



# Fishing Regulations

Jasper National Park



Également offert en français

## Mountain National Parks in Alberta and British Columbia

April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025



# A national park fishing permit is required when angling in national parks in Canada. Provincial fishing licenses are not valid.

## Jasper National Park (JNP)

### SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

- Ban on felt-soled wading boots.

### OPEN SEASONS - Rivers and Streams

Year round Sunwapta River.

### March 30 to September 2 and November 1 to March 31

Fiddle River, Maligne River (below Maligne Canyon), Miette River, Rocky River, Snake Indian River, Snaring River.

### August 1 to October 1

**Fly fishing only:** Maligne River from a point 420 m downstream from the Maligne Lake Outlet bridge to Medicine Lake including that part of Medicine Lake within a 180 m radius of a point in the middle of the Maligne River where it enters Medicine Lake. **Use artificial flies only.**

### June 29 to September 2

All other rivers and streams except closed waters.

### OPEN SEASONS - Lakes

#### May 18 to September 2

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

#### May 18 to September 30

Maligne Lake, Talbot Lake, Edna Lake.

#### June 29 to October 31

**Fly fishing only:** Medicine Lake. **Use artificial flies only.**

#### June 29 to October 31

All other lakes except closed waters or as specified in Schedule IV.

### OPEN SEASONS - Athabasca River

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

**Zone 1:** From Athabasca Falls upstream

#### Year round

**Zone 2:** From 12 Mile Bridge (km 22, Hwy 16 East) upstream to Athabasca Falls

#### March 30 to September 2 and November 1 to March 31

**Zone 3:** From 12 Mile Bridge (km 22, Hwy 16 East) downstream to east park boundary, including all side channels, Pochontas Ponds and other connected wetlands

#### June 1 to September 2 and November 1 to March 31

#### June 29 to September 2

All other rivers and streams except as specified in Schedule IV

### CLOSED WATERS

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

- That part of the Astoria River situated between Amethyst Lake and a point 400 m downstream from Amethyst Lake;
- Osprey Lake;
- The outlet stream from Moab Lake to its junction with the Whirlpool River, including that part of Moab Lake situated within a 180 m radius of a point in the middle of the outlet stream where it leaves Moab Lake;
- The outlet stream from Beaver Lake to its junction with Maligne Lake Road



**FOR CURRENT INFORMATION**  
[parks.canada.ca/jasperfishing](https://parks.canada.ca/jasperfishing)

## Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks (MRGNP)

### SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

- Ban on felt-soled wading boots.

### OPEN SEASONS July 1 to October 31 All lakes.

### CLOSED WATERS All rivers and streams.



**FOR CURRENT INFORMATION**  
[parks.canada.ca/revelstoke-fishing](https://parks.canada.ca/revelstoke-fishing)  
[parks.canada.ca/glacier-fishing](https://parks.canada.ca/glacier-fishing)

## Yoho National Park (YNP)

## Kootenay National Park (KNP)



**CLOSED WATERS ALERT:** Fishing and watercraft use are prohibited in Yoho and Kootenay national parks.

To prevent the spread of whirling disease, all waterbodies in Kootenay and Yoho national parks are closed to watercraft and angling for the 2024 season. This is necessary to protect vulnerable fish populations from aquatic invasive species.

This closure is in response to a confirmed detection of whirling disease in Yoho National Park in October 2023. This temporary measure will help reduce the spread of whirling disease and allow Parks Canada staff to study the threat further.

### FOR CURRENT INFORMATION



[parks.canada.gc.ca/kootenay-fishing](https://parks.canada.gc.ca/kootenay-fishing)  
[parks.canada.gc.ca/yoho-fishing](https://parks.canada.gc.ca/yoho-fishing)

**Protecting national parks is a collective responsibility.** Each visitor has an important role to play. Parks Canada relies on the support of all visitors to respect closures to ensure the well-being of aquatic ecosystems.



**Violators of the closures can face fines of up to \$25,000 under the Canada National Parks Act.**

## Banff National Park (BNP)

### SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

- Ban on felt-soled wading boots.
- Reduced possession limits. See reverse.
- See additional boating restrictions below.

### OPEN SEASONS

#### Year round

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

#### May 18 to September 2

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

#### June 29 to September 1

All tributaries of the Bow River, except the Cascade River.

#### June 29 to October 31

Cascade River and tributaries above Lake Minnewanka reservoir (excluding closed waters).

#### July 1 to August 15

Owen Creek.

#### June 29 to October 31

All other waters except closed waters.

### CLOSED WATERS

The following waterbodies are closed to water activities including fishing. Bow River from Bow Lake outlet to Hector Lake inlet; Babel Creek; Johnson Lake reservoir, adjacent wetland and outflow creek to confluence with Cascade River; Helen Creek; Little Herbert Lake; Hidden Lake, Margaret Lake, Mystic Lake and outlet downstream to confluence with 40-mile Creek; Outlet Creek; Sawback Lake; Sawback Creek; Rainbow Lake; Elk Lake; Cuthead Creek; Spray River above Spray Lakes reservoir; Castleguard River - the upper portion of the river located in the Zone 1 - Special Preservation Area; Cave and Basin marsh system; Fish Lakes - the two Fish Lakes nearest campsite Mo 18; Lake Agnes; Luellen Lake - outflow stream from fisheries' boundary markers, downstream to the confluence of the outflow stream and Johnston Creek; Marvel Lake and outlet downstream to confluence with Bryant Creek; all tributaries and associated lakes in the Clearwater and Siffleur river systems, excluding Isabella Lake.



**FOR CURRENT INFORMATION**  
[parks.canada.ca/banff-fishing](https://parks.canada.ca/banff-fishing)



### Boating Restrictions for Banff National Park

- An AIS Prevention Self-certification Permit is required for all non-motorized watercraft and water-related gear (e.g., canoes, kayaks, stand up paddle boards, fishing gear).
- All motorized watercraft must undergo a Parks Canada inspection prior to launching in Lake Minnewanka reservoir. Motor boats (gas or electric) are allowed on Lake Minnewanka reservoir only.

## Waterton Lakes National Park (WLNP)



**Whirling disease is present in the Belly River in Waterton Lakes National Park.**

### SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

- Ban on felt-soled wading boots.
- Use barbless hooks only.

### OPEN SEASONS

**NEW: Angling permitted in lakes only, as listed below.**

#### May 18 - Sept 2

Akamina Lake, Cameron Lake, Crandell Lake, Waterton Lakes (Upper and Middle).

#### July 1 - October 31

All other waters except closed waters.

### CLOSED WATERS

**NEW: All flowing waters (streams/rivers) are closed to angling.** This includes Maskinonge Lake and Inlet, Waterton River and Dardanelles (between Lower and Middle Waterton Lakes).



**FOR CURRENT INFORMATION**  
[parks.canada.ca/waterton-fishing](https://parks.canada.ca/waterton-fishing)



### Boating Restrictions

**New measures are in effect to protect park and downstream waters from aquatic invasives (mussels, whirling disease etc.).**

- NEW: Non-motorized watercraft arriving from outside the park are prohibited from launching.** Rentals available in park.
- Mandatory 90-day quarantine for all motorized and trailer-launched watercraft.
- Self-certification required for all fishing equipment, diving gear and flotation devices.



# PROTECT PARK WATERS

**Preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species is a Parks Canada priority. Once they arrive, species removal is next to impossible.**

**Aquatic invasive species (AIS)** threaten pristine freshwater ecosystems, harm fish populations, damage infrastructure and reduce aquatic recreational opportunities. Stop the spread of AIS. Clean, drain, dry your watercraft and water-related gear.

## BEFORE AND AFTER ENTERING A WATER BODY:

**Check the regulations:**



### CLEAN

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



### DRAIN

Drain water from watercrafts, trailers, and gear. Invert or tilt items. Open all compartments. Pull drain plugs.



### DRY

Dry items completely before entering any river, pond, lake or stream.

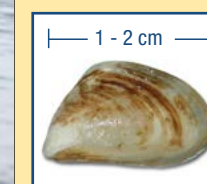


### CERTIFY

Most mountain national parks require a watercraft or angling gear AIS Prevention permit. Visit a Parks Canada inspection station where available for a free inspection.



## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



Quagga Mussels

### Invasive Mussels

Quagga and Zebra mussels are small, fan-shaped, and range from dark brown to white in colour. Just a few mussels can produce millions of eggs. They are very efficient at filtering nutrients from the water, leaving no food for native species. Dense colonies of mussels can clog water pipes and make the shoreline unusable because of their sharp shells and odour.



Whirling Disease

### Whirling Disease

Whirling disease is caused by a parasite that causes skeletal deformities of an infected fish's body or head, usually in young fish, and the tail may appear dark or black. The disease can be spread to other waterbodies through spores in mud. This disease is not harmful to humans or other mammals but can have significant effects on some fish populations.



### REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

For Parks Canada sites email [ReportAIS-SignalerEAE@pc.gc.ca](mailto:ReportAIS-SignalerEAE@pc.gc.ca). Call 1-855-336-2628 (BOAT) in Alberta and 1-888-933-3722 in British Columbia.

Photo: Quagga Mussel - BC Ministry of Environment, Illustration: Trout - S. Gagnac

## National Parks of Canada Fishing Regulations

### IT IS UNLAWFUL TO:

- Fish without a valid national park fishing permit in your immediate possession.
- Fish with or possess within 100 metres of park waters the following:
  - natural bait and chemical attractants;
  - any lead tackle (sinkers, jigs, lures and flies) under 50 grams;
  - lures with more than 2 gang hooks;
  - a line capable of catching more than one fish at one time;
  - live or dead fish or any parts thereof for use as bait.
- Fish by any method other than angling.
- Fish with more than one line at a time.
- Fish with a line having more than one artificial fly.
- Fish closed waters.
- Leave a fishing line unattended.
- Fish from 2 hours after sunset to one hour before sunrise.
- Sell, trade or barter any fish caught.
- Place or transfer any fish or fish eggs between any park waters.
- Place any food for fish in park waters.
- Harass fish by throwing objects or impeding their movements

### When fishing in park waters that allow possession (see Catch and Possession Limits), it is unlawful to:

- possess more than 2 game fish at one time;
- continue fishing on any day after having caught and retained the maximum daily catch and possession limit;
- allow your catch to spoil or to be wasted.

### Report suspicious activities.

**Banff, Yoho, Kootenay, Waterton Lakes:**

1-888-927-3367

**Jasper, Mount Revelstoke, Glacier:**

1-877-852-3100

### Check Your Tackle Box

Some fishing tackle and baits are not allowed near or within 100 metres of national park waters. (Refer to the *National Parks of Canada Fishing Regulations* section in this brochure.)

### Fishing Permits

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

### Definitions

**Angling:** Fishing with a hook and line held in the hand or with a hook, line and rod held in the hand. It does not mean fishing with a set line.

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

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

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

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

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

**Banff National Park:** 403-762-1550

email: banffinfo@pc.gc.ca

**Yoho, Kootenay National Parks:** 250-343-6108

email: llyk.aquatics@pc.gc.ca

**Jasper National Park:** 780-852-6176

email: jasperinfo@pc.gc.ca

**Waterton Lakes National Park:** 403-859-2224

email: waterton.info@pc.gc.ca

**Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks:**

250-837-7500

email: mrg.information@pc.gc.ca

### Catch and Possession Limits

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

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

SPECIES	LIMIT
Lake trout from Lake Minnewanka reservoir	2
All other species, including bull trout: BNP, YNP, WLNP	0
Arctic grayling, rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, lake trout, northern pike, mountain whitefish, lake whitefish: JNP, MRGNP, WLNP	2
Lake and mountain whitefish from Lac Beauvert, JNP	0
Cutthroat trout: JNP, *WLNP - Akamina Lake, Bertha Lake, Cameron Lake, Alderson Lake, Carthew Lakes, Crypt Lake, Lineham Lakes, Lone Lake, Twin Lakes	2
*WLNP - All other waters	0
All species not mentioned above	0
<b>Maximum daily catch and possession limit</b>	<b>2</b>

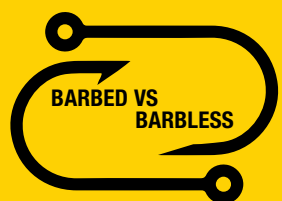
(If a fish has been filleted, two fillets will be considered one fish.)

## 3 TIPS

### Help Released Fish Survive

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

- Use a single hook to release fish more easily.** The use of barbless hooks is recommended to make release easier. You can make your hook barbless by flattening the barb with needle nosed pliers.
- Minimize the time 'spent' when handling a fish.** A fish handled too long may not survive even if released. When handling and releasing, ensure to keep the fish in the water.
- When releasing the fish, hold it in the water, gently moving it back and forth.** This moves water past the gills and will help revive it. For flowing waters, face the fish upstream. When the fish begins to struggle, let it go.



**Barbless hooks are safer for fish.** Hooks with barbs do more flesh damage than barbless hooks upon both entry and exit.

### Cold Water Safety



#### PLAN AHEAD

Check the status of the park you want to visit and find out what restrictions and guidelines are in place.

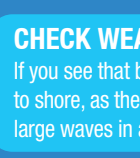
#### ALWAYS WEAR A PFD OR LIFEJACKET

It is a federal law that every watercraft must have a lifejacket or personal flotation devices (PFD) for every person on board.



#### KNOW THE WATER

Mountain lakes are cold and hypothermia (low body core temperature) is a concern if your boat capsizes. Paddle close to shore and wear a life jacket.



#### CHECK WEATHER CONDITIONS

If you see that bad weather is coming in, paddle closer to shore, as the wind can change rapidly and create large waves in a matter of minutes.

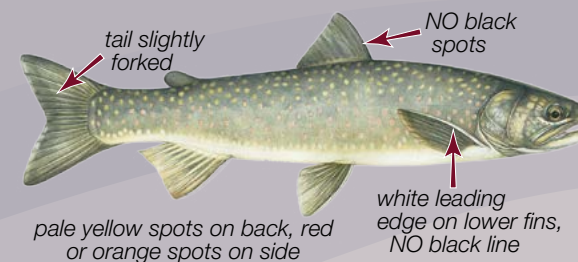
Photo: Parks Canada / Alexandria Thurn



### Species at risk

#### Bull Trout

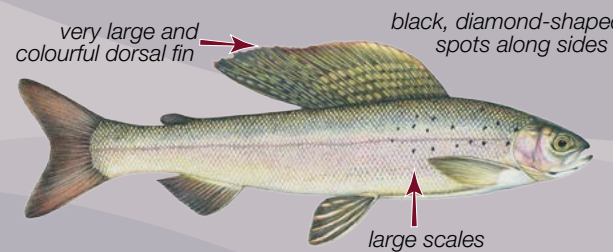
Bull Trout are a threatened species due to small population and concerns of viability. **They have a zero possession limit across the province – IF YOU CATCH THIS FISH YOU MUST RELEASE IT.**



Bull trout are slim fish with a large head. Their back is olive-green to grey while their sides are silvery and marked with pale yellow to red spots. There are no spots on the dorsal fin.

#### Arctic Grayling

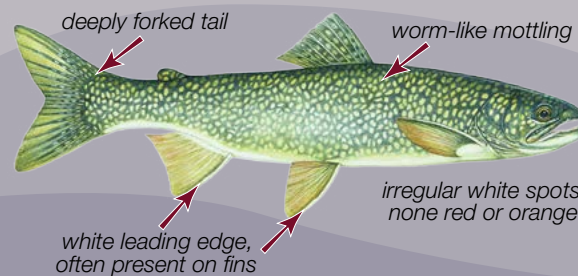
Arctic Grayling are a species at risk due to overharvest and passage barriers.



Arctic grayling can be identified by their colourful and very large dorsal fin and by their large scales with brown spots on the body behind the head.

#### Lake Trout

Lake Trout are a sensitive species due to being limited to a few lakes.



Lake Trout are a grey fish with irregular white spots and a forked caudal fin.

## How to Identify Your Catch

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

### Black spots, light background

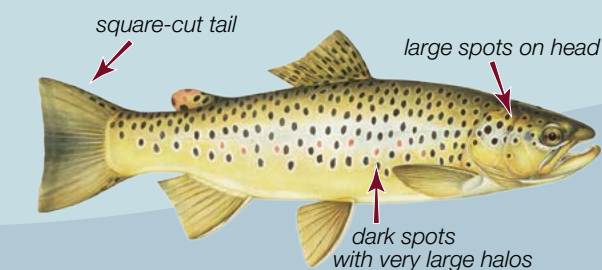
#### Cutthroat Trout

Westslope Cutthroat trout are a species at risk in YNP, KNP and BNP.

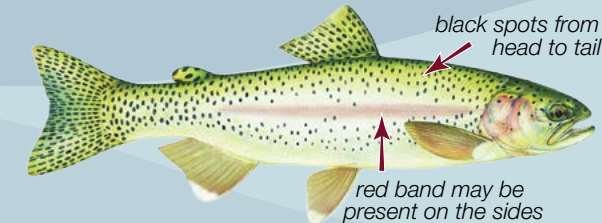


Note: red band may be present. Use red slash for proper identification.

#### Brown Trout



#### Rainbow Trout



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

### No black spots on body

#### Kokanee Salmon



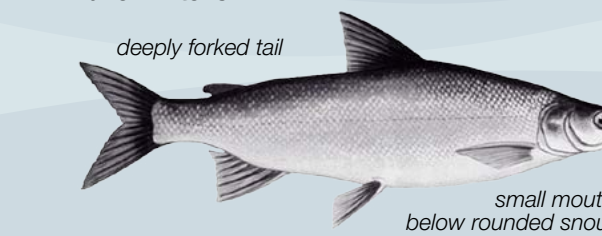
Females and males: red bodies during fall spawn, with green or black heads. Silvery bodies for remainder of the year.

### Other

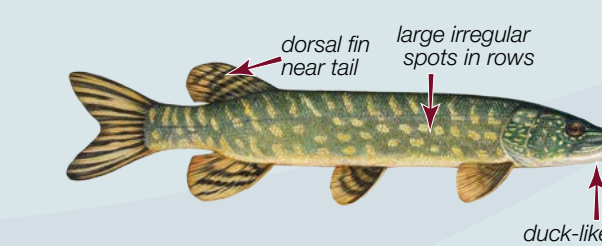
#### Mountain Whitefish



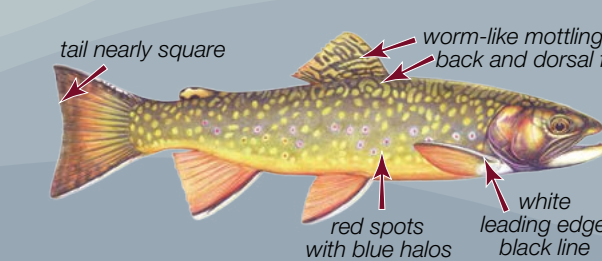
#### Lake Whitefish



#### Northern Pike



#### Brook Trout



**NOTE:** This brochure is NOT a complete listing of National Parks Fishing Regulations and has no legal status. For a complete listing go to:



[laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,\\_c.\\_1120/index.html](https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1120/index.html)