

## Seasons, Bag Limits, and Size Limits

For all species, the possession limit is the same as the bag limit, regardless of the number of days of fishing. The daily bag limits apply in the aggregate. This means that the number of fish that may be retained in any one day applies regardless of the number of areas fished. Caught and released fish are not considered as part of the bag limit, except for Atlantic Salmon. All season dates are inclusive.

### **BROOK (SPECKLED) TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT**

**Season: Apr 1 to Sep 30**

**Sep 1 to Sep 30**, no Brook Trout may be retained.

**Bag limit: 5 fish**, of any one species or any combination of Brook Trout, Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout species.

#### **EXCEPTIONS:**

**Specific bag limits, size limits, gear restrictions, and seasons are in effect on several waters that are listed in each Recreational Fishing Area. From Sep 1 to Sep 30, no Brook Trout may be retained, and the use of natural bait is prohibited for all Trout species in all waters, including Special Management Areas, exceptions are listed under Recreational Fishing Areas.**

### **LAKE (GREY) TROUT**

**Season: Apr 1 to Sep 30 CATCH AND RELEASE, only.**

Note: found in **Sherbrooke Lake, Lunenburg County** and **Dollar Lake, Halifax County**. Trout found in other lakes are normally Brook (Speckled) Trout.

### **WHITE PERCH, YELLOW PERCH, BROWN BULLHEAD, AND WHITE SUCKER**

Open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: Salmon, Trout, or Smallmouth Bass. Extended seasons specific to Perch are listed in each Recreational Fishing Area.

**Bag Limit: White Perch: 10 fish, Yellow Perch: 25 fish, Brown Bullhead: 25 fish, White Sucker: 25 fish.**

### **CHAIN PICKEREL**

Chain Pickerel must be retained in all areas of Nova Scotia.

### **SMALLMOUTH (BLACK) BASS**

Mandatory retention of Smallmouth Bass in all waters east of the Highway 102 from its junction with Highway 104, to Highway 118 to Highway 107 to Highway 328 (Ross Road) near Upper Lawrencetown.

For waters west of this boundary, Smallmouth Bass continue to be managed as a sportfish. **Season: Apr 1 to Oct 31.** Please refer to each RFA for bag limits.

### **LANDLOCKED SALMON CLOSED ALL YEAR**

Except for the following waters and dates: **Apr 15 to Sep 30, Gabarus Lake**, Cape Breton County.

**OPEN ALL YEAR, Goose Harbour Lake**, Guysborough County.

**Apr 1 to Sep 30, Lake Charles, Lake Williams, Lake Thomas, Fletchers Lake, Shubenacadie Grand Lake, Little Grand Lake, Scraggy Lake, Lake Charlotte, Mill Lake** and **Cox Flowage**, Halifax County.

**Bag limit: 2 fish.** Minimum size limit, not less than 35 cm (13.8 in), measured from the end of the nose to the fork of the tail (see diagram page 69). All Salmon over 63 cm (24.8 in) must be released. It is no longer required to tag landlocked Salmon between 48 cm and 63 cm.

## ENFORCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The management of marine and sea going (anadromous) Atlantic Salmon, striped bass, eel, shad, mackerel, sturgeon, gaspereau, Atlantic whitefish and smelt is the responsibility of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture manages all other freshwater fish species. Enforcement of sportfishing and Salmon fishing regulations falls under the jurisdiction of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Nova Scotia Natural Resources. (see page 23).

### LAKE WHITEFISH

The open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: Salmon, Trout, or Smallmouth Bass. **Bag limit: 2 fish.**

### PRIVATE PONDS AND U-FISH OPERATIONS

There are no bag limits, season restrictions, gear or size regulations for fish caught in a legally constructed private pond or a licenced commercial U-fish operation; however, a receipt from the pond operator is required during transportation and storage of the fish.

### ATLANTIC SALMON

The Summary of Salmon Fishing Regulations is available upon request or with the purchase of an Atlantic Salmon licence. [gjf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/en/Atlantic%20Salmon%20-%20Saumon](http://gjf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/en/Atlantic%20Salmon%20-%20Saumon)

### WARM WATER PROTOCOL

Please visit the following link [gjf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/en/Atlantic%20Salmon%20-%20Saumon](http://gjf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/en/Atlantic%20Salmon%20-%20Saumon) to see if there are any closures in effect on the Margaree River. The purpose of the protocol is an in-season conservation measures for Atlantic Salmon during environmentally stressful conditions in the Margaree River. Closures do not apply to Mi'kmaw Food, Social, and Ceremonial harvesters. For changes to Margaree River angling seasons, please contact the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) at (902)-224-2017.

### STRIPED BASS (INCLUDING HYBRIDS) GULF REGION

The tidal and non-tidal waters of the Northumberland Strait from the New Brunswick border to Cape North.

At the time this handbook was printed, information on management measures and seasons for Southern Gulf Striped bass was not available. Please consult the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Gulf Region's Internet page for details about Striped bass regulations at [gjf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/gjf/en/Striped\\_Bass-Bar\\_roye](http://gjf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/gjf/en/Striped_Bass-Bar_roye) or search by keywords: "DFO Gulf Region recreational fisheries."

### STRIPED BASS (INCLUDING HYBRIDS) MARITIMES REGION

The inland and coastal waters of Nova Scotia, from Cape North Maritimes Region along the Atlantic coast and the waters of the Bay of Fundy, to the New Brunswick border.

**Bag limit: 1 fish**, with a minimum size limit, not less than 68 cm (26.8 in) overall length, not more than 150 cm (59.1 in) overall length, measured from the tip of nose to the tip of tail. Tidal waters open all year, except closed **Apr 1 to Jun 30** on the **Annapolis River** from Hebb's Landing near the confluence of Ray Brook (grid reference 0313214 4964708, map 21A/14) upstream to the highway bridge at Lawrencetown. The open season for striped bass in inland waters corresponds to the open season for sportfish (Salmon, Trout, and Smallmouth Bass) in those waters.

**Shubenacadie River** from a point 200 m upstream from the Highway 102 bridge in Enfield, NS, to a point 25 m downstream from the Highway 2 bridge in Enfield. Closed to all angling for all species **April 1 to May 9**.

From **May 10 to Jun 10**, the daily fishing quota for striped bass in the waters of **Grand Lake** and the **Shubenacadie River** downstream to its confluence with the Stewiacke River, and the Stewiacke River downstream from the highway bridge (Pollock Bridge) in Stewiacke East to its confluence with the Shubenacadie River, will be zero (0) fish per day (hook and release only).

From **May 10 to Jun 10**, only artificial fly, and unbaited lure with a single hook may be used when angling in the waters of the **Shubenacadie River** downstream from the CN Railway Bridge at East Milford to its confluence with the Stewiacke River, and **Stewiacke River** downstream from the highway bridge (Pollock Bridge) in Stewiacke East to its confluence with the Shubenacadie River.

The **Shubenacadie River** in the area of Indian School Road remains **CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING**. Contact DFO for details.

### **SHAD**

No closed season for angling in tidal waters. For inland (non-tidal) waters, the open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: Salmon, Trout, or Smallmouth Bass. **Bag limit: 5 fish**.

### **GASPEREAU**

No closed season for angling in tidal waters. For inland (non-tidal) waters, the open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: Salmon, Trout, or Smallmouth Bass. Bag limit applies to netting and angling. For dip netting, no license is required, but yearly and weekly times apply. **Bag limit: 20 fish**.

### **SMELT**

Except in waters closed to angling for all fish species, tidal waters are open **Aug 1 to May 31** (closed **Jun 1 to Jul 31**).

**Kennetcook River, Gaspereau River, Meander River, Herbert River, St. Croix River and Avon River**, Hants County, dip netting permitted **Apr 1 to Jun 15** except closed Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Other areas, dip-netting permitted **Apr 1 to Jun 15** except closed Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Fishing for smelt by dip net and spear is prohibited from **Jan 1 to Dec 31** (all year), in all inland and tidal waters flowing into Jeddore Harbour and Musquodoboit Harbour, Halifax County, Lingan Bay, Cape Breton County, Bain's Brook, at New Campbelton, Victoria County, and Morrison's Brook at New Harris Forks, Victoria County. **Bag limit: 60** maximum possession, not more than 30 of which may be harvested by dip net. **Grand Lake**, Halifax County, open **Jan 1 to Sep 30**, bag limit reduced to 24 smelt by angling.

### **EEL**

No closed season in tidal waters. For inland (non-tidal) waters, the open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: Salmon, Trout, or Smallmouth Bass. The waters along the Northumberland Strait and Gulf of St. Lawrence from the New Brunswick border to Cape North, minimum size limit, not less than 53 cm (21 in) measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. The inland and coastal waters of Nova Scotia, from Cape North along the Atlantic coast and the waters of the Bay of Fundy, to the New Brunswick border, minimum size limit, not less than 35 cm (13.8 in) measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. **Maritime Region bag limit: 10 fish**. **Gulf Region bag limit: 5 fish**.

**NOTE:** Special provisions and winter seasons may be in place for Trout, Smallmouth Bass, White Perch, and Yellow Perch in selected waters. Consult each Recreational Fishing Area for expanded angling opportunities for some of these species. The Datum type used for grid references to identify boundaries for specific fishing areas is NAD 27.

**Inland waters:** The boundary between inland and tidal waters is defined under Schedule II of the Maritime Provinces Fishery Regulations. A list of the inland water boundaries for the major rivers in Nova Scotia can be found at [novascotia.ca/fish/documents/ns-inland-water-boundaries.pdf](https://novascotia.ca/fish/documents/ns-inland-water-boundaries.pdf). For the locations of other inland water boundaries not on the list, please consult the local office of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada.



Photo: Tim Myers