

Message from the Minister



Alberta has some of the most beautiful fishing spots in the world right here in our backyard. From mountain streams full of native trout to peaceful spring-fed creeks and our many

lakes and reservoirs, there's something for everyone here.

But with all our diverse fisheries, we also share a responsibility to take care of our landscapes, our bodies of water, and of the fish that call it home, so that our future generations can have the same opportunities to enjoy them that we do. Whether you're a fan of dry-fly fishing or love ice fishing with your family, we all play an important part in keeping Alberta's waters healthy for the future.

That's why Alberta's government wants to hear new ideas on how we manage our fisheries. We've heard from the Albertans asking for more opportunities to catch northern pike and walleye, and I'm proud to say we've worked hard to make that happen.

We're investing in fish hatcheries and stocking programs across the province, so that anglers can find plenty of stocked trout and walleye in lakes across the province.

Our fisheries management focuses on maintaining healthy fish populations,

keeping ecosystems in balance, and supporting recreational fishing. Moving forward, we'll keep working to continue meeting your needs, all while making sure our waters stay healthy and full of life. Our goal is to make fishing accessible for everyone, no matter how much experience you have.

Fishing is an important part of Alberta's history, and I'm proud to work with people as dedicated as I am to keeping this tradition alive.

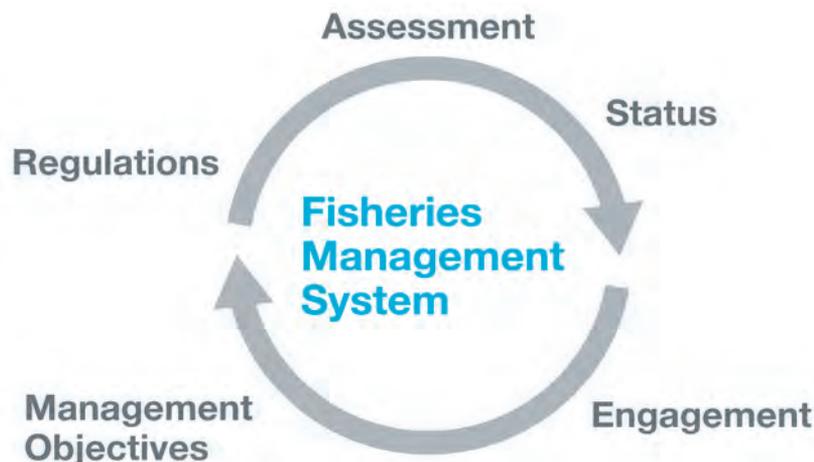
Whether you're just starting to fish, or you've been at it for years, Alberta's stunning lakes, rivers, and streams will create memories that last a lifetime. Don't forget to enjoy our free fishing weekends with family and friends, and always fish safely and responsibly.

Todd Loewen

Minister of Forestry and Parks

Alberta

ALBERTA'S FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



The Fisheries Management System outlines the integrated approach to fisheries management in Alberta. Each step of the process is an important component to managing fish populations and fisheries in accordance with Alberta's Fish Conservation and Management Strategy. Fisheries management is a shared responsibility between two Ministries - Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) and Forestry and Parks (FP).

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, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

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Brook Trout - Fortress Lake

SPEND THE DAY OR OVERNIGHT AT ONE OF THE PRISTINE LAKES BELOW - STARTING AT \$313.95

Cargo/Gear \$3.00 a pound

- 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

Use the code - CARGOOFF - for a \$25.00 discount on cargo for the above lakes only!

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FORTRESS LAKE WILDERNESS RETREAT

Brook Trout, June 1 - Oct 8
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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.

Low Flows and High Water Temperatures

- To help conserve fish during drought conditions, Alberta Government will be monitoring water flows, levels, and temperatures in rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.
- In response to low 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 on Time of Day angling restrictions.

Know before you go!

- Know the sportfishing regulations before you go! Either download the PDF of the Guide, take a printed copy of the Guide with you, or use the Sportfishing Regulations App.
- The Sportfishing Regulations App 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>

Stocking and Transfers

Over 2.2 million trout were stocked at 244 lakes. See page 16-17 for more information on Alberta's trout stocking.

The walleye stocking program collected eggs from 3 wild populations, stocked 10 lakes and reservoirs with 14 million fry. The goal of this program is to create angling and harvest opportunities in 4 to 5 years time.

In 2024, yellow perch were transferred into Frenchman Lake (NB1) with the help of volunteers.

Visit MyWildAlberta Stocking web page for more information.

Measures are always taken to prevent disease transfer.

Sportfishing Guide

The 2024 Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations were amended in-season with 27 regulations changes. These changes will remain highlighted blue in the 2025 Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations.

Waterbodies,

- with regulation changes, corrections and updates are **highlighted blue**
- that are closed all year are **highlighted grey**

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

- **Effective in 2026, Class A and Class B licences will be removed from the Special Harvest Licence application and draw process.**
- **Anglers should use their priority points during the 2025 season to avoid losing priority points when the draw application process is removed in 2026. See page 19 for 2025 draw dates.**
- If successfully drawn, an SHL licensee is eligible for 2 walleye tags for either Class A (>50 cm) or Class B (43-50 cm).
- Purchase up to 5 Class C walleye licences (2 walleye <43 cm per licence) 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 are able to purchase additional licences (started May 13).
- The electronic tag option (e-tag) will remain paused for the 2025 sportfishing season. Legislation specific to the inspection and use of personal electronic devices is under review.
- See AlbertaRELM or MyWildAlberta.ca Fishing Licences for more information.

Ice Fishing

Anglers 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.

Owners of ice fishing shelters must remove their 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.

INFORMATION ABOUT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Alberta Government conducts public engagement opportunities throughout the year. Open engagements related to fisheries management can be found by visiting www.alberta.ca/fisheries-engagements.aspx

Stay engaged by following our 'My Wild Alberta' Facebook page to learn more about angling, projects our staff are working on and any public engagements.

Alberta

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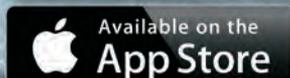
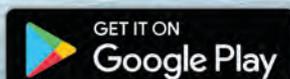


photo: ACA, Mike Jokinen

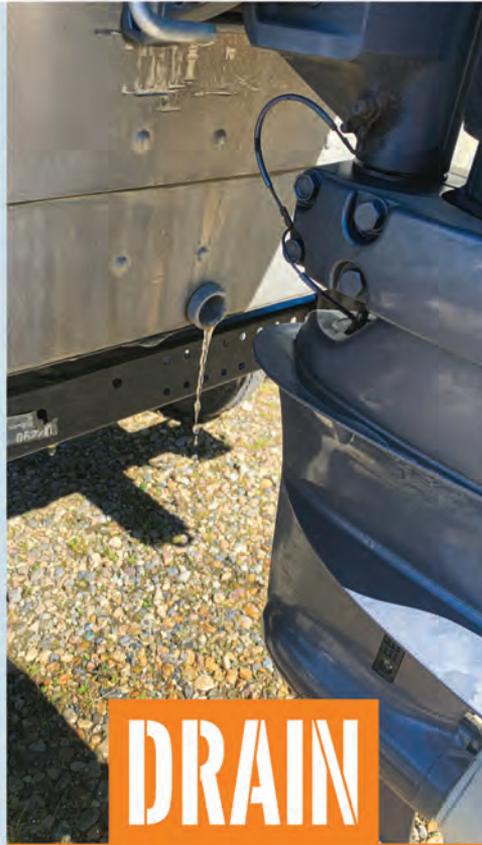
CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR GEAR

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

- Fisheries biologists occasionally tag fish for research.
- Tagging is non-lethal to fish.
- There are different kinds and sizes of tags ranging from the size of a grain of rice to the size of a D-cell battery (0.5 to 4 inches).
- Tags are usually placed under the skin near the dorsal fin (in the flesh) or inside the body cavity.
- Anglers should inspect their catches thoroughly for tags and remove them prior to consuming.

If you catch a tagged fish, please report it to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Office (see page 27 for contact details).

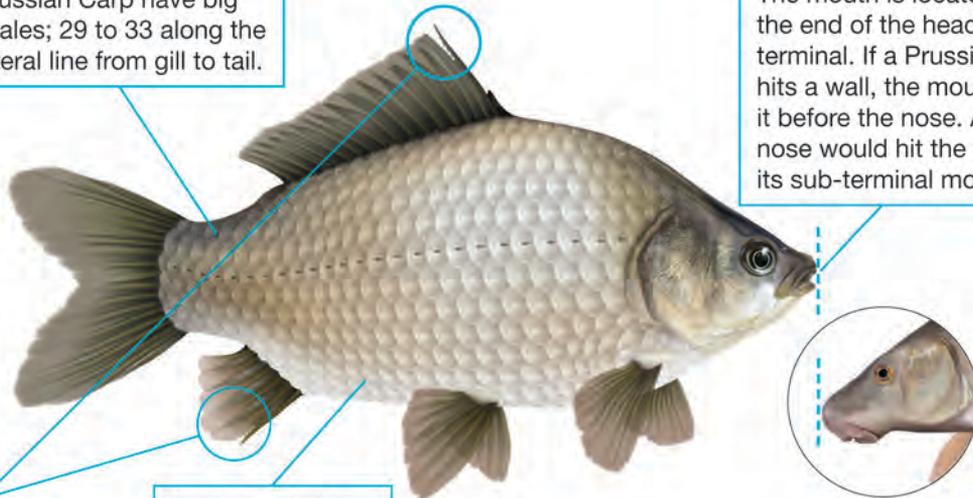


Prussian Carp

Carassius gibelio

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

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 sucker's nose would hit the wall before its sub-terminal mouth.



Longnose Sucker

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

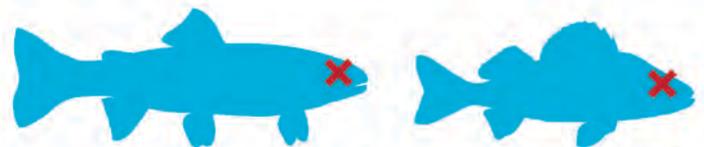
Prussian Carp are silvery-brown.

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.**



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



Likely introduced by intentional releases. Response and eradication are challenged by the spread through connected waterbodies.

Intentional release of invasive species is illegal.

3X

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



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