Fishing Regulations Summary

Mountain National Parks in Alberta and British Columbia

April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019

Parks Canada Parcs Canada

Canada

Open Seasons, Special Restrictions and Closed Waters (National park fishing permit required when angling in Canada's national parks. Provincial fishing licenses are not valid.)

Banff National Park (BNP)

UPDATE: Reduced Possession Limits, see reverse
UPDATE: Ban on Felt-Soled Wading Boots
UPDATE: Minnewanka Boat Launch Restriction

OPEN SEASONS

April 1 to March 31
Bow River - from Hector Lake to east park boundary, including associated backwaters and oxbows. No ice fishing on the Bow River.

May 19 to September 3
Ghost Lakes (3), Lake Minnewanka reservoir, Two Jack Lake reservoir, Vermilion Lakes (3) and adjacent inflow streams and beaver ponds.

June 30 to September 2
All tributaries of the Bow River, except the Cascade River (see below).

June 30 to October 31
Cascade River and tributaries above Lake Minnewanka reservoir (excluding closed waters).

July 1 to August 15
Owen Creek.

July 7 to October 31
Gloria Lake, Leman Lake, and Terrapin Lake.

June 30 to October 31
All other waters except closed waters.

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

Motor boats (gas or electric) are allowed on Lake Minnewanka reservoir only.

CLOSED WATERS

Bow River from Bow Lake outlet to Hector Lake inlet; Babel Creek; Johnson Lake reservoir and surrounding waters including outflow creek to confluence with Cascade River; Helen Creek; Little Herbert Lake; Marvel Lake; Mystic Lake and outlet downstream to confluence with 40-mile Creek; Outlet Creek; Sawback Lake; Sawback Creek; Rainbow Lake; Elk Lake; Cuthead Creek; Spray River above Spray Lakes reservoir;
Castleguard River - the upper portion of the river located in the Zone I - Special Preservation Area; Cave and Basin marsh system; Fish Lakes - the two Fish Lakes nearest campsite Mo 18; Lake Agnes; Luellen Lake - outflow stream from fisheries' boundary markers, downstream to the confluence of the outflow stream and Johnston Creek; Marvel Lake - downstream from line formed between fisheries boundary markers to confluence of Marvel and Bryant creeks; all tributaries and associated lakes in the Clearwater and Siffleur river systems, excluding Isabella Lake.

FOR CURRENT INFORMATION:
parkscanada.gc.ca/banff-fishing

Kootenay National Park (KNP)

UPDATE: Zero Possession Limits
UPDATE: Ban on Felt-Soled Wading Boots

OPEN SEASONS

May 19 to September 4
Cobb Lake, Olive Lake.

June 15 to October 31
Kootenay River, Vermilion River.

June 30 to September 4
Dog Lake, Kaufmann Lake.

June 30 to October 31
All other waters.

Yoho National Park (YNP)

UPDATE: Zero Possession Limits
UPDATE: Ban on Felt-Soled Wading Boots

OPEN SEASONS

April 1 to March 31
Kicking Horse River - downstream from the confluence of Kicking Horse River and Yoho River to park boundary.

May 19 to September 3
McArthur, Ottertail, Summit, Sink and Wapta Lakes.

July 14 to October 31
North bay of Lake O'Hara and Cataract Brook for 1.6 km downstream from Lake O'Hara.

June 30 to October 31
All other waters.

Jasper National Park (JNP)

UPDATE: Ban on Felt-Soled Wading Boots

OPEN SEASONS

Rivers and Streams

April 1 to March 31
Sunwapta River.

April 1 to September 3 and November 1 to March 31
Fiddle River, Maligne River (below Maligne Canyon), Miette River, Rocky River, Snake Indian River, Snaring River.

August 1 to September 30
Fly fishing only: Maligne River from a point 420 m downstream from the Maligne Lake Outlet bridge to Medicine Lake including that part of Medicine Lake within a 180 m radius of a point in the middle of the Maligne River where it enters Medicine Lake.

Athabasca River

(Note: the Athabasca River has three fisheries management zones.)

Zone 1: From Athabasca Falls upstream
Year Round

Zone 2: From 12 Mile Bridge (km 22, Hwy 16 East) upstream to Athabasca Falls
April 1 to September 3 and November 1 to March 31

Zone 3: From 12 Mile Bridge (km 22, Hwy 16 East) downstream to east park boundary, including all side channels, Pocahontas Ponds and other connected wetlands
June 1 to September 3 and November 1 to March 31

June 30 to September 3
All other rivers and streams except closed waters.

Lakes

May 19 to September 3
Annette Lake, Beaver Lake, Dragon Lake, Long Lake, Lorraine Lake, Moab Lake, Mona Lake, No Name Lake (Hwy 93 south, km 48), Pyramid Lake, Lakes Three, Four and Five in the Valley of the Five Lakes.

May 19 to September 30
Maligne Lake, Talbot Lake, Edna Lake.

June 30 to October 31
Fly fishing only: Medicine Lake.

June 30 to October 31
All other lakes except closed waters.

CLOSED WATERS

- Maligne Lake Outlet/Maligne River (the portion including the part of Maligne Lake within a 100 m radius of a point in the middle of the Maligne River where it leaves Maligne Lake, to a point 420 m downstream from the Maligne Lake Outlet bridge);
- Jacques Lake and Jacques Lake Outlet stream between Jacques Lake and the Rocky River;
- Mile 9 (km 15) Lake, Hwy 16 (East);
- All streams emptying into Amethyst Lake;
- That part of Amethyst Lake situated within a 180 m radius from a point in the middle of the outlet stream from the southeast end of Amethyst Lake;
- That part of the Astoria River situated between Amethyst Lake and a point 400 m downstream from Amethyst Lake;
- Osprey Lake;
- The outlet stream from Moab Lake to its junction with the Whirlpool River, including that part of Moab Lake situated within a 180 m radius of a point in the middle of the outlet stream where it leaves Moab Lake;
- The outlet stream from Beaver Lake to its junction with the Maligne Lake Road.

Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks (MRGNP)

UPDATE: Ban on Felt-Soled Wading Boots

OPEN SEASONS

June 30 to October 31
All lakes.

CLOSED WATERS

All rivers and streams.

Waterton Lakes National Park (WLNP)

UPDATE: Ban on Felt-Soled Wading Boots.
Motorized and Trailer-Launched Watercraft Prohibited.
Special permitting required for all hand-launched watercraft.

OPEN SEASONS

May 19 to September 3
Akamina Lake, Cameron Lake and Creek, Crandell Lake, Waterton Lakes (Upper and Middle).

June 30 to October 31
All other waters except closed waters.

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

Motorized and trailer-launched watercraft prohibited.
Special permitting required for all hand-launched watercraft. Only use barbless hooks.

FOR CURRENT INFORMATION:

Boating restrictions:
parkscanada.gc.ca/waterton-lakeactivities
Angling restrictions:
parkscanada.gc.ca/waterton-fishing

CLOSED WATERS

- Sofa Creek, Dungarvan Creek, Maskinonge Lake and Inlet;
- Blakiston/Bauerman creeks and their tributaries;
- North Fork Belly River and its tributaries.

ATTENTION
WATER ENTHUSIASTS

Preventing the spread of invasive species requires everyone's support.

The impacts of invasive species are devastating to the ecological, recreational and industrial values of watersheds. Preventing the transport of aquatic invasive species between waterways is a Parks Canada priority.

CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY EVERYTHING THAT TOUCHED THE WATER

CLEAN off all plants, animals and mud from your watercraft and equipment each time you exit the water and before moving to another water body.

DRAIN onto land, all water from bail buckets, ballasts, coolers, live-wells, pumps, motor and bilges. Remove drain plugs.

DRY the watercraft and all gear completely between trips. Feel for very small bumps that could be juvenile mussels attached to your equipment.

Dispose of all fish and fish parts properly, in municipal garbage - not in or near waterways.

BOATING RESTRICTIONS

Motorized and trailer-launched watercraft are now prohibited in Waterton Lakes National Park, and hand-launched watercraft require a permit. Motor boats launching in Banff National Park require an Alberta inspection certificate if they have been in waters outside Alberta or British Columbia in the last 30 days. Launching without a required permit is subject to fines up to $25,000.

For more information go to:
parkscanada.gc.ca/waterton-lakeactivities
parkscanada.gc.ca/banff-quagga

Check hiding spots for invasive species

Quagga Mussels | Whirling Disease | Didymo

1 - 2 cm

Photos: BC Ministry of Environment, NIWA New Zealand

Anglers, boaters and recreational water users can help reduce the risk of spreading aquatic diseases and invasive species.

Quagga Mussels

Preventing invasive mussels from entering our waterways is a priority. **If they arrive, removal is next to impossible.** Quagga mussels are small, fan-shaped, and light tan to white in colour. Just a few mussels can produce millions of eggs.

They are very efficient at filtering nutrients from the water, leaving no food for native species. Dense colonies of mussels can clog water pipes and make the shoreline unuseable because of their sharp shells and odour.

Clean, drain and dry everything that touched the water, feeling for tiny bumps that could be juvenile mussels looking for a ride.

Whirling Disease

The first occurrence of whirling disease in Canada was confirmed in August 2016 in Johnson Lake reservoir (Banff National Park). This disease is not harmful to humans or other mammals but can have significant effects on some fish populations.

Whirling disease can cause skeletal deformities of an infected fish's body or head, and the tail may appear dark or black.

The disease can be spread to other waterbodies through spores in mud. Therefore be sure to clean, drain and dry everything before you leave the place where you used them.

Current Information: *parkscanada.gc.ca/banff-whirling*

Didymo

Didymo is a freshwater algae that has the appearance of wet toilet paper and the feel of wet cotton wool. It attaches to rocks in streams and can form into large beige to brown mats that completely cover the stream bottom, blanketing important fish and plant habitat.

Felt-soled wading boots (banned in mountain national parks) and other water gear are a common way for didymo to spread. Clean and drain your equipment well, and let dry for at least 48 hours before using it again.

Report It!

Report all sightings: 403-762-1470
or 1-855-336-BOAT (2628)

DEFINITIONS

Natural bait ban: you can only use lures made of feathers, fibre, rubber, wood, metal or plastic. No edible material (plant or animal products), scented lures or chemical attractants are permitted.

Barbless Hook: this includes a hook the barbs of which are pressed against the shaft of the hook so that the barbs are not functional.

Fly fishing only: means only artificial flies may be used.

Artificial fly: this is a single or double hook on a common shank, dressed with silk, tinsel, wood, fur, feathers or other materials (no lead), or any combination thereof without a spinning device, whether attached to the hook or line.

Tributary: any water course which flows into another body of water. This includes a tributary of a tributary. Lakes are excluded unless otherwise specified.

Trout: for the purposes of this summary, the word *trout* includes char species.

Canada National Parks Act General Fishing Regulations

It is unlawful to:

- Fish without a national park fishing permit.
- Fish with or possess within 100 metres of park waters the following:
  - natural bait and chemical attractants;
  - any lead tackle (sinkers, jigs, lures and flies) under 50 grams;
  - lures with more than 2 gang hooks;
  - a line capable of catching more than one fish at one time.
- Fish with more than one line at a time.
- Fish closed waters.
- Continue fishing on any day after having caught and retained the maximum daily catch and possession limit.
- Possess more than 2 game fish at one time.
- Leave a fishing line unattended.
- Fish from 2 hours after sunset to one hour before sunrise.
- Allow your catch to spoil or to be wasted.
- Sell, trade or barter any fish caught.
- Place or transfer any fish or fish eggs between any park waters.
- Place any food for fish in park waters.
- Harass fish by throwing objects or impeding their movements.

Également offert en français.

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Fish Consumption Advisory (Mercury) Mountain Parks

Parks Canada has been advised that elevated mercury concentrations have been found in fish in some mountain national park waters. Therefore, Parks Canada, in consultation with Health Canada, has established consumption guidelines for women of reproductive age and children (see Table 1).

Mercury is a toxin that can affect human health. It can come from natural sources (e.g. soils and sediments) or sources outside the mountain national parks (e.g. transported through the atmosphere). It can be passed up the food chain and become concentrated in top predators (e.g. Lake trout, Northern pike).

Mercury data does not exist for all fish species in all park waters and fish mercury concentrations may change over time. To be precautionary, anglers may wish to apply the following guidelines to all sport fish caught in park waters (see Table 2).

Table 1: Consumption Guidelines

LAKE	SPECIES	Women Of Reproductive Age: # of 113 g (4 oz.) servings**	Children Under 15 Years: # of 70 g (2.5 oz.) servings**
Moab - JNP	Cisco*	7/month	5/month
Patricia and Sassenach - JNP Waterton Lakes	Lake Trout	4/month	3/month
Waterton Lakes	Lake Whitefish	4/month	3/month

Table 2: Precautionary consumption advice for game fish in waters not mentioned above

SPECIES	Women Of Reproductive Age: # of 113 g (4 oz.) servings**	Children Under 15 Years: # of 70 g (2.5 oz.) servings**
Game fish - general	4/month	3/month

*Please note that consumption advice has been given for a species which is not legal to possess. Anglers should check the Catch and Possession Limits of these *Fishing Regulations* to ensure that all fish which are kept are legal to possess. Cisco closely resemble mountain whitefish; there are no mountain whitefish in Moab Lake.

A 100 g serving is approximately the size of a deck of standard playing cards.

9 TIPS — *HELP RELEASED FISH SURVIVE*

Give a released fish the best chance for survival by following these suggestions:

1. Minimize the time you play a fish. A fish played too long may not survive even if released. Remember to always bring fish up from depth slowly. Fish brought up too quickly will rupture their air bladders and die.
2. Be gentle: keep the fish in the water at all times when handling and releasing.
3. Handle the fish with bare, wet hands. Keep fingers away from the gills and do not squeeze; this may cause internal injury, gill or scale damage.
4. Remove the hook gently with needle-nosed pliers. If the hook is deep, cut the leader rather than pulling the hook out. The hook will decompose in time. Most fish survive with hooks in them.
5. Continue to hold the fish in the water, gently moving it back and forth. This moves water past the gills and will help revive it. For flowing waters, face the fish upstream. When the fish begins to struggle, let it go.
6. If the fish is bleeding excessively, it will likely not survive if released. Kill it and include as part of your catch if permitted. Release all zero-possession species.
7. The use of barbless hooks is recommended to make release easier. Hooks can be made barbless by flattening the barb with needle-nosed pliers.
8. Single hooks are recommended to release fish more easily.
9. Consider not angling in warm waters. Angling for trout in waters exceeding 18° C reduces the ability of these fish to survive the 'catch and release' process.

FISHING PERMITS

Anyone under the age of 16 may fish in the national parks without a permit if accompanied by a national park permit holder 16 years of age or older. However, their catch is then included within the permit holder's daily limit. A valid national park pass is also required when fishing in the mountain national parks.

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

CATCH AND POSSESSION LIMITS

UPDATE: Possession limits for Banff, Yoho and Kootenay National Parks reduced to zero except for Lake Minnewanka lake trout.

There are zero possession limits for many native species. You must correctly identify your catch. If you are not sure, release it immediately.

SPECIES	LIMIT
All species not mentioned below	0
Lake trout from Lake Minnewanka reservoir	2
All other species: BNP, YNP, KNP	0
Arctic grayling, rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, lake trout, northern pike, mountain whitefish, lake whitefish: JNP, MRGNP, WLNP	2
Cutthroat trout: JNP	2
Cutthroat trout: all other parks	0
Bull trout, kokanee salmon	0
Lake and mountain whitefish caught in Lac Beauvert, Jasper	0
Maximum daily catch and possession limit	***2***

(If a fish has been filleted, two fillets will be considered one fish.)

CHECK YOUR TACKLE BOX!
Some fishing tackle and baits are not allowed near or within national park waters. (Refer to the *Canada National Parks Act, General Fishing Regulations* section in this brochure.)

NOTE: This brochure is NOT a complete listing of *National Parks Fishing Regulations* and has no legal status. For a complete listing go to: laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C._c._1120/index.html

For further information contact:

Banff National Park: 403-762-1550
email: banff.vrc@pc.gc.ca

Yoho, Kootenay National Parks: 250-343-6108
email: llyk.aquatics@pc.gc.ca

Jasper National Park: 780-852-6176
email: jnp.info@pc.gc.ca

Waterton Lakes National Park: 403-859-2224
email: waterton.info@pc.gc.ca

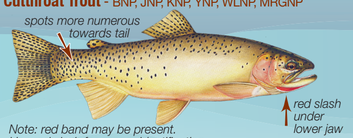
Mount Revelstoke/Glacier National Parks:
250-837-7500
email: revglacier.reception@pc.gc.ca

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR CATCH

* Credit: Karl Geist

Black spots, light background

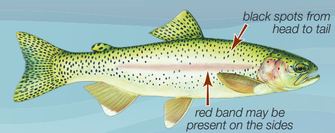
Cutthroat Trout - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP, MRGNP



Note: red band may be present. Use red slash for proper identification.

BNP, KNP, YNP, MRGNP, WLNP: zero possession
JNP: See possession limits

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



Note: use lack of red slash under jaw for proper identification.

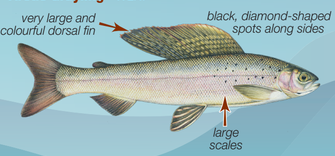
Kokanee Salmon - KNP

Females and males: red bodies during fall spawn, with green or black heads. Silvery bodies for remainder of the year.

KNP: zero possession

Brown Trout - BNP, WLNP

Arctic Grayling - WLNP

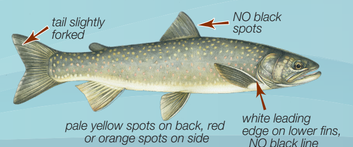


BNP = Banff; JNP = Jasper; KNP = Kootenay; YNP = Yoho; WLNP = Waterton Lakes; MRGNP = Mount Revelstoke/ Glacier national parks

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

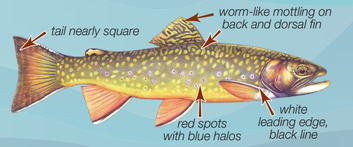
No black spots on body

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

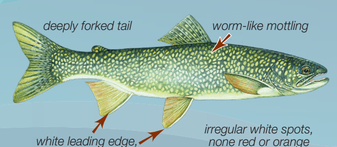


ALL PARKS: zero possession

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

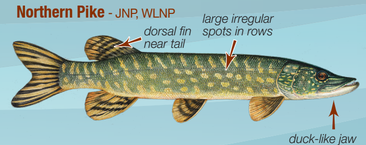


Lake Trout - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP

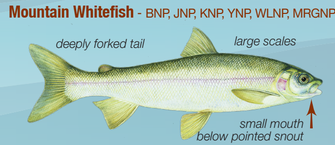
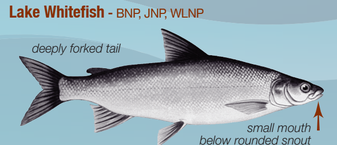


Other

Northern Pike - JNP, WLNP



Mountain Whitefish - BNP, JNP, KNP, YNP, WLNP, MRGNP



Lake Whitefish - BNP, JNP, WLNP