



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

Fishing Regulations



Photo: Kahil Hindmarsh

Waterfowl Lakes, Banff National Park

Également offert en français.

Mountain National Parks in Alberta and British Columbia

April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022



Banff National Park (BNP)

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

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 22 to September 6

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 October 31

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

July 1 to August 15

Owen Creek.

July 1 to October 31

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 6 and October 30 to March 31

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

July 31 to October 31

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 6

All other rivers and streams except closed waters.

OPEN SEASONS - Lakes

May 22 to September 6

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 22 to September 30

Maligne Lake, Talbot Lake, Edna Lake.

July 1 to October 31

Fly fishing only: Medicine Lake.

July 1 to October 31

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 Maligne Lake Road

FOR CURRENT INFORMATION

parksCanada.gc.ca/jasperfishing

OPEN SEASONS - Athabasca River (JNP)

(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 6 and October 30 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

June 1 to September 6 and October 30 to March 31

Kootenay National Park (KNP)

Catch and Release Only, Ban on Felt-Soled Wading Boots

OPEN SEASONS

May 20 to September 5

Cobb Lake, Olive Lake.

June 15 to October 31

Kootenay River, Vermilion River.

July 1 to September 5

Dog Lake, Kaufmann Lake.

July 1 to October 31

All other waters.

FOR CURRENT INFORMATION

parksCanada.gc.ca/kootenay-fishing

Yoho National Park (YNP)

Catch and Release Only, 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 22 to September 6

McArthur, Ottertail, Summit, Sink and Wapta Lakes.

July 15 to October 31

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

July 1 to October 31

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)

Ban on Felt-Soled Wading Boots

OPEN SEASONS

July 1 to October 31

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)

Ban on Felt-Soled Wading Boots

OPEN SEASONS

May 22 to September 6

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 flotation 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.



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.

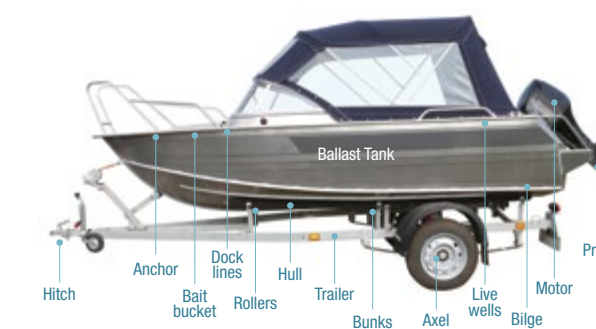
Boating Restrictions

Motorized and trailer-launched watercraft are subject to a 90-day mandatory quarantine in Waterton Lakes National Park, and hand-launched watercraft require a permit. parksCanada.gc.ca/waterton-lakeactivities

Regulations apply for all watercraft launching in Banff National Park including motorboats, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, and inflatables. parksCanada.gc.ca/banff-boating

Launching without a required permit or inspection is subject to fines up to \$25,000.

Check hiding spots for invasive species



Quagga Mussels



Whirling Disease



Didymo

Photos: BC Ministry of Environment, NWRA New Zealand

Preventing invasive mussels from entering waterways is a Parks Canada 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 unusable because of their sharp shells and odour.

Current information:

parksCanada.ca/banff-quagga

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 valid national park fishing permit in your immediate possession.
- Fish with or possess within 100 metres of park waters the following:
 - natural bait and chemical attractants;
 - any lead tackle (sinks, 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.
- 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
- When fishing in park waters that allow possession (see Catch and Possession Limits), it is unlawful to:
 - possess more than 2 game fish at one time;
 - continue fishing on any day after having caught and retained the maximum daily catch and possession limit;
 - allow your catch to spoil or to be wasted.

Wildlife Watch. Report suspicious activities.

Banff, Yoho, Kootenay, Waterton Lakes:
1-888-927-3367

Jasper, Mount Revelstoke, Glacier:
1-877-852-3100

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

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

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

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

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

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*	# 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:

- 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.
- Keep 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 to avoid injuring the fish.
- 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.
- 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. Release all zero-possession species.
- 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.
- 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.

The possession limit is zero 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, BNP	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 from Lac Beauvert, JNP	0
Cutthroat trout: JNP, *WLNP	2
*WLNP - Exceptions with zero (0) limit: Belly River and Waterton River and their tributaries, Upper, Middle, and Lower Waterton Lakes, Goat Lake	0
Cutthroat trout: all other parks	0
Kokanee salmon: MRGNP	2
Kokanee salmon: all other parks	0
Bull trout: all parks	0
All species not mentioned above	0
Maximum daily catch and possession limit	2

(If a fish has been filleted, two filets 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

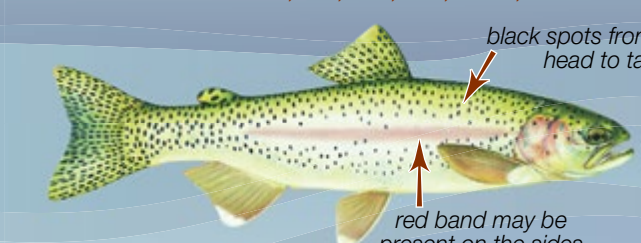
Black spots, light background

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



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

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



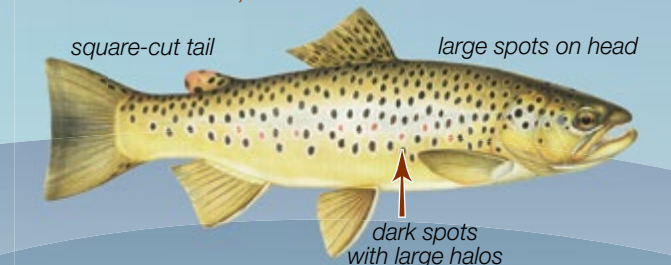
Note: use lack of red slash under jaw for proper identification.

Kokanee Salmon - KNP, MRGNP

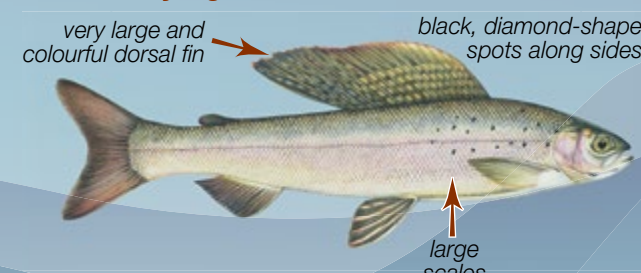


Females and males: red bodies during fall spawn, with green or black heads. Silvery bodies for remainder of the year.

Brown Trout - BNP, WLNP



Arctic Grayling - WLNP

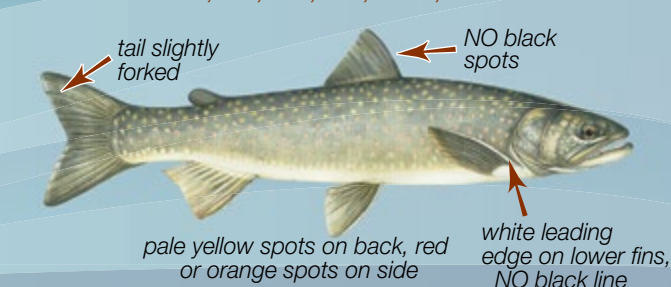


BNP = Banff; JNP = Jasper; KNP = Kootenay; YNP = Yoho; WLNP = Waterton Lakes; MRGNP = Mount Revelstoke/Glacier national parks

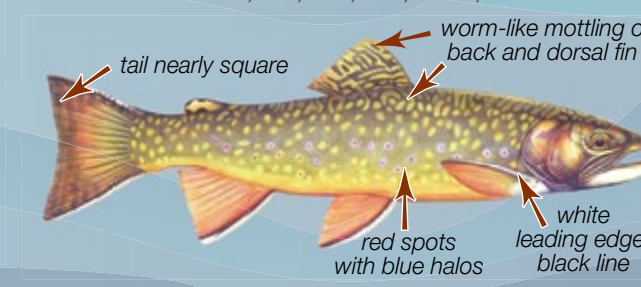
Anglers are responsible for distinguishing one fish species from another. If you are unsure, release it.

No black spots on body

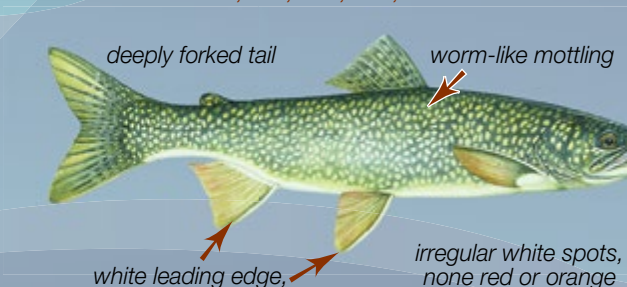
Bull Trout - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP, MRGNP



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

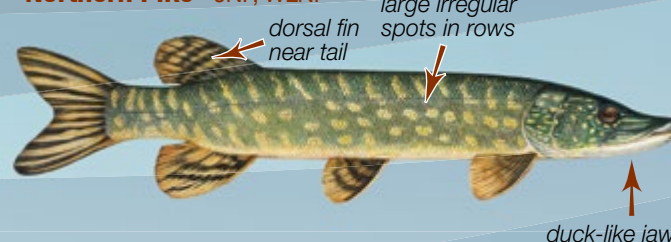


Lake Trout - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP

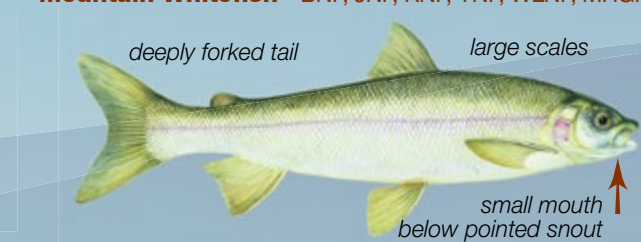


Other

Northern Pike - JNP, WLNP



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



Lake Whitefish - BNP, JNP, WLNP



Photo: Bob Covey

Maligne Lake, Jasper National Park

Credit: Karl Geist