

Go Fishing



*Prince
Edward
Island*

CANADA

Agriculture
and Forestry

**Angling
Summary
2012**



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Set Young SALMON Free



It's the Law!

If you catch a salmon parr or smolt, gently remove the hook and release it back in the water.

For further details on salmonid identification, please refer to the provincial angling guide.



SALMON PARR

Black spots on back and sides and a **forked tail**. No markings on fins or tail.



SALMON SMOLT

A silvery fish lacking, or with only a shadow of the vertical side bars of the salmon parr or brook trout. Black spots on upper sides and cheeks and a **dark forked tail**.



BROOK (SPECKLED) TROUT

Light coloured spots on its sides, red spots with a light coloured edge and a marbled pattern on the upper parts and back. Dorsal fin has dark bars and patches. There are no black spots on body. Lower fins have **white edge**. Tail is square or only slightly concave.

Study these pictures and note the differences between young Atlantic Salmon and Brook Trout.

Canada

BRUNSWICK

NOVASCOTIA

Prince
Edward
Island



Spring has arrived and with it, the beginning of another great angling season in Prince Edward Island. I encourage anglers to take advantage of the variety of fishing opportunities available in our rivers and bays. In 2012, challenge yourself to try something new. Discover the fun you can have fishing mackerel off a wharf or small boat. Take your family ice fishing for smelt or go after white perch in our estuaries and bays. Trying something new is a great way to spend more time outdoors with family and friends.

Once again, I commend the hundreds of volunteers with wildlife and watershed organizations who log long hours to protect and restore our environment. Thanks to your efforts, we have a quality sport fishery to be proud of. Government continues to provide assistance through funding and technical assistance to watershed groups and financial support for fish stocking efforts in the province.

A reminder that anglers or organizations interested in providing input into sport fish regulations or who have ideas on how we can improve the sport fishery in Prince Edward Island can contact the Department of Agriculture and Forestry at: anglingideas@gov.pe.ca. This is your opportunity to have your say in how the sport fishery is being managed.

Have a safe and enjoyable angling season in 2012.

George Webster, *Minister*
Agriculture and Forestry



Buy Your Fishing Licence Online

Angling and hunting licences are available online. To access this service, please visit the website:

www.gov.pe.ca/go/fishing

Public Land Atlas

The Angler's Guide to Better Fishing

The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry produces a Public Land Atlas which identifies the locations of approximately 1500 public properties across the Island including Provincial Forests and Wildlife Management Areas. Most of these properties are open to anglers, hunters and recreational users.

The Atlas is available at all Forests, Fish, and Wildlife Division offices and at Island Information Services for \$30 +GST or on line at *www.gov.pe.ca/gis*



Agriculture and
Forestry
George T. Webster
Minister

Cover Photo: Daryl Guignon, winner of a 2011 National Recreational Fisheries Award, on the Morell River

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This booklet contains a summary of the fishing regulations and other information for persons who plan to fish in Prince Edward Island.

Because this is a summary, not all of the laws contained in the Wildlife Conservation Act or regulations are included. For additional information contact the Department of Agriculture and Forestry or any of the Conservation Officers listed in this book.

This is a summary prepared for the information and convenience of persons who plan to fish in Prince Edward Island. The original act and regulations should be consulted for all purposes of interpreting and applying the law. The rules contained in this angling summary are in compliance with the Maritime Provinces Fisheries Regulations in respect to close times, limits and quotas subject to variation under the authority of The Fishery General Regulations.

The laws are subject to change at any time.

What's New for 2012

Angling Licences

- In 2012, trout and Atlantic salmon angling licences have been combined into one licence. Anglers intending to take part in the extended catch and release season can do so with the one \$10 licence. Seasons and gear restrictions for the extended season are outlined on page 24 of this summary.

Big Pierre Jacques (Glenwood) - *Closed to All Angling in 2012*

- The Big Pierre Jacques (Glenwood) River will be closed to all angling in 2012 as a conservation measure following the fish kill in 2011. Refer to page 28 for details.

Trout River - *Closed to All Angling in 2012*

- The Trout River (Coleman) will be closed to all angling in 2012 as a conservation measure following the fish kill in July 2011. See page 28 for details.

Mill River (Carruthers Brook)

- The Mill River will have special regulations in 2012 following a fish kill in 2011.
- Upstream from Route 2 in Bloomfield: Catch and release fishing with barbless hooks (barbs can be pinched), artificial lure and fly only. Note: There will be no extended season for catch and release angling in 2012. See page 29 for details.

Montrose River

- The Montrose River will be re-opened to angling in 2012. Regular provincial season dates and limits will apply.

Dunk River

- The special regulations which had been present on the Dunk River following the 2007 fish kill have been removed. Regular provincial season dates and limits will apply.

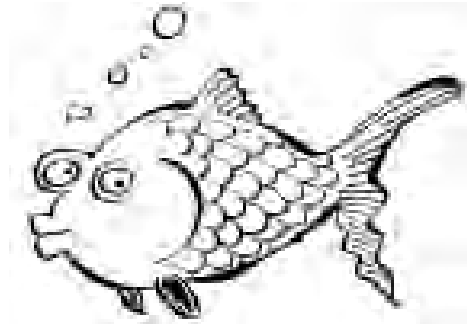
Other rivers with special regulations are identified in pages 25 to 32 of this summary.



West River Salmon

**Drop us a line!
Share your opinion,
experiences, and ideas...**

Groups or individuals interested in providing input into regulations or who have suggestions on how to improve our recreational fishery are invited to contact us at our new email address *anglingideas@gov.pe.ca*



When a change to angling regulations is being considered, notice will be given in the annual angling summary. We invite anglers to weigh in with their thoughts as we strive to manage our sport fishery in a sustainable manner and provide opportunities for anglers to enjoy their hobby.

Have you got great fishing photos of your fishing trips? Send them along and we may feature them in future angling summaries.

Potential New Angling Opportunity for 2013

A number of rivers in Prince Edward Island now have strong runs of rainbow trout. There may be an opportunity to open an extended season on the lower portions of selected rivers, allowing anglers to catch and release large “steelhead” into November. This fishery would take place in lower tidal reaches of rivers where brook trout and salmon are not spawning. Gear restrictions would apply. The Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division is interested in hearing your thoughts. Send in your comments to *anglingideas@gov.pe.ca* or call (902) 368-6082.

Are you interested in becoming a certified angling guide?

Guiding is an excellent way to meet people and make some money while enjoying a day on one of PEI's beautiful streams. In recent years, requests for angling guides from visitors have been increasing. *Emerit*, the training program of the Canadian Tourism Human Resource Council, can provide a course leading to national certification as an angling guide. On PEI, the Tourism Industry Association of PEI (TIAPEI) provides course materials and administers the exam. If you are interested, please contact TIAPEI at 566-5008 or via email: *tiapei@tiapei.pe.ca*

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation



Conservation Highlights: Prince Edward Island

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation (ASCF) is a non-profit organization established through a one-time grant of \$30 million from the Government of Canada. Interest income generated by this trust fund supports projects and activities contributing to conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and salmon habitat.

The Foundation helps achieve healthy and sustainable wild Atlantic salmon stocks in Atlantic Canada and Quebec through active working partnerships among volunteer conservation groups, Aboriginal

organizations, governments, and others.

Each year the Foundation calls for funding proposals for innovative, on-the-ground conservation projects focused on wild Atlantic salmon and its habitat carried-out by community groups. For 2013, a total of \$300,000 will be available for consisting of \$50,000 for each of province, plus \$50,000 for inter-provincial projects. To learn about the Foundation and how to apply for funding please go to our website: www.salmonconservation.ca.



Prince Edward Island Projects funded by the ASCF: Over \$201,000 has been awarded to conservation partners in Prince Edward Island since 2008. Conservation projects funded in 2011 included:

West (Elliot) River Enhancement Project, second year two of habitat development in the West River by sediment control and mitigation, installing digger logs, redd mapping, fish passage strategy, training people. Central Queens Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation.
Amount: **\$18,000**

Salmon habitat restoration and fish passage improvement in watersheds entering St. Peters Bay. Morell River Management Co-Operative
Amount: **\$8,000**

Atlantic salmon habitat restoration in Central Prince County, PEI. Richmond Bay Watershed Association, Inc.
Amount: **\$5,000**

Third year support for enhancement project on the upper reaches of 4 rivers, beaver dam removal, digger logs installed etc. Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation.
Amount: **\$19,000**

Traditional Ancestral Homelands of the Mi'kmaq people

The Traditional Ancestral Homelands of the Mi'kmaq People includes all of Prince Edward Island. In Mi'kmaq, Prince Edward Island is known as Epekwitk (pronounced E – PE - KWIT). Approximately 1,740 Mi'kmaq Aboriginal people continue to live on PEI.

In the early 1700's the Mi'kmaq and the British entered into peace, friendship, and trade treaties. The covenant chain of treaty relationships continues to this day. In 1982, the first Ministers of Canada affirmed and recognized Aboriginal and Treaty rights, now entrenched within the Constitution. In 1985, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed that the treaty of 1752 is an existing treaty and protected under the Constitution. The courts also acknowledged that an Indian treaty is sui generis (unique).

In 1990, the Supreme Court of Canada determined in the Sparrow decision that the Fisheries Act and Regulations were inconsistent with the Constitutional guarantee of an Aboriginal Right to fish. The Supreme Court in the Sparrow decision recognized and affirmed the Aboriginal Right to access and use natural life aquatic resources, which is protected under section 35(1) of the Constitution Act of 1982.

Aboriginal Peoples use of resources is undertaken, applying the principle of Netukulimk, a Mikmaq concept

for responsible harvest of natural life resources to provide for family and community while considering the future needs of generations yet to come.

The Mi'kmaq People of Epekwitk have been harvesting animal, fowl, fish and plant life for over 10,000 years in Atlantic Canada. Since time immemorial, the Mi'kmaq have successfully managed the natural life resources for the expressed benefit and well being of community and family as the common wealth of the Mi'kmaq. Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal People maintain a traditional knowledge of the land, waters and natural life in and around Prince Edward Island, the homelands of the Mi'kmaq - Epekwitk - Mi'kma'ki.

For more information, contact:

Jordan Crane

Native Council of Prince Edward Island

Kelewatl Natural Life Harvesting Commission

6 F.J. MacAulay Crt.,

Charlottetown, PE C1A 9M8

(W) (902) 892-5314

(F) (902) 368-7464

Email - Jordan@ncpei.com

Randy Angus

Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island

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General Information

Definitions

“Angling” means fishing with a line to which one or more hooks are attached and that is held in the hand or attached to a rod that is held in the hand or closely attended.

“Artificial fly” means a single or double hook dressed with silk, tinsel, wool, fur, feathers or any combination of those or other materials commonly used in making artificial flies, but does not include a fly that has a spinning device, or a weight that causes the fly to sink.

“Artificial lure” means a device, comprised of wood, plastic, metal, feathers or any other inert material but no organic component, designed to catch fish.

“Bait” means a natural or organic bait comprised of live or dead organisms (animals or plants), derivatives, or parts thereof. This can include minnows, leeches, frogs, insects, worms, cut bait, corn, macaroni, pet food, cheese or similar substances. Fly materials, such as deer hair, or rubber baits impregnated with artificial scents are not considered organic bait.

“Barbless hook” means a hook that was made without a barb or a hook that has all of its barbs compressed to be in complete contact with the shaft of the hook, except those barbs on the shank that are designed solely to retain bait.

“Chumming” refers to the practice of using any material to attract fish to a particular location while angling.

“Daily limit” refers to the lawful capture and retention of fish during a day, with angling restricted to the period of two hours before sunrise to two hours after sunset in any given day. The daily limit is one’s possession limit and is interpreted to be the only legal limit one can possess.

“Fly fishing” means angling by the use of an artificial fly or flies that are attached to a line or to a leader that is attached to a line.

“Grilse” means a salmon that is less than 63 cm but not less than 35 cm in length.

“Hook” means a single, double or treble pointed hook on a common shank or shaft, with or without barbs.

“Jigging” means fishing by manipulating one or more hooks so as to pierce a fish in any part of its body instead of luring the fish to take the hook or hooks into its mouth.

“Length” means:

(a) in relation to a salmon or a landlocked salmon, the distance measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail,

(b) in relation to any other fish referred to in these regulations, the distance measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail;

“Possession limit” is interpreted to be one’s daily limit.

“Sport fishing” means fishing for pleasure and not for sale or barter.

“Sport fish” means salmon and trout.



General Prohibitions

General Angling

It is unlawful to:

1. use a gill-net or trap-net for fishing in non-tidal or inland waters, unless authorized by the Maritime Provinces Fisheries Regulations;
2. use an artificial light or flame of any kind for fishing in non-tidal or inland waters;

3. jig, snare or spear fish of any kind in non-tidal or inland waters;
4. have in your possession an untagged salmon;
5. fish with an artificial fly that has more than two hooks;
6. angle with more than one fishing line or with a fishing line having more than three separate hooks;
7. angle salmon except by fly fishing;
8. angle within a 100-metre radius of any facility operated by or on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans or the province for the purpose of counting passage or rearing of fish;
9. angle within a fishway or within 25 metres downstream of the lower entrance of a fishway;
10. angle in non-tidal or inland waters that are frequented by any sport fish during the closed time for that sport fish;
11. angle during the time period extending from two hours after sunset to two hours before sunrise;
12. export any trout from the province without a valid angling license and then only in accordance with the possession limit of 8 trout;
13. litter at any time or place - conviction may result in loss of angling privileges;
14. operate a motor boat while intoxicated;

15. chum while angling for trout or salmon;
16. possess, use or sell fish eggs as bait for angling;
17. retain any sport fish alive while angling. All fish must be:
 - a) immediately released alive back to the wild;
or
 - b) killed immediately and counted towards the daily bag limit.
18. No person shall possess fish that were caught by any person while fishing for recreational or sport purposes and that have been skinned, cut, packed or otherwise dealt with in such a manner that:
 - (a) the species cannot be readily determined;
 - (b) the number of fish cannot be readily determined;
 - (c) where size limits are applicable, the size of the fish cannot be readily determined.
19. angle for striped bass;
20. introduce or re-locate live fish species into the waters of Prince Edward Island.

Anglers are reminded that it is illegal to angle during the time period extending from two hours after sunset to two hours before sunrise. Official times of sunrise and sunset are published in local newspapers and can be found on the Environment Canada website: ***www.weatheroffice.gc.ca***

Angling Licences

In 2012, there will be one angling licence. This entitles the licensee to angle brook trout, rainbow trout, white perch and Atlantic salmon. Anglers interested in fishing the extended season for catch and release fishing can do so with this licence.

Angling licences can be obtained from authorized vendors and Access PEI centres throughout the province.

Anglers have the option of purchasing their angling licence online. To access this service, please visit the website: ***[www.gov.pe.ca /go/fishing](http://www.gov.pe.ca/go/fishing)***

Resident/Non-Resident - \$10

Courtesy Licence-Free

Available to residents only. Issued to anglers 16 to 18 and 60 years of age and over.

Family Fishing Licence - \$5

This licence allows the spouse and dependants to fish for a period of 5 days. The licence will be available after May 1st.

The Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division encourages adults to take children fishing. The adult does not require an angling licence while assisting the children as long as the number of fishing rods does not exceed the number of children angling.

Wildlife Conservation Fund

All licensed anglers are required to be in possession of a Wildlife Conservation Fund Licence. Youth under the age of 16 are exempt from this licensing requirement.

Wildlife Conservation Fund - \$20

For seniors 65 years of age and over:

Wildlife Conservation Fund - \$13

For family five-day licence

Wildlife Conservation Fund - \$5

For further information and a list of vendors, please call the Department of Agriculture and Forestry's Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division, (902) 368-6080.

PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund Where Does Your Money Go?

When you pay a PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund fee, you are helping to improve habitat for fish and many other species of Island Wildlife. Applications for funding are made by many stream and river management groups annually. In 2011, approximately \$135,000 was awarded to watershed, wildlife and environmental groups across PEI to restore, protect and improve Island waterways. Research and education projects were also funded. Groups receiving WCF funds in 2011 are listed below. For more information on the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund you can call (902) 892-7513, email: wcfund@eastlink.ca, or visit the web at www.gov.pe.ca/go/wcf



PEI Wildlife Federation

PEI Chapter Pheasants Forever

Lot 11 & Area Watershed Management Group

Friends of Covehead-Brackley Bay

Roseville/Miminegash Pond Enhancement
Committee

Morell River Management Co-operative

Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre AVC

Canadian Rivers Institute UPEI
Kensington North Watersheds Association
Hillsborough River Association (HRA)
Ducks Unlimited Canada
PEI Chapter Delta Waterfowl
Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed Association
Bedeque Bay Environmental Management
Association
Trout Unlimited Canada - Prince Co. Chapter
Richmond Bay Watershed Association
Central Queens Wildlife Federation
Hunter-Clyde Watershed Group
Black Pond Watershed Group
PEI Trappers Association
Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
West Point Community Enhancement Committee
Wrights Creek Watershed Environmental Committee

Why Use Barbless Hooks?

Many anglers know that the mortality rate when releasing fish caught on lure or fly is lower than that of bait fishing. However using hooks without barbs, even when fishing with bait, can greatly improve the survival of fish caught and released. Studies have shown that the mortality rate when fishing with bait on a barbed hook is roughly 30%. This drops to approximately 8% for bait on barbless hooks. Angling mortality using barbed lures and flies is approximately 5%, dropping to 2.5% using barbless hooks. Of course, care must be taken when handling and releasing fish to ensure a successful release.



It is not difficult to transform a “barbed” hook into a “barbless” hook. Simply take a pair of pliers or a hemostat and compress the barb so it lies flat against the shaft of the hook. Talk to anglers who regularly use barbless hooks and they will tell you that they do not notice a difference in their ability to hook and retain fish. It is far easier to release little fish caught on barbless hooks. An added bonus is the ease at which barbless hooks can be removed from your thumb! Give barbless hooks a try!



Transport
Canada

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OFFICE OF **BOATING SAFETY**
BUREAU DE LA **SÉCURITÉ NAUTIQUE**

Attention Anglers: Do you need a boat licence?

Did you know that any pleasure craft powered by a motor of 10 hp (7.5 kW) or more must have a valid licence? A **pleasure craft licence** allows search and rescue personnel and other agencies to quickly identify your boat in the event of an emergency.



A pleasure craft licence number must be displayed in block letters, at least 7.5 cm (3") high, above the waterline on both sides of the bow where it is easy to see. The numbers must contrast with the colour of the background.

You can get a pleasure craft licence that is valid for 10 years by mailing the following documents to the **Pleasure Craft Licensing Centre**:

1. A completed application form
2. Proof of vessel ownership
3. A signed copy of a valid piece of government-issued identification (further information is available on the form)

Application forms are available:

- online at www.boatingsafety.gc.ca
- through your regional Office of Boating Safety (1-800-387-4999 for Maritimes)
- for pickup at your local Service Canada Centre. For Service Canada locations, visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca

Proof of competency is now required for all operators of motorized pleasure craft on all Canadian waterways, regardless of the engine size (horsepower) or the length of the vessel.

The best way to obtain proof of competency is to take a course and successfully complete an accredited boating safety test to receive a **Pleasure Craft Operator Card**. Learning proper navigational techniques and becoming well acquainted with existing regulations will allow you to use your pleasure craft safely and fully enjoy your time on the water.



To learn more about **Pleasure Craft Licensing** or how to get your **Pleasure Craft Operator Card** visit Transport Canada's Office of Boating Safety at www.boatingsafety.gc.ca or call the Boating Safety InfoLine at 1-800-267-6687.

Canada

Season Dates and Creel Limits

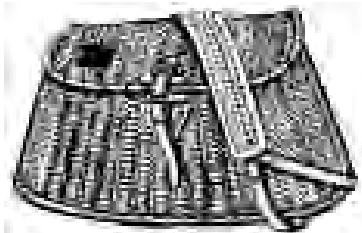
Trout

Open season - April 15 to September 15, inclusive; all waters with the following exceptions:

- Glenfinnan and O'Keefe Lakes - have an extended season (see page 32)
- Wilmot River - Marchbanks Pond has an extended season for trout (see page 31)
- Souris River - has special regulations, including an extended season (see page 32)
- Big Pierre Jacques River - will be closed to all angling in 2012 (see page 28)
- Trout River Coleman - will be closed to all angling in 2012 (see page 28)
- Mill River (Carruther's Brook) - Will be catch and release, barbless fly or lure, upstream from Highway 2 in Bloomfield (see page 29).

Creel Limit

Daily catch limit of eight (8) trout, of which not more than one trout (either rainbow or brook) may be greater than 40 cm in length.



Possession Limit - In your possession, in the field and elsewhere in storage, you may have no more than 8 trout in total.



Transport
Canada

Transports
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DEPARTMENT OF **BOATING SAFETY**
LE DÉPARTEMENT DE LA **SÉCURITÉ NAUTIQUE**

Attention Anglers

The waters of Atlantic Canada are cold year round.
If you fall overboard, do not panic!

Remember the 1 — 10 — 1 Principle

YOU HAVE:

- 1 minute to get your breathing under control;
- 10 minutes of meaningful use of your arms and legs to stay afloat; and
- 1 hour before you become unconscious due to hypothermia.

SAFETY TIPS:

- Above all, WEAR A LIFEJACKET.
- Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Keep a low centre of gravity and never overload your boat.

Canada



Over 90 percent of anglers who die while boating are not wearing a lifejacket. When you fall overboard, a lifejacket stored under your seat will do little to save your life. Before you head out on the water, make sure you wear a lifejacket that fits and is in good working order.

Anglers are reminded to be sure to carry proof of competency such as a Pleasure Craft Operator Card, and photo ID, if they are operating a boat fitted with a motor.

*Go to **www.coldwaterbootcamp.com** to learn about the crippling effects of cold water immersion. To prepare for a safe fishing adventure, visit **www.boatingsafety.gc.ca** or call 1-800-387-4999 to speak with a Boating Safety Officer.*

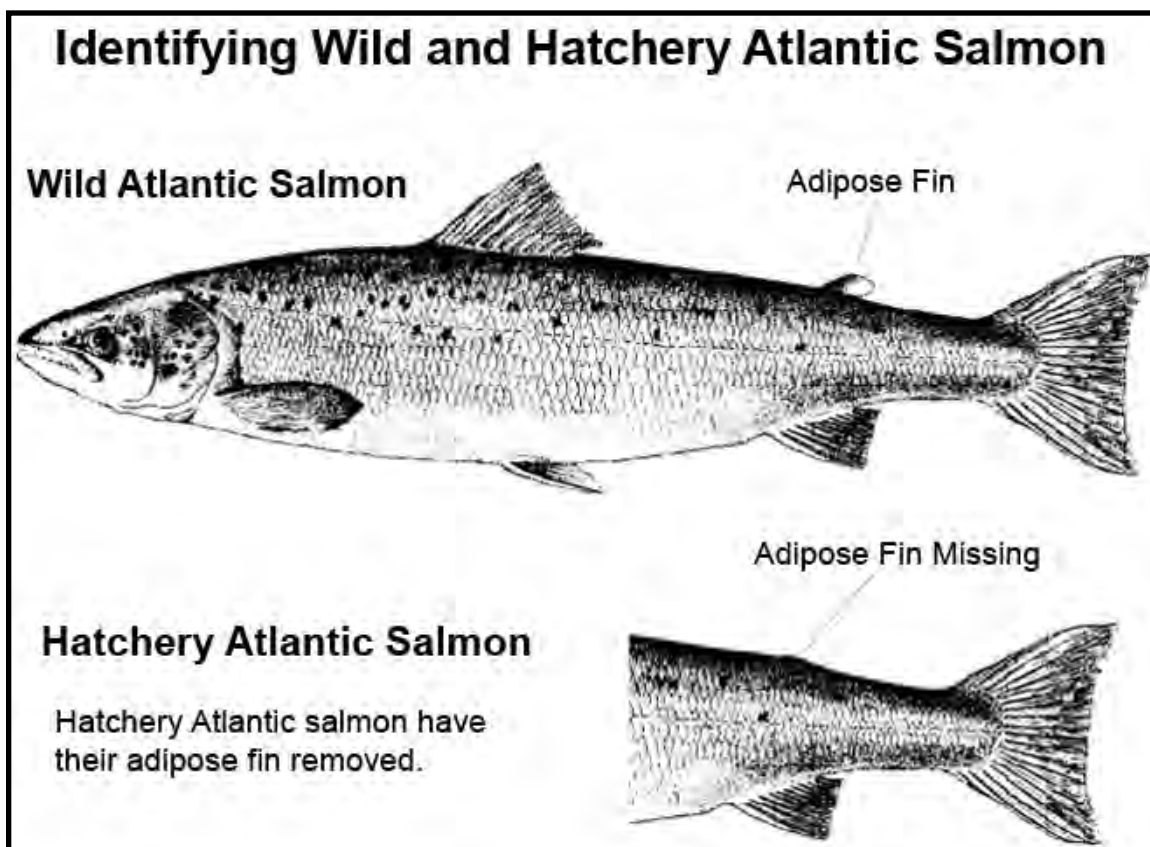
Atlantic Salmon

Open Season - All waters June 1 to September 15, inclusive; except for Morell River (see page 25-26) and waters noted in the table on page 24.

Daily catch and release limit of not more than two (grilse or salmon).

All salmon must be released immediately with the least possible harm to the fish.

Angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to an artificial barbless fly as defined in Definitions, page 9. It does not include a fly that has a spinning device or weight that causes the fly to sink; however, a fly so altered can be used to angle for trout.



Extended Season: The following waters are open to salmon fishing, catch and release, using barbless hooks only:

<i>River</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>West River</i>	September 16 to October 31	Downstream from Green Bay highway culvert (Route 249)
<i>Morell River</i>	September 16 to October 31	see pages 25 and 26 and map on inside back cover
<i>Dunk River</i>	September 16 to October 31	Downstream from Scales' Pond, West Newton (Route 109)

Please Note: The extended season is subject to change pending an evaluation of Atlantic Salmon Stocks. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Science Peer Review for Salmon Stocks in the Gulf Region is slated for March 2012.

Waters with Special Regulations

Morell River (Please refer to map on the inside back cover of the summary)

1. On any day, an angler who holds a salmon licence must cease all angling on the Morell River for that day after two fish, either salmon or grilse, have been caught and released, whichever occurs first.
2. From April 15 to September 15, in the lower section of the Morell River from MacKays to the mouth of the river (railway bridge), trout may be taken on any tackle. This section of river is closed to all angling after September 15.
3. Any Atlantic salmon must be released immediately with the least possible harm to the fish.
4. Please note that salmon smolts migrate to sea during the month of May. Smolts are delicate at this time and can easily die if handled. If you find yourself catching numerous salmon smolts, please consider angling in a different location until the smolt run is diminished.
5. The section of the East Branch of the Morell River containing the old Crane's Pond dam site is closed to all angling for the period July 1 to September 15. The section of river affected includes all waters 250 metres upstream of the highway bridge on Route 355. This closure is in effect as a conservation measure to protect trout broodstock.

6. Portions of the Morell River are to be angled only by fly fishing, using barbless hooks only, after June 1. The restriction applies to Leard's Pond, Riverton, the West Branch below Leard's Pond, all that section of the East Branch below the Hazelgreen Road (Route 329); and the main section of the river from the point of union of the West and East Branches to MacKays in the Bangor area.
7. The extended season from September 16 to October 31st is for Atlantic salmon only, using barbless hooks.
8. For the period September 16 to October 15 inclusive, salmon angling is restricted to those areas on the Morell River as defined in Section 6 above.
9. For the period October 16 to October 31st inclusive, salmon angling is restricted to that portion of the Morell River downstream from the forks (point of union of the West and East Branches) to MacKays.
10. Salmon angling on Leards Pond is permitted from June 1 to October 31st, inclusive.



Fish Handling

All fish should be treated humanely, whether they are being added to your creel or about to be released. When retaining a fish, kill it quickly and humanely. It is mandatory on Prince Edward Island to kill your fish immediately or release it back to the wild. Fish cannot be kept alive on stringers or in live wells. Keep your catch cool to ensure that the flesh will be of optimum quality. When releasing fish, take steps to reduce stress in the fish and give it the best chance of survival.

- Use the right gear:
 - ▶ Barbless or pinched hooks are easier to remove
 - ▶ Artificial lures, not bait, reduce the chances of deep hooking
- Minimize handling: retrieve your fish quickly and release it immediately
- Keep the fish in the water
- Use only a knotless mesh net
- Remove the hook carefully
- Cut the leader if necessary
- Hold the fish gently in a natural swimming position, facing upstream until it revives



Big Pierre Jacques River (Glenwood)

- The Big Pierre Jacques River (Glenwood) will be closed to all angling in 2012. This includes all waters of the Big Pierre Jacques River upstream from the road crossing in Glenwood (Route 14), including all tributaries.
- This conservation measure is in place to allow stocks to recover following a fish kill in 2011. Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division staff will work with local watershed groups to monitor the recovery of fish populations in 2012. The Big Pierre Jacques River was stocked with brook trout in 2011 as a means to kick start the recovery.

Trout River (Coleman)

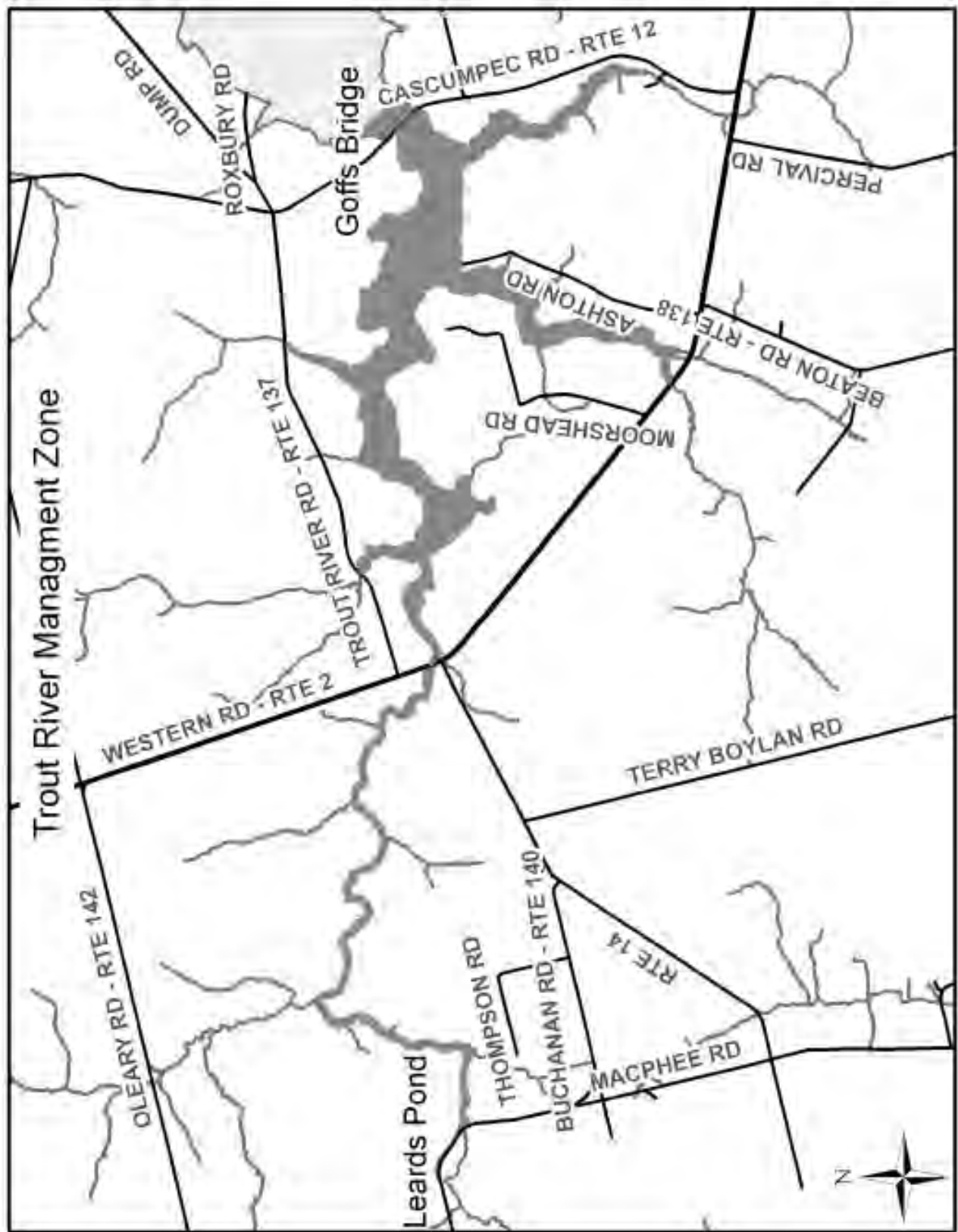
- The Trout River (Coleman) will be closed to all angling in 2012. This includes all waters upstream from Goff's Bridge (Cascumpec Road Route 12).
- This conservation measure is in place to allow stocks to recover following a fish kill in 2011. Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division staff will work with local watershed groups to monitor the recovery of fish populations in 2012. The Trout River was stocked with brook trout in 2011 in an effort to boost the recovery.

Mill River (Carruthers Brook)

- The Mill River will have special regulations in 2012 following a fish kill in 2011.
- Upstream from Route 2 in Bloomfield: The fresh water portion of Carruther's Brook will be catch and release fishing with barbless hooks (barbs can be pinched), artificial lure and fly only. Note: There will be no extended season for catch and release angling in 2012.
- Downstream from Route 2 in Bloomfield: Open to angling. Regular provincial season dates and limits will apply.
- Fish populations in Carruther's Brook will be monitored in 2012. This stream was stocked with brook trout in fall 2011.



Trout River (Coleman)



Trout Management Zone

Dunk River - *Conservation Closure Lifted*

Special regulations which had been imposed on the Dunk River are being lifted in 2012.

- Angling season - April 15 to September 15 with an extended season for catch and release fishing until October 31 (page 24)

Montrose River - *Conservation Closure Lifted*

The Montrose River will be open to angling in 2012.

- Angling season - April 15 to September 15.

Wilmot River - *Extended Angling Season on Marchbanks Pond*

Angling within Marchbank's Pond is extended from September 16 to October 31, 2012. The extension affects that part of the Wilmot River between the road stream intersection at Highway 120 (McMurdo Road) and the intersection of Klondike Brook with the Wilmot River (tributary at upper end of pond on south side). Catch and release fishing with fly, using barbless hooks.

Souris River

- The angling season on Souris River will open on May 15, 2012, with the exception of Harmony Pond which will open on April 15th.
- The section of the east branch, Souris River, upstream from the Souris Line Road will be closed to all angling for the period April 15th to October 15th.
- Angling on the Souris River is extended from September 15th to October 15th in all that section of the main river below the Gowanbrae Bridge on Souris River Road (Route 358). Catch and release, artificial fly or lure - Single barbless hooks only.

Glenfinnan and O'Keefe's Lakes

O'Keefes Lake and Glenfinnan Lake are no longer stocked with rainbow trout. This stocking has ceased due to high mercury levels recorded in rainbow trout and white perch in O'Keefes Lake.

- Open season for rainbow trout is April 15 to November 15
- Glenfinnan Lake has a daily catch limit of 5 rainbow trout, only one of which can be greater than 40 cm. O'Keefe's Lake is catch and release only.
- Possession limit of 5 rainbow trout

Please Note: Regular monitoring of fish in O'Keefe's Lake has indicated that mercury levels can be in excess of recommended guidelines. Prince Edward Island's Chief Health Officer advises that fish from O'Keefe's Lake should not be eaten. Fish from other lakes, ponds or brooks on P.E.I have not been found to have mercury above the national guidelines.

Winter Ice Fishing

Winter ice fishing is restricted to Glenfinnan and O'Keefe's Lakes. Those anglers wishing to participate in the winter ice fishery should retain their angling licence and the Wildlife Conservation Licence.

- Winter ice fishing from January 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013.
- Catch limit and possession limit as outlined above.

Ice Safety

Traditionally, some ponds and rivers are iced over on opening day of the angling season, while the winter trout fishery is dependent on ice. To avoid a potentially life threatening situation, practise caution when fishing on ice.

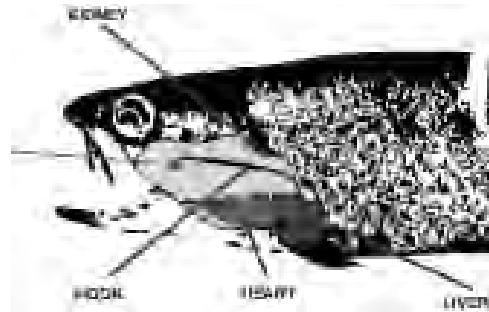
- For your safety there should be at least 15 cm (six inches) of ice or more for small groups of people; and 25 cm (10 inches) or more for snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles.
- Plan to fish with a friend.
- Children should be supervised by an adult.
- Dress warmly - wear a hat, scarf and mitts.
- Wearing a personal flotation device like a floater coat is a good idea when ice fishing.
- You are legally required to mark any holes made in the ice to alert other anglers. Use branches or other material.

Should you break through the ice, extend your arms flat on the ice surface and kick your feet. Try to squirm the upper part of your body onto the ice. Once out of the water, roll quickly to one side away from the edge. Once you reach safety, get to shore and warm yourself by building a fire and getting into dry clothing.



Where Does the Hook Go?

Many anglers are unaware of the location of vital organs in a fish. When fish are hooked in the lips or jaw area, mortality can be less than 1%. However,



fish that are “deep hooked” in the esophagus or gills suffer a high mortality rate. Studies have shown that many fish which are deeply hooked suffer major internal damage to the heart, stomach or liver.

The fish may appear unharmed and swim away, only to die a few hours later. Use equipment and techniques which will allow you to catch and release fish unharmed.

Is it a salmon or brook trout?

Anglers may confuse brook trout with Atlantic salmon, particularly in the spring when “slink” salmon are in the rivers. “Slink” or “black” salmon are fish that returned to the river the previous year, spawned in the fall, and are preparing to return to sea again in spring. Unlike fresh salmon, these fish tend to be dark and rather thin. If you hook a slink salmon,

please take care when releasing the fish to ensure minimal harm. To distinguish between the two fish, look for the telltale spots on the body of the brook trout (orange and red spots fringed with blue) and white edge on the fins.

Atlantic salmon undergo a number of physiological changes which allow them to move from fresh water to salt water. On PEI, smolts move out of the rivers into salt water in May. They are quite delicate at this time and can easily die if handled. If you find yourself catching numerous salmon smolts, please consider angling in a different location until the smolt run is diminished.



Atlantic salmon “slink”



Brook trout

Take Your Family Fishing on the Long Weekend in May!



Take your children fishing and let them experience the great outdoors and enjoy a life long pleasure that comes from fishing. The Department of Agriculture and Forestry encourages parents to share the weekend of May 18-21, 2012 with their kids fishing. In support of this adventure, no licence will be required to fish over the Victoria Day long weekend, May 18-21 inclusive.

Report Litterers!

Call the hot line
toll-free

1-866-368-5024

Investigation and Enforcement

For enforcement of any of the environment acts or regulations during regular working hours, telephone a Conservation Officer at any of the following locations:

O'Leary	(902) 859-8800	Jason Thistle
Wellington/	(902) 854-7250	Roland Richard (bilingual officer)
Summerside	(902) 888-8000	
Charlottetown (Acting Chief Conservation Officer)	(902) 368-4808	Wade MacKinnon
Queens County	(902) 368-5000	Erin McEvoy
Montague	(902) 838-0600	Locke Jones
Souris	(902) 687-6700	Trevor MacKinnon

For enforcement emergencies after normal office hours, telephone (902) 368-5000

For environmental emergencies, please call 1-800-565-1633.

Access PEI Centres

Queens County

Charlottetown368-5200

Kings County

Montague.....838-0600

Souris687-7000

Prince County

Alberton853-8622

O'Leary859-8800

Summerside888-8000

Tignish882-7351

Wellington.....854-7250

White Perch

- Found in many Prince Edward Island rivers and are commonly present in bays, and tidal tributaries and barrier beach ponds along the shore.
- Close relative of striped bass.
- Can reach sizes of 19 inches (48cm) and 4 ½ lb (2 kg).
- Normal life span is 6-7 years.
- Considered an important sport fish in many parts of its range.
- Can be angled on P.E.I. during the regular angling season (April 15-September 15)
- Limit of 100 per person per day



Fish Identification

Brook trout (speckled trout)

- Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins colored with a leading edge of white.
- Back and dorsal fin vermiculated (wormlike pattern)
- Sides pigmented with orange and red spots fringed with blue.
- Black spots "not" present on the body.



Atlantic salmon parr (juvenile salmon in freshwater)

- Eleven dark bars separated by a single row of red spots on the lateral line.
- Tail fin forked more so than trout species.



Rainbow trout (juvenile in freshwater)

- A band of pink to red coloring the sides
- Five to 10 dark oval parr marks spaced along the side straddling the lateral line.
- Black spots on the dorsal and tail may be visible.



Copyright 2000, A. MacKay

Rainbow/American Smelt

Smelt may be small fish (generally 5-10" in length) but you can have a large amount of fun catching them. This important commercial fish species enters freshwater streams in spring to spawn. No licence is required to fish smelt and in tidal waters, one can angle for smelt year round. A dip net fishery is allowed from April 1 to June 15 and in inland water, you can fish smelt from April 15-September 15. The spearing season for smelt runs from December 1 to March 31. The catch limit for smelt is 60 per person/day. The most popular way to catch smelt is through the ice in winter. Many estuaries and bays are lined with smelt shacks which provide a more comfortable fishing environment. If you erect a shack, you are required to paint or affix your name and address to the shack. Shacks cannot be erected before January 1 and must be removed by April 2 (or sooner if directed by a Fishery Officer).



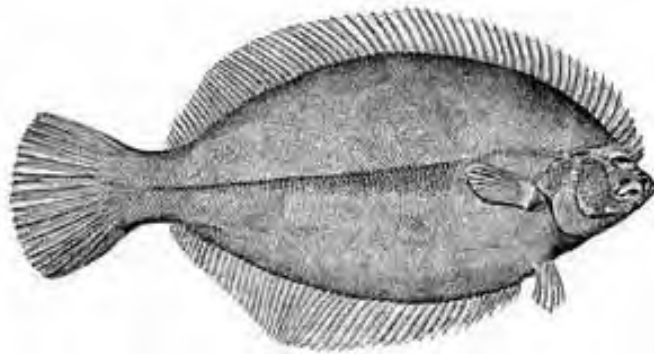
Mackerel Fishing

Are you a fair weather angler? Then mackerel fishing is a sport for you. One can catch mackerel in estuaries, bays and offshore areas from mid-May to fall. Many people enjoy going offshore on deep sea fishing excursions. A number of charters are available and equipment is provided by the operators. Others prefer to fish mackerel from wharves or bridges. No licence is required and there is no limit on the number of fish to be retained. Hand lines or all purpose rods are all that is required, with various lures, flies, or parts of fish (e.g. mackerel stomach, smelt flesh) used as attractants. Mackerel are great fighters and are exciting to catch on light gear. Not to mention the health benefits of eating mackerel. This oily fish is an essential source of protein, vitamins and minerals and rich in omega-3 essential fatty acids. Mackerel can be broiled, grilled, baked or fried.



Winter Flounder

Many people are unaware that there is a short recreational season for groundfish, including flounder, in August and September. The exact dates of the groundfish season change from year to year and are posted in local newspapers. One can catch a total of 15 ground fish, of which no more than 5 can be cod. No haddock, pollock, halibut, Northern Wolfish, Atlantic wolfish or spotted wolfish can be taken. Flounder can be caught off wharves or under bridges in many locations around Prince Edward Island. No licence is required.



For more information
about salt water fishing regulations contact
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
(902) 566-7812

Courses/Workshops

Each year, the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division offers a number of courses and workshops. If you are interested in any of the following courses, please contact our office (902) 368-4683

- Trapping
- Hunting (Hunter Safety, Bow hunting, Hunting Guide)
- Becoming and Outdoors Woman workshop
- Youth Waterfowl Hunting Workshop
- Chainsaw (Weekend Woodsman, Chainsaw Filing, Cutting Firewood Safely, Basic Silviculture Lesson Plan)

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman is a workshop primarily aimed at women, but it is also an opportunity for anyone 18 years of age or older to learn outdoor skills – skills usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful for many outdoor pursuits.

This workshop is for you if...

- you have never tried these activities, but have hoped for an opportunity to learn.
- you are a beginner and hope to improve your skills.
- you know how to do some of these activities, but would like to try new ones.
- you are looking for camaraderie of like-minded individuals.

A special BOW fishing workshop is currently being planned for June 2012.

For more information on upcoming workshops and dates please contact
368-4683



Fish Stocking in Prince Edward Island

Restoring quality fish habitat is the first step towards improving the sport fishery in PEI. However, fish stocking is also an important tool in fisheries management. Funding for Prince Edward Island's salmonid enhancement program is currently provided by the provincial government and the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund.

Historically, brook trout, Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout were stocked in rivers across Prince Edward Island. Currently, brook trout broodstock are collected annually from five regions: Mill River/Trout River, Wilmot/Dunk, West River, Morell River and Brudenell/Cardigan rivers. The offspring of these fish are available to stock in rivers to compensate for intensive angling activity (e.g. Morell River), to assist recovery in rivers affected by fish kills (e.g. Trout River, Big Pierre Jacques and Mill River) and to provide angling opportunities in specific locations (e.g. urban ponds). In May 2011, one year old brook trout were stocked into the following ponds: Carraghers Pond (Emyvale), Rollo Bay Pond, Hermitage Creek Pond (Charlottetown), Bernard's Pond (French River), Jordan's Pond (Bristol Creek), Doyles Pond in Mount Stewart, and Mooneys Pond (Morell River). In autumn 2011, fall fingerling brook trout were stocked into Morell River, Brudenell River,

West River, Dunk River, Wilmot River, Mill River (Carruthers Brook), Trout River (Coleman) and Big Pierre Jacques River.

Please Note: In 2010, brook trout stocked into Montrose River, West River and Morell River were marked by removing the adipose fin (See page 24). Please take note of any marked fish caught. Surveyors may be collecting creel information on these rivers in 2012.

Atlantic salmon broodstock are also collected annually and young salmon (fingerlings) are stocked into selected rivers to provide angling opportunities, for example Morell River, and in other rivers to assist in the recovery of salmon populations.



West River 2010

COSEWIC Assessment - Atlantic Salmon

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) recently assessed the status of Atlantic salmon. Prince Edward Island salmon are included with Gaspé-Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence population in COSEWIC's assessment report. The Gaspé-Southern Gulf, Inner St Lawrence, Quebec western north shore and Quebec eastern north shore were all assessed as Special Concern. A "Special Concern" ranking is defined as - a wildlife species that may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

What does this mean to salmon on P.E.I.? Atlantic salmon spend the first two to three years of their lives in fresh water. We all need to do our part to ensure that salmon in P.E.I. rivers have clean, productive habitat and access to and from the sea. We can also modify our fishing practices in rivers where juvenile salmon are present. The use of barbless hooks and proper catch and release techniques can go a long way to reducing angling mortality.



Male Atlantic salmon collected for broodstock in the Morell River in 2011.



Stripping eggs from a female salmon collected on Morell River in 2011.

2010 Survey of Recreational Fishing in Canada

Congratulations to Mary Arsenault, Morell. Mary completed the 2010 National Angling Survey and her name was selected in a draw for fishing equipment. A thank you to all anglers who completed the survey and to the P.E.I. Council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation and the Going Fishing Store for their assistance in providing prizes. Survey results are being finalized and will be available at www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/stats/rec/canada-rec-eng.htm and www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/stats/rec/canada-rec-fra.htm



Rainbow Trout Tagging Study

In recent decades, the non-native rainbow trout have established self sustaining populations on many rivers across PEI. The Canadian Rivers Institute at The University of Prince Edward Island and the Atlantic Salmon Federation have partnered to study the success of this species in PEI waterways.



This study is the first on PEI to use acoustic tracking technology to determine the movement patterns of trout. Trout implanted with acoustic transmitters will be tracked throughout the freshwater and saltwater phases of their lifecycle. To explore differences in habitat use, both rainbow trout and brook trout have been incorporated in the tagging regime. In order to supplement movement data from the acoustic tags, additional trout have been tagged with external Floy Tags. When tagged fish are recaptured, we can compare movement patterns and growth rates between the species. This research will help explain the success of rainbow trout on PEI and the potential consequences for native salmon and trout.

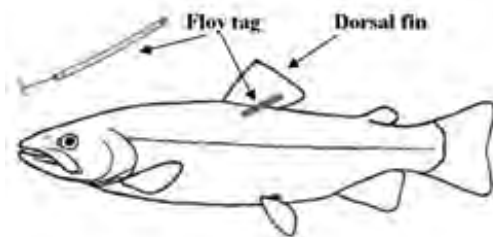
As anglers, your cooperation is critical to the study. If you report the capture of a tagged trout you will be eligible for a reward!

YELLOW TAGS – PLEASE RELEASE!

Fish carrying acoustic transmitters are tagged with an external yellow Floy Tag. Given the extreme cost of the acoustic transmitter tags and the scientific value each fish represents, it is important that these fish be released if captured. In the event that one of these fish suffers from life threatening injury during capture, do not release the fish. The tag can be removed from the abdominal cavity, returned for a reward and deployed in another fish.

RED TAGS

Trout tagged with red Floy Tags are not carrying transmitter tags. They have been tagged to provide supplementary information based on angler recaptures. Reports from these fish will provide information on growth and movement patterns. Although releasing these fish is not mandatory, it will provide an opportunity for future recaptures and further information to be gathered. Anglers who submit a capture will be eligible for a reward.



Note ID number on the tag
Report the capture!

Measure the fork length

Record Date and Location

Call 1-855-888-2688



Islander wins National Recreational Fisheries Award

Daryl Guignion, long time activist and volunteer, was presented with a National Recreational Fisheries Award by the Honourable Keith Asfield, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Honourable Gail Shea, Minister responsible for the Atlantic Gateway. The award's ceremony, held in Charlottetown in January 2012, was attended by Daryl's family, past and present colleagues, representatives of federal and provincial government agencies, and representatives of watershed and environmental groups. Daryl has devoted much of his own time for four decades to improving the recreational fishery in Prince Edward Island. He is a founding member of the Island Nature Trust and the Morell River Management Co-op and was instrumental in establishing the only legislated conservation zone in P.E.I. along the Morell River. As an educator at U.P.E.I., he helped to instill greater environmental awareness in students, many of whom went on to work in the environmental field.

Canada's National Recreational Fisheries Awards were created in 1989 to recognize outstanding contributions by individuals and organizations in areas such as recreational community leadership, restoring and enhancing fisheries and fish habitat or

promoting conservation and sustainable recreational fishing.

If you would like additional information about the National Recreational Fisheries Awards, including how to nominate deserving individuals or groups, please see:

http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/rfa-ppr/awards-prix_e.htm



Accessing Public Lands

While most of Prince Edward Island is privately owned, there are areas of forest and wetland which are available for public use - the Island's 33,000 hectares of public land. In general terms, these properties are classified as Natural Areas, Ponds and Wetlands, Provincial Forests, and Wildlife Management Areas. They are managed for a variety of public values and benefits such as recreation, wildlife habitat, protection of unique or rare species, high-value timber and non-timber forest products, forest/wildlife research, and outdoor education.

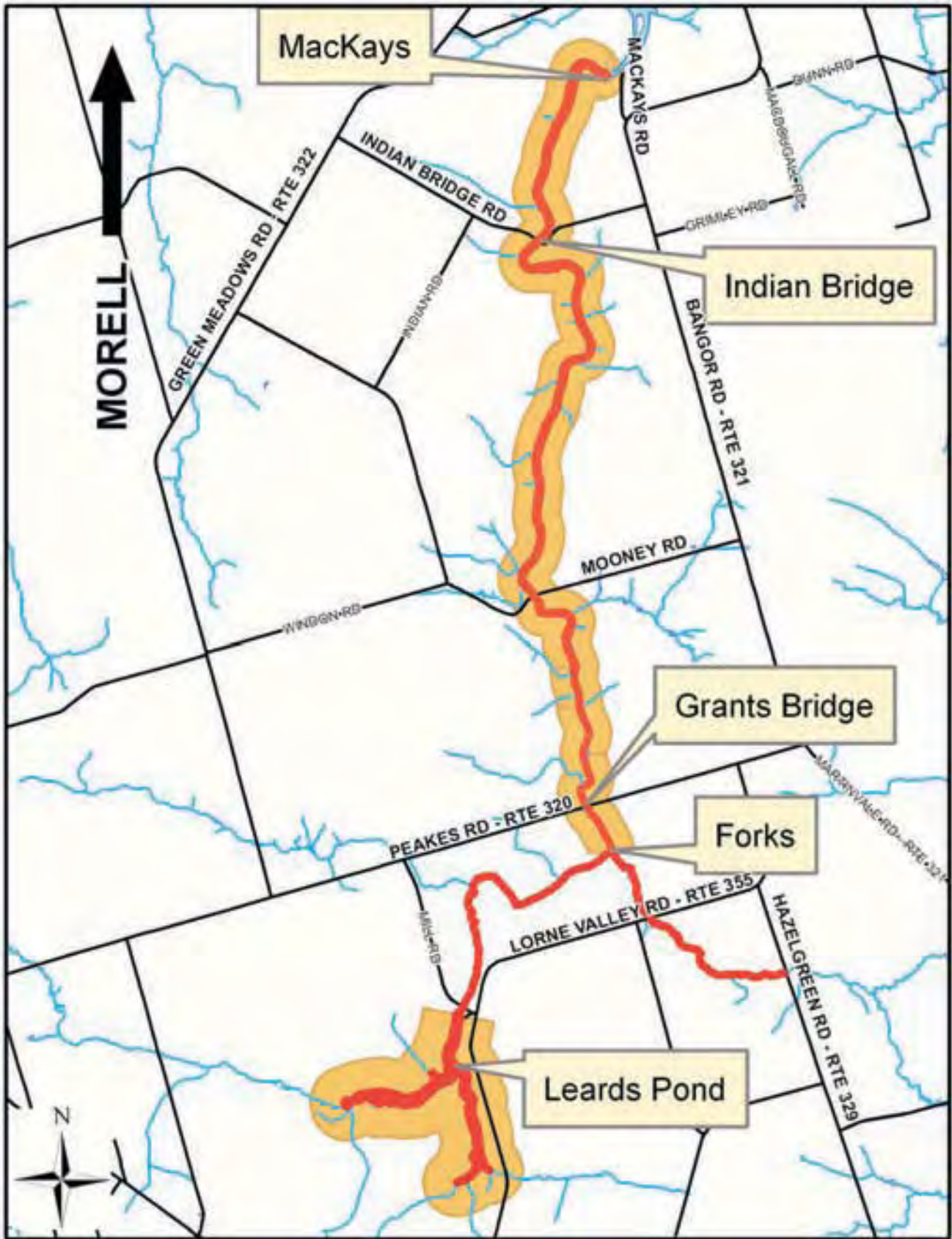
The signs listed below identify public lands which are open to the public for uses such as hunting, fishing, hiking, bicycling, bird watching, tours and outdoor education. However, some uses such as off road vehicle (ATVs, snowmobiles, etc.) are only permitted on certain properties and open fires are not permitted at all. Prohibited uses are listed on the signs. Please do not litter or smoke on these properties.

Many of these properties are working forests, so as conditions dictate, forest harvest and management operations may occur. In all cases, harvest sites on public land are quickly renewed to forest cover.

You can access more information on the location of public lands on-line at www.gov.pe.ca/gis or by purchasing a Public Land Atlas at any Forests, Fish and Wildlife office.



- Notes -



Fly Fishing Only/Barbless Hooks - June 1 to September 15
 (Extended Season for Salmon Angling - September 16 to October 15)



Extended season for Salmon Angling - October 16 to October 31



Photo: Shawn Hill