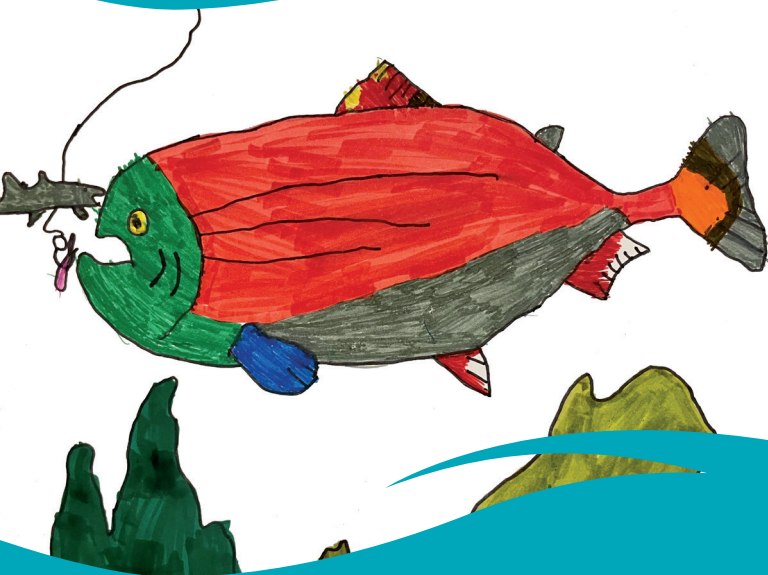


Yukon FISHING

REGULATIONS SUMMARY 2023–2024

Yukon.ca/fishing

Index
of waters with
special rules page 2



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Yukon



Not a legal document

This booklet is not a legal document and may not contain all the details of the most current fishing regulations.

It is an abbreviated guide designed to help you interpret the rules. For details, ask a conservation or fishery officer.

You can also view the *Yukon Territory Fishery Regulations* in full at laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations.

On the cover: Illustration by 8 year old Benson Fordham.

Cette publication est disponible en français.

Diese Broschüre gibt es auch in deutscher Sprache.

ISSN 1712 8846

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Important changes for 2023-2024

- ▶ The fees for Yukon angling licences and Yukon Salmon Conservation Catch Cards have changed. See pages 7 and 34.
- ▶ Anglers can now obtain their Sport Fishing Set Line permit online by logging into their environment client account. See page 10 for details.

Additional changes may come into effect mid-season.
Check Yukon.ca/fishing-regulations for updates.

Family Fishing Weekend

From **June 30 to July 3, 2023**, Yukon residents can catch freshwater fish without an angling licence. You still need to:

- ▶ comply with all fishing regulations, including daily limits and possession limits; and
- ▶ produce proof of residency when asked.

To fish for salmon during this period, you will still need to have both a Yukon angling licence and a Salmon Conservation Catch Card.

Find regulations for specific waters

The Limits for General Waters on pages 18-19 apply for most lakes and rivers in the Yukon. Some waters have special rules.

1. Check the index of waters on pages 2-4.
2. If the lake or river where you plan to fish is not listed in the index, all the limits on pages 18-19 apply.
3. Otherwise, consult the appropriate page for special rules on daily, possession, and size limits, as well as hook restrictions and other regulations.

Index of waters with special rules

For lakes and rivers not listed here, the rules for
General Waters (page 18-19) apply.

Aishihik Lake (Äshèyi)	20	Big Salmon River	
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Takhini River	29-J, 41		

Where is this waterbody?

Location and names of lakes and rivers

You can find the location of most of the waterbodies in this booklet in the Gazetteer of Yukon, available from Yukon.ca/gazetteer.

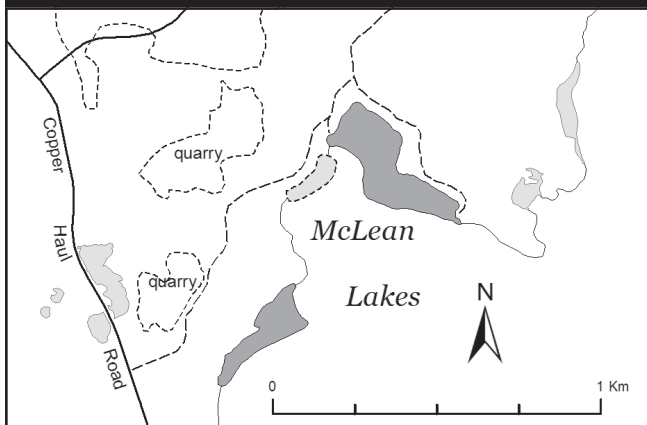
Where is this waterbody?

These are locations of lakes that don't appear in the gazetteer:

Caribou Lake	60°31'32"N, 134°16'02"W
Fish Lake	60°37'07"N, 135°14'15"W
Fox Lake	61°14'33"N, 135°28'10"W
Little Wolverine Lake	61°25'44"N, 130°09'59"W
Long Lake	61°20'54"N, 136°41'00"W
McLean Lakes	60°39'48"N, 135°05'15"W
	60°39'33"N, 135°05'34"W
Nûsgu Xhâdi (Wolverine Lake)	61°27'33"N, 130°15'33"W
Otter Pond	61°04'30"N, 136°59'26"W
Pine Lake	60°49'06"N, 137°26'58"W
Pleasant Lake	61°38'06"N, 133°23'22"W
Snafu Lakes	
Lower Snafu Lake	60°09'06"N, 133°47'08"W
Upper Snafu Lake	60°06'09"N, 133°43'00"W
Tarfu Lakes	
Tarfu Lake, Little Tarfu Lake	60°02'34"N, 133°44'08"W
Unnamed lake	60°04'27"N, 133°46'05"W
Ten Mile Lake	61°29'44"N, 135°36'00"W
Twin Lakes	61°41'53"N, 135°56'06"W
Whitefish Lakes	61°14'33"N, 129°58'02"W
	61°10'50"N, 129°59'33"W
	61°09'20"N, 129°59'24"W
Wolf Lake	60°39'26"N, 131°40'24"W

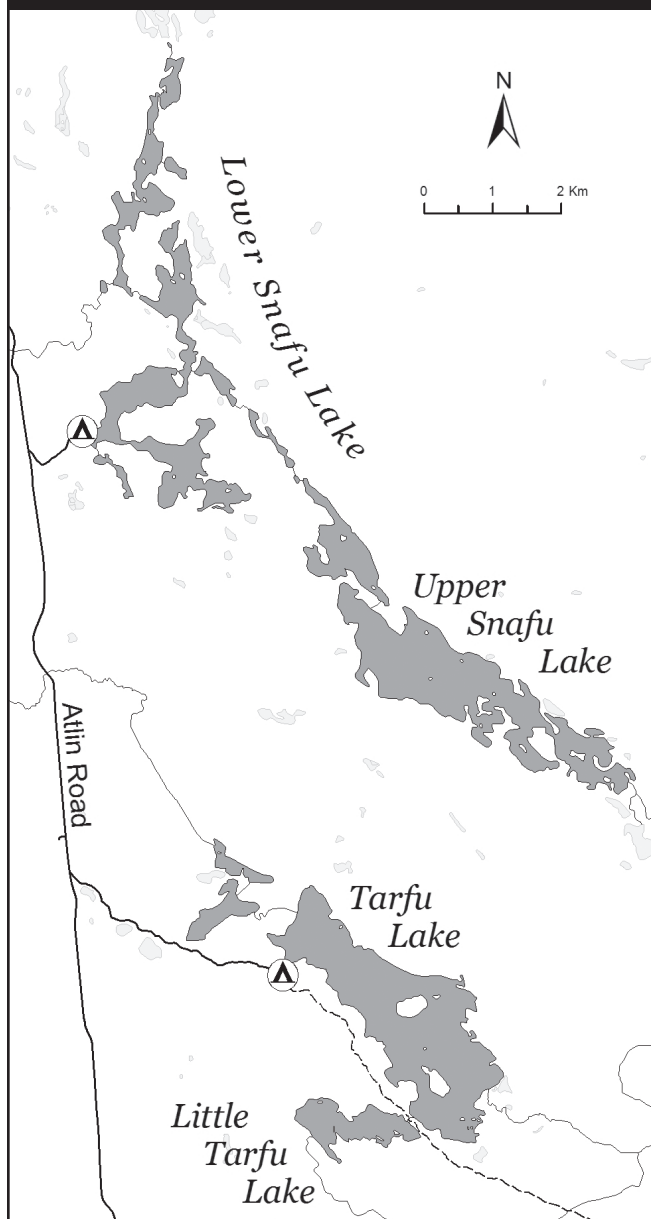
Some lakes are commonly confused, so we have provided maps to make them easier to find. Fishing regulations for McLean Lakes, Snafu Lakes and Tarfu Lakes apply to all the shaded waters.

McLean Lakes



Where is this waterbody?

Snafu and Tarfu lakes



To fish in the Yukon, you must have a current angling licence. Residents and non-residents can fish in the Yukon. Licences are valid from **April 1 to March 31**.

Salmon: To fish for chinook, coho, chum and sockeye salmon in the Yukon, you also need a valid Yukon Salmon Conservation Catch Card. See page 34.

\$ Licence fees (GST extra)

	Season	6 day	1 day
Yukon/Alaska resident (16 to 65)*	\$16.14	n/a	n/a
Canadian resident	\$26.89	\$16.14	\$10.75
Non-resident	\$37.65	\$21.51	\$10.75
First Nation and Inuvialuit	Free	n/a	n/a
Minor (youth under 16)	Free	n/a	n/a
Senior – Yukon resident (65 and older)	Free	n/a	n/a

*Alaska residents must produce a current Alaska resident sport fishing licence and government-issued photo identification to be eligible for this price.

Fees for angling licences have annual adjustments based on inflation.

Where to get an angling licence

You can get Yukon angling licences:

- ▶ online from **Yukon.ca/yukon-fishing-licence**;
- ▶ at Department of Environment offices; and
- ▶ at participating vendors, see **Yukon.ca/licences-permits-vendors**.

If you obtained a Yukon angling licence online or at a Department of Environment office last year, you already have an Environment Client ID. Check your previous licence to find it. Use this ID to view your client profile and obtain other licences and permits by logging in at **env.eservices.gov.yk.ca/webUI**.

Angling licences

Minors (youth under 16)

- ▶ **Yukon resident minor:** You can fish with or without an angling licence. You are entitled to your own catch limits. You can fish on your own without having an adult licence holder with you.
- ▶ **Canadian and non-resident minor:** You can fish without a Yukon angling licence, but you must have an adult licence holder with you. The adult licence holder counts your catch as part of their catch limit. Alternatively, you can get your own non-resident Yukon angling licence, which lets you have your own catch limits and allows you to fish without an adult licence holder.

Minors should bring a birth certificate or passport as ID to prove their age when getting a licence.

One licence, one angler

If you're 16 or older, it's against the law to use another person's angling licence, or allow another person to use yours.

Seniors (65 and older)

- ▶ **Yukon resident senior:** You need a Yukon angling licence, but it is free of charge.
- ▶ **Canadian and non-resident senior:** You may fish with a Yukon angling licence after paying the applicable fee.

Carry it with you

Carry your licence on your person when angling. You must produce it when asked by a conservation or fishery officer. This can be a printed copy, a digital version on your phone, or a paper licence. You must sign a paper licence you got from a vendor, but you do not need to sign a printed licence you got online.

Lost licences

If your angling licence is lost or destroyed, you must replace it before you can fish again. If you bought your licence online or at a Department of Environment office, you can reprint your licence using your Environment Client ID from env.eservices.gov.yk.ca free of charge, or have this done for you at a Department of Environment office. You can replace paper licences bought from a vendor for \$2.00 (GST extra) at a Department of Environment office.

If you find your paper licence after replacing it, return the recovered licence to your nearest Department of Environment office as soon as possible.

Yukon-BC transboundary waters

Some waters are on the border between the Yukon and BC. You can fish with either a Yukon or BC angling licence on all parts of the following transboundary waters.

- ▶ Bennett, Laidlaw, Morley, Tagish and Teslin lakes (not including inlet or outlet streams).
- ▶ Rancheria River, Swift River and their tributaries.

You must follow the regulations of the jurisdiction you're in, including tackle restrictions. **Using fish (dead or alive) or parts thereof for bait is prohibited in BC waters.**

See page 12 for Yukon bait regulations.

To fish within the BC portions of Atlin Lake or the Tatshenshini River and its tributaries, you must have a valid BC angling licence and follow the BC Freshwater Fishing Regulations.

Find more information:

- ▶ BC Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis:
alpha.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting
- ▶ Fisheries and Oceans Canada's sport fishing website:
www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/index-eng.html

Sport fishing licences

You must have an additional sport fishing licence to fish in any of the waters or circumstances found below.

Sport fishing licences are free, but you need a Yukon angling licence before you can get one.

You can get a sport fishing licence from a Department of Environment office or from other locations indicated below. Bring your angling licence with you.

New this year – You can also get a set line permit online through your Environment client account. You must have returned any past year set line reports and possess a valid Yukon angling licence to be able to access this service online.

The set line report will be printed on the reverse of your licence. This report can be mailed, emailed to **environmentyukon@yukon.ca** or dropped off in person to any environment office.

Tetl'ámān (Tatlmān Lake)

You can also get a sport fishing licence for this lake from a licence vendor in Pelly Crossing.

See page 27 for more information about fishing at Tetl'ámān.

Wellesley Lake

You can also get a sport fishing licence for this lake from a licence vendor in Beaver Creek.

If you are returning to Alaska after a fishing trip to Wellesley Lake, you have the option to leave your completed catch report at the 1202 Motor Inn in Beaver Creek.

See page 24 for more information about fishing at Wellesley Lake.

Dip netting for lake whitefish and suckers

You need a sport fishing licence to dip net for lake whitefish or suckers.

Set lining for burbot

The licence has the following conditions.

- ▶ Only use set lines during ice-covered periods.
- ▶ You can set:
 - ▶ up to 10 hooks at one time on lakes over 2,500 ha except Dezadeash Lake; and
 - ▶ up to 3 hooks at one time on lakes under 2,500 ha and Dezadeash Lake.
- ▶ The total number of hooks may be spread over multiple lines.

Sport fishing licences

- ▶ Each hook must rest on the bottom of the lake or river.
- ▶ Clearly mark each individual set line with your name and licence number.
- ▶ Check all set lines at least every 30 hours.
- ▶ All lake trout caught using a set line shall be released immediately
- ▶ Submit your catch report by the end of the season (March 31, 2024).

See [Yukon.ca/how-catch-burbot-using-set-lines](https://www.yukon.ca/how-catch-burbot-using-set-lines) for more information about set lining for burbot.

Fishing derbies

A fishing derby is a fishing competition involving 25 or more participants. Contact 867-667-5117 or toll free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5117 for licensing information for fishing derbies.

Snagging cisco for bait off the Tagish Bridge or Carcross Foot Bridge (Nares River)

These bridges are the only locations in the Yukon where you can snag fish. Cisco is the only species you can snag. The daily limit of five cisco applies. You must kill cisco before using them as bait.

Fishing in national parks

You cannot fish with a Yukon angling licence in **Kluane, Ivvavik or Vuntut national parks**. Instead, you need a **national park fishing licence**. For Kluane National Park, you can get a licence from the Kluane National Park and Reserve Visitor Centre in Haines Junction or at the Parks Canada office in Whitehorse.

For more information, phone 867-634-7250 or visit:

- ▶ Kluane National Park:
[pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/yt/kluane/activ/peche-fishing](https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/yt/kluane/activ/peche-fishing)
- ▶ Ivvavik National Park:
[pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/yt/ivvavik/activ/peche_fishing](https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/yt/ivvavik/activ/peche_fishing)

General regulations and definitions

Angling

Angling is fishing with a hook and line whether you use a rod or not. It does not include fishing with a set line.

Artificial fly

An artificial fly is a hook that:

- ▶ is dressed only with fur, feathers, textiles or tinsel wire; and
- ▶ does not have a spinning device or external weight attached to it.

Attending your line

It's against the law to leave a fishing line unattended when angling. Attending it means keeping it in your direct line of sight. This applies to open water fishing and ice fishing.

Bait

- ▶ You can use the head, tail, fins, bones or internal organs of legal fish (but no edible parts of a fish, except cisco) as bait.
- ▶ You cannot use any live fish as bait or possess any live fish for use as bait.
- ▶ You cannot bring other live aquatic organisms into Yukon waters for use as bait.

Buying and selling fish

It's against the law to buy, sell or barter fish caught under a Yukon angling licence.

Dip nets

A dip net is a net hung on a ring or frame that has a closed bottom. You can only use a dip net to catch lake whitefish or suckers. You will need a sport fishing licence to do this. See page 10.

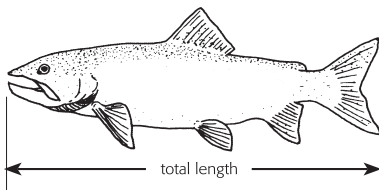
Dressing and packaging your catch

If you are going to transport your catch, you must keep it whole (leave the head and tail on) until you get the fish to your permanent residence. You must dress or pack the fish so it can be readily identified, counted and measured. We suggest you gut the fish immediately.

General regulations and definitions

Fish size

Size limits apply to most species. You must return fish outside the size limit to the water in the least harmful manner.



The length of a fish is the distance from the tip of a fish's snout to the tip of its tail. For easy reference, this booklet is 20 cm (8") tall.

The easiest way to measure a fish is to mark the size limits on a stick and then hold it in the water beside the fish. You can also pick up a free size limits sticker for your boat from any Department of Environment office.

Fishing

For the purposes of this booklet, "fishing" is fishing for recreational purposes. It includes fishing by angling, using a dip net or using a set line. All other methods of taking fish under a Yukon angling licence are against the law.

Hooks

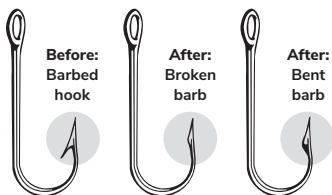
A **barbless hook** is a hook without barbs, a hook that has all its barbs filed off or broken off, or a hook that has all its barbs bent down flat to the shaft.

A **single hook** is one hook with a single point.

A **treble hook** is one hook having three single points on a common shaft.

You can purchase some types of barbless hooks at local sporting goods stores. You can easily convert barbed hooks to barbless by either crimping or filing the barb off.

Barbless hooks are recommended on **ALL** Yukon waters, and are mandatory on all Conservation Waters, some Special Management Waters, and when fishing for salmon. The use of barbless hooks makes it easier to remove the hook, reducing fish handling and injury. This increases the chances of survival for released fish.



General regulations and definitions

Inspections by conservation or fishery officers

You must show your angling licence, sport fishing licence(s) and Salmon Conservation Catch Card to a conservation or fishery officer when asked to do so. You must also allow them to examine your catch and gear.

Limits

The **daily limit** (or daily catch limit) is the number of fish that you can legally catch and keep in a 24-hour period from one midnight to the next.

The **possession limit** is the total number of fish that you may have in your personal custody, the custody of another person, or in any other place for the benefit of yourself or anyone else. This includes a freezer at home.

Mandatory release of some fish

If you catch a fish that the regulations do not allow you to keep, you must release it to the water in the least harmful manner. This applies even if the fish looks fatally injured. Find more information on live release ethics on page 50 of this booklet and at yukon.ca/en/outdoor-recreation-and-wildlife/fishing-and-boating/how-and-where-catch-yukon-fish#live-release-fishing

If we let anglers keep injured or dead fish in excess of the limits, we can't enforce the regulations and the populations may suffer.

Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area

Federal regulations prohibit and restrict activities within National Wildlife Areas, including the Nisutlin River Delta.

While Yukon angling licences and Salmon Conservation Catch Cards are valid within the Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area, it is against the law to use lead sinkers.



This federal regulation is necessary to protect waterfowl from lead poisoning.

All-terrain vehicles, air boats, motorized personal watercraft

General regulations and definitions

and hovercraft are prohibited in the Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area.

For more information on prohibited and restricted activities within the Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area, contact the Canadian Wildlife Service at 1-800-668-6767 (toll free) or email ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca. To report National Wildlife Area fish and wildlife violations, call Environment and Climate Change Canada at 1-888-569-5656.

Potential hazards from military debris

Nisutlin Bay was a former bombing range used by the Department of National Defence. If you see a suspicious object, don't disturb it and don't use cell phones or satellite phones near the object. Once you are a safe distance away, call the RCMP at 867-390-5555 in Teslin or 867-667-5555 in Whitehorse.

For more details, visit canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/uxo/unexploded-explosive-ordnance.html.

Number of lines and hooks

It's against the law to do the following.

- ▶ Use more than one line, with the following exceptions.
 - ▶ While ice fishing you may use two lines, with a maximum of one hook per line.
 - ▶ If you have a sport fishing licence to set line for burbot, you may use multiple lines. See page 10.
- ▶ Use any gear designed to catch more than one fish on a line, with the following exceptions.
 - ▶ You can use two artificial flies while fly fishing.
 - ▶ If you have a sport fishing licence to set line for burbot, you may use multiple hooks. You cannot have more hooks than the daily catch limit. See page 10.

Set lines

A set line is a line with one or more hooks attached, left unattended in the water. You can use set lines to fish for burbot in Yukon lakes and rivers during the ice-covered period if you have an additional sport fishing licence. See page 10.

Snagging

Snagging is catching or attempting to catch a fish with a hook in any manner other than by inducing it to take the hook in its mouth. It's against the law to snag fish, with one

General regulations and definitions

exception (see “Snagging cisco for bait” on page 11).

Release accidentally snagged fish in the least harmful manner.

Transfer of live fish or other aquatic organisms

It's against the law to do the following.

- ▶ Transfer or release live fish, uncured fish eggs, crayfish, leeches or other aquatic creatures into the Yukon.
- ▶ Transfer live fish, fish eggs or other aquatic organisms from one body of water to another without a permit. Contact Fisheries and Oceans Canada (www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/yukon/trans-eng.html) to apply for one.

Unlawful equipment

It's against the law to do the following.

- ▶ Use a landing gaff, spear or bow and arrows while fishing.
- ▶ Possess a landing gaff while fishing.
- ▶ Use a firearm to kill or injure fish.
- ▶ Use torches or artificial lights to attract fish.

Waste and abandonment

It's against the law to abandon fish or waste any portion that is suitable for human consumption. Releasing a fish you can't legally keep is not considered waste or abandonment. You are not required to keep or eat the head, tail, fins, bones or internal organs.

General regulations and definitions

Common offences

These offences under the Yukon Territory Fishery Regulations may result in the following fines:

Fishing without a licence	\$100
Exceed the daily catch limit	\$100 plus \$50/fish to a max. of \$1,000
Exceed the possession limit	\$100 plus \$50/fish to a max. of \$1,000
Fishing with a barbed hook on waters regulated as barbless	\$100
Fishing by snagging (no sport fishing licence)	\$250
Fail to record salmon on Salmon Conservation Catch Cards	\$100
Fail to produce Salmon Conservation Catch Card	\$100

If you fish during a closed time or in a closed area, you can get a Notice to Appear in Court.

Fines may apply for other offences. Talk to a conservation or fishery officer to learn more.

Limits for General Waters

These limits apply to all waters except for Conservation Waters, Special Management Waters and stocked lakes.

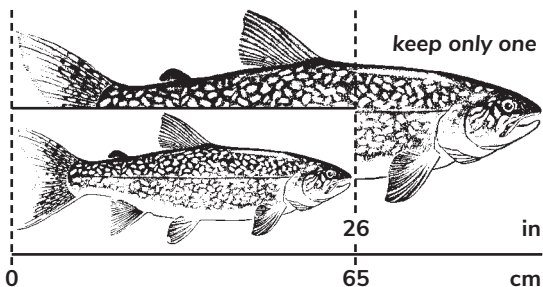
Check the index on page 2 to find out if special catch limits or other regulations apply to the waterbody where you plan to fish.

Species	Daily limit	Possession limit	Size limit
Lake trout	3	6	Only one may be longer than 65 cm (26").
Bull trout	2	4	Only one may be longer than 50 cm (20").
Arctic grayling	5	10	Only one may be longer than 40 cm (16").
Northern pike	5	10	Only one may be longer than 75 cm (30").
Pacific salmon	See limits for salmon on page 38 and 42.		
Kokanee salmon*	5	10	n/a
Arctic char	2	4	n/a
Rainbow trout	5	10	n/a
Dolly Varden	5	10	n/a
Whitefish	5	10	n/a
Inconnu (sheefish)	1	2	n/a
Cisco	5	10	n/a
Burbot in waters under 2,500 ha	3	6	n/a
Burbot in waters over 2,500 ha	10	20	n/a
General Waters over 2,500 ha: Big Kalzas Lake and Earn Lake.			
All other species	5	10	n/a

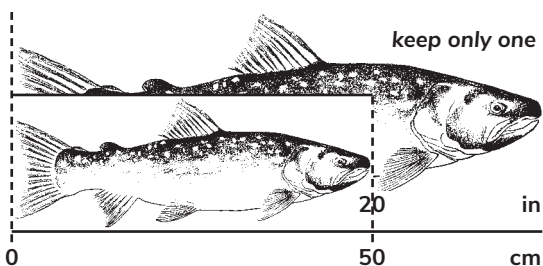
* Kokanee salmon are freshwater fish. Daily and possession limits for kokanee salmon are in addition to aggregate limits for other salmon. See page 38.

Limits for General Waters

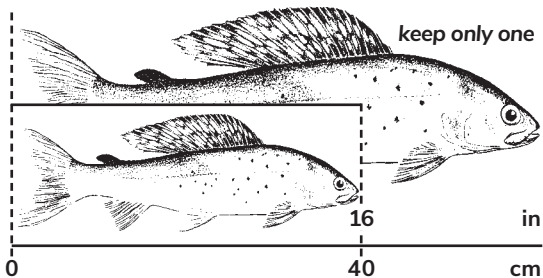
Lake trout: limits for General Waters



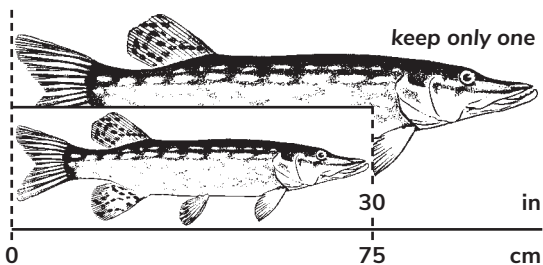
Bull trout: limits for General Waters



Arctic grayling: limits for General Waters



Northern pike: limits for General Waters



Limits for Conservation Waters

Conservation Waters are managed to maintain high-quality fishing opportunities. These waters may have fish stocks facing increased pressure from recreational fishing because they are easy to access, or they have a healthy but small fish population.

Conservation Waters regulations apply to these waters:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ‣ Aishihik Lake (Äshèyi) | ‣ Marsh Lake |
| ‣ Alligator Lake | ‣ Mayo Lake (Ts'agro Mǎn)* |
| ‣ Bennett Lake | ‣ McEvoy Lake |
| ‣ Big Salmon Lake (T'à Tlèn Äyi) | ‣ Morley Lake |
| ‣ Big Salmon River from Quiet Lake to Big Salmon Lake, incl. Sandy Lake (Gyò Cho Chú , T'à Tlèn Híni) | ‣ Morris Lake |
| ‣ Blind Lakes | ‣ Nares Lake* |
| ‣ Chain Lakes | ‣ Nares River* |
| ‣ Claire Lake (Deyé) | ‣ North Lakes |
| ‣ Coghlan Lake | ‣ Nûsgu Xhâdi (Wolverine Lake, off Hwy #4) |
| ‣ Drury Lake (Edzenághro Mǎn) | ‣ Pleasant Lake |
| ‣ Dū Ese (Poison) Lake | ‣ Quiet Lake |
| ‣ Ethel Lake (Takwǎnt'ye) | ‣ (Kít Den Â, Chu La) |
| ‣ Fire Lake | ‣ Sandy Lake |
| ‣ Frances Lake | ‣ Sekulmun Lake (Tthechǎl Mǎn) |
| ‣ Frank (Łu Nétthäna) Lake | ‣ Tagish Lake incl. Windy Arm |
| ‣ Frederick Lake | ‣ Tahgah (Sekulmun) River |
| ‣ Glenlyon Lake | ‣ Tay Lake (Yadoye Mené') |
| ‣ Grass Lakes | ‣ Tchawsahmon Lake |
| ‣ Jo-Jo Lake | ‣ Tele (Jim Cook) Lake |
| ‣ Kluane Lake (Łù'àn Mǎn)* | ‣ Ten Mile Lake |
| ‣ Kusawa Lake* | ‣ Tincup Lake |
| ‣ Lake Laberge (Tá'aan)* | ‣ Whitefish Lakes |
| ‣ Little Wolverine Lake | ‣ Wolf Lake |
| ‣ Long Lake (near Aishihik) | |

**Barbless hooks recommended but not mandatory in this water.*

Bennett Lake and Tagish Lake are Yukon-BC transboundary waters. See page 9.

Limits for Conservation Waters

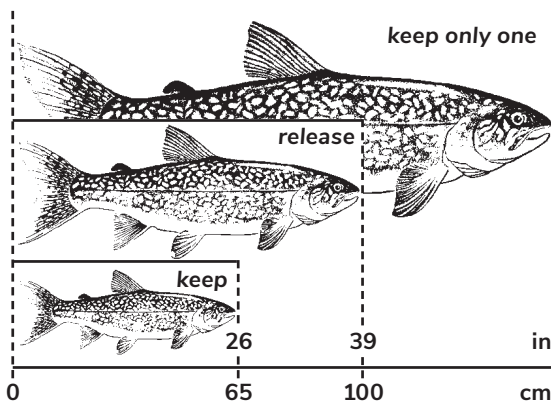


Barbless hooks only.

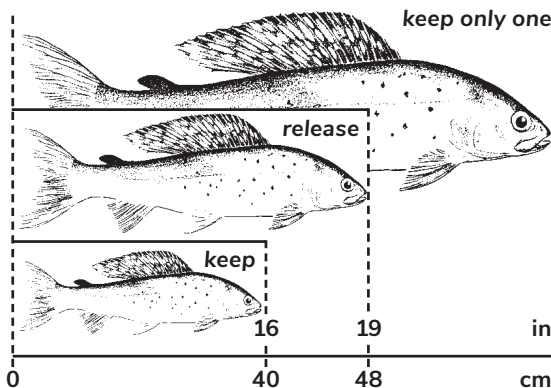
Species	Daily limit	Possession limit	Size limit
Lake trout	2	2	Must release all lake trout 65 to 100 cm (26 to 39") in length. Only one may be longer than 100 cm (39").
Arctic grayling	4	4	Must release all grayling 40 to 48 cm (16 to 19") in length. Only one may be longer than 48 cm (19").
Northern pike	4	4	Must release all pike 75 to 105 cm (30 to 41") in length. Only one may be longer than 105 cm (41").
Burbot in waters under 2,500 ha	3	6	n/a
Burbot in waters over 2,500 ha	10	20	n/a
Conservation Waters over 2,500 ha: Aishihik Lake (Äshèyi), Bennett Lake, Drury Lake (Edzenághro Mǎn), Ethel Lake (Takwǎnt'ye), Frances Lake, Kluane Lake (Łù'àn Mǎn), Kusawa Lake, Lake Laberge (Tá'aan), Marsh Lake, Mayo Lake (Ts'agro Mǎn), Sekulmun Lake (TthecháI Mǎn), Quiet Lake (Kit Den Ä, Chu La), Tagish Lake and Wolf Lake.			
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 18-19 apply.		

Limits for Conservation Waters

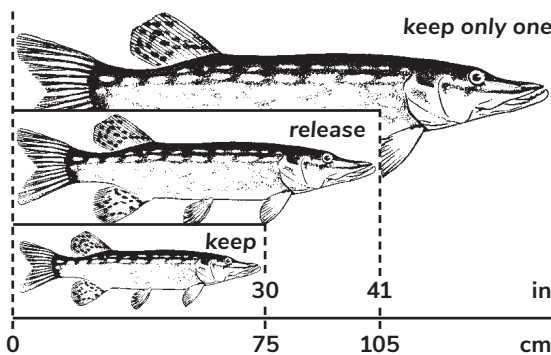
Lake trout: limits for Conservation Waters



Arctic grayling: limits for Conservation Waters



Northern pike: limits for Conservation Waters



Limits for Special Management Waters

Special Management Waters are managed with extra protection for a variety of reasons, including conservation, species of concern, or lakes where stocks are in need of recovery. The Government of Yukon identifies when extra protection is needed through community management planning processes, land claims, Renewable Resources Councils or other means. We grouped waters in this list into the categories A–L. Waters in the same category have the same catch and size limits except in the case of burbot, where these limits are determined by the size of the waterbody.

Before you fish in any of the following waters, take the time to understand the special limits and regulations that apply.

A Laidlaw Lake, Atlin Lake, Rancheria River and tributaries, Swift River and tributaries

Species	Daily limit	Possession limit	Size limit
Arctic grayling	3	6	n/a
Burbot in Atlin Lake	10	20	n/a
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 18-19 apply.		

These are Yukon-BC transboundary waters. See page 9.

B Dezadeash Lake (Titl'at M̃ñ)

Fishing is closed in Tower Bay from July 1 to August 15. See page 32.



Single-pointed barbless hooks only.

See the table on the next page.

Limits for Special Management Waters

B continued.

Species	Daily limit	Possession limit	Size limit
Lake trout	2	2	Must release all lake trout 65 to 100 cm (26 to 39") in length. Only one may be longer than 100 cm (39").
Arctic grayling	4	4	Must release all grayling 40 to 48 cm (16 to 19") in length. Only one may be longer than 48 cm (19").
Northern pike	4	4	Must release all pike 75 to 105 cm (30 to 41") in length. Only one may be longer than 105 cm (41").
Burbot	3	6	n/a
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 18-19 apply.		

C Braeburn Lake, Caribou Lake, Chadburn Lake, Duo Lake, Ladue Lake, Little Atlin Lake, Little Fox Lakes, Louise (Jackson) Lake*, Minto Lake, Watson Lake, Wellesley Lake

An additional sport fishing licence is required for Wellesley Lake. See page 10.



Barbless hooks only.

Species	Daily limit	Possession limit	Size limit
Lake trout	1	1	Must release all lake trout longer than 65 cm (26").
Arctic grayling	2	2	Must release all grayling longer than 40 cm (16").
Northern pike	4	4	Must release all pike longer than 75 cm (30").
Burbot in Little Atlin Lake and Wellesley Lake	10	20	n/a
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 18-19 apply.		

*Barbless hooks recommended but not mandatory in this water.

Limits for Special Management Waters

D Kathleen River system (Granite, Lower Kathleen, Rainbow and Crescent lakes, Granite Creek, Kathleen River and Quill Creek outside Kluane National Park), **Lubbock River, Teslin River at Johnsons Crossing** (from the outlet at Teslin Lake to one kilometre below the confluence of Squanga Creek)



Single-pointed barbless hooks only.

Species	Daily limit	Possession limit	Size limit
Lake trout	1	1	Must release all lake trout longer than 65 cm (26").
Arctic grayling	2	2	Must release all grayling longer than 40 cm (16").
Northern pike	4	4	Must release all pike longer than 75 cm (30").
Rainbow trout	Must release all rainbow trout.		
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 18-19 apply.		

E East Aishihik River (including Otter Pond), **McLean Lakes**



Single-pointed barbless hooks only.

Species	
Rainbow trout	Must release all rainbow trout.
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 18-19 apply.

Limits for Special Management Waters

F Mandanna Lake



Barbless hooks only.

Species	Daily limit	Possession limit	Size limit
Lake trout	Must release all lake trout.		
Arctic grayling	4	4	Must release all grayling 40 to 48 cm (16 to 19") in length. Only one may be longer than 48 cm (19").
Northern pike	4	4	Must release all pike 75 to 105 cm (30 to 41") in length. Only one may be longer than 105 cm (41").
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 18-19 apply.		

G Fish Lake*, Fox Lake*, Little Salmon Lake (Chu Cho)*, Tagish (Six Mile) River, Tagish Bridge, Teslin Lake



Barbless hooks only.

Species	Daily limit	Possession limit	Size limit
Lake trout	1	1	Fish Lake, Fox Lake, Little Salmon Lake (Chu Cho) and Tagish River: must release all lake trout over 65 cm (26") in length. Tagish Bridge: size limits do not apply. Keep the first lake trout you catch. Teslin Lake: must release all lake trout 65 to 100 cm (26 to 39") in length. Only one may be longer than 100 cm (39").
Arctic grayling	4	4	Must release all grayling 40 to 48 cm (16 to 19") in length. Only one may be longer than 48 cm (19").

Limits for Special Management Waters

G continued.

Northern pike	4	4	Must release all pike 75 to 105 cm (30 to 41") in length. Only one may be longer than 105 cm (41").
Burbot in Little Salmon Lake (Chu Cho) and Teslin Lake	10	20	n/a
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 18-19 apply.		

* Barbless hooks recommended but not mandatory in this water.

Teslin Lake is a Yukon-BC transboundary water. See page 9.

H Tetl'ámān* (Tatlain Lake)

An additional sport fishing licence is required for Tetl'ámān. See page 10.

Species	Daily limit	Possession limit	Size limit
Burbot	See below	20	n/a
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 18-19 apply.		
Aggregate catch limit including released fish	You must stop fishing after catching 5 fish in one day, even if you released some or all of the fish.		

Limits for Special Management Waters

Tatshenshini River and select tributaries and headwater lakes (Blanchard River, Klukshu River [Łu Gha Chua], Nesketahin Lake, Takhanne River, Tatshenshini River, Village Creek)

Species	
All freshwater species	Limits for General Waters on pages 18-19 apply.

Klukshu River (Łu Gha Chua) and Village Creek



June 1 to June 15: Single-pointed barbless hooks with a gap of less than 20 mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ ") only.

Klukshu River (Łu Gha Chua), Nesketahin Lake and Village Creek



June 15 to November 30: closed to all fishing.

Takhanne River, Blanchard River and Tatshenshini River



June 1 to November 30: Single-pointed barbless hooks with a gap of less than 20 mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ ") only.

Additional rules for the Takhanne River downstream of Million Dollar Falls



Year round: Artificial flies only.

These restrictions do not apply outside of the dates above.

The Tatshenshini River is a Yukon-BC transboundary water. See page 9.

Salmon: If you are fishing for salmon in these waters, see pages 38-42 for additional restrictions.

Limits for Special Management Waters

J Yukon River and select tributaries
(Blind Creek, Klondike River, Lapie River, Morley River, Smart River, Takhini River, Tatchun River, Teslin River [Délín Chù], Yukon River [Tágé Cho, Tagà Shāw])

Species	
All freshwater species	Limits for General Waters on pages 18-19 apply.

⊘ Tatchun River (and Yukon River at mouth)
August 1 to September 30: Tatchun River closed to all fishing, including the Yukon River at the mouth of the Tatchun River. Signs mark these boundaries. **Δ**

Blind Creek, Klondike River, Lapie River, Morley River, Smart River, Takhini River, Teslin River (Délín Chù), Yukon River (Tágé Cho, Tagà Shāw)

⌋ July 1 to October 15: Single-pointed barbless hooks with a gap of less than 20 mm (¾") only.

Yukon River from Whitehorse dam 2.5 km downstream to the Robert Campbell Bridge

🐟 July 15 to September 30: Artificial flies only.

Takhini River

🐟 August 20 to September 15: Artificial flies only.

These restrictions do not apply outside of the dates above.

Salmon: If you are fishing for salmon in these waters, see pages 41-42 for additional restrictions.

! Whitehorse Rapids Fish Ladder area

It's against the law to fish within 23 metres (75') downstream of the entrance to the Whitehorse Rapids Fish Ladder.

Limits for Special Management Waters

K Frenchman Lake (Łútth'i Mān), Pine Lake*, Snafu Lakes, Tarfu Lakes, Twin Lakes



Barbless hooks only.

Species	Daily limit	Possession limit	Size limit
Lake trout	Must release all lake trout.		
Arctic grayling	2	2	Must release all grayling longer than 40 cm (16").
Northern pike	4	4	Must release all pike longer than 75 cm (30").
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 18-19 apply.		

* Barbless hooks recommended but not mandatory in this water.

L Ni'iinlii Njik (Fishing Branch) Ecological Reserve and adjacent Settlement Lands

Species	Daily limit	Possession limit	Size limit
Arctic grayling	1	1	n/a
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 18-19 apply.		

Limits for stocked lakes

The Government of Yukon works closely with the Yukon Fish and Game Association to provide easily-accessible, high-quality fishing opportunities near many communities. Stocked lakes have different catch and size limits than General Waters or Conservation Waters.

Nineteen lakes are stocked with rainbow trout, Arctic char, or kokanee salmon:

- Cantlie Lake
- Chadden Lake
- Coffee Lake
- Fisheye Lake
- Gloria Lake 2
- Haldane Lake
- Hidden Lakes 1 & 3
- Hour Lake
- Judas Lake
- Long Lake
(near Whitehorse)
- Lucky Lake
- Pocket Lake
- Rantin Lake
- Salmo Lake
- Scout Lake
- Veronica Lake
- Whiskers Lake
- Wrong Lake

Species	Daily limit	Possession limit	Size limit
Rainbow trout	5	10	n/a
Arctic char	5	10	n/a
Kokanee salmon	5	10	n/a

Note: We no longer stock bull trout.

For more information and the location of a stocked lake near you, pick up the *Angler's Guide to Yukon Stocked Lakes* from a Department of Environment office or download it from Yukon.ca/anglers-guide-yukon-stocked-lakes.

Areas closed to angling

Though you can fish in most waters in the Yukon year-round, there are certain places where fishing is prohibited. Knowing and following these regulations is your responsibility.

Fish farming lakes closed to angling

The Government of Yukon licenses a number of fishless pothole lakes for fish farming. These lakes are closed to angling. There are no other special restrictions on the use of these public waters. Visit Yukon.ca/fishing-closures for a list of these lakes and their geographic coordinates.

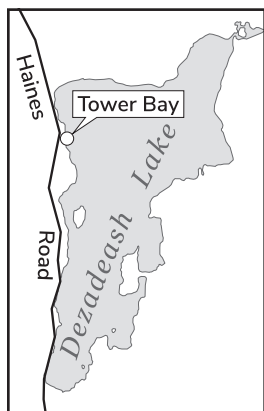
You might find fish farming lakes not listed on the website that are still closed. These will have official public closure notices posted at the lake. These lakes didn't always have fish. Private individuals stocked the fish at their own expense after going through a rigorous approval process. If you're unsure that a pothole lake was privately stocked, contact the Government of Yukon's Fisheries Unit at 867-667-5721 or toll free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5721.

Lands closed to fishing from shore

Some Yukon First Nations lands are closed to public camping and fishing from shore. See the maps on the facing page.

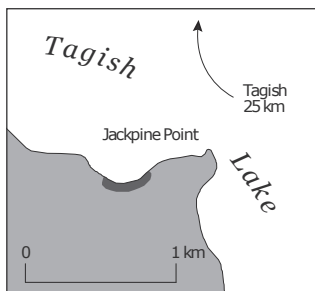
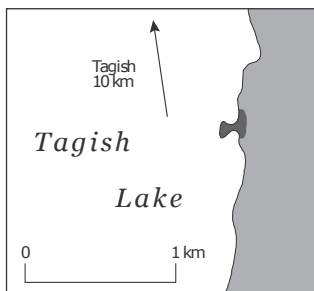
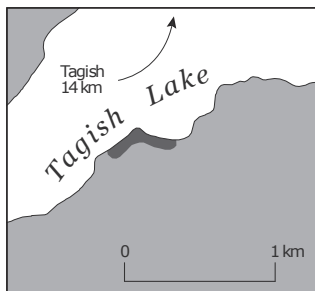
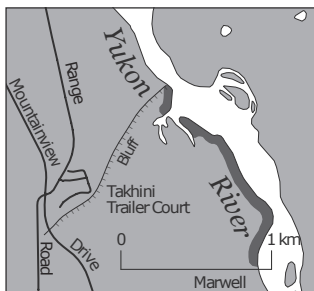
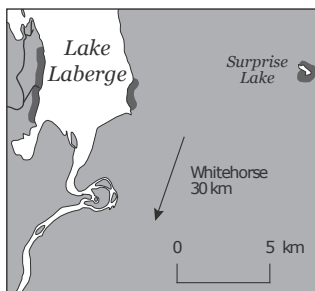
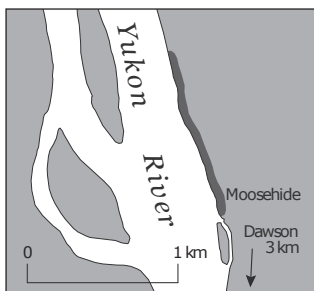
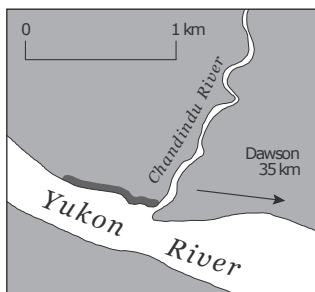
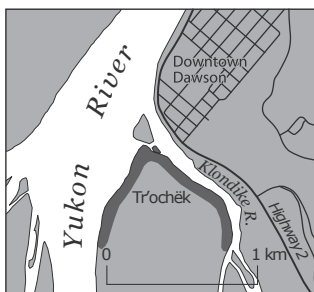
Tower Bay (Gokhtaheen)

Fishing is closed to all licensed and subsistence anglers in Tower Bay (Gokhtaheen) on Dezadeash Lake (Titl'àt Mǎn) from July 1 to August 15.



Areas closed to angling

Lands closed to fishing from shore



Salmon Conservation Catch Cards

A federal responsibility

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is responsible for the overall management of salmon in Canada. In the Yukon, Fisheries and Oceans Canada considers the recommendations of the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee.

In addition to a Yukon angling licence, you must have a Yukon Salmon Conservation Catch Card if you want to fish for any species of salmon in the Yukon other than kokanee salmon in lakes – no matter your age. Salmon Conservation Catch Cards are valid from **date of purchase to November 30 of that same year**.

The Salmon Conservation Catch Card includes area-based restrictions and mandatory reporting requirements. Check your Salmon Conservation Catch Card for details.

Salmon Conservation Catch Card fees (GST extra)

Yukon/Alaska resident (16 to 65)*	\$10.75
Canadian resident	\$21.51
Non-resident	\$53.79
Minor (youth under 16)	Free
Senior – Yukon resident (65 and older)	Free

*Alaska residents must produce a current Alaska resident sport fishing licence and government-issued photo identification to be eligible for this price.

Where to get a Salmon Conservation Catch Card

You can get Salmon Conservation Catch Cards:

- ▶ online from recfish-pechesportive.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/nrls-sndpp/index-eng.cfm; or
- ▶ at participating vendors, see www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/yukon/licence-permis-eng.html.

If you have any issues getting a Salmon Conservation Catch Card, contact Fisheries and Oceans Canada (fishing-peche@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

Minors (Youth under 16)

You must have your own Salmon Conservation Catch Card. You are entitled to your own salmon catch limits if you have your own Yukon angling licence. If you are fishing under the angling licence of an adult, then they count your salmon catch as part of their catch limit.

Seniors (65 and older)

- ▶ **Yukon resident:** You need a Salmon Conservation Catch Card. These are free of charge.
- ▶ **Canadian and non-resident:** You may fish for salmon with a Salmon Conservation Catch Card after paying the appropriate fee.

One Salmon Conservation Catch Card, one angler

No one of any age can share their Salmon Conservation Catch Card with someone else.

Carry it with you

You must carry your Yukon Salmon Conservation Catch Card **and** your Yukon angling licence on your person when fishing for salmon. You must produce them when asked to do so by a conservation or fishery officer.

Lost catch cards

If your Salmon Conservation Catch Card is lost or destroyed, you must replace it before you can fish for salmon again. Log in to your account at **recfish-pechesportive.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/nrls-sndpp/index-eng.cfm** to reprint it for free.

After catching a salmon

When you catch a salmon, you must immediately record this information on your Salmon Conservation Catch Card, **even if you release the salmon:**

- ▶ date;
- ▶ location;
- ▶ species;
- ▶ sex;
- ▶ presence of tags;
- ▶ presence of adipose fin; and
- ▶ type of gear used to catch the salmon.

Salmon Conservation Catch Cards

Submit your Salmon Conservation Catch Card

Submit your catch card, even if you did not fish for salmon or no salmon were caught.

Submit your Salmon Conservation Catch Card online at recfish-pechesportive.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/nrls-sndpp, or to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, within the same year **by November 30**.

It's a legal requirement to submit your catch information by the deadline, even if you did not fish for or catch any salmon. Failure to submit the Salmon Conservation Catch Card will make you ineligible to obtain a new Catch Card next year, and liable to enforcement action and possible fine.

For more information, contact Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Yukon Transboundary Rivers Area office or visit www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/yukon/index-eng.html.

Yukon-BC transboundary waters

To keep salmon caught in BC waters, you'll also need to have a valid BC angling licence with a valid Salmon Conservation Stamp attached to your licence, and follow the BC Freshwater Fishing Regulations.

Fishery Notices for salmon

A wide range of factors influence salmon run sizes. If a change in salmon run size or timing is identified, Fisheries and Oceans Canada may make short notice changes or produce additional regulations and close areas to ensure conservation targets are met and that a sufficient number of salmon can return to their spawning grounds.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada advertises in-season changes through Fishery Notices. You can see these online at notices.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fns-sap/index-eng.cfm. You can filter notices by Waters (e.g., Yukon/TBR) or by Management Area (e.g., Yukon River or Alsek/Tatshenshini River). Fishery Notices communicate closures, openings and any changes to possession limits. You can also sign up to receive Fishery Notices by email.

In-season changes that take effect on Friday, Saturday, Sunday

or a statutory holiday will be posted by midnight on the Wednesday prior to the effective date.

For information about regulation changes or questions, call 867-393-6722 (toll free 1-866-676-6722).



Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

The Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC) is a public advisory body established by Yukon First Nations

Final Agreements. These are modern-day treaties between Yukon First Nations, the Government of Yukon, and the Government of Canada.

The YSSC is a sub-committee of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, and functions as the main instrument of salmon management in the Yukon. The YSSC focuses on the conservation of Yukon salmon stocks. It makes recommendations to Yukon First Nations and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada on all matters related to Yukon salmon and their habitat. These are informed by traditional, local, and scientific knowledge.

The YSSC also plays an important international role. YSSC members serve as the majority of the Canadian delegation on the Yukon River Panel, established pursuant to the international Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Yukon River Panel makes recommendations to Canadian and US management entities concerning the conservation and coordinated management of Canadian-origin Yukon River salmon stocks. The YSSC also participates as an observer/advisor to the Transboundary Panel, specific to the Alsek River drainage.

The YSSC provides input on salmon through other processes such as environmental assessments, land use planning, and regulatory reviews. It keeps the public informed about Yukon salmon management through engagement and outreach activities.

To learn more about the YSSC and its work or to find out about upcoming public meetings, visit the website at www.yssc.ca.

Limits for salmon

Aggregate limits for all Yukon waters (combined)

Aggregate limits are catch and possession limits for a combination of salmon species. You may not catch and retain a separate limit for each species. This does not include Kokanee salmon.

Species	Aggregate daily limit*	Aggregate possession limit*	Size limit
Chinook, sockeye, coho and chum salmon	2	4	n/a

* Limits are subject to in-season changes. Notices can be viewed online at: notices.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fns-sap/index-eng.cfm.

Alsek River and tributaries, including the Tatshenshini River

Species	Daily limit*	Possession limit*	Size limit
Chinook salmon	1	2	n/a
Sockeye salmon	2	4	n/a
	April 1 to August 14: must release all sockeye salmon, unless specified in an in-season Fishery Notice.		
Coho salmon	2	4	n/a

* Limits are subject to in-season changes. Notices can be viewed online at: notices.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fns-sap/index-eng.cfm.

See map (over) for Tatshenshini River and select tributaries.

- A Klukshu Lake (Łu Gha Mān)**
Year round: must release all salmon.
- B Klukshu River (Łu Gha Chua) and Village Creek**
J June 1 to June 15: Single-pointed barbless hooks with a gap of less than 20 mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ " only.
Klukshu River (Łu Gha Chua),

Limits for salmon



Nesketahin Lake and Village Creek

June 15 to November 30: closed to all fishing.



Takhanne River

June 1 to November 30: Single-pointed barbless hooks with a gap of less than 20 mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ ") only.



Additional rules for the Takhanne River downstream of Million Dollar Falls

July 24 to August 31: must release all salmon.



Year round: Artificial flies only.



Blanchard River

July 24 to August 31: must release all salmon.



June 1 to November 30: Single-pointed barbless hooks with a gap of less than 20 mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ ") only.

Tatshenshini River



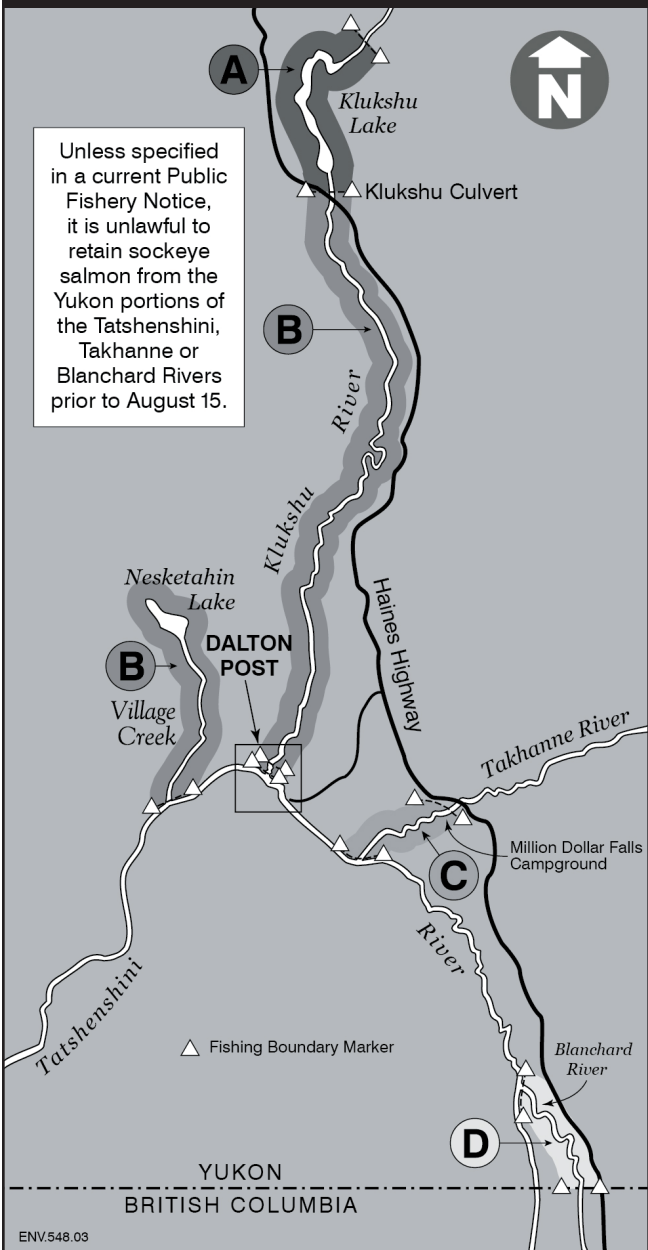
June 1 to November 30: Single-pointed barbless hooks with a gap of less than 20 mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ ") only.

These restrictions do not apply outside of the dates above.

Limits for salmon

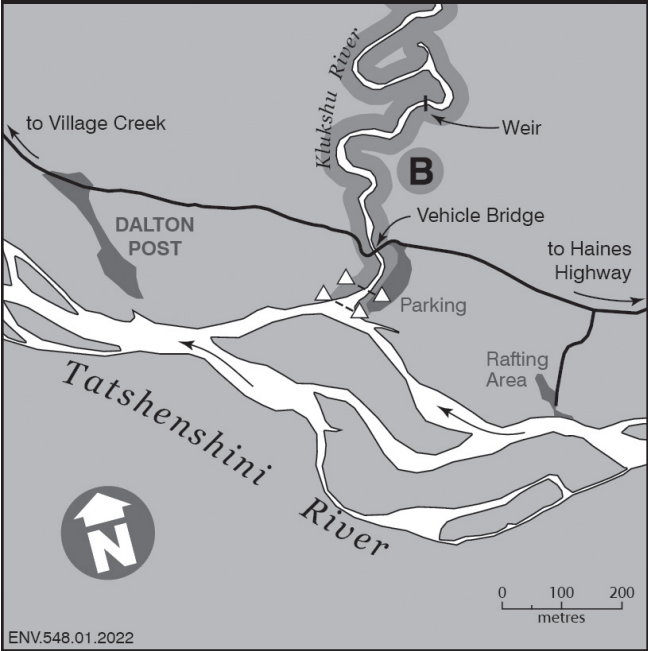
Tatshenshini/Dalton Post fishing area

Unless specified in a current Public Fishery Notice, it is unlawful to retain sockeye salmon from the Yukon portions of the Tatshenshini, Takhanne or Blanchard Rivers prior to August 15.



Limits for salmon

Dalton Post – detailed view



Limits for salmon

Yukon River (Tágé Cho, Tagà Shäw) and tributaries, including the Porcupine River

Species	Daily limit*	Possession limit*	Size limit
Chinook salmon	0	0	n/a
Chum salmon	0	0	n/a
Coho salmon	2	4	n/a

* Limits are subject to in-season changes. Notices can be viewed online at: notices.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fns-sap/index-eng.cfm.

Blind Creek, Klondike River, Lapie River, Morley River, Smart River, Takhini River, Teslin River (Délin Chú), Yukon River (Tágé Cho, Tagà Shäw)



July 1 to October 15: Single-pointed barbless hooks with a gap of less than 20 mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ ") only.

Yukon River from Whitehorse dam 2.5 km downstream to the Robert Campbell Bridge



July 15 to September 30: Artificial flies only.

Takhini River



August 20 to September 15: Artificial flies only.

Wolf Creek

Year round: must release all salmon.

McIntyre Creek (from the Alaska Highway to the Yukon River)

Year round: must release all salmon.

Tatchun River (and Yukon River at mouth)

See map (next page).

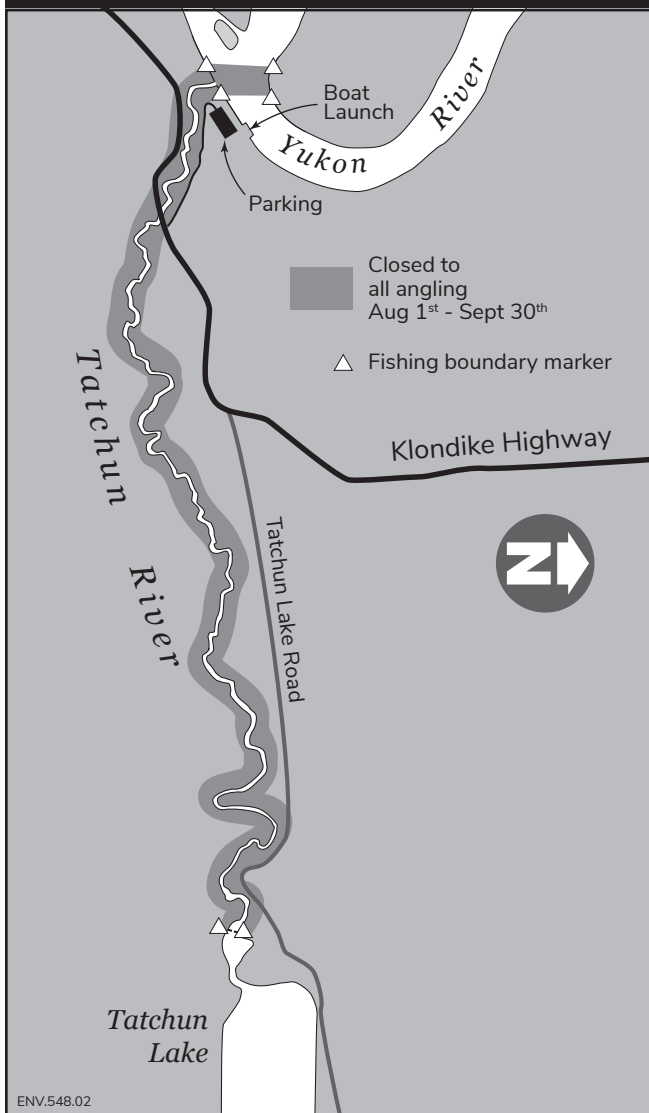


August 1 to September 30: no fishing in Tatchun River including the Yukon River at the mouth of the Tatchun River. Signs mark these boundaries. 

These restrictions do not apply outside of the dates above.

Limits for salmon

Tatchun River – area 18 on Catch Cards



Fishing on lands of First Nations and other Indigenous groups

No matter where you are in the Yukon, you are in the traditional territories of Yukon First Nations, Inuvialuit, and other Indigenous groups. There are public rights and responsibilities you should be aware of when fishing, travelling and camping on Settlement Lands.

Locating Settlement Lands

Settlement Lands and traditional territory are not the same. Traditional territory is the area a First Nation or its Members' ancestors traditionally used. Settlement Lands are owned by First Nations with Final Agreements and are lands that First Nations can enact laws on.

To view detailed maps of where Settlement Lands are located, visit a Department of Environment office or Yukon.ca/en/your-government/about-yukon/find-yukon-first-nations-traditional-territory-map-data.

Rights of licensed anglers

You may:

- ▶ fish in all navigable water bodies within or beside Settlement Lands, subject to the fishing regulations;
- ▶ use dead wood (standing or down) to make campfires within 30 metres of navigable water bodies; and
- ▶ enter, cross and stay for a reasonable period of time on undeveloped Settlement Lands for non-commercial recreation, including camping and fishing, subject to the responsibilities described below.

Some lands owned by Yukon First Nations are closed to public camping and fishing from shore. See the maps on page 33. Consult detailed maps at your local Department of Environment office.

Responsibilities of licensed anglers

When using Settlement Lands you must **not**:

- ▶ damage the land or structures;
- ▶ interfere with the use and enjoyment of the land by the First Nation; or
- ▶ commit acts of mischief.

It is your responsibility to know who owns the lands you are visiting.

Fishing on lands of First Nations and other Indigenous groups

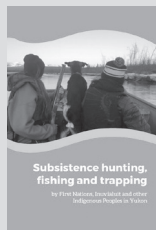
When using Settlement Lands within the limits of public access rights, you must comply with any laws enacted by the First Nation for managing the land and resources. The best way to ensure compliance is to contact the First Nation before using their land.

Contact the Department of Environment if you want to fish in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and are not a beneficiary of the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*.

First Nations, Inuvialuit and other Indigenous anglers in the Yukon

Members of Yukon First Nations, Inuvialuit and other Indigenous groups have rights to fish for food without an angling licence or Salmon Conservation Catch Card in certain parts of the Yukon. Subsistence harvest rights include fishing to feed yourself, your family or your community, or for ceremonial purposes. Refer to Final and Self-Government Agreements for specific provisions.

For a basic introduction to subsistence harvest rights, see the booklet *Subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping by First Nations, Inuvialuit and other Indigenous Peoples in Yukon*, available from Department of Environment offices or for download from Yukon.ca/subsistence-harvest.



When the authority to fish as outlined under Yukon First Nations; Inuvialuit; Beneficiaries of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement or Other Indigenous groups is not provided, then:

- ▶ you will need to have a valid Yukon angling licence and follow the Yukon fishing regulations; and
- ▶ you will also need a Salmon Conservation Catch Card to fish for salmon.

Yukon First Nations

If you are a Member of a Yukon First Nation with a Final Agreement, you will need a licence to fish outside the traditional territory of your First Nation, unless you have **written permission** from the First Nation with a Final Agreement whose traditional territory you are in.

First Nations, Inuvialuit and other Indigenous anglers in the Yukon

- ▶ You must follow their rules and are subject to the conditions of that First Nation's communal fishing licence for salmon.
- ▶ A First Nation **cannot** give you permission to fish in an area that overlaps with another Yukon First Nation's traditional territory.

If you are a Member of the Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nation or White River First Nation, you will need a licence to fish outside the asserted traditional territory of your First Nation.

Inuvialuit

The *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* outlines the Inuvialuit's treaty rights in the Yukon. You will need a licence to fish outside the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

Beneficiaries of the **Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement**

The *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* outlines the Gwich'in's established treaty rights in the Yukon. You will need a licence to fish in areas where your treaty rights do not apply.

Other Indigenous groups

If you are a Member of:

- ▶ Acho Dene Koe First Nation;
- ▶ Dease River First Nation;
- ▶ Kwadacha Nation;
- ▶ Taku River Tlingit First Nation; or
- ▶ Tahltan Central Government (Council)

You will need a licence to fish outside the asserted traditional territory of your First Nation in the Yukon.

For more information

Contact the Department of Environment at 867-667-5652 or toll free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5652 if you have further questions about your rights and responsibilities when subsistence fishing.

First Nations, Inuvialuit and other Indigenous anglers in the Yukon

Fishing gear

Mark your name and the name of your First Nation or Indigenous group on each gill net, fish trap and set box so fishery officers, conservation officers and game guardians know that these items are being used to exercise subsistence harvest rights.

Catching tagged fish

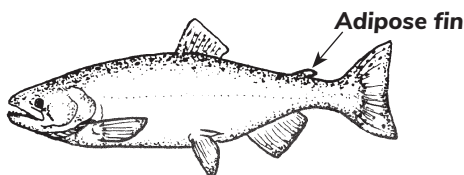
Freshwater fish

If you catch a tagged freshwater fish, please contact the nearest Department of Environment office. Provide the tag number and information about when and where you caught the fish.

If you keep the fish, please send in its tag with the fish's weight and length. If you release the fish, leave the tag in place and record the tag number and the length of the fish if possible.

Send your information or the tag to: Government of Yukon, Fisheries Unit, Box 2703 (V-5A), Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6. Or call 867-667-5117 or toll free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5721.

Tagged chinook salmon



If you catch a chinook salmon, check to see if the adipose fin is missing. If it is, the salmon likely has a microscopic coded-wire tag in its nose carrying information about its origin.

Record all required information on your Yukon Salmon Conservation Catch Card. If you keep the fish, remove the salmon's head and freeze it in a plastic bag along with information on the date and place of capture, sex, length and weight of the salmon. Return this information and the head in frozen condition to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Yukon Transboundary Rivers Area office in Whitehorse (see page 63), or call 867-393-6722 (toll free 1-866-676-6722) for further instructions.

Releasing fish

The Government of Yukon promotes respectful live release as a conservation and management tool to help choose the fish we keep and eat. The tips here will help you successfully release fish.

Select what you keep

Large females carry more eggs. They can dig deeper redds (spawning nests), which means more of those eggs survive.

Releasing these fish helps maintain fish stocks for the future.

You can make a healthy, fresh meal out of smaller fish.

There are more of them and they usually taste better.

Release it right

Survival rates for released fish can be very high when done properly. Studies suggest that about 94 per cent of northern pike and about 90 per cent of Arctic grayling survive after they are released. Survival rates for released lake trout range from 93 per cent for lightly-handled fish to 76 per cent for deep-hooked fish. Hook placement significantly impacts the survival of all species. While these survival rates may be high, it is important to follow the best practices below when live releasing fish to improve their chances at survival.

How to release fish unharmed

Use the right gear

- ▶ Use barbless hooks. They're easier to remove and require less handling time.
- ▶ Long-nose pliers make hook removal easier on you and the fish.
- ▶ Use artificial lures, not bait, to reduce the chance of deep hooking.
- ▶ If you use a landing net, use one made of rubber or knotless mesh.

Limit the stress on the fish

- ▶ Bring the fish in quickly before it becomes exhausted, unless you are fishing in deep waters.
- ▶ Handle the fish as little as possible and always with wet hands.
- ▶ Consider cutting your line if the fish is deeply hooked.
- ▶ Remove the hook as gently as possible, using your pliers to grasp the hook by its shank.

- ▶ **Always keep the fish wet** and limit its exposure to air. When you remove the hook, hold the fish underwater in a net or keep it in a live well, prior to releasing it.
 - ▶ Never keep a fish in a live well for longer than necessary.
 - ▶ When a fish you intended to release appears injured after hook removal and unlikely to recover, keep the fish if doing so does not exceed the daily catch limit or size restrictions.
- ▶ Changes in pressure affect fish. If you want to release fish, avoid fishing in deep waters. "Fizzing" (squeezing the belly to make a swim bladder deflate) can damage a fish's internal organs. We don't recommend it.

Release the fish carefully

- ▶ If you must handle the fish:
 - ▶ use one hand to firmly hold the fish by the tail and gently place your other hand under the fish, just behind the gill cover;
 - ▶ never hold it vertically; and
 - ▶ **do not touch** the gills or squeeze the belly.
- ▶ Warm water is very hard on fish. Release fish into water as cold as where you caught them.
- ▶ To revive a fish, hold it upright in the water and allow it to recover. Watch for gill movement and release it when it begins to swim normally on its own. Do not rock the fish forwards and backwards.

Treat it humanely. Kill it quickly!

Immediately kill fish you plan to eat. Using stringers (tethers) and live wells to keep fish alive is not respectful.

Releasing fish

Be respectful

Good fish management practices will ensure that the Yukon's rivers and lakes continue to have fish for generations to come. Part of these management practices includes following the methods above when releasing fish, as well as limiting the number of fish you live release. Properly releasing fish can limit the number of fish that die. However, even with a high survival rate of 90 per cent, if you catch and release 20 fish in a day, it's likely that two may not survive. Two is the daily catch limit on many Yukon waters. Excessive live release can result in harming Yukon fish populations. Follow the list of ethics below.



Live release ethics

- 1. Treat the fish gently, with respect.**
- 2. Learn proper handling techniques (see above).**
- 3. Practice live release in moderation.**
- 4. Keep any legal fish that are bleeding or injured.**
- 5. Stop fishing when you reach your limit.**
- 6. Don't practice live release in schools of spawning fish.**
- 7. Don't practice live release in hot weather or warm water.**
- 8. If you are not going to keep a fish, release it right away.**

Fish care in the field

Fish flesh decays much faster than game meat like moose. It doesn't have the connective tissue that holds game meat together.

The following tips will help you preserve the quality and taste of your catch.

- ▶ Bring an ice-filled cooler and keep it out of the sun.
- ▶ Kill the fish quickly with a sharp blow to the head just behind the eyes.
- ▶ For best results, gut the fish right away. See page 12 for information about dressing fish.
- ▶ If you choose to gut the fish later, bleed it right away by inserting a knife through the gills and cutting straight down.
- ▶ Put the cleaned or bled fish in a plastic bag and put the bag in your cooler, preferably on ice.
- ▶ When at home, if you fillet your catch, do not rinse the fillets in water. Wipe them with paper towels.
- ▶ Freeze your catch as soon as you get it home or cook it within 24 hours for best results.

Your role in fisheries management

Do you have information on the status of particular lakes or rivers? Is the fishing better or worse than it used to be? Your comments can help fisheries managers focus their efforts on ensuring the sustainability of fish stocks. Email us your observations at fisheries@yukon.ca or call 867-667-5117 or toll free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5117.

Stop aquatic invasive species

Help protect our waters

Aquatic invasive species can harm native species by bringing disease and altering ecosystems. This affects fishing, tourism, health and recreation in the Yukon. Anglers coming in from outside the Yukon are at the highest risk of bringing in aquatic invasive species. Keep aquatic invasive species out by following these simple steps when moving between bodies of water or bringing boats and gear into the Yukon:



CLEAN mud, weeds and aquatic life from equipment before leaving the area.



DRAIN water from bilges, pumps, coolers and buckets before leaving the area.



DRY your boat and gear before heading to another body of water. It can take five days in the sun to dry. You can also power wash, freeze small items overnight, or fully immerse or soak gear in very hot water for half an hour.



CHOOSE YOUR GEAR WISELY. Studded or soft rubber waders are your best choice. Felt and other porous soles in boots can trap moisture and spread aquatic invasive species. If you have felt-soled wading boots, it's best to freeze them overnight.

Pay special attention when you are moving between lakes and rivers. Report all sightings of possible invasive species to the Department of Environment.

To learn more, visit Yukon.ca/aquatic-invasive-species and yukoninvasives.com.



Report zebra and quagga mussels

Zebra mussel
Amy Benson
bugwood.org



Quagga mussel
David Britton



Report any mussels you find attached to boats or equipment to the Department of Environment. The Pacific Northwest, including the Yukon, is the last part of North America that is still free of zebra and quagga mussels. These mussels have caused major impacts to the environment and infrastructure like hydropower and municipal water supplies. They are spread by watercraft,

transported overland between waters. The mussels can attach to boats within hours, and their microscopic larvae can live in standing lake water. Adult mussels and larvae can survive up to 30 days on a boat out of the water. Help keep the Yukon free of zebra and quagga mussels!

How to identify zebra and quagga mussels:

- ▶ they are small: only up to 3 cm;
- ▶ they form dense clumps and attach to hard surfaces;
- ▶ propeller-blade shaped; and
- ▶ zebra stripes often, but not always, present.

Health and Yukon fish

Follow standard food safety practices when handling, cleaning or cooking any fish.

Mercury

Fish caught in the Yukon may contain small amounts of mercury. In general, adults who are not pregnant do not need to limit how much lake trout, burbot or northern pike they eat. However, because larger fish have higher concentrations of mercury, consuming smaller lake trout, burbot and northern pike (i.e., less than 60 cm or 24" in length) gives an extra degree of safety. Women of childbearing age and children under the age of 12 should limit the number of large lake trout, burbot and northern pike (longer than 60 cm) they eat to only one or two meals per week. Small fish (less than 40 cm) do not pose a risk and you can eat as many as you like.

Other commonly targeted species of fish, including Arctic grayling, whitefish and salmon, have mercury levels well below the Health Canada guideline.

Fish parasites

You might find parasites in the flesh and organs of some Yukon fish. Many of these parasites look unpleasant, but most are harmless for humans or pets. You can decrease the risk of infection by thoroughly cooking the fish and using proper hygiene when cleaning and handling raw fish.

Parasite load varies between species and lakes. Some populations have a lot of parasites. Don't harvest these fish unless you plan to eat them.

For more information, call the Animal Health Unit at 867-667-5600 or email animalhealth@yukon.ca.

For more information

There is a wealth of information on the benefits of eating fish, food safety, mercury and fish parasites in the *Yukon Fish Health Handbook*. This handbook is available from Department of Environment offices and from Yukon.ca/yukon-fish-health-handbook.

Watersheds and species

There are five watersheds in the Yukon. Fish species are found as follows:



All watersheds: Arctic grayling, northern pike, lake whitefish, round whitefish, lake trout, burbot and longnose sucker.

Alsek River watershed: Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, Sockeye salmon, kokanee salmon, rainbow trout, steelhead, Dolly Varden and pygmy whitefish.

Liard River watershed: Bull trout, mountain whitefish and white sucker.

North Slope watershed: Dolly Varden, Arctic lamprey, inconnu, rainbow smelt, least cisco, broad whitefish and Chum salmon.

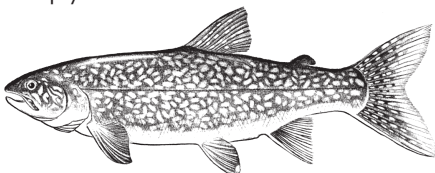
Peel River watershed: Dolly Varden, inconnu, white sucker and broad whitefish.

Yukon River watershed: Chinook salmon, Chum salmon, Coho salmon, inconnu, pygmy whitefish, broad whitefish, Arctic lamprey and least cisco.

Freshwater fish identification

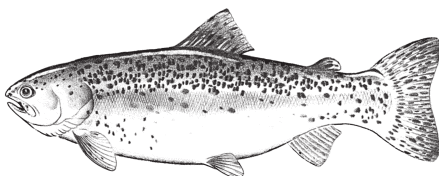
Lake trout

- ▶ Light spots on dark body.
- ▶ Worm-like markings on back and dorsal fin.
- ▶ Deeply forked tail.



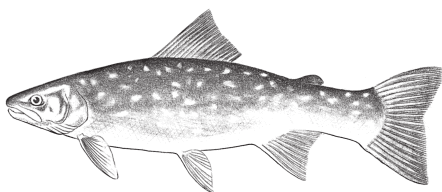
Rainbow trout

- ▶ Dark spots on light body.
- ▶ Radiating rows of black spots on tail.



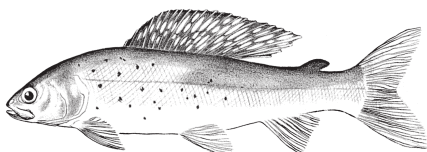
Arctic char

- ▶ Light spots on dark body.
- ▶ Slightly forked tail.
- ▶ Found in Pumphouse Pond, McIntyre Creek, Porter Creek and some stocked lakes.



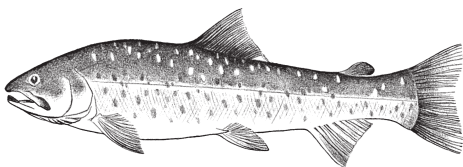
Arctic grayling

- ▶ Long, high dorsal fin edged with a coloured band and dotted with rows of spots.



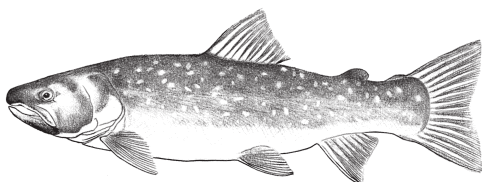
Dolly Varden

- ▶ Light spots on dark body.
- ▶ No worm-like markings on dorsal fin.
- ▶ Slightly forked tail.
- ▶ Small head.



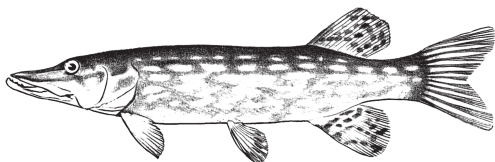
Bull trout

- ▶ Similar to Dolly Varden.
- ▶ Large, flattened head.



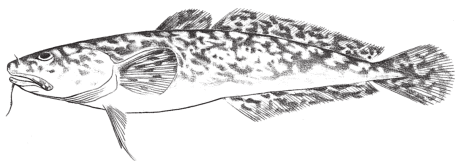
Northern pike

- ▶ Large mouth with prominent teeth.



Burbot

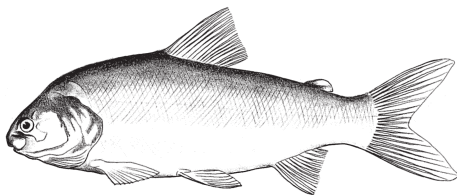
- ▶ Flattened head with whisker-like barbel under jaw.



Freshwater fish identification

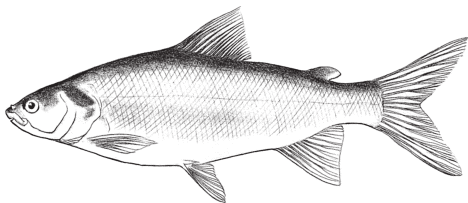
Broad whitefish

- ▶ Upper jaw projects beyond lower jaw.
- ▶ Tip of snout is lower than the eye.



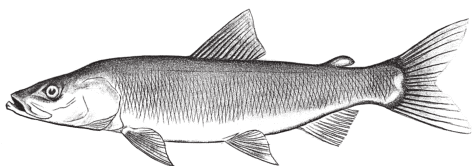
Lake (humpback) whitefish

- ▶ Upper jaw projects beyond lower jaw.
- ▶ Tip of snout is above lower margin of eye.



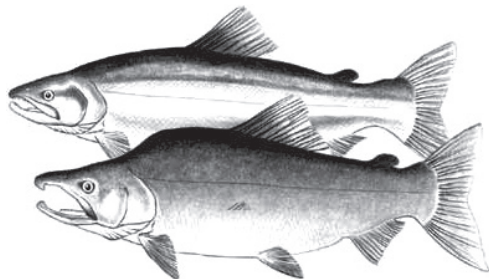
Inconnu

- ▶ Lower jaw projects beyond upper jaw.



Kokanee salmon

- ▶ Landlocked sockeye salmon.
- ▶ Seldom longer than 40 cm or heavier than 0.5 kg.

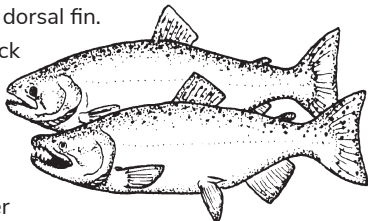


Pacific salmon identification

Certain species of salmon may look similar to others.
If in doubt, release the salmon unharmed.

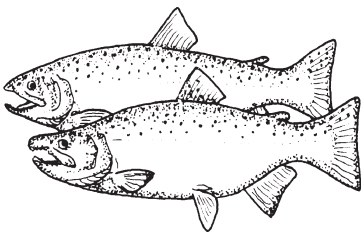
Chinook salmon

- ▶ Mature adult fish become dark and reddish, spots on both lobes of tail and dorsal fin.
- ▶ Black mouth with black gums at base of teeth in lower jaw.
- ▶ Usually 5 to 20 kg.
- ▶ Adults return to the Yukon and Alsek River watersheds between June and September.



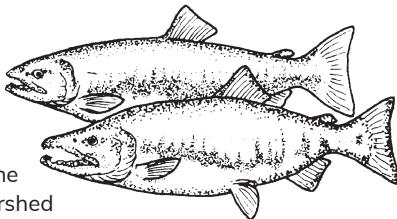
Coho salmon

- ▶ Wide tail base with black spots on upper portion of tail.
- ▶ Mature adult males are reddish on sides, grey/green on back and head, grey on belly, and develop a hooked jaw.
- ▶ Mature adult females are less strongly coloured.
- ▶ Black mouth with white gums at base of teeth in lower jaw.
- ▶ Usually 3 to 6 kg.
- ▶ Adults return to the Alsek River watershed in September and October and to the Yukon River watershed (including the Porcupine River) in October and November.



Chum salmon

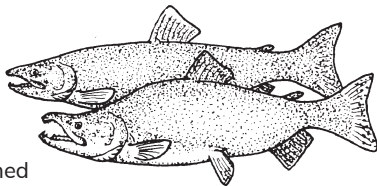
- ▶ Mature adult fish are olive to olive/grey in colour with a dark purple/grey irregular band on the side of the body.
- ▶ Tail has no spots.
- ▶ Large pupil, more than half the diameter of the whole eye.
- ▶ Adults return to the Yukon River watershed (including the Porcupine River) between August and October.



Pacific salmon identification

Sockeye salmon

- ▶ Mature adult males have a pale green head, hooked jaw, humped back, bright red body and red fins.
- ▶ Mature adult females will develop a grey/green head and grey/red body but do not possess a hump or hooked jaw.
- ▶ No spots on back, dorsal fin, or tail.
- ▶ Usually 2 to 4 kg.
- ▶ Adults return to the Alsek River watershed from June to October.



Bear safety

The Yukon is bear country. Your chances of encountering a bear go up if you are near an active fish spawning area, especially a stream where salmon spawn. Pick up more information on bear safety at a Visitor Information Centre, any Department of Environment office or visit Yukon.ca/bears.

In camp

- ▶ Don't camp on the shore of a spawning stream.
- ▶ If you're tenting, store your fish and food away from your tent, in bear-resistant containers.
- ▶ If you have a vehicle nearby, keep your fish cooler in it.
- ▶ Burn your garbage thoroughly or store it in odour-proof containers and pack it out. Keep a clean camp.
- ▶ Don't handle bait or clean your fish on picnic tables.

When fishing

- ▶ Keep an eye out for bears so you can give them plenty of room. Look for bear signs like tracks, scat, fresh diggings or partially eaten fish.
- ▶ Fish with friends. Bears are less likely to approach groups.
- ▶ Make noise, especially when your visibility is limited. If a bear hears you coming it will probably leave the area.

- ▶ Carry a can of bear spray and be sure you can reach it quickly and know how to use it.
- ▶ Don't leave your catch exposed and unattended. If fishing from shore, store your catch in your vehicle or a sealed container.

After fishing

- ▶ Clean your catch at the shoreline, not at your campsite.
- ▶ Throw the guts into deep or fast-moving water. Pop the air bladder so the guts will sink. You can also bag the guts and dispose of them at home. Don't leave fish guts on the bank or in shallow water.
- ▶ Wash your hands, knife and cutting board after cleaning the fish. Don't get fish odours on your clothes or waders.

If you have an encounter

- ▶ Stay calm. Encounters rarely result in an attack.
- ▶ Cut the line if you're fighting a fish. The splashing may attract the bear.
- ▶ If there are other people around, group together.
- ▶ If a bear approaches you, stop. Try to stay calm and prepare to use your bear spray or other deterrent. Try to determine if the bear is behaving in a defensive or non-defensive manner. If possible, back away slowly.
- ▶ If a bear approaches you very closely, stand your ground, and use your deterrent.
- ▶ If the bear physically attacks you while defending food or cubs, play dead. If a bear physically attacks you in a non-defensive manner, fight back.
- ▶ Report your encounter to a conservation officer or call the TIPP line at 1-800-661-0525.

Boating safety

By law, all boats must carry safety equipment. What exactly you have to carry depends on the type and size of your boat. Check all equipment regularly, maintain it well and replace if necessary.

Common items needed on board are:

- ▶ Canadian-approved personal flotation device or lifejacket for each person;
- ▶ paddles or oars;
- ▶ a bailing device;
- ▶ a fire extinguisher;
- ▶ watertight flashlight or flares;
- ▶ a buoyant heaving line;
- ▶ a sound signaling device; and
- ▶ navigation lights.

Pleasure Craft Operator Card

All operators of pleasure crafts must carry a proof of competency (Pleasure Craft Operator Card) on board.

For more information about legal requirements for your boat and Pleasure Craft Operator Cards, visit tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation.

Ice fishing safety

Like any other winter activity, the key to being safe and comfortable while ice fishing is to choose which days to go out and to dress for the conditions.

- ▶ Check the weather forecast and choose other activities on colder, windier days.
- ▶ Bring multiple layers of clothing.
- ▶ Avoid ice travel until there is at least 15 cm (6") of clear, strong ice.
- ▶ Avoid using snowmobiles on ice less than 25 cm (10") thick.
- ▶ Avoid areas with current, where the ice may be thin.

Freshwater fish

Government of Yukon, Department of Environment

Main office 10 Burns Road 867-667-5652
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Toll free in the Yukon 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5652

Fisheries Unit 867-667-5721

Email fisheries@yukon.ca

Conservation officers:

Whitehorse 867-667-5652

Carmacks 867-863-2411

Dawson City 867-993-5492

Faro 867-994-2862

Haines Junction 867-634-2247

Mayo 867-996-2202

Old Crow 867-993-5492

Ross River 867-969-2202

Teslin 867-390-2685

Watson Lake 867-536-3210

Salmon

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Fishery officers 867-393-6771

Main office 1-866-676-6722

100-419 Range Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3V1

Web www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/yukon/index-eng.html

Observe, Record, Report line 1-800-465-4336

Salmon Conservation Catch Card 1-877-535-7307

Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

Main office 409 Black Street, second floor 867-393-6725

Box 31094, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5P7

Email ex.dir@yssc.ca

Web yssc.ca

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Main office 409 Black Street, second floor 867-667-3754

Box 31104, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5P7

Email officemanager@yfwmb.ca

Web yfwmb.ca

Notes

Protect Yukon wildlife



Yukon.ca/TIPP

24 hour • Anonymous • Rewards available

When to call:

- ▶ dangerous or aggressive wildlife encounters
- ▶ winter bear activity
- ▶ hunting or fishing out of season
- ▶ exceeding bag limits
- ▶ illegal sale of fish or wildlife
- ▶ illegal dumping on land or in water
- ▶ littering

If you think someone is violating wildlife or environmental laws, don't confront them.

Record the facts:

- ▶ date and time
- ▶ location
- ▶ number of people involved
- ▶ description of the people
- ▶ description of the vehicle and licence plate number
- ▶ details of the violation or activity

You can call us toll-free, 24/7 or report online. You'll be helping the wildlife conservation effort and you may be eligible for a cash reward.