

# Manitoba

## ANGLERS' GUIDE 2026

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Regulations are also available online at:  
[manitobafisheries.com](http://manitobafisheries.com).

New regulations are in **bold type**.

This publication is available in alternate formats, upon request.

Cover photo: Tiger Trout from McHugh Lake



As the Minister of Manitoba Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures, I look forward to another exciting year of angling opportunities in Manitoba.

Recreational fishing continues to be an important activity in

Manitoba and remains one of the easiest and most affordable ways for families and friends to come together to enjoy our great outdoors.

Last year, anglers were invited to participate in a survey to understand fish harvest and the economic value of recreational fishing in Manitoba. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all anglers and angling outfitters for taking the time to complete the survey. The survey provides valuable information that will assist in the management and conservation of our angling resources for the benefit of all.

I would like to remind licensed anglers that the harvest, possession and use of live bait fish and leeches will be prohibited as of April 1, 2027. This will help to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, diseases and other pathogens between waterbodies.

On behalf of the Manitoba government, I wish you a fun-filled angling season! Please enjoy the many benefits that a day of fishing in Manitoba has to offer.

Honourable Ian Bushie

Minister, Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures

### MANITOBA E-LICENSING

A new online licensing system will launch this year. Anglers can still purchase a Manitoba Angling Licence online or at some stores. Please call stores ahead as some may not sell Angling Licences. Visit: [manitobaelicensing.ca](http://manitobaelicensing.ca)

## Protection of Privacy

Personal information collected on angling licences is protected by the Protection of Privacy provisions of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and will be used only for program activities, surveys and enforcement by the Manitoba government.

We recognize that Manitoba is on the treaty territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Anishinewuk, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline and Nehethowuk peoples.

We acknowledge Manitoba is located on the Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We acknowledge northern Manitoba includes lands that were and are the ancestral lands of the Inuit.

We respect the spirit and intent of Treaties and Treaty Making and remain committed to working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Metis people in the spirit of truth, reconciliation and collaboration.

## What's New For 2026

The regulations in this guide take effect on April 1, 2026. The following regulations are new for 2026.

- Crowduck Lake – all walleye over 48 cm must be released.
- Area A (Eastern Manitoba) – all lake trout over 55 cm must be released.
- Rennie River – all walleye over 45 cm must be released.
- Winnipeg River from Ontario Boundary to Pointe du Bois Dam (including Green Bay) – smallmouth bass provincial limit 4 and none may exceed 45 cm.
- Lake St. Andrew – smallmouth bass provincial limit 4 and none may exceed 45 cm.
- Perch Lake – smallmouth bass provincial limit 4 and none may exceed 45 cm.
- Province-wide – largemouth bass limit 4 and none may exceed 45 cm (excluding Mary Jane Reservoir).
- Reynolds Ponds – largemouth bass limit 2 and none may exceed 40 cm.
- Hunt Lake – no possession limit or size restriction for largemouth bass.
- Province-wide – arctic char (except in stocked trout waters) limit 1.
- New angling licence fees

## Proposed Changes

The following proposed regulation changes are proposed to be implemented in the 2027-2028 angling season. The proposed regulatory changes are listed below to provide anglers with an opportunity to express their opinions. To comment on proposed changes, visit: [manitobafisheries.com](http://manitobafisheries.com).

- William Lake – smallmouth bass provincial limit 4 and none may exceed 45 cm.
- Remove salamanders and certain uncommon frog species from the list of permitted bait to be used while angling.

## Pending Changes

The following regulation changes fall under the Fisheries Act of Canada and require federal approval prior to becoming law. The pending regulation changes are proposed to be implemented in the 2027-2028 angling season.

- Wasp Lake – no motors, except electric motors, may be used.
- Lake of the Prairies permanent ice fishing shelter removal date will be March 31.

## Summary of Regulations

Recreational fishing in Manitoba is governed by regulations made under The Fisheries Act (Manitoba) and the Fisheries Act of Canada. [This guide provides a summary of those regulations.](#) The actual regulations in force, not necessarily those in this guide, shall apply. Regulations other than those under the Fisheries Act of Canada may also apply while fishing, e.g. regarding Aquatic Invasive Species, the use of boats, motors, vehicles, etc. For more details on regulations contact your local Manitoba Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures office (see page 16).

## Angling Licence Fees

(GST to be added at time of purchase)

### Manitoba Resident (Age 16 to 64)

**One-Day** ..... \$13.00

**Annual** ..... \$28.00

**Senior (Age 65 and Older)** ..... No  
Licence  
Required

**Active Military Member or Veteran** ... No  
Licence  
Required

### Canadian Resident (Age 16 and Older)\*

**One-Day** ..... \$18.00

**Annual** ..... \$43.00

### Non-Canadian Resident (Age 16 and Older)\*

**One-Day** ..... \$26.00

**Annual** ..... \$69.00

\* See page 5 for youth information.

## Angling Licences

All persons, except those exempt, who engage in angling, dip netting, cast netting, seining, minnow trapping, spear fishing, and bow fishing, must have a Manitoba Angling Licence on their person. [Licences may be printed or carried on an electronic device and anglers must be able to show their angling licence to an Officer, upon request.](#)

The Annual Angling Licence is valid from May 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027. Angling Licences are not transferrable or refundable. The time of licence validity has no impact on season dates. See pages 17-23 for more information.

### PURCHASE AN ANGLING LICENCE

An Angling Licence may be purchased online, at a participating store or over the phone.

For more information, visit: [manitobaelicensing.ca](http://manitobaelicensing.ca).

## RESIDENCY DEFINITIONS:

### Manitoba Resident

A person whose primary residence is in Manitoba and who has lived in Manitoba for at least six consecutive months during the 12 month period immediately before applying for a licence.

### Canadian Resident

- A person whose primary residence is in Canada, but not in Manitoba and who has lived in Canada for at least six consecutive months during the 12 month period immediately before applying for a licence; or
- A person who is a Canadian citizen; or
- A person who has permanent resident status in Canada.

### Non-Canadian Resident

A person who is not a Manitoba or Canadian resident.

## LICENCE EXEMPTIONS

The following people may angle without an angling licence:

### Manitoba Resident Seniors

A Manitoba resident 65 years of age or older does not require an angling licence, but must be able to show proof of age and Manitoba residency when asked by an Officer.

### Manitoba Resident Active Military Members & Veterans

A Manitoba resident who is an active military member or a veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces does not require an angling licence, but must be able to show proof of Manitoba residency and one of the following documents when asked by an Officer:

- Canadian Forces Identification Card (NDI 20)
- Record of Service Card (NDI 75)
- Canadian Armed Forces Veterans' Service Card (NDI 75)

### Manitoba Resident Youth

Any youth under the age of 16 who has permanently resided in Manitoba for at least six months, has all the privileges of holding an angling Licence, including their own limit of fish. All other regulations apply. Proof of age is required when checked by an Officer.

### Canadian Resident or Non-Canadian Resident Youth

Any Canadian resident or non-Canadian resident youth under the age of 16, must fish with a licence holder, or someone exempt from holding an angling licence, and their catch must be applied to the limit of that person. A Canadian resident or non-Canadian resident youth under the age of 16 who wishes to have their own limit of fish, must buy an angling licence.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Transport Canada has new requirements for the Pleasure Craft Licence including an expiry date. Visit the Transport Canada website for details.

## FAMILY FISHING WEEKENDS

Summer and Winter Family Fishing Weekends will be held on June 12-14, 2026 and February 20-22, 2027, across Manitoba (excluding federal parks). During these weekends, people wishing to fish may do so without acquiring a licence. All other rules and regulations apply. Please note specific lake regulations.

## STATUS INDIANS

Status Indians do not require an angling licence. They are exempt from angling regulations including seasons, limits, and gear restrictions when fishing for food. Proof of status is required when checked by an Officer (see page 13).

## BORDER WATERS

Anglers who are on or in the immediate vicinity of lakes or rivers that cross a Manitoba border may have only a Manitoba limit of fish.

Anglers may have either a Manitoba or Ontario Angling Licence (or be exempt from holding one) to fish on all of Davidson Lake, Frances Lake, Garner Lake, High Lake, Mantario Lake, Moar Lake and Ryerson Lake.

Anglers who have an Ontario Angling Licence may fish on the Manitoba portion of Artery Lake without a Manitoba Angling Licence.

Anglers may have either a Manitoba or Saskatchewan Angling Licence (or be exempt from holding one) to fish on all of Lake of the Prairies upstream from the Shellmouth Dam.

## NATIONAL PARKS

A Manitoba Angling Licence is not valid for fishing in National Parks. Contact Parks Canada for details on fishing licences and regulations in National Parks at: [pc.gc.ca](http://pc.gc.ca).

## COMPETITIVE FISHING EVENTS

Persons and organizations holding fishing derbies or tournaments that have 25 or more participants must apply for a free Competitive Fishing Event (CFE) Licence four weeks prior to the event. To apply for a CFE Licence visit: [manitobaelicensing.ca](http://manitobaelicensing.ca) or [manitobafisheries.com](http://manitobafisheries.com).

All participants must have a Manitoba Angling Licence unless exempt. All fish entered in a tournament must be released. All fish caught and retained for use in a CFE are considered to be in possession and part of the angler's daily limit. Event organizers and all participants must adhere to the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Regulation under The Water Protection Act. Further restrictions may be imposed. Set fines for AIS offences are in effect.

## General Regulations

### FISHING METHODS

Recreational fishing includes angling, spear fishing, bow fishing, dip netting, cast netting, seining, and minnow trapping. Techniques are those generally accepted by anglers. Under no circumstances may explosives, firearms, clubs, snagging, snaring, poisons, etc. be used.

#### BARBLESS HOOKS

In Manitoba, anglers must use barbless hooks. A barbless hook is a hook with no barbs or barbs that have been compressed to be in complete contact with the shaft of the hook. Barbless hooks may have barbs on the shank for holding bait. When you are fishing, the hooks attached to all your lines, whether in use or not, must be barbless. Barbed hooks may be kept in the tackle box.

### ANGLING AND ICE FISHING

Angling is fishing with a hook and line. The use of any unusual or special gimmicks is often illegal and best avoided. Hooks or lures must not be spring-loaded.

Anglers may use only one rod and line, except during ice fishing when two may be used. Only two hooks or lures may be used per line. Anglers must, when fishing in open water keep their line in sight at all times and when ice fishing stay within 50 m of the line.

### ICE FISHING SHELTERS

Ice fishing shelters must be removed on or before March 14, 2027 on the Red River, on or before March 15 in Area B of the Southern Division (see map on page 16), on or before March 31 in the rest of the Southern Division and by April 15 in the Northwest, North Central and Northeast Divisions, or when requested to do so by a Conservation Officer due to unsafe ice conditions. **All ice fishing shelters left unattended must clearly display on the outside of the shelter in block letters at least 5 cm in height, the owner's full name or Customer Identification Number, and phone number.** Shelters must be stored or disposed of away from the shore and on private property. Manitoba Parks Branch requires that ice fishing shelters in provincial parks meet size, location and use standards and may not be used for overnight sleeping accommodation. For more information including specific details, please contact your local Manitoba Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures office.

### BAIT

Night crawlers and earthworms may be used as bait in all fishing divisions in Manitoba. Within Canada, they may be transported into Manitoba in a sterile medium such as paper mulch, but not in soil. **Anglers must obtain a permit to import night crawlers or earthworms into Canada.** To obtain a permit or for more information, contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Dispose of unused worms in the trash.

Leeches, frogs and salamanders (common mudpuppy) may also be used as bait in all divisions. However, they shall not be imported.

#### Possession of crayfish is prohibited.

Offal (fish cleaning remains) may be used as bait in all divisions.

Frozen or preserved bait fish may be imported into Manitoba and used in all fishing divisions. However, anglers importing frozen or preserved bait fish into Canada may require permit(s). For more information, contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

#### Live bait fish shall not be imported into Manitoba.

Live bait fish shall not be used or possessed in the Northwest, North Central and Northeast Divisions, including the Bloodvein and Gammon rivers. Live bait fish may be used and possessed in the Southern Division, except in the following areas:

- Stocked Trout Waters
- Duck Mountain Provincial Forest and Park
- Turtle Mountain Provincial Park
- Porcupine Provincial Forest
- Whiteshell Provincial Park
- Winnipeg River (from Seven Sisters Dam to the Ontario border)
- Atikaki and South Atikaki Provincial Parks

Those anglers in possession of purchased live bait fish must have a Live Bait Fish Transfer and Use Receipt issued by the dealer which is valid for three days only. Anglers may catch their own bait fish, but must kill them before transporting them away from the water where they were caught.

Only the following fish may be used as bait:

- |                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| • bluntnose minnow                | • darter           |
| • fathead minnow                  | • dace             |
| • stickleback                     | • chub             |
| • mudminnow                       | • trout-perch      |
| • shiner, except carmine shiner   | • tullibee (cisco) |
| • sucker, except bigmouth buffalo | • sculpin          |

No angler shall be in possession of more than 4 litres of bait fish of which no more than 15 dozen can be live bait fish (excluding suckers and tullibee, which have no limit).

Yellow perch, goldeye, and mooneye, that have been caught by angling, may also be used as bait and may be used as live bait fish where use of live bait fish is allowed. Anglers may only possess a legal limit of these species. Common carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt, except for purchased frozen smelt, may not be used as bait.

**Note: dispose of bait possessed in an Aquatic Invasive Species Control Zone before leaving the shore.**

### MERCURY IN FISH

Although Manitoba has some of the cleanest waters in the world, all fish contain some mercury from natural sources. Human activities can cause further increases in these natural mercury levels. Fish from some areas may have elevated mercury levels.

For further information about mercury in fish and for recommended consumption rates, please visit: [manitobafisheries.com](http://manitobafisheries.com).

### NOTE:

- **Open fires** are prohibited in Burning Permit Areas of Manitoba from April 1 to November 15, unless the fire is in an approved fire pit. If approved fire pits are not available, shore lunches and other meals must be cooked over a camp stove. For more information on Burning Permit Areas, contact your local Manitoba Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures office.
- **Littering** is prohibited (under the Environment Act) and regulations are enforced by Officers.
- **Open liquor** (including beer) is prohibited in boats, vehicles and ice fishing shelters (under the Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Act) and regulations are enforced by Officers.



An invasive spiny waterflea on the tip of a human thumb.

### AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

Set fines for AIS offences are in effect. To stop the spread of AIS, you must:

1. **CLEAN** i.e., remove AIS and aquatic plants (i.e., weeds) before leaving the shore of the waterbody.
2. **DRAIN** all water from the watercraft and water-related equipment before leaving the shore. All drain plugs must be kept out while transporting watercraft over land.
3. **DRY** completely or decontaminate water-related equipment before placing into another waterbody.
4. **DISPOSE** of bait possessed in an AIS Control Zone prior to leaving the shore, regardless of a three-day Live Bait Fish Transfer and Use Receipt.
5. **DECONTAMINATE IF** watercraft or water-related equipment were used last in an AIS Control Zone and before placing into another waterbody.

For more information, visit: [Manitoba.ca/StopAIS](http://Manitoba.ca/StopAIS)

### WHY ANGLERS SHOULD PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

Zebra mussels and spiny waterflea are two AIS present in some Manitoba waterbodies. They can have profound negative impacts on aquatic food webs.

Zebra mussels consume large quantities of algae helping to increase water clarity whereas, spiny waterflea are predators on small invertebrates. Overall, they can decrease food ability for economical and recreational important fish species.

Minnesota studies show fish growth rates decrease in waterbodies where zebra mussels or spiny waterflea are present. In zebra mussel invaded waterbodies, walleye behaviour changed drastically due to increased water clarity and alterations to their preferred habitat.

AIS can spread two main ways, by 1) natural water movement, or 2) human-caused transport. The overland movement of motorized and non-motorized watercraft and water-related equipment are the primary means of spreading AIS.

Once AIS establish in a waterbody they cannot generally be eradicated. Fortunately, **the human-caused spread of AIS is preventable.**

Help protect Manitoba's fisheries and aquatic resources. When leaving a waterbody, Clean, Drain and Dry watercraft and water-related equipment – every time.

The AIS open-water and winter (ice-covered) season checklists are step-by-step resources that can help you prevent the spread of AIS. Please see pages 24-25, visit: [Manitoba.ca/StopAIS](http://Manitoba.ca/StopAIS) or call toll free 1-877-867-2470 for more information.

## DIP NETTING, CAST NETTING, SEINING, AND MINNOW TRAPPING

An angling licence is required while dip netting, cast netting, seining, or minnow trapping. In most waters these activities are allowed at any time of the year. Check for closures on specific waters in the divisional sections of this guide.

Species that may be kept include suckers (except bigmouth buffalo), common carp, cisco (tullibee), chub, shiners (except carmine shiners), darters, dace, fathead minnow, bluntnose minnow, mudminnow, trout-perch, stickleback, and sculpin. All other species must be released immediately. Live fish shall not be transported away from the waters where they were caught. Fish must be dead before transporting. Water from the waterbody may not be transported away from the shore.

Dip nets shall not be larger than one square metre. Seine nets may not be larger than three square metres. Cast nets must have a radius of 98 cm or smaller. Minnow traps must not be larger than 65 cm long and 35 cm in diameter, and must have the fisher's name and address marked on them.

## SPEAR FISHING

Spear fishing is the taking of fish with a handheld spear or spear gun (pneumatic or rubber band powered) while swimming. The spear must be barbed. Spear fishing is allowed in all areas of the province open to angling. For safety reasons do not spear fish near areas used for swimming, boat launching, or docking.

Species-specific seasons, limits and licence requirements apply. Fisher's may possess only one limit of fish, whether taken by spear fishing or angling.

You shall not spear fish for lake sturgeon, brook trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, muskellunge, arctic grayling, arctic char, brown trout, splake, rainbow trout or other trout hybrids. Only face mask, flippers and snorkel may be used to take the following species (i.e. no scuba equipment): walleye, sauger, northern pike, channel catfish, black crappie, mooneye, goldeye, lake trout and lake whitefish.

Scuba or snorkelling equipment may be used for species other than those listed above. For safety courses and information please contact your local scuba dealer.

## BOW FISHING

Bow fishing (the shooting of fish with archery equipment) is permitted for common carp and suckers only (except bigmouth buffalo). An angling licence is required. A fish arrow and at least 20-kg test line must be used. Using a crossbow to fish is illegal.

## FISHWAYS (FISH LADDERS)

Fishways are used to assist fish passage through, over or around barriers. Please respect these structures when in use and do not disturb the fish. Remember, it is a violation to fish (including dip netting, cast netting, seining and minnow trapping) within 23 metres of a fishway.

## HANDLING, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF FISH

Live fish shall not be transported away from the waters where they were caught, except under the authority of a permit issued by Fisheries Branch.

Fish must not be handled, transported or disposed of in a way that will allow it to spoil. Water from the waterbody may not be transported away from the shore or used to transport or store fish.

Fish must be transported and stored so that the number, species, and size of fish can be readily determined by a Conservation Officer. **Six square centimetres of skin must be left on each fillet.** Fish cannot be transported or stored in a solid frozen block of fillets or in a processed state such as canned.

If due to extenuating circumstances, you need to transport fish belonging to another angler, in addition to your own limit, you must obtain a Fish Transportation Loadslip from a Manitoba Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures office (see page 16).

Persons transporting fish into Manitoba that were caught outside Manitoba should obtain physical proof of the origin of the fish before it is transported.

## FISH REMAINS

Fish cleaning remains must not be left on beaches or shorelines. At sites such as boat launches, campgrounds, lodges, etc., fish remains must be placed in containers provided for that purpose.

## BUYING AND SELLING FISH

Fish harvested while angling may not be bought, sold, traded or bartered. **If you buy fish from a commercial fisher or retailer be sure to get a sales receipt or trade record at the time of sale.** You must carry this receipt with the fish as proof of purchase.

## LICENCED OUTFITTERS

If you will be using the services of an outfitter, ensure you book with a licenced outfitter who is licenced to offer angling. A list of licenced outfitters is available online at: [manitoba.ca/nrnd/lic-res-tourism-operators/licensing.html](http://manitoba.ca/nrnd/lic-res-tourism-operators/licensing.html)

## Illegal Live Fish Stocking

Even with regular provincial stocking of seven salmonid species and walleye across Manitoba, some individuals are illegally introducing new species into public waters, posing a significant risk to our province's valuable fisheries.

Many anglers are aware of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and the threats they pose to our fisheries. Anglers should also be aware of the potential impacts of moving fish species into new waterbodies. When people take stocking into their own hands, they pose a major risk to the balance of that waterbody's ecosystem.

Illegal stockings are on the rise in Manitoba, especially for species in the centrarchidae family such as smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, black crappie, and sunfish. Centrarchids are hardy and versatile, and able to adapt to a wide range of ecological and environmental conditions. When introduced to new ecosystems, centrarchids can outcompete and displace native fish species, altering the food base of a waterbody.

In every waterbody, there is a finite amount of nutrients and energy available that supports that waterbody's biomass (the total weight of aquatic life). That biomass accounts for every level of the food web including algae, aquatic plants, zooplankton, aquatic insects, fish, and other predators. The food that illegally stocked predators consume becomes unavailable for native predators, causing cascading impacts to food webs, and damaging the populations of native species.



Illegally stocked largemouth bass from Hunt Lake

Additionally, illegally stocked fish rarely stay in place and can disperse to new waterbodies through interconnected waters or during high water events. This can harm fisheries management objectives and may require changes to angling regulations such as the implementation of new possession limits, size restrictions or closed times. The complete removal of introduced species is often not practical or possible once they have established.

Furthermore, illegal stocking puts Manitoba's hatchery program in a vulnerable position, as provincial stocking may have to be discontinued if stocked trout or walleye are outcompeted and cannot effectively co-exist with illegally stocked species introduced into a waterbody.

Resource users have the responsibility to conserve our fisheries by never moving live fish or AIS between waterbodies, and to raise awareness on the risks of illegal stocking.

If you know of someone illegally stocking live fish into Manitoba waters, please call the Manitoba Turn in Poachers (T.I.P.) line at 1-800-782-0076.



### LAKE INFORMATION FOR ANGLERS

The Manitoba government launched an interactive website called Lake Information for Anglers that provides valuable fisheries information in an accessible format. Anglers can access the site to view lake contour data, fish assessment data, boat launch photos and fish stocking records.

Lake Information for Anglers is a great tool to help plan your next fishing adventure to one of Manitoba's world class fishing destinations. To view the site visit: [manitobafisheries.com](http://manitobafisheries.com).

ESCAPE. EXPLORE. EXHALE.



# Fisheries Prints and Stamps

From 1993 to 2021, Manitoba artists created fisheries artwork to promote recreational angling and support fisheries enhancement projects in Manitoba.

Each year, the winning artwork was reproduced into prints and stamps which are available to purchase, subject to availability. If interested in purchasing prints and/or stamps, contact Manitoba Fisheries Branch by email at fish@gov.mb.ca to find out which years and numbers are still available and to place an order.

Orders must be picked up in person at: 14 Fultz Blvd, Winnipeg, MB R3Y 0L6

For more information, visit: manitobafisheries.com

Prints are \$30.00 plus tax.

Stamps are \$5.00 (signed) or \$2.50 (unsigned) plus tax.



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## The Rights and Responsibilities of Indigenous Harvesters

The Manitoba Anglers' Guide summarizes angling regulations for licenced anglers and those exempt from purchasing a licence such as Manitoba Resident Seniors, Manitoba Resident Active Military Members and Veterans, and youth fishers as outlined on page 5.

Indigenous people have recognized rights which allow for the harvest of fish for sustenance. In general, angling regulations outlined in this guide do not apply to Indigenous harvesters while exercising rights. There are a few exceptions that are outlined below.

Indigenous harvesters:

- do not require an angling licence to fish for food by angling or other means.
- do not require an angling licence to fish for recreational purposes or to participate in a Competitive Fishing Event, but must follow all angling regulations when not fishing for food.
- are not subject to gear restrictions such as the use of gill nets or the number of lines that can be used by angling, however, any unattended gear must be clearly marked with the owner's name and either their Treaty number or Manitoba Métis Federation Harvester Card number.
- must comply with regulations that pertain to conservation closures or restrictions.
- may angle by rod and reel in stocked trout waters but may not use nets or other methods of fishing.
- may not block more than two-thirds of a river or stream with a net or other device.
- may not fish within 23 metres of a fish ladder or fishway.
- may not sell fish.
- may not trade, barter or give fish to a non-Indigenous person.
- may transport fish from the catch point directly to their nearest residence.
- must obtain a Fish Transportation Loadslip if fish in excess of the possession limit are to be transported to a location other than their nearest residence.
- may not fish using their Treaty or Constitutional Rights while employed as an angling outfitter or guide in any manner that could benefit their business or employer.

The Manitoba Métis Federation requires Métis harvesters to follow the Métis Laws of the Harvest. For more information, please contact the Manitoba Métis Federation at: 204-586-8474 or email: [harvest@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:harvest@mmf.mb.ca).

Non-Indigenous people may accompany Indigenous harvesters that are fishing but may not help them to exercise their right to fish for food. For example, non-Indigenous people could not set or lift nets, however, they could assist in transporting fish while accompanying an Indigenous harvester exercising their right to fish for food.

For more information, contact the nearest Manitoba Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures office (see page 16).

## Come Catch Us On the Web

<a href="http://manitobafisheries.com">Manitoba Fisheries</a> .....	<a href="http://manitobafisheries.com">manitobafisheries.com</a>
<a href="http://Manitoba.ca/StopAIS">Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)</a> .....	<a href="http://Manitoba.ca/StopAIS">Manitoba.ca/StopAIS</a>
<a href="http://fishfutures.net">Fish Futures Inc</a> .....	<a href="http://fishfutures.net">fishfutures.net</a>
<a href="http://mwf.mb.ca">Manitoba Wildlife Federation</a> .....	<a href="http://mwf.mb.ca">mwf.mb.ca</a>
<a href="http://travelmanitoba.com">Travel Manitoba</a> .....	<a href="http://travelmanitoba.com">travelmanitoba.com</a>
<a href="http://mloa.com">Manitoba Lodges &amp; Outfitters Association</a> .....	<a href="http://mloa.com">mloa.com</a>
<a href="http://mwf.mb.ca">Manitoba Recreational Fishing League</a> .....	<a href="http://mwf.mb.ca">mwf.mb.ca</a>
<a href="http://mffa.org">Manitoba Fly Fishers Association</a> .....	<a href="http://mffa.org">mffa.org</a>
<a href="http://swanvalleysportfishing.com">Swan Valley Sport Fishing</a> .....	<a href="http://swanvalleysportfishing.com">swanvalleysportfishing.com</a>

## Enforcement and Fines

Manitoba Conservation Officers play an important educational role in relation to angling regulations. Officers check anglers on a regular basis and also conduct roadside checkstops. To help make your angling experience enjoyable, please be aware of Manitoba's angling and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) regulations.

The following are some set, ticketable fines for common angling and AIS offences. Fines may be higher depending on the severity and/or frequency of the offences. Restitution will apply to those who are convicted of illegally removing fish from the environment. Some set fines have increased as part of Canada's process to amend The Contraventions Act. See new fines listed below.

Using barbed hooks .....	\$220
Fishing without a licence.....	\$298
Over limit.....	\$390 plus
Transport live fish away from the water .....	\$486
Unattended line.....	\$220
Failure to carry your licence while fishing.....	\$174
Failure to remove an ice fishing shelter .....	\$348
Possession of crayfish.....	\$433
Bringing live bait into Manitoba .....	\$433
<b>Possession of AIS (e.g. zebra mussels).....</b>	<b>\$1,296</b>
<b>Failure to dispose bait used in an</b>	
<b>AIS Control Zone .....</b>	<b>\$672</b>

For more information on AIS set fines, visit:  
[Manitoba.ca/StopAIS](http://Manitoba.ca/StopAIS)

## Do Not Litter

The fine for littering in Manitoba is \$203.

**Do you have information regarding a violation against Manitoba's fisheries, wildlife, or forestry?**

**Call the Manitoba Conservation Officer Service Turn In Poachers (T.I.P.) Line, toll-free, at 1-800-782-0076.**

Calls are taken 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can remain anonymous and you may take pride your information assisted in the protection of Manitoba's natural resources.

**TURN IN POACHERS (T.I.P.)  
 REPORT WILDFIRES  
 1-800-782-0076**

## Catch and Release Tips:

- Play your fish as little as possible.
- Hold fish horizontally, supporting the weight of the body, such as with one hand under the belly and the other hand around the tail.
- Don't hold fish by the eyes or gills.
- Handle fish gently ensuring not to drop the fish.
- Return fish to the water quickly.
- Bring scissors, pliers, and other tools to safely release the fish.
- Never release fish that have been held on a stringer.
- If the fish is deeply hooked and can't be kept per regulations, cut the line as close to the hook as possible, as removing the hook may cause more damage and reduce the chance of survival when released.
- Reduce angling during extreme heat and cold as extreme temperatures can contribute to post release mortality.
- Don't recommend angling for the following fish in water deeper than 9 metres (30 feet):
  - walleye, sauger, northern pike, black crappie, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, burbot, lake whitefish, cisco, bluegill, muskellunge, and rock bass.
- Don't fizz fish, as it can reduce chance of survival. Instead use a descending device, if necessary.

## General Limits

### NOTICE OF INDIVIDUAL REGULATIONS

The possession limits and size restrictions listed below are general, provincial regulations, and apply to most Manitoba waters. A number of waters and fishing divisions in Manitoba have special, individual regulations. These exceptions and/or additions to the general regulations are found in the individual fishing divisions on pages 17-23. New regulations are in bold type.

Species	Possession Limit	Size Restriction
Arctic Char (except in stocked trout waters)	<b>1</b>	
Arctic Grayling	3	None may exceed 40 cm
Bigmouth Buffalo	0	
Black Crappie	6	None may exceed 35 cm
Bluegill & Pumpkinseed	10	
Brook Trout (except stocked trout waters)	1	None may exceed 45 cm
Brown & Black Bullhead	25	
Burbot	6	None may exceed 70 cm
Channel Catfish	4	None may exceed 60 cm
Freshwater Drum	10	None may exceed 60 cm
Goldeye & Mooneye (either or combined)	10	
Lake Sturgeon	0	
Lake Trout	1	None may exceed 65 cm
Lake Whitefish	10	
Largemouth Bass	<b>4</b>	<b>None may exceed 45 cm</b>
Muskellunge	0	
Northern Pike (Jackfish)	4	None may exceed 75 cm
Rock Bass	6	
Smallmouth Bass	4	None may exceed 45 cm
Stocked Brook, Brown, & Rainbow Trout; Splake & other Trout hybrids; & Arctic Char (any species or combination)	3	Only one may exceed 45 cm None may exceed 60 cm
Walleye (Pickerel) & Sauger (either or combined)	4	None may exceed 55 cm
White Bass	10	
Yellow Perch	25	
All Other Species	No Possession Limit	No Size Restriction

### Limits and Possession

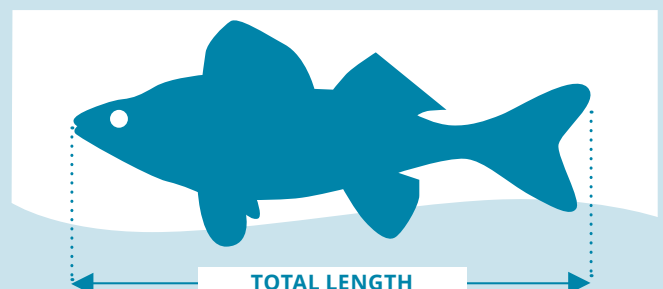
Fish are considered to be in possession if they are not immediately released into the water from which they were taken. Possession limits are the same as daily limits. You may possess no more than one limit of each kind of fish at any time. This includes all fish you have in hand, camp, transportation, at home or for use in a Competitive Fishing Event. Limits on this page apply to most Manitoba waters. Limits on specific waters are listed in the individual fishing divisions (17-23).

### Holding and Releasing a Fish

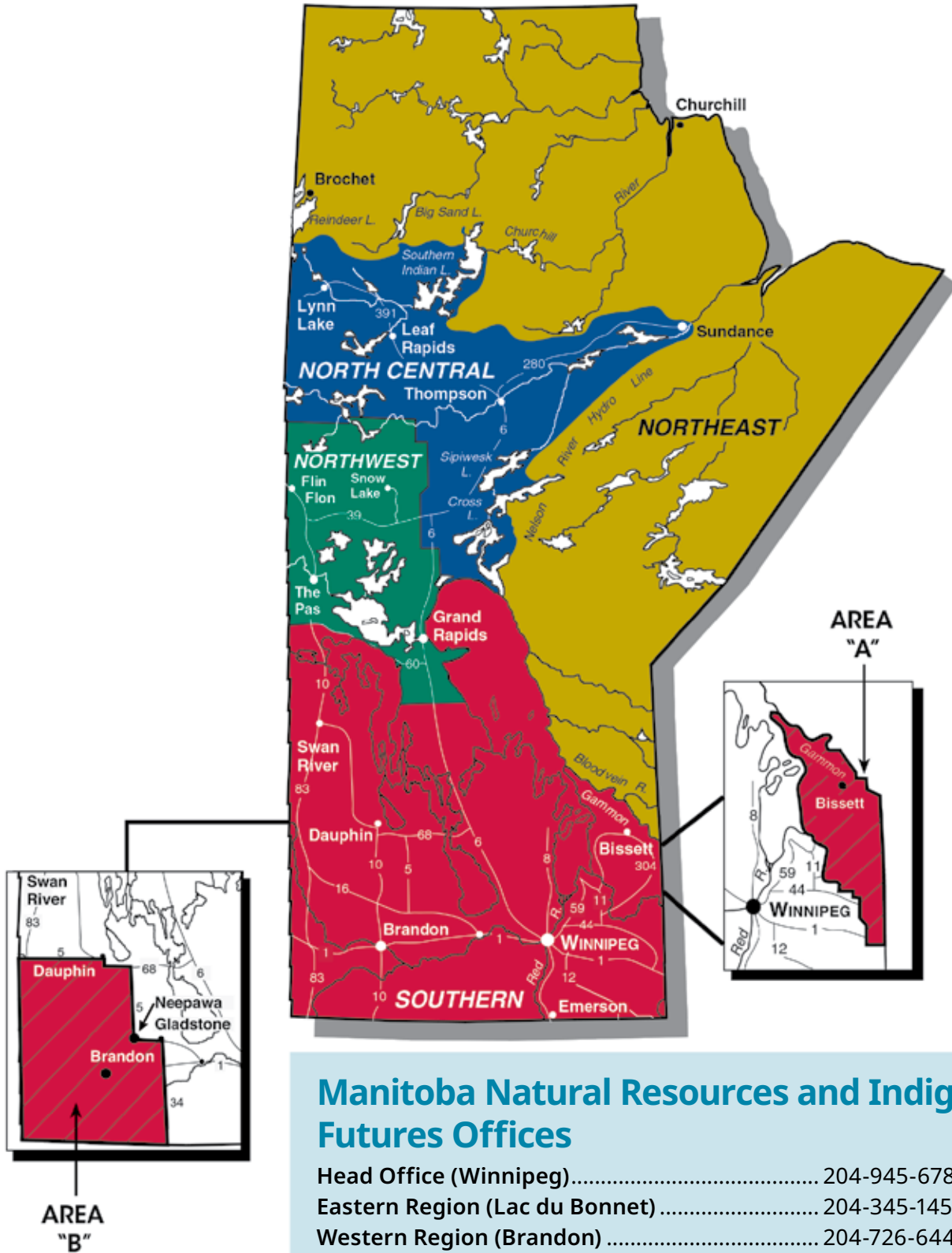
Fish being legally retained may be held live only while you are actively fishing, and they must be held within 25 m of you. If you release fish, they must be released unharmed into the water from which they were taken. They must not be tagged or marked in any way, unless authorized by a permit.

### Measuring a Fish

Total fish length is measured from the most anterior part of the head to the most posterior part of the tail laid flat (i.e. not pinched). See illustration below. Note: 2.54 cm = 1 inch.



# Fishing Divisions



## Manitoba Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures Offices

Head Office (Winnipeg).....	204-945-6784
Eastern Region (Lac du Bonnet) .....	204-345-1450
Western Region (Brandon) .....	204-726-6441
Western Region (Dauphin).....	204-622-2106
Western Region (Swan River).....	204-734-8350
Central Region (Gimli).....	204-642-6070
Northwest Region (The Pas).....	204-620-5311
Northeast Region (Thompson) .....	204-677-6640

For general information please call 204-945-6784 or 1-800-214-6497

# Southern Division Regulations

## Species Seasons

(refer to map on the left for the Southern Division boundary)

Species	Closed Season*	Open Season
Walleye/Sauger	April 6, 2026 to and including May 8, 2026	May 9, 2026 to and including April 4, 2027
Lake Sturgeon	May 1 to and including June 15	June 16 to and including April 30
Lake Trout	September 15 to and including October 31	November 1 to and including September 14
All Other Species		Open year-round

\* Shall not fish for species during their closed season.

- Check the *Waterbody Specific Regulations* section on pages 18-19 for specific closures on Lake Winnipeg, Red River, Dauphin Lake and Assiniboine River.
- Use of live bait fish is allowed in some areas of the Southern Division (see page 6).

### Eastern Manitoba Special Walleye and Lake Trout Regulation for Area "A" See map on page 16

All walleye over 45 cm **and all lake trout over 55 cm must be released** in the area south of the Gammon-Bloodvein rivers to the south and west shores of the Winnipeg River, including the Manigotagan River upstream of highway 304, Lac du Bonnet, and the southern boundary of Whiteshell Provincial Park and from Lake Winnipeg to the Ontario border (excluding the Winnipeg River from the Pine Falls Dam to Lake Winnipeg).

◆ **Special Walleye Regulation Applies**

### Southwestern Manitoba Special Walleye Regulation for Area "B" See map on page 16

All walleye shorter than 35 cm must be released south of highway 5 from the Saskatchewan border east to Ste. Rose du Lac, including all waterbodies west of highway 5 south to Neepawa, including all waterbodies south of highway 16 east to Gladstone and including all waterbodies west of highway 34 south to the US border;

Excluding, the Assiniboine River, Lake of the Prairies, Dauphin Lake tributaries, and Lake Wahtopanah and Little Saskatchewan River upstream to Riding Mountain National Park, including Rapid City Reservoir and Minnedosa Lake.

## DIP NETTING AND SEINING RESTRICTIONS

General regulations on dip netting and seining can be found on page 8. No dip netting or seining is allowed in any stocked trout waters. In Nopiming and Whiteshell Provincial Parks, and the Rennie River near Rennie, dip netting and seining for suckers and all species other than bait fish are prohibited year round. Some streams are closed to all fishing (including dip netting) in spring to prevent damage to spawning fish and eggs. Check for spring closures by stream or lake name in the *Waterbody Specific Regulations*.

## ANGLING SAFETY AROUND FISHING GEAR

Be careful and stay a safe distance from commercial fishing gear, buoys and floats when fishing or boating. It's recommended not to travel between buoys as commercial nets can be set between buoys and you may tangle your fishing or boating equipment. Buoys and floats can be different colours.



## WATERBODY SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

(New regulations are in bold type)

**Assiniboine River downstream of the Portage Diversion to Highway 240** - closed to all fishing from April 6 to and including May 8.

**Basket Creek** - closed to all fishing, including dip netting, from April 1 to and including May 8.

**Beaver Lake (Duck Mountain)** - walleye limit is 2 and all walleye over 45 cm must be released. No Motors, except electric motors, are allowed.

**Bell Lake** - walleye limit is 2 and all walleye over 45 cm must be released.

**Big Bobs Lake** - walleye limit is 2 and all walleye over 45 cm must be released. Yellow perch limit is 10 and all yellow perch over 30 cm must be released.

◆ **Big Whiteshell Lake** - cisco limit is 6 and only one may exceed 45 cm.

**Chain Lakes** - no motors, except electric motors, are allowed.

**Crawford Creek** - see Dauphin Lake.

**Crowduck Lake** - walleye limit is 2 and **all walleye over 48 cm must be released**. All smallmouth bass over 40 cm must be released.

**Dauphin Lake including that portion of the Mossy River to municipal road 107 west and all inflowing tributaries** - all walleye over 48 cm must be released. All inflowing tributaries and those parts of Dauphin Lake within 1 km of their mouths, excluding the Vermilion Reservoir, are closed to all fishing, including dip netting from March 1 to and including May 8. The remaining parts of Dauphin Lake remain open in March and are closed to all fishing from April 1 to and including May 8.

**Dog Lake Drain** - closed to all fishing, including dip netting, from April 1 to and including May 8.

**Dufaults Creek** - closed to all fishing including dip netting, from April 1 to and including May 8.

◆ **Falcon Creek** - closed to all fishing, including dip netting, from April 1 to and including May 31.

**Glad Lake** - all arctic char must be released. Only 1 northern pike may exceed 75 cm.

**Gull Lake (near Beaconia)** - all northern pike over 60 cm must be released.

◆ **Hamilton Creek** - closed to all fishing, including dip netting, from April 1 to and including May 31.

**Hamlin Drain** - closed to all fishing, including dip netting, from April 1 to and including May 8

**Hunt Lake** - **no possession limit or size restriction for largemouth bass.**

**Lake of the Prairies and its tributaries, including the Shell River west of PTH 83** - all walleye over 45 cm must be released. Anglers may fish with either a Manitoba or Saskatchewan angling licence upstream from the Shellmouth Dam (see border waters - page 5). Check Saskatchewan angling regulations if fishing on the Saskatchewan side.

**Lake St. George** - all walleye over 45 cm must be released.

**Lake Winnipeg** - walleye/sauger season closed April 6 to and including May 15.

**Lake Winnipeg and its tributaries up to the first impassable barrier for fish** - all walleye and sauger shorter than 35 cm must be released.

**Limestone Bay (on Lake Winnipeg)** - closed to fishing all year.

**Lonely Lake Drain** - closed to all fishing, including dip netting, from April 1 to and including May 31.

**Marge Lake** - walleye limit is 2 and all walleye shorter than 35 cm must be released.

**Mary Jane Reservoir** - all walleye shorter than 35 cm must be released. Black crappie limit is 4. **All largemouth bass must be released.**

**Mink Creek** - see Dauphin Lake.

**Minnedosa Lake** - see Wahtopanah Lake.

**Minnewasta Lake** - all walleye shorter than 35 cm must be released.

**Moose Lake (near Sprague)** - all walleye shorter than 35 cm must be released.

**North Steeprock Lake** - walleye limit is 2 and all walleye over 45 cm must be released.

**Ochre River** - see Dauphin Lake.

**Proulx Creek and all other creeks and drains that intersect PR 328 to the east** - closed to all fishing, including dip netting, from April 1 to and including May 8.

**Rapid City Reservoir** - See Wahtopanah Lake.

**Red River from the Canada/US border to Lake Winnipeg and all tributaries between Lockport Dam and Lake Winnipeg** - all walleye and sauger shorter than 35 cm must be released.

**Red River between Lockport Dam and Lake Winnipeg, including its tributaries upstream to Highway 9 and Highway 59** - closed to all fishing from April 6 to and including May 8.

**Red River from Lockport Dam to 1 km downstream** - dip netting and seining for bait fish only, not suckers (excluding the Special Conservation Area); no bow fishing allowed.

**Red River at St. Andrews Lock and Dam (Special Conservation Area for pelicans)** - closed to all fishing and possession of fishing gear from April 1 to and including November 15. Boundary outlined below:

*East:* existing north-south chain link fence running along the top of the bank;

*North:* a line from the existing east-west chain link fence, extending into the Red River to the point directly north of the centre of the first freestanding bridge pier;

*South:* the dam face to the centre of the first freestanding bridge pier;

*West:* a line directly north of the centre of the first freestanding bridge pier to the point it intersects with the north boundary.



**Rennie River** - all walleye over 45 cm must be released.

**Reynolds Ponds** - largemouth bass limit is 2 and all largemouth bass over 40 cm must be released.

**Shoal Lake (on the Ontario border)** - all walleye and sauger must be released.

**Singush Lake** - walleye limit is 2 and all walleye over 45 cm must be released.

**St. Malo Lake** - no motors, except electric motors, allowed.

**Stephenfield Lake** - all walleye shorter than 35 cm must be released.

**Turtle River from PTH 5 near Laurier to Dauphin Lake** - see Dauphin Lake.

**Valley River** - see Dauphin Lake.

**Vermilion River and Vermilion Reservoir** - see Dauphin Lake.

**Verrall Lake** - walleye limit is 2 and all walleye over 45 cm must be released.

**Vini Lake** - only 1 northern pike may exceed 75 cm.

**Wahtopanah Lake and Little Saskatchewan River from the Rivers Dam upstream to Riding Mountain National Park, including Rapid City Reservoir and Minnedosa Lake** - all walleye over 45 cm must be released. That portion of Wahtopanah Lake and the Little Saskatchewan River from PTH 24 to the TC Energy Pipeline crossing on Wahtopanah Lake is closed to all fishing from April 1 to and including May 31.

**Wellman Lake** - walleye limit is 2 and all walleye over 45 cm must be released.

**West Watjask Lake** - closed to all fishing from November 15 to and including June 15. May only use artificial lures and flies and may only use one hook per lure.

**Whitefish Lake (in the Porcupine Forest) including the Marina Lagoon, North Creek and Whitefish Creek** - walleye limit is 2 and all walleye over 45 cm must be released. North Creek closed to all fishing from April 1 to and including June 1.

◆ **Whiteshell River from West Hawk Lake to Caddy Lake** - trout limit is 0 and closed to all fishing from November 1 to and including April 15.

**Winnipeg River between the Manitoba/Ontario border and the Pine Falls Generating Station** - closed to lake sturgeon fishing all year.

**Winnipeg River from Pine Falls Generating Station to Lake Winnipeg to and including Traverse Bay** - all walleye and sauger shorter than 35 cm must be released.

**Wilson River** - see Dauphin Lake.

**William Lake** - smallmouth bass limit is 2 and only 1 may exceed 40 cm.

## STOCKED TROUT WATERS

No bow fishing, dip netting, or seining is allowed on stocked trout waters. In Duck Mountain Provincial Park, and in Porcupine Provincial Forest, all trout smaller than 35 cm must be released, except those caught in streams. Annual stocking lists are available online at: [manitobafisheries.com](http://manitobafisheries.com).

The trout lakes, ponds and reservoirs listed below are open to fishing all year, with the following exceptions.

- All Lake trout caught must be released from September 15 to and including October 31.
- No fishing for walleye during the walleye closed season from April 6, 2026 to and including May 8, 2026.
- The trout creeks and rivers listed below are closed to all fishing from November 1 to and including April 15.

No motors may be used on those waters marked with an ~.

No motors, except electric motors, may be used on those waters marked with an \*.

*Antons Lake - trout limit is two.	Gass Lake (Porcupine Forest)	North Duck River	Stony Creek (West of Neepawa)
Bagguley Lake	George Lake	O'Hanly Pond	Strawberry Pond
Bear Lake (W of Caddy L)	Glad Lake (Duck Mountain)	Olson Lake (Porcupine Forest)	Tees Lake
Beautiful Lake	Gull Lake (Duck Mountain)	~One Lake	Tokaryk Lake
Birch River (E of Porcupine Forest)	Gull Pond (N of Camp Morton)	*Patterson Lake - trout limit is one and all trout over 45 cm must be released, may only use artificial lures and flies.	Tower Pond
Black Beaver Lake	Hadashville Pond	*Perch Lake (Duck Mountain) – all trout must be released.	Tugby Lake
Blueberry Pond	*Hunt Lake	*Persse Lake - trout limit is two, may only use artificial lures and flies.	*Twin Lakes - all trout must be released, may only use artificial lures and flies.
Bower Lake	Kinch Creek	Pine River (Duck Mountain)	~Two Lake (S of Crowduck Lake)
Bowsman River	Kingfisher Lake	*Pybus Lake - trout limit is one and all trout over 45 cm must be released, may only use artificial lures and flies.	*Two Mile Lake (Duck Mountain)
*Camp Lake (NE of Falcon Lake)	*Lac du Bonnet Ponds - all brown trout and tiger trout must be released.	Quartz Pond	*Vermilion Reservoir
Childs Lake	Lake 400	Raspberry Pond	Vini Lake (Porcupine Forest)
*Corstorphine Lake – trout limit is one and all trout over 45 cm must be released, may only use artificial lures and flies.	Laurie Lake	Reynolds Ponds	Wasp Lake - all tiger trout must be released.
Davidson Lake	Limestone Pond	Saskatoon Pond	*West Blue Lake
Dorothy Pond	*Little McBride Lake (NW of Boggy Creek)	*Shiliday Lake (Duck Mountain)	*West Goose Lake - trout limit is one and all trout over 45 cm must be released, may only use artificial lures and flies.
East Blue Lake (Duck Mountain)	*Lyons Lake (S of W Hawk Lake)	Snail Lake	West Hawk Lake
*East Goose Lake (S. of Roblin) – trout limit is one and all trout over 45 cm must be released.	*McHugh Lake - trout limit is one, may only use artificial lures and flies.	Snowberry Pond	Whiteshell River between West Hawk and Caddy lakes - all trout must be released.
Elgin Reservoir	Milner Ridge Pond	South Duck River	*William Lake (S of Boissevain)
Eternal Springs (lower and upper ponds)	Mirror Lake (Porcupine Forest) - trout limit is one and closed to all fishing from September 15 to and including October 31.	*Spear Lake (Russell Reservoir)	
Forbes Lake	Nick Lake (Porcupine Forest)	Steepprock River (Porcupine Forest)	
Garland River			

# Northwest Division Regulations

## Species Seasons

(refer to map on page 16 for the Northwest Division boundary)

Species	Closed Season*	Open Season
Walleye/ Sauger	May 1 to and including May 15, 2026	May 16, 2026 to and including April 30, 2027
Lake Sturgeon	May 1 to and including June 30	July 1 to and including April 30
All Other Species		Open year-round

\* Shall not fish for species during their closed season.

- No live bait fish

## STOCKED TROUT WATERS

No bow fishing, dip netting or seining is allowed on stocked trout waters. Annual stocking lists are available online at: [manitobafisheries.com](http://manitobafisheries.com).

The following stocked trout waters are open to fishing all year. No fishing for walleye in these waters during the walleye closed season from May 1 to and including May 15.

Amphipod Lake	Kormans Lake
Barbe Lake	One Portage Lake
Foot Print Lake	Scotty Lake
Goose River from the water control structure downstream to Goose Lake	Webster Lake

## WATERBODY SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

**Athapapuskow Lake** - The south end is closed to all fishing from September 15 to and including October 15. Quarry Bay and Quarry Bay Channel are closed to all fishing from May 1 to and including May 31. Pickerel Bay and Pickerel Bay Channel are closed to all fishing from May 1 to and including May 31. Check Saskatchewan angling regulations if fishing on the Saskatchewan side.

**Clearwater Lake** - the west side is closed to all fishing from September 15 to and including October 15, on a line northeast from the end of Sunset Point (Spawn Camp Point) to the west side of the inlet of Pike Bay.

**Dolomite Lake** - closed to all fishing from April 1 to and including May 15.

**Grass River** - see Wekusko Lake and Reed Lake for specific regulations.

**Grass River from the CN rail line just north of Iskwasum Lake to the inlet of Reed Lake (including Iskwasum, Loucks, and Flag lakes)** - closed to all fishing from May 1 to and including May 31.

**Kisseynew Lake and Kississing River from Kisseynew Lake to Kississing Lake** - closed to all fishing from May 1 to and including May 31.

**Kississing Lake and its tributaries, including Bartlett Lake** - all non-residents of Manitoba who fish must be registered and staying with, and obtain a Special Angling Licence (free) from, a licensed Manitoba tourist operator with an allocation for this fishery.

**Morgan Lake** - closed to all fishing from May 1 to and including June 30.

**Morton Lake** - walleye limit is 2 and northern pike limit is 2. All non-residents of Manitoba who fish must be registered and staying with, and obtain a Special Angling Licence (free) from, a licensed Manitoba tourist operator with an allocation for this fishery.

**Osborne Lake, Osborne Lake Creek and Wekusko Brook** - closed to all fishing from April 1 to and including June 30.

**Pickerel Creek** - closed to all fishing, including dip netting, from April 20 to and including May 15.

**Reed Lake, including Krug Lake, Jackfish Lake, Jackfish Lake Creek, Woosey Creek between Reed Lake and Halfway Lake, and all other tributaries of Reed Lake, including Grass River from Flag Lake to Tramping Lake** - walleye limit is 2 and northern pike limit is 2.

**Rocky Lake** - Goose Bay is closed to all fishing from November 1 to and including May 15.

**Saskatchewan River from Grand Rapids Generating Station to 1 km downstream (tailrace channel)** - closed to fishing all year.

**Snow Creek from Compton Lake to Snow Lake** - closed to all fishing from May 1 to and including May 31.

**Wabishkok Lake** - closed to all fishing from May 1 to and including May 31.

**Wekusko Lake** - Herb Bay north of the hydro line on Wekusko Lake is closed to all fishing from April 1 to and including June 30. Grass River from the outlet on Wekusko Lake on a line from the mouth of Rex Creek, southeast to the southwest corner of Campbell Island to the rapids downstream (including Missipisew and Wuskatasko Rivers) is closed to all fishing from April 1 to and including June 30.

**Whitefish Lake and Pineroot River from Whitefish Lake to and including Wabishkok Lake** - closed to all fishing from May 1 to and including May 31.

**Woosey Creek between Woosey Lake and Morgan Lake** - closed to all fishing from May 1 to and including June 30.

**Woosey Lake** - closed to all fishing from May 1 to and including May 31.

# North Central Division Regulations

## Species Seasons

(refer to map on page 16 for the Northwest Division boundary)

Species	Closed Season*	Open Season
Walleye/Sauger	May 1 to and including May 15, 2026	May 16, 2026 to and including April 30, 2027
Lake Sturgeon	May 1 to and including June 30	July 1 to and including April 30
All Other Species		Open year-round

\* Shall not fish for species during their closed season.

- No live bait fish

### STOCKED TROUT WATERS

No bow fishing, dip netting, or seining are allowed on stocked trout waters. Annual stocking lists are available online at: [manitobafisheries.com](http://manitobafisheries.com).

The following stocked trout lakes are open to fishing all year. No fishing for walleye in these waters during the walleye closed season from May 1 to and including May 15.

No motors, except electric motors, are allowed on those waters marked with an \*.

Bowden Lake	Hidden Lake
Crater Lake	Leaf Lake
*Digney Lake	Little Troy Lake
Esker Lake No. 1	*Mid Lake
Esker Lake No. 2	Upper Ospwagan Lake
*Gemmell Lake	

### WATERBODY SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

**Fish Lake and Setting Creek (Fish Creek) and including that part of Setting Lake within 2 km of the mouth of Setting Creek** - closed to all fishing from March 15 to and including July 15.

**Kiski Lake and Kiski Creek** - closed to all fishing from May 1 to and including July 15.

**McLaren Creek** - closed to all fishing from May 1 to and including May 31.

**Nelson River and its tributaries downstream of Kettle Generating Station** - closed to brook trout fishing from September 1 to and including September 30.

**Nelson River and its tributaries from Whitemud Falls (outlet of Cross Lake) to Kelsey Generating Station, including Duck and Sipiwesk lakes** - closed to lake sturgeon fishing from May 1 to and including June 15. Within that area; a portion of the Nelson River extending 8 kms upstream and 8 kms downstream of the mouth of the Landing River, including the Landing River is closed to lake sturgeon fishing all year.

**Owl Creek** - closed to all fishing from May 1 to and including May 31.

**Thompson Creek** - closed to all fishing from May 1 to and including May 31.

**Velde Creek (including Joey Creek)** - closed to all fishing from May 1 to and including May 31.

### DESCENDING DEVICE

A descending device is a deep-water release tool designed to return fish with barotrauma to the depth it was hooked. Using this device returns fish to the depth, temperature, and pressure it was at and increases the chance of survival. These devices are used when a fish has one or more symptoms of barotrauma and is unable to swim downwards under its own strength. Indicators of barotrauma include the inability to maintain orientation or to swim downwards, bloated appearance, bulging eyes, and in severe cases, the stomach may be pushed into the mouth.

A descending device works by attaching a fish to a weight and sinking it to the depth it was hooked. The general design is a hook or grip attached to a fish that is rigged to a weight and a line or rope. An angler can quickly attach a fish to the device, descend the fish to the depth it was hooked, detach the fish (method will vary by device) and haul in the line. This technique should be performed quickly and carefully in order to minimize additional stress.

Descending devices can be purchased at a store or made at home. The key when using a descending device is to keep it accessible in the boat and be ready to use it. Handling and releasing fish with barotrauma quickly and gently will increase survival.

## Northeast Division Regulations

Generally open to angling all year (refer to map on page 16 for the Northeast Division boundary).

- Shall not fish for species during their closed season
- No live bait fish

Only single, barbless hooks can be used on the waters listed below.

Askey Lake	Nahili Lake
Bagg Lake	Nueltin Lake
Bangle Lake	Pritchard Lake
Blevins Lake	Putahow Lake
Booth Lake	Putahow River (between
Chatwin Lake	Putahow Lake and
Corbett Lake	Nueltin Lake)
Cuddle Lake	Ragged Basin Lake
Fort Hall Lake	Shannon Lake
Goose Lake	Silsby Lake
High Hill Lake	Snyder Lake
John Osborn Lake	Thanout Lake
Kapusta Lake	Thlewiaza River (from
Kasmere Lake	Fort Hall Lake to
MacMillan Lake	Nueltin Lake)
Muskasew Lake	Tice Lake
Muskosemunomin Lake	Timewe Lake

### WATERBODY SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

**Bear Lake** - all non-residents of Manitoba who fish must be registered and staying with, and obtain a Special Angling Licence (free) from, a licensed Manitoba tourist operator with an allocation for this fishery.

**Berens River from the mouth upstream to Sturgeon Falls, including the Etonami River upstream to Makik Falls and including the North Etonami River upstream to Miskomapiinna Rapids** - walleye season closed April 6 to and including May 8. Lake sturgeon season closed May 1 to and including June 30.

**Bloodvein River from the mouth upstream to Meekisiwi Rapids** - walleye season closed April 6 to and including May 8. Lake sturgeon season closed May 1 to and including June 30.

**Bradbury River** - walleye season closed April 6 to and including May 8. Lake sturgeon season closed May 1 to and including June 30.

**Gods Lake** - all non-residents of Manitoba who fish must be registered and staying with, and obtain a Special Angling Licence (free) from, a licensed Manitoba tourist operator with an allocation for this fishery.

**Gods River (from Gods Lake to Great Bear Falls)** - all brook trout must be released.

**Molson Lake and its tributaries (except Paimusk Creek)** - closed to fishing from May 1 to and including May 15. All non-residents of Manitoba who fish must be registered and staying with, and obtain a Special Angling Licence (free) from, a licensed Manitoba tourist operator with an allocation for this fishery.

**Nelson River and its tributaries** - closed to brook trout fishing from September 1 to and including September 30.

**Nueltin Lake** - all non-residents of Manitoba who fish must be registered and staying with, and obtain a Special Angling Licence (free) from, a licensed Manitoba tourist operator with an allocation for this fishery.

**Paimusk Creek** - closed to fishing from May 1 to and including May 31. All non-residents of Manitoba who fish must be registered and staying with, and obtain a Special Angling Licence (free) from, a licensed Manitoba tourist operator with an allocation for this fishery.

**Pigeon River from the mouth upstream to Sturgeon Falls** - walleye season closed April 6 to and including May 8. Lake sturgeon season closed May 1 to and including June 30.

**Utik Lake** - all non-residents of Manitoba who fish must be registered and staying with, and obtain a Special Angling Licence (free) from, a licensed Manitoba tourist operator with an allocation for this fishery.

### Share Your Angling Photos!



Submit your best angling photo to [fish@gov.mb.ca](mailto:fish@gov.mb.ca) by September 30, 2026. Your photo could be chosen to promote angling in Manitoba.

**Photo Submission Requirements:**

- High quality - at least 300 DPI
- Proper fish handling, aesthetically pleasing
- It's suggested all persons in photo wear a life jacket, regardless in a boat or on shore (exception ice fishing)
- Following all angling regulations

**Note:** If your photo is selected and meets all requirements you will be contacted to sign a consent form. Compensation will not be provided for voluntary photo submissions.

**Manitoba** 

# STOP AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



## IN THE OPEN-WATER SEASON...

### **BEFORE ENTERING A WATER BODY, you need to...**

- ensure watercraft (e.g., canoe, power boat) and water-related equipment (e.g., fishing gear, bait container) are free of AIS, aquatic plants (e.g., weeds, algae) and mud.
- drain any residual water from the watercraft and water-related equipment on land away from the water body. This includes water in bait containers.
- ensure the water-related equipment that were last used in **another** water body than the one you are entering are dried completely OR decontaminated.

### **AFTER EXITING A WATER BODY and at the shore, you need to...**

- remove AIS and aquatic plants (e.g., weeds, algae) from watercraft and water-related equipment.
- drain all water from the watercraft and water-related equipment.
- open/remove drain plugs/valves and leave them open while transporting watercraft over land.

### **WHEN LEAVING AN AIS CONTROL ZONE, in addition to the exiting steps above, you need to...**

- obtain a Transportation Authorization if you cannot remove the AIS **before** leaving the shore.
- dispose of all remaining bait (e.g., live or dead) in the trash before leaving the shore.
- decontaminate watercraft and water-related equipment **before** placing them into **another** water body. Note: if returning to the same water body on the next trip, decontamination is not required.

To decontaminate in the open-water season, you can:

- visit a provincial Watercraft Inspection Station. There is no cost for this service.

**OR**

- follow the Approved Decontamination Methods (Schedule B and C) in the Aquatic Invasive Species Regulation.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

**Manitoba.ca/StopAIS**

**or call (toll-free): 1-87-STOP AIS-0**

**(1-877-867-2470)**

**Be part of the solution  
and do your part.**

**In Manitoba:**

- **you must be free of AIS**
- **set fines for AIS offences are in effect year-round**



**IN THE WINTER (ICE-COVERED) SEASON...**

**BEFORE ENTERING A WATER BODY, you need to...**

- ensure water-related equipment are free of AIS, aquatic plants (e.g., weeds), and mud.
- drain any residual water on land away from the water body. This includes water in bait containers.
- ensure all water-related equipment (e.g., fishing gear, auger, ice scooper) that were last used in **another** water body than the one you are entering are dried completely (preferably indoors) OR decontaminated (e.g., let all items freeze outside for three days at -10°C or colder).

**AFTER EXITING A WATER BODY and at the shore, you need to...**

- remove AIS and aquatic plants (e.g., weeds) from water-related equipment.
- drain all water. This includes water in bait containers. Note: water in its frozen form does not need to be removed.

**WHEN LEAVING AN AIS CONTROL ZONE, in addition to the exiting steps above, you need to...**

- dispose of all remaining bait (e.g., live or dead) in the trash **before** leaving the shore.
- decontaminate all water-related equipment (e.g., fishing gear, auger, ice scooper) **before** placing them into **another** water body. Note: if returning to the same water body on the next trip, decontamination is not required.

To decontaminate in the winter, you can:

- freeze all water-related equipment for at least three days at -10°C or colder.

**OR**

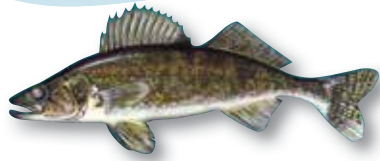
- follow the Approved Decontamination Methods (Schedule C) in the Aquatic Invasive Species Regulation.

**AND** ensure all water-related equipment are dried completely **before** placing them into **another** water body.

# Common Manitoba Fish Species



**WALLEYE**



**YELLOW PERCH**



**BULLHEAD**



**SAUGER**



**BURBOT**



**CHANNEL CATFISH**



**NORTHERN PIKE**



**COMMON CARP**



**SMALLMOUTH BASS**



**GOLDEYE**



**FRESHWATER DRUM**



**LAKE TROUT**



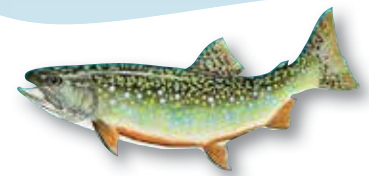
**MOONEYE**



**WHITE BASS**



**BROOK TROUT**



## L'I'L ANGLER PROGRAM

Geared toward children 12 years of age and younger, the program encourages kids to get hooked on fishing and gain a little recognition. It's easy and it's fun!

When little anglers catch their first fish, they, or their parents, apply online with a photo. Travel Manitoba will send the Li'l Angler a one-time embroidered crest and a certificate of achievement. There is no length requirement and the fish can be any of the qualifying species found in Manitoba.



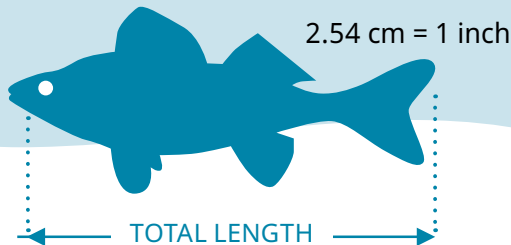
For more information or to enter your catch, go to [anglers.travelmanitoba.com](http://anglers.travelmanitoba.com)

# Travel Manitoba Master Angler Program

anglers.travelmanitoba.com



## How to Measure a Fish's Total Length



## Length Requirements

Species	Minimum Length
Arctic Char	51 cm (20 in)
Arctic Grayling	46 cm (18 in)
Black Crappie	30.5 cm (12 in)
Brook Trout	51 cm (20 in)
Brown Trout	51 cm (20 in)
Bullhead	30.5 cm (12 in)
Burbot	76 cm (30 in)
Common Carp	76 cm (30 in)
Channel Catfish	86.5 cm (34 in)
Freshwater Drum	61 cm (24 in)
Goldeye	35.5 cm (14 in)
Lake Sturgeon	109 cm (43 in)
Lake Trout	89 cm (35 in)
Lake Whitefish	56 cm (22 in)
Largemouth Bass	46 cm (18 in)
Mooneye	35.5 cm (14 in)
Muskellunge	79 cm (31 in)
Northern Pike	104 cm (41 in)
Rainbow Trout	51 cm (20 in)
Rock Bass	25.5 cm (10 in)
Sauger	46 cm (18 in)
Smallmouth Bass	46 cm (18 in)
Splake	51 cm (20 in)
Sucker	46 cm (18 in)
Sunfish	18 cm (7 in)
Tiger Trout	51 cm (20 in)
Tullibee (Cisco)	40.5 cm (16 in)
Walleye	71 cm (28 in)
White Bass	38 cm (15 in)
Yellow Perch	33 cm (13 in)

## Master Angler Awards Program Rules and Regulations

- Registered fish must be caught in Manitoba in accordance with provincial angling regulations.
- Anglers must use a hook and line to make the catch.
- Photo Requirements:
  - All submissions must have a horizontal measurement photo of the entire length of the fish against a ruler, measuring tape or bump board to qualify for a Master Angler Award.
  - An action photo is optional, but highly encouraged.
  - We will not accept submissions with images showing vertical gill, eye, weigh scale or fish stringer holds.
  - We will not accept catches with pictures of frozen fish declared as released.
  - We will not accept photos that are thumbnails or a screen capture from a mobile device or desktop computer.
  - Photos with blood in them will not be posted on the Master Angler website.
  - Please note that all pictures provided will become the property of Travel Manitoba and may be used for publishing on the web site or in published materials.
- Qualifying fish must be submitted digitally through the Master Angler Awards website or Master Angler mobile app. Official paper entry form available for download on Master Angler Awards website. Mail-in submissions must meet all requirements in rule #3.
- Travel Manitoba will be the sole and final judge as to the acceptance of the entries, and reserves the right to request additional information and requirements as may be deemed necessary in the best interest of the program.
- Submissions need to be made within one year of the catch to be eligible for an award.
- Only one bronze, silver, or gold badge and release crest will be awarded to any one angler, but certificates will be presented for all qualifying fish. Different specialist badges will be awarded for each species (one per species).

For more information contact:

### The Manitoba Master Angler Program

Tel: 1-800-665-0040

Email: MasterAngler@travelmanitoba.com

Website: anglers.travelmanitoba.com

### \*\*Digital Certificates\*\*

All anglers who provide an email address will receive a digital copy of their certificate for all non-level achieving catches and catch and release recognition. If anglers prefer a printed certificate, they may request one by contacting Master Angler directly. Anglers will continue to receive a mailed hard copy for the one-time "First Master Angler" and when a new level or specialist badge is achieved.

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- YouTube: [youtube.com/huntfishmb](http://youtube.com/huntfishmb)
- TikTok: **@huntfishmb**

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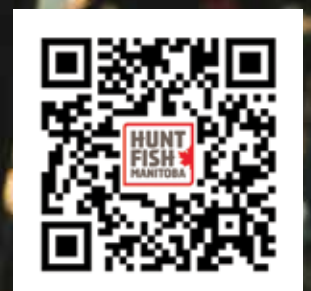
→ [huntfishmanitoba.com/newsletter-signup](http://huntfishmanitoba.com/newsletter-signup)

## MASTER ANGLER PROGRAM

Download our app to be part of one of North America's most popular fishing recognition programs.

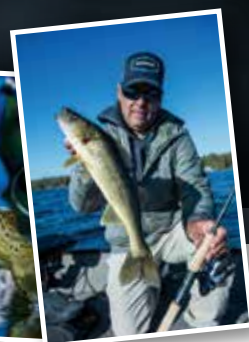
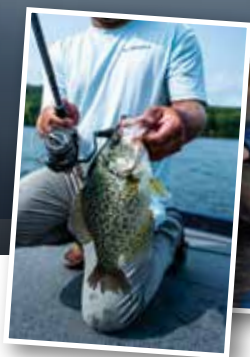
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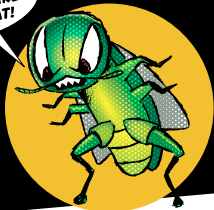
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## WILDLIFE SMART

Reduce Risks for  
Wildlife Encounters  
in Lake Country

- Be alert
- Make noise
- Travel in groups
- Secure attractants
- Keep dogs on leash
- Keep bear deterrent spray handy
- Never feed or approach wildlife



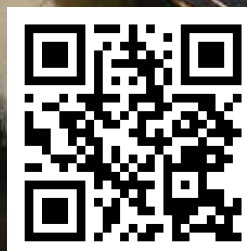
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# WHEN WITHIN REACH MIGHT NOT BE CLOSE ENOUGH



SCAN NOW



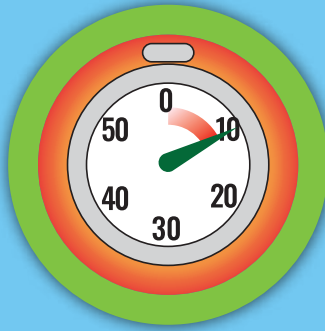
TO CHOOSE WHAT  
HAPPENS NEXT

***DON'T MAKE EXCUSES.  
A Lifejacket left onboard  
won't keep you floating.***

# 3 suggested tips to help keep fish healthy

Being caught is a stressful event for a fish, and the quicker and more carefully they are handled, the better the chance of survival. Even if a fish swims vigorously away after release, it may not survive, whether that be from stress/exhaustion, disease, or being more susceptible to being eaten by predators.

## 1 Minimize Air Exposure



Out of the water for 10 Seconds or less



Support fish in water to recover

## 2 Eliminate Contact With Dry Surfaces



Use large non-abrasive net



Use wet hands or gloves to handle fish

## 3 Reduce Handling Stress



Remove hook while fish is in the water



Never hold fish by the gills

# FISH SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON YOU

A message from



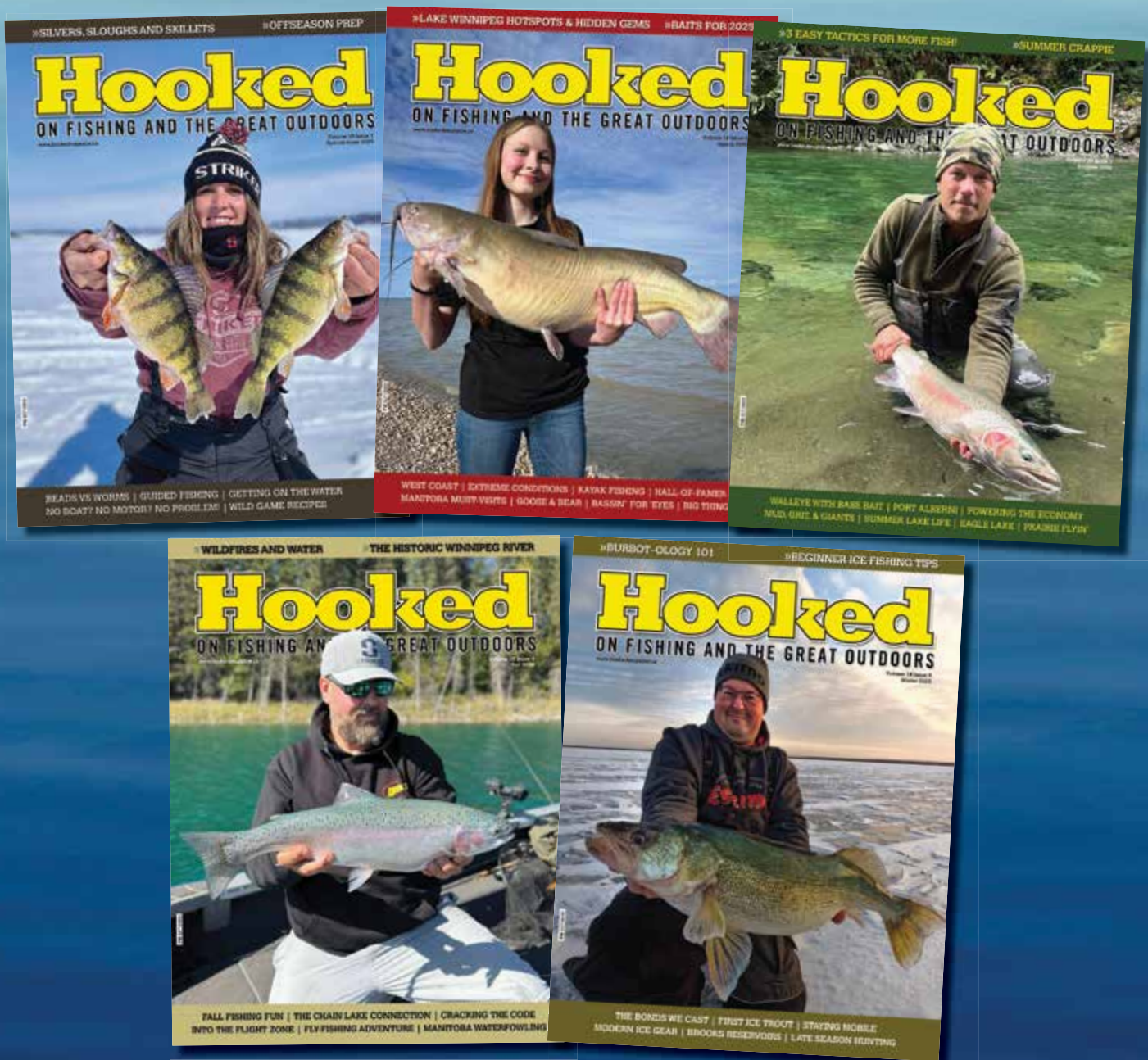
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