

# FISHING BEST PRACTICES

Courtesy of FOCA

[find info about your Lake's FMZ here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/fisheries-management-zones>]

As of 2016 the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has divided Ontario into 20 Fisheries Management Zones. \_\_\_\_\_ **Lake is in Fisheries Management Zone \_\_\_\_\_**. Our lake continues to offer plenty of great fishing experiences alongside extraordinary vistas.



Please keep the following thoughts in mind when fishing on our lake:

## **BEST PRACTICES**

As with any natural resource there are numerous things we can do to maintain our fisheries. Knowing the rules and abiding by them is the first step but there is more we can do beyond that. Here are a few suggestions:

- **Do** – use live bait caught from the same body of water that it will be used in. Alternately purchase bait from a local bait shop. ***It is illegal to dump live bait or bait water into a lake if it wasn't caught in that body of water.***
- **Do** – “Limit Your Catch – Don't Catch Your Limit”. Consider releasing your catch if you don't have plans to consume it.
- **Do** – be careful how you hold a fish if planning to release it. Keep small fish vertical when holding them by the jaw but use a horizontal hold for larger fish. Make sure your hands are wet when handling fish to avoid removing their protective coating.
- **Do** – limit the time out of the water by taking photos as quickly as possible. When placing the fish back in the water revive it carefully by holding it gently in the water with a gentle push forward until it regains its strength and swims away.
- **Do** – clean boats, trailers, equipment, waders, and boots between different locations to avoid the transfer of invasive species.
- **Do** – educate yourself on invading species and report them when spotted. Report sightings by calling the Invading Species Hotline (1-800-563-7711), or on your smartphone using the EDDMapS Ontario digital reporting system. (For more, see: <http://www.invadingspecies.com/>)
- **Do** – Be licenced to fish. Ontario and Canadian residents **between the ages of 18 and 64 years must possess a valid licence to fish legally** in Ontario, except during periods designated by the Ontario Government as licence-free periods. Canadian residents fishing without a licence during a licence-free period must observe the Conservation limits as set out in the **Ontario Fishing Regulations Summary** (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing->

[regulations-summary](#)). For licence-free fishing periods each year, please visit **Ontario Family Fishing** (<http://www.ontariofamilyfishing.com/>).

- Ontario and Canadian residents **under 18 years of age, or 65 years of age or older**; and in possession of any licence, permit, certificate or identification card issued by the Government of Canada or a provincial or territorial government of Canada that indicates their name and date of birth – are deemed to be the holder of a Recreational Fishing Licence, and so are able to fish legally in Ontario; holders of deemed licences must observe the Sport Fishing limits as set out in the **Ontario Fishing Regulations Summary**.
- Non-Canadian residents of any age must possess a valid licence to fish legally in Ontario, at any time of year
- A valid licence to fish consists of an Outdoors Card or a Temporary Outdoors Card, accompanied by a valid fishing licence tag. Note that Outdoors Cards are not required with 1-day licences.
- Daily Catch Limits are the same as the overall Possession Limits. (See chart).

Any fish that is not **immediately live-released** is part of your Catch Limit and your Possession Limit. There are some exceptions regarding use of a live-well, which are documented on page 9 of the Ontario Fishing Regulations Summary. Please note that Possession Limit includes any fish you may have stored in an alternative location (e.g. Cottage, Home, etc.). Please note also that **Possession Limits mentioned below, are for Fisheries Management Zone \_\_\_\_\_ specifically.**

You are cautioned against transporting your legally caught fish through another Ontario Fisheries Management Zone (or outside of Ontario) with a lower Possession Limit and/or different size restrictions, as you could be subject to fines and/or penalties if you are unable to prove that the fish were caught legally on this lake.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has a hot-line for reporting abuse of our natural resources including fishing abuse –1-877-847-7667 (1-877-TIPS-MNR)

## **RESOURCES**

- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry ([www.ontario.ca/page/fishing](http://www.ontario.ca/page/fishing)) – everything you need to know before fishing in Ontario.
- Ontario Family Fishing (<http://www.ontariofamilyfishing.com/>)
- Canada's National Fishing Week (<http://www.catchfishing.com/>)
- Fish of Ontario (<https://www.ontariotravel.net/en/play/fishing/fish-of-ontario>)
- Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program (<http://www.invadingspecies.com/>)
- Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters ([www.ofah.org](http://www.ofah.org))
- S.A.F.E. Angling Practices ([www.recycledfish.org](http://www.recycledfish.org))

## **FISHING CHART**

[copy your Fishing Management Zone's species/season/limits/exceptions from this online resource: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary>]

Open Seasons (all dates inclusive) Catch, Possession & Size Limits

<b>Species</b>	<b>Open Season</b>	<b>Possession/Daily catch limit and Size Limits – Sport Fishing</b>	<b>Possession/Daily catch limit and Size Limits – Conservation Fishing</b>

**Exceptions of note:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **ICE FISHING CONSIDERATIONS**

- determine if the ice is safe
- dress appropriately for the weather
- bring the proper equipment
- fish in permitted locations
- refer to the seasonal species limits listed above

Get details here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ice-fishing>