

## Licence

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- All persons 16 years of age and older require a salmon fishing licence to angle for Atlantic salmon. A general fishing licence is only required for persons who fish in non-tidal waters for any species other than Atlantic salmon.

**(All fees include H.S.T.)**

Residents (18 years & over) (Seasonal)	\$41.68
Non-Residents (18 years & over) (Seasonal)	\$156.08
Non-Residents (18 years & over) (7-Day)	\$63.15
Residents <b>and</b> non-residents (one-day)	\$29.79
Residents <b>and</b> non-residents ages 16 and 17	No charge
Residents <b>and</b> non-residents (18 years & over) with a disability	No charge

- Included in the fees for all salmon fishing licences is a \$5.91 surcharge for projects funded under the Sportfish Habitat Program.
- More than one 7-day or one-day salmon fishing licence may be purchased during the same salmon fishing season, provided a person is not issued more than one such licence for any of the same (overlapping) day(s).
- **Please Note: Non-residents do not need a guide to fish for salmon.**

## Size and Bag Limits and Gear Requirements

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- All salmon caught **shall be returned alive to the water immediately. Catch and release only.**
- The daily catch and retain limit is **ZERO**.
- The daily catch and release limit is any combination of grilse or salmon totaling **four in SFA 18 and two in SFA 19**
- The yearly catch and retain limit is **ZERO**.
- When fishing for salmon, only **BARBLESS ARTIFICIAL FLIES** are permitted.

## Notice

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- This is a summary prepared for the information and convenience of the salmon anglers in Nova Scotia only and has no legal force or effect. This should be used in conjunction with the Anglers Handbook issued by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. The original Acts and Regulations should be consulted for all purposes of interpreting and applying the law. These Regulations are subject to change at any time.
- For further information or clarification, please contact the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture or the Fisheries and Oceans Canada office in your area.

## Stub Return

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The stub return on the salmon licence **must be submitted within seven days of the close of the season, or the licensee may be subject to a fine, or fishing privileges may be suspended in future years.** If no Atlantic salmon were released, you must still record the date and rivers fished. If you did not fish for Atlantic salmon, this must be indicated in the report submitted to the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. **This information is critical to the management of Atlantic salmon in our rivers, so your cooperation is extremely important. The report card and instructions for completing it are available at:**

<https://beta.novascotia.ca/salmon-fishing-licence-report-card-sportfishing>

## Aquatic Invasive Species

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- The intentional or accidental movement of fish or other aquatic organisms from one river to another can negatively affect Atlantic salmon populations through competition, predation, disease, and changes to the ecosystem. While the threat from **chain pickerel** and **smallmouth bass** is already apparent in some of our rivers, the following aquatic invasive species may also impact Atlantic salmon. If you suspect you have caught an invasive species, please contact the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture at [inland@novascotia.ca](mailto:inland@novascotia.ca)
- *Didymosphenia germinata*, or **didymo** is a freshwater algae and has been recently documented in several rivers in Quebec including the Matapedia which flows into the Restigouche on the Quebec/New Brunswick border. It can form extensive algal mats on rocky streambeds under the right environmental conditions and its appearance greatly reduces the esthetic appeal of salmon streams giving the impression the water is polluted. However, it is non-toxic to humans or aquatic life. Although not present in Nova Scotia, it could be transferred here by fishing or boating equipment which has come into contact with the microscopic cells from other rivers. It has been suggested that felt soled waders are an especially good vector for this organism because they take a long time to dry and provide tiny spaces for the cells to adhere. Placing waders in the freezer overnight is also an effective way to kill didymo. More information on didymo can be found at:  
<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/nr-rn/pdf/en/Publications/Didymo.pdf>
- *Myriophyllum spicatum* or Eurasian water-milfoil is an invasive aquatic plant native to Europe, Asia and northern Africa. Introduced to North America in the 19th century, it is now one of the most widely distributed invasive aquatic plants on the continent and known to be present in the St. John River watershed of New Brunswick. The plant reduces biodiversity by competing aggressively with native plants. Reduced oxygen levels in the water caused by decomposing plants can kill fish. More information on water-milfoil can be found at <http://www.invadingspecies.com/eurasian-water-milfoil/>
- Adopting some simple measures such as washing your fishing and boating equipment thoroughly in hot water, removing any plants or plant fragments or allowing gear to dry in the sun for at least five days before transporting it to another water body will reduce the chance of aquatic invasive species spreading.



## Fishing, Netukulimk and Atlantic Salmon

The Mi'kmaq have been harvesting in Mi'kma'ki, our traditional territory which includes present-day Nova Scotia, since time immemorial. As stewards of the lands and waters, the Mi'kmaq possess distinct constitutional rights to fish for sustenance, as affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada, which takes priority over other types of fisheries, after conservation. These rights allow us to use various fishing methods, and fish at different times than recreational license holders in Nova Scotia. Mi'kmaw fishing methods primarily focus on capturing and keeping fish for sustenance, often employing barbed hooks, snares, spears, or other techniques.



The Mi'kmaw cultural teachings and practice of Netukulimk emphasize fishing as need-based, without overharvesting, and sharing one's catch with others, such as family, Elders, or for culturally significant events. An essential aspect of Mi'kmaw practice is also returning fish or parts of fish to the water and Earth, allowing nutrients to return to the river, soil, or trees. Reciprocity is necessary to honour the spirit of the fish taken.

In 2015, we implemented the Mi'kmaq Plamu/Salmon Management Plan in collaboration with the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn, the Mi'kmaq Conservation Group, and the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia. This plan aims to protect Mi'kmaw rights to harvest Plamu (Atlantic salmon) while also ensuring the conservation of this important species. Each year, the Mi'kmaq host ceremonies to honour relationships with Plamu and invite everyone to participate in these community gatherings.

We continue to engage in rights implementation discussions with Canada and Nova Scotia about how the Mi'kmaq can exercise their constitutionally protected rights to the waters and species within it.

In the spirit of collaboration, we encourage all anglers to support Mi'kmaw efforts and recognize our shared responsibility for stewarding our lands, waters, and resources. By working together, we can ensure that everyone will have the ability to enjoy the beauty and abundance of our natural environment for generations to come.

Wela'liek/Thank you,  
Maw-lukutijik Saqmaq  
(Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs)



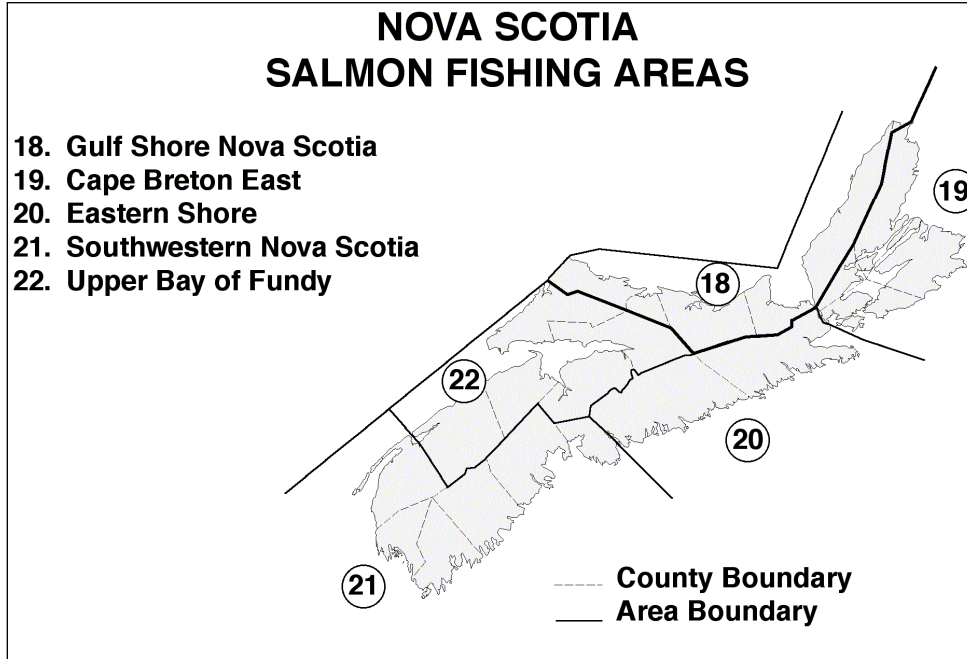
Maw-lukutijik Saqmaq  
Assembly of Nova Scotia  
Mi'kmaw Chiefs



## 2026 Salmon Angling Seasons

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Maritimes Region, wishes to advise the public of the following seasons and bag limits for Atlantic salmon in Nova Scotia.

Variation Orders MAR-VAR-2025-060, 2025-061 and 2025-062 are hereby revoked.



1.
  - a. **SALMON FISHING AREA 18 (Gulf Shore of Nova Scotia)** and all waters of the Province flowing into that Area, except the waters referred to in paragraphs (b) to (j).....**(catch and release only)** Sept. 1 to Oct. 31
  - b. East River, Pictou County.....**(catch and release only)** Sept. 1 to Oct. 31
  - c. West River, Pictou County.....**(catch and release only)** Sept. 1 to Oct. 31
  - d. River Phillip.....**(catch and release only)** Sept. 1 to Oct. 31
  - e. Wallace River.....**(catch and release only)** Sept. 1 to Oct. 31
  - f. West River, Antigonish County.....**(catch and release only)** Sept. 1 to Oct. 31
  - g. South River, Antigonish County.....**(catch and release only)** Sept. 1 to Oct. 31
  - h. Margaree River, Northeast Margaree River, Southwest Margaree River and tributaries, except the waters referred to in paragraphs (i) and (j).....**(catch and release only)** June 1 to Oct. 15
  - i. Margaree River upstream from the highway bridges at East Margaree to the Big Intervale bridges on the Northeast Margaree River and upstream to the Scotsville highway bridge on the Southwest Margaree River, not including tributaries.....**(catch and release only)** June 1 to Oct. 31
  - j. Northeast Margaree River and tributaries upstream from the Big Intervale bridges.....**Closed all year**

**NOTES FOR SALMON FISHING AREA 18**

- The daily catch and retain limit is **ZERO**.
  - The daily catch and release limit is any combination of **GRILSE** or **SALMON** totaling **FOUR (4)**.
  - The yearly catch and retain limit is **ZERO**.
  - When fishing for **SALMON**, **ONLY BARBLESS ARTIFICIAL FLIES ARE PERMITTED**.
- 2.
- a. **SALMON FISHING AREA 19 (Cape Breton East)** and all waters of the Province flowing into that Area, except the waters referred to in paragraphs **(b) to (e)**.....**Closed all year**
  - b. Baddeck River.....**(catch and release only)** Oct. 1 to Oct. 31
  - c. Middle River.....**(catch and release only)** Oct. 1 to Oct. 31
  - d. North River downstream from the area known as “The Benches” as marked by a Fishery Officer .....**(catch and release only)** June 1 to July 14 and Sept. 1 to Oct. 31
  - e. North River upstream from the area known as “The Benches”.....**Closed all year**

**NOTES FOR SALMON FISHING AREA 19**

- The daily catch and retain limit is **ZERO**.
  - The daily catch and release limit is any combination of **GRILSE** or **SALMON** totaling **TWO (2)**.
  - The yearly catch and retain limit is **ZERO**.
  - When fishing for **SALMON**, **ONLY BARBLESS ARTIFICIAL FLIES ARE PERMITTED**.
3. **SALMON FISHING AREA 20 (Eastern Shore)** and all waters of the Province flowing into that Area.....**Closed all year**
4. **SALMON FISHING AREA 21 (Southwestern Nova Scotia)** and all waters of the Province flowing into that Area.....**Closed all year**
5. **SALMON FISHING AREA 22 (Upper Bay of Fundy)** and all waters of the Province flowing into that Area.....**Closed all year**

**REMINDERS**

**FOR 2026, ANGLERS ARE REMINDED THAT:**

- **SALMON FISHING IS ONLY PERMITTED USING BARBLES ARTIFICIAL FLIES.**
- **ALL SALMON MUST BE RETURNED TO THE WATER IN A MANNER THAT CAUSES THE LEAST POSSIBLE HARM TO THAT FISH.**

SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS MAY CHANGE AT ANY TIME FOR CONSERVATION REASONS AND SUBJECT TO ABORIGINAL HARVEST AGREEMENTS.

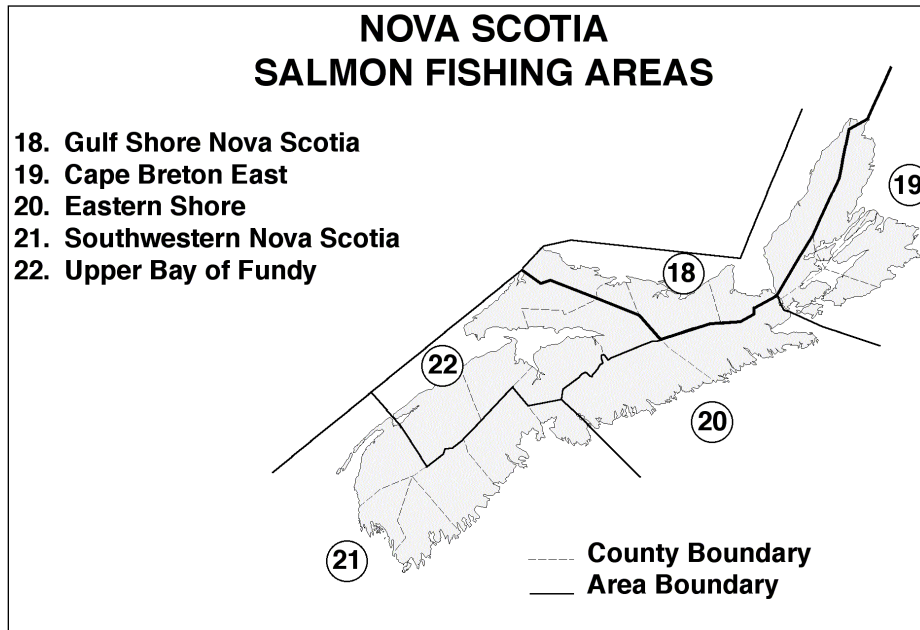
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FISHERY OFFICER AND REFER TO MARITIMES REGION VARIATION ORDERS 2026-093, 2026-094 AND 2026-095



## Saisons de pêche à la ligne du saumon en 2026

Pêches et des Océans de la région des Maritimes informe le public apportés aux saisons de pêche et aux limites de prises concernant le saumon de l'Atlantique en Nouvelle-Écosse.

Les ordonnances de modification MAR-VAR-2025-060, 2025-061 et 2025-062 sont par la présente abrogées.



1.
  - a. **ZONE DE PÊCHE DU SAUMON 18 (littoral du Golfe, Nouvelle-Écosse)** et toutes les eaux de la province qui s'y jettent, à l'exception de celles visées aux alinéas b) à j) ..... du 1<sup>er</sup> sept. au 31 oct.  
**(pêche avec remise à l'eau des prises seulement)**
  - b. Rivière East, comté de Pictou ..... du 1<sup>er</sup> sept. au 31 oct.  
**(pêche avec remise à l'eau des prises seulement)**
  - c. Rivière West, comté de Pictou ..... du 1<sup>er</sup> sept. au 31 oct.  
**(pêche avec remise à l'eau des prises seulement)**
  - d. Rivière Phillip ..... du 1<sup>er</sup> sept. au 31 oct.  
**(pêche avec remise à l'eau des prises seulement)**
  - e. Rivière Wallace ..... du 1<sup>er</sup> sept. au 31 oct.  
**(pêche avec remise à l'eau des prises seulement)**
  - f. Rivière West, comté d'Antigonish ..... du 1<sup>er</sup> sept. au 31 oct.  
**(pêche avec remise à l'eau des prises seulement)**
  - g. Rivière South, comté d'Antigonish ..... du 1<sup>er</sup> sept. au 31 oct.  
**(pêche avec remise à l'eau des prises seulement)**
  - h. Rivières Margaree, Northeast Margaree, Southwest Margaree et leurs affluents, à l'exception des eaux visées aux alinéas i) et j) ..... du 1<sup>er</sup> juin au 15 oct.  
**(pêche avec remise à l'eau des prises seulement)**
  - i. Rivière Margaree, en amont des ponts routiers d'East Margaree jusqu'aux ponts de Big Intervale sur la Northeast Margaree, et en amont jusqu'au pont routier de Scotsville sur la Southwest Margaree, à l'exclusion des affluents ..... du 1<sup>er</sup> juin au 31 oct.  
**(pêche avec remise à l'eau des prises seulement)**
  - j. Rivière Northeast Margaree et ses affluents en amont des ponts de Big Intervale  
**Pêche fermée toute l'année**

## **REMARQUES CONCERNANT LA ZONE DE PÊCHE DU SAUMON 18**

- Le quota quotidien de pêche avec rétention des prises est de **ZÉRO**.
- Le quota quotidien de pêche avec remise à l'eau est de **QUATRE (4)** poissons, qu'il s'agisse de **MADELEINEAUX OU de SAUMONS**.
- Le quota annuel de pêche avec rétention des prises est de **ZÉRO**.
- **Dans la pêche du SAUMON, SEULES LES MOUCHES ARTIFICIELLES SANS ARDILLON SONT AUTORISÉES.**

2.

- ZONE DE PÊCHE DU SAUMON 19 (Cap-Breton Est)** et toutes les eaux de la province qui s'y jettent, à l'exception de celles visées aux alinéas **b) à e)** ..... **Pêche fermée toute l'année**
- Rivière Baddeck.....du 1<sup>er</sup> oct. au 31 oct.  
**(pêche avec remise à l'eau des prises seulement)**
- Rivière Middle .....du 1<sup>er</sup> oct. au 31 oct.  
**(pêche avec remise à l'eau des prises seulement)**
- Rivière North, en aval d'un point marqué par un agent des pêches à l'endroit connu sous le nom de « The Benches » .....du 1<sup>er</sup> juin au 14 juill. et du 1<sup>er</sup> sept. au 31 oct.  
**(pêche avec remise à l'eau des prises seulement)**
- Rivière North, en aval de l'endroit connu sous le nom de « The Benches » .....  
**Pêche fermée toute l'année**

## **REMARQUES CONCERNANT LA ZONE DE PÊCHE DU SAUMON 19**

- Le quota quotidien de pêche avec rétention des prises est de **ZÉRO**.
- Le quota quotidien de pêche avec remise à l'eau est de **DEUX (2)** poissons, qu'il s'agisse de **MADELEINEAUX OU de SAUMONS**.
- Le quota annuel de pêche avec rétention des prises est de **ZÉRO**.
- **Dans la pêche du SAUMON, SEULES LES MOUCHES ARTIFICIELLES SANS ARDILLON SONT AUTORISÉES.**

3. **ZONE DE PÊCHE DU SAUMON 20 (côte Est)** et toutes les eaux de la province qui s'y jettent  
**Pêche fermée toute l'année**

4. **ZONE DE PÊCHE DU SAUMON 21 (Sud-Ouest de la Nouvelle-Écosse)** et toutes les eaux de la province qui s'y jettent .....  
**Pêche fermée toute l'année**

5. **ZONE DE PÊCHE DU SAUMON 22 (arrière-baie de Fundy)** et toutes les eaux de la province qui s'y jettent **Pêche fermée toute l'année**



### **RAPPELS**

#### **POUR 2026, NOUS RAPPELONS AUX PÊCHEURS CE QUI SUIT**

- LA PÊCHE DU SAUMON N'EST AUTORISÉE QU'À LA MOUCHE ARTIFICIELLE SANS ARDILLON SONT AUTORISÉES.
- TOUS LES SAUMONS DOIVENT ÊTRE REMIS À L'EAU DE MANIÈRE À LES PERTURBER LE MOINS POSSIBLE.

LES SAISONS DE PÊCHE ET LES LIMITES DE PRISES PEUVENT CHANGER À TOUT MOMENT POUR DES MOTIFS DE CONSERVATION ET SOUS RÉSERVE DES ENTENTES DE PÊCHE CONCLUES AVEC LES AUTOCHTONES.

POUR EN SAVOIR PLUS, VEUILLEZ COMMUNIQUER AVEC L'AGENT DES PÊCHES DE VOTRE RÉGION ET VOUS REPORTER AUX ORDONNANCES DE MODIFICATION DE LA RÉGION DES MARITIMES 2026-093, 2026-094, AND 2026-095.