



NOVA SCOTIA

# ANGLER'S HANDBOOK

and 2005 Summary of Regulations

**INSIDE:**

**Fishing Tips**  
you can use

**Regulations  
Changes**  
that affect  
your fishing

**Bag Limits**  
and conservation

**The Work  
of the Inland**  
fisheries division



# Table of Contents

Minister's Letter	2
Special Management Areas	4
Licences	6
Fees	6
Licence Stubs	7
Boating Safety	8
Recreational Fishing Area 1	10
Recreational Fishing Area 2	16
Recreational Fishing Area 3	20
Recreational Fishing Area 4	26
Recreational Fishing Area 5	36
Recreational Fishing Area 6	42
Inland Fisheries Hatchery Stocking Programs	46
Inland Fisheries Division Activities	48
Bag Limits	50
Size Limits	51
Other Angling Seasons	51
General Regulations	52
Tagged Fish	55
Definitions	56
Handy Knots	58
Fishes of Nova Scotia Identification Chart	60

## New for 2005

Please review each Recreational Fishing Area for a complete description of the following changes or additions for the 2005 season.

1. Several new **Special Management Areas** have been proposed including the Musquodoboit River, River Phillip, the Aspy River and the Tangier Grand Wilderness Area. Please contact our department for further information (see page 4).
2. A **Sportfish Habitat Fund** has been created to support the conservation and enhancement of fish habitat and to improve public access to the sportfish resource. For more information (see page 7).
3. The number of speckled trout permitted over 25.4 cm (10 in) in the **Cape Breton Highlands Special Management Area** has been increased. Now two (2) out of the ten (10) trout bag limit may be over this length.
4. An additional closure to angling will be enforced during the winter angling season on the Bras D'Or lakes on the waters upstream from MacKenzie Brook bridge (crooked bridge) near South Side Basin of River Denys.
5. The boundaries associated with the delayed seasons on **Country Harbour River, Guysborough River (Milford Haven) and Salmon River, Guysborough County** have been changed.
6. Gear restrictions have been implemented on waters of the **Petite Riviere, Lunenburg County** to provide additional protection to endangered Atlantic whitefish.

## Minister's Message



The 2005 *Angler's Handbook and Summary of Regulations* includes information on angling regulations, licence fees and sportfishing seasons. We continue to work closely with anglers and volunteer sportfishing organizations, through the Recreational Fisheries Advisory Councils and Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee to develop angling in Nova Scotia.

Special Management Areas and regulations are implemented to ensure conservation and whenever possible increase sportfishing opportunities. I encourage all anglers to become familiar with the regulations for the areas you intend to fish.

This year my Department is very pleased to introduce a new Sportfish Habitat Fund. Through a \$5.00 habitat fee on

fishing licences, Nova Scotia anglers will share in the restoration and protection of fish habitat and help to sustain a healthy sportfishery. Community volunteers contribute a great deal to our recreational fisheries and this fund will provide them with resources to continue their excellent work. The primary goal of the fund will be to support the conservation and enhancement of fish habitat and to improve public access to the sportfish resource.

I invite all Nova Scotians to participate in the annual Sportfishing Weekend being held June 4 and 5, 2005. During this weekend, residents may fish without a general licence which is normally required for trout, smallmouth bass and other species. It is a great opportunity to get the whole family involved and to introduce new anglers to sportfishing. Bag limits and all other regulations still apply.

Sportfishing is a popular recreational activity that contributes significantly to Nova Scotia's economy. We are fortunate to live in a province with a wide variety of angling opportunities and few things in life offer the peace, tranquillity and relaxed pace of sportfishing.

It is my hope that everyone has a safe and successful fishing season.

Sincerely,

Chris d'Entremont  
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

### PLEASE TAKE NOTE

#### Report Illegal Fishing Activities

This is a summary prepared for the information and convenience of the anglers of Nova Scotia. It has no legal force or effect. Consult the Wildlife Act, the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, and the federal Fisheries Act and regulations when interpreting and applying the law. These regulations can change at any time.

For changes to angling seasons, please contact the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (see page 24).

Report illegal fishing activities to your local office of the Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-565-2224, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans at 1-800-565-1633, Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers at 1-800-565-TIPS (8477).

## Sometimes, when the fish aren't biting, you can still feel them breathing.

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they're built for the fight, because when the

sparring is over, you want a rod strong

enough to bring Moby Dick Jr. all the way

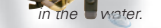
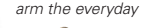
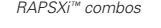
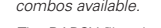
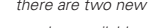
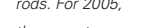
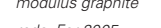
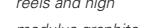
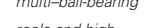
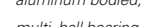
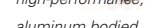
in. All of our rods have top-grade cork

handles – a firm grip for hands that tend to

get slimy. Our reels are built on a proven

If you want to know what's really going on down there, you need more than just a perfect lure. You need to be connected to the action.

Every rod has a soulmate. And it's almost always a reel. Matched tackle combos from Rapala make perfect pairs. For any kind of fish. For any kind of fishing. All combos include



Rapala philosophy. A simple design helps you cast better, retrieve better, and fight fish better. Our spinning reels



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whistles. Each reel features a die-cast

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set. They scream when you hook something

really big, but they're built to make sure you

get it on film. It's never been about gadgets

and gizmos. It's about using instincts and

having the right equipment to

back it up.  We know what anglers

want – simple design and quality. Because

sooner or later, the big one is gonna hit. And

when she does, it's too late to wonder if you

have what it takes to get her in the boat.

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## Special Management Areas

Special Management Areas have been implemented on a few lakes and rivers across the province to increase and improve angling opportunities for trout and smallmouth bass. The locations associated with the Special Management Areas have been selected with input from angler organizations and approved through the Recreational Fishing Advisory Council process. Regulations used to enhance fisheries involve changes to bag limits, season length, length limits of fish, and gear type. Changes to bag limit and season length are used to alter the number of fish harvested. Length limits protect fish of a certain size class, while changes to gear types (e.g., no bait regulation) can increase the survival rate of released fish.

Development of effective regulations depends on understanding fish habitat (water quality, predators, available food, etc.), exploitation of fish populations, and the needs of anglers. Habitat conditions and over-fishing can influence the growth rates of fish, size of catch, and the number of fish in a population. Anglers have often reported that the number of large fish caught has declined in many rivers and lakes and have recommended that changes in regulations are needed to improve certain fisheries. Information from surveys of fish habitat, angler catch, and growth of fish have helped to identify suitable locations for special management. Fish populations in popular angling sites will often experience the effects of over-fishing and will potentially benefit the most from a change in angling pressure. For these reasons, some popular angling sites with fish populations that have exhibited fast growth rates were selected for restrictive regulations to increase the number of large fish caught. Some examples of fisheries under special management include sea run trout in the West River of Antigonish, trout in East Taylor Bay Lake, and smallmouth bass in Ten Mile Lake.

When rearing and spawning areas are in good condition and abundant, trout and bass

have the ability to overpopulate habitat. As a result of overcrowding, angler catch rates can be high, but the creel will often be dominated by small, slow-growing fish. Many brook trout populations in the Cape Breton Highlands and several bass populations appear to be in this situation, thus requiring a different management strategy. Regulations for these sites allow for an increased harvest to thin out crowded populations and increase growth rates and the size of the fish caught.

The following sites have been forwarded for consideration for Special Trout Management Areas and were initiated by anglers and conservation organizations through the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC) process.

RFAC 1 Aspy River: fly fishing only and single hook lure. RFAC 3 Tangier Grand Wilderness Area: reduce bag limit to two trout per day on Squirrel, Bear, and Rabbit lakes and possibly others. RFAC 3 Musquodoboit River: options: delayed opening until May 15 and gear restriction to fly and lure only in tidal water, minimum length limit of 35 cm, bag limit change to one trout, season closure of "Narrows" in harbour. RFAC 6 River Philip: options being considered: season change, gear restriction, and reduced bag limit.

If you are interested in the above listed sites, or others that you believe should be included as Special Management Areas, please contact the Inland Fisheries Division to find out about the next RFAC meeting in your area. The purpose of the RFAC is to give a voice to the public in fisheries management issues. Contact the **Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Inland Fisheries Division**, PO Box 700, Pictou, Nova Scotia, B0K 1H0, phone (902) 485-5056, email [inland@gov.ns.ca](mailto:inland@gov.ns.ca) Website: [www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf)



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## Licences

You are required to purchase a general fishing licence or a salmon fishing licence to angle in the waters of Nova Scotia, with the following exceptions:

- No licence is required to angle in tidal waters; however, seasons and bag limits are still in effect. (See details for each Recreational Fishing Area, Other Angling Seasons and Bag Limits, page 50, for more information.) The boundaries of tidal waters are defined by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Check each Recreational Fishing Area for tidal water closures.
- No licence is required to fish in legally constructed private ponds or U-fish operations (commercially licensed aquaculture operations), nor do seasons or bag limits apply. Permission to fish must be obtained from the owner.
- Residents 65 years of age and older may purchase a General Fishing Licence at a reduced rate (see Fees below).
- No licence is required for recreational dip-netting of smelt or gaspereau. Seasons and bag limits are still in effect.
- Residents and non-residents under the age of 16 do not require a licence except for salmon. For further information, see the Summary of Salmon Fishing Regulations.

If you hold a general fishing licence or a salmon fishing licence you must provide the information required in the report issued with the licence within 7 days of the close of the season. This applies even if you did not catch anything.

Fishing licences for 2005 are valid from the date of issue to March 31, 2006. Extended fishing seasons are being developed in some areas. If you anticipate taking part in a winter fishery in 2005–06, please keep your licence and return your completed licence stub at the end of March.

If you are required to possess a licence and/or tags, you must carry them with you while fishing. A provincial fishing licence is not valid in a national park. A special licence may be required. Check with a federal park warden or contact one of the National Parks listed on page 24. It is an offence not to have your signature and address on a licence.

## Fees (15 percentage HST tax included)

Residents 13 years of age and under have the option of either purchasing their own salmon licence and tags or fishing under the supervision of a person who has a valid salmon licence and tags. For those persons fishing under supervision, any grilse caught and retained must be tagged with the supervising person's tag.

1. General Fishing Licences are available from all district offices of the Department of Natural Resources and from vendors authorized to issue fishing licences.

**Resident** \$24.13

**Resident (Senior)** \$5.75 (65 years & older)

**Non-resident (Seasonal)** \$54.74

**Non-resident (7- day)** \$30.25

2. Salmon Fishing Licences are available from all district offices of the Department of Natural Resources and selected vendors (8:30 am–4:30 pm, Mon.–Fri.) as well as from provincial camping parks (7 days a week).

**Resident Salmon Fishing Licence**  
(16 years and older) \$36.37

**Resident Salmon Fishing Licence**  
(under 16 years) \$11.50

**Non-resident Salmon Fishing Licence**  
(seasonal) \$134.35

**Non-resident (7- day)**  
**Salmon Fishing Licence** \$54.74

## Licence Stubs

You are required by law to return your completed licence stub at the end of the fishing season. The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries relies upon anglers to provide the information needed to manage fish populations.

The information on the licence stubs is used to indicate overall trends in fish catches around the province. It is important that you send in your licence stub even if you did not fish, so that we can get an accurate picture of the status of sportfish catches.

### NOVA SCOTIA SPORTFISH HABITAT FUND

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is pleased to announce the establishment of the Sportfish Habitat Fund, as proposed by the Nova Scotia Salmon Association, the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Trout Nova Scotia, and the Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers.

Through a \$5.00 fee on fishing licences beginning in 2005, the Habitat Fund will provide financial support for volunteers working on the conservation and enhancement of fish habitat and improvement of public access to the sportfish resource. The Fund will be administered by the department and all funds raised will support project work.

To learn more about the Fund or get application forms for 2005 contact the department's Inland Fisheries Division in Pictou or visit the website provided.

Phone: (902) 485-5056

Fax: (902) 485-4014

Email: [inland@gov.ns.ca](mailto:inland@gov.ns.ca)

Website: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf>

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Inland Fisheries Division

PO Box 700, Pictou NS

B0K 1H0





## Boating Safety

DO YOU USE YOUR BOAT FOR SPORTFISHING? IF SO, YOU ARE A RECREATIONAL BOATER AND THIS MESSAGE IS FOR YOU...



### SURVIVING COLD SHOCK

Another fishing season is upon us. In Atlantic Canada, we often fish when the water is at its coldest. Presently, there is no regulation requiring pleasure boaters to wear a personal flotation device, it is a personal choice. However, it is a choice that can greatly improve your chances of surviving cold water immersion. Approximately 90 percent of sportfishing deaths, involving boats, are a direct result of operators or occupants not wearing flotation devices when entering the water. Several things can happen if you accidentally fall into cold water:

- Your body will experience an immediate drop in core temperature, which combined with panic, could cause heart failure.
- Cold shock, is the body's involuntary response to immersion in cold water. More boating deaths are now being attributed to drowning due to cold shock. Commonly, cold shock kills a person one of two ways :
  1. 99 percentage of the time, boaters who enter cold water are unprepared. Automatically you will begin to gasp for air, often taking large amounts of water into the lungs and drowning.
  2. Cold water immersion causes the heart to work harder in order to keep

precious blood and body heat around internal organs, thus limiting blood flow to the arms and legs. This lack of blood flow will tighten muscles making treading water difficult, and swimming next to impossible.

Your greatest source of protection from the effects of cold shock is to wear a Canadian approved flotation device. There are many types on the market today, commonly designed to fit your water activity. The most important thing is to choose a device that offers the most protection and comfort for this activity. Choose one you will wear. Remember, it is mandatory to carry a properly fitting Canadian approved flotation device for each person onboard your boat. Wearing one can save your life.

For more information on cold shock, flotation devices or regulations administered by the **Office of Boating Safety** please call the National Hotline at 1-800-267-6687 or visit us on the web at [www.boatingsafety.gc.ca](http://www.boatingsafety.gc.ca).

REMEMBER: Take a Safe Boating Course and receive your Operator Competency Card today.



# CASA

Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers  
P.O. Box 2051, Fall River, Nova Scotia, B2T 1K6

The Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers (CASA) was formed in 1988 to serve and enrich the habitat for smallmouth bass; to share the friendship, camaraderie, and experience of our fellow anglers; to support and improve those conservation measures that allow a self-sustaining smallmouth bass fishery; and to extend courtesy and respect to all who share our waters.

When you join CASA and support these important conservation measures, you will receive a CASA crest, membership card, and quarterly newsletter, as well as the right to attend seminars, tournaments, the annual meeting, and more.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Res. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Bus. Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my cheque or money order, made payable to CASA, in the amount of:

☐ New \$15.00 ☐ Renewal \$15.00 ☐ Junior (16 and under) \$7.50

☐ Family Membership \$25.00



### NOVA SCOTIA SALMON ASSOCIATION

Regional Council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation  
1030 Beaverbank Road, Beaverbank, NS B4G 1A9  
Fax: (902) 864-9148  
E-mail: [nssa@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:nssa@ns.sympatico.ca)  
Website: [www.novascotiasalmon.ns.ca](http://www.novascotiasalmon.ns.ca)

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association is a regional council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation and acts on behalf of Atlantic salmon and trout in advocating conservation and wise management.

The association is supported by an individual membership and affiliate associations. Together, our collective conservation efforts have been invaluable in promoting public awareness, education, and in-river enhancement projects.

In an effort to support the ongoing conservation activities of our affiliate associations, the board readily accepts donations to the Nova Scotia Salmon Association. All funds received are solely directed towards financing activities to promote the conservation of Atlantic Salmon in Nova Scotia.

For further information on the association and the activities of our affiliates, complete and return this coupon, along with your donation to the Nova Scotia Salmon Association.

Please forward more information and sign me up as a member!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to donate: ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charitable Donor # 0620856-54 Membership: \$20.00 Junior Membership (under 16 yrs.): \$5.00