2020 Angling Summary PrinceEdwardIsland.ca





Keeping in touch 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 or call 902-368-6082.

Visit www.princeedwardisland.ca/angling for information on fishing in Prince Edward Island. This Angling Resources and Information Centre provides information about licences, seasons, fishing locations and special angling events or activities.

Check out our facebook page at *Fish and Wildlife PEI*. We regularly post pictures or articles of interest to anglers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Cover, self portrait courtesy of Cheryl Crabb

Angling and COVID-19

By following the practices outlined below, anglers can do their part to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

- fish close to home;
- reduce travel by going directly to your fishing location and home again;
- limited outdoor gatherings and non-contact outdoor recreational activities are allowed with no more than five individuals involving people from different households, follow social distancing practices – remain at least 6' apart;
- · avoid fishing or congregating in groups;
- avoid establishing overnight or day camps at fishing locations;
- · wash or disinfect hands regularly;
- · do not share food, plates or cutlery;
- do not share equipment among people from different households for recreational purposes;
- Report infractions via the 902-368-4884 Investigation and Enforcement number or www.princeedwardisland.ca/reportpoaching

Please make responsible choices and stay safe.





We have prepared this angling summary amidst the uncertainty of COVID-19 and the new reality of social distancing. The delay in the opening of the angling season was one of many measures instituted to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of Islanders. We recognize that angling is a tremendously important social and recreational activity for many people and we thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate the uncharted waters of this global pandemic.

If you are traditionally an early season trout angler who puts the boat and gear away after the middle of May, this might be the year to try new fishing activities. Some of our streams and ponds offer excellent brook trout fishing throughout the spring and summer. Give fly fishing a try in some of our larger rivers. Plan on angling for rainbow trout in the extended angling season, a great way to prolong the fishing season and enjoy the Island's beautiful fall colours. Discover the fun of catching mackerel off a wharf or small boat. Check out surf fishing for striped bass, something that is growing in popularity across PEI. It combines fishing and our beautiful beaches – what more can you ask for? Stay tuned for news about a winter fishery for white perch in selected locations. An announcement will be made when more details are available.

Islanders have shown that we can join together to do what is needed to keep our residents safe. I am confident that anglers will follow the recommended guidelines provided by the Chief Public Health Office so that they and others can enjoy a time-honored past time.

On behalf of the Province of PEI, I want to thank the Island's recreational fishing community for their understanding and express my sincere best wishes for a safe and enjoyable season.

Natalie Jameson, *Minister*Environment, Water and Climate Change

Prince Edward

PEI Angling Information

For information about angling in Prince Edward Island, and to purchase an angling licence online, please visit the website:

www.princeedwardisland.ca/angling



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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 Environment, Water and Climate Change 902-368-4683 or go to www.princeedwardisland.ca/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 2020

Proposed New Winter Fishery for White Perch

The Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division is interested in providing an opportunity for anglers to fish for white perch through the ice at specific locations in Prince Edward Island. Anglers are invited to provide feedback on this proposal. Send in your comments to anglingideas@gov.pe.ca or call 902-368-6082. Check local media or our Fish and Wildlife Facebook page (Fish and Wildlife PEI) for notification of any new angling opportunities.



At time of publication, the opening of all recreational fishing in inland and tidal waters has been delayed until May 1. Regulations are subject to review and anglers are advised to follow updates from the Province of PEI.

Seasons, Daily Limits and Size Limits

Brook Trout

Open season April 15th to September 15th with the following exceptions:

- Trout River (Coleman) will be open to angling from May 1-Sep 1. See page 9.
- Souris River has a delayed opening (May 15th) and a conservation closure upstream from the Souris Line Road. See page 11.
- The former Cranes Pond dam site on Morell River has a conservation closure. See page 19.

Daily limit of 8 brook trout only one >40cm (15.8"). The possession limit is the same as the daily limit.

Applies to all waters with the following exceptions:

- Big Pierre Jacques (Glenwood) River and Mill River have a daily limit of 6 brook trout, only one >40 cm (15.8").
- After June 1, the section of the Trout River from the Western Road (Rte 2) to Bannys Hole is catch and release angling only, using single barbless fly (page 14)

 A portion of the West (Bonshaw) River has a catch and release zone (page 15)

Rainbow Trout

Open season April 15th to September 15th with the following exceptions:

- Souris River has a delayed opening (May 15th).
 See Page 11.
- Some rivers have an extended season (Sep 16
 -Nov 30) See pages 16-18. This fishery is free with a valid licence but anglers must register and complete/submit an angling logbook.

Daily limit of 8 rainbow trout (only one >40cm). Limit of 3 rainbow trout during the extended season. 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 All waters June 1 to September 15, inclusive; except for the Morell River and Mill River (Carruthers Brook) which also have an extended season.
- Daily catch and release limit of not more than two (grilse or salmon).

- All salmon must be released immediately with the least possible harm to the fish.
- Angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to an artificial barbless fly as defined in Definitions, page 51. It does not include a fly that has a spinning device or weight that causes the fly to sink; however, a fly so altered can be used to angle for trout.

Extended Season: The following waters are open to salmon fishing, catch and release, using artificial fly -barbless hooks only:

River	Date	Location
Morell River	September 16 to October 31	see pages 19-20 and map on inside back cover
Mill River	September 16 to October 31	From Rte. 2 Highway in Bloomfield upstream ~1.5 km to a tributary entering from the North (page 13)

Angling Licences

Prince Edward Island has <u>one angling licence</u> which entitles the licencee to angle brook trout, brown 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 www.princeedwardisland.ca/angling

Anglers have the option of purchasing their angling licence online. To access this service, please visit the website: www.princeedwardisland.ca/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 1st.

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 - There is an extended angling season **in selected rivers** only September 16 - November 30.

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.princeedwardisland.ca/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 visit the website www.princeedwardisland.ca/angling or call the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division, 902-368-6080.





At time of publication, the opening of all recreational fishing in inland and tidal waters has been delayed until May 1. Regulations are subject to review and anglers are advised to follow updates from the Province of PEI.

Waters with Special Regulations Rivers with special regulations are identified in the map provided on page 30

Big Pierre Jacques River (Glenwood)

The daily limit will be 6 trout, of which not more than one may be longer than 40 cm (15.8").



Photo: Striped Bass, R. Dempsey

Trout River (Coleman)

April 15 to September 15:

- The river downstream (East) from Goff's Bridge (Cascumpec Road - Route 12) will be open to angling.
- Daily limit of 8 trout/day of which not more than one may be longer than 40 cm (15.8")

May 1 to September 1:

- All that section of river upstream (West) from Goffs Bridge (Cascumpec Road Route 12) including the Western Road (Route 2) to Leards Pond and all upstream waters will be open to angling.
- Daily limit of 6 trout of which not more than one may be longer than 35 cm (13.8")
- After June 1, the section of river between the Western Road (Route 2) in Carleton to what is locally known as "Banny's Hole" (see map on page 14) will be a conservation zone with catch and release fishing only, using single barbless fly.
- Anglers fishing within the conservation zone are asked to sign in at the Trout River cabin and report catches upon leaving.

Mill River

 The Mill River will have a reduced daily limit of 6 trout, of which not more than one may be longer than 40 cm (15.8"). The reduced creel limit is in effect for all waters of the Carruthers Brook branch of Mill River upstream from Bloomfield Park (Western Road). There will be an extended angling season for Atlantic salmon on Carruthers Brook from the Rte 2 highway in Bloomfield upstream to a tributary entering from the North (-64.193, 46.744), a distance of approximately 1.5 km. The extended salmon season will run from September 16 to October 31 and will be fly fishing only, with single barbless hooks. Please refer to map on page 13.

Dunk River

The extended angling season for rainbow trout on the Dunk River has been modified to allow angling opportunities in Scales Pond, as well as to protect brook trout and Atlantic salmon spawning in the main river. Refer to map on page 12.

<u>September 16-October 15:</u> Angling will be permitted within Scales Pond and the main river downstream from the Walls Road in South Freetown, including all that section of river downstream from the Steel Bridge on Route 100.

October 16-November 30: Angling will be restricted to Scales Pond and the main river downstream from the Steel Bridge on Route 110.

Souris River

- The angling season on Souris River will open on May 15, with the exception of Harmony Pond which will open on April 15th.
- 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.
- Angling on the Souris River is extended from September 15th to November 30 in all that section of the main river downstream from the Souris River Road (Route 358). Daily limit of three (3) rainbow trout, single barbless fly or barbless lure.

West River - Conservation Zone

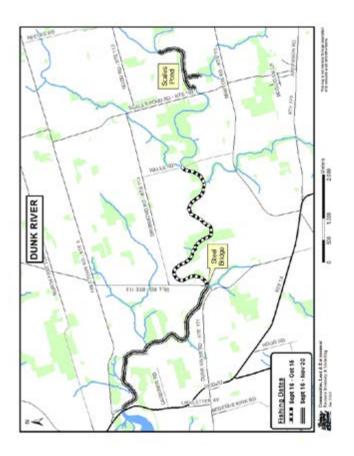
The main branch of the West River between the junction of the Black Brook (tributary crossing the Bolger Park Road) and Crosbys Dam (see map on page 15).

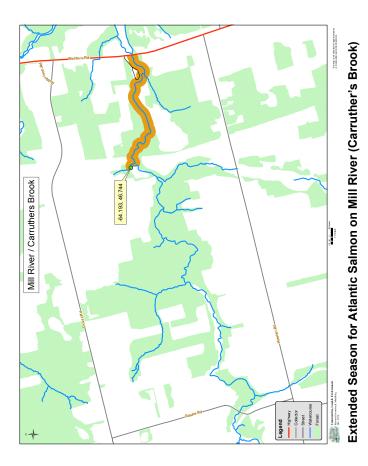
Catch and release angling of brook trout using single barbless fly or lure from June 1 to September 15th. This conservation zone is aimed at improving brook trout populations by protecting fish which are known to hold in this area.

Detailed maps of the rivers with special regulations can be found at www.princeedwardisland.ca/angling

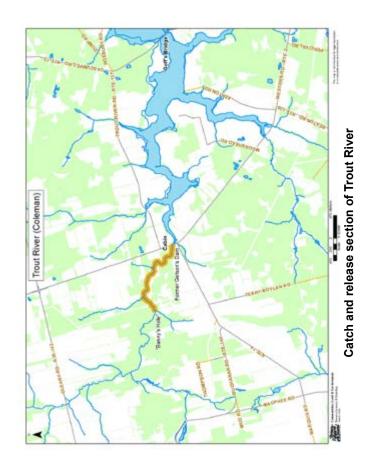
Enter to Win a \$50 Gift Card

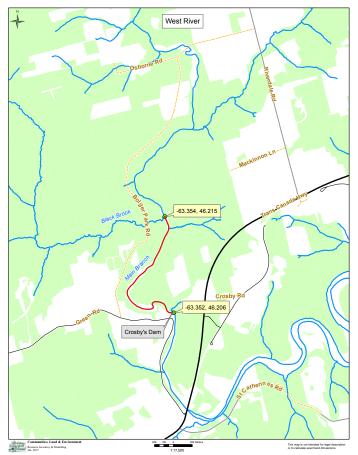
All anglers who return their extended season log books will be entered in a draw to win a \$50 gift card.





- 13 -





Catch and release section of West River

Extended Season for Rainbow Trout - September 16 to November 30

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

Boughton River - Downstream from Ross's Dam in Bridgetown

Bradshaw River - Affleck's Pond

Brudenell River - All waters downstream from

Route 4, locally known as "Bells Hill"

Clyde River - All waters downstream from an identified point approximately 150 metres upstream from the new TCH Bridge

Dunk River - Refer to page 12.

Fortune River - Downstream from Fortune River Road

Hillsborough River - Downstream from the railway bridge in Mount Stewart

Hunter River (New Glasgow - Campbells Pond and all waters downstream from the Campbells Pond Road

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

North River - Downstream from the North Yorke River Road in Milton

Montague River - All waters downstream from the pool below Knox's Pond (Sparrow's Road Bridge - Rte 320)

Orwell River - all waters downstream from the TCH in Orwell

Pisquid River - Downstream from the bridge at Fort Augustus Road (Route21)

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

Valleyfield River - All waters downstream from the Valleyfield Road (Rte 326), locally known as "Sutherland's Hole".

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

West River - all waters downstream from the "Foot Bridge" on the Green Road in Bonshaw

Westmoreland River - all waters of the east branch downstream from Route 13

Wilmot River - Marchbanks Pond and river between McMurdo Road and Rte 2 Bridge (Red Bridge)



- 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 an Wildlife office at 183 Upton Road in Charlottetown or at any Access PEI office. Online registration is available at: www.princeedwardisland. ca/angling. The angling log books are available for downloading.
- · Single barbless artificial 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.princeedwardisland.ca/angling

Glenfinnan and O'Keefe's Lakes

Glenfinnan Lake and O'Keefes Lake are open to angling year round. These lakes are no longer stocked with rainbow trout. Stocking has ceased due to high mercury levels found in rainbow trout and white perch in O'Keefes Lake.

Open year round
 Catch and release only.

Please Note: Fish in O'Keefe's Lake have been found to contain mercury levels 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 national guidelines.

Rivers with Special Regulations Morell River (refer to map on inside back cover)

Atlantic salmon

After June 1, portions of the Morell River are to be angled only by fly fishing, using **single barbless hooks** only.

Anglers must stop fishing after two fish, either salmon or grilse, have been caught and released.

Morell River Location	April 15 – May 31
Leards Pond	Open No gear restrictions
West Branch – Downstream from Leards Pond to the Forks	Open No gear restrictions
East Branch – from the Hazelgreen Road (Rte 329) to Cranes Conservation Zone	Open No gear restrictions
Cranes Conservation Zone (10 m downstream from bridge on Route 355 to 250 m upstream)	Open No gear restrictions
Main Branch - from the Forks to MacKays	Open No gear restrictions
MacKays to the Rte 2 Highway Bridge in Morell	Open No gear restrictions

All Atlantic salmon must be released immediately with the least possible harm to the fish.

The extended season from September 16 to October 31 is for Atlantic salmon angling only, using single barbless fly.

June 1 – September 15	September 16 – October 15	October 16 - 31
Open Fly fishing only Single barbless hooks	Open Fly fishing only Single barbless hooks	Open - Fly fishing only Single barbless hooks
Open Fly fishing only Single barbless hooks	Open Fly fishing only Single barbless hooks	Closed to all angling
Open Fly fishing only Single barbless hooks	Open Fly fishing only Single barbless hooks	Closed to all angling
Closed to all angling July 1 to September 15	Closed to all angling	Closed to all angling
Open Fly fishing only Single barbless hooks	Open Fly fishing only Single barbless hooks	Open - Fly fishing only Single barbless hooks
Open No gear restrictions	Closed to all angling	Closed to all angling

Investigation and Enforcement

Protect your resources by reporting violations. To report a poacher or violations of any environmental Act or Regulations, contact a Conservation Officer at 902-368-4884. The number is monitored 24 hours a day. You can also report violations online at www.princeedwardisland.ca/reportpoaching

To report spills or the deaths of multiple fish/animals, call the Environmental Emergency number at **1-800-565-1633**.

Access PEI Centres (Government hours only)

HOONE County

Charlottetown	. 902-368-5200
Kings County Montague Souris	. 902-838-0600 . 902-687-7000
Prince County Alberton O'Leary Summerside Tignish Wellington	. 902-859-8800 . 902-888-8000 . 902-882-7351



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.

Abegweit Conservation Society	\$20,000	
Central Queens Branch of the Prince Edward Island Wildlife Federation	\$34,005	
Hillsborough River Association	\$16,350	
Morell River Management Cooperative	\$7,528	
Souris and Area Branch of the Prince Edward Island Wildlife Federation	\$27,778	
University of Prince Edward Island	\$5,000	

For more information, including details of these projects, please visit our website:

www.salmonconservation.ca

Watershed Groups on Prince Edward Island

Watershed groups are nonprofit organizations that tirelessly work to



improve fish and wildlife habitat across Prince Edward Island. Currently there are 24 groups across PEI which work with their local communities and stakeholders to improve PEI's environmental health. Examples of projects completed

by these groups include:

- Improving habitat for Brook Trout
- Increasing and enhancing habitat for upland game
- Assessing Atlantic salmon populations by counting redd (spawning nests) sites
- Improving stream water quality
- Removing barriers to fish passage
- Increasing forest cover
- Working with farmers, foresters and fishers on environmental best management practices
- Advocating for the protection and conservation of PEI's natural resources
- Hosting public education and outreach events (e.g., Winter Woodlot Tour, day camps, nature walks, etc.)
- And much more!!!

Volunteers are always needed and greatly appreciated.

If you would like to find out more about individual watershed groups, please check out the Prince Edward Island Watershed Alliance website at: peiwatershedalliance.org or find us on facebook at: facebook.com/PEIWatershedAlliance



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 2019, approximately \$330,500 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 awarded WCF funds in 2019 are listed below. For more information on the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund you can call 902-892-7513, email: www.peiwcf.ca and info@peiwcf.ca

- Abegweit Conservation Society
- Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association
- · Belfast & Area Watershed Group
- · Canadian Rivers Institute
- Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative
- Cascumpec Bay Watershed Association
- · Central Queens Wildlife Federation
- Ducks Unlimited
- · Ellens Creek Watershed Group
- Friends of Covehead and Brackley Bay
- · Harmony & Area Watershed Enhancement Group

- Hillsborough River Association
- · Hunter-Clyde Watershed Group
- · Island Nature Trust
- Kensington North Watersheds Association
- Lot 11 & Area Watershed Management Group
- Marine Animal Response Society
- Morell River Management Cooperative
- · Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Nature PEI
- PEI Invasive Species Council
- · PEI Watershed Alliance Inc.
- Pisquid River Enhancement Project
- Richmond Bay Watershed Association
- Sierra Club Canada Foundation
- Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
- South Shore Watershed Association
- Southeast Environmental Association
- Stratford Area Watershed Improvement Group
- Trout River Environmental Committee
- · Trout Unlimited Prince County Chapter
- · West Point & Area Watersheds
- · Wheatley River Improvement Group
- · Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed Association

A Closer Look at Hooks...

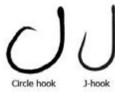
The type of hook used can have a major effect on the survival of fish caught and released. Many anglers are now using barbless hooks, finding it easier to release a fish unharmed on a hook without barbs. One can purchase hooks without barbs, however it is not difficult to transform a "barbed" hook into 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

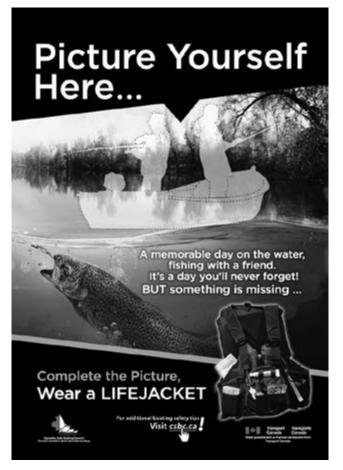
popularity in freshwater. Fishing with a circle hook requires different technique than a 'J' hook. In particular, you do not use a vigorous jerk to set a circle hook. A steady reeling in of the line is all that is required.

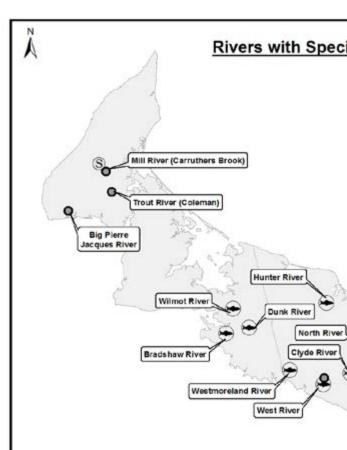
It is important to understand the different types of hooks because certain gear is mandatory for particular fisheries. For example, a barbless non-offset circle hook is required to angle for striped bass. Much of the Morell River is restricted to single barbless fly for parts of the angling season.



Can I use my regular lures in the extended angling season for rainbow trout?

Yes, regular lures with multiple hooks can be used. However, be sure to pinch down the barbs on the hook with a pair of pliers before you head out to the river.



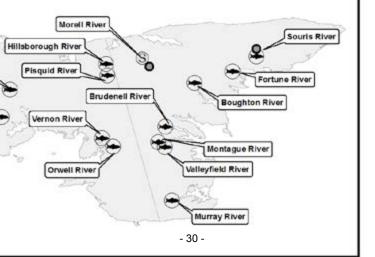


Rivers with special regulations 2020

al Regulations 2020

Legend

- Extended Rainbow Trout Season
- S Extended Atlantic Salmon Season
- Special Regulations



Acoustic Telemetry Research Project

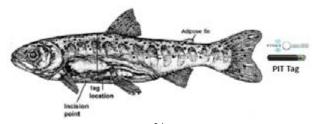
The University of Prince Edward Island would like to notify anglers there is an ongoing Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag research project in Hunter River, Prince Edward Island between 2020 and 2021. We encourage anglers to catch and release the tagged fish as we monitor their movements in Campbell's Pond.

What fish species will be tagged?

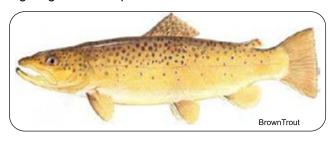
- 1. Brook and rainbow trout will have a clipped adipose fin and a scar beneath the pectoral fin
- 2. Rainbow smelt and gaspereau will be tagged in the same location but not clipped

If you catch a live fish with a clipped adipose fin or find a PIT tag while processing the fish at home, please contact us with the date, time, and location of capture and if possible, record the fork length and/or take a photograph with a reference for size as this information will be an integral part of the study.

For more information or to report a tag, please contact: Hilary Shea, UPEI MSc. Candidate 902-213-0068 or hshea7587@upei.ca

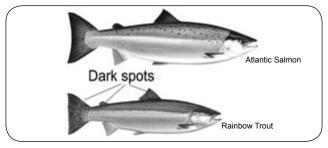


Brown Trout are beginning to show up in some PEI rivers. Like rainbow trout, brown trout are not native to PEI. The brown trout is a native of Europe and western Asia which was introduced into Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in the early 1920s. In freshwater, the brown trout has a brown or tawny colour with a light coloured belly. Large black spots are present on the back, dorsal fin, upper sides and upper head of the fish. Red, orange, or yellow spots with pale borders are on the sides. 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. If you catch a brown trout, we are interested in hearing from you via phone 902-368-6082 or email anglingideas@gov. pe.ca. Many thanks to the anglers who have called in sightings and sent photos of brown trout on PEI.



Anglers can keep brown trout in PEI. There is a limit of 8, one > 40cm (15.8")

A "slink" or "black" Atlantic salmon is an adult that spawned the previous year and is preparing to return to the ocean. 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. A salmon lacks the telltale spots seen on the body of the brook trout (orange and red spots fringed with blue) and white edge on the fins.



Rainbow trout also lack the white edge on the fins and unlike brook trout, have a lot of dark spots on the dorsal and tail fin. Rainbow trout that spend time in salt water are known as "Steel head". These fish are prized by anglers for their strength and fighting ability. Rainbow trout are a West Coast species which was introduced to PEI in the early 1900s. There are now self sustaining runs of rainbow trout in approximately two dozen rivers, primarily on the south side of the island. For a map of rivers containing rainbow trout, go to www.princeedwardisland.ca/angling

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 (suvenile 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 visable.



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edge of eye or slightly beyond.

Adipose fin

Juvenile Salmon

Maxillary maches middle of the eye, Tail fin tips are pointed and the adipose fin is clear.

Brown Trout





Masillary usually extends well past rear edge of eye.

Juvenile Brown Trout

Maxillary reaches rear edge eye. Tall fin tips are rounded. Adipose fin is orange or yellow.



Set Young Salmon and Trout Free

Note the differences in these fish:

Salmon Parr

- · Black spots on back and sides, and a forked tail
- · No markings on fire or tall
- · Large eye

Salmon Smolt

- · Silvery with black spots on upper sides and cheeks and a forked tail
- · Large eye



Brook (Speckled Trout)

- · Tail is nearly square.
- · Large fin on back (dorsal) has irregular markings
- · There are no black spots, and the eye is smaller
- · Lower fins have a white leading edge

Practice Catch and Release

Each year, provincial Conservation Officers catch a number of people keeping too many large brook trout. Each angler is allowed only one fish greater than 40 cm (15.8") each day, with the exception of Trout River (Coleman) where the length limit is 35 cm (13.8"). The size limit is in place to ensure that the larger trout are available for spawning each fall. Bigger trout have larger, more robust eggs and are the fish which have proven survival skills. These are the fish which keep the rivers stocked with trout for future years. Large trout make up a very small part of the trout population in any river.

Smaller, pan-sized fish are excellent for the table. If it is a trophy you are after, one is more than enough. If everyone keeps one large fish each day, the trout population will suffer. Carry a camera with you and take home a trophy photograph to impress friends and family.



At time of publication, the opening of all recreational fishing in inland and tidal waters has been delayed until May 1. Regulations are subject to review and anglers are advised to follow updates from the Province of PEI.

Information on Salt Water and Coastal Recreational Fishes

Angling for marine species and recreational harvesting of shellfish are regulated by the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. For information on seasons, zones, bag limits, closures and other regulations, contact the Department of Fisheries and Oceans at:

Souris 902-687-1485 / Charlottetown 902-566-7831 Summerside 902-888-4001 / Alberton 902-853-2297

www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/FAM/Recreational-Fisheries No licence is required to angle in tidal waters, but seasons and bag limits are still in effect. The inland water boundaries are defined by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans under Schedule II of the Maritime Provinces Fishery Regulations. Six rivers in PEI have their boundaries defined:

- Marie River The CN Railway Bridge
- Midgell River The Highway 2 Bridge
- Morell River The Highway 2 Bridge
- Brae River The Highway 138 Bridge
- Wilmot River The Highway 1A Bridge
- West River St. Catherines Bridge on Highway 9

For other rivers, the following definition of "tidal waters" will apply: "all waters that are downstream of the lowwater mark at the time of low water as set out in the Canadian Tide and Current Tables published by the Department; (eaux intérieures)"

Striped Bass

Striped bass are native to estuaries and coastal areas in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, including Prince Edward Island. In the early 1990s, the population of striped bass had dropped to such an extent that within ten years, both the commercial and recreational fisheries, as well as the Aboriginal fishery, were closed. Populations have rebounded and fisheries have reopened. Anglers across PEI are excited about catching striped bass because it offers a different type of angling experience during what can be a slow time of the year when our ponds and rivers are getting warm. Although some striped bass are present early in the angling season, things really pick up in midsummer.

Anglers have traditionally fished for bass in the lower part of certain rivers, like the Hillsborough and Midgell. However, in recent years anglers have been catching striped bass from shore, on both the North and South sides of PEI. Surf fishing for striped bass, using heavy rods and gear, is becoming a popular activity for many Islanders. When properly prepared, striped bass fillets are a delicious treat.

The 2020 regulations for striped bass were not available at time of publication. For more information about the striped bass fishery, please refer to the DFO Gulf Region's Recreational Fisheries web page www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/FAM/Recreational -Fisheries or search keywords "DFO Gulf Region Recreational Fisheries.

Ice Safety

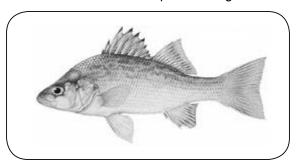
Traditionally, some ponds and rivers are iced over on opening day of the angling season, while the winter trout fishery is dependent on ice. To avoid a potentially life threatening situation, practise caution when fishing on ice.

- 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.

White Perch

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

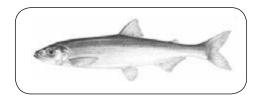


This fish is a close relative of striped bass and can reach sizes of 19 inches (48cm) and 4½ lb (2 kg).

While Perch is not overly popular on PEI, it is considered an important sport fish in many parts of its range. White Perch can be angled on PEI during the regular angling season (April 15-September 15).

White perch to be retained must be between 10-45 cm (3.9-17.7"). The daily limit is 100 perch per person.

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).

Take Only What You Need

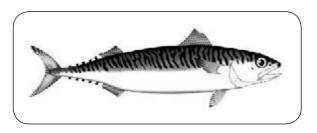
Smelts come into small streams to lay their eggs in April through June. They are easily seen in shallow water and can sometimes be caught by hand. It may seem like there is an endless supply of these fish, but this is not the case. The concentration of smelts is greatest where they are prevented from moving upstream past a blockage like a dam or culvert.

During the dip net fishery, many people like to take smelts home to eat. There is a limit of 60 smelts per person/day. Please be sure to count the smelts you are taking, as there can be more smelts in the bucket than you may realize. Avoid walking in the stream where smelts are spawning, as many people walking over spawning beds can destroy eggs. Remember that this is a fishery for personal use. Sale of smelts is strictly prohibited.



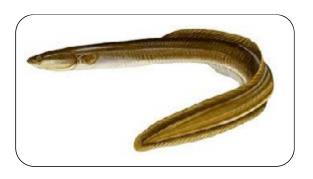
Mackerel

One can catch mackerel in estuaries, bays and offshore areas of Prince Edward Island from mid-May to fall. A popular summer activity for many Islanders and tourists is 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 currently 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 benfits 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. Minimun size is 26.3 cm (10.4").



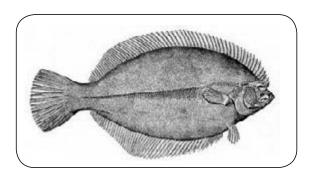
American Eel

American eels can be found in freshwater and saltwater across Prince Edward Island. Some anglers are unaware that they are allowed to keep eels during the angling season. In winter, many people enjoy spearing eels through the ice in estuaries. The winter eel spearing season runs from December 20th to January 29th. The daily limit for eels caught in the recreational fishery, either by angling or spearing, is six (6) eels per day, with a minimum length of 25 cm.



Winter Flounder

There has been a recent change in regulations that permits the retention of winter flounder in the early part of the angling season. Beginning on April 15, anglers are allowed to keep up to 5 flounder per day caught within 50 metres from shore. Once the recreational groundfish season opens in late summer, the limit becomes fifteen. The exact dates of the groundfish season change from year to year and are posted in local newspapers and online. During that season, one can catch a total of 15 ground fish, of which no more than 5 can be cod or white hake. No skate, halibut or Northern 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.



Fish Stock Enhancement on P.E.I.

The Abegweit Conservation Society is contracted by the Province to grow fish for stocking into rivers and ponds. Each fall, Fish and Wildlife Staff, assisted by Abeqweit and various watershed groups, collect broodstock from four regions across PEI. These large fish are spawned at the Abeqweit Biodiversity Enhancement Hatchery in Scotchfort. Some of the brook trout offspring are released in autumn as "fall fingerling" into rivers affected by fish kills or areas which experience heavy angling pressure. In 2019, over 45,000 trout fingerlings were stocked into the following rivers: Hyde Creek, Clyde River, Dunk River, Bradshaw River, Mill River, Trout River, Brudenell River, Vallevfield River, Montague River, and Morell River. A number of brook trout are held at the hatchery for an additional year and stocked as larger fish into ponds. In 2019, 4,300 "derby" fish were stocked into Andrews Pond (East Royalty), Summerside Ice Pond, Kensington Rink Pond, Hyde Pond in Cornwall, Hermitage Creek Pond in Charlottetown, MacKinnons Pond in Bristol and Roseberry Pond in Pinette. In addition, approximately 50,000 Atlantic salmon fry were stocked into the Morell River and another 30,000 into the West River

The Abegweit Conservation Society also delivers a "Fish Friends" Program to elementary schools across PEI. Currently, there are 21 schools which have an aquarium supplied with "eyed" salmon eggs from the hatchery. Teachers have access to teaching materials and Abegweit Conservation Society staff visit each school to deliver a presentation about Atlantic salmon, their life cycle, their challenges, and their importance to the Mi'kmaq people. The children participate in releasing the salmon into PEI rivers in June. For more information about the hatchery or the Fish Friends Program, please call 902-676-2353 or check out abegweithatchery.ca



Atlantic Salmon Smolts and Kelts - Handle with Care

Unlike Pacific salmon, our Atlantic salmon do not die after they spawn in autumn. The salmon remain in freshwater until spring, when they leave our rivers and return to salt water. Some anglers may hook one of these Atlantic salmon kelts (also called "black salmon") in estuaries in April or May. Smolts leaving the river at this time are also very sensitive. If you hook a salmon kelt or smolt, handle the fish very carefully. Bring the fish to shore as guickly as possible, remove the hook and gently release the salmon. If the hook cannot easily be removed, cut the line close to the hook before releasing the fish. If a lot of kelts are being hooked, consider fishing in another location until the kelts have left the river. Fishing with fly or lure reduces the likelihood of injury. An Atlantic salmon kelt that is handled with care can return to the river and spawn another time.

Angler Log Books

A reminder to anglers fishing the extended angling season for rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon that they must register for the extended season and complete/ submit a log book of their angling activities. The Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division appreciates the effort shown by anglers in keeping these daily logs.

Return your log book to be entered in a draw for a \$50 gift card.

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



Getting the Lead Out

A lead sinker may seem small and insignificant when lost in a river or lake. However, the amount of toxic lead in a single lead sinker is enough to kill a bird. An estimated 460 tonnes of lead sinkers and jigs are lost in the environment in Canada each year. The impacts on wildlife can be profound, with loons, swans, and waterfowl being most impacted. Affected birds become weakened and unable to fly and suffer from leg paralysis, blindness, seizures and death.

Lead sinkers are banned in some states, such as Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. In Canada, there are only restrictions on the use of lead within National Parks. We are encouraging all anglers to consider using sinkers with alternative products such as steel, tin or tungsten. The cost of the alternatives may be slightly higher than lead, but you can feel assured that your lost fishing gear is not going to cause long lasting, harmful effects on other wildlife.

Fish Parasites

Black Spot

Have you ever caught a trout that is covered in small, black "pepper-like" dots? These spots are the developing stage of a freshwater parasite called Apophallus that belongs to the flatworm group Platyhelminthes. The parasite has a complex life cycle involving snails, trout and fish-eating birds. Black spot does not affect the overall health of the fish and is not harmful to humans if consumed. A different species of parasite, Cryptocotyle, is responsible for black spot disease in sea-run brook trout.

Gill Maggot

Some brook trout in PEI streams are infected with the common copepod ectoparasite Salmincola edwardsii. This parasite can be seen attached to the gills, opercular region, or base of the fins. Brook trout is the only host of this parasite and it is the female copepods that are visible on the fish. The male copepods are smaller and short-lived. These parasites can cause significant tissue damage to the trout which can lead to a secondary bacterial or fungal infection. A salmincola infection is particularly stressful for young-of-the-year brook trout and can affect survival. These parasites do not affect humans and affected trout are safe to eat.

Gill maggot in brook trout should not be confused with sea lice (Lepeophtheirus) which can be seen on salmon returning to fresh water from the ocean. Sea lice fall off an Atlantic salmon when it enters freshwater to spawn.

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

"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 or Fork 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:

- use a gill-net or trap-net for fishing in non-tidal or inland waters, unless authorized by the Maritime Provinces Fisheries Regulations;
- use an artificial light or flame of any kind for fishing in non-tidal or inland waters;
- jig, snare or spear fish of any kind in non-tidal or inland waters;
- fish with an artificial fly that has more than two hooks:

- 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;
- 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 or attempt to catch fish in any manner in a fishway. As well, no person shall fish in any manner within 23 metres downstream from the lower entrance of a fishway, obstruction or leap;
- angle in non-tidal or inland waters that are frequented by any sport fish during the closed time for that sport fish;
- angle during the time period extending from two hours after sunset to two hours before sunrise;
- export any trout from the province without a valid angling license and then only in accordance with the possession limit of 8 trout;
- 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.
- 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

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

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

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

facebook.com/MCPEICommunicationsUpdater

Twitter @mikmaqPEI https://twitter.com/mikmaqpei

Tick Talk



Many types of ticks are found in PEI and while the majority of them are harmless, some carry bacteria that cause disease. Take precautions when out fishing to prevent getting bitten by a tick. Use bug spray containing DEET, wear long pants and sleeves, and check your skin (and

your pets) when you go inside. If you do find a tick, carefully remove it and place it in a container. Wash and disinfect the affected area and visit your doctor.





Photo by: A. MacKay

Photo by: G.Gregory

Fishway Facts

It is unlawful to angle or attempt to catch fish within a fishway (also known as a fish ladder), or to fish within 23 metres downstream from the lower entrance of a fishway. (75")



Notes

Beat the heat!

While people may like swimming in warm water, our trout and salmon do not. Brook trout, rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon are cold water fish who prefer water temperatures between 13-18°C. When temperatures exceed 20°C, they seek out springs or deep pools with groundwater seepage. It is not unusual to see hundreds of trout holding in these refuge areas. As water temperature increases, the oxygen level decreases.

If trout are caught under these conditions, they can quickly become exhausted and die. Even fish that swim away after being released can later die.

Most PEI rivers never get warm in summer. However others, like the Morell River, regularly experience high water temperatures in July and August. During hot weather, please avoid the warmest streams and seek out our many colder rivers. However, if you are fishing in warm streams, you can reduce



harm by fishing in early morning when temperatures are cooler, minimizing handling of fish, and using single point, single hook lures or flies. Better yet, take this opportunity to try fishing for salt water fish such as mackerel and striped bass.



Photo by: R. MacFarlane

Photo by: S. Hill







Photo by: M. Finch

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.

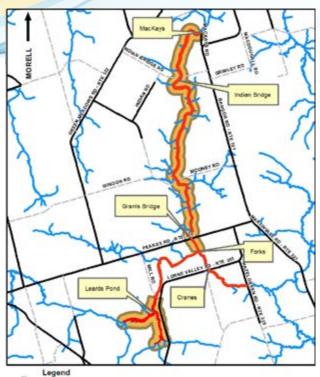
The signs listed below identify public lands which are open to the public for uses such as hunting, fishing, hiking, bicycling, bird watching, tours and outdoor education. However, some uses such as off road vehicle (ATVs, snowmobiles, etc.) are only permitted on certain properties and open fires are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

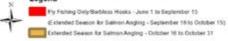
Many of these properties are working forests, so as conditions dictate, forest harvest and management operations may occur. In all cases, harvest sites on public land are quickly renewed to forest cover.

You can access more information on the location of public lands on-line at www.gov.pe.ca/gis.



Morell River





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

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.

Enter our photo contest!

Submit a photo of a new angler trying out fishing for the first time or a picture of what fishing means to you. You will be entered into a draw to win some new fishing gear.

We will post submitted photos on our Fish and Wildlife Facebook page (Fish and Wildlife PEI) and may use selected photos in future angling summaries.



Photo: J. Affleck