



# FISHING REGULATIONS SUMMARY

## Mountain National Parks in Alberta and British Columbia

April 1, 2010 - March 31, 2011



Également offert en français

\* 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)



Parks Canada / Parcs Canada

Canada

# Open Seasons, Special Restrictions and Closed Waters

## BANFF NATIONAL PARK (BNP)

### OPEN SEASONS

#### Year Round

Bow River - from Bow Lake Outlet to east park boundary  
No ice fishing on the Bow River.

#### May 15 to August 15

Owen Creek

#### May 18 to September 7

Lake Minnewanka, Ghost Lakes, Two Jack Lake, Johnson Lake; the Vermilion Lakes and connecting streams and beaver ponds

#### July 1 to August 31

All tributaries of the Bow River; North Saskatchewan River and its tributaries; Cascade River and its tributaries except the lakes upstream of Lake Minnewanka; the inflow stream adjacent to Johnson Lake and the beaver ponds upstream of Johnson Lake

#### July 7 to October 31

Leman Lake, Marvel Lake, Gloria Lake, Terrapin Lake, Spray River, and its tributaries upstream of Spray Reservoir

#### July 1 to October 31

All other waters except closed waters

### SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

Possession limit of 1 trout on Johnson Lake and adjacent inflow streams and beaver ponds  
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 18 to October 31

Cobb Lake, Dog Lake, Olive Lake, Kootenay River, Vermilion River

#### July 1 to August 31

Verdant Creek, Kaufmann Lake

#### July 1 to October 31

All other waters

### SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

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

## YOHO NATIONAL PARK (YNP)

### OPEN SEASONS

#### Year Round

Kicking Horse River - from the confluence of that river and Yoho River downstream to the west park boundary

#### May 18 to October 31

Ottertail Lake, Wapta Lake

#### July 15 to October 31

McArthur Lake, the 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

## JASPER NATIONAL PARK (JNP)

### 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

Maligne River (**Fly fishing only**) 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

## 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 November 1 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 7 and November 1 to March 31

### July 1 to September 7

All other rivers and streams except closed waters

### 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

#### May 16 to September 30

Maligne Lake, Talbot Lake, Edna Lake

#### July 1 to October 31

Medicine Lake (**Fly fishing only**)

#### July 1 to October 31

All other lakes except closed waters

### CLOSED WATERS - Year Round

- 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

## MOUNT REVELSTOKE AND GLACIER NATIONAL PARKS (MRGNP)

### OPEN SEASONS

#### July 1 to October 31

All lakes

### CLOSED WATERS - Year Round

All rivers and streams

## WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK (WLNP)

### OPEN SEASONS

#### May 18 to September 7

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

#### July 1 to October 31

All other waters except closed waters

### SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

Barbless Hooks only may be used. See "Definitions".  
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

## 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 visitor centres.

## 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.

**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:** 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.

## 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;
  - 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.

# How to Identify Your Catch

\* Credit: Karl Geist

## Black spots, light background

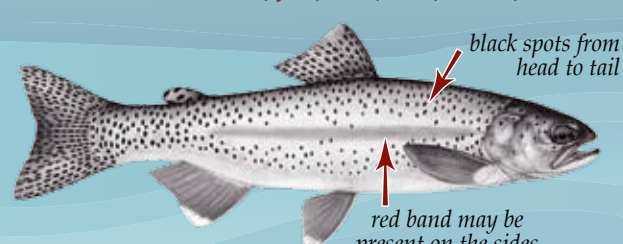
### Cutthroat Trout - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP, MRGNP



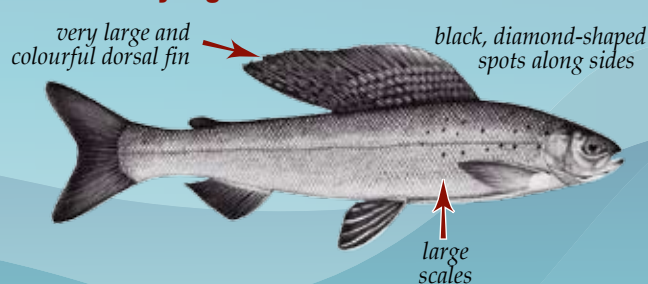
note: red band may be present. Use spotting pattern for proper identification.

BNP, KNP, YNP: zero possession

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



### 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.

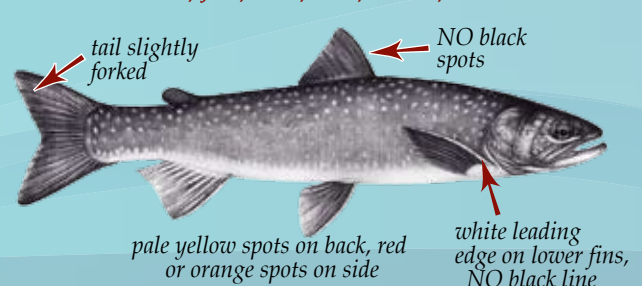
KNP: zero possession

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.

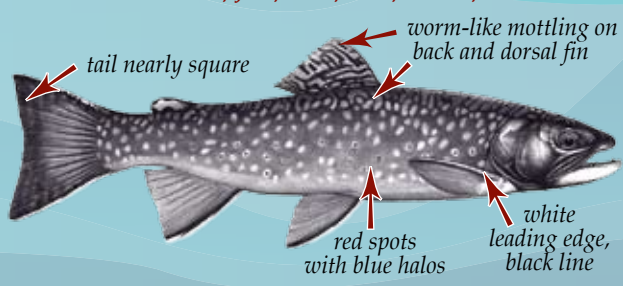
## No black spots on body

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

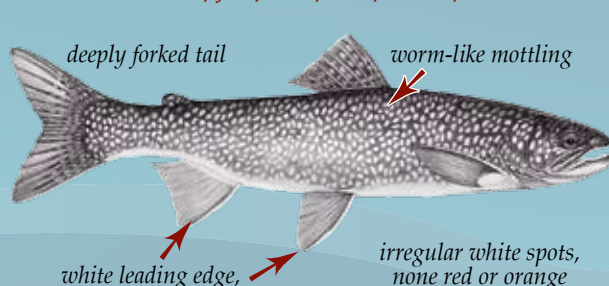


ALL PARKS: zero possession

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

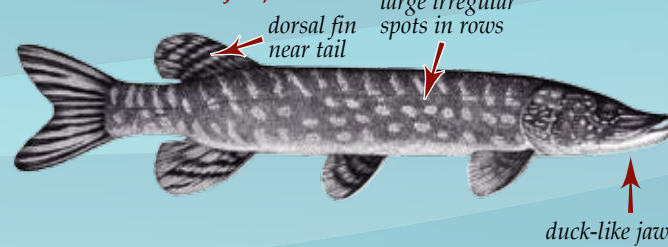


### Lake Trout - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP, MRGNP



## Other

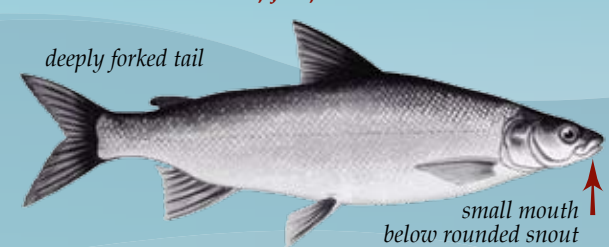
### Northern Pike - JNP, WLNP



### 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 (Kootenay, Banff, Yoho) (Waterton - Belly Rivers and tributaries, Upper, Middle and Lower Waterton Lakes)	0
Cutthroat trout (all other park waters)	2
Lake and mountain whitefish caught in Lac Beauvert, Jasper	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

**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.

## 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 U.S. waters, you are a special risk. More information can be found at: [www.pc.gc.ca/banff](http://www.pc.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.

## For further information contact:

**Banff National Park:** 403-762-1418  
email: [Banff.aquatics@pc.gc.ca](mailto:Banff.aquatics@pc.gc.ca)  
[www.pc.gc.ca/banff](http://www.pc.gc.ca/banff)

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

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

**Waterton Lakes National Park:** 403-859-5182  
email: [barb.johnston@pc.gc.ca](mailto:barb.johnston@pc.gc.ca)

**Mount Revelstoke/Glacier National Parks:**  
250-837-7553 email: [sarah.boyle@pc.gc.ca](mailto:sarah.boyle@pc.gc.ca)

## WILDLIFE WATCH

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

## Fish Consumption Advisory (Mercury) Mountain Parks

Parks Canada has been advised that elevated mercury concentrations have been found in fish in some Mountain National Park waters. Therefore, Parks Canada, in consultation with Health Canada, has established consumption guidelines for women of reproductive age and children (see Table 1).

Mercury is a toxin that can affect human health. It can come from natural sources (e.g. soils and sediments) or sources outside the Mountain Parks (e.g. transported through the atmosphere). It can be passed up the food chain and become concentrated in top predators (e.g. Lake trout, Northern pike).

Mercury data does not exist for all fish species in all park waters and fish mercury concentrations may change over time. To be precautionary, anglers may wish to apply the following guidelines to all sport fish caught in park waters (see Table 2).

Table 1: Consumption guidelines

Lake	Species	Women of reproductive age # of 113g (4oz.) servings**	Children (under 15 yrs) # of 70g (2.5oz.) servings**
Moab - JNP	Cisco*	7/month	5/month
Patricia - JNP	Lake Trout	4/month	3/month
Sassenach - JNP	Lake Trout	4/month	3/month
Bow - BNP	Lake Trout	4/month	3/month
Hector - BNP	Lake Trout	4/month	3/month
Outram - BNP	Lake Trout	4/month	3/month
Waterton Lakes	Lake Trout Lake Whitefish	4/month	3/month

Table 2: Precautionary consumption advice for game fish in waters not mentioned above

Species	Women of reproductive age # of 113g (4oz.) servings**	Children (under 15 yrs) # of 70g (2.5oz.) servings**
Game fish - general	4/month	3/month

\* Please note that consumption advice has been given for a species which is not legal to possess. Anglers should check the Catch & Possession Limits of these *Fishing Regulations* to ensure that all fish which are kept are legal to possess. Cisco closely resemble mountain whitefish; there are no Mountain whitefish in Moab Lake.

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