

REGULATIONS SUMMARY FOR THE CREDIT RIVER WATERSHED AND LAKE ONTARIO (2017)

This document summarizes the Ontario Sportfishing Regulations (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary>). Changes over previous year are highlighted in red.

Who Needs a Fishing Licence?

Most residents of Canada and all non-residents between 18 and 65 need a fishing licence. Non-residents under 18 years of age do not require a licence, however, if they are fishing with an adult who has a fishing licence, any fish caught are part of the catch and possession limit of the adult. Those who qualify to fish without a licence may fish with the same catch and possession limits as holders of a Sport Fishing Licence. Anglers who don't need a licence must abide by the same regulations and have the same responsibilities as those who have purchased a licence.

Catch and Possession Limits

The catch limit is the number of fish you are allowed to catch and keep in **one** day. The possession limit is the number you are allowed to have **in your possession** on hand, in cold storage, in transit, etc. and is the same as one day's catch limit. As well, fish caught that day and eaten are counted as part of your daily catch limit. For example, if you have a Sport Fishing Licence that entitles you to possess six Northern Pike and you have two in the freezer, you can only keep 4 additional pike.

General Regulations for the Credit River and Lake Ontario

The following table highlights seasons and catch and possession limits for commonly caught species in the Credit River

SPECIES	ZONE 16 (CREDIT RIVER)	ZONE 20 (LAKE ONTARIO)
Large &/or Smallmouth Bass	4 th Sat. in June to Nov. 30 S – six C - two	3 rd Sat. in June to Dec. 15 S – six C - two
Northern Pike	2 nd Sat. in May to Mar. 31 S – six C - two	1 st Sat. in May to Mar. 31 S – six C - two
Brook Trout*	4 th Sat. in April to Sept. 30 S – five C - two	Not present and closed all year
Rainbow Trout*	4 th Sat. in April to Sept. 30 S – two C - one	Open all year S – two C - one
Brown Trout*	4 th Sat. in April to Sept. 30 S – five C - two	Open all year S – five C - two
Lake Trout*	Jan. 1 to Sept. 30 S – two C - one	Dec. 1 to Sept. 30 S – three C - one
Pacific Salmon (Chinook, Coho and Pink)*	4 th Sat. in April to Sept. 30 S – five C - two	Open all year S – five C - two
Atlantic Salmon*	4 th Sat. in April to Sept. 30 S – zero C - zero	Open all year S – one > 63 cm (24.8") C - zero
Yellow Perch	Open all year S – fifty C – twenty five	Open all year S – fifty C – twenty five
Crappie	Open all year S – thirty C – ten	Open all year S – thirty C – ten
Sunfish	Open all year S – fifty C – twenty five	Open all year S – one hundred C – fifty
Channel Catfish	Open all year S – twelve C - six	Open all year S – twelve C - six

* - Catch and possession limits for trout & salmon are combined and are not to exceed individual limits.

S – Sport Fishing Licence; C – Conservation Licence

For more information visit:

<http://www.creditvalleyca.ca/recandleisure/fishing.htm>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/fishing>

Exceptions for the Credit River

Regulation exceptions have been developed to provide anglers with additional opportunities or to protect fish during sensitive times of the year such as spawning periods. These exceptions are:

- **EXTENDED FALL SEASON** (4th Sat. in April to Dec. 31) for *Rainbow and Brown Trout & Atlantic and Pacific Salmon* from the south side of Britannia Road upstream to the south side of the Highway 407 bridge.
- **YEAR ROUND OPEN SEASON** for *Rainbow and Brown Trout & Atlantic and Pacific Salmon* from the south side of the Highway 403 bridge downstream to Lake Ontario.
- **NO FISHING** for any species from August 15 to the Friday before the fourth Saturday in April in the Credit River and tributaries from the south side of the Highway 403 bridge upstream to the south side of the Britannia Road bridge.
- **NO FISHING** for any species from January 1 to the Friday before the fourth Saturday in April in the Credit River and tributaries from the south side of the Britannia Road bridge upstream to the south side of the Old Baseline Road bridge, excluding Levi's Creek and Fletcher's Creek.
- **NO FISHING** for any species from October 1 to the Friday before the fourth Saturday in April in the Credit River and tributaries from the south side of the Old Baseline Road bridge in Caledon upstream to Highway 9.
- *Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout and Brown Trout* catch and possession limit of **zero** and **only artificial** lures (no organic bait) with **one single-pointed barbless** hook can be used when angling the Credit River and tributaries upstream of Old Baseline Road in Caledon.

Did You Know?

- The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change publishes the *Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish*. Copies can be obtained by calling 1-800-820-2716 or by visiting www.ontario.ca/fishguide.
- Anglers in possession of a valid fishing licence are allowed to harvest baitfish, leeches and northern leopard frogs for bait.
- A permit is required for all fish transfers and stocking into Ontario waters.
- When closed fishing seasons are in effect, anglers **CANNOT** practice catch and release.
- It is illegal to:
 - Fish for or possess any species of fish listed as Endangered or Threatened under the provincial Endangered Species Act and/or federal Species at Risk Act;
 - Abandon fish or permit the flesh to spoil;
 - Transfer live fish or live spawn from one body of water to another;
 - Use crayfish in bodies of water other than where they were caught;
 - Release aquarium fish into Ontario waters;
 - Release any live bait or dump the contents of a bait bucket, including the water, into any waters or within 30 metres of any waters;
 - Bring live fish, crayfish, live leeches or salamanders into Ontario for use as bait;
 - Possess live any of the following invasive species: Rudd, Ruffe, Bighead Carp, Black Carp, Grass Carp, Silver Carp, Round Goby or Tubenose Goby or any member of the snakehead family;
 - Have more than 120 minnows in your possession;
 - Catch/kill a fish by impaling or snagging it with a hook through any part of the body other than the mouth;
 - Use two lines, except when ice fishing or fishing on parts of the Great Lakes; or
 - Fish within 22.9 metres (75 feet) downstream from the lower entrance to any fishway or canal, obstacle, or any device designed to assist fish around an obstacle.

Enforcement and Reporting

- For potential resource violations, please call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667).
- For spills or fish kills, contact the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change or the Spills Action Centre at (416) 325-3000, 1-800-268-6060 (toll free) or 1-855-889-5775 (TTY).
- Report sightings of invasive species to the OFAH/MNRF invading species hotline at 1-800-563-7711, www.invadingspecies.com or www.eddmaps.org/ontario/.

For more information visit:

<http://www.creditvalleyca.ca/recandleisure/fishing.htm>

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