



Fishing Regulations

A Summary for Canada's Western Arctic



Voluntary compliance:

For conservation purposes and out of respect for traditional Indigenous values, limit the time you spend catch and release fishing, especially after you have retained your limit for the day.



Fish conservation is important to Parks Canada and the Inuvialuit. Please respect regulations and do not waste any fish. Happy responsible fishing!

Restrictions and Area Closures

Restrictions on activities, fishing and Area closures are sometimes required to protect park resources and visitors. These are posted at the Parks Canada Offices in Inuvik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbor and Deline, as well as at Imniarvik base camp in Ivvavik National Park and online at <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/voyage-travel/securite-safety/bulletins>

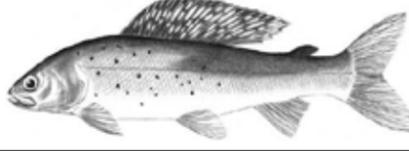
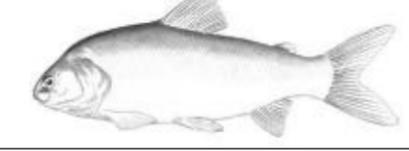


When angling in the Western Arctic National Parks it is unlawful to:

- Fish without a national park fishing permit;
- Fish in waters closed to fishing;
- Fish by any method other than angling;
- Leave a fishing line unattended;
- Place fish food in park waters;
- Sell, trade or barter in fish caught in park waters;
- Allow fish to spoil or to be wasted;
- Use any of the following methods:
 - more than one fishing line;
 - a fishing line having more than one artificial fly or other type of bait;
 - a fishing line having an artificial fly to which is attached any live or dead natural bait;
 - a fishing line having any combination of hooks capable of catching more than one fish at a time;
 - a fishing line having more than one type of lure;
 - a lure having more than:
 - two single hooks,
 - two gang-hooks, or
 - one single hook and one gang-hook;
 - a gang-hook having more than three hooks; or
 - a lead sinker or lead jig that weighs less than 50 g.

For more details, consult the National Parks of Canada Fishing Regulations.



Game Fish	Identification	Notes
Arctic Char 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White leading edges on lower fins • No large spots on tail • Large orange, red or white/pink scattered spots on sides 	Arctic char have the most northerly distribution of any freshwater fish. Although they seem to eat just about any small creature that appears in their habitat, Arctic char grow slowly. They reach their full size at an average of 20 years, though some may live to 40.
Grayling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very large and colorful dorsal fin • Black v-shaped or diamond-shaped spots on sides • Large scales 	Arctic grayling are one of the most beautiful fish in the arctic. Males use the distinctive dorsal fin as part of a threat display when spawning.
Dolly Varden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are dark blue to olive-green on the back and sides • They are covered with light colored yellow spots on the dorsal surface • Orange and pink spots on the sides 	The dolly varden is most commonly an anadromous species They spawn in freshwater. When spawning this fish can exhibit magnificent red on its sides, making a striking appearance.
Lake Trout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caudal fin square or slightly forked • Body with colored spots of cream, pink. • Dorsal and caudal fins has dark wavy lines and marks or unspotted sides with pink or red spots 	In northern lakes most lake trout feed almost exclusively on plankton, insects, or crustaceans. While other also rely heavily on small fish. Lake trout are also slow growing and long-lived, sometimes reaching an age of 40 years. In the Arctic, it may take 12 years for a trout to reach 1.2 kg.
Non Game Fish	Identification	Notes
Broad Whitefish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whitefish in general are silver in color with large scales • Has fleshy dorsal and adipose fin • Has no teeth and a small appendage at the base of the pelvic fin. 	Their diet consists mainly of small clams, snails, aquatic insects, larvae, and freshwater shrimp. In both species, the head is small and the body deep or wide from stomach to backbone.

Open Seasons And Closed Waters

- All waters in Aulavik National Park are open year round
- All waters in Ivavik National Park are open year round with the following exceptions: Firth River Fish Holes, Aufeis Area from Margaret Lake upstream to the park boundary. Joe Creek Fish Holes area from Aspen Creek upstream to park boundary, Trout Lake, Roland Lake, Babbage River upstream of Babbage falls, two small unnamed lakes located at: 69° 25' 47.3"N, 139° 38' 32.8"W and 69° 25' 33.5" N, 139°37' 43.1"W. See map on back.
- All waters in Tuklut Nogait National Park are open year round, with the following exception: the Hornaday River downstream of La Ronciere Falls; Seven Islands Lake and Alkuk Creek which are closed year round. See map on back.

Park Waters	Species	Daily Catch & Possession Limit*	Aggregate* (Total quantity allowed per person at one time)
Aulavik National Park	Arctic Char	1	1
	Lake Trout	1	
Ivavik National Park	Dolly Varden Char	1	3 (ONLY 1 DOLLY VARDEN CHAR)
	Arctic Grayling	3	
Lake Trout	0 (MUST BE RELEASED)		
Tuktut Nogait National Park	Game Fish (Arctic Char, Lake Trout, Arctic Grayling) or Non-Game Fish (Broad Whitefish or other)	1	1

*For all other species, catch and possession limit is zero.

