: Carter & Rowan: Fishing on the Bowron

Fernando Barbosa,
**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 online 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).

**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 are improving data quality for the management of salmon populations and sustainable fisheries. You will also receive information on the origin of your fish.

**Exotic Alert: Atlantic Salmon in B.C.**

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations 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 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:

1. Waters with Special Restrictions
   This column lists waters with restrictions not covered by the Regional Regulations.
   
   An asterisk (*) means the regulation applies to tributaries as well.
   
   A fish symbol (→) means the lake is stocked. Not all stocked lakes are listed in the Tables.
   
   A (cw) symbol means that this is a Classified Water; see page 8.

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).

   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.

“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).

“Bait Ban”... the use of natural bait (see definition of bait on page 9) is prohibited in waters with a bait ban. Bait may be banned year round or seasonally. During the period when bait is banned it is banned for all angling and for all species.

“Single Hook”... it is prohibited to angle with a hook with more than one point on waters that are subject to a single hook restriction. Single hook restrictions may be in place year round or seasonally. Where single hook restrictions are in place on a water body it applies to angling for all species. Often single hook restrictions are combined with barbless hook restrictions and termed “single barbless hook”.

“Barbless Hook”... it is prohibited to use a hook with a barb on waters subject to barbless hook restriction. Barbless hook restrictions may be in place year round or seasonally. Where barbless hook restrictions are in place on a water body it applies to angling for all species. Often barbless hook restrictions are combined with single hook restrictions and termed “single barbless hook”.

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.

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 and electric) 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 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:
Transport Canada Marine
Office of Boating Safety,
700-800 Burrard St., Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2J8
or call 604-666-2681.

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.
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: Taxes not included in fees listed below.

### Licence Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licence Type</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>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Basic Licences</strong></td>
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<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>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight Day Angling Licence</td>
<td>$ 20</td>
<td>$ 36</td>
<td>$ 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Licence for Disabled</td>
<td>$ 1</td>
<td>$ 55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Licence for Age 65 Plus</td>
<td>$ 5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conservation Surcharge Stamps</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Steelhead</td>
<td>$ 25</td>
<td>$ 60</td>
<td>$ 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Tidal Salmon</td>
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<td>$ 30</td>
<td>$ 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kootenay Lake Rainbow Trout</td>
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<td>$ 20</td>
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<td>Shuswap Lake Rainbow Trout</td>
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<td>One Day</td>
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<td><strong>Classified Waters Licences</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Classified Waters Licence (annual)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Class II Waters Licence</td>
<td>$ 20/day</td>
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<td>$ 20/day</td>
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</table>
* 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 96. Members of the Canadian 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.

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

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**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 96.
- 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 (see page 10).

**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) must be transferred to the new copy.

---

+ See definition of “Resident”, page 96.
- For a listing of Service BC Centres and licence vendors, go to http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/lvs
Non-Tidal Angling Licences are available on-line. The 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 non-tidal 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.

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 (April 1 to March 31).

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.

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 at www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/recfish.

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. 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. 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 portions of the Fraser River watershed (which includes the Fraser’s tributaries). This is a catch-and-release only fishery - all sturgeon must be released. See Guidelines for Angling White Sturgeon in BC at www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/docs/ws_guidelines.pdf. 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.
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 is valid for the licensing year. This means you can fish on any Class I or Class II water in the province during the year.

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 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 is sold on a per diem basis and is date and water-specific. If guided confirm with your angling guide before purchasing your licence. 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 48 and 50 for details.

There are two Premium brands of coolers, Yeti and Engel. Long ice retention, quality throughout, heavy duty lid seals, sit on them, stand on them. They keep items cold in summer and items from freezing in winter. Many different sizes. We are the Canadian Wholesalers for both these top brands. We stock over 2,000 coolers in Edmonton. Orders are shipped throughout Canada the same day are received.

DEALER ENQUIRES WELCOME
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.
ic 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)

Point

Shank

at least 3 cm

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 98), pacific salmon or protected species (page 10) 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 in lakes is permitted, 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, unless the light is submerged and attached to the fishing line within 1 m of the hook.
▶ Place any fishing gear in any water during 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 p. 11.
▶ 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 furbears. 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.

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…means all fish other than crustaceans, echinoderms, molluscs, shellfish and marine mammals. 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 Region 2 only on the Fraser River, Lower Pitt River (CPR bridge upstream to Pitt Lake), Lower Harrison River (Fraser River upstream to Harrison Lake), or
(b) when set lining in lakes of Region 6 or in lakes of Zone A of Region 7.

PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS
PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS

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 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 96).

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

Annual 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).

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, or catch and retain 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.

SHORHEAD SCULPIN

Cultus Lake Sculpin
Enos Lake Stickleback
Misty Lake Stickleback
Nooksack Dace
Paxton Lake Stickleback
Rocky Mountain Sculpin
Shorthead Sculpin
Salish Sucker
Vananda Creek Stickleback
Vancouver Lamprey
Western Brook Lamprey (Morrison Creek population)
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.

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/ecoreserve/ecoresrv/ecoresrv.html.

BC PARKS

Individuals visiting a Provincial 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 Provincial Parks, Conservancies and Recreation Areas except where specifically authorized. All motorized vehicles on park roads must be licensed. The use of aircraft to arrive or depart from some parks is restricted. Activities in parks may be regulated by signs posted on site. More information can be found at BC Parks website http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/.

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.

All fresh waters within Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Gulf Islands National Park Reserve are closed to fishing throughout the 2015-2017 season.

For information about the 2015-2017 season, contact Parks Canada.
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” in the Centre Colour Section.
► The management of salmon fisheries in B.C., in both tidal and freshwater, is the responsibility of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Information about packaging and transporting salmon is available at www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/points/packaging-emballage-eng.html.

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 or possess 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.

RELEASEING FISH
THE GENTLE WAY
There is a growing trend among anglers to release, unharmed, the fish they catch (catch and release). 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 fish immersed in water unless you have chosen to legally harvest the fish. A fish out of water is suffocating. Every second a fish is out of the water decreases it’s chance of survival by 1%. Also, internal injuries and scale loss are much more likely to occur when a fish is out of the water.
• Keep the eyes of a fish covered, if possible, when unhooking it. Fish don’t have eyelids or pupils that constrict; therefore, their eyes cannot adjust to an increase in light intensity. Covering a fish’s eyes in shallow water (without touching the eyes or pushing down on the gills) can reduce the amount they struggle and minimize stress.
• 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). Gloves can remove the protective slime that aids in their survival. Keep your fingers out of the gills, and don’t squeeze the fish or cause scales to be lost or damaged. Leave fish in the water for photos. If you must lift a fish that will be subsequently released, 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. If the fish cannot remain upright on it’s own, hold the fish in the water to recover. If fishing in a river, point the fish upstream; when it begins to struggle and can remain upright let it go.

Catch and release on the St Mary River  Bruce Nielsen
ATTENTION BOATERS

PROTECT BC WATERS FROM INVASIVE SPECIES

CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY YOUR BOAT

Some invasive species to watch for:

- **Rock Snot**
  - Forms a dense floating mat that can clog irrigation ducts and canals, and tangle in boat propellers. It shades out and kills native vegetation. Report aquatic invasive plants by contacting ISCBC.

- **Parrot Feather**
  - Forms a dense floating mat that can clog irrigation ducts and canals, and tangle in boat propellers. It shades out and kills native vegetation. Report aquatic invasive plants by contacting ISCBC.

- **Didymo (Rock Snot)**
  - Can form large mats covering the bottom of rivers or streams, making it difficult for fish to find food.

- **Zebra & Quagga Mussels**

WHO NEEDS AN ANGLING GUIDE LICENCE?

In British Columbia 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.

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 contacting FrontCounter BC (FCBC) at one of the following:
  - By Phone: Toll free at 1-877-855-3222, from outside North America ++1-778-372-0729
  - By Email: FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca
  - Website [www.env.gov.bc.ca/pasb](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/pasb) and clicking on the green button labelled “Angling & Assistant Angling Guide,” where all licenced guides are listed.

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 FCBC website (above).

ATTENTION BOATERS

CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY YOUR BOAT

Check these common hiding spots for invasive species:

- Livewell and Bilge
- Trolling Motor
- Anchor & Chain
- Hull
- Propeller & Lower Unit
- Axle & Rollers

Some invasive species to watch for:

- **Parrot Feather**
- **Didymo (Rock Snot)**
- **Zebra & Quagga Mussels**

ISCBC | 1-888-933-3722 | www.bcinvasives.ca
Definiciones que debes saber

adipose fin ... vea el diagrama en la página 10.
adult chinook salmon ... definido en el Freshwater Salmon Supplement (vea la página 4 en esta síntesis).
anadromous ... nadando por arriba de los riachuelos en el océano para la puesta (por ejemplo, steelhead).
above ... cuando se usa en referencia a un río o el flujo "vertical" de la orilla.
angle ... vea la página 9.
anger ... una persona que anuncia.
annual ... el año de licencia, comenzando el 1 de abril y finalizando el 31 de marzo.
artificial fly ... un anzuelo punzante que está unido con cabello, ropa, telas, hilo y/o cable, y a través de lo cual ningún peso externo o atracción del anzuelo se encuentra unido. Dos o más anzuelos en un carrusel no es permitido. Donde se restringe el uso de anzuelos de volar, flotadores y sumergidores se deben unir a la línea. Donde áreas son restringidas a "pescar con línea" los flotadores y sumergidores no pueden ser unidos a la línea o el río.
bait ... vea la página 9.
barbless hook ... un anzuelo sin barbas en cualquier parte del anzuelo, incluyendo las dos puntas y el asta. El artilugio se puede modificar por completo eliminando el barbacoa, o por el artilugio agrietado el barbacoa a modo de que su punto se halle contra la asta.
below ... cuando se usa en referencia a un lago o al río, se entiende "por debajo de".
Classified Waters ... vea la página 8.
confluence ... un lugar donde dos ríos se unen.
creek ... vea los ríos.
daily quota ... el máximo número de peces de un especie, grupo de especies, o nivel de especie que puede mantener en cualquier calendario.
day ... un día legal de pescar, roja a media noche a media noche del siguiente día.
down-rigging ... vea la página 9.
fish ... significa peces, crustáceos (como camarones) en cualquier etapa de la vida, incluyendo huevos.
fly fishing ... pescar con una línea a la cual solo un artificio artificial es unido (flotadores, sumergidores, o artefactos que no se pueden unir a la línea cuando el pescador está limitado a "pescar con línea").
hatchery trout ... en algunos lagos, los truchos acuicultores podrán ser capturados pero los truchos salvajes deberán ser liberados. En estos lagos, los truchos acuicultores se marcan antes de la puesta por remoción de su adipos fin (vea la sección de color). Por lo tanto, estos truchos acuicultores deben tener una cicatriz en el lugar del fin que falta.
Ice fishing ... vea la página 9.
kokanee ... un salmón de río de mero.</p>

sport fishing ... pescando por recreación y no para el comercio ni el barter. El pescar recreativo incluye el pescar con línea, pescar con carpa, hacer la línea y pescar con carpa de montaña.
steelhead ... un truchón con menos de 50 cm en lagos donde el truchón acuicultor es permitido. Ambos los truchos acuicultores y salvajes steelhead podrán ser capturados en B.C. acuicultores.
streams ... ríos fluyendo (ríos, arroyos, arroyos). Note el riachuelo detrás de una beaver dam que está en un camino es considerado parte del riachuelo.
stream mouth ... el punto a través del cual la superficie de un río y el cuerpo de agua en el cual fluye son iguales, excepto como se indica por señales o marcas, o lo que de otro modo esté definido.
tributaries ... todos los ríos que contribuyen a un río o a una laguna.
trout/char ... todas las regulaciones que aplican a la trucha (como el grupo) también aplican a char a menos que lo especificadamente excluido.
watershed ... todos los ríos y lagos que drenan el suelo hacia un cuerpo de agua dado, incluyendo el cuerpo de agua mismo.
wild trout ... en algunos lagos, los truchos acuicultores podrán ser capturados pero los truchos salvajes deberán ser liberados. En estos lagos, los truchos salvajes no serán marcados como truchos acuicultores y tienen un fin de mero normal.Healed scar en un lugar de la cicatriz, si falta.

En el caso de los truchos que tienen un fin de mero normal.Healed scar en un lugar de la cicatriz, si falta.

... fishing for recreation and not for sale or barter. Sport fishing includes angling, spear fishing, fly lining and crainy fishing.
... 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.
... flowing waters (rivers, sloughs and creeks). Note that standing water behind a beaver dam on a stream is considered part of the stream.
... 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.
... all streams that contribute to a larger stream or to a lake.
... all regulations that apply to trout (as a group) also apply to char unless char are specifically excluded.
... all the streams and lakes that drain the land into a named waterbody, including the named waterbody itself.
... 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), or will have an unhealed scar in place of that fin, if missing.
... the period beginning April 1 and ending March 31 (the licence period).