

Sport Fishing in Québec 2012-2014 including salmon fishing

Recipient address

Read the news releases (in French: Actualités) on the website to follow the late-breaking news concerning the sport fishing regulations.

www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/en/fishing-rules

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Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune
Dépôt légal - Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, 2012
Dépôt légal - Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, 2012
ISBN 978-2-550-64467-5 (pdf)
ISBN 978-2-550-64468-2 (HTML)
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Sport Fishing in Québec – Main rules April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2014

This publication presents the main fishing rules, including those pertaining to Atlantic salmon, that are in force from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2014. It is also accessible in electronic format (PDF and HTML) through the ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune website, at www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/en/regles-peche. These rules apply only to sportfishing in Québec waters (with or without tides) for freshwater, anadromous or catadromous species.

Important

The information presented in this publication does not replace the official texts of the laws and regulations. Please also note that during the season, it is possible that the Department may intervene by closing certain water bodies to fishing, where necessary, to avoid over-harvesting certain species, by modifying catch limits according to salmon spawning run periods, or by opening locally some bodies of water to winter fishing. To learn about these changes, consult the News section of the electronic version of the publication (www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/en/fishing-rules) or contact an office of the Department in the region in question.

Moreover, it is also possible that the practice of fishing be modified as a result of an agreement between the Gouvernement du Québec and a native nation, or between the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife and a native nation or band council. In its resolutions of March 20, 1985 and May 31, 1989, the Québec National Assembly has formally recognized eleven Native Nations in Québec and their particular rights within the existing legislation. The Gouvernement du Québec has chosen to negotiate with these nations in order to reach agreements that would better recognize and specify the exercise of their activities. There is a historical basis for this process and it is considered important for Québec society to establish harmonious relations based on mutual respect and trust. For more details on eventual changes to fishing regulations, contact the Service aux citoyens or an office of the Department in the region in question.


Saltwater species

For sportfishing of saltwater species such as capelin, cod etc., consult the web site of Fisheries and Oceans Canada at the following address: <http://www.qc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/peches-fisheries/recreative-recreational/index-fra.asp> or call 418 648-2239.

Main new elements

To learn more about the new measures that do not have a reference page, please consult the fishing periods on the web site or contact Customer Services.

- Closing of yellow perch fishing in the communal wildlife area of lac Saint-Pierre (Zones 7 and 8).
- New length limit for walleye in the Communal wildlife area of Gouin reservoir (see page 15).
- Change in catch limit for char, from 15 to 10, in Zone 26.
- Spearfishing while swimming prohibited in some stretches of the rivière Gatineau (Zone 11) and the rivière Picanoc (Zone 10) (see page 9).
- Changes in catch limit for certain species in Zone 13 east.
- Change in burbot fishing period for burbot fishing licence holders (see pages 5 and 10).
- New catch limits and fishing periods for lac Memphrémagog (Zone 6).
- Changes in lake trout and landlocked salmon fishing periods in Zone 18.
- New rules for smelt fishing with a dip-net or a landing net in Zones 4, 5, 6, 9 and 15 (see page 9).
- Smelt fishing closed in some stretches of Saguenay and Chicoutimi rivers (see page 9).
- Fishing for all species now prohibited in Romaine and Puyjalon rivers (Zone 19).
- Fishing in Beattie, Murphy and Portage rivers (Zone 1) restricted to simple hooks, with or without bait, of 7 mm or less.
- Opening of winter fishing for bass and muskellunge in lac Mégantic (Zone 4).
- New catch limit for muskellunge in Zone 6.
- Change in catch limit for salmon in the rivière Cascapédia (Zone 1).
- Changes in fishing periods in some stretches of the rivière Cascapédia (Zone 1).
- Fishing with dead smelt bait permitted in new water bodies of Zone 28 (see page 12).
- Opening of certain water bodies to winter fishing in Zone 28.
- Change in catch limit for char in Petite rivière Cascapédia.
- Changes in fishing periods in the rivière Saint-Jean (Zone 28).
- Closing of char fishing in some stretches of the rivière Sainte-Marguerite (Zone 28).
- New fishing periods in some stretches of the rivière Malbaie (Zone 27).
- New fishing periods for some species in Zones 10, 11, 12 and 13 and new catch limit for muskellunge in Zones 10 and 11.
- Changes in fishing periods in certain water bodies of Zones 15 and 26.
- Changes in fishing periods in certain water bodies of Zones 4, 5 and 6.
- New fishing rules for certain water bodies of Zone 7.
- Change in length limit for pike in Restigo and Dumoine zecs (Zone 13) (see page 15).
- Changes in certain fishing rules in Laval and Mistassini rivers (Zone 18).
- New registration conditions for salmon fishing in Zone 23 (see page 20).
- Closing of smelt fishing caught with a dip-net or a landing net in lakes Carré, Ouimet, Quenouille and Supérieur (Zone 9).
- New fishing periods in certain water bodies of Zone 22 south.
- New fishing period in Anticosti national park.

In this publication, new elements are highlighted by a  icon. In the General Rules section, they are also highlighted in grey.

The rules in brief

Fishing is a fun and exciting activity that is open to everyone. You can fish alone, as part of a group or with your family. You can even try catching different species in lakes or rivers. While this is a renewable resource, it remains fragile. That is why there are **a few basic rules that you need to know before going fishing**. The enjoyment that you will derive from fishing will more than compensate for the few minutes that it will take you to read the applicable rules.

A licence?

Save for a few exceptions, **a licence is required to fish, and you must have it on hand when you take part in this activity.** A licence may be obtained from authorized sales agents. They are generally hunting and fishing supply retailers, convenience stores, etc. Several types of licences are offered at different prices, depending on the species that you wish to fish for and the length of the planned fishing outing.

It may be possible to fish without having to purchase a licence

Indeed, a child who is a minor can always fish under the licence of one of his parents. Moreover, a person may fish under the licence of his spouse provided that he fishes in the company of his spouse or has his spouse's licence in his possession. In addition, a minor or an adult student can fish in the company of an adult who is a licence-holder.

Where may you fish?

Fishing is generally permitted throughout Québec

While **most of the bodies of water of Québec are public**, the properties that border them may be privately owned, particularly in southern Québec. Before entering a private property or crossing over **privately owned land** to gain access to the place where you want to go fishing, you must obtain the **owner's permission** and consider yourself his guest.

Lands that are not private belong to the domain of the State and access to these lands is open to all. However, a portion of the lands of the domain of the State is organized in structured territories which are governed by special access conditions and for which you must generally pay certain fees in order to fish or spend time on these lands. In return, they offer more elaborate infrastructures such as, for example and depending on the location, cabin accommodations and watercraft.

How many fish am I entitled to keep?

There are three types of limits on fish

The **daily catch limit** corresponds to the maximum number of fish that may be caught and kept in a day for a species in one of the 29 fishing zones of the province. The fish eaten on the very day are part of this daily limit. For example, if the catch limit is 15 fish and if, after having caught them, you decide to eat 5, you cannot go back and catch another five fish of this species on that day. You may however continue to fish for another species for which the catch limit has not yet been reached. Daily catch limits are not cumulative.

Moreover, **when a person fishes under another person's licence, he is not entitled to his own catch limit.** The fish that he catches must be included in the licence-holder's limit.

The **possession limit** corresponds to the number of fish of a species which a person may have in his possession **at any given time and in any given place**, whether it be at the fishing site, on the road or at home. This possession limit is generally equal to the daily catch limit. If, for example, the catch limit for a species is 15 fish in a given zone, the possession limit for this species, in this zone, will also be 15 fish. When you go fishing in more than one zone, the authorized possession limit is equal to the higher of the limits permitted for the species in question.

No licence is required to possess fish. **A person may share his fish with another person who does not have a fishing licence.** You must however respect the daily catch limit and the person receiving this fish must also respect the authorized possession limit.

In addition to catch and possession limits, there may be **length limits** for certain species and in certain areas.

What you also need to know!

- The maximum number of hooks that you can have on your line is generally three.
- Certain bodies of water are reserved for fly fishing.
- You can fish at night, except in salmon rivers.
- Earthworms and leaches are authorized as bait and there is no restriction on their use.
- In most zones, using fish (minnows) as bait is prohibited.
- When you transport fish, it must be possible to identify the species, by leaving a piece of skin on the fish, for example. If a length limit applies, you generally cannot cut the fish into fillets; you must also be able to count them.
- Fish caught during sportfishing is not intended for sale.

Where can you learn more?

There you have the basic rules governing fishing in Québec. Once you have chosen the place where you would like to fish, you will have to determine the fishing zone in question and have a good knowledge of the seasons and limits that apply in the zone, as well as the specific conditions of access, if it is a wildlife sanctuary, a zec or an outfitting operation for example. For this purpose, you can consult the web site at www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/en/fishing-rules, you can also obtain information by telephone at 1 877 346-6763 or consult a wildlife conservation officer.

General rules

Definitions

In this brochure, 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 hook or an artificial lure that may be baited, including fly fishing but not including fishing by means of a night line.
- **Artificial lure:** a spoon, simulated minnow, artificial fly or any other device made of feathers, fibres, rubber, wood, metal, plastic or similar materials that has one or more hooks.
- **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 funnelshaped openings the smallest of which is no greater than 2.5 cm in diameter.

- **Bass:** smallmouth bass and largemouth bass, unless otherwise indicated.
- **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 thereof, including shellfish (mussels, oysters, etc.) and crustaceans (shrimp, crawfish, etc.).
- **Fishing:** to catch or attempt to catch fish by any means whatsoever.
- **Fly fishing:** fishing by means of a fly line mounted on a rod designed specifically for that type of fishing and to which artificial flies are attached.
- **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.
- **Length:** in respect of an Atlantic salmon, the distance measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail; in respect of any other fish, the distance measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the tip of the caudal fin.
- **National park:** designates a Québec national park, unless otherwise mentioned in the text.
- **Other species:** includes, at the end of a list of fish species, the species that are not mentioned in this list. This designation varies according to the case.

EXAMPLE	
Walleye	Fishing prohibited
Other species	April 27 - March 31
The designation Other species refers here to all other species than walleye, such as pike, bass, etc.	

- **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, unless otherwise indicated.
 - Large salmon: a salmon measuring 63 cm or longer;
 - Small salmon: a salmon measuring less than 63 cm.
- **Sea trout:** designates anadromous brook trout.
- **Shad:** includes American shad and gizzard shad.
- **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, except where stipulated otherwise in the text.
- **Weighted core line:** a fly line that, when folded firmly and then released, remains folded.
- **Weighted down line:** a fly line to which an external weight is attached.
- **Whitefish:** includes shallow water cisco, lake whitefish, and round whitefish, unless otherwise indicated.

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.

Fishing licence

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 availability for residents and non-residents, are presented in the following table:

Availability of licence categories		
	Résident*	Non-résident
<i>Sport fishing (except for Atlantic salmon)</i>		
- under 65	yes	yes
- 65 and over	yes	yes
- 7 consecutive days	no	yes
- 3 consecutive days	yes	yes
- 1 day	no	yes
- mandatory release**	yes	yes
<i>Fishing for burbot in lac Saint-Jean</i>		
	yes	yes
<i>Sport fishing for Atlantic salmon</i>		
- annual	yes	yes
- 1 day	yes	yes
- mandatory	yes	yes
<i>Replacement licence</i>		
	yes	yes
* See definition of resident, page 3.		
** Licence is only valid when the holder uses the services of an outfitting establishment.		

To obtain the licence rates currently in effect, consult the web site at <http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/en/wildlife/licence-rates/> or contact the Department's Customer Services at 1 877 346-6763.

What species of fish may I catch under my licence?

The sportfishing licence for species other than Atlantic salmon gives the holder a **general** authorization to fish for most species of sport interest in Québec, except for salmon. It also allows the holder to fish for species other than salmon in certain salmon rivers of zones 1, 2, 3, 18 to 21, 23, 27 and 28 outside salmon fishing periods. To find out these periods, consult the publication *Salmon fishing in Québec* for the relevant zone or contact an office of the Department.

To fish for salmon, you must be the holder of an Atlantic salmon sportfishing licence. This licence is required to fish for salmon everywhere in Québec and to fish for any fish species during a salmon fishing season in a salmon river or a salmon river sector.

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 in the western branch of rivière Aux Rochers, downstream from Boulevard des Îles in Port-Cartier 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 salmon. Every salmon caught under this licence must be released.

What is the purpose of a burbot fishing licence?

This licence authorizes its holder, as well as the persons who can fish under his licence, to fish for this species, without catch limits, using two night lines, between December 1 and March 31, in the waters of lac Saint-Jean encircled by highways 169 and 373. Burbot fishing is also permitted, without catch limits, for the holder of a sportfishing licence during the period from December 20 to March 31. 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 per line). For more details, consult the heading "Burbot fishing" in the section *Fishing methods*, page 6. ➤

If I am 18 or over, who can fish under my licence?

If you own this type of licence:	Atlantic salmon sportfishing licence	Sportfishing licence for species other than Atlantic salmon, or burbot fishing licence
Can this person fish under my licence?		
Your spouse	NO	YES
Your children (as well as those of your spouse) who are under 18	YES	YES
Your children (as well as those of your spouse) who are between 18 and 24 and who have a valid student's card in their possession	YES, if they are carrying your licence AND a valid student's card	YES, if they are carrying your licence AND a valid student's card

Any person under 18	YES, if that person is fishing under the surveillance of the licence holder or his or her spouse	YES, if that person is fishing under the surveillance of the licence holder or his or her spouse
Any student from 18 to 24 who has his valid student's card	YES, if that person is fishing under the surveillance of the licence holder or his or her spouse	YES, if that person is fishing under the surveillance of the licence holder or his or her spouse

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 by the persons fishing under my licence?

In the case of angling or fly fishing, each person who is fishing under another person's licence is entitled to have his own line. In the case of winter fishing or fishing with bait, the quantity of gear authorized for the group must not exceed the number authorized for the holder of the licence under which you are fishing.

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 8, 9 and 10, 2012 and on June 7, 8 and 9, 2013. 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. Any 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 **in a wildlife territory (zec, national park or wildlife sanctuary), a communal wildlife area or an outfitting establishment with exclusive rights;**
- a **resident** under 18 who is fishing for species other than salmon, if he has on hand the **Junior Angler** certificate issued following a fishing initiation activity or under the "Relève à la pêche" program;
- 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 fleuve Saint-Laurent and its tributaries, downstream from Laviolette bridge (Trois-Rivières);
- a **resident** who fishes for freshwater crustaceans (see Fishing for shellfish and crustaceans, see page 9);
- a **resident** or a **non-resident** who is fishing in a fish pond (see Special rules for certain territories, page 19) or in the waters of a national park of Canada.

What happens if I lose my licence?

In the event of loss or theft of a fishing licence, or when the licence is altered to the point of becoming unusable, obtain a **replacement licence** for a nominal fee to continue fishing. These replacement licences are available from the Department's licence sales agents.

Is a fishing licence transferable?

A fishing licence is non-transferable. Moreover, to be valid, it must be **signed** by the person who issues it and by the holder and must contain the required information in the appropriate spaces on the licence.

Is the sportfishing licence with mandatory release valid everywhere?

No. The sportfishing licence with mandatory release, except for Atlantic salmon, is only valid if the holder is using the services of an outfitter.

Where can I obtain a licence?

The **sportfishing** and **Atlantic salmon fishing** licences are available from authorized sales agents. They are generally sports stores, hardware stores or convenience stores. To find out the name of a sales agent, contact an office of the Department or visit www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca. The **burbot fishing** licence in lac Saint-Jean is available from all computerized sales agents of the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region.

Do additional restrictions apply to atlantic salmon fishing licences?

YES. No one may purchase or hold:

- more than one annual salmon fishing licence, subject to what is stipulated above in case of a replacement;
- more than one day licence per day, subject to what is stipulated above in case of a replacement;
- a day licence if the person already has purchased or has in his possession an annual licence;
- a day licence if the person already has caught and kept seven salmon during the same year.

The mandatory catch and release licence may be purchased at any time, even though you may already hold an annual or a day licence. Moreover, anyone who holds a mandatory catch and release licence, or anyone who holds or has already purchased a day licence, can purchase the annual Atlantic salmon sportfishing licence. The mandatory catch and release salmon fishing licence is only valid in salmon rivers or for salmon fishing in water bodies other than salmon rivers.

Tagging and registration of salmon

Mandatory tagging of salmon

The **annual licence** is issued with seven tags for the mandatory tagging of salmon caught and kept. The **day licence** is issued with a single tag. The licence and the tag are valid for the day specified on the licence only. Note : During the season, no one may take more than seven salmon (see **Catch, possession and length limits, page 13**)

Whoever **catches and keeps** a salmon must immediately detach the valid tag that was issued to him with the licence and, by respecting the order in which the tags are attached to the licence, attach it to the fish. In a national park, wildlife sanctuary, a zec or the rivière Ouelle and rivière Du Gouffre, the tag affixed to the salmon must come from the person who **hooked** the fish, even though someone else may have reeled in the fish. It is prohibited for anyone to have in his possession a salmon that is not properly tagged. However, the tag may be removed when preparing the salmon for human consumption.

The tag must be fixed to the salmon. The below image shows different ways to fix it.



Mandatory registration of catches

Anyone who **catches and keeps** a salmon must, within 48 hours of leaving the fishing area, produce his licence and have the fish registered by a person or an association authorized by the Department in either a salmon fishing outfitter operation, a wildlife sanctuary or a salmon fishing zec. At the time of registration, the salmon must be presented whole or eviscerated, the fisher must allow it to be weighed and measured and must permit any punching of the tag, the taking of any sample or the performance of any scientific expertise. In the case of a wildlife sanctuary, the salmon must be presented whole.

When a self-registration process is available at a control station, the fisher completes the registration of his salmon according to the established procedure. Lastly, the fisher can register his salmon by telephone where such a possibility is offered for a river or a group of salmon rivers. If no registration process is stipulated, a fisher must register the salmon that he caught in an office of the Department.

Note: Upon request from a wildlife protection officer, a person must have his salmon registered immediately.

Fishing methods

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

Note: Except for mollusks and crustaceans, every other fishing method is prohibited for sportfishing (see Fishing for mollusks and crustaceans, page 9).

Angling

For angling, the line may be equipped with artificial lures, hooks or flies, baited or not. Hooks may be simple or multiple. An artificial lure or fly counts as a hook. A line must not have more than three hooks. Special conditions apply in the following cases:

- In Zone 25 and in that part of lac 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 is authorized in a salmon river **during a period when salmon fishing is permitted**, a line cannot have more than one hook having one or two points.
- When angling is authorized in a salmon river **during a period when salmon fishing is forbidden**, up to three hooks may be used. In this latter case, the combination of hooks used cannot total more than three points.

When angling, only one line at a time may be used, and it must be watched closely and constantly. Moreover, **the possession of any fishing tackle is strictly prohibited** on a body of water where using that tackle is prohibited or **within 100 m of such a body of water**, except in certain circumstances (see Fly fishing areas). When fishing in winter, the number of authorized lines varies (see Number of lines authorized in winter and further on, page 8)).

Fly fishing areas

Some bodies of water, generally located in zecs, are reserved for fly fishing. These bodies of water are identified as such at the registration post or near the fishing site. In these cases, when fly fishing, you must abide by the following rules:

- fly fishing must be practiced by means of an unweighted fly line, mounted on a rod designed specifically for that type of fishing and to which a maximum of **two** artificial flies are attached. The two hooks combined can have a total of three points (see Weighted down line, page 3);
- the artificial fly may be composed of a combination of hooks that must take into account the maximum authorized size of the hooks illustrated below; such a fly must never have more than three points;
- the artificial fly must not be attached to a weighted core line (see Weighted core line, page 3);
- flies may have attachments made of silk, tinsel, wool, fabric, fur, feathers or other similar materials. Brass, copper, aluminum or plastic tubes may be part of the fly, as well as a straight pin. Waddington shafts are **authorized**. **Metal** heads and eyes are **forbidden**;
- flies must not have spinning or waving parts or be equipped with weights to facilitate sinking;
- flies must not be baited, unless otherwise indicated in this publication;
- the possession of any other fishing tackle is strictly forbidden on a body of water reserved for fly fishing or within 100 m of such a body of water, except:
 - when such tackle is found in a vehicle (except a boat) or a building;
 - when a person is only crossing or walking alongside waters reserved for fly fishing in order to fish in other waters where the use of that tackle is permitted. In this case, when the forbidden tackle is a hook other than an artificial fly, the latter must not be attached to the line and if this person is also in possession of a rod, it must be rendered inoperative in one of the following ways:
 - disassembled in sections;
 - assembled without a reel being attached to it;
 - stored in a closed case.

Fly fishing areas - Salmon rivers

In most salmon rivers or parts of salmon rivers mentioned in this publication, only **fly fishing** is authorized. In this case, conditions stated above for fly fishing areas also apply.

In such areas, during a salmon fishing period, a single fly totaling a maximum of two points must be used when fishing for any species. Outside this period, up to two artificial flies totaling a maximum of three points may be used, if fishing is authorized for species other than salmon.

When authorized, angling in a salmon river is subject to conditions stated in the Angling section.

Other specific conditions concerning hook size and the use of worms as bait apply to certain stretches of salmon rivers. Specific conditions for a given stretch of river, if any, can be found in this publication with the information on that stretch.

Authorized hooks and points

The following table summarizes the information concerning the maximum number of authorized hooks and points:

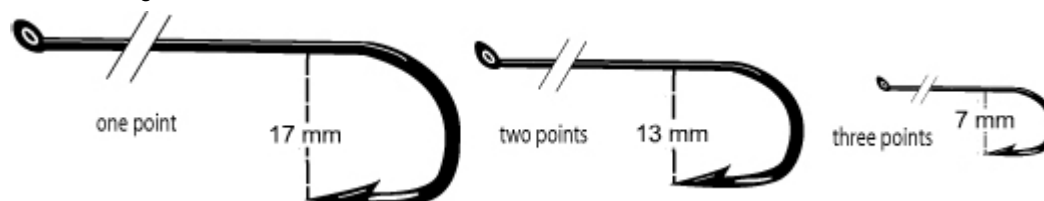
When every type of **angling** is permitted:

Place and/or period concerned:	Maximum number of hooks or artificial lures	Maximum number of points that the hook or combination of hooks may have
All bodies of water, with the exception of the following:	3	unlimited
In Zone 25 and in the part of lake Saint-François located to the west of a line drawn from Beaudette point on the north shore to Saint-Louis point on the south shore (Zone 8)	4	unlimited
In Zone 21, for smelt fishing	unlimited	unlimited
In a salmon river during a period when salmon fishing is permitted	1	2
In a salmon river when salmon fishing is forbidden	3	3

When only **fly fishing** is permitted:

Place and/or period concerned:	Maximum number of artificial flies	Maximum number of points that the hook or combination of hooks may have
In the bodies of water reserved for fly fishing (elsewhere than in a salmon river)	2	3
In a salmon river during a period when salmon fishing is permitted	1	2
In a salmon river when salmon fishing is forbidden	2	3

The following table indicates the maximum size of artificial flies:



Note : There is no restriction on shank length.

Number of lines authorized in winter

For winter fishing, anglers are entitled to use, depending on the zone, up to 5 or 10 lines during the periods mentioned in the following table. The lines used must be closely watched by the angler. Moreover, when one or more persons are fishing under the authority of the holder of a sportfishing licence (see 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.

It should be noted that the dates mentioned in this table are not fishing seasons. To find out the fishing seasons applicable in the zones, please consult the Fishing periods and catch limits section on the web site or contact the Department's Customer Services. The stipulated catch and possession limits apply.

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

- 5 lines are authorized in lac 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.
- 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.
- 2 lines only are authorized in lac Témiscamingue.
- 10 lines are authorized in the rivière Sainte-Anne, between the upstream side of the Highway 363 bridge, at Saint-Casimir, and the downstream side of the Highway 138 bridge, at La Pérade.
- 5 lines only are authorized in the portion of lac Saint-François west of a line drawn from Beaudette point on the north shore to Saint-Louis point on the south shore.
- 2 lines only are authorized in lakes Clarice and Raven.

Bow, 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 fleuve Saint-Laurent.

Moreover, spearfishing while swimming is **prohibited** in certain stretches of the rivière **Saint-François** (Zone 4), the rivière **du Lièvre** (Zone 10), the rivière **Picanoc** (Zone 10) and the rivière **Gatineau** (Zone 11). For more details, consult the section Fishing periods and catch limits, Zones 4, 10 and 11 in the website, or contact the Ministère's customer services.

Fishing with a lance or a spear

Fishing with a lance or a spear is allowed for American eel than smelt in the interior waters of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine all year round.

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 6 to 19, 2012 (and from October 12 to 25, 2013), 72 whitefish a day, in the rivière **Touladi** between the downstream side of À Mac brook and lac Témiscouata (Zone 2);
- from October 25 to November 7, 2012 and 2013, 10 whitefish a day, in the rivière **Saint-François** between lac Aylmer and the second bridge upstream (Zone 4).

Smelt fishing

Special conditions apply to fishing for smelt at certain places. The dip-net and landing net are permitted under the following conditions.

It should be noted that in a stretch of a salmon river where smelt fishing is authorized, this species may be fished **at night**, from December 1 to April 26, 2012 (or to April 25, 2013) and, in addition, between May 1 and 31 in the rivière Bonaventure.

- 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**; rivière **Ouelle**, the stretch comprised between the downstream side of the Highway 132 bridge and a straight line joining the point of the rivière Ouelle and the mouth of the Gagnon brook;
 - **De l'Église** brook, in the municipality of Beaumont;
 - The waters of Zone 21 where the daily catch limit is 60 smelts and that are listed in the exceptions to Zone 21;
 - The rivière **Saguenay**, between a line perpendicular to the current running through the upstream side of the spit (48° 26'23"N., 70°54'08" W.) located in way of the municipality of Saint-Fulgence and the downstream side of Dubuc bridge in Saguenay. 🐟

The **holder of a sportfishing licence** may fish, using a **landing net** or a **dip-net**, up to 120 smelts per day* :

- from May 1 to 31, in the rivière Bonaventure, between the downstream side of the old Highway 132 bridges and the Malin rapids; 🐟
- From April 1 to May 31, in **zones 9 and 15**; 🐟
- From April 1 to May 15, in the waters of Zones 4, 5 and 6, except for the following waters:
 - **Zone 4** – The rivers: **Ashberham** (Noire), from Petit lac Saint-François to Grand lac Saint-François; **Coulombe**, from the Highway 161 bridge to its mouth in lac Aylmer, including the small bay facing its mouth; **Aux Bluets**, **Aux Indiens**, **De l'Or** and **Aux Rats Musqués**, from Grand lac Saint-François to the second bridge upstream of this lake (see Fishing periods and catch limits, on the Department's web site); **Saint-François**, from Grand lac Saint-François to lac 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 lac 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 lac 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 lac Memphrémagog); and lakes **D'Argent** and **Massawippi** and their tributaries and also **Castle** brook.

The **holder of a sportfishing licence** may fish, using a **landing net** or a **dip-net**, up to 500 smelts per day* :

- from May 1st to May 31st, in the following lakes as well as their tributaries: **Carré**, **Ouimet**, **Quenouille**, **Supérieur** (Zone 9), **Des Écorces** (Zone 10) and **Chaud** (Zone 11);
- from April 15 to May 20, in the rivière **Aux Rats** between lac **Aux Rats** and latitude 49°30' N (Zone 28).

* For the authorized possession limit, see the section page 13.

Burbot fishing

Particular fishing conditions apply to burbot fishing in the lac 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 March 31, 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 shellfish, with the exception of zebra and quaggas mussels, is forbidden. 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 fishing periods specified under **Other species** in the section Fishing periods and catch limits in this publication, except in zones 17 and 22 to 24 where only angling is permitted for all species.

Bait-fish

Generally, the use, including the possession and transportation, of fish as bait is **prohibited**. It is however permitted to use dead or live bait-fish (see information about prohibited species on page 12), depending on the situation, under the following conditions.

Dead bait-fish

ZONES 1 to 29

Authorized species	State of fish	Possession	Use
None	Dead or live	Prohibited	Prohibited

EXCEPT IN THE FOLLOWING BODIES OF WATER :**ZONE 1**, in the rivière Bonaventure (zone 1)

Authorized species	State of fish	Possession	Use
Shrimp, for fishing smelt	Dead	Authorized from December 20 to March 31	Authorized from December 20 to March 31

ZONES 1, 2, 3, 18, 19 and 27: parts of these zones comprised on or between Highways 20, 40 and 132 (except the stretch between Sainte-Flavie and Matapédia) or 138, and waters in zones 7 or 21

Authorized species	State of fish	Possession	Use
All except prohibited species, whether whole or cut up	Dead	Authorized if intended for use in zones 7 or 21	Prohibited

ZONE 4

Authorized species	State of fish	Possession	Use
All except prohibited species, whether whole or cut up	Dead	Authorized	Authorized
None	Live	Prohibited	Prohibited

EXCEPT, Lac à la Truite (Ham sud)

None	Dead or live	Prohibited	Prohibited
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ZONES 5, 9, 11, 12 and 16

Authorized species	State of fish	Possession	Use
All except prohibited species, whether whole or cut up	Dead	Authorized	Authorized
None	Live	Prohibited	Prohibited

ZONE 6

Authorized species	State of fish	Possession	Use
All except prohibited species, whether whole or cut up	Dead	Authorized	Authorized
None	Live	Prohibited	Prohibited

EXCEPT, lakes Hatley, Cristal and Petit lac Baldwin

None	Dead or live	Prohibited	Prohibited
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ZONE 7

Authorized species	State of fish	Possession	Use
All except prohibited species, whether whole or cut up	Dead	Authorized	Authorized
None	Live	Prohibited	Prohibited

EXCEPT, the portion of zone 7 between Highways 132 and 138

All except prohibited species, whether whole or cut up	Dead or live	Authorized	Authorized
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ZONES 8, 21 et 25

Authorized species	State of fish	Possession	Use
All except prohibited species, whether whole or cut up	Dead or live	Authorized	Authorized

ZONE 10

Authorized species	State of fish	Possession	Use
All except prohibited species, whether whole or cut up	Dead	Authorized	Authorized
None	Live	Prohibited	Prohibited

EXCEPT, réserve faunique Papineau-Labelle

None	Dead or live	Prohibited	Prohibited
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ZONE 13

Authorized species	State of fish	Possession	Use
All except prohibited species, whether whole or cut up	Dead	Authorized	Authorized
None	Live	Prohibited	Prohibited

EXCEPT, parc national d'Aigubelle; zec Dumoine; zec Maganasipi

None	Dead or live	Prohibited	Prohibited
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EXCEPT, zec Restigo

All except prohibited species, whether whole or cut up	Dead	Authorized from December 1 to April 15	Authorized from December 1 to April 15
None	Live	Prohibited	Prohibited

ZONE 14

Authorized species	State of fish	Possession	Use
All except prohibited species, whether whole or cut up	Dead	Authorized	Authorized
None	Live	Prohibited	Prohibited

EXCEPT, Communal wildlife area of Gouin reservoir

None	Dead or live	Prohibited	Prohibited
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ZONE 17

Authorized species	State of fish	Possession	Use
Smelt	Dead	Authorized from December 1 to April 24	Authorized from December 1 to April 24

ZONE 27 : in the rivière Sainte-Anne, between the downstream sides of the bridges on Highways 138 and 363

Authorized species	State of fish	Possession	Use
Shrimp , when fishing for Atlantic tomcod	Dead	Authorized from December 26 to March 31	Authorized from December 26 to March 31

Zone 28 , in the following lakes: **Bilodeau** (48°43'46" N., 71°12'50" W.), **Bouchette** (Dablon township), **Creux** (48°42'59" N., 71°12'55" W.), **à la Croix** (Caron township), **des Commissaires**, des Coudes, Gronick, des Habitants, à Jim (Ramezay township), Kénogami, Kénogamichiche, Labonté, Labrecque (Labrecque township), La Mothe, Montréal, Ouatouchouan, aux Rats (zec de la 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 Lac au Foin, **Pérignonka** between Chute-à-Caron and latitude 49° N, **Saguenay** between the Highway 169 bridges in Alma and a line perpendicular to Saguenay river running through the upstream end of the Chute-à-Caron dam on the south bank of Saguenay river (48°27' N., 71°15' W.) 🐟

Authorized species	State of fish	Possession	Use
Smelt	Dead	Authorized from December 1 to April 15	Authorized from December 1 to April 15

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, channel darter, 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 every fish species with fins (freshwater or saltwater) that is not indigenous to Québec, except for capelin, herring or mackerel, which are authorized.

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 and 22 to 24 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** and **shrimp**, 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, see Fishing for mollusks and crustaceans, page 9.

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

Catch, 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 you are allowed to harvest on a daily basis, including in national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and zecs, consult the section Fishing periods and catch limits, on the Department's web site.

Fish caught and eaten or intended to be eaten on a given day must be included in the daily fishing quota for that day.

The catch limit for char in zones 17 and 22 to 24 is also expressed in weight. This weight limit is calculated in the following manner in the case of fish that are not whole:

- the weight of eviscerated fish X 1.25 must not exceed the authorized weight limit;
- the weight of eviscerated fish with the head removed X 1.66 must not exceed the authorized weight limit;
- the weight of fish in fillets X 3.5 must not exceed the authorized weight limit.

Note: It is prohibited to continue fishing for a fish species during a day once you have caught and kept on that day, in a body of water, the catch limit stipulated for this species in this body of water, unless the fishing is being continued in another body of water where the catch limit for this species is higher.

You may only catch the number of fish you are personally entitled to catch, even if you are accompanied by other persons.

Possession limit

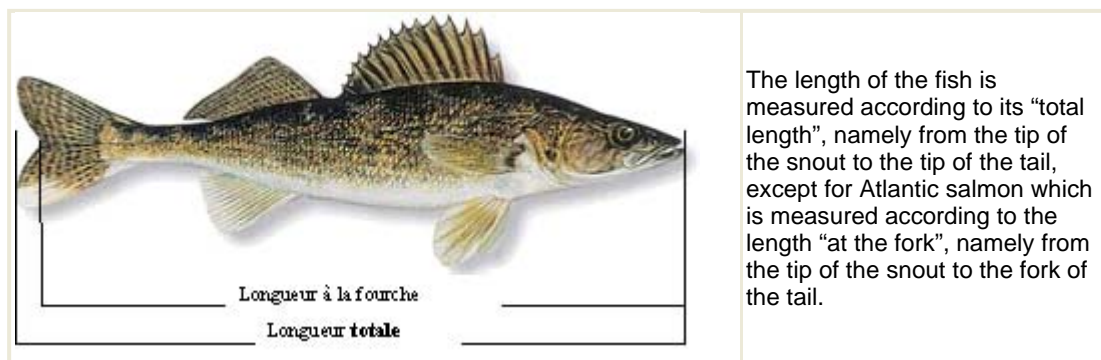
In a given zone, the authorized possession limit for fish species is equal to the daily quota prescribed for that species **in that zone**. In that zone, the number of fish in an individual's possession caught while sportfishing could exceed the quota authorized for the zone as long as the additional 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, communal wildlife area or zec**, or in a **body of water** possess a number of fish exceeding the highest daily fishing quota for that park, wildlife sanctuary, **communal wildlife areas 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

How to measure fish :



It is forbidden to catch and keep or have in your possession a fish from waters specified in the following table that is not within the length limits set out in that table. If a fish species or a fishing zone is not mentioned in the table, no length limit applies to that species in that zone.

DESIGNATED WATERS	LENGTH LIMITS ^{Note 1} See How to measure fish	STATE OF FISH (transportation and possession elsewhere than at the permanent residence)
WALLEYE ^{Note 3} See How to distinguish walleye from sauger at the end of this section.		
ZONES 3 to 12, 21 and 27 except for the following waters:	You may keep walleye measuring from 37 cm to 53 cm inclusively. Sauger: no length limit.	Walleye and sauger must be whole ^{Note 2} or in fillets "attached to the tail" ^{Note 6} (see How to cut up fillets "attached to the tail").
Réserve faunique Papineau-Labelle (zone 10) Zec Petawaga (zone 11)	Walleye and sauger: no length limit.	Walleye and sauger may be whole ^{Note 2} or in fillets, and it must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the fillet).
Réserve faunique La Vérendrye except for the following waters (zones 12 and 13):	You may keep walleye and sauger measuring 32 cm or more.	Walleye and sauger must be whole ^{Note 2} or in fillets of 20 cm or more. The skin must adhere to the fillets over their entire length.
Lakes Au Barrage, Byrd, Embarras, Giroux (including lakes Nichcotea, Nicolas, Desty, Darcy and lac des Neuf Milles), Grand, Jean Péré, Joncas, Larive, Larouche, Orignal, Petit Poigan, Poigan, Portage, Poulter, Savary, Tomasine and Cabonga reservoir	You may keep walleye measuring from 37 cm to 53 cm inclusively. Sauger: no length limit.	Walleye and sauger must be whole ^{Note 2} or in fillets "attached to the tail" ^{Note 6} (see How to cut up fillets "attached to the tail").
Lakes : Carrière, Canimina, Camatose, Rodin, Anwatan, Padoue et le réservoir Dozois	You may keep walleye measuring from 32 cm to 47 cm inclusively. Sauger: no length limit.	Walleye and sauger must be whole ^{Note 2} or in fillets "attached to the tail" ^{Note 6} (see How to cut up fillets "attached to the tail").
Zones 13 east and 13 west, 16, 17 and 22 except for the following waters:	You may keep walleye and sauger measuring 32 cm or more.	Walleye and sauger must be whole ^{Note 2} or in fillets of 20 cm or more. The skin must adhere to the fillets over their entire length.
zecs Kipawa and Maganasipi (Zone 13 west)	You may keep walleye and sauger measuring 37 cm or more.	Walleye and sauger must be whole ^{Note 2} or in fillets of 23 cm or more. The skin must adhere to the fillets over their entire length.
Zecs Dumoine and Restigo (zone 13 west) 	You may keep walleye measuring from 37 cm to 53 cm inclusively. Sauger: no length limit.	Walleye and sauger must be whole ^{Note 2} or in fillets "attached to the tail" ^{Note 6} (see How to cut up fillets "attached to the tail").
Wildlife sanctuaries of lacs Albanel-Mistassini-et-Waconichi and Assinica (Zone 22), and the Eastmain and Weh-Sees-Indohoun sectors (Zone 22)	Walleye and sauger : no length limit.	Walleye and sauger may be whole ^{Note 2} or in fillets, and it must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the fillet).
Zones 14, 15, 26, 28 and 29 except for the following waters:	You may keep walleye measuring from 32 cm to 47 cm inclusively. Sauger: no length limit.	Walleye and sauger must be whole ^{Note 2} or in fillets "attached to the tail" ^{Note 6} (see How to cut up fillets "attached to the tail").

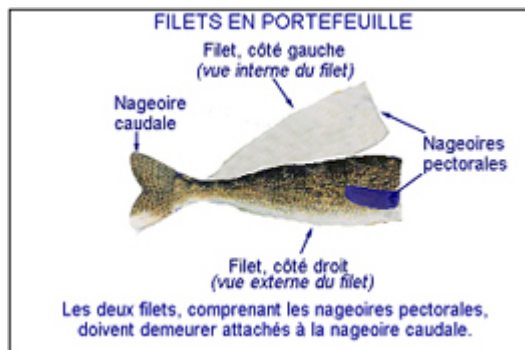
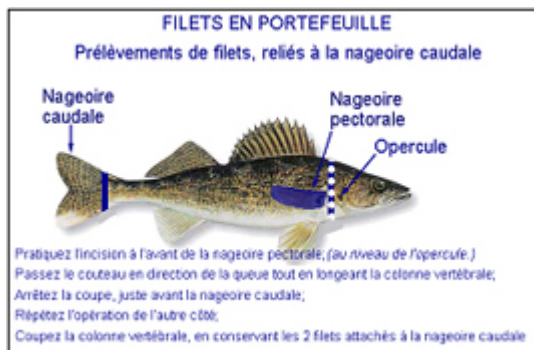
DESIGNATED WATERS	LENGTH LIMITS ^{Note 1} See How to measure fish	STATE OF FISH (transportation and possession elsewhere than at the permanent residence)
Communal Wildlife Area of Lac-Saint-Jean (Zone 28) Parc national du Mont-Tremblant (Zone 15) Réserve faunique Rouge-Mattawin (Zone 15) and Réserve faunique Ashuapmushuan (Zone 28) Zecs Lesueur, Normandie, Mazana and De la Maison-de-Pierre (Zone 15) Zecs Borgia, Du Chapeau-de-Paille, De la Croche, Frémont, Du Gros-Brochet, Kiskissink and Menokeosawin (Zone 26)	Walleye and sauger : no length limit.	Walleye and sauger may be whole ^{Note 2} or in fillets. A piece of skin must adhere to the fillet, and it must be possible to count the fish.
Communal Wildlife Area of Gouin reservoir (Zone 14) 	You may keep walleye and sauger measuring 32 cm or more.	Walleye and sauger may be whole ^{Note 2} or in fillets of 20 cm or more. The skin must adhere to the fillets over their entire length.
ZONE 25	You may keep walleye and sauger measuring 40 cm or less from March 1 to March 31 and from May 18, 2012 (or May 17, 2013) and June 15. ^{Note 5}	Whole only. ^{Note 2}
LAKE STURGEON		
ZONE 25	You may keep lake sturgeon measuring 106 cm or less.	Whole only. ^{Note 2}
MUSKELLUNGE		
The fleuve Saint-Laurent (zones 7, 8 and 21), including the following waters: Lac Saint-François (zone 8) Lac Saint-Louis (zone 8) Lachine rapids (zone 8) La Prairie watershed (zone 8) Rivière des Mille Îles (zone 8) Rivière des Prairies (zone 8) Lac Deux Montagnes (zone 8) The stretch of rivière des Outaouais located in zone 8	You may keep muskellunge measuring 111 cm or more.	Whole only. ^{Note 2}
Zone 25	You may keep muskellunge measuring 137 cm or more.	
LANDLOCKED SALMON		
Lac Memphrémagog (zone 6)	You may keep landlocked salmon measuring 42 cm or more.	Whole only. ^{Note 2}

DESIGNATED WATERS	LENGTH LIMITS ^{Note 1} See How to measure fish	STATE OF FISH (transportation and possession elsewhere than at the permanent residence)
YELLOW PERCH		
The fleuve Saint-Laurent (Zones 7 and 8), between the downstream side of Laviolette bridge and a line linking a point situated 50 m downstream of Batiscan wharf on the north shore and a point situated 50 m downstream of Saint-Pierre-les-Becquets wharf on the south shore, as well as the parts of the rivers located between highways 132 and 138 (Zones 7 and 8).	You may keep yellow perch measuring 19 cm or more.	Whole only. ^{Note 2}
ATLANTIC SALMON		
ZONES 1 to 29	You may keep Atlantic salmon measuring 30 cm or more, which must also respect the daily quota established for each river or segment of river. ^{Note 7}	Whole only. ^{Note 2}
LAKE TROUT (and splake) ^{Note 4}		
ZONES 1 to 6	You may keep lake trout measuring 40 cm or less or lake trout measuring 55 cm or more.	Whole ^{Note 2} only where a length limit applies. Elsewhere, lake trout may be whole or in fillets. It must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the fillet).
ZONES 9 to 15, 18 and 26 to 28, except for the following waters:	You may keep lake trout measuring 45 cm or more.	Whole ^{Note 2} only where a length limit applies. Elsewhere, lake trout may be whole or in fillets. It must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the fillet).
<p>Zone 9: lakes Blanc (46°19'52" N; 74°12'51" W) and Ouareau.</p> <p>Rivière Ouareau, between lakes Blanc and Ouareau (46°18' 54" N; 74°11'20" W) as well as between the Route 125 bridge and lac Blanc</p> <p>Zone 10: lakes De l'Argile, Blue Sea, Du Cerf, Dumont, Gagnon (Preston and Gagnon townships), Heney, Grand lac Nominique, Pemichangan, Petit lac du Cerf, Saint-Germain (46°14' N; 75° 30' W), Des Trente et Un Mille and Poisson Blanc reservoir</p> <p>Zone 11: lac Tremblant</p>	You may keep lake trout measuring 55 cm or more.	Whole ^{Note 2} only where a length limit applies. Elsewhere, lake trout may be whole or in fillets. It must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the fillet).

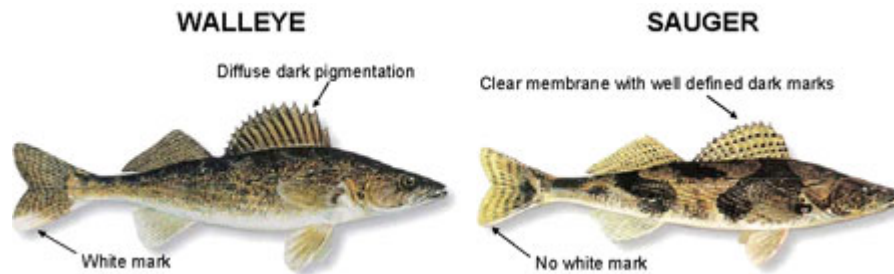
DESIGNATED WATERS	LENGTH LIMITS ^{Note 1} See How to measure fish	STATE OF FISH (transportation and possession elsewhere than at the permanent residence)
LAKE TROUT (and splake) ^{Note 4}		
<p>Zone 12: lakes Branssat (Forant and Rochefort townships) and Lynch (Forant and Rochefort townships)</p> <p>Zone 13: lakes Audouin, Grindstone, Hunter, Kipawa, Matchi-Manitou and MacLachlin</p> <p>Zone 15: lakes Cousineau (47° 01' N; 73°59' W), Culotte (47° 09' N; 74°02' W), Kempt (47° 26' N; 74°16' W), Maskinongé (Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon), Opwaiak, Troyes and Villiers (47° 08' N; 74°02' W)</p> <p>Zone 27: lac Saint-Joseph</p>	<p>You may keep lake trout measuring 55 cm or more.</p>	<p>Whole^{Note 2} only where a length limit applies. Elsewhere, lake trout may be whole or in fillets. It must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the fillet).</p>

- Note 1** **Length:** Distance measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail, except for Atlantic salmon which is measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.
- Note 2** The fish must be whole, including the head, but it may be eviscerated.
- Note 3** It is possible that the preceding rules concerning the length limit for walleye do not apply or are different in certain outfitting establishments of Zones **13**, **14**, **15** and **28**. For more information contact the outfitting establishment that you wish to visit.
- Note 4** 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** and **26** to **28**.
- Note 5** Outside these periods, there is no length limit for pike.
- Note 6** Fillets "attached to the tail" are compulsory for identifying the species and determining the length where required. Their length must be as follows:
- In the case of a walleye measuring 32 cm or more and less than 47 cm in length, both fillets must measure 24 cm or more and less than 35 cm in length, from the tip of the caudal fin to the inner attachment point of the pectoral fin. Fillets must be attached together by the caudal fin, and pectoral fins as well as the skin must adhere to the fillet.
 - In the case of a walleye measuring 37 cm or more and less than 53 cm in length, both fillets must measure 28 cm or more and less than 40 cm in length, from the tip of the caudal fin to the inner attachment point of the pectoral fin. Fillets must be attached together by the caudal fin, and pectoral fins as well as the skin must adhere to the fillet.
- Note 7** The catch limit for salmon is expressed in terms of "large" and "small" salmon.
- Large salmon: salmon measuring 63 cm or more in length;
 - Small salmon: salmon measuring less than 63 cm in length.

How to cut up fillets "attached to the tail":



Walleye and sauger are distinguished in the following way:



When cleaning fish before transporting it, make sure it remains possible to identify the species, count the number of catches and measure their length.

Releasing 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*;
- captured by means of a forbidden method or forbidden tackle or when the catch limit has been reached;
- caught under a sportfishing licence with mandatory release.

* It is forbidden to fish with a view to **intentionally catching** a fish species during a period when fishing for this species is prohibited.

Moreover, to contribute to the reintroduction of striped bass in the waters of the fleuve Saint-Laurent, every angler must release this species in the water. As the catching of striped bass is prohibited, this species must be released in the water.

The angler may also return to the water, alive, the fish that he has just caught and that he is entitled to keep. He must do so, being careful to injure the fish as little as possible. In the case of **Atlantic salmon**, from a conservation perspective and in a sporting spirit, the Department as well as the Fédération québécoise pour le saumon atlantique and the Fédération des gestionnaires de rivières à saumon du Québec invite fishers to limit themselves to three releases per day. Depending on the availability of the resource, a management organization could suggest a smaller number of releases.

In all cases, to ensure that the fish has the best chances of surviving, **the following method** must be used:

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



- 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.

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, page 9).

In the case of Atlantic salmon, whoever catches and keeps a salmon must abide by the mandatory tagging of catches (see Tagging and registration of salmon, page 6).

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 application of the length limit for walleye when the fish is in fillets, the skin must be fully attached to the flesh over the entire length of the fillet, as indicated in the section Catch, possession and length limits.

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. Also, when leaving Québec, a person is allowed to take with him any tagged salmon caught while sport fishing whether the person caught the fish or it was given to him.

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. This section briefly presents these areas as well as their characteristics.

Salmon is particularly present in the Saint-Laurent seaway, including the rivière Saguenay, along coastal areas and in the many salmon rivers that drain into these waters. Specific conditions apply to salmon rivers, particularly with regard to daily quotas, fishing seasons and tackle which can vary from river to river and, on occasion, from one stretch to another of the same river.

There are 115 salmon rivers in Québec, managed by various organizations. A salmon river may be managed by several organizations at the same time. Thus some stretches of a given river may have the status of a zec, others that of a wildlife sanctuary or national park and still others that of an outfitting operation with exclusive rights. Some stretches may also lie on private property. In addition to the sportfishing conditions listed above, fishers must respect the requirements relating to each territory that they wish to frequent. For example, the number of fishers may be limited on a stretch of river in a wildlife sanctuary, an outfitting operation, a national park or a zec. For salmon rivers or salmon river stretches that are not managed by an organization and that are not on private property, access is open. For more information, contact the relevant regional office.

Communal wildlife areas

A Communal Wildlife Area (CWA) is a public body of water (lake or river) that is the subject of a lease for exclusive fishing rights other than an outfitting operation. These rights are granted to a non-profit corporation which then assumes responsibility for the development of fishing in the bodies of water in question. This is the case for the CWA of Baskatong reservoir (**819 438-1177**), Gouin reservoir (**819 523-5255**), lac Saint-Jean (**1 888 866-2527**) and lac Saint-Pierre, (**819 228-1385**). To fish in a CWA, you must obtain an authorization from the corporation. For more information, contact the corporation in charge of the CWA that you wish to visit or consult its web site:

- Communal wildlife area of Baskatong reservoir (<http://www.afcbaskatong.com>);
- Communal wildlife area of Gouin Reservoir (<http://www.afcgouin.ca>);
- Communal wildlife area of lac Saint-Jean (<http://www.claplacsainjean.com>);
- Communal wildlife area of lac Saint-Pierre (<http://www.afclacst-pierre.org>).

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, 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 ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation.

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 Baie James 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.

In addition, to fish in salmon rivers located on Category III lands **of Zone 23**, the holder of a fishing licence for residents must first register by phoning the toll-free number 1 866 237-2442. The licence holder must provide the following information:

- name, surname, full address, phone number, fishing licence number;
- dates and places of proposed fishing stays (several potential sites may be considered as a single stay).

If no attendant answers the phone, this information may be left on the telephone answering device. After the stay, the licence holder must register the salmon caught and kept by phoning the toll-free number 1 855 491-3780. The fisher shall provide his name, surname and phone number, as well as the date and place of each catch.

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. As well, the fisher must present the whole salmon that he caught so that it can be measured and recorded.

For more information concerning the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries managed by SEPAQ, get in touch with this organization at 418 890-6527 or at 1 800 665-6527 or consult its web site at www.sepaq.com.

You can obtain information concerning the Duchénier wildlife sanctuary at 418 735-5222.

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

Outfitting operations

Outfitting operations are businesses that offer anglers a variety of services including accommodation and equipment. Some hold exclusive fishing rights over specific areas. In a few outfitting operations of certain zones, the fishing period is limited and the catch limit for salmonidae may be different from that of the zone. Moreover, the length limits for lake trout may not apply to all of the bodies of waters on these territories. Some outfitting operations may also hold exclusive rights on small lakes under 20 ha in size in order to develop fishing on these lakes for their clientele. Certain outfitting operations also offer fishing opportunities year round for brook trout or rainbow trout. For more information, contact the outfitting operation that you wish to frequent or visit the web site of the Fédération des pourvoires du Québec at the following address: www.fpq.com.

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

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.

Ecological reserves

Ecological reserves are protected areas dedicated to conservation, education and research. Fishing is prohibited on this type of territory and access is generally very limited. To learn more, consult the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, or visit this department's web site at the following address: www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/.

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.

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 Zecs Québec at the following address: www.fqgz.com.

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 Special rules for certain territories, page 19). The spouse and the children of a non-resident may in certain cases fish without a licence (see the section Fishing licence, page 3).

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 lac 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 rivière Saint-Augustin (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.

Fishing salmon elsewhere than in salmon rivers

It is also possible to go angling or fly fishing for salmon outside the salmon rivers listed in this booklet. In such cases, you must comply with the quotas and fishing seasons set for these fishing zones, as indicated in the following chart:

Zone	Catch limit	Season
1, 2, 3, 7, 15, 18, 19 south, 21, 27	1	From June 1 st , 2011 to August 31
8	1	Year round
20	1	From June 15, to August 31
23 north, 24	1	From June 1 st to September 7
28	1	From June 1 st to September 15

Note: Salmon fishing licence mandatory.

Prohibited practices

- It is forbidden to fish with a view to **intentionally catching** a fish species during a period when fishing for that species is prohibited.

Catching or trying to catch a fish species during a period when fishing for that species is prohibited is an offence, even if you intend to release the fish immediately.

- 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 baitfish caught while sportfishing or to purchase, sell, trade or offer to purchase a salmon that comes from a natural environment.
- It is prohibited to buy, sell or have in one's possession fish caught illegally.
- It is prohibited to practice angling and fly fishing simultaneously: the fisher must use only one line at a time.
- 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 Baie James and Nouveau-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 intentionally handled in such a way as to catch or pierce the fish by a part of the body other than the mouth. As a result, it is prohibited to keep a salmon caught that way.
- It is prohibited to use a spear, bow or crossbow to fish for salmon or to fish in a salmon river.
- 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 Sunrise/Sunset Calculator (www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/services/hia/sunrise-sunset.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 tailer 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, except under the conditions stipulated in the section Fly fishing areas, page XX.
- 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.

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 ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune.

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 fleuve Saint-Laurent downstream from Pont Laviolette, of the estuary and golfe du Saint-Laurent, 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 fleuve Saint-laurent, of the estuary and the golfe du Saint-Laurent.

To find out all of the regulations applicable to circulating in a vehicle in fragile environments, consult the ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement 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 <http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca>.

