

Sport Fishing in Québec including salmon fishing - Season 2018-2020

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

mffp.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/online/wildlife/fishing-regulations/index.asp

TABLE OF CONTENT

Main new elements	1	Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs Dépôt légal - Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, 2018 Dépôt légal - Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, 2018 ISBN 978-2-550-75158-8 (pdf) ISBN 978-2-550-75156-4 (HTML) © Gouvernement du Québec
The rules in brief	4	
General rules	5	
Definitions	5	
Right to fish	6	
Fishing licence	6	
Tagging and registering of salmon	11	
Fishing methods	12	
Bait-fish	16	
Catch, possession and length limits	20	
Releasing fish to water	28	
Transportation, possession and identification of fish	28	
Special rules for certain territories	29	
Non-residents	32	
Fishing salmon elsewhere than in salmon rivers	32	
Prohibited practices	32	
Protection of wildlife habitats	33	
Circulation in fragile environments	33	
Fishing zones map	34	

Sport Fishing in Québec – Main rules April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020

This publication presents the main rules governing fishing, including rules respecting Atlantic salmon fishing, in force from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020. 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

Atlantic salmon fishing

- The annual quota has been reduced from seven to four salmon, including no more than one big salmon, except in Nord-du-Québec (zones 23 and 24), where four salmon can be kept regardless of size.
- The duration of the one-day salmon fishing licence has been changed, and it has now become a three-day salmon fishing licence.
- A salmon that is kept, where this is permitted in Québec, must be tagged with a tag from the licence of the person who struck it.
- It is now mandatory for everyone to use the services of an outfitter in order to fish salmon in zones 23 and 24.

“Pêche en herbe” and “Relève à la pêche” certificates

- Residents under 18 years of age who have a “Pêche en herbe” or “Relève à la pêche” certificate may fish for Atlantic salmon, but catch-and-release is mandatory.

Number of lines permitted in winter

- The winter fishing period during which several lines may be used in zone 16 has been extended.

Bait fish

- New species have been added to the list of prohibited bait fish.
- The period during which bait fish may be used has been harmonized with the extension of the winter fishing period in zone 16.
- Two sectors in zone 28, where dead smelt may be used as bait, have been modified.

Ban on the use of certain devices to fish for walleye

- It is forbidden to fish for walleye using a longbow, crossbow or harpoon while swimming in zones 9 to 12, 15, 16, 27 and 28 (and also in zones 3 to 8, 13 West and 13 East, 14, 17, 22 to 24 and 26, where the ban was already in force).

Zone 1

- Changes to the char catch limits in several salmon rivers.

Zone 2

- Changes to the catch and possession limits for whitefish in some lakes.

Zone 3

- The opening of fishing for all species in Lac Trois-Saumons has been delayed.

Zone 4

- A minimum size of 42 centimetres has been introduced for landlocked salmon and the catch and possession limit for landlocked salmon has been reduced from three (3) to two (2).
- It is forbidden to fish for landlocked salmon in winter in Grand lac Saint-François.

Zones 7

- Fishing of redhorse and suckers is prohibited in the Lac Saint-Pierre community wildlife area.

Zones 8

- The fishing period for char, trout and lake trout has been changed in this zone.
- A special sector has been added, 100 m on either side of the Autoroute de l'Acier (A-30) bridge.
- Fishing of redhorse and suckers is prohibited in the Lac Saint-Pierre community wildlife area.

Zone 9

- Fishing for lake trout has been closed in Lac Blanc and Lac Ouareau (including part of Rivière Ouareau).
- Opening of lake trout fishing at Lac Archambault (including its tributaries, its bays and Lac Tire).
- Winter fishing periods have been introduced for Lac Vert, Lac Morgan and a nameless lake (Sourire).

Zone 10

- The fishing period for Lac des Sources has been changed.

Zone 11

- In the Petawaga ZEC, the opening dates for fishing of catfish and muskellunge have been harmonized with the opening dates for fishing of pike and walleye.
- A new size range has been introduced for lake trout in Lac Pérodeau and Lac Des Cornes (45 cm and over).
- The rules governing fishing of lake trout in Lac Major have been harmonized with the zone rules (same limit, and lake trout measuring more than 45 cm).
- Winter fishing on Lac Tapani has been closed (same fishing periods as for the zone).

Zone 13 West

- Catch limits have been adjusted for Lac Petite Prairies (47°16'48"N, 79°15'22"W.), Lac des Soeurs (48°10'49"N., 77°43'11"W.) and the unnamed lake (town) (48°48'N., 79°10'W.), i.e. a total limit of 5 for char and trout).
- The boundaries of the Kipawa and Decelles sanctuaries have been changed.
- Lac Florentien (47°53'44"N., 78°10'21"W.), Lac Ab-Rono (47°53'28"N., 78°10'13"W.), Lac Laniel 1 (47°02'58"N., 79°15'11"W.), Lac Laniel 2 (47°00'41"N., 79°16'18"W.) and the surrounding unnamed lakes (47°54'18"N., 78°09'59"W. / 47°54'08"N., 78°09'37"W. / 47°53'16"N., 78°09'57"W. / 47°53'14"N., 78°10'21"W.) / 47°53'26"N., 78°10'31"W.) / 47°53'16"N., 78°10'41"W.) / 47°52'58"N., 78°10'52"W.) / 47°52'51"N., 78°10'41"W.) have been completely closed.

Zone 15

- The catch limits for pike and walleye have been reduced in the Parc national du Mont-Tremblant;
- A length limit (55 cm or more) has been added for lake trout at Lac Sing.

Zone 16

- Spring fishing dates have been changed for catfish, pike, walleye and "other species".
- New length limits have been introduced for yellow walleye in the waters of the Mistawac outfitting operation (32 cm to 47 cm).

Zone 19 South, Part B

- Smelt fishing has been opened in Rivière Olomane along a line running between point 50°12'31" N., 60°40'11" W., point 50°11'51" N., 60°39'14" W., point 50°11'43" N., 60°38'10" W., point 50°12'06" N., 60°36'45" W. and a point located 100 m downstream of the first rapids.
- Fishing for lake trout has been closed in the Romaine I reservoir.
- Salmon fishing has been closed on Rivière Jupitagon.

Zone 21

- The catch limits for char have been changed at various places.

Zone 22

- The requirement to obtain a right of access and report on fishing results has been lifted for the Weh-Sees Indohun and Eastmain sectors.
- Fishing periods for the Weh-Sees Indohun and Eastmain sectors have been harmonized with the zone rules.
- The season closing dates for pike, walleye, char, landlocked salmon, yellow perch and lake trout have been changed in Lac Hélène (the portion within a radius of 200 m downstream of the mouth of Rivière Castor (53°45'00"N 77°00'00"W)).

Zone 26


- The two-week fishing closure in June has been abandoned at Lac Saint-Alexis.

Zone 27

- The opening of the fishing season has been delayed for Lac à l'Anguille, Lac en Coeur, Lac de la Baie-des-Rochers, Lac Nairne and Lac Port-aux-Quilles.

Zone 28

- A fishing period starting on December 20 and ending on March 31 has been introduced for Lac du Dépôt, Lac Kauashekamatsh and an unnamed lake south of the latter.

The  icon is used to draw the reader's attention to new rules for the current year.

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 have in your possession a fishing licence.** 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.

Is it 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** (aged 18 to 24 with a valid student ID) 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 " Fishing 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.

In the case of Atlantic salmon, there is an annual possession limit, i.e. a limit on the number of salmon that a person may catch and keep during a given season.

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 where fishing is prohibited for a period beginning one hour after sunset and ending one hour before sunrise (see the exception for smelt fishing).
- You may use earthworms and leeches as bait without restriction, unless otherwise indicated.
- In most zones minnows are prohibited as bait (see the section "Bait-fish" for more details on this topic).
- When you transport fish, be sure that you can identify the species, for example, by leaving skin.
- If a length limit applies, it is usually forbidden to cut the fish into fillets because they may have to be measured and counted.
- 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 leader, made of netting or plastic or wire mesh, fastened to hoops or frames, measuring no more than 60 cm in length and 25 cm in diameter, equipped with funnel-shaped openings, the smallest diameter of which does not exceed 2.5 cm
- **Pike:** includes redfin pickerel, chain pickerel, grass pickerel and northern pike.
- **Catadromous:** a fish that lives in freshwater and spawns in the sea.
- **Lift net** (square net): a net made of netting or plastic or wire mesh whose stretched does not exceed 2.5 cm, mounted usually on a squareshaped frame whose biggest dimension is not more than 1,3 m in its fully extended length 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 whose biggest dimension does not exceed 90 cm mounted on a frame.
- **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.
- **National park:** refers to a Québec national park, unless otherwise indicated in the text.
- **Angling:** fishing with 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 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 trying 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 of at least 30 cm in length, but less than 63 cm.
- **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 have in your possession the licence 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 availability for residents and non-residents, are presented in the following table:

Licence categories	Resident*	Non-resident
<i>Sport fishing (except for Atlantic salmon)</i>		
- annual, person under 65 of age	yes	yes
- annual, person of 65 and over, of age	yes	yes
- 7 consecutive days	no	yes
- 3 consecutive days	yes	yes
- 1 day	no	yes
- mandatory release (only in outfitting establishment)	yes	yes
<i>Fishing for burbot in lac Saint-Jean</i>		
- annual	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		

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>.

Exceptionally, residents of Québec may fish without a sportfishing licence in zones 1 to 16, 18 to 21 and 25 to 29, between **December 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018**. If they do so, however, they must comply with all other applicable regulatory requirements.

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 Atlantic 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.

Other species of salmon can be fished in Quebec with the general sport fishing licence.

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).

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 during a salmon fishing period on a salmon river. Any salmon caught under the licence must necessarily be released.

What is the purpose of a burbot fishing licence?

This licence authorizes the holder and anyone able to fish with the licence, to fish for burbot on certain conditions specific to a portion of Lac Saint-Jean. For additional information, please see the section entitled "Burbot fishing with a burbot fishing licence in Lac Saint-Jean".

A sportfishing licence holder may also fish for burbot, with no catch limit, between December 20 and March 31. However, the licence holder 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).

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
May 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 in possession of your licence AND a valid student's card	YES, if they are in possession of 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 in his possession	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 for bait fish, 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 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. 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 years of age who fishes for species other than salmon, who has in his or her possession a **Pêche en herbe** certificate issued after an introduction to fishing, or a certificate issued under the **Relève à la pêche** program. Every Atlantic salmon caught by the person must be released back into the water;
- 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 mollusks 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?

No. A fishing licence is non-transferable.

Are there any conditions for the validity of the licence?

To be valid, the fishing licence must be **signed** by the person issuing it and by the holder. The older must also enter the required information in the space provided on the back of 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?

Annual Atlantic salmon fishing licence

- An individual may not purchase or possess more than one annual salmon fishing licence, subject to the above remarks concerning replacement of a licence.

Three-day Atlantic salmon fishing licence

An individual may not purchase or possess:

- more than one three-day licence for the same period or for overlapping periods, subject to the above remarks concerning replacement of a licence;
- a three-day licence if he or she has already purchased or possesses an annual licence;
- a three-day licence if he or she has already caught and kept four salmon in a given year.

However, an individual may purchase a new three-day Atlantic salmon fishing licence:

- if he or she has placed the tag from his or her three-day licence on a salmon and has not yet reached the annual keep limit of four salmon;
- if the period shown on the licence has expired and the person has not yet reached the annual keep limit of four salmon.

A person who has purchased one or more three-day licences and has not yet kept four salmon may purchase an annual licence. However, the number of usable tags on the annual licence will be reduced by the number of Atlantic salmon already caught under the three-day licence(s). For example, a person who has already caught one salmon under a three-day licence can only use three of the four tags on the annual licence, in order to remain within the total number of four salmon kept during the season.

In other words, any combination of annual licences and three-day licences to fish and keep Atlantic salmon can never entitle the holder to catch more than four Atlantic salmon in any given year.

Atlantic salmon fishing licence with mandatory catch-and release

The salmon fishing licence with mandatory catch-and-release conditions may be purchased at any time, even if the individual already holds an annual licence or a three-day licence. Moreover, the holder of a licence with mandatory catch-and-release conditions may purchase the annual Atlantic salmon sportfishing licence. The salmon fishing licence with mandatory catch-and-release conditions is valid throughout Québec to fish for **salmon** and to fish for and keep any other authorized species, in salmon rivers **only**. The salmon fishing licence with mandatory catch-and-release conditions does not allow a person to fish, on that day, in a body of water 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 four tags. The salmon caught and kept must be tagged. The **three-days licence** is issued with one tag. The licence and the tag are only valid during the period indicated on the licence.

Note: During the season, an individual may not under any circumstances catch and keep more than four 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. For the first three small salmon, the tags must be used in the order in which they are attached to the licence. If a fourth small salmon is kept, or when one big salmon is kept, where the rules so allow, the tag located at the top of the permit, marked "Grand saumon 2018" (Si la réglementation le permet) ou "petit saumon".



In all bodies of water in Québec where salmon may be kept, the tag placed on the salmon caught must come from the licence of 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 examples of where the tag may be placed.



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 “ Fishing for bait fish”, “ 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”).

Angling

For angling, the line may be equipped with artificial lures, fish hooks or flies, baited or unbaited. A fish hook may be simple or multiple. An artificial lure or a fly counts for a single 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 angling 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 angling 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 in total.

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 fly fishing line mounted on a fishing rod designed for this purpose to which are attached 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 dressed 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 undulating parts or be equipped with weights that cause the fly to 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 following 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.

Fly fishing areas - Salmon rivers

In most 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. To obtain additional information on these specific conditions, please consult the search engine on the Department website.

Number of fish hooks and points

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

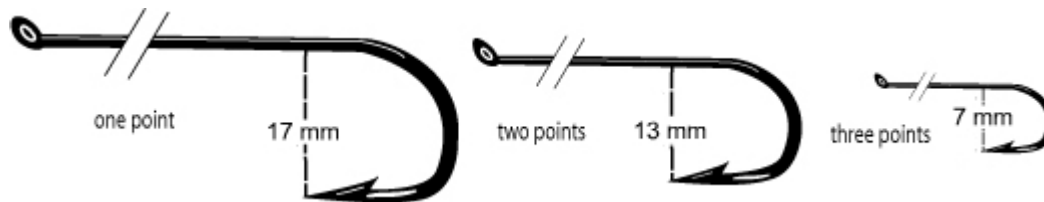
When any kind of **angling** is permitted:

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 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 water bodies reserved for fly fishing (elsewhere than in a salmon river)	2	3
In a salmon river 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 (the distance between the point of the hook and the shank) of artificial flies according to the number of points.




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 "Fishing periods and catch limits". 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, 18, 19 south, 20, 28 and 29	5 lines, from December 1 to April 15
16, 17 	5 lines, from December 1 to April 26 in 2018, to April 25 in 2019 and to April 23 in 2020
22 to 24	5 lines, from December 1 to April 30

- Five lines are authorized in Lac Memphrémagog (zone 6), from December 20 to March 31, if fishing through ice. Under other circumstances, fishing is only allowed with one line.
- 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.
- Only two lines are authorized in Lac Témiscamingue (zone 25).
- 10 lines are authorized in the rivière Sainte-Anne (zone 27), between the upstream side of the Highway 363 bridge, at Saint-Casimir, and the downstream side of the Highway 138 bridge, at La Pérade.
- Only five lines are authorized 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.
- Only two lines are authorized in Lac Clarice and Lac Raven (zone 13).

Fishing with bows or crossbows or 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 16 and 26 to 28. ➤

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 bait fish

In the zones where and during the periods when the use of bait fish is permitted, the holder of a sportfishing licence may use a lift net and no more than three bait traps to catch bait fish. This rule does not apply in zones 17 and 22 to 24, or in bodies of water set aside for fly fishing. The holder must enter his or her name, address and licence number on any bait traps that are not under immediate supervision. When one or more individuals fish under the licence of another individual, the number of devices used by the group as a whole must not exceed the number that the licence holder is permitted to use.

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 lift net under the following conditions:

- from October 13 to 26, 2018 and from October 12 to 25, 2019, 50 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, 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. Lift 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 26 in 2018, to April 25 in 2019 and to April 23 in 2020.

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 lift 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 **lift 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 Bluets**, **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; **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**, the part between the dam located 1,6 km from lac Massawipi and the first curve downstream; **Rivière Niger** from its mouth to highway 143; **Ruisseau Taylor** (tributary from **Lac Memphrémagog**); **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 **lift 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 with a burbot fishing licence in Lac Saint-Jean

Specific conditions apply to burbot fishing in the waters of Lac Saint-Jean encircled by routes 169, 170 and 373, but excluding the portions of La Grande Décharge (downstream of the Isle Maligne dam and the Lac Saint-Jean water retention structures) and Rivière Petite Décharge (the portion situated between its mouth in the Saguenay and the Lac Saint-Jean water retention structures) . At this location, a **burbot fishing licence holder** may fish for the species from December 20 to March 31, with no catch limit, using two night lines with no more than 10 fishhooks each, lying continuously on the bottom. In addition, the licence holder must affix a tag, issued with the licence, to the identification marker for each of the night lines used.

Fishing for mollusks and crustaceans







Fishing for freshwater mollusks, 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 lift 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 angling is permitted for all species.

Bait fish and other bait

In Québec, different types of bait can be placed on a hook and used to attempt to catch fish. This section deals with bait composed of fish, frogs, leeches and earthworms.

Bait fish

The term "bait fish" includes fish, molluscs, crustaceans (e.g. shrimp, crayfish), marine animals and the parts, eggs, sperm, roe, spawn, larvae, spat or offspring of such animals intended for use as fishing bait. During the periods and at the places shown, the possession or use of **dead** freshwater fish species from Québec as fishing bait is permitted, **EXCEPT FOR the following species**:

Bass, Blueback herring  , Brown bullhead, Channel catfish, Channel darter, Chinese mitten crab  , Crucian carp, Lamprey, , Panfish, Pike, Redhorse, Round goby, Rusty crayfish  , Sturgeon, Stone moroko  , Walleye, White perch	Bowfin, Burbot, Char, Freshwater drum, Goldeye, Lake Trout, Longnose gar, Mooneye, Muskellunge, Rudd  , Salmon, Tench, Trout, Yabby  , Yellow perch
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Use of the following **as bait fish is also prohibited**:

- all saltwater species **EXCEPT** capelin, herring, mackerel, molluscs and crustaceans;
- all fish species designated by the Species at Risk Act or the Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species.

Frogs, leeches and earthworms as bait

The use of frogs, leeches and earthworms as bait is permitted unless otherwise indicated.

The restrictions on bait fish **do not apply** to the use of frogs, leeches and earthworms as bait.

When capturing frogs, you must comply with the applicable rules governing frog hunting. A frog hunting licence allows the holder to hunt Northern leopard frogs, green frogs and bullfrogs from July 15 to November 15, with no bag limit. Frog hunting is prohibited in zones 17, 19 North and 22 to 24, and in wildlife reserves and territories in which all hunting is prohibited.

Special rules apply to the keeping of frogs in captivity. Please contact an MFFP office for further information.

Possession and use of bait fish: authorized places and periods

Since from April 1, 2017, the possession and use of **LIVE** bait fish is **prohibited** in Québec.

The possession and use of **DEAD** bait fish **is permitted**, but **only** in certain zones during **winter fishing periods** for freshwater, anadromous or catadromous species.

Possession of bait fish for use in zones 7 and 21

During the periods when the use of bait fish is permitted in zones 7 and 21, **you may have dead bait fish in your possession** between the portions of highways 20 and 40, route 132 (except for the stretch located between Sainte-Flavie and Matapédia) and route 138, located in zones 1, 2, 3, 18, 19 and 27, with a view to using them in zones 7 and 21.

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

Location	Period where use or possession are permitted
Zone 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ except lac à la Truite (Ham sud) Zone 5 Zone 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ except lac Hatley ◦ except lac Cristal ◦ except Petit lac Baldwin Zone 7 Zone 8 Zone 9 Zone 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ except Papineau-Labelle wildlife reserve Zone 11 Zone 25	December 20 to March 31
Zone 12 Zone 13 except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ except national park d'Aiguebelle ◦ except Zec Dumoine ◦ except Zec Maganasipi ◦ except lac Ab-Rono ◦ except lac Florentien ◦ except lac sans nom (47°53'14" N., 78°10'21" O.) ◦ except lac sans nom (47°52'58" N., 78°10'52" O.) ◦ except lac sans nom (47°54'18" N., 78°09'59" O.) ◦ except lac sans nom (47°54'08" N., 78°09'37" O.) ◦ except lac sans nom (47°53'16" N., 78°09'57" O.) ◦ except lac sans nom (47°52'51" N., 78°10'41" O.) ◦ except lac sans nom (47°53'16" N., 78°10'41" O.) ◦ except lac sans nom (47°53'26" N., 78°10'31" O.) Zone 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ except réservoir Gouin communal wildlife area 	December 1 st to April 15
Zone 16	From December 1, 2017 to April 26, 2018 From December 1, 2018 to April 25, 2019 From December 1, 2019 to April 23, 2020
Zone 21 for possession , and the portion located east of Rivière Saguenay and less than 1 kilometer from zones 18, 19 and 20, and the islands and islets located in these zones, for use.	From December 1 to April 15
Zone 21 for possession , and the portion located east of Rivière Saguenay and situated 1 kilometer or more from zones 18, 19 and 20, and the islands and islets situated in these three zones, as well as the portion of zone 21 located west of Rivière Saguenay, including the portion up to the Dubuc bridge, for use.	From December 20 to March 31

Dead shrimp as the only bait fish allowed

Location	Period where use or possession are permitted
Zone 1, for possession and only in the waters of Rivière Bonaventure and York, for use. 🐞	From December 20 to March 31 for smelt fishing only
Zone 27, for possession and the portion of Rivière Sainte-Anne between the upstream side of the route 363 bridge and the downstream side of the route 138 bridge, for use. 🐞	From December 20 to March 31 for Atlantic tomcod fishing only

Dead smelt as the only bait fish allowed

Location	Period where use or possession are permitted
Zone 17	From December 1, 2017 to April 26, 2018 From December 1, 2018 to April 25, 2019 From December 1, 2019 to April 23, 2020
<p>Zone 28, for possession, and only in the following waters for use:</p> <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, the waters surrounded by routes 169, 170 and 373, but excluding, in Alma, the portions of La Grande Décharge (downstream of the Isle Maligne dam and the Lac Saint-Jean water retention structures) and Rivière Petite Décharge (the portion situated between its mouth in the Saguenay and the Lac Saint-Jean water retention structures) ◦ 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 between route 169 and the lac au Foin ◦ rivière Péribonka, between Chute-à-la-Savane and the latitude 49° N. ◦ Rivière Saguenay, between the portion downstream of the Isle Maligne dam and the Lac Saint-Jean water retention structures (Grande Décharge and Rivière Petite Décharge) , in Alma, and a line perpendicular at the rivière Saguenay passing through the most upstream end of the Chute-à-Caron dam on the south shore of the rivière Saguenay (48°27' N., 71°15' O.) 	From December 1 st to April 15

Importing bait fish

Importing of live or dead bait fish is prohibited.

Tackle for fishing bait fish

Bait traps or lift nets must be used to fish for bait fish. The specific conditions for the use of these devices can be found in the section entitled "Fishing for bait fish".

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, except in the case of salmon, which are also subject to a catch-and-release 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.

Attention: in the case of Atlantic salmon, the maximum number of salmon that can be kept during the season is four, including no more than one big salmon. In zones 23 and 24, the four salmon may be big or small. ➤

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

The catch limit for char in zones 17 and 22 to 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 continuing fishing for a species once the daily 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 licence holders. 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 licence holders

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 this 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.

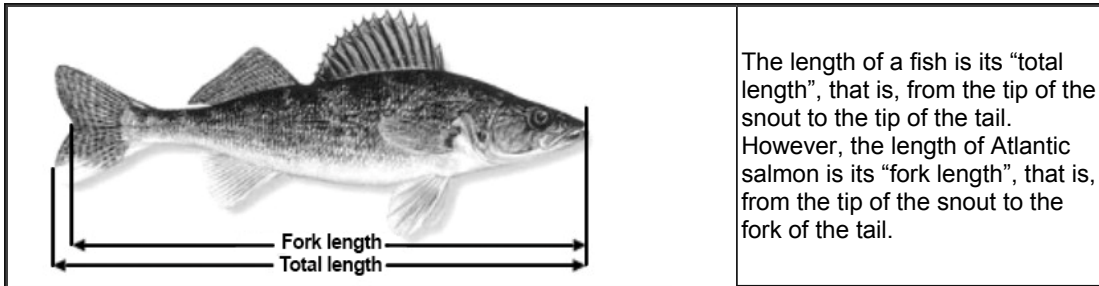
Notwithstanding the foregoing, when an individual is in a **national park**, a **wildlife reserve**, a **communal wildlife area**, a **controlled harvesting zone (ZEC)** or on a **water body**, he may not, at any time, possess a number of fish that exceeds the catch limit stipulated for the park, wildlife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



The length of a fish is its “total length”, that is, from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. However, the length of Atlantic salmon is its “fork length”, that is, from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.


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)
STRIPED BASS		
ZONE 21 Waters of BAIE-DES-CHALEURS and a portion of the GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE (the portion located between the downstream side of the Campbellton bridge, including the waters of Baie des Chaleurs and the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and a straight line connecting the western end of the Cap-Gaspé coast (48°44'52" N., 64°09'42" W.) and the boundary of zone 21 situated in the Gulf of St. Lawrence at (48°13'14" N., 63°47'29" W.))	You may keep striped bass measuring 50 to 65 centimetres inclusively	Whole only ^{1,2}
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 Sauger: no length limit.	Yellow walleye and sauger must be whole ^{1,2} or wallet filleted ⁶ (see the section entitled How to cut up “wallet fillets”)
ZONE 10 Réserve faunique Papineau-Labelle ZONE 11 Zec Petawaga	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)
ZONES 12 and 13 Réserve faunique La Vérendrye except for the following waters:	You may keep yellow walleye 32 cm or more in length Sauger: no length limit.	Yellow walleye and sauger must be whole ^{1,2} or in fillets. The fillets must be 20 cm or more in length. The skin must adhere over the entire length of the fillet.

Lakes: Lac au Barrage, Lac Byrd, Lac Embarras, Lac Giroux (including Lac Nichcotea, Lac Nicolas, Lac Desty, Lac Darcy and Lac des Neuf Mille), Lac Grand, Lac Jean-Péré, Lac Joncas, Lac Larive, Lac Larouche (including Lac Louis) , Lac Orignal, Lac Petit Poigan, Lac Poigan (including the part of the river Gens de Terre between these two lakes) , Lac Portage, Lac Poulter, Lac Savary, Lac Tomasine and the Cabonga reservoir (including lakes L'Écorce, L'Heureux, Andou and the river Cabonga)	You may keep yellow walleye between 37 cm up to and including 53 cm	Yellow walleye and sauger must be whole ^{1, 2} or wallet filleted ⁶ (see the section entitled How to cut up "wallet fillets")
Sauger: no length limit.	Yellow walleye and sauger must be whole ^{1, 2} or wallet filleted ⁶ (see the section entitled How to cut up "wallet fillets")	
Lakes: Anwatan, Carrière, Canimina, Camatose, Grand lac de la Vieille , Kôkomi , Obikickikak (Kakontis) , Padoue, Rodin, Vieillard and the Dozois reservoir		You may keep yellow walleye between 32 cm up to and including 47 cm in length
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 ^{1, 2} or wallet filleted ⁶ (see the section entitled How to cut up "wallet fillets")
Sauger: no length limit.	Kipawa reservoir and lakes: Lac Kipawa, Lac Audoin, Lac Desquerac, Lac Grindstone, Lac Hunter, Lac McLachlin, Lac 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 ^{1, 2} or wallet filleted ⁶ (see the section entitled How to cut up "wallet fillets")	
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 ^{1, 2} or wallet filleted ⁶ (see the section entitled How to cut up "wallet fillets")	
Sauger: no length limit.		

<p>ZONE 15 Mont-Tremblant National Park Zec Lesueur, Zec Normandie (except the lakes À la Culotte, Kantoskekamak and Némiscachingue*); Zec Mazana and Zec de la Maison-de-Pierre. *Only yellow walleye from 32 to 47 centimeters inclusively can be kept in these three exceptional lakes of Zec Normandie. ZONE 26 Zec Borgia, Zec du Chapeau-de-Paille, Zec de la Croche, Zec Frémont, Zec du Gros-Brochet, Zec Kiskissink and Zec Menokeosawin. ZONE 28 Communal wildlife area of Lac-Saint-Jean, except lac à Jim and the part of Micosas River between its mouth and the falls situated 1 km upstream of the mouth of the rivière Aux Dorés; Ashuapmushuan wildlife reserve.</p>	<p>Yellow walleye and sauger: no length limit</p>	<p>Yellow walleye and sauger may be whole^{1, 2} or filleted. A piece of skin must adhere to the fillet and it must be possible to count the fish.</p>
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ZONES 16, 17, 22 North and 22 South , except for the following waters:	You may keep yellow walleye between 37 up to and including 53 cm in length, one of which may be more than 53 cm.	Yellow walleye and sauger may be whole ^{1, 2} or wallet filleted ⁶ (see the section entitled How to cut up “wallet fillets”) and it must be possible to count and identify the fish (the skin must adhere over the entire length of the fillet.)
	Sauger : no length limit.	
ZONE 22 Lacs Albanel-Mistassini-and-Waconichi wildlife reserve and lac Assinica wildlife reserve.	Yellow walleye and sauger : no length limit.	Yellow walleye and sauger may be whole ^{1, 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, between May 18, 2018 and June 15, 2018 inclusively, and between May 17, 2019 and June 15, 2019 ⁵ inclusively	Whole only. ^{1, 2}
LAKE STURGEON		
ZONE 25	You may keep lake sturgeon measuring 106 cm or less.	Whole only. ^{1, 2}
ZONES 7, 8 and 21	You may keep lake sturgeon between 80 cm and 130 cm in length	Whole only. ^{1, 2}
MUSKELLUNGE		
ZONES 7, 8 and 21 The St. Lawrence River, including the following waters of the ZONE 8 : Lac Saint-Louis; the Lachine Rapids; the La Prairie Basin; the Rivière des Mille Îles; the Rivière des Prairies; Lac des Deux Montagnes; the portion of the rivière des Outaouais located in ZONE 8 .	You may keep muskellunge 111 cm or more in length	Whole only. ^{1, 2}
ZONE 25 and lac St-François (ZONE 8)	You may keep muskellunge 137 cm or more in length	
LANDLOCKED SALMON		
ZONE 4 	You may keep landlocked salmon 42 cm or more in length	Whole only. ^{1, 2}
ZONE 6 Lac Memphrémagog	You may keep landlocked salmon 42 cm or more in length	Whole only. ^{1, 2}
ATLANTIC SALMON		
ZONES 1 to 29	You may keep Atlantic salmon 30 cm or more in length, which must also comply with any other applicable length limit which would apply and the daily quotas established for each river or each sector of the river ⁷	Whole only. ^{1, 2}

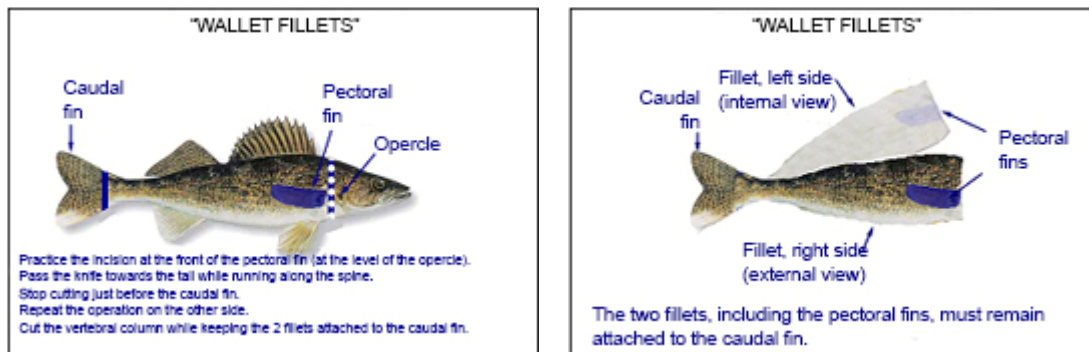
LAKE TROUT (and splake)⁴		
ZONES 1 to 8	You may keep lake trout 60 cm or more in length	Whole ^{1, 2} only where a length limit applies. Elsewhere, lake trout may be whole or filleted. It must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the filet).
ZONES 9 to 18, 20, 21 and 25 to 28 , except for the following waters:	You may keep lake trout 45 cm or more in length	Whole ^{1, 2} 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, 2} only. It must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the filet).

<p>ZONE 9 Lac Laurel (45°52'18" N 74°28'38" W), Lac des Sables (46°02'37" N 74°18'10" W).</p> <p>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 du Corbeau (46°12' N 75° 28' W), Lac Danford, Lac de la Décharge (46°07' 06" N 74°48'12" W), Lac Dumont (including the river Dumont from the outlet of the lake to the end of the first rapid, located approximately 1.6 km downstream) , Lac Earhart, Lac Gagnon, Lac Galarneau, Lac Gatineau, Grand lac des Cèdres (46°18'14" O N 76°06'47" W), Grand lac 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), 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 Milles, Lac Trois Montagnes, Lac Viceroy, Lac Xavier; Poisson Blanc reservoir including lakes Cuillèrier, du Brochet and Doré.</p> <p>ZONE 11 Lac Chaud, Lac Chub, Lac David (46°35' 26" N 75°12'52" W), Lac Gravel, Lac Pope, Lac Rochon.</p> <p>ZONE 12 Lac Branssat and Lac Lynch</p> <p>ZONE 13 East Lac Terrasses</p> <p>ZONE 13 West Lac en Cœur, Lac Marin, Lac Memewin, and Lac Tee;</p> <p>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);</p> <p>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 Sing , Lac Troyes and Lac Villiers (47°08' N 74°02' W);</p> <p>ZONE 16 Lac Long (49°52' N 78°16' W) and Lac des Montagnes;</p>	<p>You may keep lake trout 55 cm or more in length.</p>	<p>Whole^{1, 2} 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>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>ZONE 27 Lac Saint-Joseph;</p> <p>ZONE 28 Lac Méricanane and Lac Chaumonot.</p>	<p>You may keep lake trout 55 cm or more in length.</p>	<p>Whole^{1, 2} 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>

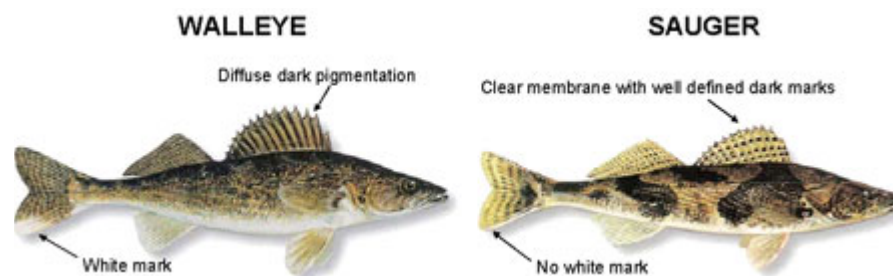
Portion A of ZONE 19 South and ZONES 22 South and 29	You may keep lake trout less than 60 cm in length (catch and possession limit of three)	Whole ^{1, 2} only where a length limit applies. Elsewhere, lake trout may be whole or filleted. It must be possible to count and identify the fish (a piece of skin must adhere to the filet).
Portion B of ZONE 19 South and ZONES 22 North, 23 and 24	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).	Whole ^{1, 2} 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).

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.
2. The fish must be whole but it may be gutted.
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.
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.
5. No size limit applies to walleye outside of these periods.
6. It is mandatory to cut up "wallet fillets" 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 rear attachment point of the pectoral fin to the fillets. The fillets must be connected by the tail fin. In addition, the pectoral fins and the skin must adhere to the fillets.
 - 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 rear attachment point of the pectoral fin to the fillets. The fillets must be connected by the tail fin. In addition, the pectoral fins and the skin must adhere to the fillets.
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: measuring 30 cm or more but less than 63 cm in length.

How to cut up “wallet fillets”



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.

It is prohibited to catch and keep redhorses and suckers in certain water bodies. However, carp, which is often confused with the two species, may be kept. The angler must then 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 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.

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.

In the case of Atlantic salmon, every fisherman who strikes and keeps an Atlantic salmon must comply with the tagging rules (see “Tagging and registration of salmon”).

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 except for Atlantic 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 purposes of the length limit for walleye when the fish is filleted, the skin must remain attached to the flesh of the fillet in accordance with the requirements set out 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 they caught while sportfishing or that was 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.

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.

To fish for salmon in zones 23 and 24, any person must use the services of an active outfitter in that territory. 🐟

As elsewhere in Quebec, fishermen catching and keeping salmon in zones 23 and 24 must register their salmon in accordance with the requirements mentioned in the section on salmon registration.

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 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.

Please note that the Lacs-Albanel-Mistassini-et-Waconichi wildlife sanctuary is now operated by the Nibiischii Corporation, constituted by the Cree Nation of Mistissini. You may obtain information about this wildlife sanctuary by calling 1-844-522-2777.

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 and walleye 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 fish for salmon in zones 23 and 24, any person must use the services of an active outfitter in that territory. ➡ 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 faunique 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

Ecological 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.

Tshitassinu–La Romaine Sector

To fish in the Tshitassinu–La Romaine sector, you must hold a fishing licence and:

- obtain a right of access and a catch register. These documents are available free of charge from the information offices;
- respect the dates and locations listed on the right of access;
- fill out the fishing log book at the end of the day or the end of your trip.

If no-one is on duty at the information office, you must return the forms to the registration booth identified for this purpose. For additional information, contact the Société Tshitassinu at 418 553-0721 or 418 538-7676, ext. 6311 (field).

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 but then need to be readable from outside of the vehicle. 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** (zones 1 and 2) salmon rivers. 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 outside of Canada, you must first obtain a CITES export permit by contacting Fisheries and Oceans Canada at **1 855 869-8670**.

Fishing salmon elsewhere than in salmon rivers

Salmon fishing by means of angling 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". Note that the salmon fishing license is required and that the terms for the tagging 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 fish caught in this manner.
- It is prohibited to use a spear, a bow or a crossbow to fish for salmon or to fish in a salmon river.
- 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 at 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

Fishermen should be reminded that the law protects wildlife habitats. Therefore, it is prohibited for anyone to do, without authorization, an activity likely to modify a biological, physical or chemical element specific to the habitat of an animal or fish. In the case of a fisherman or a vacationer, it is forbidden, for example:

- To dump oil, gasoline or other waste or toxic substance in any place, but especially in fish habitat, in a lake, marsh, swamp, floodplain or watercourse;
- To ford with a motor vehicle in such bodies of water or along a shore or coastline;
- To construct, on such bodies of water, a dam which, in addition to preventing the free movement of fish, may alter its habitat;
- To remove or deposit gravel or rocks in the bed of such watercourse or backfill.

Let us not forget that even small jobs can cause damage to fish habitat. If you witness such acts, report them to a wildlife protection officer by calling S.O.S. Braconnage at 1-800-463-2191 or by visiting a regional wildlife protection office. Let us not forget that any environment where there is water, even periodically (in the spring, for example), can be vital for fish.

For more information, contact the ministry or wildlife protection offices in your area.

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 Saint-Lawrence River 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 Saint-Lawrence River, of the estuary and the golfe du Saint-Laurent.

For complete regulatory information about circulation of motorized vehicles in fragile environments, contact the Department's Customer Service.

Fishing zones map

