



Fishing Regulations



Mountain National Parks in Alberta and British Columbia

April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021

A national park fishing permit is required when angling in Canada's national parks. Provincial fishing licenses are not valid.

Banff National Park (BNP)

Reduced Possession Limits, see reverse
Ban on Felt-Soled Wading Boots
Minnewanka Boat Launch Restriction

OPEN SEASONS

Year Round

Bow River - from Hector Lake to east park boundary, including associated backwaters and oxbows. No ice fishing on the Bow River.

May 16 to September 7

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

July 1 to August 31

All tributaries of the Bow River, except the Cascade River (see below).

July 1 to November 1

Cascade River and tributaries above Lake Minnewanka reservoir (excluding closed waters).

July 1 to August 15

Owen Creek.

July 1 to November 1

All other waters except closed waters.

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

Motor boats (gas or electric) are allowed on Lake Minnewanka reservoir only.

CLOSED WATERS

Bow River from Bow Lake outlet to Hector Lake inlet; Babel Creek; Johnson Lake reservoir and surrounding waters including outflow creek to confluence with Cascade River; Helen Creek; Little Herbert Lake; Marvel Lake; Mystic Lake and outlet downstream to confluence with 40-mile Creek; Outlet Creek; Sawback Lake; Sawback Creek; Rainbow Lake; Elk Lake; Cuthead Creek; Spray River above Spray Lakes reservoir; Castleguard River - the 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; 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.

FOR CURRENT INFORMATION

parksCanada.gc.ca/banff-fishing

Jasper National Park (JNP)

Ban on Felt-Soled Wading Boots

OPEN SEASONS - RIVERS AND STREAMS

Year Round Sunwapta River.

April 1 to September 7 and October 31 to March 31

Fiddle River, Maligne River (below Maligne Canyon), Miette River, Rocky River, Snake Indian River, Snaring River.

August 1 to October 1

Fly fishing only: 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 7

All other rivers and streams except closed waters.

OPEN SEASONS - LAKES

May 16 to September 7

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 Lakes.

May 16 to September 30

Maligne Lake, Talbot Lake, Edna Lake.

July 1 to November 1

Fly fishing only: Medicine Lake.

July 1 to November 1

All other lakes except closed waters.

CLOSED WATERS

- Maligne Lake Outlet/Maligne River (the 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);
- Jacques Lake and Jacques Lake Outlet stream between Jacques Lake and the Rocky River;
- Mile 9 (km 15) Lake, Hwy 16 (East);
- 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;
- Osprey 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.

Open Seasons - Athabasca River

(Note: the Athabasca River has three fisheries management zones.)

Zone 1: From Athabasca Falls upstream, **Year Round**

Zone 2: From 12 Mile Bridge (km 22, Hwy 16 East) upstream to Athabasca Falls

April 1 to September 7 and October 31 to March 31

Zone 3: From 12 Mile Bridge (km 22, Hwy 16 East) downstream to east park boundary, including all side channels, Pocahontas Ponds and other connected wetlands

May 30 to September 7 and October 31 to March 31

FOR CURRENT INFORMATION

parksCanada.gc.ca/jasperfishing

Kootenay National Park (KNP)

Zero Possession Limits, Ban on Felt-Soled Wading Boots

OPEN SEASONS

May 20 to September 6

Cobb Lake, Olive Lake.

June 13 to November 1

Kootenay River, Vermilion River.

July 1 to September 6

Dog Lake, Kaufmann Lake.

July 1 to November 1

All other waters.

FOR CURRENT INFORMATION

parksCanada.gc.ca/kootenay-fishing

Yoho National Park (YNP)

Zero Possession Limits, Ban on Felt-Soled Wading Boots

OPEN SEASONS

Year Round

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

May 16 to September 7

McArthur, Ottertail, Summit, Sink and Wapta Lakes.

July 15 to November 1

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

July 1 to November 1

All other waters except closed waters.

CLOSED WATERS:

Yoho Pond

FOR CURRENT INFORMATION

parksCanada.gc.ca/yoho-fishing

Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks (MRGNP)

Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks require a separate fishing permit from other mountain parks.

Ban on Felt-Soled Wading Boots

OPEN SEASONS

July 1 to November 1

All lakes.

CLOSED WATERS

All rivers and streams.

FOR CURRENT INFORMATION

parksCanada.gc.ca/revelstoke-fishing

parksCanada.gc.ca/glacier-fishing

Waterton Lakes National Park (WLNP)

Waterton Lakes National Park require a separate fishing permit from other mountain parks.

Ban on Felt-Soled Wading Boots

OPEN SEASONS

May 16 to September 1

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

July 1 to October 31

All other waters except closed waters.

CLOSED WATERS

- Sofa Creek, Dunganvan Creek, Maskinonge Lake and Inlet;
- Blakiston/Bauerman creeks and their tributaries;
- North Fork Belly River and its tributaries.

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

- Mandatory 90-day quarantine for all motorized and trailer-launched watercraft.**

- Special permitting required for all hand-launched watercraft and equipment used in the water such as fishing and diving gear and personal floatation devices.**

- Only use barbless hooks.**

FOR CURRENT INFORMATION

parksCanada.gc.ca/waterton-fishing

ATTENTION WATER ENTHUSIASTS

Preventing the spread of invasive species requires everyone's support.



Quagga Mussels



Whirling Disease



Didymo

Photos: BC Ministry of Environment, NWRA New Zealand

Preventing the transport of aquatic invasive species between waterways is a Parks Canada priority.



CLEAN off all plants, animals and mud from your watercraft and equipment each time you exit the water and before moving to another water body.



DRAIN onto land, all water from bail buckets, ballasts, coolers, live-wells, pumps, motor and bilges. Remove drain plugs.



DRY the watercraft and all gear completely between trips. Feel for very small bumps that could be juvenile mussels attached to your equipment.

Dispose of all fish and fish parts properly, in municipal garbage - not in or near waterways.

BOATING RESTRICTIONS

Motorized and trailer-launched watercraft are now subject to a 90-day mandatory quarantine in Waterton Lakes National Park, and hand-launched watercraft require a permit. Motor boats launching in Banff National Park require an Alberta inspection certificate if they have been in waters outside Alberta or British Columbia in the last 30 days. Launching without a required permit is subject to fines up to \$25,000.

For more information go to:

parksCanada.gc.ca/waterton-lakeactivities
parksCanada.gc.ca/banff-quagga

Check hiding spots for invasive species



Preventing invasive mussels from entering our waterways is a priority. If they arrive, removal is next to impossible.

Invasive Mussels

Quagga and Zebra mussels are small, fan-shaped, and range from dark brown to white in colour. Just a few mussels can produce millions of eggs.

They are very efficient at filtering nutrients from the water, leaving no food for native species. Dense colonies of mussels can clog water pipes and make the shoreline unuseable because of their sharp shells and odour.

Whirling Disease

Whirling disease is caused by a parasite that causes skeletal deformities of an infected fish's body or head, usually in young fish, and the tail may appear dark or black. The disease can be spread to other waterbodies through spores in mud. This disease is not harmful to humans or other mammals but can have significant effects on some fish populations.

Current Information: parksCanada.gc.ca/banff-whirling

Didymo

Didymo is a freshwater algae that has the appearance of wet toilet paper and the feel of wet cotton wool. It attaches to rocks in streams and can form into large beige to brown mats that completely cover the stream bottom, blanketing important fish and plant habitat.

Felt-soled wading boots (banned in mountain national parks) and other water gear are a common way for didymo to spread. Clean and drain your equipment well, and let dry for at least 48 hours before using it again.

Report It!

Report all sightings of invasive species: 403-762-1470 or 1-855-336-BOAT (2628)

Canada National Parks Act General Fishing Regulations

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;
 - 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.
- 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.
- 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 or transfer any fish or fish eggs between any park waters.
- Place any food for fish in park waters.
- Harass fish by throwing objects or impeding their movements.

WILDLIFE WATCH

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

For further information contact:

Banff National Park: 403-762-1550
email: pc.banff-vc@canada.ca

Yoho, Kootenay National Parks: 250-343-6108
email: llyk.aquatics@pc.gc.ca

Jasper National Park: 780-852-6176
email: pc.jasperinfo@canada.ca

Waterton Lakes National Park: 403-859-2224
email: pc.infonwaterton-watertonpinfo@canada.ca

Mount Revelstoke/Glacier National Parks:
250-837-7500
email: pc.mrg.information@canada.ca

Également offert
en français.

Fish Consumption Advisory (Mercury) Mountain Parks

Mercury is a toxin that can affect human health. It can come from natural sources (e.g. soils and sediments) or be transported to the parks (e.g., through the atmosphere) and can then concentrate in top predators. Fish tested in some park waters have elevated mercury levels. Parks Canada, in consultation with Health Canada, has established consumption guidelines and precautionary consumption advice (where no mercury data exist) for women of reproductive age and children (Table 1).

**Table 1:
Consumption Guidelines**

LAKE	SPECIES	Women Of Reproductive Age	Children Under 15 Years
		# of 113 g (4 oz.) servings*	# of 70 g (2.5 oz.) servings*
Patricia and Sassenach - JNP Waterton Lakes	Lake Trout	4/month	3/month
Waterton Lakes	Lake Whitefish	4/month	3/month
Precautionary consumption advice for all other Park Waters	Game fish - general	4/month	3/month

*A 100 g serving is approximately the size of a deck of standard playing cards.

DEFINITIONS

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

Barbless Hook: this includes a hook the barbs of which are pressed against the shaft of the hook so that the barbs are not functional.

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

Artificial fly: 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 of a tributary. Lakes are excluded unless otherwise specified.

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

9 TIPS

HELP RELEASED FISH SURVIVE

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

1. Minimize the time you play a fish. A fish played too long may not survive even if released. Always bring fish up from depth slowly. Fish brought up too quickly will rupture their air bladders and die.
2. Keep the fish in the water at all times when handling and releasing.
3. Handle the fish with bare, wet hands. Keep fingers away from the gills and do not squeeze to avoid injuring the fish.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. If the fish is bleeding excessively, it will likely not survive if released. Kill it and include as part of your catch if permitted. Release all zero-possession species.
7. The use of barbless hooks is recommended to make release easier. Hooks can be made barbless by flattening the barb with needle-nosed pliers.
8. Single hooks are recommended to release fish more easily.
9. Angling for trout in waters exceeding 18 °C reduces the ability of these fish to survive the 'catch and release' process.



CATCH AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Possession limits for Banff, Yoho and Kootenay National Parks reduced to zero except for Lake Minnewanka lake trout.

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

SPECIES	LIMIT
Lake trout from Lake Minnewanka reservoir	2
All other species: BNP, YNP, KNP	0
Arctic grayling, rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, lake trout, northern pike, mountain whitefish, lake whitefish: JNP, MRGNP, WLNP	2
Lake and mountain whitefish caught in Lac Beauvert, Jasper	0
Cutthroat trout: JNP	2
Cutthroat trout: all other parks	0
Bull trout, kokanee salmon: all parks	0
All species not mentioned above	0
Maximum daily catch and possession limit	2

(If a fish has been filleted, two fillets will be considered one fish.)

CHECK YOUR TACKLE BOX!

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

FISHING PERMITS

Anyone under the age of 16 may fish in the national parks without a permit if accompanied by a national park fishing permit holder 16 years of age or older. However, their catch is then included within the permit holder's daily limit. A valid national park pass is also required when fishing in the mountain national parks.

NOTE: This brochure is NOT a complete listing of National Parks Fishing Regulations and has no legal status. For a complete listing go to: laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1120/index.html

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR CATCH

Black spots, light background

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



Note: red band may be present. Use red slash for proper identification.

BNP, KNP, YNP, MRGNP, WLNP: zero possession
JNP: See possession limits

Brown Trout - BNP, WLNP

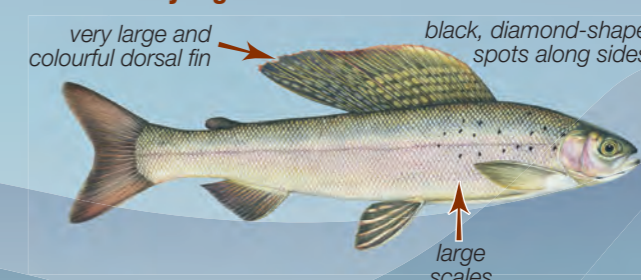


Rainbow Trout - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP, MRGNP



Note: use lack of red slash under jaw for proper identification.

Arctic Grayling - WLNP



Kokanee Salmon - KNP



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

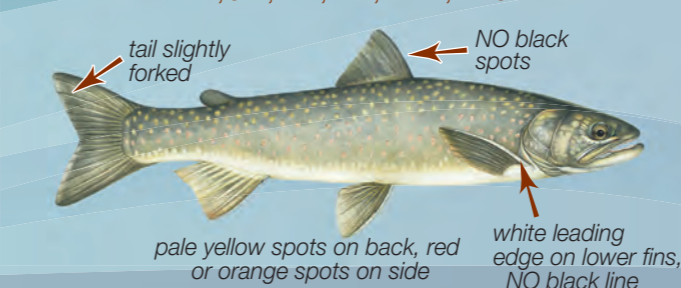
KNP: zero possession

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.

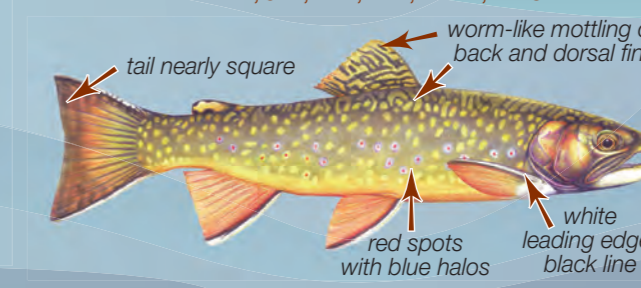
No black spots on body

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

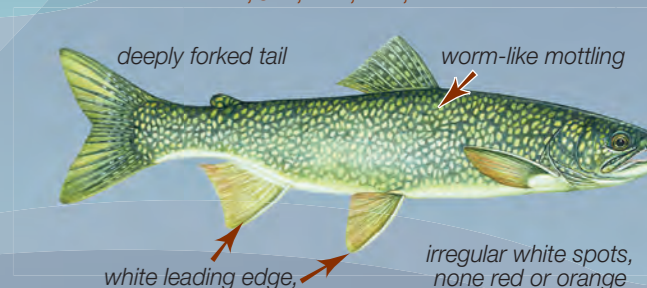


ALL PARKS: zero possession

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



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



Other

Northern Pike - JNP, WLNP



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



Lake Whitefish - BNP, JNP, WLNP

