

Message from the Minister



Alberta is a beautiful province that encourages a diverse range of outdoor pursuits, including many family-friendly fishing opportunities.

As Albertans, we share the responsibility to conserve and protect fish populations and their habitats. Healthy fish populations and dynamic aquatic environments are part of what make our fishing trips so memorable, and we must ensure future Albertans can enjoy the same fishing experiences we have today.

With input from passionate anglers, the Alberta government has fine-tuned regulations to ensure that sustainable fishing and fish harvest opportunities are available in all parts of our province. To that end, you will notice changes in fishing regulations in some lakes this year. Moving forward, I am committed to even more changes, including reviewing fishing regulations and limits to increase low-risk, sustainable harvest, being more responsive to anglers' concerns and recommendations, simplifying our fishing regulations while considering habitat concerns, and making sure we have a sustainable resource for future generations.

Fishing is part of Alberta's cultural fabric and is enjoyed by folks from all walks of life, including those who have served in Canada's military. As a small token of our appreciation for their service, the Alberta government is proud to offer veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces a free sportfishing licence. We hope this gesture makes it easier for veterans living in Alberta to enjoy our outdoors. Please see the Licencing page in this sportfishing guide or visit the Licencing page on MyWildAlberta.ca for more information.

Over the past year, the Alberta Government has developed ways to

make fishing in Alberta easier and more enjoyable. These initiatives include online forms for competitive and non-competitive fishing events, an App for sportfishing regulations, and an opportunity to purchase an additional walleye special harvest licence regardless of whether you were drawn for a licence previously. We also launched a pilot project to allow anglers to choose traditional paper tags or electronic tags (e-tags) when they purchase a special harvest licence for walleye.

Ongoing upgrades to Alberta's fish hatcheries will continue into 2025-2026. This investment in our provincial hatcheries will ensure Albertans will have hatchery-raised trout fisheries for many years to come. The walleye stocking program, which is also supported by our fish hatcheries will continue in 2023. This means fisheries' staff will be out collecting eggs from a wild walleye population this spring with the goal of creating new angling and harvest opportunities for this desirable fish. As always, strict biosecurity measures are taken to prevent disease transfer. Please visit MyWildAlberta.ca for fish stocking information.

Fishing is a long-lived tradition in Alberta. As the Minister of Forestry, Parks and Tourism, I will continue working with and listening to Albertans to ensure the sustainability of fish populations and fishing opportunities for generations to come.

Whether fishing is a life-long passion, an activity you enjoy a few weekends a year or you are brand new to it, Alberta's scenic lakes and rivers are there to be discovered and enjoyed. Also, if you are a new angler or want to share the fishing experience, please take advantage of the two Free Fishing Weekends. Learn more on MyWildAlberta.ca for Free Fishing Weekends.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in fishing in Alberta.

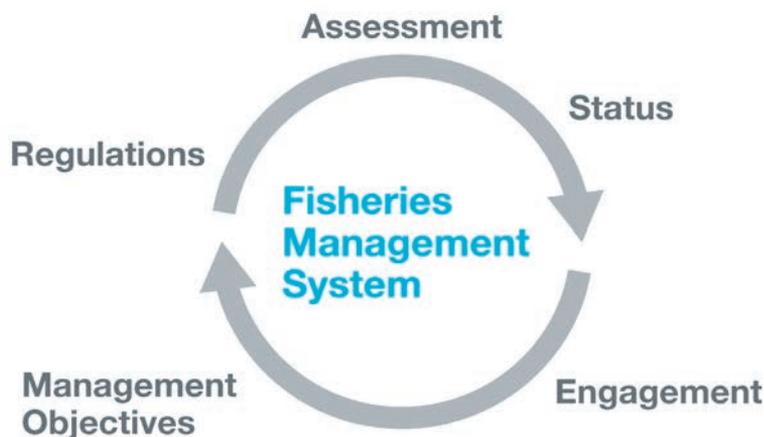
Todd Loewen
Minister of Forestry, Parks and Tourism



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ALBERTA'S FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Alberta follows the Alberta's Fish Conservation and Management Strategy. Alberta's goal of sustainability for fish populations and fisheries is central to this commitment. Alberta's Fisheries Management System is an annual process and the components include Assessment, Status, Engagement, Management Objectives, and Regulations.

For more information on Alberta's Fish Conservation and Management Strategy, please go to Alberta's Fisheries Management website and click the link.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

1. The Table of Contents on page 9 tells you where to find key information.
2. Be sure to read the **Important Information** section (page 12) for information about management and new opportunities.
3. Definitions start on page 15 and Regulations on page 20. These sections of the Guide cover definitions and regulations that apply to Alberta.
4. Default and site specific regulations for lakes and rivers in each Watershed Unit (example, ES1, NB4) begin on page 30.
5. A map showing the Management Zones is on page 29.
6. Each Management Zone is divided into Watershed Units.
7. Each Watershed Unit features a map, default regulations and site specific regulations for lakes and streams which include waterbody detail, seasons, bait restrictions and catch limits on fish species.
8. Lake and Stream Regulations:
 - Alberta uses both **default** and **site specific** regulations.
 - Default and site specific regulations may vary between watershed units
 - **Default regulations** include seasons, bait restrictions, and limits on fish species and apply to lakes and streams that are not listed in the site specific regulation tables
 - **Site specific regulations** include waterbody details, seasons, bait restrictions and limits on fish species and apply to lakes and streams that are listed in the site specific regulation tables
 - Please become familiar with the default regulations for lakes and streams you want to fish in each watershed unit.
 - Please become familiar with the site-specific regulations for lakes and streams that you want to fish in each watershed unit.

If you require further information, contact the Fish and Wildlife Office near to the waterbody you wish to fish (see Further Inquiries, page 27).

The regulations in this guide are effective from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.



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- Landslide Lake - Cutthroat Year Round
- Lake of the Falls - Cutthroat & Bull July 1 - Oct 31
- Michele Lakes - Golden Aug 1 - Oct 31
- Coral Lake - Golden Aug 1 - Oct 31
- Ram River - Cutthroat June 16 - Oct 31

EXPERIENCE ★★★★★ FISHING

Fortress Lake Wilderness Retreat - Brook Trout
June 1 - Sept 30 located in British Columbia, Hamber, Provincial Park. 4, 5 and 8 day stays

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Important Information

This section provides general information. Regulations are listed in each Watershed Unit in the Management Zones starting on page 30.

Stakeholder Engagement

Thank you for participating in the '23-24 fisheries management engagement seminars. We appreciate the enthusiasm and passion of recreational anglers and appreciate the questions and feedback provided during the engagement this January. Please find follow-up information by visiting www.alberta.ca/fisheries-engagements.aspx. All public engagements related to sportfishing, including the What We Heard reports and future opportunities to provide input can be found there.

Low Flows and High Water Temperatures

- To help conserve fish during drought conditions, Alberta Government will be monitoring water flow and temperatures in the Bow River and other southern Alberta streams.
- In response to low stream flows and warmer water temperatures, time of day angling restrictions may be implemented.
- Please see My Wild Alberta web page for up to date information.

Know before you go!

- Know the sportfishing regulations before you go! Either download the PDF of the Guide, or take a printed copy of the Guide with you, or use the Sportfishing Regulations App.
- The application is web- and map-based; designed to be easily used; you can search for a waterbody, search an area, or use your location.
- See <https://mywildalberta.ca/fishing/regulations/default.aspx>

Updates to Competitive Fishing Events (CFE)

- See detailed information on MyWildAlberta website
- Use the online Application and Summary forms for your CFE that has >25 participants and takes place at one waterbody.
- Voluntarily use the Notification and Summary forms to notify us of your noncompetitive Fishing Event that has <26 participants.
- Online payment is available.
- Forms can be printed, completed by hand, and submitted at a FW office.
- Payment can also be submitted at a FW office.

Stocking and Transfers

Hatchery upgrades have been ongoing since 2017 and will continue until at least 2025/2026.

During upgrades, trout stocking numbers will be impacted and some lakes may see a reduction in stocked fish.

The walleye stocking program will again collect eggs from a wild population, with a focused goal of creating angling and harvest opportunities in 4 to 5 years time.

Fish transfers focus on re-stocking waters that have experienced fish kills or recovered from drought conditions. Measures are always taken to prevent disease transfer.

Please visit mywildalberta.ca for information on fish stocking.

Sportfishing Guide

The 2023-2024 Sportfishing Guide is updated annually.

Waterbodies,

- with regulation updates highlighted blue
- that are closed all year highlighted grey

Please see the new harvest opportunities highlighted in blue.

Download and Save the Guide

This sportfishing guide can be downloaded from albertaregulations.ca website. Touch the PDF symbol below the cover of the sportfishing regulations to open, then download and save the sportfishing

regulations for your favourite watersheds (examples ES1, NB3, PP2) OR download and save the complete document.

Licensing

- **Alberta resident Canadian Armed Forces Veterans are eligible for a free sportfishing licence. See Licencing page for more information.**
- For convenience, download the AlbertaRELM App and keep your sportfishing licences and WiN handy.
- Remember you are required to produce your licence (paper or electronic via the AlbertaRELM App) when requested by an officer.
- Sign up to auto-renew your sportfishing licence.
- See albertarelm.com or AlbertaRELM App for additional details.

Special Harvest Licence Updates

- If successfully drawn, an SHL licence holder is eligible for 2 walleye tags for either Class A (>50 cm) or Class B (43-50 cm).
- **New! Purchase up to 5 Class C walleye licences and tags (for 2 walleye <43 cm) on a first-come first-served basis.**
- **If you were drawn for a Class A or B or purchased an undersubscribed or Class C licence you will be able to purchase additional licences starting on July 14. See MyWildAlberta.ca Fishing Licences for more information.**

Electronic Tag Pilot for Special Harvest Licences

- A electronic tag option will be piloted in 2023-24. There is no change to the draw process. Successful applicants select paper tags or electronic tags (e-tags) when purchasing their licence.
- Walleye retained with a Special Harvest Licence must be immediately tagged as per conditions of licence with either a paper and wire tag through the gill cavity and mouth, or an electronic tag using the AlbertaRELM App.
- To use e-tags, download the AlbertaRELM App to your smart phone and sign-in.
- To e-tag a fish, open the AlbertaRELM App, go to your Licences, touch the tag you are filling, and touch YES. Your e-tag is closed with date and time.
- With or without cellular service, you are required to immediately e-tag retained fish on the AlbertaRELM App. E-tagging records include the date and time of tagging.

Ice Fishing

Must identify all ice fishing shelters left unattended on the ice for more than 24 hours. Label the outside of the shelter with your WiN number OR name and phone number using 2.5 cm or taller letters.

Must remove all ice fishing shelters before March 15 in PP1 and before March 31 everywhere else, or when directed to do so by an officer.

Angling through ice is not permitted into beaver ponds or flowing waters in ES1 to ES4 management zones except the portion of the Lobstick River lying in 53, 54-9, 10-W5.

Aquatic Health

The impacts posed by aquatic invasive species, including fish disease, continue to threaten Alberta's fisheries and can extend beyond reducing recreational fishing opportunities. We all play an important role in keeping Alberta's fish healthy.

Everyone can help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species through prevention, by following,

- **CATCH IT, KILL IT** If you catch Prussian carp do not release them. Kill, dispose of them, or eat them.
- **CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY YOUR GEAR** Ensure no water, mud, fish or fish parts are moved from one waterbody to the next. This applies within Alberta as well as beyond our borders.
- **PULL THE PLUG!** All watercraft must have the drain plug pulled while being transported. It's the Law!
- **DON'T LET IT LOOSE** Never release water, plants, dead or live fish or any other animals into waterbodies they didn't originate from. Call **1-855-336-BOAT** 24/7 hotline for more information.

CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR GEAR

Alberta's aquatic habitats are home to hundreds of species of native plants and animals. Help protect our waters by taking three easy steps to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and whirling disease.



CLEAN

Clean off all mud, sand and plant material and dispose in the garbage or on dry land before leaving the shore.



DRAIN

Drain standing water from buckets, boats, bilges and fishing gear before leaving the shore.



DRY

Dry everything completely before entering another waterbody.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES, CALL:

1-855-336-BOAT (2628)

For up-to-date distribution of aquatic invasive species and whirling disease in Alberta, please visit alberta.ca

Alberta 

Bait – An attractant or organism (alive or dead) with scent or flavour to attract fish when attached to a hook or line used in angling. (See “Fishing with Bait” on page 22).

Bait Fish – See “Fishing with Bait Fish” on page 22.

Fizzing – Artificial swim bladder deflation. Involves puncturing the swim bladder through the musculature of the fish using a sharp object such as a hypodermic needle. As it causes undue harm to released fish and can increase the mortality of released fish, fizzing is illegal. The best practice is to not fish in deep water.

Gaff (gaff hook) – A device for landing or lifting fish, consisting of one or more sharpened hooks intended to stab the fish and attached to a handle. A gaff is illegal to possess while angling.

Hook – A single-, double- or triple-pointed hook on a common shaft, and includes hooks attached to a lure.
(Note: some legal lures appear to have a hook with four points, but actually have two shafts each with two points, meaning that this lure has two hooks).

Legal Land Descriptions

Some waterbodies and landmarks are identified in this Guide using the Alberta Survey System. Legal land descriptions are written as follows: (1-87-18-W4 for Section-Township-Range-West of the 4th Meridian)

Limit – Refers to the maximum number of fish you are allowed to keep or have in your possession (see **Catch Limits on page 20**).

Lure – A spoon, plug, jig, fly or other such device made of feathers, fibre, rubber, wood, metal, plastic or similar materials that does not attract fish by scent or flavour.

Maggots – The larval stage of flies (terrestrial dipterous insects). Does not include earthworms (angleworms, nightcrawlers, dew-worms), mealworms or the larvae, pupae or adults of aquatic insects.

Mainstem – The mainstem of a river includes the mainstem river channel as well as any side channels, oxbows as well as riparian channels and plunge pools below spillways downstream of reservoirs unless otherwise specified.

Mealworms – The larval stage of beetles (terrestrial coleopterous insects). Does not include earthworms (angleworms, nightcrawlers, dew-worms), maggots, wax worms or the larvae, pupae or adults of aquatic insects.

Minimum-size limits – All fish caught that are shorter than the stated length must be immediately released.

Maximum-size limits – All fish caught that are longer than the stated length must be immediately released.

Harvest slot limits – All fish caught that are shorter or longer than the harvest slot limit must be immediately released.

Quality Stocked Fisheries – Stocked trout fisheries which are managed to provide anglers with the opportunity to catch and occasionally keep a memorable fish.

Regulation Dates – In this Guide, where dates are given with a regulation, the fishing season starts and ends on the dates listed. For example May 15 to Mar. 31.

Snagging – Attempting to catch a fish using a hook:

- other than to induce the fish to voluntarily take the hook in its mouth; or
- by intentionally piercing and hooking a fish in any part of the body other than the mouth.

Snagging Device

- an instrument that is designed for the purpose of snagging fish; or
- hooks or lures that are altered to facilitate the snagging of fish.

Sportfishing – Angling (using hook and line), bowfishing or spearfishing, but also includes using a minnow trap, seine net or dip net to collect bait for personal use.

Sportfishing Seasons

- OPEN** –sportfishing is allowed during the time period stated. During open seasons, sportfishing is permitted 24 hours a day unless stated differently for a specific waterbody.
- CLOSED** – means all forms of sportfishing are prohibited.

Stream – Flowing water, and includes creeks, rivers and canals.

Tributary – Any stream that flows into a larger stream, or into a lake or reservoir. This includes a tributary to a tributary. Tributaries to a lake are considered to be tributaries to the outlet stream from the lake unless stated differently for a specific waterbody.

Watershed – An area drained by a stream or a series of streams and tributaries and includes any lakes and reservoirs whether or not they are directly connected to the stream.

Watershed Unit – Is a part of the larger Fish Management Zone and is the drained by the watershed described in text and illustrated on the map in the Guide. For example, NB1 is a subdivision of Northern Boreal

Watershed Boundaries – The boundaries between Watershed Units are illustrated on the maps in the Guide. These boundaries are differentiated by heights of land and the direction of flowing water.

RECOVERY OF TAGGED FISH

If you catch a tagged fish,

- Take a clear picture of the tag number
- Do not scrap the tag
- Do not remove the tag
- Do not pull the tag

Please advise the nearest Fish and Wildlife office of the following:

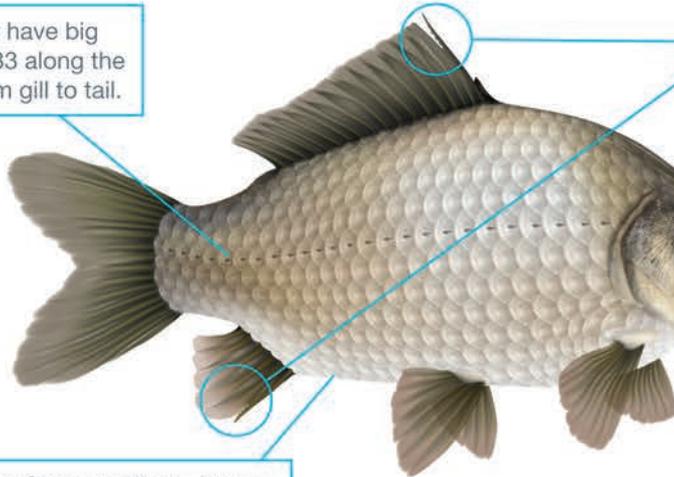
- Tag number and colour
- Species of fish
- Date fish was caught
- Where fish was caught
- If the fish was released
- Total length and weight of the fish, if available
- Your name, address and phone number.



Prussian Carp

Carassius gibelio

Prussian Carp have big scales; 29 to 33 along the lateral line from gill to tail.



When felt with your hand, the first dorsal ray and the first anal fin ray are serrated.

Prussian Carp are silvery-brown.

The mouth is located at the end of the head, or is terminal. If a Prussian carp hits a wall, the mouth touches it before the nose. A suckers nose would hit the wall before it's sub-terminal mouth.

CATCH IT KILL IT

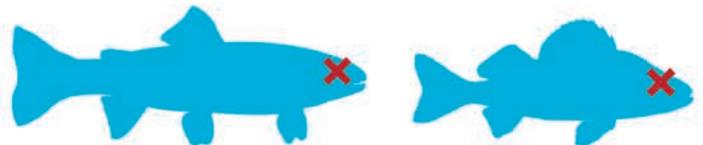
If you catch a Prussian carp, kill it and dispose of it or eat it. Do not put it back in the water.



Alberta was the first jurisdiction in North America to have invasive Prussian carp and can be found in the main stem and tributaries of the **North Saskatchewan, Bow, Red Deer, Oldman and South Saskatchewan Rivers.**

3X

Females can spawn up to three times in one year, making them prolific invaders.



Prussian carp are bad news for native fish populations as they out-compete them for food and habitat.



Likely introduced by intentional releases, response or eradication is challenged by spread through connected waterbodies.

Intentional release of invasive species is illegal.



Releasing Prussian Carp into any waterbody can start an invasion; but you can stop it!

Report aquatic invasive species to
1-855-336-BOAT

Alberta