



Northwest Territories Sport Fishing Regulations Guide

April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018



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This pamphlet is not an official statement of the law and is provided for guidance only. The regulations summarized here apply to anglers who are Northwest Territories (NWT) residents, Canadian residents and non-residents. The fishing rights of Aboriginal people in the NWT are different from other fishers and are not described in this pamphlet. The *Northwest Territories Fishery Regulations* are made under the federal *Fisheries Act*, both of which can be viewed at www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Closures, fishing quotas and size limits for fishing in the NWT may change during the year. If you are in doubt about any regulation, contact a Fishery Officer or Renewable Resource Officer before fishing.

Cover Photo: J. Kevinsen

What's New

- ✦ Updates to the General Fish Consumption Guidelines for the NWT (page 8).
- ✦ Information on keeping the NWT free of Aquatic Invasive Species (page 11).

On-line Fishing Licences

Fishing licences are now available on-line at: www.enr.gov.nt.ca. Ensure you have access to a printer to print, sign and carry your licence.

Any persons intending to fish lakes or rivers on Inuvialuit private lands must first register with either the local Hunters and Trappers Committee or the Fisheries Joint Management Committee.

Issues and Concerns

Managing healthy and sustainable fisheries for all users is the goal of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. If you have any concerns or comments regarding the current management of recreational fisheries, we want to hear from you. Please send your comments to:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Suite 301, 5204-50th Ave.

Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2

or by email to: NWTsportfishing@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Reporting Fishing Violations

Violations of renewable resource legislation are serious offences. If you see something suspicious or illegal, please call and provide as much detail as possible, including the date, time, location, vehicle licence plate, air registration letters or boat registration number and nature of the incident. Help stop violations. The REPORT A POACHER toll-free line is in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Call 1-866-762-2437. Information provided on the line is passed on to a Renewable Resource Officer and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.



Your Sport Fishing Licence

A Sport Fishing Licence is required by everyone except:

- ❖ NWT and Canadian residents under the age of 16 or 65 years of age and over, unless fishing in an area that requires an additional validation.
- ❖ Non-resident anglers under the age of 16 who are accompanied by a person holding a valid sport fishing licence, unless they are fishing in an area that requires an additional validation.

Annual sport fishing licences expire on March 31.

Residency

NWT RESIDENT – A Canadian citizen or permanent resident who has resided continuously in the NWT for a period of three months immediately preceding the day they began fishing. **Season – \$10.**

CANADIAN RESIDENT – A Canadian citizen or permanent resident who normally resides in any part of Canada other than the NWT immediately preceding the day they begin to fish.

Season – \$20 | 3-Day* – \$15.

NON-RESIDENT – A person other than an NWT Resident or a Canadian Resident. **Season – \$40 | 3-Day* – \$30.**

- ❖ The federal Goods and Services Tax (5% GST) will be added to all fees.
- ❖ Great Bear Lake Special Management Area validation may be obtained from any ENR office for \$10 + GST.
- ❖ The number of days available on a licence and related fees are subject to change. Please contact vendors for current licence details.
- ❖ All licences are subject to conditions noted in the “Additional Validations” section.

* A 3-day licence is valid for three consecutive days commencing on the date stated on the licence.

General Regulations

Should you be convicted for a first offence under the *Fisheries Act*, you may be liable to a fine up to \$100,000. If you are uncertain about any of the following items, contact a Fishery Officer or Renewable Resource Officer BEFORE fishing.

Regulations under the *Fisheries Act* state that:

- ✦ You must carry your signed and validated licence while fishing, and be able to produce it at the request of an officer. NWT sport fishing licences expire March 31 of every year.
- ✦ “Sport fishing” means fishing for pleasure and not for sale or barter and may include angling, spear fishing and dip netting.
- ✦ It is an offence to waste any fish that is suitable for food.
- ✦ Live fish cannot be used for bait. Live fish or live fish eggs cannot be put into NWT waters.
- ✦ A hand net may only be used for landing fish caught by angling.
- ✦ You may not use or possess a gaff while sport fishing.
- ✦ No person shall engage in spear fishing except while swimming.
- ✦ You may not dispose of fish or fish remains in the water or on the ice. At public sites, place fish remains and refuse in the provided containers.
- ✦ Dip nets may be used to catch ciscoes and suckers. The diameter of the dip net hoop cannot exceed one metre, and all other species of fish caught must immediately be returned to the water.
- ✦ Snagging of fish is prohibited.
- ✦ Except when preparing your fish for immediate consumption, where size limits are in place, fish are not to be cut, packed or otherwise dealt with in a manner where the length cannot be determined. Head and tail must be attached to Arctic grayling in the Mackenzie Management Zone.
- ✦ You must leave the skin on the fish to help in determining the species. The number of fish must also be identifiable. Fillets must be separated before freezing them. Two fillets are regarded as one fish.
- ✦ When stored in an area other than your permanent residence, fish must be marked with the name and Sport Fishing Licence number of the person who caught them. If you are transporting fish, this information must also be marked on the outside of the package.
- ✦ Fishing is prohibited within 25 yards downstream of any obstacle, fish way or leap.

- ✦ Only barbless hooks are permitted for angling in the Northwest Territories. The use of any unusual or special gimmick is often illegal and best avoided. Hooks or lures must not be spring-loaded. You may not use lights to fish.
- ✦ Angling is fishing with a hook and line. During open water season, you may fish with only a single line or rod. No more than two hooks can be attached to the line. You must attend to your line at all times. While fishing through the ice, you may fish with a maximum of two lines. No more than two hooks can be attached to any line. You must remain within 50 metres (60 yards) of your line or lines.

Waste Disposal

Please do not litter! Dispose of your garbage properly and help keep our environment clean and safe. Litter can be hazardous to fish, wildlife and other anglers. Discarding bait containers, fishing line and other types of litter on land, on the ice or in the water is illegal and perpetrators may face significant fines. When possible, show your concern for the environment by cleaning up after others.

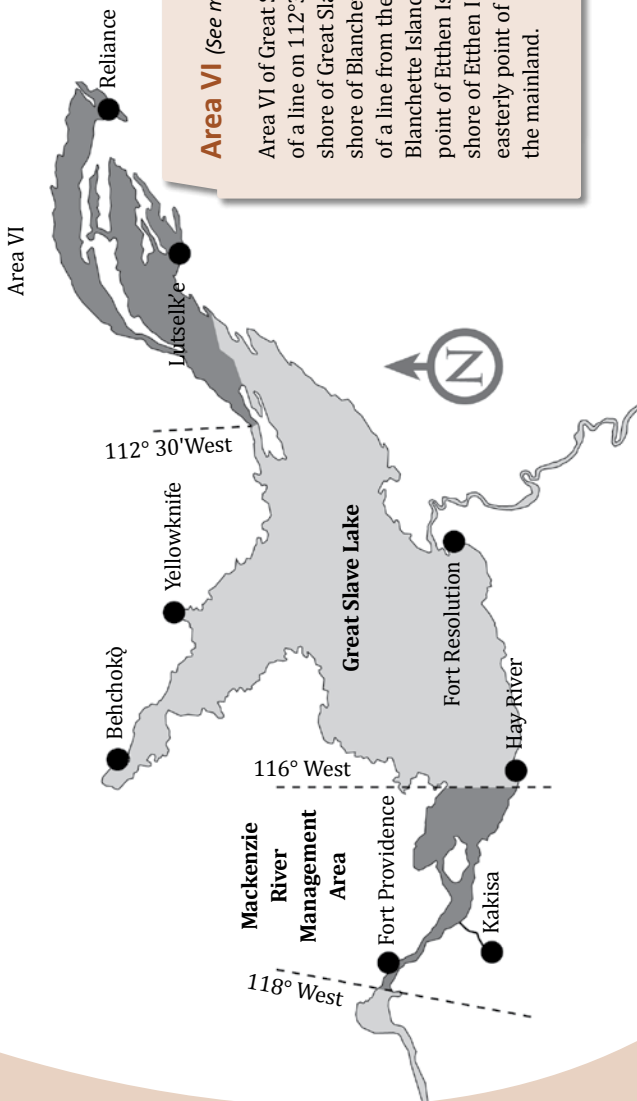
Angler Survey Program

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, in cooperation with First Nations and Renewable Resources Councils, coordinates angler survey programs to gather catch and effort statistics as well as biological data on game fish. Information, such as number of hours fished and number of fish caught, is noted. This is being done as part of a continuing program to ensure viable sport fisheries in the NWT for future generations of anglers. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Catch and Release Fishing

- ✦ Please release your fish with care and respect.
- ✦ Use a hook remover or needle nose pliers to remove hooks.
- ✦ Minimize handling and keep fish in the water if possible.
- ✦ Do not hold fish for later release; this practice reduces survival.
- ✦ Your barbless hooks will make “Catch and Release” fishing easier.
- ✦ Avoid fighting your fish to complete exhaustion.
- ✦ Ensure you use the correct tackle for the targeted fish species. Fishing line that is too light can lead to lost lures or fish and extended fight times if a light drag is used.
- ✦ Avoid contact with the fish’s gills and eyes.
- ✦ Do not squeeze the fish.

Additional Validations and Special Management Areas



Area VI (See map for more details.)

Area VI of Great Slave Lake is the area east of a line on 112°30'00"W from the north shore of Great Slave Lake to the north shore of Blanchette Island; and north of a line from the most easterly point of Blanchette Island to the most westerly point of Etthen Island, along the south shore of Etthen Island then from the most easterly point of Etthen Island due east to the mainland.

Great Slave Lake

Great Slave Lake Management Areas

The Mackenzie River Management Area has special restrictions for Arctic grayling and northern pike. Area VI on Great Slave Lake has special restrictions for lake trout. See the Daily Catch Limits and Possession Limits chart for more details.

Great Bear Lake

Great Bear Lake Special Management Area

Great Bear Lake includes all of the Camsell River upstream to White Eagle Falls and all other tributaries to Great Bear Lake from their mouths to 1 km upstream.

Any person, including those under 16 or 65 years of age and older, must have a valid Sport Fishing Licence and Special Management Area Licence to fish in this area. This validation may be obtained from any ENR office for \$10. For further information on sport fishing in the Great Bear Lake Special Management Area, contact the Délı̄nę RRC at (867) 589-8100.

Land Claim Settlement Areas

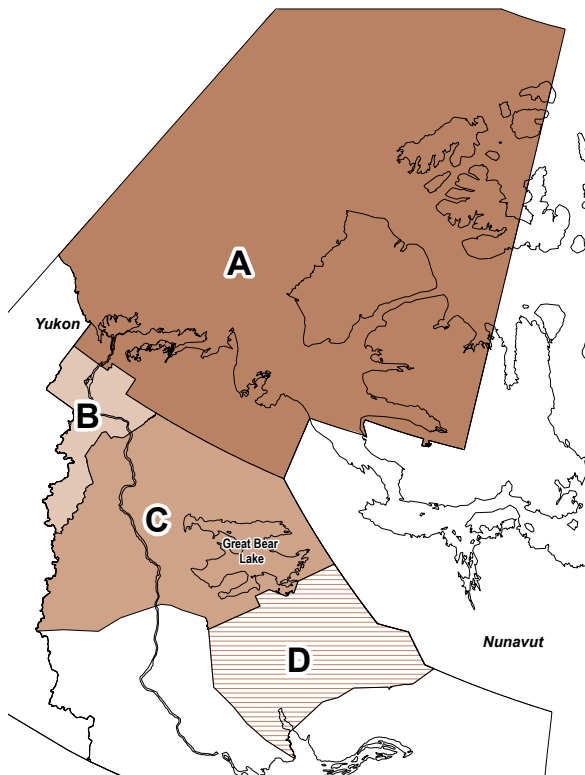
Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR)

Any person, including those under 16 or 65 years of age and older, must have a valid Sport Fishing Licence and validation to fish in the ISR. This free validation may be obtained from a vendor of fishing licences or any ENR office. Any person intending to fish lakes or rivers on Inuvialuit private lands must first register with either the local Hunters and Trappers Committee or the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC). If you are not able to register during regular office hours, visit www.fjmc.ca. Persons fishing within the ISR may be contacted at a later date by the FJMC and asked to report their catch. For further information, see the Fishing in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region brochure, available from all licence vendors in the ISR, or www.fjmc.ca to learn more about why this information is important to fisheries management in the ISR.

Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA)

Sport fishing in the GSA is subject to the terms and conditions of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA). Permission may be required to access Gwich'in private lands for the purpose of sport fishing. In general, most popular fishing areas in the GSA are on private lands and permission is required to access them. Permission may be granted by the local Renewable

Resources Council (RRC) or the Gwich'in Land Administration (GLA). Contacts are – GLA: (867) 777-7912, Nihtat RRC: (867) 777-6650, Aklavik RRC: (867) 978-2336, Fort McPherson RRC: (867) 952-2330, Tsiigehtchic RRC: (867) 953-3608. In addition to Gwich'in private lands, sport fishers should also be aware and respectful of the Gwich'in Special Harvesting Areas identified in Volume II – Schedule VI of the GCLCA. Subject to legislation (these regulations), sport fishing is allowed in Special Harvesting Areas. Please contact the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board at (867) 777-6607 or visit our website: www.grrb.nt.ca/fisheries_fishing.htm.



Land Claim Settlement Areas

- A Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR)**
- B Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA)**
- C Sahtú Settlement Area (SSA)**
- D Tłı̨chǫ Settlement Area**

See narrative for further details.

Sahtú Settlement Area (SSA)

Sport fishing in the SSA may be subject to terms and conditions in accordance with the Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. Persons wishing to fish in the Special Harvesting Area are advised to contact the local Renewable Resources Council (RRC). Permission may be required to access Sahtú Dene and Métis private lands. For further information on sport fishing in the SSA or to access Sahtú private lands, contact the applicable RRC or Land Corporation(s) at: Norman Wells (867) 587-2455, Délı̄ne (867) 589-8100, Fort Good Hope (867) 598-2193, Colville Lake (867) 709-2200, or Tulita (867) 588-4724.

Tłı̄chǫ Settlement Area

For information on sport fishing terms and conditions within Tłı̄chǫ lands, please contact the Manager, Lands Section, Department of Culture and Lands Protection at (867) 392-6381 or visit www.tlicho.ca.

National Parks

An NWT Sport Fishing Licence is not valid in a national park. A separate national parks sport fishing licence is required for each national park and may be obtained from a Parks Canada Office. Please visit www.pc.gc.ca for contact information.

General Fish Consumption Guidelines for the NWT

Why eat fish?

Eating fish contributes to a healthy, nutritious diet. Fish is an excellent source of protein, calcium, minerals and omega-3 fatty acids, which help maintain your health!

How much fish should I eat each week?

Canada's Food Guide recommends at least two servings (equal to 150 grams, 5 ounces or 1/3 of a pound) of fish each week as a part of a healthy, balanced diet.

Can fish be contaminated by chemicals in the environment?

Fish, like other foods, can contain varying levels of chemical contaminants such as mercury. An environmental contaminant is any chemical in a food that would not normally be present. Environmental contaminants can result from human releases of contaminants to the environment or from natural activities that allow contaminants to enter the food chain.

Are these contaminants harmful?

The mere presence of a contaminant may not always be harmful. Small amounts of mercury can also be found in fish bought in the supermarket or caught in the wild.

Do some fish contain more contaminants than others?

Predatory fish that feed on other fish and reach a large size – like walleye, lake trout and northern pike – may contain levels of mercury in excess of consumption guidelines. Other fish species – like whitefish, cisco, suckers, grayling, Arctic char and inconnu – generally have very low levels of mercury, even in larger fish.

Should pregnant women eat fish?

Regular fish consumption by pregnant women and nursing mothers is overall beneficial for healthy prenatal and early childhood development.

Fetuses, infants and young children are particularly sensitive to the effects of mercury. Unless there are specific fish consumption guidelines for a particular lake, women who are pregnant (or may be pregnant), nursing mothers and children under 12 are advised to limit their predatory fish consumption of lake trout and northern pike that are less than 60 cm (or 24 inches), and walleye that are less than 45 cm (18 inches), to a single serving per week. These groups are also advised to avoid lake trout and northern pike larger than 60 cm (or 24 inches) and walleye larger than 45 cm (or 18 inches).

Non-predatory fish are a good choice for women of child-bearing age and children in terms of mercury exposure. Consuming fish contributes to a healthy, nutritious lifestyle. Women who eat fish are encouraged to continue breastfeeding to provide infants the best start to a healthy life.

For specific fish consumption guidelines on NWT lakes that have been tested for contaminants, please visit the GNWT Department of Health and Social Services website at www.hss.gov.nt.ca/health/environmental-health/mercury-levels-fish.

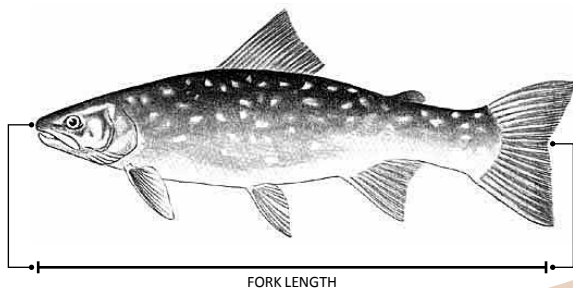
Waters Closed to Sport Fishing

To conserve fish stocks, the following waters are closed to sport fishing for all species during the times noted. All dates are inclusive.

Waters	Coordinates / Closure Dates
BIG FISH RIVER <i>and Tributaries</i>	68°39'N, 135°52'W Closed year round
MOSQUITO CREEK <i>and the waters of Great Slave Lake within 1 km of the mouth of Mosquito Creek</i>	62°42'N, 116°05'W May 1 - June 30
PROVIDENCE CREEK <i>and the waters of the Mackenzie River within 100 m of the mouth of Providence Creek</i>	61°15'N, 117°32'W April 15 - May 30
YELLOWKNIFE RIVER <i>between Prosperous Lake and Bluefish Lake</i>	62°39'N, 114°15'W September 1 - October 31
BAKER CREEK	62°29'10"N, 114°21'36"W April 15 - June 15
RAT RIVER	67°43'N, 136°15'W August 7 - September 15
HUSKY CHANNEL	67°36'N, 134°51'W and 68°08'N, 135°16'W August 7 - September 15
PEEL CHANNEL	68°07'N, 135°16'W and 68°13'N, 135°05'W August 7 - September 15
FISH CREEK	67°43'42"N, 136°15'44"W Closed year round

Fork Length

The measurement from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.



Attention All Anglers

Help us keep Aquatic Invasive Species out of the NWT

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native species whose introduction will likely cause harm to habitats and local species. AIS thrive in the absence of their natural predators and have the potential to drastically alter ecosystems. AIS have already been responsible for significant devastation of some fisheries in Canada.

The Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations came into force on May 29, 2015; these regulations are enforceable by Fishery Officers.

It is prohibited for any person to import, possess, transport, release, introduce or engage in any activity that may result in any of the above, or introduce any species listed under the Federal Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations Schedule II.

When transporting your equipment between waterways always clean, drain and dry.

Clean – clean off plants, animals and mud from gear and equipment, including waders, footwear, ropes, anchors, bait traps, dip nets, downrigger cables, fishing lines and field gear, *before leaving water access.*

Drain – Drain water from boat, motor, bilge, bladder tanks, livewell and portable bait containers *away from ramp.*

Dry – Dry everything for at least *five days* when moving between waters to kill small species not easily seen.

NEVER dump live fish or other organisms from one water body into another.

Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels are an aquatic invasive species that can easily spread between Canada's freshwater lakes. The adults are small (1 to 3 cm in length) and attach to hard surfaces, while juveniles are microscopic in size and free-floating.



Photo: US Geological Survey



Photo: US National Park Service

Daily Catch Limits (DCL) and Possession Limits (PL)

SPECIES	WATERS
Arctic Char	All NWT waters Hornaday River
Arctic Grayling	Mackenzie River Management Area on Great Slave Lake, including Kakisa River and its tributaries (see Special Management Areas section) All waters within the Gwich'in Settlement Area, Inuvialuit Settlement Region and Sahtú Settlement Area, excluding Great Bear Lake Special Management Area Baker Creek (near Yellowknife) and within 100 m of the mouth All other NWT waters, including Great Bear Lake Special Management Area
Brook Trout	All NWT waters
Bull Trout	All NWT waters
Burbot	Dolomite Lake (Airport Lake), 68°18'N, 133°33'W All other NWT waters
Ciscoes	Dolomite Lake (Airport Lake), 68°18'N, 133°33'W All other NWT waters
Dolly Varden	Waters within the Gwich'in Settlement Area and Inuvialuit Settlement Region All other NWT waters
Goldeye	All NWT waters
Inconnu	Great Slave Lake and its tributaries Dolomite Lake (Airport Lake), 68°18'N, 133°33'W All other NWT waters
Lake Trout	Great Bear Lake Special Management Area Dolomite Lake (Airport Lake), 68°18'N, 133°33'W Great Slave Lake and its tributaries from their mouth to 1 km upstream Trout Lake, 60°35'N, 121°19'W, and its tributaries Stark Lake Prelude Lake, Prosperous Lake, Walsh Lake, River Lake, Banting Lake and Vee Lake Alexie and Chitty Lake All other NWT waters

1. **Daily Catch Limit** is the number of fish of each species that a person may catch and retain in a 24 hour period from one midnight to the next midnight.
2. **Possession Limit** is the total number of fish of each species that a person is entitled to possess at any time.

DCL	PL	SIZE LIMITS/OTHER RESTRICTIONS
4	7	None
0	0	None
1	1	Fork length may not be less than 36 cm (14 in)
5	10	None
0	0	Catch and release only
3	5	None
3	5	None
2	3	None
0	0	August 15 - October 31
5	10	None
0	0	August 15 - October 31
175	175	None
0	0	Catch and release only
4	7	None
5	10	None
1	2	None
5 / 0 / 5	10 / 0 / 10	April 1 - Aug 14 / Aug 15 - Oct 31 / Nov 1 - March 31
5	10	None
1	2	Only one lake trout may be removed from Great Bear Lake Special Management Area during any fishing trip.
1 / 0 / 1	1 / 0 / 1	April 1 - Aug 14 / Aug 15 - Oct 31 / Nov 1 - March 31
2	3	DCL – Only one can be from Area VI of Great Slave Lake. PL – Only two can be from Area VI of Great Slave Lake. Only one lake trout in possession may be more than 70 cm (28 in) fork length.
1	1	None
3	5	Only one lake trout in possession may be more than 70 cm (28 in) fork length.
1 / 0 / 1	1 / 0 / 1	April 1 - Aug 31 / Sept 1 - Oct 31 / Nov 1 - March 31
0	0	Catch and release only
3	5	None

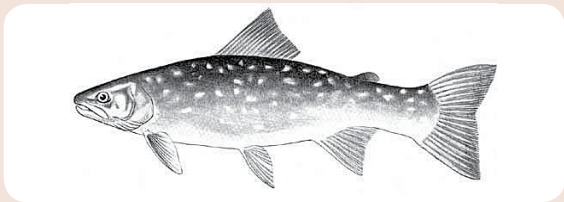
3. These limits apply to individuals only. Group fishing is **NOT** permitted.
4. Unless otherwise specified, a tributary includes the entire stream or river which flows into a larger body of water.
5. Refer to page 10 for waters closed to sport fishing, seasonally or year-round.

SPECIES	WATERS
Northern Pike	Waters within the Gwich'in Settlement Area, Inuvialuit Settlement Region and Sahtú Settlement Area, excluding Great Bear Lake Special Management Area and Dolomite Lake (Airport Lake)
	Horn River, Mills Lake and the Mackenzie River between 118° W and 118°25' W
	Mackenzie River Management Area on Great Slave Lake and its tributaries (see Special Management Areas section)
	Hay River
	Little Buffalo River and Resolution Bay (Resolution Bay defined as waters within a straight line connecting coordinates at Pine Point (61°00'N, 114°15'W) and Mission Island (61°10'N, 113°46'W))
	Great Slave Lake and its tributaries
	Sandy Lake, 60°31'N, 114°35'W
	Trout Lake, 60°35'N, 121°19'W, and its tributaries
	Dolomite Lake (Airport Lake), 68°18'N, 133°33'W
	Great Bear Lake Special Management Area
Rainbow Trout	All NWT waters
Suckers	All NWT waters
Walleye	Mosquito Creek
	Horn River, Mills Lake, and the Mackenzie River between 118°W and 118°25'W
	All waters within the Sahtú Settlement Area, Gwich'in Settlement Area and Inuvialuit Settlement Region
	Sandy Lake, 60°31'N, 114°35'W
	Hay River and the Mackenzie River Management Area on Great Slave Lake and its tributaries (see Special Management Areas section)
	Little Buffalo River and Resolution Bay (Resolution Bay defined as waters within a straight line connecting coordinates at Pine Point (61°00'N, 114°15'W) and Mission Island (61°10'N, 113°46'W))
	Trout Lake, 60°35'N, 121°19'W, and its tributaries
	Moose River, 60°46'N, 121°21'W
	Johnston Lake, 62°59'N, 114°12'W
	Kam and Grace Lakes and the connector stream
Whitefish (All Species)	Waters within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Sahtú Settlement Area and Gwich'in Settlement Area, excluding Dolomite Lake (Airport Lake)
	Dolomite Lake (Airport Lake), 68°18'N, 133°33'W
	All other NWT waters

DCL	PL	SIZE LIMITS/OTHER RESTRICTIONS
5	10	None
1	1	Included in the total DCL/PL for the Mackenzie River Management Area.
1	1	Included in the total DCL/PL for the Mackenzie River Management Area.
1	2	Included in total DCL/PL for Great Slave Lake and its tributaries.
1	2	Included in total DCL/PL for Great Slave Lake and its tributaries.
3	5	None
1	1	None
2	3	None
5 / 0 / 5	10 / 0 / 10	April 1 - Aug 14 / Aug 15 - Oct 31 / Nov 1 - March 31
3	5	None
3	5	None
1	2	None
No Limit	No Limit	None
0 / 3	0 / 5	Closed May 1 - June 30 / Open July 1 - April 30
1 / 2	1 / 3	April 1 - June 6 / June 7 - March 31 Included in the total DCL/PL for the Mackenzie River Management Area.
5	10	None
1	1	None
1 / 2	1 / 3	April 1 - June 6 / June 7 - March 31
1 / 1	1 / 2	April 1 - June 6 / June 7 - March 31 Included in total DCL/PL for Great Slave Lake and its tributaries.
1 / 2	1 / 3	April 1 - June 6 / June 7 - March 31
0 / 1	0 / 2	April 1 - June 6 / June 7 - March 31 Included in total DCL/PL for Trout Lake and its tributaries.
1 / 2	1 / 3	April 1 - June 6 / June 7 - March 31
0 / 4	0 / 7	April 1 - June 6 / June 7 - March 31
1 / 4	1 / 7	April 1 - June 6 / June 7 - March 31
10	20	None
10 / 0 / 10	20 / 0 / 20	April 1 - Aug 14 / Aug 15 - Oct 31 / Nov 1 - March 31
5	10	None

Fish Species of the NWT

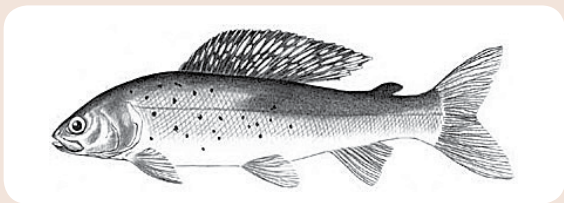
Arctic Char *Salvelinus alpinus*



Arctic char have a dark green back that shades to silvery sides with eye-sized pale white/pink spots without halos. There are no spots on the tail. At spawning time the colours of both sexes become more brilliant, particularly in the male, which turns a vivid orange-red. The males also develop a protruding, hooked lower jaw.

Anadromous (sea-run) forms of Arctic char are found from Victoria Island to Banks Island and along the mainland coast eastward from the Hornaday River. Land-locked lacustrine char overlap the range of anadromous dolly varden, west of the Mackenzie River.

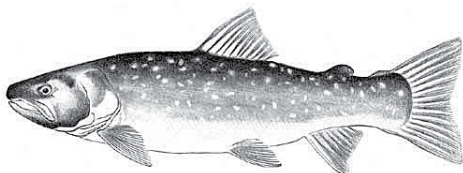
Arctic Grayling *Thymallus arcticus*



The Arctic grayling, also known as the bluefish, is a beautiful game fish with dark blue, pink and purple tones that have an iridescent sheen. A striking feature is the sail-like dorsal fin, which is especially pronounced in males.

Grayling are found throughout the mainland area of the NWT. It is particularly common in the Great Slave and Great Bear watersheds as well as the Mackenzie River and its tributaries.

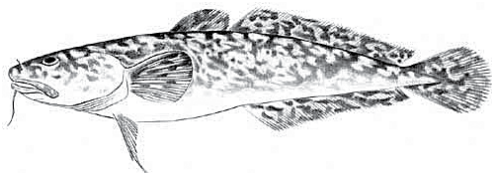
Bull Trout *Salvelinus confluentus*



The back and upper sides of the bull trout range from dark blue to olive green, with the lower sides being paler in colour. Small yellow, orange or red spots mark the back and sides. Some spawning males develop bright red bellies and hooked lower jaws. Bull trout and dolly varden are very similar in colouration and are difficult to tell apart, especially smaller individuals. Bull trout, however, have a larger, broader, flatter head with eyes close to the top of the head and a more rounded body.

Bull trout can be found in the Liard and Mackenzie watersheds in the Dehcho and southern Sahtú. They are known to inhabit streams that flow out of the Mackenzie Mountains such as the Kotaneelee, the North and South Nahanni and Keele rivers.

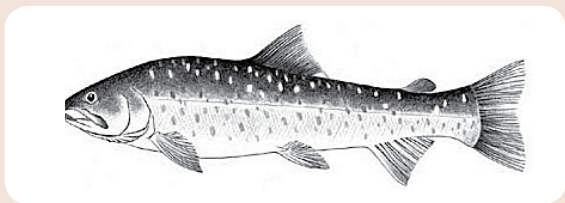
Burbot *Lota lota*



Burbot, commonly known as loche, cod or mariah in the NWT, have distinctive features, including an oval shaped tail and a barbel under the chin. A master of camouflage, their colour can range from yellow, light brown, tan or olive to a medium/dark brown-green shade to almost black depending on the clarity of the water.

Burbot are plentiful and widespread in the mainland area of the NWT, found mostly in rivers and larger lakes. They are plentiful at the outflows of small streams in the Mackenzie Delta where they congregate in early winter to feed on a variety of forage fish.

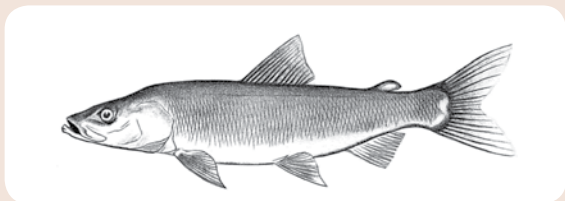
Dolly Varden *Salvelinus malma malma*



Dolly varden and bull trout are very similar in colouration and are difficult to tell apart. However, dolly varden have more oval, laterally compressed bodies and their heads do not dominate their profile.

Dolly varden can be found in the western Mackenzie Delta and the fast-flowing cold streams along the northern slope of the Richardson Mountains as well as upstream on the Peel River watershed. The anadromous form is present in the Beaufort Sea in summer.

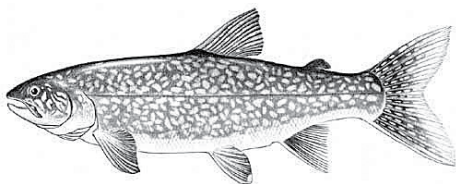
Inconnu *Stenodus leucichthys*



Inconnu, commonly called coney in the NWT, somewhat resembles a very large herring with dark back, silvery sides and large scales. A mature coney can range from a half meter to over a meter in length. Inconnu is a member of the whitefish family.

Inconnu, common in the Mackenzie Delta, migrate upstream into the Peel, Arctic Red and Mackenzie rivers to spawn. Spawning runs of coney are also found further upstream in the Mackenzie in tributaries. Inconnu can be found in Great Slave Lake and tributary streams such as the Slave and Buffalo rivers where they spawn. They are occasionally caught in smaller streams such as the Hay River, Little Buffalo and Taltson River.

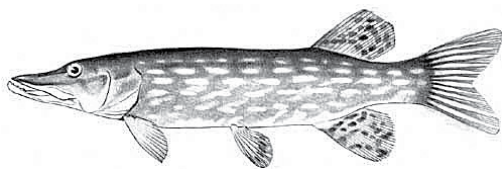
Lake Trout *Salvelinus namaycush*



Lake trout range from light green or gray to dark green, brown or almost black with a light coloured belly. Their whole body, including the dorsal, adipose and tail fins are covered with many light coloured spots.

Lake trout are wide-spread in the NWT, including the Arctic Islands. They inhabit large lakes such as Great Slave and Great Bear where they support trophy fisheries. They are found in many shield lakes as well as in deep lakes along the Mackenzie Valley and tundra lakes which extend to the Arctic coast.

Northern Pike *Esox lucius*



Also known as jackfish, pike have long bodies with dark green to brown colouration along their back. The sides are lighter with irregular rows of yellow to whitish bean-shaped spots which run lengthwise on the body. The dorsal or back fin is near the tail end of the body.

Pike can be found throughout most of the mainland NWT. They prefer warm, slow, heavily vegetated rivers and the warm, weedy bays of lakes.

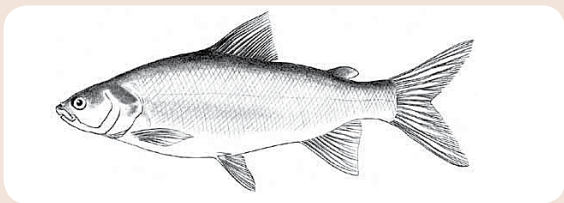
Walleye *Sander vitreus*



Also known as pickerel or doré, the walleye is a member of the perch family. They have sharp teeth and two dorsal fins on their back, the front one supported by large, sharp spines. They vary in colour from olive-brown to golden brown to yellow with golden flecks on the scales and a white belly. Their large, silvery eyes are very distinctive.

Walleye are found in the Mackenzie River watershed as far north as the delta. They are often plentiful in tributary streams of Great Slave Lake where they spawn and are sometimes found feeding throughout the summer. They are also plentiful in some inland lakes and rivers.

Lake Whitefish *Coregonus clupeaformis*



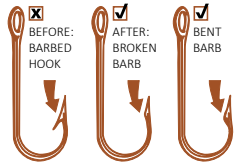
Lake whitefish have narrow silvery bodies which may shade to olive-brown or to almost black along the back dependant on water clarity. The snout overhangs the lower jaw; the head may appear small in larger fish which may develop a distinct hump behind the head.

Lake whitefish are found throughout the mainland area of the NWT. They occur in lakes, but are also found in large rivers and are plentiful in the Mackenzie Delta. Spawning takes place in the fall over reefs in lakes and also in rivers.

Barbless Hooks

The use of barbless hooks for sport fishing is mandatory in the NWT.

Barbless hooks permit easier removal of the hook, minimizing damage to the fish and reducing handling time, which subsequently increases the chances of survival for released fish. Many fish that are released after being caught with a barbed hook later die from excessive handling or bleeding. Barbless hooks can be purchased at local sporting goods stores. Barbed hooks can easily be converted to barbless by either crimping or filing the barb off.



Reward for Salmon

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is investigating the effects of climate change on the distribution and biology of Pacific salmon in the Mackenzie River system and waters in the western Arctic. DFO would like your help in obtaining a limited number of salmon. If you catch a salmon, please freeze the fish as soon as possible after capture, note the date and location of capture, and call DFO at (867) 777-7500 for instructions on how to obtain your reward.

For more information about salmon research in the Canadian Arctic, please visit www.arcticsalmon.ca or www.facebook.com/arcticsalmon.



Photo credit: Paul Vecsei

Reward for Tagged Fish

Fish are tagged to help fish managers learn about the distribution, movements, relative abundance and growth rates of fish. With this information, fish managers are better able to protect fish from over-exploitation and the adverse effects of development. Fisheries and Oceans Canada awards anglers who provide information about tagged fish. If you catch a tagged fish, write down the species, location where it was caught, the date it was caught, length, weight, sex (if you can determine it) and the lure used to catch it. Mail this information along with the tag to:

Fisheries Management Biologist

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Suite 301, 5204-50th Ave.
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2



Stir the Ashes



- ✦ Don't build campfires that are too large to extinguish or to control. Smaller, lower intensity campfires are best for cooking on and can be safely managed.
- ✦ Before lighting a campfire, make sure you dig a fire pit down to mineral soil; no organic or burnable material (wood, moss, twigs) should be in the pit. The best fire pits have sand or gravel bottoms.
- ✦ Clear the area around the pit of all woody or organic surface debris. A safe clear area would be at least 10 feet in diameter. If possible, use a ring of rocks as a guard against escaping sparks, coal and other fire hazards.
- ✦ Build your campfire away from flammable structures such as tents, trees and buildings.
- ✦ Never leave your campfire unattended.
- ✦ Keep a pail of water and a shovel nearby and before leaving, make sure the fire is completely extinguished.
- ✦ Start by pouring water onto the fire until no smoke or flames are visible. Stir the pile with a stick or the shovel and continue adding water.
- ✦ Repeat these steps until the campfire is out.

Enjoy your campfires this summer, but please do your part to prevent wildland fires. To report a wildland fire, call: 1-877-NWT-FIRE or 1-877-698-3473, www.nwtfire.com.

Be Bear Aware



- ✦ Stay alert and aware of your surroundings, regularly stopping to scan for bears.
- ✦ Make noise, especially when your visibility is limited.
- ✦ If you are fishing along the shoreline, keep your fish on a stringer and closely attended.
- ✦ Clean your catch at the shoreline, not in camp.
- ✦ Place fish remains in tightly sealed plastic bags and pack them back to town.
- ✦ Wash your hands, knives and cutting board after cleaning the fish.
- ✦ Store your fish in a cool place and in a bear-resistant or odour-proof container.
- ✦ Before you make a camp, check for signs of recent bear activity (tracks and droppings) or bear feeding activity (digging, animal remains or garbage). If you find any of these choose another place to camp.
- ✦ Locate the food storage and cooking area separate from sleeping areas. Clothes that may contain fish or cooking odours should not be brought into your tent, rather store them in the food and cooking area.
- ✦ Keep a clean camp. Elimination of odour is essential.

Important Safety Information

Boating Safety:

- ✦ Make sure your boat is in excellent condition – top up fluids carefully to ensure you do not spill fuel or oil into the environment and check for leaks before you head out.
- ✦ Ensure that everyone is wearing a Canadian approved personal flotation device or life jacket that fits properly.
- ✦ Review the Safe Boating Guide to ensure you know what safety equipment is required for your vessel. Appropriate safety equipment may include, but is not limited to, a buoyant heaving line (no less than 15 m), a bailer or manual pump, manual propelling device (i.e. paddles), sound-signalling device, flares, watertight flashlight, magnetic compass, anchor (no less than 15m of rope), reboarding device, navigation lights, and fire extinguisher.
- ✦ Do not overload your boat. Ensure you distribute equipment evenly throughout the boat.
- ✦ Tell someone where you are going and when you are expected back.
- ✦ If the weather is poor, postpone your trip. If you get caught in a storm on your trip, head to shore and take shelter quickly.
- ✦ If your vessel capsizes, hold onto the boat and do not worry about your gear.
- ✦ For more information on boating safety or to review the Safe Boating Guide, go to www.tc.gc.ca/boatingsafety.

Ice Safety:

- ✦ Always use extra caution and test the thickness of the ice before you travel on it.
- ✦ Right after freeze-up, ice towards the middle of the lake is thinner than that along the shoreline.
- ✦ Never assume uniform ice thickness on rivers and lakes.
- ✦ Drive carefully and slowly over the ice to reduce water waves under the ice and possible cracking.

Treating Hypothermia:

- ✦ Cover the victim and protect them from the weather.
- ✦ It is not enough to cover the victim, a source of heat is needed. Donate your own body heat to gradually rewarm them and raise their body temperature.
- ✦ Handle the victim gently and keep them as still as possible.
- ✦ Wet clothes do not need to be removed if you can provide the victim with good insulation.
- ✦ If possible, send someone for medical aid.

For More Information

Government of the Northwest Territories

Environment and Natural Resources

Regional Offices

Fort Simpson	(867) 695-7450
Fort Smith	(867) 872-6400
Inuvik	(867) 678-6650
Norman Wells	(867) 587-3506
Yellowknife	(867) 767-9238 ext. 53461

Visit our website www.enr.gov.nt.ca

Government of Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Office Locations

Hay River	(867) 875-5300
Inuvik	(867) 777-7500
Yellowknife	(867) 669-4900

Co-Management Boards

Fisheries Joint Management Committee (Inuvialuit)

Inuvik	(867) 777-2828
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Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

Inuvik	(867) 777-6600
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Sahtú Renewable Resources Board

Tulita	(867) 588-4040
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Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board

Yellowknife	(867) 873-5740
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Report-A-Poacher: 1-866-762-2437

Forest Fires: 1-877-698-3473

Spill Report Line: (867) 920-8130 (collect calls accepted)

Marine and Air Search and Rescue: 1-800-267-7270

Boating Safety Infoline: 1-800-267-6687

Marine Radio Distress Call: Channel 16

For sport fishing management e-mail:

NWTsportfishing@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

For public health advisories:

www.hss.gov.nt.ca

Record the phone number of the nearest RCMP emergency number before you go.

