

FISHING REGULATIONS Summary

April 1, 2003 - March 31, 2004

Mountain National Parks in Alberta and British Columbia



* You must purchase a national park fishing permit when angling in Canada's national parks. Provincial fishing licenses are not valid.

NATURAL BAIT BAN (All parks except MRGNP)

Open Seasons, Special Restrictions and Closed Waters

DEFINITIONS

Natural bait ban: you can only use lures made of feathers, fibre, rubber, wood, metal or plastic. No edible material, scented lures or chemical attractants are permitted.

Fly fishing only: means only artificial flies may be used.

Artificial fly: this is a single or double hook on a common shank, dressed with silk, tinsel, wood, fur, feathers or other materials (**no lead**), or any combination thereof without a spinning device, whether attached to the hook or line.

Tributary: any water course which flows into another body of water. This includes a tributary to a tributary. Lakes are excluded unless otherwise specified.

Trout: for the purposes of this summary, the word *trout* includes char species.

BANFF NATIONAL PARK (BNP)

OPEN SEASONS

Year Round

Bow River - from Bow Lake outlet (southeast end of lake at trail crossing) to east park boundary, including associated backwaters and oxbows. No ice fishing on the Bow River.

May 17 to September 1

Ghost Lake, Johnson Lake and adjacent inflow stream and beaver ponds, Lake Minnewanka, Two Jack Lake, Vermilion Lakes (3) and adjacent inflow stream and beaver ponds.

July 1 to August 31

All tributaries of the Bow River.

July 1 to November 2

Cascade River, its tributaries and associated lakes above Lake Minnewanka (see *definitions*).

July 7 to October 31

Gloria Lake, Leman Lake, Marvel Lake, Terrapin Lake, Spray River, and associated tributaries above the Spray Reservoir.

July 1 to November 2

All other waters except closed waters.

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

Possession limit of 1 trout on Johnson Lake and adjacent inflow stream and beaver ponds.

Zero possession limit for cutthroat trout and bull trout.

Motor boats allowed on Lake Minnewanka only.

CLOSED WATERS - Year Round

Castleguard River - that upper portion of the river located in the Zone I - Special Preservation Area.

Cave and Basin marsh system.

Fish Lakes - the two Fish Lakes nearest campsite Mo 18.

Forty Mile Creek - vicinity of the water intake reservoir.

Lake Agnes.

Luellen Lake - outflow stream from fisheries' boundary markers, downstream to the confluence of the outflow stream and Johnston Creek.

Marvel Lake - downstream from line formed between fisheries' boundary markers to confluence of Marvel and Bryant Creeks.

All tributaries and associated lakes in the Clearwater and Siffleur River systems, excluding Isabella Lake.

KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARK (KNP)

OPEN SEASONS

May 20 to September 4

Cobb Lake, Olive Lake.

June 14 to November 2

Kootenay River, Vermilion River.

July 1 to September 4

Dog Lake, Kaufmann Lake.

July 1 to November 2

All other waters.

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

Kootenay and Vermilion Rivers: cutthroat, rainbow and brook trout. Minimum size limit 30 cm.

YOHO NATIONAL PARK (YNP)

OPEN SEASONS

Year Round

Kicking Horse River - downstream from the confluence of Kicking Horse River and Yoho River to park boundary.

May 17 to September 1

McArthur Lake, Sink Lake, Summit Lake, Wapta Lake.

July 15 to November 2

North bay of Lake O'Hara and Cataract Brook for 1.6 km downstream from Lake O'Hara.

July 1 to November 2

All other waters.

JASPER NATIONAL PARK (JNP)

NEW! Changes to fishing regulations are now in effect.

OPEN SEASONS

Rivers and Streams

Year Round

NEW! Sunwapta River, Athabasca River (upstream of Athabasca Falls only).

April 1 to September 1 and November 1 to March 31

NEW! Athabasca River (upstream of 12 Mile Bridge on Hwy 16 East to Athabasca Falls), Fiddle River, Maligne River (below Maligne Canyon), Miette River, Rocky River, Snake Indian River, Snaring River.

May 31 to September 1 and November 1 to March 31

NEW! Athabasca River (downstream of 12 Mile Bridge on Hwy 16 East to east park boundary, including all side channels, Pochontas Ponds and other connected wetlands).

August 1 to October 1

Fly fishing only: **NEW!** Maligne River, from a point 420 m downstream from the Maligne Lake Outlet bridge to Medicine Lake including that part of Medicine Lake within a 180 m radius of a point in the middle of the Maligne River where it enters Medicine Lake.

July 1 to September 1

NEW! All other rivers and streams except closed waters.

Lakes

May 17 to September 1

Annette Lake, Beaver Lake, Dragon Lake, Long Lake, Lorraine Lake, Moab Lake, Mona Lake, No Name Lake (Hwy 93 south Km 48), Pyramid Lake, Lakes Three, Four and Five in the Valley of the Five.

May 17 to September 30

NEW! Maligne Lake, Talbot Lake, Edna Lake.

July 1 to November 2

All other lakes except closed waters.

CLOSED WATERS

NEW! Maligne Lake Outlet, Maligne River (that portion including the part of Maligne Lake within a 100 m radius of a point in the middle of the Maligne River where it leaves Maligne Lake, to a point 420 m downstream from the Maligne Lake Outlet bridge).

NEW! Jacques Lake and Jacques Lake Outlet stream between Jacques Lake and the Rocky River.

NEW! Mile 9 (Km 15) Lake, Hwy 16 (East).

- Osprey Lake.

- All streams emptying into Amethyst Lake.

- That part of Amethyst Lake situated within a 180 m radius from a point in the middle of the outlet stream from the southeast end of Amethyst Lake.

- That part of the Astoria River situated between Amethyst Lake and a point 400 m downstream from Amethyst Lake.

- The outlet stream from Moab Lake to its junction with the Whirlpool River including that part of Moab Lake situated within a 180 m radius of a point in the middle of the outlet stream where it leaves Moab Lake.

- The outlet stream from Beaver Lake to its junction with the Maligne Lake Road.

MOUNT REVELSTOKE AND GLACIER NATIONAL PARKS (MRGNP)

OPEN SEASONS

July 1 to November 2

All lakes.

CLOSED WATERS - Year Round

All rivers and streams.

WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK (WLNP)

OPEN SEASONS

May 17 to September 1

Akamina Lake, Cameron Lake and Creek, Crandell Lake, Waterton Lakes (Upper and Middle).

July 1 to November 2

All other waters except closed waters.

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

Motor boats allowed on Middle and Upper Waterton Lakes only.

CLOSED WATERS - Year Round

Sofa Creek, Dungarvan Creek, Maskinonge Lake & Inlet, Blakiston/Bauerman Creeks and their tributaries.

North Fork Belly River and its tributaries.



WILDLIFE WATCH
Report suspicious activities.
1-888-WARDENS (1-888-927-3367)

Canada National Parks Act General Fishing Regulations

When angling, it is unlawful to:

- Fish without a national park fishing permit.
- Fish with or possess within 100 metres of park waters the following:
 - natural bait and chemical attractants (except in Mount Revelstoke and Glacier national parks);
 - any lead tackle (sinkers, jigs, lures and flies) under 50 grams;
 - lures with more than 2 gang hooks;
 - a line capable of catching more than one fish at one time.
- Fish with more than one line at a time.
- Fish closed waters.
- Leave a fishing line unattended.
- Fish from 2 hours after sunset to one hour before sunrise.
- Allow your catch to spoil or to be wasted.
- Sell, trade or barter any fish caught.
- Place live fish or fish eggs in any park water or transfer them between bodies of water inside (or outside) the park.
- Place any food for fish in park waters.

FISHING PERMITS

Anyone under the age of 16 may fish in the national parks without a permit if accompanied by a permit holder 16 years of age or older. However, their catch is then included within the permit holder's daily limit. They may also purchase their own permit and be entitled to the full catch limit.



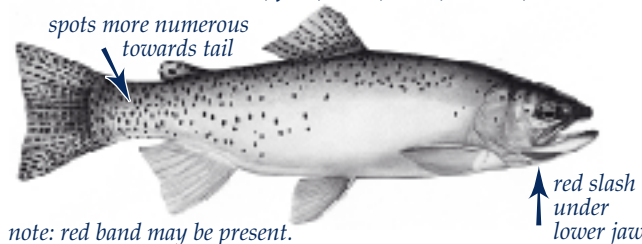
NOTE: This brochure is NOT a complete listing of the National Parks Fishing Regulations and has no legal status. More information is available from park wardens and park information centres.

How to Identify Your Catch

* Credit: Karl Geist

Black spots, light background

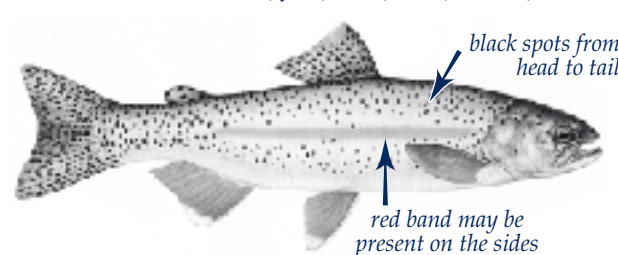
Cutthroat Trout - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP, MRGNP



note: red band may be present. Use spotting pattern for proper identification.

BNP: zero possession

Rainbow Trout - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP, MRGNP



Kokanee Salmon - KNP



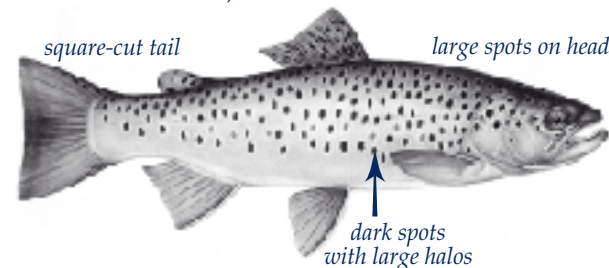
Females and males: red bodies during fall spawn, with green or black heads. Silvery bodies for remainder of the year.

KNP: zero possession

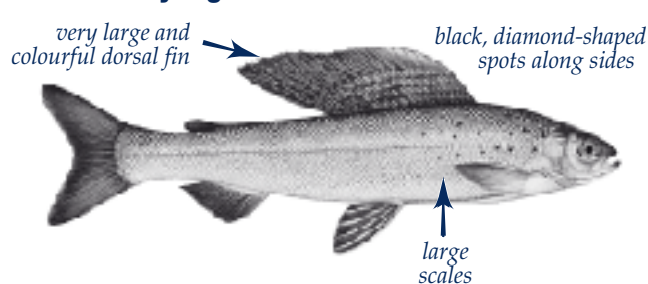
BNP = Banff; JNP = Jasper; KNP = Kootenay; YNP = Yoho; WLNP = Waterton Lakes; MRGNP = Mount Revelstoke/Glacier National Parks

! Anglers are responsible for distinguishing one fish species from another. If you are unsure, release it.

Brown Trout - BNP, WLNP

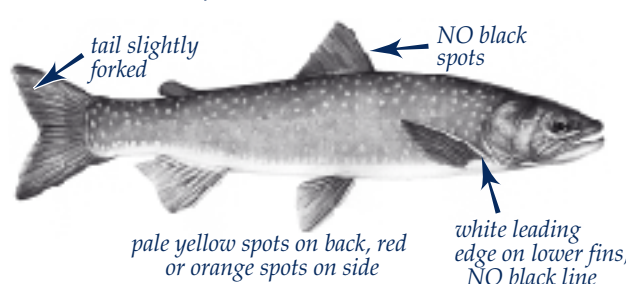


Arctic Grayling - WLNP



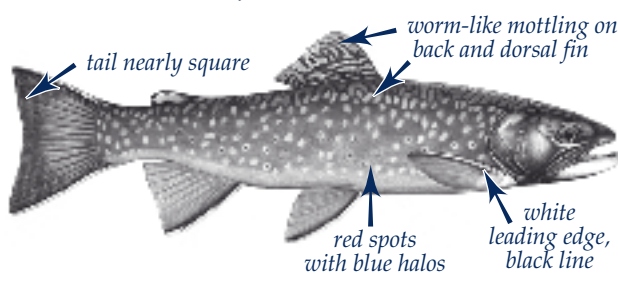
No black spots on body

Bull Trout - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP, MRGNP

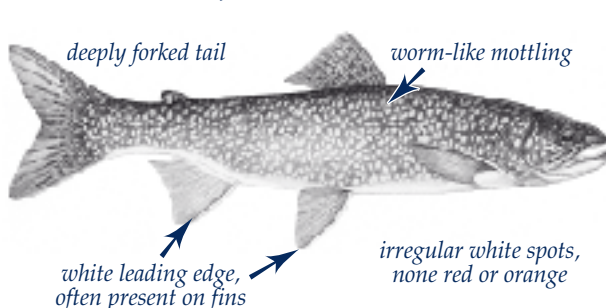


ALL PARKS: zero possession

Brook Trout - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP, MRGNP

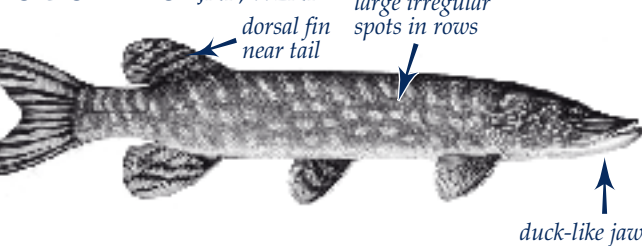


Lake Trout - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP, MRGNP

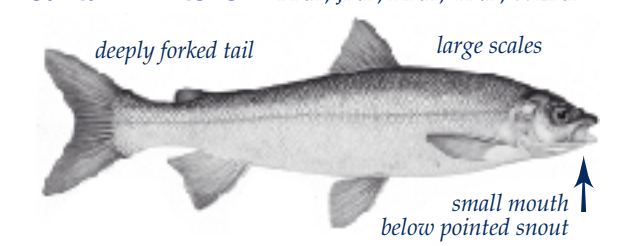


Other

Northern Pike - JNP, WLNP



Mountain Whitefish - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP



Lake Whitefish - BNP, JNP, WLNP



CATCH AND POSSESSION LIMITS

There are zero possession limits for many native species. You must correctly identify your catch. If you are not sure, release it.

Species	Limit
Bull trout	0
Kokanee salmon	0
Cutthroat trout (Banff) (Waterton - Belly Rivers and tributaries, Upper, Middle and Lower Waterton Lakes)	0
Lake and Mountain whitefish caught in Lac Beauvert, JNP	0
Trout (Johnson Lake, Banff only)	1
All species not mentioned below	0
Arctic grayling, rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, lake trout, northern pike, mountain whitefish, lake whitefish	2
Cutthroat trout (all other park waters)	2

Maximum daily catch and possession limit 2
(If a fish has been filleted, two fillets will be considered one fish.)

It is unlawful to:

- continue fishing on any day after having caught and retained the maximum daily catch and possession limit.
- possess more than 2 game fish at one time.



Field Notes

Whirling Disease: Are we next?

A microscopic parasite is devastating trout and salmon populations in Montana, Utah and Colorado. Infectious spores can exist in mud for up to 30 years. If you fish US waters, you are a special risk. More information can be found at: www.parkscanada.gc.ca/banff

CHECK YOUR TACKLE BOX!

Some fishing tackle and baits are not allowed near or within national park waters. (Read the *National Parks Act, General Fishing Regulations* section in this brochure).

9 tips

HELP RELEASED FISH SURVIVE

Give a released fish the best chance for survival by following these suggestions:

- Minimize the time you play a fish. A fish played too long may not survive even if released. Remember to always bring fish up from depth slowly. Fish brought up too quickly will rupture their air bladders and die.
- Be gentle, keeping the fish in the water at all times when handling and releasing.
- Handle the fish with bare, wet hands. Keep fingers away from the gills and do not squeeze; this may cause internal injury, gill or scale damage.
- Remove the hook gently with needle-nosed pliers. If the hook is deep, cut the leader rather than pulling the hook out. The hook will decompose in time. Most fish survive with hooks in them.
- Continue to hold the fish in the water, gently moving it back and forth. This moves water past the gills and will help revive it. For flowing waters, face the fish upstream. When the fish begins to struggle, let it go.
- If the fish is bleeding excessively, it will likely not survive if released. Kill it and include as part of your catch if permitted.
- The use of barbless hooks is recommended to make release easier. Hooks can be made barbless by flattening the barb with needle-nosed pliers.
- Single hooks are recommended to release fish more easily.
- Continuing to angle for trout in waters exceeding 18° C reduces the ability of these fish to survive the 'catch and release' process.

CLEANING FISH

Dispose of entrails properly to reduce the risk of attracting bears and creating a safety hazard for visitors. Use fish cleaning and disposal facilities where provided. In backcountry areas where bear-proof garbage bins are not accessible, please dispose of entrails by puncturing the swim bladder (this allows entrails to sink) and deposit into deep water, using a boat if available. Always clean your catch well away (300 m) from campsites, picnic sites, docks or other facilities.

YOUR PARKS, YOUR VOICE

For many people, angling is a way of slowing down and enjoying the peacefulness that protected areas provide us. For others, it's a way of learning about aquatic environments. Whatever your motivation, enjoy your time along the lakes and rivers of the mountain national parks and help us protect this important resource.

Anglers support national parks by obeying regulations, taking part in creel and user surveys, reporting tagged fish and participating in public consultations. For more information on how you can become better informed and involved, contact the Aquatics Specialist in each park:

Banff National Park: (403) 762-1418.
email: Banff.aquatics@pc.gc.ca
www.parkscanada.gc.ca/banff

Yoho, Kootenay National Parks: (250) 347-6159
email: llyk.aquatics@pc.gc.ca

Jasper National Park: (780) 852-6205
email: ward.hughson@pc.gc.ca

Waterton Lakes National Park: (403) 859-5125
email: ra.watt@pc.gc.ca

Mount Revelstoke/Glacier National Parks: (250) 837-7500
email: susan.hall@pc.gc.ca

LITTER

"Pack in-Pack out". Discarded monofilament line, lures and packaging poses a threat to park wildlife. Please pack it all out including any other litter you find while fishing. It all counts.



Field Notes

Aquatic Benchmarks

Parks Canada is establishing a network of aquatic benchmarks across the mountain parks. These benchmarks will contribute to the knowledge base park managers need to assess, maintain and restore the ecological integrity of park waters. The information will also help sustain appropriate angling opportunities unique to these protected headwaters and cold mountain lakes.