

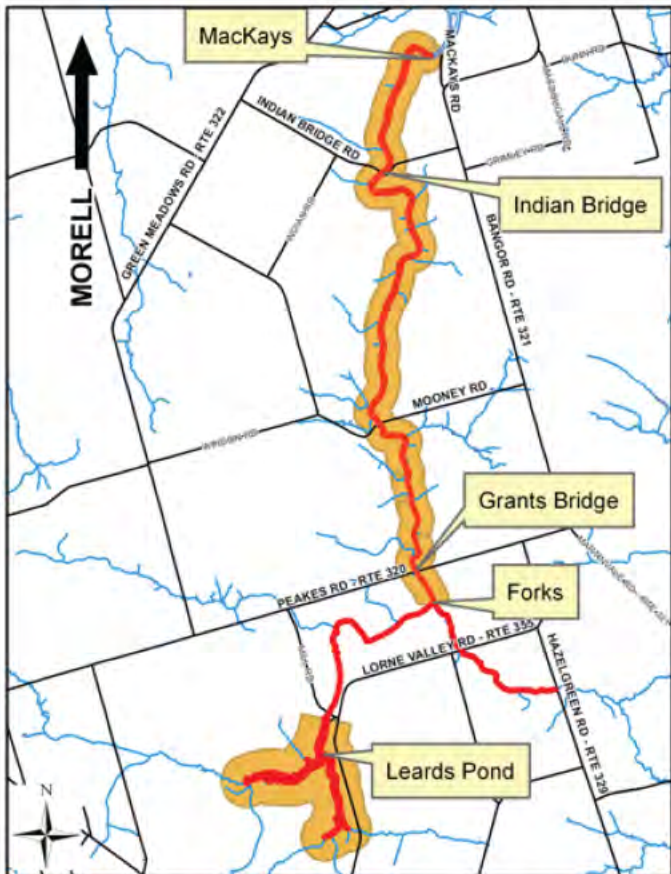


# Angling Summary 2015

*Go  
Fishing*

*Prince  
Edward  
Island*  
  
CANADA

Agriculture and  
Forestry



- Fly Fishing Only/Barbless Hooks - June 1 to September 15  
 (Extended Season for Salmon Angling - September 16 to October 15)
- Extended season for Salmon Angling - October 16 to October 31



Recreational fishing is a simple and inexpensive outdoor activity that the entire family can enjoy.

With over 5000 km of stream on Prince Edward Island, there is no shortage of angling opportunities. The many estuaries and bays, along with offshore areas, offer excellent opportunities for salt water angling.

A great time to give fishing a try is during the long weekend in May. From May 15-18<sup>th</sup> inclusive, no license is required as part of Family Fishing Weekend. A reminder that children under sixteen years of age do not require a licence throughout the fishing season. An adult assisting a child to fish also does not require a licence. Please keep safety in mind and use a personal floatation device around water.

I acknowledge the contribution of anglers to the improvement of the sport fishery through the purchase of a Wildlife Conservation Fund Licence. The option to buy Wildlife Conservation Plates for vehicles is increasing the profile of the Fund and providing additional resources for worthwhile projects. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

For additional information about angling on Prince Edward Island, visit our website [www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling](http://www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling)

All the best for a safe and enjoyable angling season in 2015.

George Webster, *Minister*  
Agriculture and Forestry



## Buy Your Fishing Licence Online

Angling and hunting licences are available online. To access this service, please visit the website:

[gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling](http://gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling)



## Public Land Atlas

### The Angler's Guide to Better Fishing

The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry produces a Public Land Atlas which identifies the locations of approximately 1500 public properties across the Island including Provincial Forests and Wildlife Management Areas. Most of these properties are open to anglers, hunters and recreational users.

The Atlas is available at all Forests, Fish, and Wildlife Division offices and at Island Information Services for \$30 +HST or on line at [www.gov.pe.ca/gis](http://www.gov.pe.ca/gis)



Agriculture and  
Forestry  
George T. Webster  
Minister

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This booklet contains a summary of the fishing regulations and other information for persons who plan to fish in Prince Edward Island.

Because this is a summary, not all of the laws contained in the Wildlife Conservation Act or regulations are included. For additional information contact the Department of Agriculture and Forestry (902) 368-4683 or go to ***gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling***

This is a summary prepared for the information and convenience of persons who plan to fish in Prince Edward Island. The original act and regulations should be consulted for all purposes of interpreting and applying the law. The rules contained in this angling summary are in compliance with the Maritime Provinces Fisheries Regulations in respect to close times, limits and quotas subject to variation under the authority of The Fishery General Regulations.

The laws are subject to change at any time.

## What's New for 2015

### **Big Pierre Jacques (Glenwood)**

Open to angling with a reduced daily limit of 6 trout per day.

### **Mill River**

Open to angling with a reduced daily limit of 6 trout per day.

### **Trout River (Coleman) - Open with Restrictions**

Open to catch and release angling from May 1 to September 1st using single barbless fly. This applies to the section between the Old Getson's Dam and "Banny's Hole". Anglers are advised to register at the Trout River Cabin and report their catch.

### **Extended Angling Season for Rainbow Trout- Additional Rivers**

Three additional rivers have been added to the list of rivers having an extended angling season for rainbow trout. Anglers can fish from September 16 - October 31 using single barbless fly or barbless lure. In 2015, sections of the following rivers have been added:

- **Westmoreland River** (East Branch) - All waters downstream from Route 13 (road below Sherrens Pond)
- **Clyde River** - All waters downstream from Route 1 (TCH) in Clyde River
- **Orwell River** - All waters downstream from Route 1 (TCH) in Orwell

All anglers with a 2015 angling licence are eligible for the extended season. Participants must register and maintain a log book. Details on registration and a list of extended rivers are provided on page 18-20. Detailed maps of the rivers extended or closed can be found at: [www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling](http://www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling)

**\* *Note: Extended season regulations were not finalized at time of printing and are subject to change.***

Other rivers with special regulations are identified in pages 11-20 of this document.



Photo: R. Dempsey



## Potential New Angling Regulations for 2016

The start and close time for angling on Prince Edward Island is currently two hours before sunrise until two hours after sunset. Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division has been asked to consider reducing this to one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset during the regular angling season. During the extended season, the angling period would be restricted to sunrise to sunset.

The Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division is interested in hearing your thoughts. Send in your comments to [anglingideas@gov.pe.ca](mailto:anglingideas@gov.pe.ca) or call (902) 368-6082.



Photo: T. Main

## **We Want to Hear from You!**

### **Share your opinion, experiences, and ideas...**

Groups or individuals interested in providing input into regulations or who have suggestions on how to improve our recreational fishery are invited to contact us at our email address [anglingideas@gov.pe.ca](mailto:anglingideas@gov.pe.ca)

When a significant change to angling regulations is being considered, notice will be given in the annual angling summary. We invite anglers to weigh in with their thoughts as we strive to manage our sport fishery in a sustainable manner and provide opportunities for anglers to enjoy their hobby.

*Do you have great fishing photos of your fishing trips? Send them along and we may feature them in future angling summaries.*



Photo: H. Moore

## Seasons, Daily Limits and Size Limits

### Brook Trout

Open season April 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup> with the following exceptions:

- Trout River (Coleman) will have catch and release angling on a defined section (May 1-Sep 1). See Page 13.
- Souris River has a delayed opening (May 15<sup>th</sup>) and a conservation closure upstream from the Souris Line Road. See Page 14.
- The old Cranes Pond dam site on Morell River has a conservation closure (Jul 1-Oct 15). See Page 11.

Daily limit of 8 brook trout (only one >40cm).

The possession limit is the same as the daily limit.

Applies to all waters with the following exceptions:

- Big Pierre Jacques (Glenwood) River (Page 12) and Mill River (Page 13) have a daily limit of 6 brook trout (only one >40 cm).
- Trout River (Coleman) has catch and release angling with single barbless fly. See Page 13.

### Rainbow Trout

Open season April 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup> with the following exceptions:

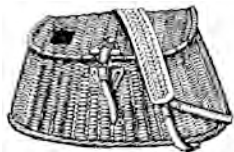
- Souris River has a delayed opening (May 15<sup>th</sup>). See Page 14.
- Some rivers have an extended season (Sep 16-Oct 31). This fishery is free but anglers must

register and complete/submit an angling logbook. Limit of 3 rainbow trout during the extended season. See pages 18-20.

Daily limit of 8 rainbow trout. Possession limit is the same as the daily limit.

Note: Anglers will be required to stop fishing once their limit of brook trout has been reached.

Possession Limit - In your possession, in the field and elsewhere in storage, you may have no more than 8 brook trout and 8 rainbow trout in total.



### **Atlantic Salmon**

Open season June 1<sup>st</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>, inclusive, except for sections of the Morell River which are extended until Oct 31. Daily catch and release limit of not more than 2 (grilse or salmon). Anglers must register for the extended fishery and complete/submit an angling logbook.

<i><b>River</b></i>	<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Location</b></i>
<i><b>Morell River</b></i>	September 16 to October 31	see pages 11 and 12 and map on inside back cover

## Angling Licences

Prince Edward Island has one angling licence which entitles the licensee to angle brook trout, rainbow trout, white perch and Atlantic salmon. Anglers interested in fishing the extended season for Atlantic salmon or rainbow trout can do so with this licence.

Angling licences can be obtained from authorized vendors and Access PEI centres throughout the province. A list of vendors is provided at ***gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling***

Anglers have the option of purchasing their angling licence online. To access this service, please visit the website: ***gov.pe.ca /forestry/angling***

### **Resident/Non-Resident - \$10**

#### **Courtesy Licence - FREE**

Issued to anglers 16 to 18 and 60 years of age and over

#### **Family Fishing Licence - \$5**

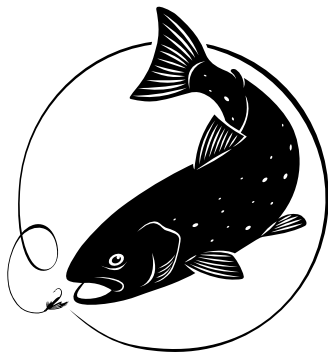
This licence allows the spouse and dependants to fish for a period of 5 days. The licence is available after May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Children under 16 - FREE.** Youth are not required to obtain an angling licence.

The Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division encourages adults to take children fishing. The adult does not require an angling licence while assisting the children as long as the number of fishing rods does not exceed the number of children angling.

**Extended Angling Season** - September 16 - October 31.

There is no additional cost but anglers must register and receive a log book prior to fishing the extended season. Anglers can register online at [www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling](http://www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling), at the Forests, Fish and Wildlife office on Upton Road or any Access PEI office. The angler log book can be picked up at Access PEI offices and is available to download online.



## **Wildlife Conservation Fund**

**All licensed anglers are required to be in possession of a Wildlife Conservation Fund Licence.** Youth under the age of 16 are exempt from this licensing requirement.

Wildlife Conservation Fund - \$20

For seniors 65 years of age and over:

Wildlife Conservation Fund - \$13

For family five-day licence

Wildlife Conservation Fund - \$5

*For further information and a list of vendors, please call the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division, (902) 368-6080.*

### **Take Your Family Fishing on the Long Weekend in May!**

Take your children fishing and let them experience the great outdoors and enjoy a life long pleasure that comes from fishing. Parents are encouraged to share the weekend of May 15-18, 2015 with their kids fishing. In support of this adventure, no licence will be required to fish over the Victoria Day long weekend, May 15-18 inclusive.

## **Waters with Special Regulations**

**Morell River** (*Please refer to the map on the inside back cover of the summary*)

1. On any day must cease all angling on the Morell River for that day after two fish, either salmon or grilse, have been caught and released, whichever occurs first.
2. From April 15 to September 15, in the lower section of the Morell River from MacKay's to the mouth of the river (railway bridge), trout may be taken on any tackle. This section of river is closed to all angling after September 15.
3. Any Atlantic salmon must be released immediately with the least possible harm to the fish.
4. Please note that salmon smolts migrate to sea during the month of May. Smolts are delicate at this time and can easily die if handled. If you find yourself catching numerous salmon smolts, please consider angling in a different location until the smolt run is diminished.
5. The section of the East Branch of the Morell River containing the old Crane's Pond dam site is closed to all angling for the period July 1 to October 15. The section affected includes all waters 250 metres upstream of the highway bridge on Route 355 and 10 m downstream from the bridge. This closure is in effect as a conservation measure to protect trout broodstock. at this time and can easily die if handled.



6. Portions of the Morell River are to be angled only by fly fishing, using barbless hooks only, after June 1. The restriction applies to Leard's Pond, Riverton, the West Branch below Leard's Pond, all that section of the East Branch below the Hazelgreen Road (Route 329); and the main section of the river from the point of union of the West and East Branches to MacKay's in the Bangor area.
7. The extended season from September 16 to October 31<sup>st</sup> is for Atlantic salmon only, using barbless hooks.
8. For the period September 16 to October 15 inclusive, salmon angling is restricted to those areas on the Morell River as defined in Section 6 above.
9. For the period October 16 to October 31<sup>st</sup> inclusive, salmon angling is restricted to that portion of the Morell River downstream from the forks (point of union of the West and East Branches) to MacKays.
10. Salmon angling on Leard's Pond is permitted from June 1 to October 31<sup>st</sup>, inclusive.

### **Big Pierre Jacques River (Glenwood)**

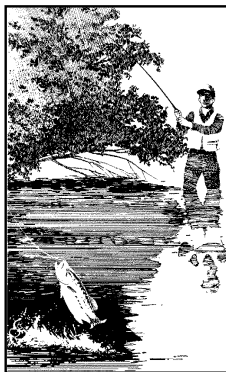
- The daily limit will be 6 trout, of which not more than one may be longer than 40 cm.
- This conservation measure is in place to allow stocks to recover following recent fish kills.

## **Trout River (Coleman)**

- A section of the Trout River in Coleman will be open from May 1 - September 1 to catch and release angling using single barbless fly. All other waters upstream from Goff's Bridge (Cascumpec Road Route 12) remain closed to all angling.
- The catch and release zone applies to the section of river between the former Getson's Dam in Carleton to what is locally known as "Banny's Hole". Refer to map on page 14.
- Anglers are asked to sign in at the Trout River Cabin and report catches upon leaving. This will enable managers to monitor the recovery of the river following fish kills in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

## **Mill River**

- The Mill River will have a reduced daily limit of 6 fish/day, of which not more than one may be longer than 40 cm.
- The reduced creel limit is in effect for all waters of the Carruthers Brook branch of Mill River upstream from Bloomfield Park (Western Road).





**Catch and release section of Trout River**

## **Souris River**

- The angling season on Souris River will open on May 15, with the exception of Harmony Pond which will open on April 15.
- The section of the east branch, Souris River, upstream from the Souris Line Road will be closed to all angling for the entire angling season.



Photo: S. Landsman

- Angling on the Souris River is extended from October 15 to October 31 in all that section of the main river downstream from the Gowanbrae Bridge on Souris River Road (Route 358). Daily limit of three (3) rainbow trout, single barbless fly or barbless lure.

## **Rivers with Gear Restrictions during Atlantic Salmon Smolt migration**

The following rivers will have special regulations from May 1-May 31 inclusive to reduce mortality of Atlantic salmon smolts and kelts as they migrate to sea:

**North Lake Creek** - entire river

**Naufrage River** - entire river

**Cross River** - entire river

**Midgell River** - downstream from Pius MacDonalds Pond

**Morell River** - entire river

**Pisquid River** - all waters downstream from the forks above Leards Pond (Shepherds Farm)

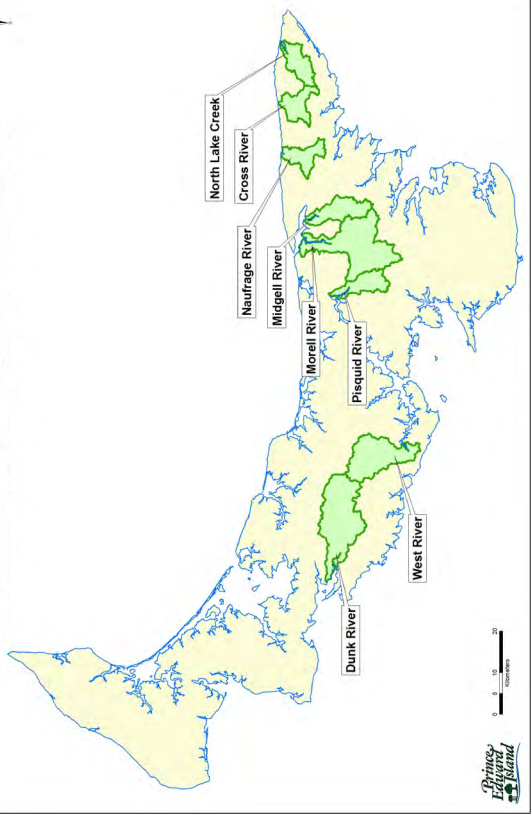
**West River** - all waters downstream from Greenbay (Route 249)

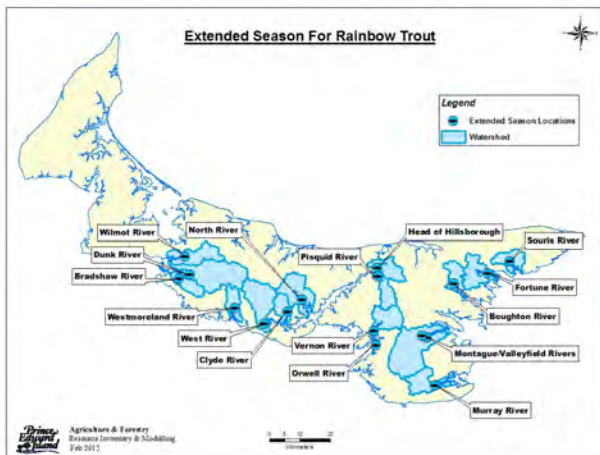
**Dunk River** - all waters downstream from Scales Pond

Anglers will be required to use a single barbless fly or barbless lure. If using bait, a barbless non-offset circle hook is required.



**Atlantic Salmon Rivers with Special Regulations 2015**





Detailed maps of the rivers with special regulations can be found at [gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling](http://gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling)

## Extended Season for Rainbow Trout - September 16 to October 31

There will be an extended angling season for rainbow trout angling on following rivers.

**Murray River** - MacLures Pond, from the dam to the golf course bridge

**Hillsborough River** - Downstream from railway bridge in Mount Stewart

**Pisquid River** - Downstream from the bridge at Fort Augustus Road (Route 21)

**Montague River** - all waters downstream from the pool below Knox's Pond (Sparrow Road Bridge (Route 320)

**Valleyfield River** - all waters downstream from Valleyfield (Route 326). locally known as "Sutherland's hole"

**Boughton River** - Downstream from Ross's Dam in Bridgetown

**Fortune River** - Downstream from Fortune River Road

**Vernon River** - Downstream from a point 100 metres above the causeway

**Bradshaw River** - Affleck's Pond

**North River** - Downstream from a point 100 metres above the causeway

**Wilmot River** - Marchbanks Pond

**Souris River** - all that section of the main river downstream from the Gowanbrae Bridge (Route 358)

**West River** - all waters downstream from the Trans Canada Highway Bridge in Bonshaw

**Westmoreland River** - all waters of the east branch downstream from Route 13 (road below Sherrens Pond)

**Clyde River** - all waters downstream from the TCH in Clyde River

**Orwell River** - all waters downstream from the TCH in Orwell

- Anglers will not require an additional licence. However, they must register and receive a log book prior to participating. Anglers can register at the



Forests, Fish and Wildlife office at 183 Upton Road in Charlottetown or at any Access PEI office. Online registration is available at: [www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling](http://www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling). The angling log books are available for downloading.

- Single barbless fly or barbless lure.
- The creel limit for this extended season is 3 rainbow trout/day.
- Detailed maps of the rivers with an extended angling season can be found at: [www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling](http://www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling)

### **Glenfinnan and O’Keefe’s Lakes**

O’Keefes Lake and Glenfinnan Lake are no longer stocked with rainbow trout. This stocking has ceased due to high mercury levels recorded in rainbow trout and white perch in O’Keefes Lake.

- Open season for trout is April 15 to November 15
- Glenfinnan Lake has a daily catch limit (and possession limit) of 5 rainbow trout. O’Keefe’s Lake is catch and release only.

**Please Note:** Regular monitoring of fish in O’Keefe’s Lake has indicated that mercury levels can be in excess of recommended guidelines. Prince Edward Island’s Chief Health Officer advises that fish from O’Keefe’s Lake should not be eaten. Fish from other lakes, ponds or brooks on P.E.I have not been found to have mercury above the national guidelines.

## **Winter Ice Fishing**

Winter ice fishing is restricted to Glenfinnan and O'Keefe's Lakes. Those anglers wishing to participate in the winter ice fishery should retain their angling licence and the Wildlife Conservation Licence.

- Winter ice fishing from January 1 to March 31, 2016.
- Catch limit and possession limit as outlined above.

## **Ice Safety**

Traditionally, some ponds and rivers are iced over on opening day of the angling season, while the winter trout fishery is dependent on ice. To avoid a potentially life threatening situation, practise caution when fishing on ice.

- For your safety there should be at least 15 cm (six inches) of ice or more for small groups of people; and 25 cm (10 inches) or more for snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles.
- Plan to fish with a friend.
- Children should be supervised by an adult.
- Dress warmly - wear a hat, scarf and mitts.
- Wearing a personal flotation device like a floater coat is a good idea when ice fishing.

- You are legally required to mark any holes made in the ice to alert other anglers. Use branches or other material.

Should you break through the ice, extend your arms flat on the ice surface and kick your feet. Try to squirm the upper part of your body onto the ice. Once out of the water, roll quickly to one side away from the edge. Once you reach safety, get to shore and warm yourself by building a fire and getting into dry clothing.



## Aboriginal Rights in the Fishery

The traditional Ancestral Homelands of the Mi'kmaq People include all of Prince Edward Island. In Mi'kmaq, Prince Edward Island is known as Epekwitk (pronounced E-PE-KWIT). Approximately 1,740 Mi'kmaq Aboriginal people continue to live on PEI. In the early 1700s, the Mi'kmaq and the British entered into peace, friendship, and trade treaties. The covenant chain of treaty relationships continues to this day. For a detailed description of the history of Aboriginal rights in the fishery see:

***[www.mcpei.ca/aboriginal\\_fishery](http://www.mcpei.ca/aboriginal_fishery)***

The Governments of PEI and Canada have a legal obligation to consult Aboriginal peoples if an activity undertaken by those Governments may or will impact on an Aboriginal right.

For more information, contact:

Native Council of Prince Edward Island  
Kelewatl Natural Life Harvesting Commission  
6 F.J. MacAulay Crt.,  
Charlottetown, PE C1A 9M8  
(W) (902) 892-5314 (F) (902) 368-7464  
Email - [Jordan@ncpei.com](mailto:Jordan@ncpei.com)

Randy Angus  
Director, Integrated Resource Management  
Mikmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island  
Polyclinic, Suite 501  
199 Grafton St. Charlottetown PE C1A 1L2  
(W) (902) 367-3660  
email [rangus@mcpei.ca](mailto:rangus@mcpei.ca)

***[mcpei.ca](http://mcpei.ca)***

***[facebook.com/MCPEICommunicationsUpdater](https://www.facebook.com/MCPEICommunicationsUpdater)***

***[Twitter @mikmaqPEI](https://twitter.com/mikmaqpei)* <https://twitter.com/mikmaqpei>**

## **Watershed Groups on Prince Edward Island**

In 2013-14, there were twenty-four watershed groups working across Prince Edward Island. These groups are involved in fish and wildlife habitat restoration, public education and awareness and a variety of other activities. Volunteers are always needed and greatly appreciated. If you are interested in finding out more about a watershed group in the area that you live or fish, check out the Prince Edward Island Watershed Alliance website at: [www.peiwatershedalliance.org/](http://www.peiwatershedalliance.org/)

### **PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund Putting your money to work!**

When you pay a PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund fee, you are helping to improve habitat for fish and many other species of Island Wildlife. Applications for funding are made by many stream and river management groups annually. In 2014, approximately \$210,680 was awarded to watershed, wildlife and environmental groups across PEI to restore, protect and improve Island waterways. Research and education projects were also funded. Groups receiving WCF funds in 2014 are listed below. For more information on the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund you can call (902) 892-7513, email: [wcfund@eastlink.ca](mailto:wcfund@eastlink.ca), or visit the web at [gov.pe.ca/forestry/wcf](http://gov.pe.ca/forestry/wcf)

*PEI Wildlife Federation* - Fish stock enhancement, Youth Waterfowl Workshop, BOW

*Lot 11 and Area Watershed Management Group* - Foxley River restoration

*West Point and Area Watersheds Inc.* - River restoration, watershed activities

*Ducks Unlimited Canada* - Project Webfoot, PEI Youth Waterfowl Workshop

*Friends of Covernment-Brackley Bay* - Watershed activities, river restoration

*Morell River Management Co-op* - Morell and area watershed activities

*PEI Bait Fishers Group* - Youth Fishing derbies

*Stratford Area Watershed Improvement Group* - Watershed activities, backyard bird project

*Trout Unlimited Prince County Chapter* - fish trap monitoring, pheasant project

*PEI Trappers Association* - Pisquid River restoration

*Richmond Bay Watershed Association* - watershed activities, river restoration

*Central Queens Branch of PEI Wildlife Federation* - West River and area watershed project

*Arsenaults Pond Improvement Committee* - Fish passage project

*Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association* -Habitat restoration

*Canadian Rivers Institute UPEI* - Fish passage research project

*Kensington North Watersheds Association* - River restoration & watershed activities, ring necked pheasant project

*Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation* - river restoration

*Hillsborough River Association* - Monitoring

*Hunter-Clyde Watershed Project* - Watershed activities  
*Wheatley River Improvement Group* - Habitat restoration, wood duck and wood frog  
*Sierra Club Canada Foundation* - Wild Child Nature Immersion Program  
*Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed Association* - River restoration, education, monitoring  
*South Shore Watershed Association* - Westmoreland River project  
Island Nature Trust - Farmland birds education project, Natural Areas  
*Kensington Police Service* - Fishing derby  
*Cascumpec Bay Watershed Association* - Profits Pond rock pools, Long Creek silt trap  
*Wrights Creek Watershed Environmental Committee* - Development of Charlottetown area youth fishing facility  
*PEI Archery Association* - Archery Range Completion  
*Charlottetown Trap and Skeet Club* - Introduction to skeet shooting and safe gun handling  
*PEI Invasive Species Council* - Education  
*Miscouche Archery Club* - Archery  
*Ellens Creek Watershed Group* - Urban habitat enhancement project  
*Natural History Society* - Lichens of PEI  
*Southeast Environmental Association* - Valleyfield River restoration





CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

# Prince Edward Island

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation (ASCF) is a non-profit organization established through a one-time grant of \$30 million from the Government of Canada. Income generated by this trust fund supports projects and activities contributing to

conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and salmon habitat.

Funds raised in partnership with the PEI Liquor Control Commission through the **Island Rivers – Worth Protecting** program also provides significant support for PEI projects.

Visit our website:

[www.salmonconservation.ca](http://www.salmonconservation.ca)



Prince Edward Island projects funded by the ASCF & PEILCC in 2014 were led by:

Central Queens Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation:	\$19,000	Trout Unlimited Prince County Chapter:	\$18,000
Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation:	\$20,000	Richmond Bay Watershed Association:	\$7,107
		Morell River Management Coop:	\$21,000



### **By Hook or by Crook...**

The type of hook used can have a major effect on the survival of fish caught and released. Many anglers are now using barbless hooks, finding it easier to release a fish unharmed on a hook without barbs. One can purchase hooks without



barbs, however it is not difficult to transform a “barbed” hook into a “barbless” hook. Simply take a pair of pliers or a hemostat and compress the barb so it lies flat against the shaft of the hook. Remember to keep pressure on the line to prevent losing the fish.

Another option to reduce mortality of fish released is a circle hook which is made in the shape of a circle. When a fish swallows the bait, the circle design allows the hook to slide back up and hook onto the inside of the fish’s mouth.

Circle hooks are commonly used in commercial or salt water fisheries but are growing in popularity in freshwater. Fishing with a circle hook requires different technique than a 'J' hook. In particular, you do not use a vigorous jerk to set a circle hook. A steady reeling in of the line is all that is required.

It is important to understand the different types of hooks because certain gear is mandatory for particular fisheries. For example, a barbless non-offset circle hook is required to angle for striped bass. During the month of May, barbless non-offset circle hooks are required when fishing certain rivers. This is to reduce mortality of salmon as they migrate to spring. Much of the Morell River is restricted to barbless fly for parts of the angling season.



Circle hook

J-hook



FORCES OF **BOATING SAFETY**  
BUREAU DE LA **SECURITE NAUTIQUE**

## Attention Anglers

### Do you have proof of competency?

Everyone who operates a power-driven boat needs proof of competency — something that shows they understand the rules of the road and how to safely operate a boat. The most common proof of competency is the Pleasure Craft Operator Card. You can get the card by taking a boating safety course in-person or online, and passing the test at the end of the course.

### Do you have a pleasure craft licence?

In Canada, all recreational boats with a motor of 10 horsepower (7.5 kW) or more must have a pleasure craft licence. This allows Search and Rescue personnel to access important information in an emergency.

Pleasure craft licences are valid for 10 years. Operating a pleasure craft without one may result in a \$250 fine.

To apply for a licence you will need:

- A completed application form
- Proof of ownership
- A signed copy of a valid piece of government-issued identification (further information is available on the form).

You must display the licence number on both sides of the bow of your boat in block characters that are at least 3 inches (7.5 centimetres) high, in a colour that contrasts with the colour of the bow.

For more information or to get your application form, visit [www.tc.gc.ca/boatingsafety](http://www.tc.gc.ca/boatingsafety) or call the Boating Safety InfoLine at 1-800-267-6687.

## Handling Fish with Respect

All fish should be treated humanely, whether they are being added to your creel or about to be released. When retaining a fish, kill it quickly and humanely. It is mandatory on Prince Edward Island to kill your fish immediately or release it back to the wild. Fish cannot be kept alive on stringers or in live wells. Keep your catch cool to ensure that the flesh will be of optimum quality. When releasing fish, take steps to reduce stress in the fish and give it the best chance of survival.

- Use the right gear:
  - ▶ Barbless or pinched hooks are easier to remove
  - ▶ Artificial lures, not bait, reduce the chances of deep hooking
- Minimize handling: retrieve your fish quickly and release it immediately
- Keep the fish in the water
- Use only a knotless mesh net
- Remove the hook carefully
- Cut the leader if necessary
- Hold the fish gently in a natural swimming position, facing upstream until it revives



**Are you interested in becoming a certified angling guide?**

Guiding is an excellent way to meet people and make some money while enjoying a day on one of PEI's beautiful streams. In recent years, requests for angling guides from visitors have been increasing. *Emerit*, the training program of the Canadian Tourism Human Resource Council, can provide a course leading to national certification as an angling guide. On PEI, the Tourism Industry Association of PEI (TIAPEI) provides course materials and administers the exam. If you are interested, please contact TIAPEI at (902) 566-5008 or via email: [tiapei@tiapei.pe.ca](mailto:tiapei@tiapei.pe.ca)



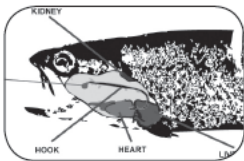
The Dunk River Catch c1910



Tenting by the river c1920's

## Where Does the Hook Go?

Many anglers are unaware of the location of vital organs in a fish. When fish are hooked in the lips or jaw area, mortality can be less than 1%. However, fish that are “deep hooked” in the esophagus or gills suffer a high mortality rate. Studies have shown that many fish which are deeply hooked suffer major internal damage to the heart, stomach or liver.



The fish may appear unharmed and swim away, only to die a few hours later. Use equipment and techniques which will allow you to catch and release fish unharmed. If the fish is bleeding, the best option is to add it to your creel.

## Is it a salmon or brook trout?

Anglers may confuse brook trout with Atlantic salmon, particularly in the spring when “slink” salmon are in the rivers. “Slink” or “black” salmon are fish that returned to the river the previous year, spawned in the fall, and are preparing to return to sea again in spring. Unlike fresh salmon, these fish tend to be dark and rather thin. If you hook a slink salmon, please take care when releasing the fish to ensure minimal harm. To distinguish between the two fish, look for the telltale spots on the body of the brook trout (orange and red spots fringed with blue) and white edge on the fins.

Atlantic salmon undergo a number of physiological changes which allow them to move from fresh water to salt water. On PEI, smolts move out of the rivers into salt water in May. They are quite delicate at this time and can easily die if handled. If you find yourself catching numerous salmon smolts, please consider angling in a different location until the smolt run is diminished.



**Atlantic salmon “slink”**



**Brook trout**

## Investigation and Enforcement

For enforcement of any of the environment acts or regulations and enforcement emergencies, contact a Conservation Officer at **902-368-4808**.

For environmental emergencies, please call **1-800-565-1633**. These numbers are monitored 24 hours.

### Access PEI Centres (Government hours only)

#### ***Queens County***

Charlottetown . . . . . 902-368-5200

#### ***Kings County***

Montague . . . . . 902-838-0600

Souris . . . . . 902-687-7000

#### ***Prince County***

Alberton . . . . . 902-853-8622

O'Leary . . . . . 902-859-8800

Summerside . . . . . 902-888-8000

Tignish . . . . . 902-882-7351

Wellington . . . . . 902-854-7250





Photo: R. Dempsey

**Report Litterers!**

Call the hot line  
toll-free

**1-866-368-5024**

## Angler Log Books

Since 2013, anglers fishing past September 15<sup>th</sup> for rainbow trout or Atlantic salmon are required to keep an angler diary or log book. When the season ends, these books are submitted to the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division. We are extremely pleased with the cooperation from anglers, as we have consistently had over 50% of the books returned. Anglers have provided excellent information that is being used in the management of our extended angling season. In 2013, there were 146 books returned from the 262 anglers registered. These anglers fished over 1300 hours, with the Morell, West and Dunk the most popular rivers to fish. Anglers were most likely to catch rainbow trout in the Souris and Dunk Rivers but regardless of location, the vast majority of rainbow trout were released (89%). Anglers who responded reported catching 48 Atlantic salmon on the Morell River along with 118 brook trout.

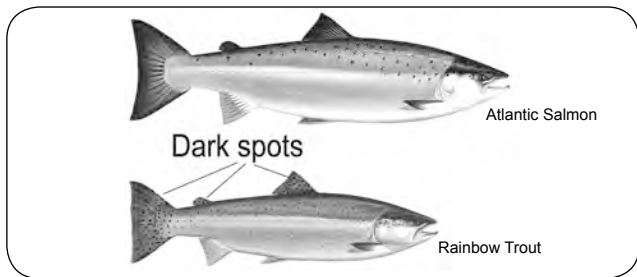
Some 2014 books are still coming in and the data are being analysed. We would like to thank each angler who recorded their daily fishing activities and submitted their log books. Your participation is greatly appreciated. Return your log book to be entered in a draw for a \$50 gift card.



## Rainbow Trout in PEI

The rainbow trout is a West Coast species which was introduced to Prince Edward Island in the early 1900s. It now has self-sustaining runs in about two dozen rivers on the Island, primarily on the south side of the province. Like brook trout and salmon, some rainbow trout go to salt water, where they can grow quickly and return to fresh water in fall as large “steel head”. These fish are prized by anglers and many seek out the large steel head in a number of locations including Souris River, Montague River and Dunk River.

Research has shown that rainbows may have a negative impact on our native brook trout and Atlantic salmon. They are an aggressive and fast-growing fish which compete with other fish for space and food. Rainbows may be one factor in keeping salmon numbers from rebounding, as they occupy similar habitat as salmon - fast-flowing streams with rocky bottoms. Unlike salmon which spawn in late fall, rainbow trout are spring spawners and they have been observed digging up salmon redds (spawning beds) to lay their eggs.



Rivers which are known to have runs of rainbow trout are shown on page 51. If you catch rainbow trout on other rivers not identified, please contact the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division (902)368-6082.

Anglers are now allowed to keep 8 rainbow trout in addition to the regular creel limit of 8 brook trout. There is also an extended season for rainbow trout angling on specific rivers. It is important that anglers recognize the differences between brook trout, rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon (see graphic on page 46). Rainbow trout which have been to salt water are different in appearance that those remaining in fresh water and can be silvery like a salmon (see pictures on page 38).



# Information on Salt Water and Coastal Recreational Fishes

## Striped Bass

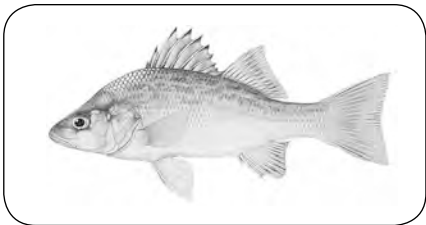
The striped bass is a fish which inhabits estuaries and coastal areas in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Since 2011, numbers of striped bass have shown a dramatic increase and in 2013 and 2014, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans opened a limited recreational fishery and Aboriginal harvest. Striped bass are frequently caught in the Hillsborough River and Midgell River but in recent years, they have been seen in many estuaries across the Island. Anglers are required to use single, non-offset barbless circle hooks when using bait to catch striped bass. It is expected that there will be another limited recreational fishery for striped bass in 2015. For more information about the striped bass fishery, please refer to the DFO Gulf Regions Recreational Fisheries web page [www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/FAM/Recreational-Fisheries](http://www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/FAM/Recreational-Fisheries)



Photo: R. Dempsey

## White Perch

- Found in many Prince Edward Island rivers and are commonly present in bays, and tidal tributaries and barrier beach ponds along the shore.



- Close relative of striped bass.
- Can reach sizes of 19 inches (48cm) and 4½ lb (2 kg).
- Normal life span is 6-7 years.
- Considered an important sport fish in many parts of its range.
- Can be angled on PEI during the regular angling season (April 15-September 15)
- Limit of 100 per person per day

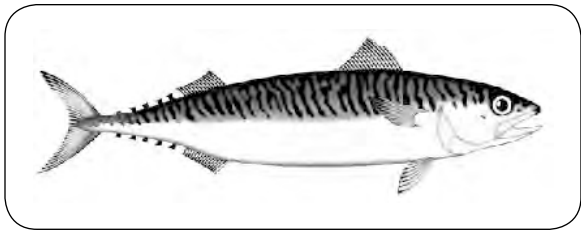
## Rainbow/ American Smelt



Smelt may be small fish (5-10" in length) but you can have a large amount of fun catching them. This important commercial fish species enters freshwater streams in spring to spawn. No licence is required to fish smelt and in tidal waters, one can angle for smelt year round. A dip net fishery is allowed from April 1 to June 15 and in inland water, you can fish smelt from April 15-September 15. The spearing season for smelt runs from December 1 to March 31. The catch limit for smelt is 60 per person/day. The most popular way to catch smelt is through the ice in winter. Many estuaries and bays are lined with smelt shacks which provide a more comfortable fishing environment. If you erect a shack, you are required to paint or affix your name and address to the shack. Shacks cannot be erected before January 1 and must be removed by April 2 (or sooner if directed by a Fishery Officer).

## **Mackerel Fishing**

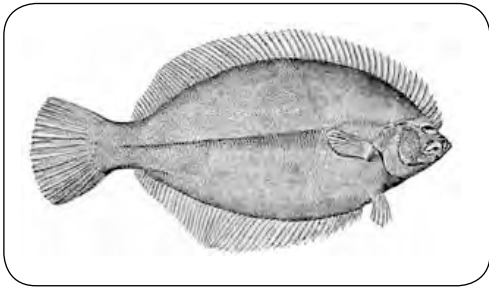
Are you a fair weather angler? Then mackerel fishing is a sport for you. One can catch mackerel in estuaries, bays and offshore areas from mid-May to fall. Many people enjoy going offshore on deep sea fishing excursions. A number of charters are available and equipment is provided by the operators. Others prefer to fish mackerel from wharves or bridges. No licence is required and there is no limit on the number of fish to be retained. Hand lines or all purpose rods are all that is required, with various lures, flies, or parts of fish (e.g. mackerel stomach, smelt flesh) used as attractants. Mackerel are great fighters and are exciting to catch on light gear. Not to mention the health benefits of eating mackerel. This oily fish is an essential source of protein, vitamins and minerals and rich in omega-3 essential fatty acids. Mackerel can be broiled, grilled, baked or fried.





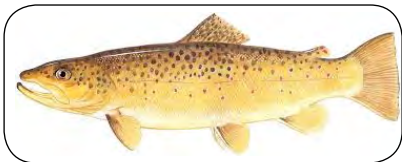
## Winter Flounder

Many people are unaware that there is a short recreational season for groundfish, including flounder, in August and September. The exact dates of the groundfish season change from year to year and are posted in local newspapers. One can catch a total of 15 ground fish, of which no more than 5 can be cod. No haddock, pollock, halibut, Norther Wolfish, Atlantic wolfish or spotted wolfish can be taken. Flounder can be caught off wharves or under bridges in many locations around Prince Edward Island. No licence is required.



## Brown Trout

The brown trout is a native of Europe and western Asia which was introduced into Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in the early 1920s. In freshwater, the brown trout has an overall brown or tawny colour with a light coloured belly. Large black spots are present on the back, dorsal fin, upper sides, and upper head of the fish. There can also be a few irregularly arranged black spots on the nearly square or slightly forked tail. Red, orange, or yellow spots with pale borders are on the sides. Brown trout that migrate to the sea become silvery and lose much of their distinctive spotting. Searun brown trout can often be distinguished from look-alike Atlantic salmon by their upper jawbone extending beyond the eye, their smaller and more numerous black spots on the head, and their smaller scales. Brown trout that stray from the mainland can occasionally be caught in a number of PEI rivers including Hillsborough, West, DeSable, Tryon, Montague and Souris. If you catch a brown trout, let us know 902-368-6082.



For more information  
about salt water fishing regulations contact:  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, (902) 566-7812  
***[http://www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/FAM/  
Recreational-Fisheries](http://www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/FAM/Recreational-Fisheries)***

## ***Fish Identification***

### **Brook trout (speckled trout)**

- Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins colored with a leading edge of white.
- Back and dorsal fin vermiculated (wormlike pattern)
- Sides pigmented with orange and red spots fringed with blue.
- Black spots "not" present on the body.



### **Atlantic salmon parr (juvenile salmon in freshwater).**

- Eleven dark bars separated by a single row of red spots on the lateral line.
- Tail fin forked more so than trout species.



### **Rainbow trout (juvenile in freshwater)**

- A band of pink to red coloring the sides
- Five to 10 dark oval parr marks spaced along the side straddling the lateral line.
- Black spots on the dorsal and tail may be visible.



Copyright 2000, A. MacKay

## **DFO Atlantic Salmon and Striped Bass Tagging Programs**

Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) with many partners regularly tag fish in experiments to determine fish behaviour, movements, growth and fishing catch rates. The recovery of tagged fish and the success of these tagging campaigns rely on the collaboration of recreational anglers and the fishing industry.

### **Atlantic Salmon**

If you catch an Atlantic salmon with a DFO tag, please record the number on the tag and send it, along with the date and location of capture, to the address on the back of the tag (Science Branch, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, PO 5030, Moncton NB, E1C 9B6). You can also send the information and a photo of the tag by email to *Fishtag@dfo-mpo.gc.ca*. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number/email for contact purposes and to receive information on your fish. Anglers who return tags will have their names entered in the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) tag return incentive draw. Each year, a Grand Prize of US\$2,500 is awarded as well as a US\$1,500 prize for the North American area.

### **Striped Bass**

If you catch a Striped Bass with DFO a tag, please remove the tag and send it, along with the date and location of capture, to the address on the back of the tag (as above). You can also send the information and a photo of the tag by email to *Fishtag@dfo-mpo.gc.ca*. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number/email for contact purposes.

**Becoming an Outdoors-Woman** is a workshop primarily aimed at women, but it is also an opportunity for anyone 18 years of age or older to learn outdoor skills – skills usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful for many outdoor pursuits.

This workshop is for you if...

1. you have never tried these activities, but have hoped for an opportunity to learn.
2. you are a beginner and hope to improve your skills.
3. you know how to do some of these activities, but would like to try new ones.
4. you are looking for camaraderie of like-minded individuals.

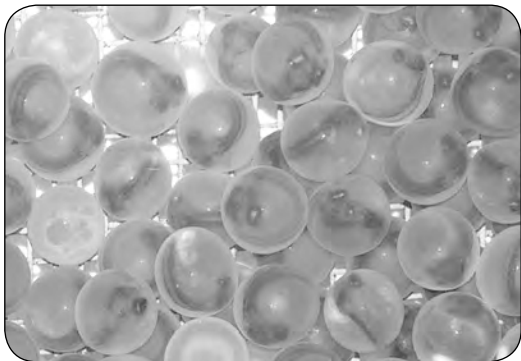
For more information on upcoming workshops, please contact 368-4683.



## Fish Stock Enhancement on PEI

Restoring quality fish habitat is the first step towards improving the sport fishery in P.E.I. However, fish stocking is also an important tool in fisheries management.

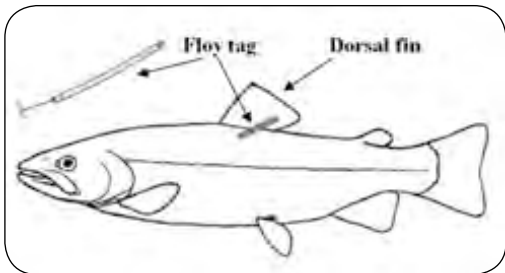
In 2012, the Province entered into an agreement with Abegweit First Nation to produce brook trout and Atlantic salmon for stocking Island rivers. Young salmon and trout destined for Island waterways are being held at the Abegweit Biodiversity Enhancement Hatchery in Scotchfort. Visitors are welcome. For more information about the hatchery, please call 902-676-2353 or check out [www.abegweithatchery.ca](http://www.abegweithatchery.ca)



## Rainbow Trout Tagging Study

The investigation of rainbow trout movement patterns in Prince Edward Island is wrapping up and the acoustic tracking has concluded. If you capture a tagged fish, you can still submit information to the toll free hotline.

**1-855-888-2688.**



## Yellow Tags

If you catch a fish with a yellow tag and happen to retain it, we would like to collect the tags and the head of the fish. Call/Text Scott – (902) 393-1061. All other captures can be submitted to the hotline.

Note ID number on the tag  
Report the capture!

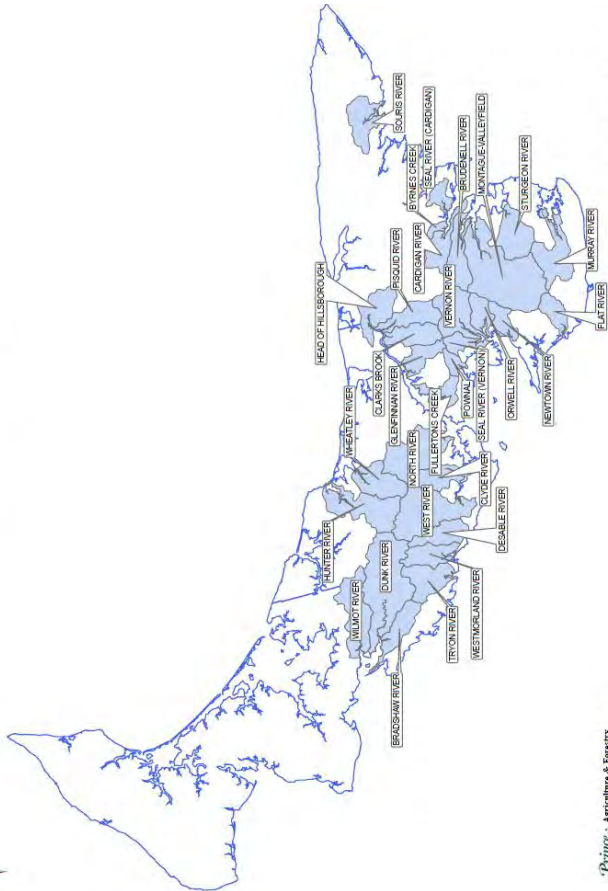
Measure the fork length

Record Date and Location

Call 1-855-888-2688



# Watersheds with Rainbow Trout 2014





## **Survey of Recreational Fishing in Canada**

Every five years, anglers are asked to participate in a survey to collect information about recreational fishing activities and assess the economic and social importance of recreational fisheries. The 2015 survey is currently being developed by federal and provincial agencies. If you are contacted, please participate. A report of the 2010 survey can be found at [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/stats/rec/can/2010/index-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/stats/rec/can/2010/index-eng.htm)

## **General Information**

### **Definitions**

“Angling” means fishing with a line to which one or more hooks are attached and that is held in the hand or attached to a rod that is held in the hand or closely attended.

“Artificial fly” means a single or double hook dressed with silk, tinsel, wool, fur, feathers or any combination of those or other materials commonly used in making artificial flies, but does not include a fly that has a spinning device, or a weight that causes the fly to sink.

“Artificial lure” means a device, comprised of wood, plastic, metal, feathers or any other inert material but no organic component, designed to catch fish.

“Bait” means a natural or organic bait comprised of live or dead organisms (animals or plants), derivatives, or parts thereof. This can include minnows, leeches, frogs, insects, worms, cut bait, corn, macaroni, pet food, cheese or similar substances. Fly materials, such as deer hair, or rubber baits impregnated with artificial scents are not considered organic bait.

“Barbless hook” means a hook that was made without a barb or a hook that has all of its barbs compressed to be in complete contact with the shaft of the hook, except those barbs on the shank that are designed solely to retain bait.

“Chumming” refers to the practice of using any material to attract fish to a particular location while angling.

“Circle hook” is a type of fish hook which is non-offset, with the point turned perpendicularly back to the shank.

Read more: [www.in-fisherman.com/gear-accessories/circle-hooks/#ixzz3Sr9fw98k](http://www.in-fisherman.com/gear-accessories/circle-hooks/#ixzz3Sr9fw98k)



“Daily limit” refers to the lawful capture and retention of fish during a day, with angling restricted to the period of two hours before sunrise to two hours after sunset in any given day. The daily limit is one’s possession limit and is interpreted to be the only legal limit one can possess.

“Fly fishing” means angling by the use of an artificial fly or flies that are attached to a line or to a leader that is attached to a line.

“Grilse” means a salmon that is less than 63 cm but not less than 35 cm in length.

“Hook” means a single, double or treble pointed hook on a common shank or shaft, with or without barbs.

“J” Hook is a hook shaped like the letter J in which the point is parallel to the shank.

“Jigging” means fishing by manipulating one or more hooks so as to pierce a fish in any part of its body instead of luring the fish to take the hook or hooks into its mouth.

“Length” means:

(a) in relation to a salmon or a landlocked salmon, the distance measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail,

(b) in relation to any other fish referred to in these

regulations, the distance measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail

“Possession limit” is interpreted to be one’s daily limit.

“Sport fishing” means fishing for pleasure and not for sale or barter

“Sport fish” means salmon and trout.

## **General Prohibitions**

### **General Angling**

It is unlawful to:

1. use a gill-net or trap-net for fishing in non-tidal or inland waters, unless authorized by the Maritime Provinces Fisheries Regulations;
2. use an artificial light or flame of any kind for fishing in non-tidal or inland waters;
3. jig, snare or spear fish of any kind in non-tidal or inland waters;
4. fish with an artificial fly that has more than two hooks;
5. angle with more than one fishing line or with a fishing line having more than three separate hooks;
6. angle salmon except by fly fishing;

7. angle within a 100-metre radius of any facility operated by or on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans or the province for the purpose of counting passage or rearing of fish;
8. angle within a fishway or within 25 metres downstream of the lower entrance of a fishway;
9. angle in non-tidal or inland waters that are frequented by any sport fish during the closed time for that sport fish;
10. angle during the time period extending from two hours after sunset to two hours before sunrise;
11. export any trout from the province without a valid angling license and then only in accordance with the possession limit of 8 trout;
12. litter at any time or place - conviction may result in loss of angling privileges;
13. operate a motor boat while intoxicated;
14. chum while angling for trout or salmon;
15. possess, use or sell fish eggs as bait for angling;
16. retain any sport fish alive while angling. All fish must be:
  - a) immediately released alive back to the wild; or
  - b) killed immediately and counted towards the daily bag limit.

17. No person shall possess fish that were caught by any person while fishing for recreational or sport purposes and that have been skinned, cut, packed or otherwise dealt with in such a manner that:
- (a) the species cannot be readily determined;
  - (b) the number of fish cannot be readily determined;
  - (c) where size limits are applicable, the size of the fish cannot be readily determined.
18. introduce or re-locate live fish species into the waters of Prince Edward Island.

**Anglers are reminded that it is illegal to angle during the time period extending from two hours after sunset to two hours before sunrise.** Official times of sunrise and sunset are published in local newspapers and can be found on the Environment Canada website: ***[www.weatheroffice.gc.ca](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca)***

**Enter to Win a \$50 Gift Card**

All anglers who return their extended season log books by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 will be entered in a draw to win a \$50 gift card.



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Ministère des Pêches  
et Océans  
Canada

# Set Young Free

# SALMON

## It's the Law!

If you catch a salmon parr or smolt, gently remove the hook and release it back in the water.

For further details on salmonid identification, please refer to the provincial angling guide.

Canada



### SALMON PARR

Black spots on back and sides and a **forked tail**. No markings on fins or tail.



### SALMON SMOLT

A silvery fish lacking, or with only a shadow of the vertical side bars of the salmon parr or brook trout. Black spots on upper sides and cheeks and a **dark forked tail**.



### BROOK (SPECKLED) TROUT

Light coloured spots on its sides, red spots with a light coloured edge and a marbled pattern on the upper parts and back. Dorsal fin has dark bars and patches. There are no black spots on body. Lower fins have **white edge**. Tail is square or only slightly concave.

Study these pictures and note the differences between young Atlantic Salmon and Brook Trout.

Beitrag  
Bretzke

Illustration  
Bretzke

Beitrag  
Bretzke

## Accessing Public Lands

While most of Prince Edward Island is privately owned, there are areas of forest and wetland which are available for public use - the Island's 33,000 hectares of public land. In general terms, these properties are classified as Natural Areas, Ponds and Wetlands, Provincial Forests, and Wildlife Management Areas. They are managed for a variety of public values and benefits such as recreation, wildlife habitat, protection of unique or rare species, high-value timber and non-timber forest products, forest/wildlife research, and outdoor education.

The signs listed below identify public lands which are open to the public for uses such as hunting, fishing, hiking, bicycling, bird watching, tours and outdoor education. However, some uses such as off road vehicle (ATVs, snowmobiles, etc.) are only permitted on certain properties and open fires are not permitted at all. Prohibited uses are listed on the signs. Please do not litter or smoke on these properties.

Many of these properties are working forests, so as conditions dictate, forest harvest and management operations may occur. In all cases, harvest sites on public land are quickly renewed to forest cover.

You can access more information on the location of public lands on-line at [www.gov.pe.ca/gis](http://www.gov.pe.ca/gis) or by purchasing a Public Land Atlas at any Forests, Fish and Wildlife office.



Cover photo credit: Taylor Main