

The following section refers to sportfishing throughout the province. Site-Specific Regulations for lakes and streams are listed under Watershed Unit sections for each Fish Management Zone, which appear on pages 32 to 84.

## Alberta Sportfishing Licences

### Requirements

An Alberta Sportfishing Licence is required to fish in Alberta by means of sportfishing (see Licences and Costs, page 18 and sportfishing definition, page 19). If you are under 16 years of age, an Alberta resident aged 65 or older, or a first Nations' person who is defined as an Indian under the federal Indian Act, you are not required to have a Sportfishing Licence, but you must follow sportfishing regulations. Sportfishing Licences are not required when a person is sportfishing on a designated Free Fishing Weekend (see page 50).

Sportfishing Licences are available at private licence issuers throughout the province or online at [albertarelm.com](http://albertarelm.com).

*Licences must be carried at all times while sportfishing and transporting fish and must be presented immediately to an officer upon request.*

If a person is convicted of a provincial fishing offence and fails to pay their fine, they will be suspended from purchasing or using a sportfishing licence, a hunting licence or applying on draws until that outstanding fine has been paid. Similarly, failure to pay a fine resulting from a hunting conviction will result in the same restrictions.

## Draws For Special Walleye Licences

The "2017 Special Walleye Licence Draws" pamphlet provides complete information about the draws and is available at Licence Issuers, Fish and Wildlife Offices and online at [albertaregulations.ca](http://albertaregulations.ca)

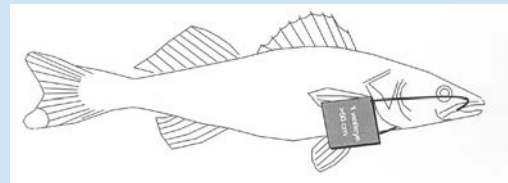
In 1996, Alberta introduced major restrictions on the walleye fisheries to allow their recovery after major declines due to fishing pressure. Several of these fisheries have recovered to the point where a limited harvest of specific sizes of walleye can be sustained. If these lakes were open to allow all anglers to keep a fish, the walleye would quickly be over harvested and the excellent sport fishery would be lost. Recognizing the impact of the high number of anglers and the need to preserve fisheries where fishing pressure is significant, a limited harvest option has been developed. A special walleye licence is available to Albertans selected on a draw basis for specified lakes. These lakes were selected based on the most current scientific information on walleye productivity and angler pressure.

## Notice to Anglers

At the time of printing this document, the lakes identified are open for the current season under a Special Licence Draw. Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) reserves the right to close any of these lakes if it is deemed that a lake will not be able to sustain a harvest ie. a lake is at risk for winterkill, AEP will implement a zero draw quota. If you have any questions regarding this statement, contact Fish and Wildlife Policy Branch email: [esrd.info-centre@gov.ab.ca](mailto:esrd.info-centre@gov.ab.ca)

## Tagging Instructions

A walleye that is retained must be **tagged immediately through the gill cavity and mouth** with a paper tag and wire. To tag your walleye refer to the instructions on the tag.



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## 2017 DRAWS

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|---|--|
| <b>April 4 - April 27, 2017</b>                     | Draw applications may be purchased for \$3.35 (plus GST) online at <a href="http://albertarelm.com">albertarelm.com</a> or at licence issuers.   |
| <b>Commencing May 8</b>                             | Draw results may be viewed online at <a href="http://albertarelm.com">albertarelm.com</a> .  |
| <b>May 11</b>                                       | Undersubscribed Licence information available online at <a href="http://mywildalberta.com">mywildalberta.com</a> .   |
| <b>May 12 - March 15, 2018</b>                      | Special Walleye Licence available for purchase online at <a href="http://albertarelm.com">albertarelm.com</a> or at licence issuers. Online paper tags and wires are available at Fish and Wildlife offices and Licence Issuers. |
| <b>May 12, 9:00 a.m. to March 15, 2018 midnight</b> | Undersubscribed licences available for reservation online at <a href="http://albertarelm.com">albertarelm.com</a> ( \$3.35 per application).   |

Draw applications, checking draw results or reserving undersubscribed special licences will be available online through [albertarelm.com](http://albertarelm.com) or at licence issuers.

## Spearfishing / Bowfishing

A special licence for spearfishing or bowfishing is not required. Spearfishing and bowfishing is allowed under the Alberta Sportfishing Licence.

- ▶ Only spears propelled by spring, elastic, compressed gas or muscular power are permitted.
- ▶ Only persons who are swimming may spearfish.
- ▶ Spears or bows cannot be used to take trout, mountain whitefish, Arctic grayling, lake sturgeon, walleye or northern pike.
- ▶ Spearfishing or bowfishing are not permitted in Gods, May, Seibert, Winefred, Andrew, Gardiner and Namur lakes.

## Sportfishing in Provincial and National Parks

Alberta Sportfishing Regulations apply in Alberta Provincial Parks, but not in National Parks. Separate regulations apply to those waters or portion of waters within National Parks. To fish in a Provincial Park, you need an Alberta Sportfishing Licence (see licence exemptions under "Requirements" on page 20). Provincial licences are not valid inside National Parks and regulations may differ. To fish in a National Park, you need a National Park Fishing Permit, which is valid only within the National Park. National Park fishing permits are available at most park facilities and some commercial outlets. General Inquiries for Parks Canada National office call 1-888-773-8888.

**Fishing in a Wilderness Area or Ecological Reserve is prohibited by the Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Heritage Rangelands Act.**

## Sportfishing in Cold Lake

Sportfishing in Cold Lake requires either an Alberta Sportfishing

licence (see licence exemptions under "Requirements" on this page), or a Saskatchewan Angling Licence. The *Alberta Fishery Regulations, 1998* apply to the Alberta portion of Cold Lake; while the Saskatchewan Regulations apply to the Saskatchewan portion of Cold Lake (Saskatchewan regulations are consistent with Alberta regulations for Cold Lake).

## Derby and Tournament Licensing

The licensing of organized fishing derbies and tournaments (Competitive Fishing Events or CFE's) is required for events involving more than 25 participants. The type of licence depends on the number of participants and the value of prizes. The cost of all licences is \$25 and will be issued only to organizers who are residents of Alberta. Best Management Practices have been developed and incorporated into licence conditions to reduce impacts on fish populations. Events with 25 or fewer participants do not require a licence, but organizers are encouraged to voluntarily register such events and to follow best management practices.

Non-competitive fishing events, any event where 26 or more people participate in angling for one or more consecutive days on a specified water, do not require a licence, if prizes are awarded for participation or random draw, not a fishing competition.

The CFE website, at [mywildalberta.com](http://mywildalberta.com), provides organizers with application and reporting forms, licence conditions, contact information, and information on how best to operate an event. A Frequently Asked Questions document addresses the issues event organizers need to consider prior to advertising and running an event.

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