

April 1, **2005** to March 31, **2007**

FREE PUBLICATION - VALID FOR **2 YEARS**

FISHING BOUNDARIES
MAIN RULES

Sport fishing in Québec



www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/english/wildlife


Québec 

MAIN RULES

April 1, 2005 – March 31, 2007

This publication presents the map of Québec's fishing zones and recalls the main fishing regulations in effect in Québec. Only sportfishing in Québec waters (with or without tides) for freshwater, anadromous or catadromous species is dealt with. Sportfishing for saltwater species such as capelin, cod, etc., is under the jurisdiction of **Fisheries and Oceans Canada (613) 993-0999**.

To find out the fishing periods and the applicable catch limits, anglers are asked to consult the brochure *Sportfishing in Québec 2005-2007 (Fishing period / Catch limits)* or the web site of the ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune du Québec at www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/english/wildlife.

Please note that the purpose of the  icon is to draw your attention to new elements which are also underlined.

This publication does not replace the official texts of the laws and regulations just as the map of the zones found in this publication does not replace the regulatory fishing zone maps.

Note: In this publication, the masculine gender designates both women and men.

MAIN NEW ELEMENTS

- The fishing licence (7 consecutive days) for non-residents is henceforth valid for all zones, see section C.
- Prohibition on using or having in one's possession for bait purposes, in addition to the species already prohibited, any fish that is not indigenous to Québec, see section J.
- Size limits applicable for walleye in new bodies of water, see section L.
- New regulations for winter fishing in lake Memphrémagog, see section F.
- Modification to the size limit for walleye in certain bodies of water of the La Vérendrye Wildlife Sanctuary (zone 12 and 13), see section L.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Québec is divided into 29 fishing zones which take the distribution of species into account. Anglers must respect the fishing rules that apply in these zones as well as the requirements pertaining to the territory that they wish to frequent.

A DEFINITIONS

In this publication, the following terms designate:

- **Anadromous:** fish that live in the sea and spawn in fresh water.
- **Angling:** fishing by means of a line or a rod and line, to which is attached a baited hook or an artificial lure, but does not include fishing by means of a night line.
- **Bait-trap:** a trap without wing or leaders, made of netting or wire or plastic mesh measuring no more than 60 cm in length and 25 cm in diameter and having funnel-shaped openings the smallest of which is no greater than 2.5 cm in diameter.
- **Bass:** smallmouth bass and largemouth bass.
- **Bullhead:** includes brown bullhead, yellow bullhead and stonecat.

- **Catadromous:** fish that live in fresh water and spawn in the sea.
- **Char:** brook trout and Arctic char, unless otherwise indicated.
- **Dip-net:** a net whose mesh does not exceed 2.5 cm when fully extended on what is generally a square frame, measuring no more than 1.3 m in its greatest dimension, and suspended on a rope.
- **Fish:** a fish or any part there of, including shellfish (mussels, oysters, etc.) and crustaceans (shrimp, crawfish, etc.).
- **Fishing:** to catch or attempt to catch fish by any means whatsoever.
- **Fly fishing:** angling by means of a rod and line to which are attached artificial flies.
- **Lake trout:** includes lake trout and splake trout.
- **Landing net:** a bag-shaped net mounted on a frame, measuring no more than 90 cm in diameter.
- **Landlocked salmon:** freshwater Atlantic salmon.
- **National park:** designates a Québec national park, unless otherwise mentioned in the text.
- **Pike:** grass pickerel, chain pickerel, redbfin pickerel and northern pike.
- **Redhorse:** river redhorse, silver redhorse, copper redhorse, greater redhorse and shorthead redhorse, unless otherwise indicated.
- **Resident:** any person domiciled in Québec and having resided there for a period of 183 days during the year previous to their fishing activities or application for a licence.
- **Salmon:** anadromous Atlantic salmon.
- **Sea trout:** designates anadromous brook trout.
- **Shad:** includes American shad and gizzard shad.
- **Smelt:** includes rainbow smelt and pygmy smelt, unless mentioned otherwise in the text.
- **Spouse:** designates the *de facto* spouse who has been living with another person in a marital relationship for at least one year as well as a spouse.
- **Sturgeon:** lake sturgeon and Atlantic sturgeon.
- **Sucker:** includes longnose sucker and white sucker.
- **Sunfish:** includes longear sunfish, bluegill, rock bass and pumpkinseed.
- **Trout:** rainbow trout, brown trout and cutthroat trout.
- **Walleye:** walleye and sauger.
- **Whitefish:** cisco, lake whitefish, round whitefish and shallow water cisco, unless otherwise indicated.

B RIGHT TO FISH

Every person has the right to engage in fishing lawfully. However, the effect of this right is not to grant an angler priority of use of a public territory in relation to other outdoor enthusiasts, just as it does not give him exclusive right to that territory.

Moreover, no person may knowingly hinder a person who is fishing lawfully and who lawfully entered the property where he is located. Within this context, “hindering” someone may, among other things, include the following elements:

- Preventing access by anglers to fishing sites to which they have lawful access;
- Disturbing or frightening a fish by a human, animal or any other presence, a noise or an odour;
- Rendering ineffectual bait, lure, tackle or gear used for fishing.

In no case may the right to fish limit property rights. A landowner may enjoy his property as he sees fit and may grant or refuse access to an angler who wants to enter his property. The sharing of the territory by users must take place in a spirit of harmonious cohabitation and ethical behaviour.

C INFORMATION ON FISHING LICENCES

This section informs you of what you must know about sportfishing licences.

DO I NEED A LICENCE TO FISH?

Yes, the licence is required in most cases. When you fish, you must have the licence in your possession and present it immediately to a wildlife protection officer or a wildlife protection assistant who asks to see it. The categories of licences offered, as well as their rates, are presented in the following table:

Licence categories and rates*		
	Resident**	Non-resident
<i>Sportfishing (except Atlantic salmon)</i>		
– under 65	\$14.13	\$45.21
– 65 and over	\$11.30	\$45.21
– 7 consecutive days	d. n. a.	\$30.43
– 3 consecutive days	\$8.04	\$19.78
– 1 day	d. n. a.	\$8.91
– Mandatory release***	\$8.91	\$8.91
<i>Fishing for burbot in lake Saint-Jean</i>	\$14.13	\$45.21
<i>Sport fishing for Atlantic salmon</i>		
– annual	\$31.73	\$97.37
– 1 day	\$13.69	\$26.95
– Mandatory release	\$8.91	\$8.91

* The rate includes a sum of \$2.25 paid to the Fondation de la faune du Québec. **Taxes are not included.**

** See *Resident*, section A.

*** Licence valid only when the holder uses the services of an outfitting establishment.

Note: All of the aforementioned rates are in effect until March 31, 2006. After that date, they are subject to change.

WHAT SPECIES OF FISH MAY I CATCH UNDER MY LICENCE?

The sportfishing licence gives its holder a **general** authorization to fish for most species of sport interest in Québec, except Atlantic salmon. It also allows the holder to fish for species other than salmon in certain salmon rivers mentioned in this publication in zones 1, 2, 3, 18 to 21, 23, 27 and 28, outside salmon fishing periods.

As for fishing for Atlantic salmon, a salmon fishing licence is required. This licence is necessary to fish for salmon both in salmon rivers and in all bodies of water where enthusiasts wish to fish for this species. For more details on salmon fishing and on fishing in salmon rivers, consult the brochure *Salmon Fishing in Québec*.

CAN I FISH IN A SALMON RIVER WITH MY REGULAR SPORTFISHING LICENCE?

During a salmon fishing period, a salmon fishing licence is required to fish for **every species** of fish in a salmon river. However, exceptionally it is permitted to fish with a sportfishing licence during a salmon fishing period at the following locations; in the Jacques Cartier river upstream from Bird Dam, at Pont-Rouge (Zone 27), as well as in the western branch of Aux Rochers river, downstream from Boulevard des Îles bridge up to its mouth (Petit Quai sector, Zone 19).

DO I HAVE TO RELEASE ALL FISH THAT I CATCH UNDER AN ATLANTIC SALMON FISHING LICENCE WITH MANDATORY RELEASE?

The holder of this licence may catch and keep the species other than Atlantic salmon. Every salmon caught under this licence must be released.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A BURBOT FISHING LICENCE?

This licence authorizes its holder to fish for this species, without catch limits, using two night lines, between December 1 and April 15, in the waters of lake Saint-Jean encircled by highways 169 and 373. For more information, see section F concerning *Burbot Fishing*.

Burbot fishing is also allowed, without catch limits, for the holder of a sport fishing licence during this period. However, anglers must respect the authorized number of lines in winter (5) for this zone, as well as the authorized maximum number of hooks (3).

WHO MAY FISH UNDER MY LICENCE?

Your spouse, your children under 18, as well as those of your spouse, may fish under your licence. The same is true for a person under 18 who is fishing under your supervision or that of your spouse. A student, aged 18 to 24, may also fish under your licence, under certain conditions (see the following question). The same rules apply in the case of the salmon fishing licence.

ARE THERE CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE MET IN ORDER FOR OTHER PERSONS TO FISH UNDER MY LICENCE?

Yes. All these persons, except your child under 18 or that of your spouse, must be in the possession of your licence if you do not accompany them. A student, aged 18 to 24, must also have on hand his student's card when he fishes under your licence.

Remember that you must be 18 or over, in order for a person to be able to fish by virtue of your licence under your supervision.

HOW MANY FISH MAY BE CAUGHT AND KEPT IF SEVERAL PERSONS FISH UNDER THE SAME LICENCE?

In all cases, the total quantity of fish caught and kept per day must not exceed the quantity authorized for the licence-holder.

WHAT QUANTITY OF GEAR MAY BE USED IF SEVERAL PERSONS FISH UNDER THE SAME LICENCE?

In all cases, the total quantity of gear used must not exceed the total number that the licence-holder is authorized to have.

DO THE PRECEDING MEASURES ALSO APPLY TO NON-RESIDENTS?

Yes, they apply to both residents and non-residents.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO FISH WITHOUT ANY OF THESE LICENCES?

Yes, sportfishing without a licence is authorized for the following persons:

- a **resident** who is fishing during the "**Fishing Festival**", on June 10, 11 and 12, 2005, as well as on June 9, 10 and 11, 2006 (Please note that Friday, June 10, 2005 and Friday, June 9, 2006, activities will be organized solely for students of grades 5 and 6; consult the website www.fetedelapeche.qc.ca to find out the planned activities). On that occasion, any species of fish may be fished during the stipulated periods according to the species and at the places where fishing is authorized. Every salmon caught without a licence on this occasion must be released where it was caught. It should also be noted that the permission granted to anglers to fish without a licence on this occasion does not exempt them from having to pay the other fees and tariffs charged for the practice of this activity.
- a **resident** under 18 who is fishing for species other than salmon if he has on hand his "**Junior Angler**" certificate issued following a fishing initiation activity;
- a **resident** who is fishing for species other than salmon in Zone 21 and in the portion of the rivers of Zone 1 situated downstream from Highway 132, except for the stretch between Sainte-Flavie and Matapédia;
- a **resident** who is fishing for smelt and Atlantic tomcod in the Saint-Laurent river and its tributaries, downstream from Laviolette bridge (Trois-Rivières);
- a **resident** who is fishing for freshwater mollusks and crustaceans;

- a **resident** or a **non-resident** who is fishing in a fish pond (see *Fish pond*, section M) or in the waters of a national park of Canada.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I LOSE MY LICENCE?

In the event that a fishing licence is lost or stolen, or when it is altered to the point that it becomes unusable, a new licence must be purchased to be able to continue fishing.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW CONCERNING FISHING LICENCES?

A fishing licence is non-transferable. Moreover, to be valid, it must be **signed** by the person who issues it and by the holder.

WHERE CAN I OBTAIN A LICENCE?

The **sportfishing** licence is available from distributors who are authorized to sell licences. They are generally sports stores, hardware stores or convenience stores. Certain outfitters as well as certain wildlife sanctuaries or zecs also sell this licence. The **salmon fishing** licence is available from salmon fishing zecs or wildlife sanctuaries, outfitters that offer services related to salmon fishing and certain distributors. To find out the name of a distributor, contact an office of the Department, Faune Québec sector, or consult the website www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/english/wildlife. For the **burbot fishing** licence in lake Saint-Jean, contact the regional office of Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean.

D TRANSPORTATION, POSSESSION AND IDENTIFICATION OF FISH

Individuals who transport fish or have fish in their possession must, upon the request of a wildlife protection officer or assistant, identify themselves and state where the fish were caught.

LIVE FISH – Anglers may keep alive, **on site**, for the **length of their stay**, fish taken at a given fishing site depending on the fishing season, daily fishing quotas and possession limits authorized for the area. Transportation of live bait-fish is allowed in certain zones (see *Bait-fish* section J).

DEAD FISH – Individuals who have in their possession, **other than in their place of permanent residence**, fish caught when sportfishing, must keep them in a condition to enable determination of the species (enough skin must be left in place to enable identification), length and number. Where a length limit applies, the fish must be transported so as to be able to measure their length. For the enforcement of the length limit on walleye fillets in Zones 11, 12, 13 and 16, the skin must adhere totally to the flesh over the entire length of the fillets (see *Length limit* section L).

It is forbidden to export outside Québec fish taken while sportfishing and whose sale is prohibited. However, when leaving Québec, you can take with you a quantity of fish, that you have caught or been given, equal to the possession limit allowed for each species.

E PROHIBITIONS

- It is prohibited to sell, purchase, trade or offer to purchase shad, American eel, bullhead, channel catfish, bass, carp, copper redhorse and river redhorse, sunfish, sturgeon, black crappie, northern pike, chain pickerel, walleye, white bass, striped bass, smelt, burbot, muskellunge, yellow perch, char, landlocked salmon, Atlantic salmon, tench, lake trout, rainbow trout and brown trout caught while sportfishing in Québec or under a sportfishing licence elsewhere. Moreover, it is prohibited to sell bait-fish caught while sportfishing.
- It is prohibited to buy, sell or have in one's possession fish caught illegally.
- It is prohibited for a non-beneficiary to accept from a beneficiary of the harvesting right stipulated in the *Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories*, any fish caught under this right for the purposes of personal or communal use, unless it comes from an authorized commercial fishery.

- It is prohibited to fish using one or more hooks handled in such a way as to catch the fish by a part of the body other than the mouth. As a result, it is prohibited to keep fish caught intentionally by a part of the body other than the mouth.
- It is prohibited to fish from any bridge which crosses a salmon river or its estuary.
- It is prohibited to fish in a salmon river between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise. To find out what time the sun rises or sets, consult a local newspaper or the web site http://www.hia-ihh.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/sunrise_e.html. Please note that the data mentioned on that site are expressed according to Eastern Standard Time.
- It is prohibited to remove fish from the water using:
 - a net other than a landing net;
 - a taylor whose full length exceeds 2 m;
 - a spring-loaded gaff;
 - any type of gaff for salmon.
- It is prohibited to have in one's possession, within 100 m of a fishing site or waterway, any tackle the use of which is prohibited on the fishing site, unless the tackle is in a vehicle (other than a boat) or building.
- It is prohibited to fish less than 25 yards (22.9 metres) downstream of the lower entrance to any fish ladder or migratory pass in operation, or of any obstacle or area which must be jumped.
- It is forbidden to allow a caught fish, fit for human consumption, to rot.

F FISHING METHODS

Sportfishing is usually practiced using a line. It is permitted, however, to use a bow, a crossbow, or a spear while swimming in certain areas and for certain species (see *Arc*, *crossbow*, or *spearfishing while swimming*, further on). A dip-net, a bait-trap or a landing net may also be used under certain conditions (see *Bait-fish* section J as well as *Smelt fishing* and *Fishing for whitefish* further on).

Note: Any other fishing method is prohibited when sportfishing.

ANGLING – The line may be equipped with lures, hooks or flies, baited or not. Hooks may be single, double or triple. A lure or fly counts as a hook. A line must not have more than three hooks.

- In the salmon rivers of Zones 23 and 24, a line cannot have more than a single, double or triple hook, or more than one lure equipped with a single, double or triple hook.
- In Zone 25 and in that part of lake Saint-François west of a line drawn from Beaudette point on the north shore to Saint-Louis point on the south shore (Zone 8), four hooks may be used.
- In Zone 21, there is no limit to the number of hooks for smelt fishing.

When angling, only one line at a time may be used, and it must be watched closely and constantly. When fishing in winter, the number of authorized lines varies (see *Number of lines authorized in winter* and *Burbot fishing* further on).

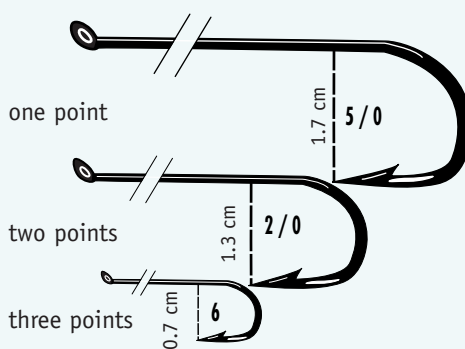
FLY FISHING AREAS – Certain bodies of water located in zecs and wildlife sanctuaries are reserved for fly fishing and are identified as such at the registration post or near the fishing site. In this case, when fly fishing, you must abide by the following rules:

- you must use rods equipped with unweighted lines to which a maximum of **three** artificial flies may be attached;
- **artificial flies** may be composed of a combination of hooks that takes into account the size of the hooks illustrated to actual size below; such flies must never have more than three points;

- flies may have attachments made of silk, metal wire, wool, fur, feathers or a combination of these materials or other materials;
- flies must not have spinning or waving parts, nor be equipped with weights to facilitate sinking;
- flies must not be baited unless stipulated otherwise in the brochure *Sportfishing in Québec 2005-2007 (Fishing periods / Catch limits)*;
- possession of any other type of fishing tackle is strictly forbidden on a waterway reserved for fly fishing, or at least 100 meters from such a waterway, except when such tackle is found within a vehicle (except a boat) or building.

These conditions also apply in salmon rivers in sectors reserved for *Fly fishing only*. Only **single** flies are permitted in these sectors when fly fishing for any species during a salmon fishing period. Outside this period, up to **three** artificial flies may be used when fishing for species other than salmon is authorized. However, when fishing in a salmon river in Zones 23 and 24, you must always use single flies with a single, double or triple hook.

The biggest hook permitted for flies with:



Note: There is no restriction on shank length.

NUMBER OF LINES AUTHORIZED IN WINTER – For winter fishing, as provided in the table below, anglers are entitled to use up to 5 or 10 lines within given zones. Lines used must be closely watched at all times by the person fishing. Moreover, when one or more persons fish under the authority of a holder of a sport-fishing licence, the number of lines used by the group must not exceed the number of lines that the holder is authorized to have. In this case, the total quantity of fish caught and kept per day must not exceed the quantity that the licence-holder is authorized to have.

Note: Dates specified below are not fishing seasons. To find out what the fishing seasons are in each zone, consult the brochure *Sportfishing in Québec 2005-2007 (Fishing periods / Catch limits)*. Daily fishing quotas and possession limits apply.

Zones	Number of lines authorized in winter
1 to 6 ^a , 9 to 11, 15, 21 ^b and 25 ^c to 27 ^d	5 lines, from December 20 to March 31
7 ^e , 8 ^f	10 lines, from December 20 to March 31
12, 13 ^g , 14, 16, 18, 19 south and 20, 28 and 29	5 lines, from December 1 to April 15
17	5 lines, from December 1 to April 24
22 to 24	5 lines, from December 1 to April 30

- a) 5 lines are authorized in lake Memphrémagog, between December 20 and March 31, if fishing is practiced through the ice. Under other circumstances, fishing may only be practiced with one line.
- b) For the waters of Zone 21 east of the Saguenay and within 1 km of Zones 18, 19, and 20 and the islands and islets within these zones, the period extends from December 1 to April 15.
- c) 2 lines only are authorized in lake Témiscamingue.

- d) 10 lines are authorized in the Sainte-Anne river, between the upstream side of the Highway 363 bridge, at Saint-Casimir, and the downstream side of the Highway 138 bridge, at La Pérade.
- e) 5 lines only are authorized in the Batiscan river, between the Saint-Narcisse dam and a point situated 1.2 km downstream of the Highway 138 bridge.
- f) 5 lines only are authorized in the portion of lake Saint-François west of a line drawn from Beaudette point on the north shore to Saint-Louis point on the south shore.
- g) 2 lines only are authorized in lakes Clarice and Raven.

ARC, CROSSBOW OR SPEARFISHING WHILE SWIMMING – Fishing with a bow or a crossbow is permitted. It is also permitted to use a spear while swimming (snorkeling, or diving with or without scuba equipment) is permitted. However, these devices are **prohibited** when fishing for salmon, landlocked salmon, lake trout, muskellunge and sturgeon as well as for any species **in the following areas:**

- in Zones 17 and 22 to 24;
- in bodies of water reserved for fly fishing;
- in salmon rivers;
- within 500 m of the downstream limit of a salmon river in Zones 18 to 20, 27 and 28 or of a salmon river in Zone 21 on the north shore of the Saint-Laurent river.

Moreover, spearfishing while swimming is **prohibited** in some parts of **Saint-François** river (Zone 4) and **Du Lièvre** river (Zone 10) [see the brochure *Sportfishing in Québec 2005-2007 (Fishing periods / Catch limits)*].

FISHING FOR WHITEFISH – Special conditions apply to fishing for whitefish at certain places. **Holders** of a sportfishing licence may fish for whitefish, using a landing net or dip-net, under the following conditions:

- from October 3 to October 16, 2005 and from October 2 to 15, 2006, 72 whitefish a day, in the **Touladi** river between the downstream side of À Mac brook and lake Témiscouata (Zone 2);
- from October 25 to November 7, 2005 and 2006 10 whitefish a day, in the **Saint-François** river between lake Aylmer and the second bridge upstream (Zone 4).

SMELT FISHING – Special conditions apply to fishing for smelt at certain places. The dip-net, landing net or spear are permitted under the following conditions:

Note: In a part of the salmon river where smelt fishing is permitted, this species may be fished at night from December 1 to April 22 (to April 28 in 2006).

- **Residents without a licence** and **non-resident licence holders**, except in the case of a licence with mandatory release, may catch 120 smelts a day:
 - Using a **spear**, from December 20 to March 31, in the following rivers: **Bonaventure**, between the downstream side of the Highway 132 bridge and the downstream side of the old bridges on Highway 132; **Malbaie, du Grand Pabos** and **du Grand Pabos Ouest**, downstream of Highway 132; **Port-Daniel**, downstream of a line joining the marker situated on Lot 237-1 of the Rang north of the harbour to the marker situated on Lot 709 of the Rang west of the harbour; **Petit Pabos**, downstream of the Giroux bridge; **York**, downstream of the Wakeham bridge (Zone 1).
 - Using a **spear**, from December 1 to March 31, in the **Petite Port-Daniel** river downstream of the CN bridge (Zone 1).
 - Using a **landing net** or **dip-net**, from April 1 to May 31, in Zone 21, **except in the following waters:**

The interior waters of the **Îles-de-la-Madeleine; Ouelle** river, the stretch comprised between the downstream side of the Highway 132 bridge and a straight line joining the point of the Ouelle river and the mouth of the Gagnon brook; **De l'Église** brook, in the municipality of Beaumont, as described in the brochure *Sportfishing in Québec 2005-2007 (Fishing periods / Catch limits)*.

- **Sportfishing licence holders**, except in the case of a licence with mandatory release, may catch 120 smelts a day using a **landing net** or **dip-net**:
 - From May 1 to 31, in lakes **Archambault**, **Corbeau** and **Croche** and their tributaries (Zone 9), in the following rivers: **Bonaventure**, between the downstream side of the old Highway 132 bridges and the Malin rapids; **Ristigouche**, from Broadlands to Silarsville (Zone 1).
 - From April 1 to May 15, in the **Mastigouche** river, between its mouth and the first upstream bridge (Zone 15); in the waters of **Zones 4, 5 and 6, except for** the following waters:
 - **Zone 4** – The rivers: **Ashberham** (Noire), from Petit Saint-François lake to lake Saint-François; **Coulombe**, from the Highway 161 bridge to its mouth in lake Aylmer, including the small bay facing its mouth; **Aux Bluets**, **Aux Indiens**, **De l’Or** and **Aux Rats Musqués**, from lake Saint-François to the second bridge upstream of this lake [see the brochure *Sportfishing in Québec 2005-2007 (Fishing periods / Catch limits)*]; **Saint-François**, from lake Saint-François to lake Aylmer; from the Saint-Gérard bridge to the first narrows downstream; and from the Westbury hydroelectric dam at the first narrows downstream of the Cascades Co. dam in East Angus to the railway bridge downstream; **Victoria** and its tributaries; as well as lakes **Mégantic** and **Elgin** and their tributaries.
 - **Zone 5** – **Castle** and **Perkins** brooks, from their source to lake Memphrémagog.
 - **Zone 6** – The rivers: **Magog**, from the Dominion Textile dam at Magog to the first bridge downstream, and from the Magog hydroelectric dam to the Highway 55 bridge; **Massawippi**, from the dam 1.6 km from lake Massawippi to the first bend downstream; **Niger**, from its outlet to Highway 143; **Saint-François**, from the Kruger dam in Bromptonville to the eastern tip of the island situated downstream, and from the Domtar dam in Windsor to the first bridge downstream; **Tomifobia**, from its outlet to Highway 141; **Taylor** brook (a tributary of lake Memphrémagog); and lakes **D’Argent** and **Massawippi** and their tributaries.
- **Sportfishing licence holders** may catch 500 smelts a day using a **landing net** or **dip-net**:
 - From May 1 to 31, in the following lakes: **Carré**, **Ouimet**, **Quenouille** and **Supérieur** (Zone 9); **Chaud** and **Tremblant** (Zone 11).
 - From April 15 to May 20, in the **Aux Rats** river between lake **Aux Rats** and latitude 49°30’ N (Zone 28).

BURBOT FISHING – Particular fishing conditions apply to burbot fishing in the lake Saint-Jean waters encircled by highways 169 and 373. At this location, a **burbot fishing permit holder** may fish for this species from December 1 to April 15, without catch limit, using two night lines, each supplied with a maximum of 10 pieces of bait, the entirety lying at the bottom in a continuous manner. In addition, the holder must affix a tag, issued with the permit, to each night lines marker post.

FISHING FOR MOLLUSKS AND CRUSTACEANS – Fishing for freshwater mollusks and crustaceans by hand, landing net, bait-trap, dip-net or any other similar means is permitted, without any catch limit, during the periods specified under “Other species” in the brochure *Sportfishing in Québec 2005-2007 (Fishing periods / Catch limits)*.

G RETURNING FISH TO WATER

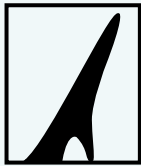
Every person must return immediately, whether dead or alive, to the waters from which it was taken, and being sure to avoid needless injury if it is still alive, every fish:

- of a size which it is prohibited to keep;
- caught during a period when or at a place where it is prohibited to fish for this species;
- caught using a prohibited device or when the catch limit has been reached;
- caught under a sportfishing licence with mandatory release.

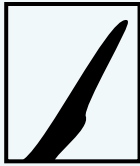
The angler may also return to the water, alive, the fish that he has just caught and that he is entitled to keep. In all cases, to ensure that the fish has the best chances of surviving, the following method must be used:

FISH RELEASE METHOD

- If you regularly return fish to the water, use a barbless hook; this makes it easier to remove the hook without injuring the fish.



Barbed hook



Barbless hook
Broken, bent
or filed down
barb

- Gently remove the hook with your hands or pliers. If the hook is deeply imbedded, cut the fishing line. The hook will eventually disintegrate and thus do less harm to the fish.
 - Do not tire the fish. A prolonged struggle will decrease its chance of survival.
 - Hold the fish gently under water and avoid touching its eyes or gills. A fish out of water quickly begins to lack oxygen. Keep your hands moistened. Do not use a tailer. Use a small mesh cotton net.
- Revive the fish by holding it horizontally under water. If it is floating on its side, move it gently back and forth under water so that the water enters its gills. Let the fish go, when it begins to struggle.

H INFORMATION TO NON-RESIDENTS

Non-residents must hold a Québec sportfishing licence to fish anywhere in Québec. However, this licence is not required when fishing in a park managed by Parks Canada or in a fish pond (see *Fish Pond*, section M). The spouse and children of a non-resident may fish without a licence in some cases (see *Information on fishing licences*, section C).

Holders of an Ontario sportfishing licence are treated the same as holders of a Québec sportfishing licence for the purposes of sportfishing in Zone 25 and in lakes Clarice, Labyrinthe and Raven (Zone 13) as well as in that part of lake Saint-François (Zone 8) west of a line drawn from Beaudette point on the northern shore to Saint-Louis point on the southern shore. The same applies to holders of a New Brunswick sportfishing licence for the purpose of angling in the Patapédia (Zone 2) and Ristigouche (Zones 1 and 2) salmon rivers. Fish caught in these waters and kept are considered caught in Québec and must be included in the daily fishing quota and possession limits.

Non-residents who wish to fish north of the 52nd parallel (Zones 19 south, 22 north, 23, 24 and 29), or east of the Saint-Augustin river (Zone 19 south), must use the services of an outfitter. For more information, contact the Nord-du-Québec or the Côte-Nord regional office.

Note: To export sturgeon (lake or Atlantic) outside Canada, you must first obtain a CITES export licence from Fisheries and Oceans Canada at (418) 648-5890.

I CIRCULATION IN FRAGILE ENVIRONMENTS

The circulation of motorized vehicles in certain fragile environments is also regulated. It is important to keep in mind that it is forbidden to circulate:

- in motorized vehicles on the dunes of the lands of the domain of the States.
- in motorized vehicles, other than snowmobiles:
 - on beaches and barrier beaches, in marshes or swamps located along the shoreline (flat) of the St. Lawrence River downstream from Pont Laviolette, of the estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence, of Baie des Chaleurs and the islands located there. However, the effect of this restriction is not to prevent the exercise of activities related to fishing practiced legally, the circulation on trails identified for this purpose and laid out in accordance with the law, as well as to permit access to private property.
 - In peatlands of the lands of the domain of the States, south of the St. Lawrence River, of the estuary and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

To find out all of the regulations applicable to circulating in a vehicle in fragile environments, consult the ministère du Développement durable et des Parcs du Québec, which is responsible for the application of this regulation, at 1 800 561-1616 or visit the Department's web site www.menv.gouv.qc.ca

In general, regulations **prohibit** the use (including possession and transportation) of bait-fish; however, the use of dead or live bait-fish is permitted, depending on the situation, in the following locations:

DEAD BAIT-FISH:

- In Zones: **4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14** and **16**, dead bait-fish is authorized, except at the following places:
 - Lake À la Truite (Ham Sud, Zone 4);
 - Lakes Hatley, Cristal and Petit lac Baldwin (Zone 6);
 - The Papineau-Labelle Wildlife sanctuary (Zone 10);
 - The Aigubelle national park and in zecs Dumoine and Maganasipi. In zec Restigo, bait-fish is authorized from April 1 to 15 and December 1 to March 31 (Zone 13).
- At the following places, **shrimp** only is authorized:
 - In **Zone 1**, from December 20 to March 31, for fishing smelt in certain salmon rivers [see the brochure *Sportfishing in Québec 2005-2007 (Fishing periods / Catch limits)*];
 - In **Zone 27**, from December 26 to March 31 when fishing for Atlantic tomcod in the Sainte-Anne river, between the downstream sides of the bridges on Highways 138 and 363 [see the brochure *Sportfishing in Québec 2005-2007 (Fishing periods / Catch limits)*].
- At the following places, **smelt** only is authorized:
 - In **Zone 17**, from December 1 to April 24;
 - In **Zone 28**, from December 1 to April 15 in the following lakes: **Bouchette** (Dablon township), **À la Croix** (Caron township), **Des Commissaires**, **Des Coudes**, **Gronick**, **Des Habitants**, **À Jim** (Ramezay township), **Kénogami**, **Labonté**, **Labrecque** (Labrecque township), **La Mothe**, **Montréal**, **Ouiatchouan**, **Aux Rats** (zec Rivière-aux-Rats), **Rond** (48°23' N 72°20' W), **Saint-Jean**, the waters encircled by Highways 169 and 373, **Sébastien** (Falardeau township), **Tchitogama**, **Vert** (Mézy township) and in the rivers: **Mistassibi** between Highway 169 and the southern limits of the La Trappe and Hudon townships, **Péribonka** between the Highway 169 bridge near Sainte-Monique and latitude 49° N **Saguenay** between the Highway 169 bridges in Alma and the Dubuc bridge in Saguenay.

Note: The **possession** of dead bait-fish is authorized in the portions of Zones 1, 2, 3, 18, 19 and 27 comprised on or between Highways 20, 40, 132 (except between Sainte-Flavie and Matapédia), or Highway 138, and on the waters of Zone 7 or 21 for use as bait in these waters. Moreover, in Zone 28 the possession of dead smelt intended for use as bait-fish in this zone's waters is authorized where their use as bait is authorized.

DEAD OR LIVE BAIT-FISH:

- In Zones **7** (between Highways 132 and 138), **8, 21** and **25**, as well as in the **Des Outaouais** river between lake Témiscamingue and the dam on the first upstream falls at point 47°36' N 79°27' W (Zone 13).

BAIT-FISH PROHIBITED – In waters where bait-fish may be used, it is **prohibited** to use or to have in ones possession, for use as bait-fish (whether dead or alive, whole or cut up): bass, bowfin, bullhead, burbot, carp, channel catfish, char, freshwater drum, goldeye, goldfish, lake trout, lampreys, longnose gar (garpike), mooneye, muskellunge, pike, redhorse, round goby, salmon (Atlantic, coho, chinook, kokanee, landlocked), sturgeon, sunfish (longear, bluegill, rock bass, pumpkinseed), tench, trout, walleye, yellow perch and any fish species that is not indigenous to Québec.

BAIT-FISH TACKLE – In zones where bait-fish is permitted, a sportfishing **licence holder** is allowed to use to capture bait-fish, one dip-net or up to three bait-traps, except in Zone 17 where such gear is

prohibited for fishing. Bait-traps left unattended must be identified with the name, address and licence number of their owners. When one or more persons fish under the licence of another person, the number of tackle used by the group must not exceed that authorized for the licence-holder.

FROGS AS BAIT – The use of frogs as bait is allowed; however, the regulations concerning the capture of amphibians must be observed. The holder of a frog hunting licence may capture northern leopard frogs, green frogs or bullfrogs from July 15 to November 15, without any restriction on the number caught. Frogs may not be taken in Zones 17, 19 north and 22 to 24, or in wildlife sanctuaries and areas where all hunting is prohibited. The taking of frogs in order to keep them in captivity is subject to specific regulations. For more information, contact an office of the Department (Faune Québec sector).

OTHER BAIT – Crustaceans, in particular **crawfish**, mollusks, marine animals and their parts, as well as fish eggs are considered fish within the meaning of the law. Their use as bait is subject to the same regulations.

Moreover, **leeches**, whether dead or alive, are permitted everywhere.

K PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE HABITATS

It is important to remind anglers that the law protects wildlife habitats. No person may engage, without authorization, in an activity liable to modify a biological, physical or chemical element of the habitat of an animal or a fish. In the case of an angler or vacationer, this may include, for example:

- dumping oil, gasoline or any other toxic substance or waste material at any place, but in particular, in the case of a fish habitat, in a lake, marsh, swamp, flood plain or a watercourse in the case of the fish habitat;
- crossing with a motorized vehicle such bodies of water or circulating along a bank or a shore;
- building in such bodies of water a dam which, in addition to preventing the free movement of fish, can alter the fish habitat;
- removing or placing gravel or rocks from the bed of such a watercourse or doing fill work there. Remember that even minor work can cause damages to the fish habitat.

If you witness such acts, report them to a wildlife conservation officer via **S.O.S Poaching** at **1 800 463-2191**, or a wildlife protection office. Remember that any environment where there is water, even periodically (in spring, for example), may be vital for fish. To find out more about the applicable regulations, contact an office of the Department, Faune Québec sector.

L FISHING QUOTAS, POSSESSION AND LENGTH LIMITS

DAILY FISHING QUOTAS – Daily fishing quotas include only those fish caught and kept and do not include fish that are thrown back. The licence-holder must include in his quota the fish caught and kept by **all** of the persons fishing under the authority of his licence. This also includes fish caught and eaten the same day. To find out the maximum number of fish that may be harvested daily, including in national parks, wildlife sanctuaries or zecs, consult the brochure *Sportfishing in Québec 2005-2007 (Fishing periods / Catch limits)*.

POSSESSION LIMIT – In a given zone, the authorized possession limit for fish species is equal to the daily quota prescribed for that species **in that zone**.

In that zone, the number of fish in an individual's possession caught while sportfishing could exceed the quota authorized for the zone as long as the additional number of fish were caught in other zones and do not exceed the quotas applicable to those zones. However, at no time may an individual possess a number of fish exceeding the highest daily fishing quota set for a species in Québec.

At no time, may an individual in a **national park, wildlife sanctuary** or **zec**, or in a **body of water** possess a number of fish exceeding the highest daily fishing quota for that park, wildlife sanctuary or zec, or that body of water.

In the case of **lake trout** and **smelt**, these same regulations apply. However, as there are water bodies where the fishing quota is higher than that established for the zone, individuals may have in their possession fish that come from one of these water bodies, even if this quota exceeds that stipulated for the zone.

LENGTH LIMIT – It is not permitted to catch and keep or have in your possession:

- **Walleye** under **30 cm** in length caught in the following waters:

Note: Having in your possession the equivalent of a 30 cm or larger walleye in fillets is permitted provided the fillets measure 20 cm or more and the skin is still attached to the flesh over the entire length of the fillets.

- ☛ – The waters of La Vérendrye Wildlife sanctuary (Zones 12 and 13), except in lakes Jean-Péré, Grand lac de la Vieille, Kokomis, Obikickikak (Kakontis) and Du Vieillard (see further on for the applicable length limit for these bodies of water);
- The waters of the Communal Wildlife Area of Baskatong reservoir (Zone 11);
- The waters of zone 13 east, with the exclusion of outfitters with exclusive rights, except the Camachigama outfitting operation;
- The waters of zone 13 west, with the exclusion of outfitters with exclusive rights (see below for the applicable length limit to zecs Dumoine, Kipawa, Maganasipi and Restigo);
- The waters of zone 16, with the exclusion of the Mistaouac outfitting operation and lakes unnamed: (48°59'57" N 75°00'33" W), (49°09'00" N 76°08'50" W), (49°09'04" N 76°22'41" W), (49°09'11" N 76°32'54" W), (49°09'14" N 76°35'15" W), (49°09'18" N 75°42'44" W), (49°12'31" N 74°56'31" W), (49°12'35" N 74°53'47" W), À l'Eau Rouge, Fauvel, Feuquières, Hébert, Mista Atikamekwranan, Nelson, Némégousse, Podeur, Robert, Valreville (Chambalon township) and Ventadour.

- **Walleye** under **35 cm** in length caught in the following waters:

Note: Having in your possession the equivalent of a 35 cm or larger walleye in fillets is permitted provided the fillets measure 23 cm or more and the skin is still attached to the flesh over the entire length of the fillets.

- ☛ – Zone 4: lakes Aylmer, du Huit, à la Truite (Thetford township) and Saint-François;
- ☛ – Zone 6: lake Brompton;
- ☛ – Zone 10: Grand lac Nominigue;
- ☛ – Lake Jean-Péré, Grand lac de la Vieille, Kokomis, Obikickikak (Kakontis) and Du Vieillard (La Vérendrye Wildlife Sanctuary);
- ☛ – The waters of these zecs: Boullé, Dumoine, Kipawa, Maganasipi and Restigo.

- **Walleye** under **45 cm** in length caught in the following waters:

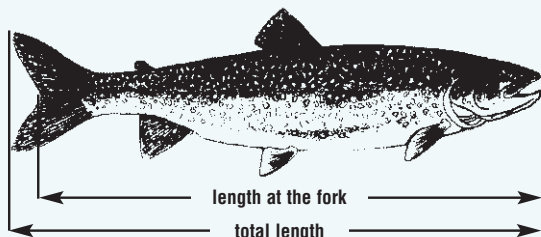
- Nicolet Sud-Ouest river, between the first bridge downstream of lake Les Trois Lacs, at Shipton, and the downstream side of the Highway 255 bridge, at Wotton, including lake Les Trois Lacs (Zone 7);
- Rivière Nicolet Centre, between its mouth and the downstream side of the Highway 216 bridge at Wotton (Zone 7).

- **Muskellunge** under **104 cm** in length caught in the Saint-Laurent river including lake Saint-Pierre (Zones 7, 8, 21), lake Saint-François (Zone 8), lake Saint-Louis (Zone 8), the Lachine rapids (Zone 8), the La Prairie watershed (Zone 8), Des Mille Îles river (Zone 8), Des Prairies river (Zone 8), lake Deux Montagnes (Zone 8), the stretch of the Des Outaouais river located in Zone 8 or Zone 25.

- One **landlocked salmon** measuring less than **40 cm** in length from the waters of lake Memphrémagog (Zone 6);

- **Yellow perch** under **16.5 cm** in length caught in the waters of the Saint-Laurent river, including lake Saint-Pierre between the downstream side of the power lines of the Hydro-Québec power station at Tracy and the downstream side of the Laviolette bridge (Zones 7 and 8).
- **Anadromous Atlantic salmon** under **30 cm** in length.
- **Lake trout 35 to 50 cm** in length (inclusive) caught in waters of Zones 1 to 6.
- **Lake trout less than 40 cm** in length caught in the following zones:
 - Zones 9 to 15, 18, 26 to 28.
- **Lake trout less than 50 cm** in length caught in the following waters:
 - Zone 9 : lakes Blanc (46°19'52" N 74°12'51" W) and Ouareau. Ouareau river, between lakes Blanc and Ouareau (46°18'54" N 74°11'20" W);
 - Zone 10 : lakes De l'Argile, Blue Sea, Du Cerf, Dumont, Gagnon (Preston and Gagnon townships), Heney, Nomingue, Pemichangan, Petit lac du Cerf, Saint-Germain (46°14' N 75°30' W), des Trente et Un Milles, and Poisson Blanc reservoir;
 - Zone 11: lake Tremblant;
 - Zone 12: lakes Branssat (Forant and Rochefort townships), Duval (Anjou and Brie townships), and Lynch (Forant and Rochefort townships);
 - Zone 13: lakes Audouin, Grindstone, Hunter, Kipawa, Matchi-Manitou and MacLachlin;
 - Zone 15: lakes Cousineau (47°01' N 73°59' W), Culotte (47°09' N 74°02' W), Kempt (47°26' N 74°16' W), Légaré (46°58' N 73°57' W), Maskinongé, Opwaiak, Saint-Joseph, Troyes and Villiers (47°08' N 74°02' W);
 - Zone 27: lake Saint-Joseph.

These measures concerning lake trout do not apply to national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and zecs, and to certain water bodies situated in those areas where outfitters have exclusive fishing rights of Zones 10 to 15, 18, 26 to 28.



Note: Fish length is measured from the tip of the snout to the fork in the caudal fin. In the case of the yellow perch, however, the total length of the fish is measured.

M SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN TERRITORIES

Fishing in Québec is generally practiced on the lands of the State domain. Special wildlife management conditions apply to some parts of this territory. The following list briefly presents these areas as well as their characteristics.

COMMUNAL WILDLIFE AREAS – A Communal Wildlife Area (CWA) is a public lake or river that is the object of a lease of exclusive fishing rights for community purposes and is managed by a non-profit corporation. This is the case for the CWAs of Baskatong reservoir (819) 438-1177 Gouin reservoir (819) 523-5255 and lake Saint-Jean 1 888 866-2527. To fish in a CWA, authorization from the corporation is required. For more information, contact the CWA that you wish to visit.

- **FISH PONDS** – A fish pond is a body of water of not more than 20 ha containing exclusively farm-raised fish, closed on all sides to keep the fish impounded, located on private property and used for angling. Fishing without a licence is authorized in such a fish pond. Moreover, there are no quotas, and fishing is allowed year-round. However, the owner of a fish pond who wants to sell to a person the fish that he catches in his pond must hold a fish pond operating licence issued by the MAPAQ.

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES – To fish in wildlife sanctuaries or a national park, you generally must make a reservation. You must also acquire a right of access or an authorization to fish, as the case may be, and comply with the date, time and location specified. When you are done fishing or at the end of your stay, you must report all fish caught on a daily basis. Moreover, you must hold a right of access or an authorization to fish to carry fishing tackle with you in these locations. For more information about national parks and wildlife sanctuaries administered by the SEPAQ, contact this organization at (418) 890-6527 or at 1 800 665-6527, or consult its Internet site at www.sepaq.com. You can obtain information concerning the Duchénier wildlife sanctuary at (418) 735-5222.

Note: This publication does not apply to parks managed by Parks Canada.

NORD-DU-QUÉBEC – To fish in Zones 17 and 22 to 24, anglers must comply with the *Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and Nouveau-Québec territories*. These territories are subdivided into three categories. To fish on Category I and II lands, it is necessary to obtain authorization and to respect the conditions imposed by the Cree, Inuit or Naskapi authorities.

- Any person who wishes to fish lake trout in Zone 23 during the period between September 8 and 30 must use the services of an outfitter operating on this territory.

Angling only is permitted in Zones 17 and 22 to 24. The use of a bow, crossbow or spear is therefore prohibited. Moreover, in Zones 22 to 24, certain fish species are reserved for the exclusive use of the natives peoples.

- To fish in the Eastmain and Weh Sees Indohoun sectors in Zone 22, a fishing permit holder must obtain
- a pass (free) and respect the dates and times mentioned thereon. At the end of his daily fishing or his
- stay, he must report on his fishing, indicating his daily catches. If there is no registration officer, the holder must fill in the form available at the reception station and deposit it at the place specified for that purpose. For more information, please contact the Nord-du-Québec regional and local offices.

OUTFITTING OPERATIONS – These businesses offer anglers a variety of services, including accommodation and equipment. Some hold exclusive fishing rights over a specific area. In some outfitting operations with exclusive fishing rights situated in Zones 10, 15, 18, 26 to 28, the fishing quota and season for charr and lake trout may be different from those which apply within the zone. In addition, restrictions applicable to lake trout length may not apply in some waterways. Some outfitting operations may offer the possibility to fish year-round for brook trout and rainbow trout. For more information, contact the outfitting operation that you wish to frequent or visit the web site of the Fédération des pourvoyeurs du Québec www.fpq.com.

Note: A special regime applies in the Nord-du-Québec region (Zones 17 and 22 to 24). Consult the regional and local offices of this region to find out more.

PRIVATE PROPERTY – To fish on private property you must obtain permission from the owner and consider yourself as a guest of the owner. Fishing regulations apply on private property. Some landowners of the Bas-Saint-Laurent, Estrie, Chaudière-Appalaches, Mauricie, Centre-du-Québec, Montérégie and Capitale-Nationale regions have entered into an agreement with the authorities of the Department concerning wildlife management and access to their property. On these properties, those persons who fish without the consent of the owners are prosecuted by the Department. Now this approach shall apply to fishing on a private property whose owner is party to an agreement with an association or organization, whose vocation is to promote access for anglers to private grounds, **and who is recognized to this effect by the Department, in order to gain access to wildlife.** For further information, contact the regional office concerned.

SALMON RIVERS – Québec has 115 salmon rivers managed by various organizations. Incidentally, a salmon river may be administered by several organizations simultaneously so that some sections of the river may have **zec** status, others – that of **wildlife sanctuaries**, and still others – exclusive rights outfitter. Some sectors may also be on private property. Before fishing for salmon or fishing in a salmon river, be sure to learn more and to consult the brochure entitled *Salmon Fishing in Québec*.

WILDLIFE PRESERVES – In a wildlife preserve, the conditions for using resources are determined with a view to preserving the habitat of wildlife or of a wildlife species. Fishing may be subject to certain conditions governing access to and circulation on the territory.

In the Pierre-Étienne-Fortin Wildlife Preserve all fishing is **prohibited** during the period from June 20 to July 20 in sectors B and C of the preserve (Zone 8).

For more information on these territories, contact the appropriate office of the Department, Faune Québec sector.

ZECS – A controlled zone (zec) is a hunting and fishing territory whose management has been delegated to a non-profit organization which you can join by becoming a member. To fish in controlled zones (zecs), anglers must register and comply with the date, time, location or sector specified on the proof of registration. The proof of registration must be carried and presented upon request to wildlife protection officers or their assistants, or to land wardens. The registration may also be placed on the dashboard of the vehicle so as to be read from the outside of the vehicle. Finally, the proof of registration must be returned when the stay is over and all fish catches must be reported. For more information, contact the organization in charge of managing the zec that you wish to visit or visit the site of the FQGZ at www.fqgz.com.

www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/english/wildlife

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Internet: www.ftgq.qc.ca



Fédération québécoise de la faune

Telephone: 1 888 523-2863

Internet: www.fqf.qc.ca



Fédération québécoise des gestionnaires de zecs

Telephone: (418) 527-0235

Internet: www.zecquebec.com



Fédération québécoise pour le saumon atlantique

Telephone: (418) 847-9191

Internet: www.saumon-fqsa.qc.ca



Fondation de la faune du Québec

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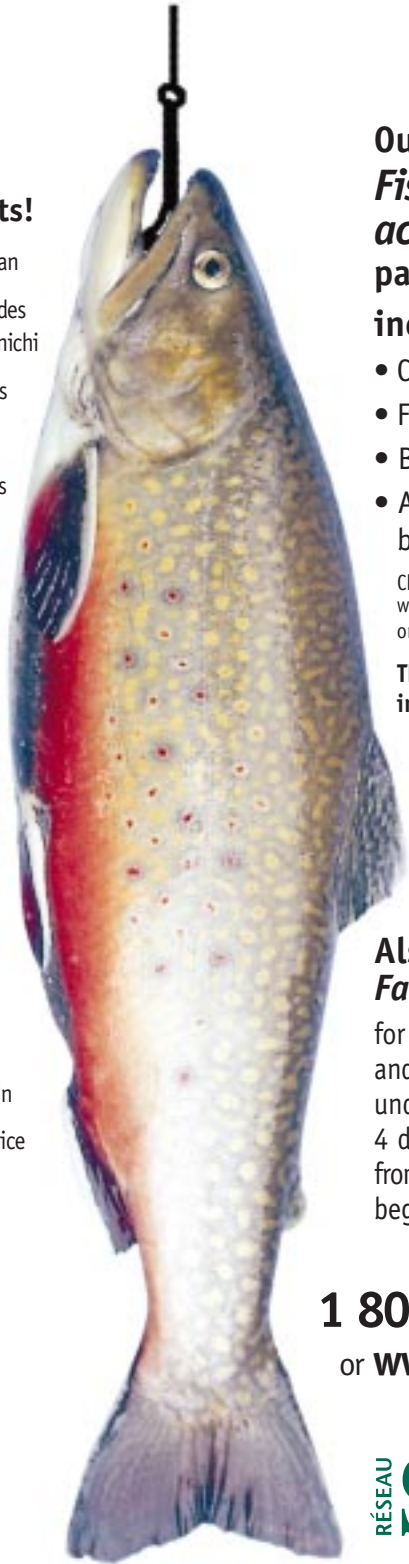
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