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www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/faune/en/fishing-rules/index.htm

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Sport Fishing in Québec – Main rules April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2018

This publication presents the main rules governing fishing, including rules respecting Atlantic salmon fishing, in force from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2018. It is also available in electronic form on the Department website. The rules apply solely to sportfishing for freshwater fish and anadromous and catadromous species in Québec waters (with or without tide).

Important

The information presented in this publication does not replace the official texts of legislation and regulations. Moreover, the Department may intervene during the season to close water bodies to avoid overfishing of species, modify catch limits according to upstream salmon migrations or locally open water bodies to winter fishing. To obtain information on such changes, please consult the “News” section of the Department website or contact the department’s regional office. Furthermore, the rules governing fishing may have been modified in a given zone following the conclusion of an agreement between the Québec government and an Aboriginal nation or between the minister responsible and an Aboriginal nation or a band council. Indeed, in its resolutions of March 20, 1985 and May 31, 1989, the National Assembly formally recognized Québec’s 11 Aboriginal nations and their specific rights within the framework of the legislation in force. The Québec government opted to negotiate with the Aboriginal nations in order to conclude agreements to better define and clarify the exercising of their activities. This approach hinges at once on the historic legitimacy and importance for Québec society of establishing with the Aboriginal peoples harmonious relations centred on mutual respect and trust. To obtain additional information on possible modifications, please contact customer service or the Department office in the region concerned.

General rules

Québec is divided in 29 fishing zones that take into account the distribution of species. Maps illustrate each of the zones. Anglers must abide by the fishing rules that apply in the zones and the requirements pertaining to the territory in which they wish to fish.

Species covered

This publication covers sportfishing for freshwater fish and anadromous and catadromous species in Québec waters (with or without tide). It also deals with salmon fishing in salmon rivers and fishing for any other fish species in the rivers. For information on recreational fishing for saltwater species such as capelin, cod, and so on, please consult the Fisheries and Oceans Canada website or call 418-648-2239.

Main new elements

To obtain further information on the changes listed here, please consult the section entitled "Fishing periods and catch limits".

Atlantic Salmon Management Plan, 2016-2026

- “Large” Atlantic salmon (63 cm and over) cannot be kept anywhere other than in certain specific salmon rivers.
- Introduction of a three-salmon daily catch-and-release limit everywhere except in the Nord-du-Québec region and in the Côte-Nord salmon rivers east of Rivière Natashquan.

Renewal of the Québec Walleye Management Plan, 2016-2026

- Walleye cannot be hunted with bows, crossbows or harpoons in zones 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13 East, 13 West, 14, and 26.
- New length range in zones 13 East, 13 West, 16, 17, 22 North and 22 South.
- Changes to the length limits in some water bodies: Gouin Reservoir community wildlife area (zone 14), Lac à Jim (zone 28) and Rivière Micosia (zone 28).

Québec Lake Trout Management Plan, 2014-2020

- New length limit for the Kipawa Reservoir (zone 13 West).
- Changes to length limits or catch limits for Lac Cameron (zone 10), Lac Castor (zone 10), Lac Désert (zone 10), Lac Poisson Blanc (zone 10) and Lac Pérodeau (zone 11).

Ban on fishing with baitfish in several lakes near Val-d’Or

- Introduction of new fishing conditions (Ab-Rono, Florentien and eight unnamed lakes in zone 13 West).

Muskellunge

- New authorized length limit for Lac Saint-François (zone 8).

Petite rivière de la Trinité

- Ban on fishing between the waterfall upstream of Ruisseau Genest and the fourth waterfall (zone 18).

La Romaine Hydroelectricity Project

- Ban on fishing in Lac Maurice and in two unnamed lakes (part B of zone 19 South).

Rivière Aisley

- Extension of the fishing period between the river mouth and the first waterfall.

Rivière Matapédia


- Use of floating line mandatory from July 1 to August 31.

Rivière Sheldrake and Rivière Sheldrake Est

- Ban on Atlantic salmon fishing upstream of the hydroelectricity dam on Rivière Sheldrake (part B of zone 19 South).

Zone 28

- Introduction of a fishing period from December 20 to March 31, for Lac du Dépôt, Lac Kauashekamatsh and an unnamed lake south of Lac Kauashekamatsh.

Anglers are encouraged to become acquainted with the specific conditions that apply to the sites at which they fish. The  icon is intended to draw the reader's attention to changes that can affect the water body, a fishing period and, occasionally, a catch or length limit.

The rules in brief

Fishing is a pleasant, exciting activity that is accessible to everyone. You can fish alone, in a group or with your family, in lakes or rivers, and try to catch different fish species, which are a renewable but fragile natural resource. You should be aware of some basic rules before you fish.

Do I need a fishing licence?

With a few exceptions, **you must possess a fishing licence, which you must carry at all times when fishing.** You can obtain a licence from authorized sales agents, who are usually retailers of hunting and fishing equipment, or from convenience stores. **Several types of licences** are available at different prices, according to the species of fish or the duration of the planned excursion.

It is possible to fish without having to buy a licence.

Indeed, a **minor child** may always fish under his or her parent's licence. What is more, an individual may fish under **his or her spouse's licence** provided that the spouses are together or the individual carries the licence, except for sport fishing license for Atlantic salmon. Lastly, **a minor child or an adult student** may fish accompanied by an adult who possesses a licence. However, there are some circumstances in which a resident may fish without a licence. To learn more about fishing without a licence, please see the section entitled "Is it possible to fish without a licence?"

Where may I fish?

Fishing is usually allowed everywhere in Québec.

While **most water bodies in Québec are public**, the adjacent land may not be, especially in southern Québec. Before entering private property or crossing **private land** to reach the site where you wish to fish, you must obtain the **owner's permission** and regard yourself as his guest.

Land that is not private belongs to the Québec public domain and you may freely enter it. However, a portion of the lands in the domain of the State are organized in structured territories. Controlled harvesting zones (ZECs), outfitting operations, parks, reserves and communal wildlife areas are subject to specific access procedures and it is usually necessary to pay fees in order to fish and stay there. On the other hand, such sites offer more elaborate infrastructure, depending on the location, such as cottages and boats.

How many fish am I allowed to catch?

There are four types of fishing limits.

The **daily catch limit** is the maximum number of fish of a species that may be caught and kept in one day in one of the 29 fishing zones in the province. Fish consumed on the same day are considered in the daily limit. For example, if the catch limit is 15 fish and you decide to eat five of them, you may not catch another five fish of this species the same day. However, you may continue to fish another species in respect of which you have not yet reached the limit. Daily catch limits are not cumulative.

The **daily catch-and-release limit**, where it applies, is reserved for Atlantic salmon. It establishes the maximum number of salmon that may be caught and released back into the water, in a single day, on the water body concerned. For example, if the catch-and-release limit for a water body is three salmon, a fisher cannot continue to fish on that water body once he or she has caught and released three salmon.

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

The **possession limit** is the number of fish of any species that you may have in your possession at **all times** and **anywhere**, whether at the fishing site, on the road or at home. The possession limit usually corresponds to the daily catch limit. If, for example, the catch limit for a species in a zone is 15 fish, the possession limit for the species at that site will also be 15 fish. When you fish in more than one zone, the authorized possession limit for the species concerned is the higher of the authorized limits.

No licence is required to possess fish. **You may share your fish with someone who does not possess a fishing licence.** However, you must abide by the daily catch limit and the person who receives the fish must comply with the authorized possession limit.

Aside from the catch and possession limits, **length limits** may also apply to certain species and certain fishing sites.

Important additional information

- Generally, a maximum of three hooks may be used on a line.
- Certain water bodies are reserved for fly fishing.
- You may fish at night, except on salmon rivers.
- You may use earthworms and leeches as bait without restriction, unless otherwise indicated.
- In most zones minnows are prohibited as bait.
- When you transport fish, be sure that you can identify the species, for example, by leaving a bit of skin.
- If a length limit applies, it is usually prohibited to fillet the fish as you must also be able to count them.
- Fish caught through sportfishing is not intended for sale.

Where can I obtain information?

The foregoing information is the basic regulation governing sportfishing in Québec. Once you have decided where you want to fish, you must determine the fishing zone concerned and be aware of the seasons and limits that apply there, and special provisions concerning access, for example, in the case of a wildlife reserve, a controlled harvesting zone, or an outfitting operation. This publication contains the complete regulation governing fishing. To find out about fishing periods and consult the zone maps, please visit the Department website. For any other information, you can also call 1 877 346-6763 or consult a wildlife protection officer.

General rules

Definitions

In this publication, the following definitions apply:

- **Bass**: includes small-mouthed bass and largemouth bass.
- **Allis shad**: includes American shad and gizzard shad, unless indicated otherwise in the text.
- **Anadromous**: a fish that lives in the sea and spawns in freshwater.

Other species: includes, at the end of a list of fish species, the species not mentioned therein. This indication varies depending on the case.

EXAMPLE	
Walleye	Fishing prohibited
Other species	From April 25 to March 31
The indication "Other species" refers here to all species other than walleye, such as pike, bass, and so on.	

- **Catfish**: includes brown bullhead, yellow bullhead and stonecat.
- **Bait trap**: a small hoop-net, without wing or supporting guard, measuring no more than 60 cm in length and 25 cm in diameter and having no openings greater than 2.5 cm in diameter.
- **Pike**: includes redbfin pickerel, chain pickerel, grass pickerel and northern pike.
- **Anadromous**: a fish that lives in the sea and spawns in freshwater.
- **Square net**: a net made of wire or twine whose stretched mesh does not exceed 2.5 cm mounted on a usually square frame whose biggest dimension is not more than 1.3 m and is suspended with a rope.
- **Redhorse** (new name for food suckers): includes river redhorse, silver redhorse, copper redhorse, the greater redhorse and the shorthead redhorse, unless otherwise indicated in the text.
- **Spouse**: refers to the de facto spouse who has lived in a marriage relationship for at least one year, and the spouse.
- **Whitefish**: includes lake herring, lake whitefish and round whitefish, unless otherwise indicated in the text.
- **Panfish**: includes longear sunfish, bluegill, rock bass and pumpkinseed sunfish.
- **Walleye**: includes yellow walleye and sauger, unless otherwise indicated in the text.
- **Landing net**: a pocket-shaped net mounted on a frame whose biggest dimension does not exceed 90 cm.
- **Sturgeon**: includes lake sturgeon and Atlantic sturgeon.
- **Salmon pool**: a site on a salmon river designated as such by signs.
- **Artificial lure**: a spoon, minnow lure, artificial fly or any other device made up of feathers, fibres, rubber, wood, metal, plastic or other similar materials and equipped with one or more fish hooks.
- **Metal-core fishing line**: fly fishing line which, when it is firmly folded and released, remains folded.
- **Weighted line**: a fly fishing line to which an external weight is attached.
- **Length**: the distance measured in a straight line between the tip of the snout and the tip of the tail fin, except in the case of Atlantic salmon, on which the distance is measured in a straight line between the tip of the snout and the fork in the tail.
- **Sucker**: includes the northern sucker and the white sucker.
- **Landlocked salmon**: freshwater Atlantic salmon.
- **Char**: includes brook trout and Arctic char, unless otherwise indicated in the text. yellow walleye and sauger, unless otherwise indicated in the text.
- **National park**: refers to a Québec national park, unless otherwise indicated in the text.
- **Line fishing**: fishing by means of a line whether or not it is mounted on a fishing rod, to which are attached fish hooks or artificial lures that can be baited. This definition includes fly fishing but excludes fishing with night lines.
- **Fly fishing**: fishing with a silk fly fishing line mounted on a fishing rod designed for this purpose to which are attached one or more artificial flies.
- **Fishing**: the action of catching or seeking to catch fish by any means.

- **Fish:** the fish themselves and their parts, including their eggs. The expression also includes molluscs (mussels, oysters, and so on) and crustaceans (shrimp, crayfish and so on).
- **Resident:** a person domiciled in Québec who has lived there at least 183 days during the year preceding fishing activity or an application for a licence.
- **Salmon:** anadromous Atlantic salmon, unless otherwise indicated in the text:
 - big salmon: salmon 63 cm or more in length;
 - a small salmon: salmon less than 63 cm in length.
- **Lake trout:** includes lake trout and splake;
- **Trout:** includes rainbow trout, brown trout and cutthroat trout.
- **Sea trout:** refers to anadromous brook trout.

Right to fish

By law, everyone is entitled to fish, although such a right does not give an angler priority of use in a public territory to the detriment of other outdoor enthusiasts nor does it grant him exclusive use of the territory.

Furthermore, it is prohibited to deliberately hinder someone who is fishing legally and has legitimately accessed the territory. In this context, "hinder" may, among other things, refer to:

- preventing an angler from gaining access to a fishing site that he is legitimately entitled to access;
- disturbing or frightening a fish by a human, animal or other presence or through noise or an odour;
- rendering ineffective bait, a lure, an apparatus or gear intended for fishing.

The right to fish may not under any circumstances limit the right of ownership. A landowner may enjoy his property as he sees fit and grant or refuse access to his property to an angler who makes such a request. Users must share the territory in a spirit of harmonious cohabitation and ethical behaviour.

Fishing licence

Do I need a licence to fish?

Yes, a fishing licence is required in most instances. You must carry the licence with you when you are fishing and promptly show it to a wildlife protection officer or a wildlife protection assistant who requests that you do so.

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 consécutive days	no	yes
- 3 consécutive 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 release	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 Department website at this address (in French only): <http://mfpp.gouv.qc.ca/faune/chasse/tarif-permis.jsp>.

What species of fish may I catch under my licence?

Generally speaking, the sportfishing licence for species other than Atlantic salmon authorizes fishing for most fish species of interest to sport fishermen in Québec, except salmon. It also allows for fishing for species other than salmon in certain salmon rivers in zones 1, 2, 3, 18 to 21, 23, 27 and 28, outside salmon fishing periods.

To fish for salmon, you must possess an Atlantic salmon sportfishing licence. The licence is required to fish for salmon throughout Québec and to fish for any fish species during a salmon fishing period in a salmon river or a sector of a salmon river.

May I fish in a salmon river with my regular sportfishing licence?

During a salmon fishing period, an Atlantic salmon sport fishing licence is required to fish for any fish species in a salmon river. Under exceptional circumstances, fishing with a sportfishing licence is allowed during a salmon fishing period in the western portion of the Rivière aux Rochers downstream from the Boulevard des Îles bridge in Port-Cartier up to the mouth (Petit Quai sector, Part A of zone 19 South). See .

Must I release all fish that I catch with a mandatory catch-and-release Atlantic salmon fishing licence?

No. The licence holder may catch and keep species other than salmon. Any salmon caught under the licence must necessarily be released.

What is the purpose of a burbot fishing licence?

The licence authorizes the holder and anyone fishing with the licence to fish this species with no catch limit by means of two night lines between December 20 and March 31 in the waters of Lac Saint-Jean encircled by highways 169 and 373. A sportfishing licence holder may also fish for burbot, with no catch limit, between December 20 and March 31. However, the licence holder must comply with the number of lines authorized in the winter (five) in this zone and the maximum number of fish hooks authorized (three per line). For more details, consult the heading "Burbot fishing" in the section Fishing methods.

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

Note: The licence holder or the person who fishes under this licence must comply with the conditions applicable to the licence and abide by them.

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.

How much fishing gear may be used by the individuals who are 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. These measures apply both to residents and non-residents.

Is it possible to fish without a licence?

The following individuals may engage in sportfishing without a licence:

- a resident who fishes during the Fishing Fest on June 6, 7 and 8, 2014, when any fish species may be caught at the times stipulated depending on the species and sites where fishing is authorized. **All salmon caught without a licence at that time must be released where it was caught.** Moreover, even if anglers are authorized to fish without a licence at that time, **they must pay the other fees and rates demanded to fish in a wildlife territory (controlled harvesting zone (ZEC), national park or wildlife reserve), a communal wildlife area or an outfitting operation with exclusive rights;**
- a resident under 18 who fishes for species other than salmon who has in his possession a **Pêche en herbe** certificate issued after an initiation to fishing or a certificate issued within the framework of the Relève à la pêche program;
- a **resident** who fishes for species other than salmon in zone 21 and in the river portion of zone 1 located downstream from highway 132, except for the section between Sainte-Flavie and Matapédia;
- a **resident** who fishes for rainbow smelt and Atlantic tomcod in the St. Lawrence River and its tributaries downstream from the Laviolette Bridge (Trois-Rivières);
- a **resident** who fishes for freshwater crustaceans (see the section entitled "Fishing for shellfish and crustaceans");
- a **resident** or a **non-resident** who fishes in a fish pond (see the section entitled "Special rules for certain territories") or in the waters of a national park of Canada

What happens if I lose my licence?

In the event of the loss or theft of a fishing licence or if the licence is rendered unusable, you must, if you wish to continue to fish, obtain a replacement licence at a nominal cost. Replacement licences are available from the licence sales agents of the Department .

Is the 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 a catch-and-release fishing licence 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?

Sportfishing licences and Atlantic salmon fishing licences are available from authorized sales agents, usually sporting goods stores, hardware stores or convenience stores. To find a sales agent, please contact an office of the Department or consult its website. The burbot fishing licence in Lac Saint-Jean is available from all authorized sales agents in the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region. To obtain information on current fishing licence fees, please consult the Department website (in French only) or contact customer service.

Do additional restrictions apply to atlantic salmon fishing licences?

Yes. An individual may not purchase or possess:

- more than one annual salmon fishing licence, subject to what is mentioned above in the event of replacement;
- more than one one-day licence for a given day, subject to what is mentioned above in the event of replacement;
- a one-day licence if he has already purchased or possesses an annual licence;
- a one-day licence if he has already caught and kept seven salmon in a given year.

The salmon fishing licence with mandatory catch-and-release rules may be purchased at any time, even if the individual already possesses an annual licence or a one-day licence. Moreover, the holder of a licence with mandatory catch-and-release rules or who possesses or has already purchased a one-day licence may purchase the annual Atlantic salmon sportfishing licence. The salmon fishing licence with mandatory catch-and-release rules is only valid in salmon rivers or for fishing salmon elsewhere than in salmon rivers. The salmon fishing licence with mandatory catch-and-release rules does not allow a person to fish, on that day, in a water body for which he or she has already reached the daily release limit.

Tagging and registration of salmon

Mandatory tagging of salmon

The **annual salmon fishing licence** is issued with seven tags. The salmon caught and kept must be tagged. The **one-day licence** is issued with one tag. The licence and the tag are only valid on the day indicated on the licence. **Note:** During the season, an individual may not under any circumstances catch and keep more than seven salmon (see the section entitled "**Catch, possession and length limits** ").

Anyone who **catches and keeps** a salmon must immediately detach the valid tag issued with the licence and attach it to the fish, in the order that the tags are attached to the licence. In a national park, a wildlife reserve or a controlled harvesting zone (ZEC) and on the Rivière Ouelle and the Rivière du Gouffre, the tag placed on the salmon caught must come from the fisherman who **struck** the fish even if someone else handled the fishing rod when the fish was recovered. It is prohibited for anyone to have in his possession a salmon caught during sportfishing that has not been tagged. It is prohibited to remove the tag except when the salmon is prepared for consumption.

The tag must be attached to the salmon. The following illustration shows two ways to attach it.



Mandatory registration of catches

Within 48 hours of leaving the fishing site, a fisherman who **catches and keeps** a salmon must present in person his licence and register the salmon with an individual or an association authorized by the Department, i.e. an outfitting operation that offers salmon fishing, a wildlife reserve or a salmon fishing controlled harvesting zone (ZEC). The whole or gutted salmon must be presented at the time of registration. The angler must allow it to be weighed and measured, the tag to be punched and samples to be taken or scientific expertise to be carried out. In a wildlife reserve, the salmon must be presented whole.

When self-registration is offered at the control point, the angler must register the salmon according to the established procedure. Lastly, the fisherman may also register his salmon by telephone if it is possible to do so in respect of one or several salmon rivers. When no provision is made to register the salmon, a fisherman must register the salmon caught by contacting an office of the Department.

To obtain additional information, please contact an office of the Department .

Note: An individual must immediately register his salmon when a wildlife protection officer requests that he do so.

Fishing methods

Sportfishing usually involves **line fishing**. However, fishing with **bows or crossbows** or **spearfishing while swimming** is allowed at certain sites and to fish for certain species (see the section entitled “ Fishing with bows or crossbows and spearfishing while swimming”). The use of square nets, bait traps, harpoons, spears or landing nets is also allowed under certain conditions (see the sections entitled “ Baitfish”, “ Rainbow smelt fishing” and “Whitefish fishing”).

Note: Except for fishing for molluscs and crustaceans, any other fishing method is prohibited in sportfishing (see the section entitled “ Fishing for molluscs and crustaceans”).

Line fishing

For line fishing, the line may be equipped with baited or unbaited artificial lures, fish hooks or flies. A fish hook may be simple or multiple. An artificial lure or a fly counts for a fish hook. The line must not have more than three fish hooks. Specific conditions apply in the following cases:

- in zone 25 and the portion of Lac Saint-François located west of a line drawn from Pointe Beaudette on the north shore to Pointe Saint-Louis on the south shore (zone 8), four fish hooks may be used;
- the number of fish hooks is not limited for rainbow smelt fishing in zone 21;
- when line fishing is authorized in a salmon river **during a period in which salmon fishing is allowed**, a line may not have more than one fish hook with one or two points;
- when line fishing is authorized in a salmon river **during a period in which salmon fishing is prohibited**, up to three fish hooks may be used, In the latter instance, the combination of fish hooks used may not have more than three points all told.

An angler must use only one line at a time and constantly, immediately monitor the line. Moreover, the possession of fishing gear is strictly prohibited on a water body on which the use of such gear is prohibited, or less than 100 m from such a water body. Certain conditions apply (see the section entitled “ Sites reserved for fly fishing”). The number of lines authorized differs for winter fishing (see the section entitled “ Number of lines authorized in winter”).

Sites reserved for fly fishing

Certain water bodies, usually located in controlled harvesting zones (ZECs), are reserved for fly fishing. Such water bodies are identified as such at the registration centre or near the fishing site. In such instances, the following rules apply to fly fishing:

- an angler must use an unweighted silk fly fishing line mounted on a fishing rod designed for this purpose to which are attached one or a maximum of two artificial flies. The two fish hooks may not have more than three points all told (see the definition of “ Weighted line”);
- the artificial fly may comprise a combination of fish hooks and must take into account the maximum authorized size of the fish hooks (see Figure 1). Such a fly must never have more than three points;
- it must not be attached to a metal-core fishing line (see the definition of “ metal-core fishing line”);
- it may be baited with 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 the straight pin. Waddington shafts are authorized. Metal heads and eyes are **prohibited**;
- the fly must not have spinning or waving parts or be equipped with weights to make it sink;
- it must not be baited, unless otherwise indicated in this publication;
- the possession of any other fishing gear is strictly prohibited on a body of water reserved for fly fishing or within 100 m of such a body of water, except:
 - when such gear 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 such gear is permitted. In this case, when the forbidden gear is a hook other than an artificial fly, it must not be attached to the line and if the 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 attached to it;
 - stored in a closed case.

Sites reserved for fly fishing - Salmon rivers

In most of the salmon rivers or portions of salmon rivers mentioned in this publication, only fly fishing is authorized. The preceding conditions concerning sites reserved for fly fishing also apply in these cases.

At the sites, during a salmon fishing period, a single fly with a maximum total of two points must be used to fish for any species. Outside this period, up to two artificial flies with a maximum total of three points may be used if fishing for species other than salmon is authorized.

When it is authorized, line fishing in a salmon river is allowed under the conditions stipulated in the section entitled “ Line fishing”.

Other specific conditions concerning the size of fish hooks or the use of worms as bait apply in certain sectors of salmon rivers. To obtain additional information on these specific conditions, please consult the search engine on the Department website.

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.

Number of fish hooks and points

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

When any kind of **line fishing** is permitted:

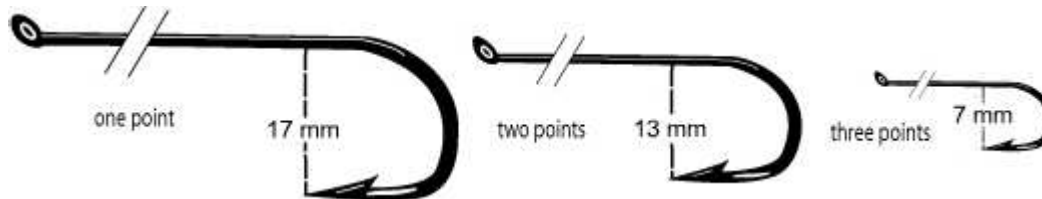
Place and/or period concerned:	Maximum number of hooks or artificial lures	Maximum number of points that the hook or combination of hooks may have
All water bodies, except:	3	unlimited
In zone 25 and the portion of Lac Saint-François located west of a line drawn from Pointe Beaudette on the north shore to Pointe Saint-Louis on the south shore (zone 8)	4	unlimited
In zone 21, for rainbow smelt fishing	unlimited	unlimited
In a salmon river when salmon fishing is permitted	1	2
In a salmon river when salmon fishing is prohibited	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

Depending on the zone, up to five or ten lines may be used for winter fishing during the periods indicated in the following table. The angler must constantly monitor the lines. Moreover, when one or more individuals fish under the licence of a sportfishing licence holder (see the section entitled “ Fishing licences”), the number of lines used by the group may not exceed the number of lines that the licence holder is authorized to use. In this case, the total number of fish caught and kept per day must not exceed the number that the licence holder is authorized to catch and keep.

It should be noted that the dates indicated in the following table are not fishing periods. To find out about the fishing periods applicable in the zones, please consult the section entitled “Exceptions to the fishing periods” or contact customer service. The catch and possession limits indicated 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 21 
22 to 24	5 lines, from December 1 to April 30

- a) Five lines are authorized in Lac Memphrémagog, from December 20 to March 31, to engage in ice fishing. Under other circumstances, fishing is only allowed with one line.
- b) The period extends from December 1 to April 15 for waters in zone 21 located east of the Rivière Saguenay and within 1 km of zones 18, 19 and 20 and islands and islets located in these zones.
- c) Only two lines are authorized in Lac Témiscamingue.
- d) 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.
- e) Only five lines are authorized in the portion of Lac Saint-François located west of a line drawn from Pointe Beaudette on the north shore to Pointe Saint-Louis on the south shore.
- f) Only two lines are authorized in Lac Clarice and Lac Raven.

Fishing with bows or crossbows and spearfishing while swimming

In most zones, fishing with a bow or crossbow is permitted, as is spearfishing while swimming (snorkeling or diving with or without a diving apparatus). However, such fishing gear is prohibited for salmon, landlocked salmon, muskellunge, lake trout and sturgeon. Bow, crossbow and spear are also prohibited for any fish species at the following sites:

- in zones 17 and 22 to 24;
- in water bodies reserved for fly fishing;
- in salmon rivers;
- within 500 m downstream from any point at the mouth of a salmon river in zones 18 to 20, 27 and 28, or from a salmon river in zone 21 located on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River.

Allowing exception, it is forbidden to fish walleye with a bow, a crossbow or a spear in zones 3 to 8, 13 East, 13 West, 14 and 26.

Furthermore, spearfishing while swimming is **prohibited** in certain portions of the **Rivière Saint-François** (zone 4), the **Rivière du Lièvre**, the **Rivière Picanoc** (zone 10) and the **Rivière Gatineau** (zone 11). To obtain additional information, please consult the section entitled "Exceptions to fishing periods in zones 4, 10 and 11" or contact customer service.

Fishing with spears and harpoons

The use of spears or harpoons is permitted to fish for American eel year-round in the waters of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

Fishing for whitefish

Specific conditions apply at certain sites to fishing for whitefish. A sportfishing licence holder may fish for whitefish with a landing net or a square net under the following conditions:

- from October 8 to 21, 2016 and from October 7 to 20, 2017, 72 whitefish per day in the Rivière Touladi between the downstream side of the Ruisseau à Mac and Lac Témiscouata (zone 2);
- from October 25 to November 7, 2016 and 2017, 10 whitefish per day in the Rivière Saint-François between Lac Aylmer and the second bridge upstream (zone 4).

Fishing for rainbow smelt

Specific conditions apply to rainbow smelt fishing at certain sites. Square nets and landing nets are permitted subject to the conditions indicated below. It should be noted that in a portion of a salmon river where rainbow smelt fishing is permitted, fishing for the species is permitted **at night** from December 1 to April 21, 2016 (and until April 20, 2017) and from May 1 to 31, in the Rivière Bonaventure.

Residents without a licence or non-residents who possess a sportfishing licence may catch up to 120 rainbow smelt per day* using a landing net or a square net from April 1 to May 31 in zone 21, except:

- in the waters of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine and the Rivière Ouelle between the downstream side of the highway 132 bridge and a straight line linking the point of the Rivière Ouelle and the mouth of Ruisseau Gagnon;
- in the Ruisseau de l'Église in the municipality of Beaumont;
- in the waters of zone 21 where the daily catch limit is 60 rainbow smelt and which are described among the exceptions respecting zone 21;
- in the Rivière Saguenay between a line perpendicular to the current running from the upstream side of the spit (48° 26' 23" N 70° 54' 08" W) located near the municipality of Saint-Fulgence and the downstream side of the Dubuc Bridge in Saguenay.

A sportfishing **licence holder** may catch up to 120 rainbow smelt a day* using a **landing net** or a **square net**:

- from May 1 to 31 in the **Rivière Bonaventure** between the downstream side of the former highway 132 bridges and the Rapide Malin;
- from April 1 to May 31 in **zones 9 and 15, except for Lac Archambault** waters including bays and tributaries and **Lac Tire** (Zone 9);
- from April 1 to May 15 in the waters of **zones 4, 5 and 6 except** for the following waters:
 - **Zone 4 - Rivière Ashberham (Noire)** from Petit lac Saint-François to Grand lac Saint-François; **Rivière Coulombe** from the **highway 161** bridge to its mouth in **Lac Aylmer**, including the small bay facing its mouth; **Rivière aux Bleuets**, **Rivière aux Indiens**, **Rivière de l'Or** and **Rivière aux Rats Musqués** from Grand lac Saint-François to the second bridge upstream from the lake; Rivière Saint-François from Grand lac Saint-François to **Lac Aylmer**; **Rivière Victoria** and its tributaries; and **Lac Mégantic** and **Lac Elgin** and their tributaries;
 - **Zone 5 - Ruisseau Castle** and **Ruisseau Perkins** from their source to Lac Memphrémagog;
 - **Zone 6 - Rivière Magog** from the Dominion Textile dam in Magog to the highway 55 bridge; Rivière Massawippi; Rivière Niger from its mouth to highway 143; **Ruisseau Taylor** (tributary from **Lac Memphrémagog**); **Lac Massawippi** and its tributaries; and **Ruisseau Castle**.

A sportfishing **licence holder** may catch up to 500 rainbow smelt a day* using a **landing net** or a **square net**:

- from May 1 to 31 in **Lac des Écorces** (zone 10) and **Lac Chaud** (zone 11) and in their tributaries;
- from April 15 to May 20 in the **Rivière aux Rats** between Lac aux Rats and latitude 49° 30' N (zone 28).

* To obtain information on the authorized possession limit, please refer to the section entitled " Possession limit".

Burbot fishing

Specific conditions apply to burbot fishing in the waters of Lac Saint-Jean encircled by highways 169 and 373. At this location, a **burbot fishing licence** holder may fish for this species from December 20 to March 31 with no catch limit using two night lines equipped with not more than 10 fish hooks each lying continuously on the bottom. What is more, the licence holder must affix a tag issued with the licence to the identification marker for each of the night lines being used.

Fishing for mollusks and crustaceans

Fishing for freshwater molluscs, except for zebra mussels and quagga mussels, is prohibited. Fishing for freshwater crustaceans is permitted by hand, using a landing net, a bait trap, a square net or other common means with no catch limit during the fishing periods stipulate for "Other species," except in zones 17 and 22 to 24, where only line fishing is permitted for all species.

Bait-fish, frogs and leeches

If you wish to use baitfish, frogs and leeches in zones 7 and 21, **you are allowed to have dead specimens in your possession between the portions of routes 20, 40,132 (but not the stretch located between Sainte-Flavie and Matapédia) and 138 located in zones 1, 2, 3, 18, 19 and 27, provided their use is permitted in zones 7 and 21.**

In addition, in Québec, **the use, possession and transportation of anadromous or catadromous baitfish to fish freshwater species is permitted in the following cases:**

DEAD or LIVE bait-fish (including shrimp and smelt)

All species, **EXCEPT for prohibited species**, whether whole or cut up, dead or live

Location	Period when use is permitted
Zone 7, the portion located between routes 132 and 138 (see also dead baitfish) Zone 8 (see also dead baitfish) Zone 21, the portion located west of Rivière Saguenay, including the portion up to the Dubuc bridge (see also dead baitfish) Zone 25 (see also dead baitfish)	December 20 to March 31
Zone 21, the portion east of Rivière Saguenay (see also dead baitfish)	December 1 st to April 15

DEAD bait-fish (including dead shrimp and dead smelt)All species, **EXCEPT prohibited species**, whether whole or cut up

Location	Period when use is permitted
Zone 4 except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ lac à la truite (Ham sud) Zone 5 Zone 6 except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ lac Hatley ◦ lac Cristal ◦ Petit lac Baldwin Zone 7 (see also dead or live baitfish) except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ between routes 132 and 138 Zone 9 Zone 10 except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ réserve faunique Papineau-Labelle Zone 11 Zone 12 Zone 13 except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ parc national d'Aiguebelle ◦ Zec Dumoine ◦ Zec Maganasipi ◦ Zec restigo ◦ lac Ab-Rono 🐟 ◦ lac Florentien 🐟 ◦ lac sans nom (47°53'14" N., 78°10'21" O.) 🐟 ◦ lac sans nom (47°52'58" N., 78°10'52" O.) 🐟 ◦ lac sans nom (47°54'18" N., 78°09'59" O.) 🐟 ◦ lac sans nom (47°54'08" N., 78°09'37" O.) 🐟 ◦ lac sans nom (47°53'16" N., 78°09'57" O.) 🐟 ◦ lac sans nom (47°52'51" N., 78°10'41" O.) 🐟 ◦ lac sans nom (47°53'16" N., 78°10'41" O.) 🐟 ◦ lac sans nom (47°53'26" N., 78°10'31" O.) 🐟 Zone 14 except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Aire faunique communautaire du réservoir Gouin Zone 16	<p>April 1st, 2016 to March 31, 2017</p> <p>Prohibited from April 1st, 2017 except from December 20, 2017 to March 31, 2018 🐟</p>
Zone 7, the portion located between routes 132 and 138 (see also dead or live baitfish) Zone 8 (see also dead or live baitfish) Zone 21, the portion located west of Rivière Saguenay, including the portion up to the Dubuc bridge (see also dead or live baitfish) Zone 25 (see also dead or live baitfish)	<p>From April 1st, 2016 to December 19, 2016</p> <p>Prohibited from April 1st, 2017 🐟</p>
zec Restigo (zone 13)	From December 1 st to April 15
Zone 21, the portion located east of Rivière Saguenay (see also dead or live baitfish)	<p>From April 16, 2016 to November 30, 2016</p> <p>Prohibited from April 1st, 2017 🐟</p>

Dead shrimp as the only bait fish allowed

Location	Period when use is permitted
Zone 1, only in the waters of Rivière Bonaventure	From December 20 to March 31 for smelt fishing only
Zone 27, the portion of Rivière Sainte-Anne between the side downstream of the route 138 and 363 bridge	From December 26 to March 31 for Atlantic tomcod fishing only

Dead smelt as the only bait fish allowed

Location	Period when use is permitted
Zone 17	From December 1 st to April 21
Zone 28, uniquement dans les eaux suivantes : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ lac Bilodeau (48°43'46" N., 71°12'50" O.) ◦ lac Bouchette (48°14'32" N., 72°12'21" O.) ◦ lac Creux (48°42'59" N., 71°12'55" O.) ◦ lac à la Croix (48°23'48" N., 71°46'35" O.) ◦ lac des Commissaires (48°11'14" N., 72°15'51" O.) ◦ lac des Coudes (49°03'35" N., 72°37'45" O.) ◦ lac Gronick (49°06'24" N., 72°59'17" O.) ◦ lac des Habitants (48°47'50" N., 72°24'50" O.) ◦ lac à Jim (49°01'29" N., 72°53'02" O.) ◦ lac Kénogami (48°19'36" N., 71°22'36" O.) ◦ lac Kénogamichiche (48°22'05" N., 71°36'05" O.) ◦ lac Labonté (48°35'28" N., 71°26'44" O.) ◦ lac Labrecque (48°40'52" N., 71°29'39" O.) ◦ lac La Mothe (48°47'03" N., 71°09'17" O.) ◦ lac Montréal (49°04'22" N., 72°54'44" O.) ◦ lac Ouiatchouan (48°16'22" N., 72°11'02" O.) ◦ lac aux Rats (zec de la Rivière-aux-Rats) ◦ lac Rond (48°22'35" N., 72°20'00" O.) ◦ lac Saint-Jean, les eaux entourées par les routes 169 et 373 ◦ lac Sébastien (48°39'29" N., 71°10'03" O.) ◦ lac Tchitogama (48°49'58" N., 71°24'00" O.) ◦ lac Vert (48°21'57" N., 71°38'42" O.) ◦ rivière Mistassibi entre la route 169 et le lac au Foin ◦ rivière Péribonka, entre la Chute-à-la-Savane et la latitude 49° N. ◦ rivière Saguenay, entre les ponts de la route 169, à Alma, et une ligne perpendiculaire à la rivière Saguenay passant par l'extrémité la plus en amont du barrage de la Chute-à-Caron sur la rive sud de la rivière Saguenay (48°27' N., 71°15' O.) 	From December 1 st to April 15

Other bait-fish

Crustaceans, in particular **crayfish** and **shrimp**, molluscs, marine animals and their parts and fish eggs are deemed by law to be fish and their use as bait is, therefore, subject to the same rules. (See the section entitled "Fishing for molluscs and crustaceans") Moreover, dead or live **leeches** are permitted everywhere unless regulations stipulate otherwise.

Fish prohibited as bait

In waters where baitfish is permitted, it is **prohibited** to use and have in one's possession for use as bait the following species, whether live or dead, whole or cut up:

Bass Brown bullhead Channel catfish White perch Crucian carp Pike Redhorse Panfish Walleye Sturgeon Channel darter Round goby Lamprey	Mooneye Goldeye Longnose gar Burbot Freshwater drum Muskellunge Char Yellow perch Bowfin Salmon Tench Lake trout
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All finned freshwater and saltwater fish that is not indigenous to Québec, except capelin, herring and mackerel, which are permitted.

Importation of bait-fish

The importation of dead or live baitfish is prohibited.

Bait-fish tackle

In zones where baitfish is permitted, a sportfishing **licence holder** may use one square net or not more than three bait traps to catch baitfish, **except** in water bodies reserved for fly fishing and in zones 17 and 22 to 24, where fishing with such gear is prohibited. Bait traps left unattended must be identified with the licence holder's name, address and licence number. When one or more individuals fish under the licence of another person, the number of items of gear used by the group must not exceed the number that the licence holder is allowed.

Using frogs as bait

The use of frogs as bait is permitted. The frogs must be captured according to the hunting rules that apply to them. The frog hunting licence allows the holder to hunt for Northern leopard frogs, green frogs and American bullfrogs from July 15 to November 15, with no catch limit. Frog hunting is prohibited in zones 17, 19 north and 22 to 24 and in wildlife reserves and territories where all hunting is prohibited. Specific rules apply to keeping frogs in captivity. To obtain additional information, please contact an office of the Department.

Leeches as bait

Dead or live leeches are permitted in all sectors, unless otherwise indicated in the rules.

Catch, possession and length limits

Daily fishing quotas

The daily catch limit includes fish caught and kept. Fish that are released are not included in the catch limit. To comply with the limit, the licence holder must calculate the fish caught and kept by **everyone** who is fishing under his licence. The limit also includes the fish caught and consumed during the day. To find out about the daily catch limits, including in national parks, wildlife reserves and controlled harvesting zones (ZECs), please consult the section entitled "Fishing periods and catch limits" on the Department website.

Caution: For Atlantic salmon, although fish released into the water are not counted as part of the catch limit, it is nevertheless important to comply with the catch-and-release limit where applicable.

The fish caught and eaten or intended to be eaten on a given day must be included in the daily catch limit for that day.

The catch limit for char in zones 17 and 22 and 24 is expressed by weight. In the case of fish that are not whole, the weight limit is calculated as follows:

- the weight of the gutted fish multiplied by 1.25 must not exceed the authorized weight limit;
- the weight of the gutted and headed fish multiplied by 1.66 must not exceed the authorized weight limit;
- the weight of the filleted fish multiplied by 3.5 must not exceed the authorized weight limit.

Note: It is prohibited to continue fishing for a species during the day once the catch limit applicable to the species and the water body has been caught and kept, unless fishing occurs on another water body or the catch limit for the species is higher. In the case of Atlantic salmon, it is also prohibited to continue fishing during the day, on the same water body, once the catch-and-release limit applicable to the species and the water body has been reached. However, fishing may be continued on another water body.

A licence holder may only catch the number of fish that he is authorized to do so even if accompanied by other individuals. You may only release into the water the number of salmon you are personally authorized to release, regardless of whether or not you are accompanied by other people.

Possession limit

The authorized sportfishing possession limit in a zone for a fish species caught while sportfishing corresponds to the daily catch limit stipulated for the species **in the zone**.

In such a zone, an individual may have in his possession a number of fish caught while sportfishing that exceeds the quantity stipulated in the zone, provided that the surplus fish come from other zones and were caught in accordance with the catch limits stipulated in the other zones. The highest catch limit established in Québec in respect of a species may not, under any circumstances, be exceeded.

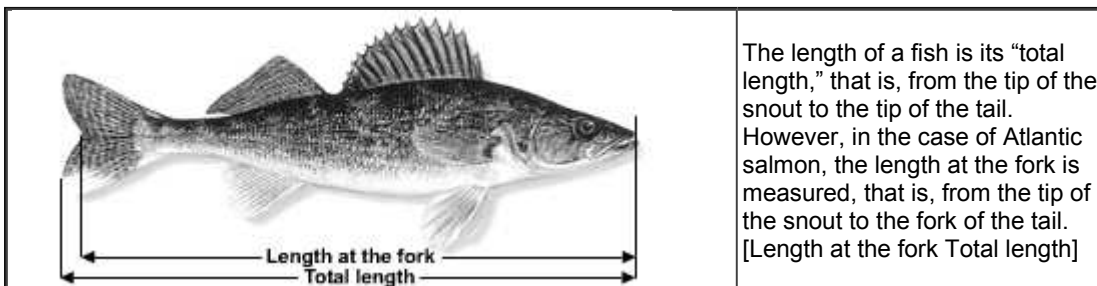
Notwithstanding the foregoing, when an individual is in a **national park**, a **wildlife reserve**, a **communal wildlife area**, a **controlled harvesting zone (ZEC)** or on a **water body**, he may not, at any time, possess a number of fish that exceeds the catch limit stipulated for the park, wildlife reserve, communal wildlife area, controlled harvesting zone (ZEC) or water body.

Such rules also apply to **rainbow smelt**.

However, as there are water bodies where the catch limit stipulated for such species exceeds the limit established for the zone, an individual may possess fish from one such water body even if the limit exceeds that limit applicable to the zone.

Length limit



How to measure fish :




It is prohibited to catch and keep or have in your possession a fish from the waters specified that does not comply with the length limits indicated in the following table.

If a fish species or a zone is not mentioned in the table, no length limit applies to the species in this zone.

Waters covered	Length limits ¹ See the section entitled "How to measure fish"	State of fish (transportation and possession elsewhere than at the permanent residence)
WALLEYE³ See the section entitled "How to distinguish walleye from sauger"		
ZONES 3 to 12, 21 and 27 except for the following waters:	You may keep yellow walleye between 37 cm up to and including 53 cm in length	Yellow walleye and sauger must be whole ² or filleted with the skin fully attached ⁶ (see the section entitled "How to cut up fillets with the skin fully attached")
	Sauger: no length limit.	
Réserve faunique Papineau-Labelle (zone 10) Zec Petawaga (zone 11)	Yellow walleye and sauger: no length limit	Yellow walleye and sauger may be whole ² or filleted and it must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the fillet)
Réserve faunique La Vérendrye (zones 12 and 13) except for the following waters:	You may keep yellow walleye 32 cm or more in length	Yellow walleye and sauger must be whole ² or in fillets. The fillets must be 20 cm or more in length. The skin must adhere over the entire length of the fillet.
	Sauger: no length limit. 🐟	
Lakes: Lac au Barrage, Lac Byrd, Lac Embarras, Lac Giroux (including Lac Nichcotea, Lac Nicolas, Lac Desty, Lac Darcy and Lac des Neuf Milles), Lac Grand, Lac Jean-Péré, Lac Joncas, Lac Larive, Lac Larouche, Lac Orignal, Lac Petit Poigan, Lac Poigan, Lac Portage, Lac Poulter, Lac Savary, Lac Tomasine and the Cabonga reservoir	You may keep yellow walleye between 37 cm up to and including 53 cm	Yellow walleye and sauger must be whole ² or filleted with the skin fully attached ⁶ (see the section entitled "How to cut up filleted with the skin fully attached")
	Sauger: no length limit.	
Lakes: Lac Anwatan, Lac Carrière, Lac Canimina, Lac Camatose, Lac Rodin, Lac Padoue and the Dozois reservoir	You may keep yellow walleye between 32 cm up to and including 47 cm in length	Yellow walleye and sauger must be whole ² or filleted with the skin fully attached ⁶ (see the section entitled "How to cut up filleted with the skin fully attached")
	Sauger: no length limit.	
ZONES 13 east and 13 west, except for the following waters:	You may keep yellow walleye between 32 cm up to and including 47 cm in length 🐟	Yellow walleye and sauger must be whole ² or filleted with the skin fully attached ⁶ (see the section entitled "How to cut up fillets with the skin fully attached")
	Sauger: no length limit. 🐟	
Kipawa reservoir and lakes: Kipawa, Audoin, Desquerac, Grindstone, Hunter, McLachlin, Hunter's Point and the river between lac Audoin and lac Hunter's Point Zecs : Dumoine, Restigo, Kipawa and Maganasipi	You may keep yellow walleye between 37 cm up to and including 53 cm in length 🐟	Yellow walleye and sauger must be whole ² or filleted with the skin fully attached ⁶ (see the section entitled "How to cut up fillets with the skin fully attached")
	Sauger: no length limit. 🐟	

Zones 14, 15, 26, 28 and 29 except for the following waters:	You may keep yellow walleye between 32 cm up to and including 47 cm in length	Yellow walleye and sauger must be whole ² or filleted with the skin fully attached ⁶ (see the section entitled "How to cut up fillets with the skin fully attached")
	Sauger: no length limit.	
Aire faunique communautaire du Lac-Saint-Jean (Zone 28), except lac à Jim et a part of Micosas River between its mouth and the falls situated 1 km upstream of the mouth of the rivière Aux Dorés  Parc national du Mont-Tremblant (zone 15) Réserve faunique Ashuapmushuan (zone 28) Zec Lesueur, Zec Normandie, Zec Mazana and Zec de la Maison-de-Pierre (zone 15) Zec Borgia, Zec du Chapeau-de-Paille, Zec de la Croche, Zec Frémont, Zec du Gros-Brochet, Zec Kiskissink and Zec Menokeosawin (zone 26)	Yellow walleye and sauger: no length limit	Yellow walleye and sauger may be whole ² or filleted. A piece of skin must adhere to the fillet and it must be possible to count the fish.
ZONES 16, 17, 22 North and 22 South, except for the following waters: 	You may keep yellow wallaye between 37 and 53 cm in lenght, one of which may be more than 53 cm.	Yellow walleye and sauger may be whole ² or filleted with the skin fully attached ⁶ and it must be possible to count and identify the fish (see the section "How to cut up fillets with the skin fully attached")
	Sauger: no length limit.	
Réserve faunique des lacs Albanel-Mistassini-et-Waconichi and Réserve faunique du lac Assinica (zone 22) and the Eastmain and Weh-Sees-Indohoun sectors (zone 22)	Yellow walleye and sauger : no length limit.	Yellow walleye and sauger may be whole ² or filleted and it must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the fillet)
ZONE 25	You may keep yellow walleye and sauger 40 cm or less in length between March 1 and 31 and between May 20, 2016 (May 19, 2017) and June 15 2016 and 2017 ⁵	Whole only. ²

Waters covered	Length limits ¹ See the section entitled "How to measure fish"	State of fish (transportation and possession elsewhere than at the permanent residence)
LAKE STURGEON		
ZONE 25	You may keep lake sturgeon measuring 106 cm or less.	Whole only. ²
Zones 7, 8 and 21	You may keep lake sturgeon between 80 cm and 130 cm in length	Whole only. ²
MUSKELLUNGE		
The St. Lawrence River (zones 7, 8 and 21), including the following waters: Lac Saint-François (zone 8); Lac Saint-Louis (zone 8); the Lachine Rapids (zone 8); the Prairie Basin (zone 8); the Rivière des Mille Îles (zone 8); the Rivière des Prairies (zone 8); Lac des Deux Montagnes (zone 8); the portion of the rivière des Outaouais located in zone 8.	You may keep muskellunge 111 cm or more in length	Whole only. ²
Zone 25 and lac St-François (zone 8) 	You may keep muskellunge 137 cm or more in length	

LANDLOCKED SALMON		
Lac Memphrémagog (zone 6)	You may keep landlocked salmon 42 cm or more in length	Whole only. ²
ATLANTIC SALMON		
Lac Memphrémagog (zone 6)	You may keep atlantic salmon 42 cm or more in length	Whole only. ²
ZONES 1 to 29	You may keep Atlantic salmon 30 cm or more in length, which must also comply with the quotas established for each river and each sector of the river ⁷	Whole only. ²

LAKE TROUT (and splake) ⁴		
ZONES 1 to 8	You may keep lake trout 60 cm or more in length	Whole ¹ only where a length limit applies. Elsewhere, lake trout may be whole or filleted. It must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the filet).
ZONES 9 to 18, 20, 21 and 25 to 28, except for the following waters:	You may keep lake trout 45 cm or more in length	Whole ¹ only where a length limit applies. Elsewhere, lake trout may be whole or filleted. It must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the filet).
ZONE 13: Kipawa reservoir, lakes : Kipawa, Audoin, Desquerac, Grindstone, Hunter , McLachlin, Hunter's Point and the river between lac Audoin and lac Hunter's Point	You may keep lake trout 65 cm or more in length	Whole ¹ only . It must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the filet).

LAKE TROUT (and splake)⁴

- **Zone 9:** Lac Blanc (46°19'52" N 74°12'51" W), Lac Laurel (45°52'18" N 74°28'38" W), Lac des Sables (46°02'37" N 74°18'10" W), and Lac Ouareau. The Rivière Ouareau between Lac Blanc and Lac Ouareau (46°18' 54" N 74°11'20" W) and between the highway 125 bridge and Lac Blanc;
- **Zone 10:** Lac de l'Achigan, Lac de l'Argile, Lac Blue Sea, Lac Boisseau, Lac Cameron, Lac Castors, Lac Cayamant, Lac du Cerf, Lac Chapleau (46°14'54" N 74°56'14" W), Lac du Corbeau (46°12' N 75°28' W), Lac Danford, Lac de la Décharge (46°07' 06" N 74°48'12" W), Lac Dumont, Lac Earhart, Lac de l'Écluse, Lac Gagnon, Lac Galarneau, Lac Gatineau, Grand lac des Cèdres (46°18'14" O N 76° 06'47" W), Lac Grand Rond, Lac Heney, Lac Kensington, Lac à la Loutre (45°59' N 74° 39' W), Lac Marie-Louise, Lac La Minerve (46°13'28 " N 75°01'42" W), Grand lac Nominique, Lac Patterson, Lac Pemichangan, Petit lac des Cèdres (46°16'30" N 76° 04'30" W), Petit lac du Cerf (46°17' 20" N 75°31'51" W), Lac Petit Preston, Lac Quinn, Lac Rognon, Lac Saint-Germain (46°14' N 75°30' W), Lac Serpent, Lac Simon, Lac des Trente et Un Mille, Lac Trois Montagnes, Lac Vert (46°03'19" O N 76°52'53" W), Lac Viceroy, Lac Xavier; Poisson Blanc reservoir including lakes Cuillèrier, du Brochet and Doré
- **Zone 11:** Lac Chaud, Lac Chub, Lac des Cornes, Lac David (46°35' 26" N 75° 12'52" W), Lac Gravel, Lac Pérodeau, Lac Pope, Lac Rochon;

You may keep lake trout **55 cm** or more in length.

Whole¹ only where a length limit applies. Elsewhere, lake trout may be whole or filleted. It must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the filet).

LAKE TROUT (and splake)⁴

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Zone 12: Lac Branssat and Lac Lynch ◦ Zone 13 east: Lac Terrasses ◦ Zone 13 west: Lac en Cœur, Lac Marin, Lac Memewin, and Lac Tee; ◦ Zone 14: Lac Foie, Lac des Dix-Milles (47°53'57" N 74°48'23" W); and Lac Peter (48°14'21" N 74°12'19" W); ◦ Zone 15: Lac Cousineau (47°01' N 73°59' W), Lac Culotte (47°09' N 74°02' W, Lac Kempt (47°26' N 74°16' W), Lac Manouane, Lac Maskinongé (Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon), Lac Opwaiak, Lac Troyes and Lac Villiers (47°08' N 74°02' W); ◦ Zone 16: Lac Long (49°52' N 78°16' W) and Lac des Montagnes; ◦ Zone 17: Lac Antoinette, Lac Armitage, Lac Barlow, Lac Caché, Lac Chevrier, Lac Claude, Lac David, Lac Doda, Lac aux Dorés (49°52' N 78°16' W) Lac Dufresne, Lac Dulieux, Lac Gilman, Lac Gwillim, Lac Lefebvre (49°58'17" N 79°23'43" W), Lac Lymburner, Lac Nicole, Lac Pusticamica, Lac Sauvage (49°53'36" N 74°23'07" W), Lac Scott and Lac Simon; ◦ Zone 26: Lac Châteauvert (47°39'24" N 73°55'15" W), Lac des Pins rouges (46°36'17" N 73°07'07" W), Lac des Souris (46°35'00" N 72°59'39" W) and Lac Touridi; ◦ Zone 27: Lac Saint-Joseph; ◦ Zone 28: Lac Méricanane and Lac Chaumonot. 	<p>You may keep lake trout 55 cm or more in length.</p>	<p>Whole¹ only where a length limit applies. Elsewhere, lake trout may be whole or filleted. It must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the filet).</p>
<p>Portion A of zone 19 South and zones 22 South and 29</p>	<p>You may keep lake trout less than 60 cm in length (catch and possession limit of three)</p>	<p>Whole¹ only where a length limit applies. Elsewhere, lake trout may be whole or filleted. It must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the filet).</p>
<p>Portion B of zone 19 South and zones 22 North, 23 and 24</p>	<p>You may keep lake trout less than 60 cm in length (catch and possession limit of three, one of which may be 60 cm and more in length).</p>	<p>Whole¹ only where a length limit applies. Elsewhere, lake trout may be whole or filleted. It must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the filet).</p>

Note 1 Length: the distance measured in a straight line between the tip of the snout and the tip of the tail fin, except in the case of Atlantic salmon, on which the distance is measured in a straight line between the tip of the snout and the fork in the tail.

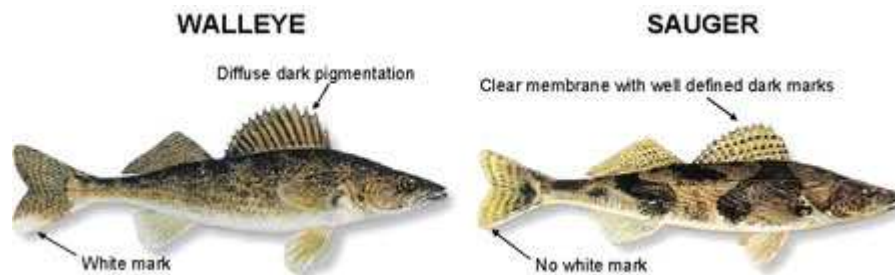
Note 2 The fish must be whole but it may be gutted.

- Note 3** It is possible that the preceding rules respecting the length limit for walleye do not apply or are different in certain outfitting operations with exclusive rights in zones 13, 14, 15 and 28. To obtain additional information, please contact the outfitting operation.
- Note 4** The measurements of lake trout do not apply in national parks, wildlife reserves, controlled harvesting zones (ZECs) and on certain water bodies located in the territories of a number of outfitting operation with exclusive rights in zones 10 to 15, 18 and 26 to 28.
- Note 5** No size limit applies to walleye outside of these periods.
- Note 6** It is mandatory to fillet the fish with the skin fully attached to identify the species and determine the length at locations where it is necessary to do so. The fish must have the following length:
- In the case of yellow walleye in respect of which the length range fished is set at 32 cm or more and less than 47 cm, the two fillets must measure 24 cm or more and less than 35 cm, measured from the tip of the tail fin to the interior attachment point of the pectoral fin. The fillets must be connected by the tail and the pectoral fins and the skin must adhere to the fillet.
 - In the case of yellow walleye in respect of which the length range fished is set at 38 cm or more and less than 53 cm, the two fillets must measure 28 cm or more and less than 40 cm, measured from the tip of the tail fin to the interior attachment point of the pectoral fin. The fillets must be connected by the tail and the pectoral fins and the skin must adhere to the fillet.
- Note 7** The catch limit for salmon is expressed in terms of “big” and “small” salmon:
- Big salmon: 63 cm or more in length;
 - Small salmon: less than 63 cm in length.

How to cut up fillets with the skin fully attached



Yellow walleye and sauger can be distinguished in the following manner:



When you wash the fish prior to transporting it, ensure that the species can be identified, calculate the number and, as the case may be, measure the length.

Releasing of fish

Everyone must immediately return any fish, dead or alive, to the water where it was caught while avoiding needlessly injuring the fish if it is still alive:

- of a prohibited length;
- caught during a period or at a site where fishing for the species is prohibited;*
- caught by a prohibited method or using prohibited gear or when the catch limit has been reached;
- caught under a sportfishing licence with mandatory catch-and-release rules.

* It is prohibited to fish in order to intentionally catch a fish species during a period when fishing for the species is prohibited.

Moreover, to help reintroduce striped bass in the waters of the St. Lawrence River, anglers must release this species except where fishing is permitted.

It is prohibited to catch and keep redhorses and suckers in certain water bodies in zone 8. However, carp, which is often confused with the two species, may be kept. An angler must be able to identify his catches. To avoid confusion when the species are identified, please consult the documentation on the Department website (French).

A fisherman may also release alive a fish that he has just caught and is entitled to keep but must avoid as much as possible injuring the fish. In the case of **Atlantic salmon**, a daily catch-and-release limit, generally of three fish, may also apply. In addition, to preserve and maintain a sporting spirit, the Department, the Fédération québécoise pour le saumon atlantique and the Fédération des gestionnaires de rivières à saumon du Québec encourage anglers to confine themselves to three releases per day. Depending on the management of fish stocks, a managing organization might suggest fewer releases.

In all cases, to ensure that the fish survive, follow the method described in the section Sound release practices (French).

Transportation, possession and identification of fish

At the request of a wildlife protection officer or wildlife protection assistant, anyone who is transporting or has in his possession fish must identify himself and indicate the source of the fish.

Live fish

Bearing in mind the fishing periods and catch limits applicable to the fishing site, a fisherman may possess live **while he is fishing** and **on the fishing site** the fish that he has caught. The transportation of live baitfish is permitted in certain zones (see the section entitled "Baitfish").

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

Dead fish

When a fisherman has in his possession **elsewhere than at this permanent residence** fish caught while sportfishing, the fish must be in a state that makes it possible to determine the species (for example, by leaving sufficient skin on the flesh to identify it), the length and the number. When a length limit applies, the fish must be transported in such a way that its length can be measured.

For the application of the length limit of walleye when the fish is filleted, the skin must adhere completely to the flesh of the fillet over its entire length, as indicated in the section entitled "Catch, possession and length limits".

It is prohibited to ship outside Québec fish caught while sportfishing whose sale is prohibited. However, individuals may take with them when leaving Québec an amount of fish that they caught or that was given to them equivalent to the authorized possession limit for each species. What is more, individuals may take with them when leaving Québec any tagged salmon caught while sportfishing or that was caught or given to them.

Special rules for certain territories

In Québec, fishing occurs mainly on lands in the domain of the State. Special wildlife management provisions apply to certain portions of this territory. This section briefly indicates such sites and the special conditions.

Moreover, salmon is especially present in the river corridor, including the Saguenay, along the sea-coast and in the numerous salmon rivers that flow into the waters. Specific conditions apply in the salmon rivers including daily catch limits, daily catch-and-release limits, fishing periods and authorized fishing gear. The conditions may vary from one river to the next and occasionally from one sector to another on the same river.

Québec has 111 salmon rivers managed by different organizations. Several organizations may simultaneously manage a salmon river. Accordingly, certain sectors of the river may have the status of a controlled harvesting zone (ZEC), others the status of a wildlife reserve or a national park, and still others that status of an outfitting operation with exclusive rights. Certain sectors may also be privately owned. In addition to the conditions governing sportfishing mentioned earlier, fishermen must comply with requirements concerning the territory that they wish to visit. Accordingly, the number of anglers may be subject to a quota on a portion of the river that lies in a wildlife reserve, an outfitting operation, a national park or a controlled harvesting zone (ZEC). The public has free access to salmon rivers or sectors of salmon rivers that are neither managed by an organization nor located on private property.

To obtain additional information, please contact the regional office in question.

Communal wildlife areas

A communal wildlife area (CWA) is a public water body (lake or river) that is subject to a lease of exclusive fishing rights for purposes other than that of an outfitting operation. Such rights are granted to a non-profit organization that assumes responsibility for the development of fishing in the water bodies covered. This is true of the AFC du réservoir Baskatong (819 438-1177), the AFC du réservoir Gouin (819 523-5255), the AFC du lac Saint-Jean (1 888 866-2527) and the AFC du lac Saint-Pierre (450 836-2413).

To fish in a CWA, you must obtain an authorization from the organization. To obtain additional information, please contact the organization responsible for the CWA that you wish to visit or consult its website:

- 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 water body with an area of not more than 20 ha containing only farmed fish closed on all sides to keep the fish captive and used for fishing. Fishing is allowed there year-round, without a licence and with no catch limit. However, the owner of a fish pond who wishes to sell to an individual the fish that he has caught in the pond must possess a fish pond operating licence issued by the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec.

Côte-Nord

To fish in the **Tshitassinu** - La Romaine sector: In portion B of zone 19 south, a fishing licence holder must obtain a right of access (**free of charge**) issued by the Société Tshitassinu and comply with the dates and sites indicated on it. Furthermore, at the conclusion of the licence holder's daily fishing or his stay, he must report on his fishing and indicate the daily catches. If the agent is absent, the licence holder must fill out the form available at the registration booths and deposit it at the place indicated.

To obtain additional information, please contact the offices of the Department or wildlife protection offices in the Côte-Nord region, or contact the Société Tshitassinu (418 553-0721).

Nord-du-Québec

To fish in **zones 17 and 22 to 24**, you must comply with the Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories (CQLR, chapter D-13.1). The territories are subdivided into three categories. **To fish on Category I or II lands**, you must obtain an authorization and abide by the conditions imposed by the Cree, Inuit or Naskapi authorities.

What is more, **to fish in the salmon rivers located in the Category III lands in zone 23**, the holder of a fishing licence for residents must first register by telephone at 1 866 237-2442 (toll free). The angler must provide the following information:

- surname, given name, full address, telephone number and fishing licence number;
- the planned dates and sites of the fishing trips (if the angler plans to visit several sites during a given stay).

If the agent is absent, the information can be left on the telephone answering machine. At the conclusion of his stay, the licence holder must register the salmon caught and kept by telephone at 1 855 491-3780 (toll free). To this end, he must provide his contact information (surname, given name and telephone number) and the dates and sites of the catches.

Anyone who wishes to fish for **lake trout in zone 23** during the period between September 8 and 30 must use the services of an outfitter active in the territory.

In **zones 17 and 22 to 24**, only fishing with a line or a rod equipped with a line is permitted. Fishing with bows, crossbows or harpoons is prohibited in these zones. Moreover, in **zones 22 to 24**, **certain fish species** are reserved **exclusively for the use of the Aboriginal peoples**.

To fish in the **Eastmain and Weh Sees Indohoun sectors** of **zone 22**, the fishing licence holder must obtain a right of access (**free of charge**) and abide by the dates and sites mentioned on it. At the conclusion of the licence holder's daily fishing or his stay, he must report on his fishing and indicate the daily catches. If the agent is absent, the licence holder must fill out the form available at the registration booth and deposit it at the place indicated.

To obtain additional information, please contact the offices of the Department or the wildlife protection offices in the Nord-du-Québec region.

National parks and wildlife reserves

To fish in a national park or a wildlife reserve, it is usually necessary to make a reservation. You must also obtain a right of access or an authorization to fish, as the case may be, and abide by the dates, times and sites mentioned on it. Moreover, at the conclusion of the activity or stay, anglers must report on their fishing at the designated location and indicate their daily catches. To carry fishing tackle in these territories, you must possess a right of access or an authorization to fish. An angler must also submit whole the salmon caught for measuring and registration.

To obtain additional information on the national parks and wildlife reserves that the SÉPAQ manages, please contact the organization at 418 890-6527 or 1 800 665-6527, or consult its website (www.sepaq.com). You can obtain information on the Réserve faunique Duchénier at 418 735-5222.

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

Outfitting operations

fitting operations are businesses that offer anglers accommodation and various services or equipment. Certain outfitting operations have exclusive fishing rights in specified territories. In a number of outfitting operations in certain zones, the fishing period and the catch limit on salmonids may differ from those in the zone. What is more, the length limits for lake trout may not apply in all water bodies in the territories. Certain outfitters may also have exclusive rights over small lakes of less than 20 ha in order to develop fishing there for their clientele. In certain outfitting operations, it is also possible to fish for brook trout or rainbow trout year-round.

To obtain additional information, please contact the outfitting operation that you wish to visit or visit the website of the Fédération des pourvoiries du Québec (www.fpq.com).

Note: In the Nord-du-Québec region (zones 17 and 22 to 24), a specific regime applies. To obtain additional information, please consult a wildlife protection office in the region.

Wildlife sanctuaries

The conditions governing the use of resources in a wildlife sanctuary are established with a view to preserving wildlife habitat or the habitat of a wildlife species. Fishing may be subject to certain conditions respecting access and travel in the territory. In the Refuge unique Pierre-Étienne-Fortin, all fishing is prohibited between June 20 and July 20 in sectors B and C of the sanctuary (zone 8).

To obtain additional information, please contact the offices of the Department or your local wildlife protection office.

Ecological reserves

EcoEcological reserves are protected areas devoted to conservation, education and research. Fishing is prohibited there and access to the reserves is usually very limited.

To obtain additional information, please consult the web site of the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte aux changements climatiques at the following address: http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/inter_en.htm.

Private lands

Before you access private property, you must obtain the owner's permission and consider yourself as his guest. Fishing rules apply on private lands. Certain landowners in the Bas-Saint-Laurent, Estrie, Chaudière Appalaches, Centre-du-Québec, Montérégie and Capitale-Nationale regions have concluded an agreement with officials in the Department concerning the management of wildlife and access by anglers. On such lands, the Department brings proceedings against individuals who fish without the landowner's authorization. The same is true of fishing on land covered by an agreement concluded between a landowner and an association or a body whose object is to facilitate the access of fishermen to private lands and that is **recognized to that effect by the Department**, for the purposes of wildlife accessibility.

To obtain additional information, please contact the offices of the Department or your local wildlife protection office.

Zecs

A controlled harvesting zone (ZEC) is a hunting and fishing ground whose management is delegated to a non-profit organization that individuals can join. To fish there, you must register and abide by the dates, times and sites indicated in the registration document. You must carry with you the registration document and present it, upon request, to a wildlife protection officer, a wildlife protection assistant or an area warden. The document may also be placed in view on the vehicle dashboard. Lastly, you must return the document when you leave the territory and declare all of the fish caught.

To obtain additional information, please contact that organization that manages the controlled harvesting zone (ZEC) that you wish to visit or visit the Zecs Québec website at the following address: www.fqgz.com.

Non-residents

To fish anywhere in Québec, a non-resident must possess a Québec sportfishing licence. However, the licence is not obligatory to fish in the waters of a national park of Canada or in a fish pond (see the section Special rules for certain territories). The spouse and children of a non-resident may, in some cases, fish without a licence (see the section Fishing licence).

The holder of an Ontario sportfishing licence is deemed to be the holder of a Québec fishing licence for fishing in zone 25 and in **Lac Clarice**, **Lac Labyrinthe** and **Lac Raven** (zone 13) and in the portion of Lac Saint François (zone 8) located west of a line drawn from **Pointe Beaudette** on the north shore to **Pointe Saint-Louis** on the south shore. The same goes for the holder of a New Brunswick fishing licence when he engages in line fishing in the **Patapédia** (zone 2) and **Ristigouche** salmon rivers (zones 1 and 2). The fish caught in these waters and kept are deemed to have been caught in Québec. You must, therefore, take them into account when calculating the catch limit and the possession limit. A non-resident who wishes 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. To obtain additional information, please contact the regional office of the Department in the Nord-du-Québec region or the Côte-Nord region. Note: To export lake sturgeon or Atlantic sturgeon, you must first obtain a CITES export permit by contacting Fisheries and Oceans Canada at **418 648-5890**.

Fishing salmon elsewhere than in salmon rivers

Salmon fishing by means of line fishing or fly fishing is possible elsewhere than in salmon rivers.

For the maximum number of salmon that it is permissible to acquire a daily basis, see "Fishing periods and catch limits" in the online version of this publication at <http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/online/wildlife/fishing-regulations/index.asp> section. Note that the salmon fishing license is required and that the terms for the labeling and registration of salmon also apply to salmon caught elsewhere than in salmon rivers

Prohibited practices

It is an offence to catch or attempt to catch a species of fish during a period when such fishing is prohibited, even if you plan to immediately release the fish.

- It is prohibited to sell, buy, trade or offer to buy the following fish when they are caught during sportfishing in Québec or when they are caught elsewhere under a sportfishing licence: bass, allis shad, American eel, striped bass, white bass, brown bullhead, channel catfish, carp, copper redhorse, river redhorse, panfish, sturgeon, northern pike, chain pickerel, walleye, rainbow smelt, burbot, black crappie, muskellunge, yellow perch, char, landlocked salmon, Atlantic salmon, tench, lake trout, rainbow trout and brown trout. Furthermore, it is prohibited to sell baitfish caught while sportfishing or to sell, buy or trade or offer to buy an Atlantic salmon that comes from a natural environment.

- It is prohibited to sell, buy or have in one's possession fish caught illegally.
- It is prohibited to simultaneously engage in line fishing and fly fishing: the angler must use only one line at a time.
- It is prohibited for a non-beneficiary to accept from a beneficiary of the right to harvest stipulated by the Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories (CQLR, chapter D-13.1) any fish caught pursuant to such right for personal or communal uses, unless it comes from authorized commercial fishing.
- It is prohibited to fish using fish hooks or hooks handled intentionally to catch or pierce any part of the fish, except in cases where the fish takes the hook in its mouth. It is, consequently, prohibited to keep a salmon caught in this manner.
- It is prohibited to use a harp, a bow or a crossbow to fish for salmon or to fish in a salmon river.
- It is prohibited to fish using fish hooks or hooks handled in such a way as to pierce the fish in a part of the body other than the mouth. It is, consequently, prohibited to keep a fish caught intentionally in this manner through a part of the body other than the mouth.
- It is prohibited to fish from a bridge that crosses a salmon river or its estuary.
- It is prohibited to fish in a salmon river from one hour after sundown to one hour before sunrise. To find out when the sun rises and sets, please consult a local newspaper or the National Research Council of Canada Sunrise/Sunset Calculator. Note that the times mentioned on this site are expressed in Eastern standard time.
- It is prohibited to use to take fish caught while sportfishing out of the water:
 - a net other than a landing net;
 - a tailer over 2 m in length;
 - a spring gaff;
 - a gaff of any sort for salmon.
- It is prohibited to have in one's possession less than 100 m from a fishing site or watercourse fishing gear whose use is prohibited on the same site except under the conditions stipulated in the section Sites reserved for fly fishing.
- It is prohibited to fish less than 23 meters downstream from the lower entrance of a fish ladder, an operating fishway, an obstacle or a leaping space designed to facilitate the movement of the fish.
- It is prohibited to allow to spoil a fish suited for human consumption that has been caught and kept.
- It is prohibited to fish otherwise than with a line less than 500 m downstream from any point at the mouth of a salmon river in zones 18, 19, 20, 27 and 28 or a salmon river in zone 21 located on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River.

Protection of wildlife habitats

Motor vehicle traffic in certain fragile environments is also regulated. It should be noted that it is prohibited to travel:

- with a motor vehicle on dunes in the Québec public domain;
- with a motor vehicle, other than a snowmobile;
 - on beaches and offshore bars, in marshes or swamps located on the shoreline (foreshore) of the St. Lawrence River downstream from the Laviolette Bridge, the estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Baie des Chaleurs and the islands located there. However, this restriction does not prevent the exercising of activities related to fishing carried on legally, travel on trails designed for this purpose and built in accordance with legislation, or access to private property;
 - in the peat bogs of the Québec public domain, south of the St. Lawrence River, the estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence.

To find out about all of the regulations applicable to vehicular travel in fragile environments, please contact customer service in the Department .

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.

Fishing zones map

