



# Fishing Regulations SUMMARY

## Mountain National Parks in Alberta & British Columbia

April 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013



## OPEN SEASONS, SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS AND CLOSED WATERS

(A NATIONAL PARK FISHING PERMIT IS REQUIRED WHEN ANGLING IN CANADA'S NATIONAL PARKS. PROVINCIAL FISHING LICENSES ARE NOT VALID.)

### BANFF NATIONAL PARK (BNP)

#### OPEN SEASONS

##### March 31 to March 31

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

##### June 30 to August 15

Owen Creek

##### May 19 to September 3

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.

##### June 30 to September 2

All tributaries of the Bow River

##### June 30 to October 31

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

##### July 7 to October 31

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

##### June 30 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 (gas or electric) are allowed on Lake Minnewanka only.

#### CLOSED WATERS

- 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 19 to September 3

Cobb Lake, Olive Lake

##### June 15 to October 31

Kootenay River, Vermilion River

##### June 30 to September 4

Dog Lake, Kaufmann Lake

##### June 30 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 - downstream from the confluence of Kicking Horse River and Yoho River to park boundary

##### May 19 to September 3

McArthur Lake, Ottertail Lake, Wapta Lake

##### July 15 to October 31

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

##### June 30 to October 31

All other waters

### JASPER NATIONAL PARK (JNP)

#### OPEN SEASONS

##### Rivers and Streams

##### Year Round

Sunwapta River

##### March 31 to September 3 and November 1 to April 1

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

#### 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

**March 31 to September 3 and November 1 to April 1**

**Zone 3:** From 12 Mile Bridge (Km 22, Hwy 16 East)

downstream to east park boundary, including all side channels, Pocaehontas Ponds and other connected wetlands

**June 1 to September 3 and November 1 to April 1**

##### June 30 to September 3

All other rivers and streams except closed waters

#### Lakes

##### May 19 to September 3

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 19 to September 30

Maligne Lake, Talbot Lake, Edna Lake

##### June 30 to October 31

**Fly fishing only:** Medicine Lake

##### June 30 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 the Maligne Lake Road

### MOUNT REVELSTOKE AND GLACIER NATIONAL PARKS (MRGNP)

#### OPEN SEASONS

##### July 1 to October 31

All lakes

#### CLOSED WATERS

All rivers and streams

### WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK (WLNP)

#### OPEN SEASONS

##### May 19 to September 3

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

**NEW** Boat launch permits are required for Waterton Lakes. Barbless Hooks only may be used. See "Definitions". Motor boats allowed on Middle and Upper Waterton Lakes only.

#### CLOSED WATERS

- 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.

**NOTE:** This brochure is NOT a complete listing of *National Parks Fishing Regulations* and has no legal status. For a complete listing go to: [www.pc.gc.ca/docs/bib-lib/docs1a.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/docs/bib-lib/docs1a.aspx)

## 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.

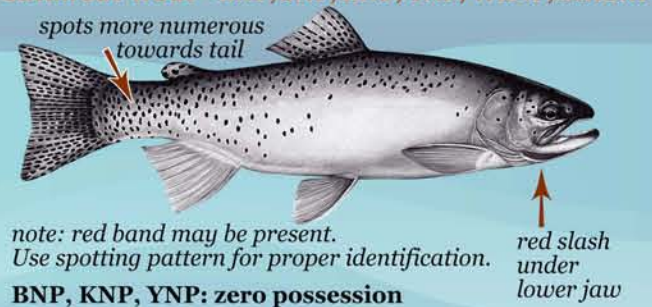
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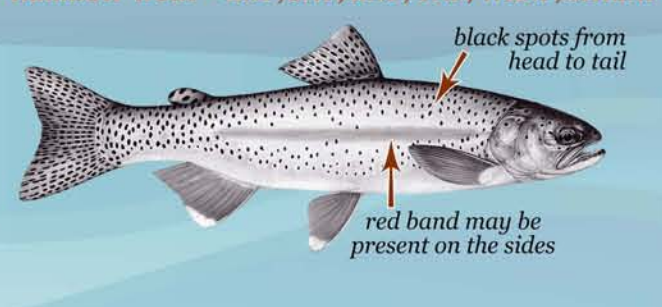
## HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR CATCH

### Black spots, light background

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



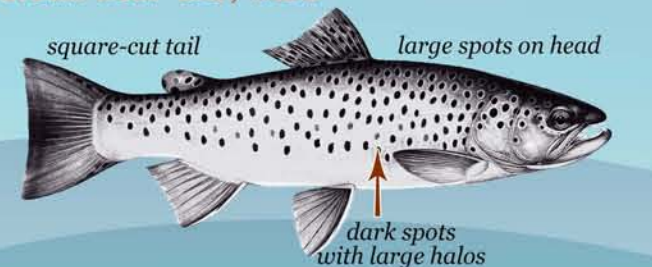
**Rainbow Trout** - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP, MRGNP



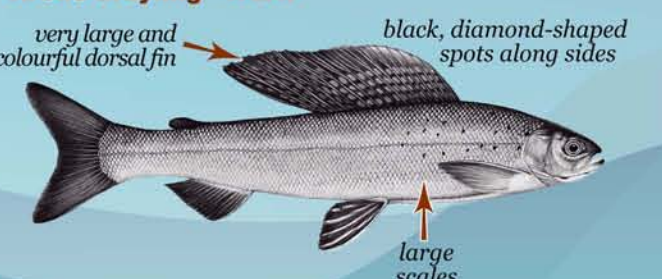
**Kokanee Salmon** - KNP



**Brown Trout** - BNP, WLNP



**Arctic Grayling** - WLNP



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

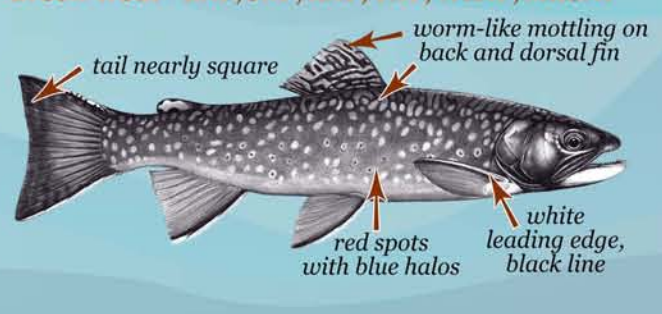
**! Anglers are responsible for distinguishing one fish species from another. If you are unsure, release it.**

### No black spots on body

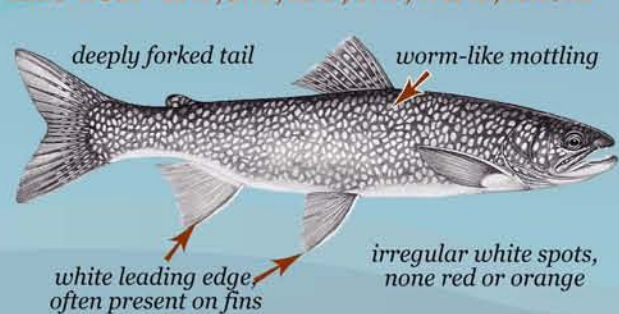
**Bull Trout** - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP, MRGNP



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

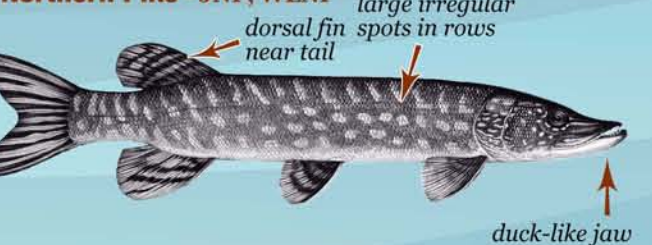


**Lake Trout** - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP, MRGNP

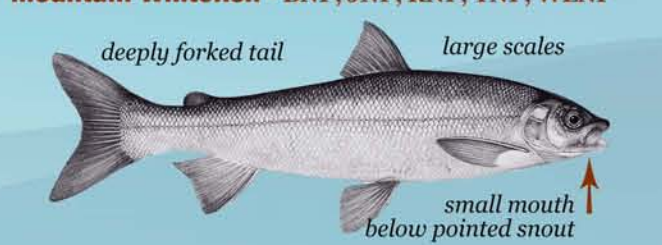


### Other

**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)	0
(Waterton - Belly Rivers and tributaries, Goat Lake, Upper, Middle and Lower Waterton Lakes)	0
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
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.

### 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.parkscanada.gc.ca/banff](http://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.)

## WILDLIFE WATCH

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

# 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:** 403-762-1550  
email: [Banff.VRC@pc.gc.ca](mailto:Banff.VRC@pc.gc.ca)  
[www.parkscanada.gc.ca/banff](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/banff)

**Yoho, Kootenay National Parks:** 250-343-6108  
email: [llyk.aquatics@pc.gc.ca](mailto:llyk.aquatics@pc.gc.ca)

**Jasper National Park:** 780-852-6176  
email: [jnp.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jnp.info@pc.gc.ca)

**Waterton Lakes National Park:** 403-859-2224  
email: [waterton.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:waterton.info@pc.gc.ca)

**Mount Revelstoke/Glacier National Parks:**  
250-837-7500 email: [revglacier.reception@pc.gc.ca](mailto:revglacier.reception@pc.gc.ca)

## 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		Women Of Reproductive Age	Children Under 15 Years
LAKE	SPECIES	# of 113g (4oz.) servings**	# 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	Children Under 15 Years
	# of 113g (4oz.) servings**	# 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.