

Yukon Fishing

REGULATIONS SUMMARY

www.env.gov.yk.ca 2015 – 2016

Index
of Waters with
Special Rules page 2



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Yukon
Environment

Minister's Message



Yukon's lakes and rivers provide excellent fishing opportunities for anglers young and old. But it's not just about landing that prized lake trout or salmon—fishing lets us experience beautiful landscapes, view wildlife, relax outdoors, and just have fun with friends and family.

This year's summary has a special focus on the fish themselves. You'll find new sections about the life cycle of lake trout, lake trout ages and the productivity of Yukon's aquatic environments. I am sure you will find these sections interesting as well as helpful the next time you go out fishing.

Along with the information available in this summary, the government has also released the *Yukon Fish Health Handbook* to help anglers identify common fish diseases and to provide tips for how to consume fish safely. Pick up a copy at any Department of Environment office or view it electronically on the department's website.

You can do your part to support environmental stewardship by carefully following the rules set out in this booklet and ensuring healthy fish populations for the generations to come.

Fishing at any time of year is a pleasure. I wish you a wonderful time on the water this year, whether you're slapping on the sunscreen on a hot summer day at the lake or huddling on the winter ice while you tend your lines.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wade Istchenko'. The signature is stylized with loops and a long tail.

Wade Istchenko
Minister of Environment

On the cover: *Tony Nguyen proudly displaying a northern pike. Photo by Ryan Sutherland.*

Send us your photos! *Did you enjoy your time fishing in Yukon waters? Want to be on next year's cover? Send your pictures to fisheries@gov.yk.ca.*



Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

ISSN 1712 8846

Table of Contents

Important Information

Important Changes for 2015–2016	2
Index of Waters with Special Rules	2
Where is this Waterbody?.....	4

Licences

Angling Licences.....	6
Sport Fishing Licences.....	9
Fishing in National Parks.....	10

Fishing Regulations

Fishery Closures	11
Limits for General Waters.....	12
Limits for Conservation Waters.....	14
Limits for Special Management Waters.....	16
Limits for Stocked Lakes.....	26
General Regulations and Definitions	27

Helpful Information

Status of Fish in Yukon.....	35
Live Release Angling	37
How to Release Fish Unharmed	39
Public Rights & Responsibilities on First Nation Land	40
Subsistence Fishing by First Nations.....	41
Health Benefits & Risks of Eating Yukon Fish	42
Stop Aquatic Invasive Species	44
Ice Fishing.....	45
Catching Tagged Fish.....	46
Southern Lakes Lake Trout Study.....	47
Spawning Time — Time Out	49
Drainages and Species.....	50
Freshwater Fish of Yukon.....	51
Salmon of Yukon.....	54
The Life of a Lake Trout	55
How Old are Yukon Lake Trout?	56
Lake Productivity	57
Bear Safety.....	58
Boating Safety.....	59
For More Information	60

**Cette publication est disponible en français.
Diese Broschüre gibt es auch in deutscher Sprache.**

Important Changes for 2015 – 2016

Waters with new regulations

After an extensive review, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board has made several recommendations for changes to fisheries regulations. These changes are to come into effect April 1, 2015.

Snafu Lakes: all lake trout must be released. See **page 25**.

Tarfu Lakes: all lake trout must be released. See **page 25**.

Pine Lake: all lake trout must be released. See **page 25**.

Louise (Jackson) Lake is now a Special Management Water (C). See **page 17**.

Family Fishing Weekend, July 3 – 6, 2015

Yukon residents may fish without an angling licence during the annual Family Fishing Weekend, July 3–6, 2015. Anglers must still comply with all fishing regulations, including daily limits and possession limits, and be able to produce proof of residency if asked by a Conservation or Fishery Officer. Yukon residents fishing for salmon are still required to possess both an angling licence and a Salmon Catch Card during this period.

Index of Waters with Special Rules

**For lakes and rivers not listed here,
limits for General Waters (page 12) apply.**

Aishihik Lake	14	Caribou Lake	17-C
Aishihik River (East).....	18-E	Carcross Foot Bridge	10
Alligator Lake.....	14	Chadburn Lake	17-C
Atlin Lake.....	16-A	Chain Lakes.....	14
Bennett Lake	14	Claire Lake.....	14
Big Salmon Lake.....	14	Coghlan Lake.....	14
Big Salmon River (Quiet Lake to Big Salmon Lake, incl Sandy Lake)	14	Crescent Lake.....	18-D
Blanchard River	21-I	Dalton Post	21-I
Blind Creek.....	23-J	Dezadeash Lake	17-B
Blind Lakes.....	14	Drury Lake.....	14
Braeburn Lake.....	17-C	Dū Ese (Poison) Lake.....	14
		Duo Lake.....	17-C
		East Aishihik River	18-E

Ethel Lake	14	Poison Lake	
Fire Lake	14	(see Dū Ese Lake)	14
Fish farming lakes	11	Quiet Lake	14
Fishing Branch Ecological Reserve and adjacent settlement lands	25-L	Quill Creek	18-D
Frances Lake	14	Rainbow Lake	18-D
Frank Lake	14	Rancheria River & tribs.	16-A
Frederick Lake	14	Sandy Lake	
Frenchman Lake	14	(see Big Salmon River)	14
Granite Creek	18-D	Sekulmun Lake	14
Granite Lake	18-D	Sekulmun River	
Glenlyon Lake	14	(see Tahgah River)	14
Grass Lakes	14	Six Mile River	20-G
Jackson Lake		Smart River	23-J
(see Louise Lake)	17-C	Snafu Lakes	25-K
Jim Cook Lake (see Tēle Lake)	14	Stocked lakes	26
Jo-Jo Lake	14	Surprise Lake	11
Kathleen Lake	10	Swift River & tribs.	16-A
Kathleen River	18-D	Tagish Bridge	10, 20-G
Klondike River	23-J	Tagish Lake	
Kluane Lake	14	(incl. Windy Arm)	14
Klukshu Lake	21-I	Tagish (Six Mile) River	20-G
Klukshu River	21-I	Tahgah (Sekulmun) River	14
Laidlaw Lake	16-A	Takhanne River	21-I
Lake Laberge	11	Takhini River	23-J
Lapie River	23-J	Tarfu Lakes	25-K
Louise (Jackson) Lake	17-C	Tatchun River (Creek)	23-J
Little Atlin Lake	17-C	Tatlmāin Lake	
Little Fox Lakes	17-C	(see Tetl'āmān)	9, 20-H
Little Wolverine Lake	14	Tatshenshini River	21-I
Long Lake (near Aishihik)	14	Tay Lake	14
Lower Kathleen Lake	18-D	Tchawsahmon Lake	14
Lubbock River	18-D	Tēle (Jim Cook) Lake	14
Mandanna Lake	19-F	Ten Mile Lake	14
Marsh Lake	14	Teslin Lake	20-G
McEvoy Lake	14	Teslin River at	
McIntyre Creek	23-J	Johnsons Crossing	18-D
McLean Lakes	18-E	Teslin River	23-J
Minto Lake	17-C	Tetl'āmān (Tatlmāin Lake)	
Morley Lake	14	9, 20-H
Morley River	23-J	Tincup Lake	14
Morris Lake	14	Transboundary waters	8
Nares River (Carcross Bridge)	10	Twin Lakes	17-C
Nesketahin Lake	21-I	Village Creek	21-I
Nisutlin River Delta NWA	29	Watson Lake	17-C
North Lakes	14	Wellesley Lake	9, 17-C
Nūsgu Xhâdi		Whitefish Lakes	14
(Wolverine Lake)	14	Windy Arm	14
Otter Pond	18-E	Wolf Creek	23-J
Pine Lake	25-K	Wolf Lake	14
Pleasant Lake	14	Wolverine Lake	
		(see Nūsgu Xhâdi)	14
		Yukon River	23-J

Where is this Waterbody?

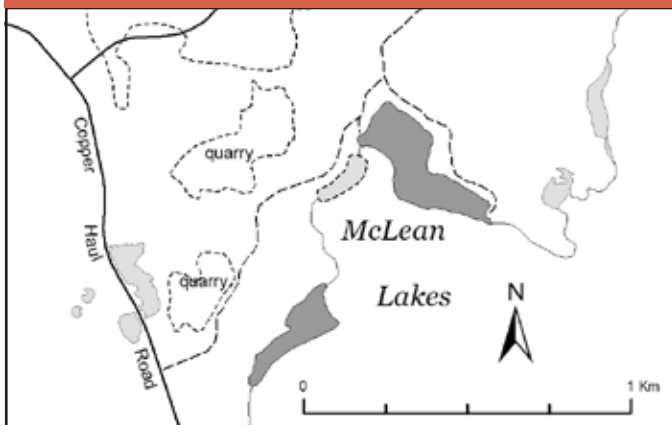
Location and names of lakes and rivers

With the exception of the following lakes, the location of all the lakes listed in this summary can be found in the *Gazeteer of Yukon* available on the Department of Tourism and Culture's website at

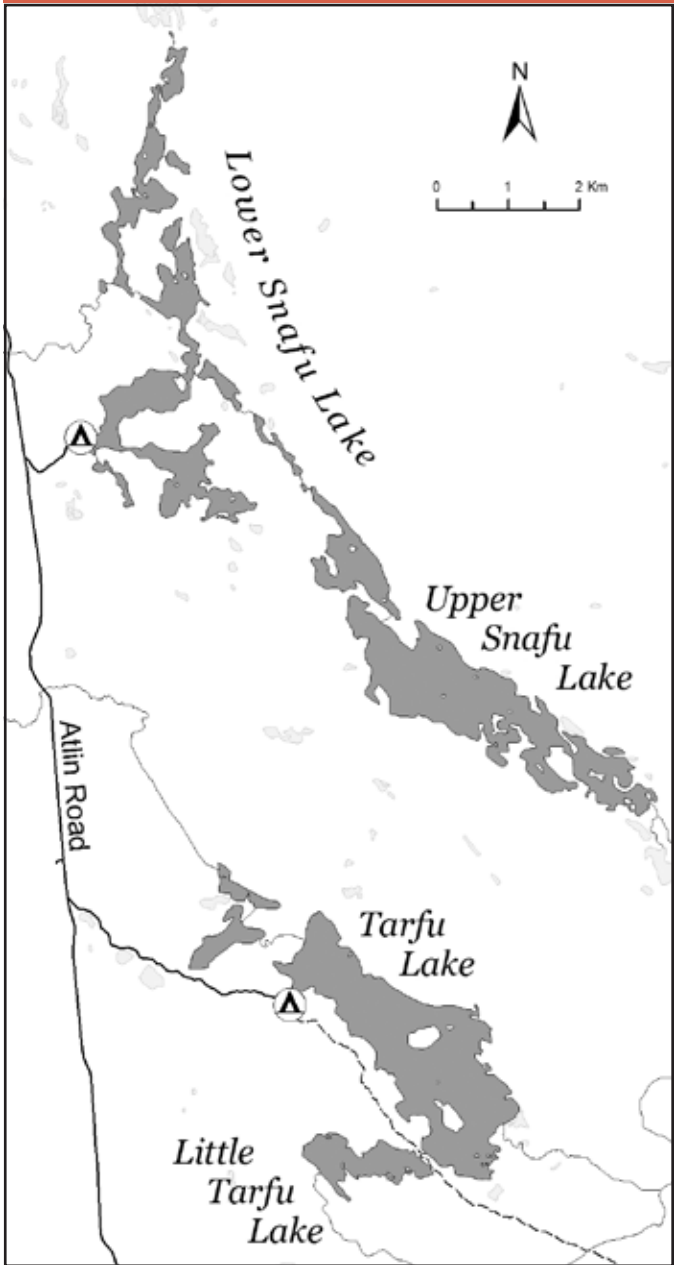
www.tc.gov.yk.ca/geo_placenames.html

Caribou Lake	60°31'32"N, 134°16'02"W
Little Wolverine Lake	61°25'44"N, 130°09'59"W
Long Lake	61°20'54"N, 136°41'00"W
McLean Lakes	60°39'48"N, 135°05'15"W
	60°39'33"N, 135°05'34"W
Nûsgu Xhâdi (Wolverine Lake)	61°27'33"N, 130°15'33"W
Otter Pond	61°04'30"N, 136°59'26"W
Pine Lake	60°49'06"N, 137°26'58"W
Pleasant Lake	61°38'06"N, 133°23'22"W
Snafu Lakes	
Lower Snafu Lake	60°09'06"N, 133°47'08"W
Upper Snafu Lake	60°06'09"N, 133°43'00"W
Tarfu Lakes	
includes Tarfu Lake,	
Little Tarfu Lake	60°02'34"N, 133°44'08"W
and unnamed lake	60°04'27"N, 133°46'05"W
Ten Mile Lake	61°29'44"N, 135°36'00"W
Twin Lakes	61°41'53"N, 135°56'06"W
Whitefish Lakes	61°14'33"N, 129°58'02"W
	61°10'50"N, 129°59'33"W
	61°09'20"N, 129°59'24"W
Wolf Lake	60°39'26"N, 131°40'24"W

MCLEAN LAKES



SNAFU AND TARFU LAKES



* Fishing regulations for McLean Lakes, Snafu Lakes, and Tarfu Lakes apply to all the shaded waters identified on the maps.

Angling Licences

To fish in Yukon, you must have a current angling licence. Licences are valid from **April 1 to March 31**. If you want to fish for salmon, you must also have a valid Yukon Salmon Conservation Catch Card (except when fishing for salmon in stocked lakes and for kokanee). Catch Cards are valid from **April 1 to November 30**.

Licence Fee

(GST extra)

	Season	6 day	1 day	Salmon
Yukon/Alaska* resident (16 – 65)	\$ 15	n/a	n/a	\$ 10
Canadian resident	\$ 25	\$ 15	\$ 10	\$ 20
Non-resident	\$ 35	\$ 20	\$ 10	\$ 50
Senior – Yukon resident (65 and older)	Free	n/a	n/a	Free
Minor (youth under 16)	Free	n/a	n/a	Free
First Nation/Inuk	Free	n/a	n/a	**
Replacement licence	\$ 2	n/a	n/a	\$ 5

*Alaska residents must produce a current Alaska resident sport fishing licence and government-issued photo identification.

See **page 7 and 41.

Carry it with you

You must sign your licence (and Catch Card if you have one), carry it on your person when angling, and produce it when asked to do so by a Conservation or Fishery Officer. If your licence or Catch Card is lost or destroyed, it must be replaced.

Where to purchase

Angling licences and Catch Cards are available at Environment Yukon offices, the Fisheries and Oceans Canada office in Whitehorse, and many highway lodges, sporting goods stores and convenience stores.

Starting in 2015, Yukon angling licences and Salmon Conservation Catch Cards will also be available online. Once the systems are complete, self-serve online licensing will be available from:

- ▶ Angling licences: www.env.gov.yk.ca.
- ▶ Salmon Conservation Catch Cards:
www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/licence-permis/index-eng.html.

Licences for minors (youth under 16)

Minors must abide by the fishing regulations, just like other anglers. All minors are required to have their own Salmon Conservation Catch Card to fish for salmon. Minors can obtain a Yukon angling licence and Salmon Conservation Catch Card free of charge. They are entitled to their own salmon catch limits if they have their own angling licence. If they are fishing under the angling licence of an accompanying licence holder, then their salmon catch is counted as part of the catch limit of that licence holder.

Yukon minors may fish with or without an angling licence, are entitled to their own limits and can fish on their own without being accompanied by an adult licence holder.

Canadian and non-resident minors may fish without a Yukon angling licence but must be accompanied by an adult licence holder. Their catch is counted as part of the limits of that licence holder. They may, and are encouraged to, obtain their own Yukon angling licence free of charge. In this case, they are entitled to their own limits and do not need to be accompanied by another licence holder.

Licences for seniors (65 and older)

All seniors must have a valid Yukon angling licence (and Catch Card if fishing for salmon). Seniors who are Yukon residents may obtain a licence and Catch Card free of charge. Canadian resident and non-resident seniors pay the applicable fee.

Licences for First Nation and Inuk anglers

First Nation anglers who want to fish outside their Traditional Territory must possess a current Yukon angling licence (and Catch Card if fishing for salmon), unless they have written consent from the First Nation with authority in the Traditional Territory in which they plan to fish.

! One licence, one angler

It is unlawful to use another person's angling licence or Salmon Conservation Catch Card, or allow another person to use yours.

! Common Offences

Common offences under the *Yukon Territory Fishery Regulations* may result in the following fines:

Fishing without a licence	\$ 100
Exceed the daily catch limit	\$ 100 plus \$ 50/fish to a max. of \$ 1000
Exceed the possession limit	\$ 100 plus \$ 50/fish to a max. of \$ 1000
Fishing with a barbed hook on waters regulated as barbless	\$ 100
Fishing by snagging (no permit)	\$ 250
Fail to record salmon on Salmon Conservation Catch Cards	\$ 100
Fail to produce Salmon Conservation Catch Card	\$ 100
Fishing during a closed time or in a closed area results in a Notice to Appear in Court.	

Yukon-B.C. transboundary waters

Both Yukon and B.C. angling licences are valid on all parts of the following transboundary waters: Bennett, Laidlaw, Morley, Tagish and Teslin lakes (not including inlet or outlet streams); Rancheria River, Swift River and their tributaries.

Know where you are in transboundary waters! You must follow the regulations of the jurisdiction you are in, including tackle restrictions. **The use of fish (dead or alive) or parts thereof for bait is prohibited in B.C. waters.** See **page 27** for Yukon bait regulations.

Atlin Lake and the Tatshenshini River system are not designated transboundary waters. To fish on these waters in B.C., you must have a B.C. angling licence and must follow the B.C. regulations. More information can be found in the *B.C. Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis* (www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations/#Synopsis) and the *B.C. Fresh Water Salmon Supplement* (www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/index-eng.html).

Using the Salmon Conservation Catch Card

Immediately upon catching a salmon, you must record on the Catch Card the date, location, species, sex, presence of tags, presence of adipose fin, and the type of gear

with which the salmon was caught. You must record this information even if you release the salmon. You must return your Salmon Conservation Catch Card to Fisheries and Oceans Canada by November 30 or you may be subject to a \$100 fine. For more information contact Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Yukon Transboundary Rivers Area office (see **page 60**).

Sport Fishing Licences

Fishing in certain waters or by means other than angling requires an additional sport fishing licence. Licences are free and include space to record your catch. You must report these catches to Environment Yukon. You can obtain sport fishing licences from any Environment Yukon office or other locations noted below.

Anglers must have their Yukon angling licence with them to be issued the additional licence.

It is unlawful to fish in these locations or under these conditions without a specific sport fishing licence:

Tetl'ámān (Tatmain Lake)

If you plan to fish in Tetl'ámān you must first obtain a sport fishing licence from any Environment Yukon office or from a licence vendor in Pelly Crossing.

See **page 20** for more information.

Wellesley Lake

If you plan to fish in Wellesley Lake you must first obtain a sport fishing licence from any Environment Yukon office or from a licence vendor in Beaver Creek.

If you are returning to Alaska after a fishing trip to Wellesley Lake, you can leave your completed declaration at the Beaver Creek – 1202 Motor Inn.

See **page 17** for more information.

Dipnetting for lake whitefish and suckers

To dipnet lake whitefish or suckers in specified waters you must first obtain a sport fishing licence from any Environment Yukon office.

Set lining for burbot

To use set lines to fish for burbot in specified waters you must first obtain a sport fishing licence from any Environment Yukon office. Set lines may only be used during the ice-covered periods.

For more information on how to use set lines, see Environment Yukon's website at www.env.gov.yk.ca/fishing. Look under the heading "How to Catch Yukon Fish."

Fishing derbies

Please contact the Fisheries Section in Whitehorse at 867-667-5721 (toll-free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5721) for licensing information for fishing derbies.

Snagging cisco for bait off the Tagish Bridge or Carcross Foot Bridge (Nares River)

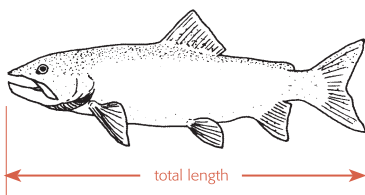
If you plan to snag cisco for bait you must first obtain a sport fishing licence from any Environment Yukon office. These bridges are the only locations in Yukon where snagging is allowed and cisco is the only species that may be snagged. The daily limit of five cisco applies. Cisco must be killed before being used as bait as it is unlawful to use live fish as bait in Yukon.

Fishing in National Parks

The Yukon angling licence is NOT VALID in **Kluane, Ivavik or Vuntut National Parks**. If you plan to fish in any of these parks, you must first obtain a **national park fishing licence**. Anglers fishing in Kluane National Park can get a licence from the Kluane National Park and Reserve Visitor Centre in Haines Junction or at the Parks Canada office in Whitehorse. For more information phone 867-634-7250.

? How long is my fish?

The easiest way to measure a fish is to mark the size limits on a stick and then hold it in the water beside the fish. You can also pick up a free size-limits sticker for your boat from any Environment Yukon office.



All fish less than 20 cm (8") in length, caught by angling, must be returned to the water in the least harmful manner.

Fishery Closures

Though you can fish in most waters in Yukon at almost all times of year, there are certain places where fishing is prohibited. Knowing and abiding by these regulations is your responsibility. For more information and to see maps, visit the Fishery Closures webpage at www.env.gov.yk.ca/hunting-fishing-trapping/fisheryclosures.

Short notice closures (salmon-related)

Salmon management is a federal responsibility. During periods when lower-than-expected salmon runs occur, short notice closures may be implemented. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) advertises these closures locally, but anglers should check for the most recent information on closures by contacting DFO at (867) 393-6722 or by checking the Fishery Notice website:

www-ops2.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fns-sap/index-eng.cfm.

Anglers can also sign up to receive closure notices by email.

Fish farming lakes closed to angling

A number of fishless pothole lakes are licensed by the Department of Environment for fish farming. These lakes are closed to angling. There are no other special restrictions on the use of these public waters. The Fishery Closures webpage has a list of these lakes and their geographic co-ordinates.

Some other fish farming lakes are not listed, but may also be closed. These will have official public closure notices posted at the lake. It's important to remember that these lakes were fishless prior to being stocked. The fish have been stocked by private individuals at their own expense, after going through a rigorous approval process. If you are unsure whether or not a pothole lake has been privately stocked, contact the Department of Environment at 867-667-5721 (toll free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5721).

Lands closed to fishing from shore

Some lands owned by Yukon First Nations are closed to public camping and fishing from shore. See maps and notes on the Fishery Closures website.

Limits for General Waters

The following limits apply to all waters with the exceptions noted under Conservation Waters, Special Management Waters and Stocked Lakes.

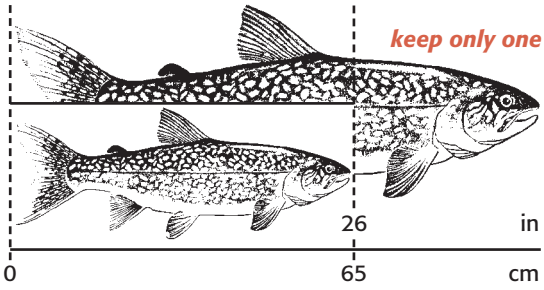
Check the index on page 2 to find out if special catch limits or other regulations apply to the waterbody in which you plan to fish.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Size Limit
Lake trout	3	6	Only one may be longer than 65 cm (26").
Bull trout	2	4	Only one may be longer than 50 cm (20").
Arctic grayling	5	10	Only one may be longer than 40 cm (16").
Northern pike	5	10	Only one may be longer than 75 cm (30").
Salmon (aggregate limit)	2* Only one may be chinook salmon.	4* Two may be chinook salmon.	
Kokanee salmon**	5	10	
Arctic char	2	4	
Rainbow trout	5	10	
Dolly Varden	5	10	
Whitefish	5	10	
Inconnu (sheefish)	1	2	
Cisco	5	10	
Burbot	10	20	
All other species	5	10	

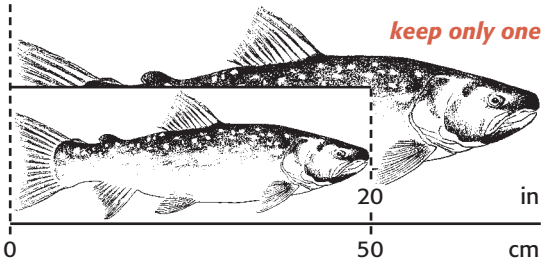
* Salmon limits may be varied in season. See short notice closures on **page 11**.

** Daily and possession limits for kokanee salmon are in addition to Salmon (aggregate limit).

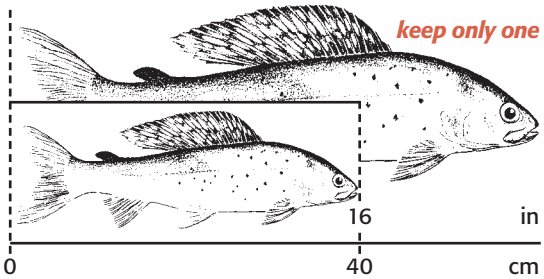
Lake trout: Limits for General Waters



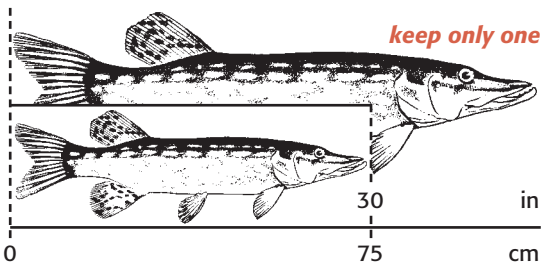
Bull trout: Limits for General Waters



Arctic grayling: Limits for General Waters



Northern pike: Limits for General Waters



Limits for Conservation Waters

Conservation Waters are protected for different reasons: some have stocks in need of recovery, some have abundant stocks that are managed to maintain high quality angling opportunities, and some are vulnerable to over-exploitation because of their easy access and proximity to communities.

Conservation Waters regulations apply to the following waters:

- ▶ Aishihik Lake
- ▶ Alligator Lake
- ▶ Bennett Lake
- ▶ Big Salmon Lake
- ▶ Big Salmon River from Quiet Lake to Big Salmon Lake, incl. Sandy Lake
- ▶ Blind Lakes
- ▶ Chain Lakes
- ▶ Claire Lake
- ▶ Coghlan Lake
- ▶ Drury Lake
- ▶ Dū Ese (Poison) Lake
- ▶ Ethel Lake
- ▶ Fire Lake
- ▶ Frances Lake
- ▶ Frank Lake
- ▶ Frederick Lake
- ▶ Frenchman Lake
- ▶ Glenlyon Lake
- ▶ Grass Lakes
- ▶ Jo-Jo Lake
- ▶ Kluane Lake*
- ▶ Little Wolverine Lake
- ▶ Long Lake (near Aishihik)
- ▶ Marsh Lake
- ▶ McEvoy Lake
- ▶ Morley Lake
- ▶ Morris Lake
- ▶ North Lakes
- ▶ Nûsgu Xhâdi (Wolverine Lake; off Hwy #4)
- ▶ Pleasant Lake
- ▶ Quiet Lake
- ▶ Sandy Lake
- ▶ Sekulmun Lake
- ▶ Tagish Lake incl. Windy Arm
- ▶ Tahgah (Sekulmun) River
- ▶ Tay Lake
- ▶ Tchawsahmon Lake
- ▶ Tēle (Jim Cook) Lake
- ▶ Ten Mile Lake
- ▶ Tincup Lake
- ▶ Whitefish Lakes
- ▶ Wolf Lake

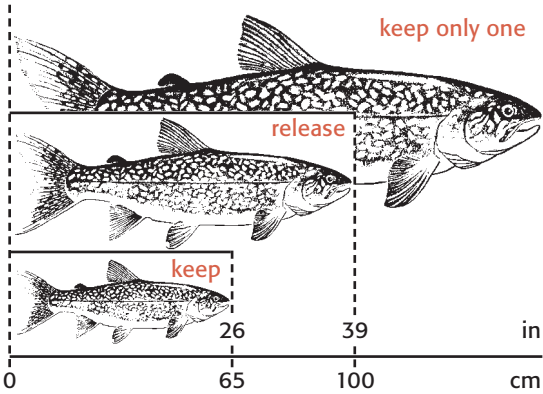


Only barbless hooks are permitted.

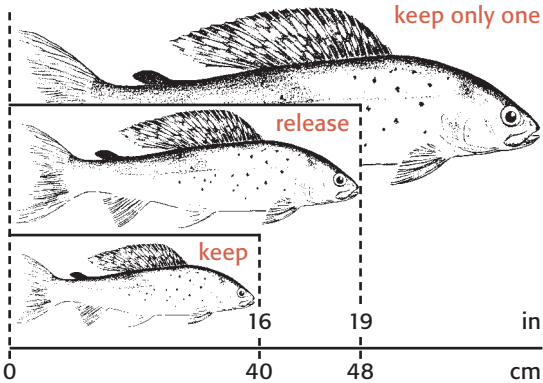
Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Size Limit
Lake trout	2	2	All lake trout 65–100 cm (26–39") in length must be released. Only one may be longer than 100 cm (39").
Arctic grayling	4	4	All grayling 40–48 cm (16–19") in length must be released. Only one may be longer than 48 cm (19").
Northern pike	4	4	All pike 75–105 cm (30 to 41") in length must be released. Only one may be longer than 105 cm (41").
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 12-13 apply.		

* A federal regulation change process requiring mandatory use of barbless hooks is underway for Kluane Lake; anglers are requested to use barbless hooks, and will be required to do so once this regulation is in place.

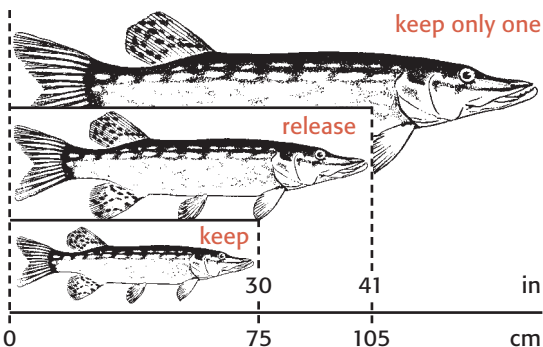
Lake trout: Limits for Conservation Waters



Arctic grayling: Limits for Conservation Waters



Northern pike: Limits for Conservation Waters



Limits for Special Management Waters

Special Management Waters are given extra protection for a variety of reasons such as declining or depressed stocks or species of interest. These cases are often identified through community management planning processes, land claims, Renewable Resources Councils or other means. Waters in this list are grouped into categories for simplicity (A–L).

Before you fish in any of the following waters, take the time to understand the special limits and regulations that apply.

- ▶ Atlin Lake.....A
- ▶ Braeburn LakeC
- ▶ Caribou Lake.....C
- ▶ Chadburn Lake.....C
- ▶ Dezadeash Lake.....B
- ▶ Duo LakeC
- ▶ East Aishihik River.....E
- ▶ Fishing branch Ecological Reserve and adjacent Settlement Lands.....L
- ▶ Jackson Lake (see Louise Lake)C
- ▶ Kathleen River system.....D
 - Crescent Lake
 - Granite Lake
 - Granite Creek
 - Kathleen River
 - Lower Kathleen Lake
 - Quill Creek
 - Rainbow Lake
- ▶ Laidlaw LakeA
- ▶ Little Atlin LakeC
- ▶ Little Fox Lakes.....C
- ▶ Louise (Jackson) Lake.....C
- ▶ Lubbock River.....D
- ▶ Mandanna Lake.....F
- ▶ McLean LakesE
- ▶ Minto Lake.....C
- ▶ Pine Lake.....K
- ▶ Rancheria River and tributaries.....A
- ▶ Snafu LakesK
- ▶ Swift River and tributaries.....A
- ▶ Tagish Bridge.....G
- ▶ Tagish (Six Mile) RiverG
- ▶ Tarfu Lakes.....K
- ▶ Tetl'ámān (Tatlain Lake)....H
- ▶ Tatshenshini River and select tributaries.....I
 - Blanchard River
 - Klukshu River
 - Takhanne River
 - Tatshenshini River
 - Village Creek
- ▶ Teslin LakeG
- ▶ Teslin River at Johnsons Crossing.....D
- ▶ Twin Lakes.....C
- ▶ Watson Lake.....C
- ▶ Wellesley Lake.....C
- ▶ Yukon River system and select tributaries.....J
 - Blind Creek
 - Klondike River
 - Lapie River
 - McIntyre Creek
 - Morley River
 - Smart River
 - Takhini River
 - Tatchun River
 - Teslin River
 - Yukon River
 - Wolf Creek

A Atlin Lake, Laidlaw Lake, Rancheria River and tributaries, Swift River and tributaries

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Size Limit
Arctic grayling	3	6	
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 12-13 apply.		

B Dezadeash Lake



Only single-pointed barbless hooks are permitted.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Size Limit
Lake trout	2	2	All lake trout 65–100 cm (26–39") in length must be released. Only one may be longer than 100 cm (39 in).
Arctic grayling	4	4	All grayling 40–48 cm (16–19") in length must be released. Only one may be longer than 48 cm (19").
Northern pike	4	4	All pike 75–105 cm (30–41") in length must be released. Only one may be longer than 105 cm (41").
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 12-13 apply.		

C Braeburn Lake, Caribou Lake, Chadburn Lake, Duo Lake, Little Atlin Lake, Little Fox Lakes, Louise (Jackson) Lake*, Minto Lake, Twin Lakes, Watson Lake, Wellesley Lake**



Only barbless hooks are permitted.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Size Limit
Lake trout	1	1	All lake trout longer than 65 cm (26") must be released.
Arctic grayling	2	2	All grayling longer than 40 cm (16") must be released.
Northern pike	4	4	All pike longer than 75 cm (30") must be released.
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 12-13 apply.		

*A federal regulation change process, requiring mandatory use of barbless hooks, is underway for Louise (Jackson) Lake; anglers are requested to use barbless hooks and will be required to do so once this regulation is in place.

Additional sport fishing licence required for Wellesley Lake. See **page 9.

D Kathleen River system (Granite, Lower Kathleen, Rainbow and Crescent lakes, Granite Creek, Kathleen River and Quill Creek outside Kluane National Park), **Lubbock River, Teslin River at Johnsons Crossing** (from the outlet at Teslin Lake to 1 km below the confluence of Squanga Creek)



Only single-pointed barbless hooks are permitted.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Size Limit
Lake trout	1	1	All lake trout longer than 65 cm (26") must be released.
Arctic grayling	2	2	All grayling longer than 40 cm (16") must be released.
Northern pike	4	4	All pike longer than 75 cm (30") must be released.
Rainbow trout	All rainbow trout must be released.		
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 12-13 apply.		

E East Aishihik River (including Otter Pond), **McLean Lakes***



Only single-pointed barbless hooks are permitted.

Species	
Rainbow trout	All rainbow trout must be released.
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 12-13 apply.

**Rainbow trout is the only game fish species in McLean Lakes.*

F Mandanna Lake



Only barbless hooks are permitted.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Size Limit
Lake trout	All lake trout must be released.		
Arctic grayling	4	4	All grayling 40–48 cm (16–19") in length must be released. Only one may be longer than 48 cm (19").
Northern pike	4	4	All pike 75–105 cm (30–41") in length must be released. Only one may be longer than 105 cm (41").
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 12-13 apply.		

! Must-know definitions

Daily limit: the number of fish that may be caught and retained in a 24-hour period from one midnight to the next midnight. Also known as daily catch limit.

Possession: having an item in your personal custody, the custody of another person, or in any other place for the benefit of yourself or anyone else.

Possession limit: the total number of fish that an individual may have in his or her possession, including the freezer at home.

G Tagish (Six Mile) River, Tagish Bridge, Teslin Lake



Only barbless hooks are permitted.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Size Limit
Lake trout	1	1	<p>Tagish River: all lake trout over 65 cm (26") in length must be released.</p> <p>Tagish Bridge: size limits do not apply. Keep the first lake trout you catch.</p> <p>Teslin Lake: all lake trout 65–100 cm (26–39") in length must be released. Only one may be longer than 100 cm (39").</p>
Arctic grayling	4	4	All grayling 40–48 cm (16–19") in length must be released. Only one may be longer than 48 cm (19").
Northern pike	4	4	All pike 75–105 cm (30–41") in length must be released. Only one may be longer than 105 cm (41").
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 12-13 apply.		

H Tetl'ámān* (Tatmain Lake)


Species	
All fish species	Limits for General Waters on pages 12-13 apply.
Aggregate catch limit including released fish	You must stop fishing after catching five fish in one day, even if some or all of the fish were released.

*Additional sport fishing licence required for Tetl'ámān.
See **page 9**.


Tatshenshini River and select tributaries (Blanchard River, Klukshu River, Takhanne River, Tatshenshini River, Village Creek)

Species	
All fish species	Limits for General Waters on pages 12-13 apply.

Blanchard River, Klukshu River, Takhanne River upstream of Million Dollar Falls, Tatshenshini River, Village Creek

 **June 1 to November 30:** only single-pointed barbless hooks with a gap of less than 20 mm (3/4") are permitted. See map for additional restrictions on fishing.






Takhanne River downstream of Million Dollar Falls

 **June 1 to November 30:** only single-pointed barbless hooks with a gap of less than 20mm (3/4") are permitted.

 **Year round:** the only lure permitted is an artificial fly.

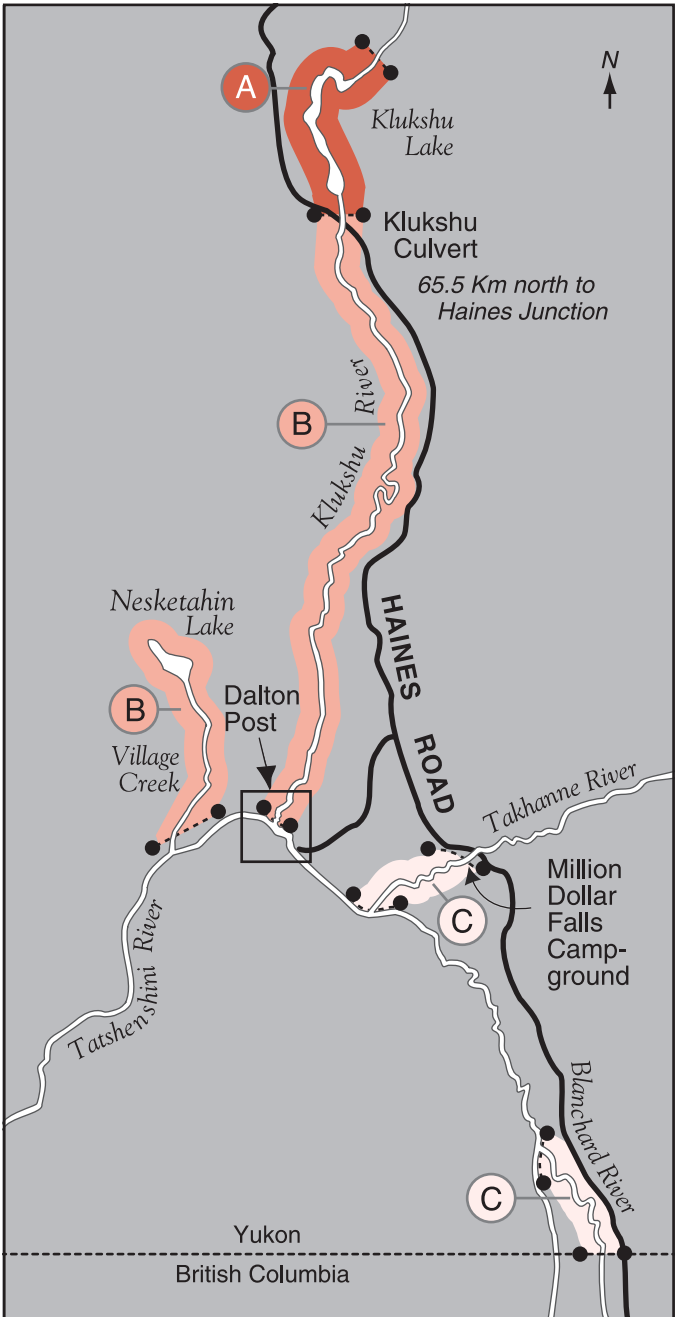
Fishing Restrictions in the Tatshenshini River System

Waters of the Tatshenshini River system are open to fishing with the following exceptions (see maps on pages 22 and 23):

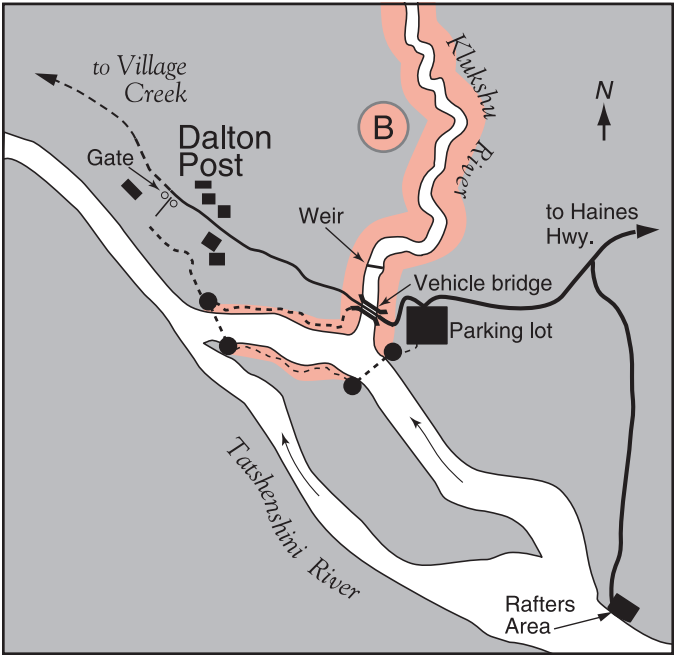
-  All salmon must be released
-  Closed to all angling from **June 15 to November 30**
-  All salmon must be released from **July 24 to August 31**
-  Boundary marker: (white triangle sign) 

The Tatshenshini River and its tributaries are not transboundary waters. To fish these waters in British Columbia, you need a B.C. angling licence and must follow the B.C. regulations. See **page 8** for more information.

TATSHENSHINI/DALTON POST FISHING AREA



DALTON POST - DETAILED VIEW



J Yukon River and select tributaries
 (Blind Creek, Klondike River, Lapie River, McIntyre Creek, Morley River, Smart River, Takhini River, Tatchun River, Teslin River, Yukon River, Wolf Creek)

Species	
All fish species	Limits for General Waters on pages 12-13 apply.

Blind Creek, Klondike River, Lapie River, Morley River, Smart River, Teslin River, Yukon River

J July 1 to October 15: only single-pointed barbless hooks with a gap of less than 20 mm (3/4") are permitted.

Yukon River from Whitehorse dam 2.5 km downstream to the Robert Campbell Bridge

J July 15 to September 30: only artificial flies may be used.


Wolf Creek

All salmon must be released.

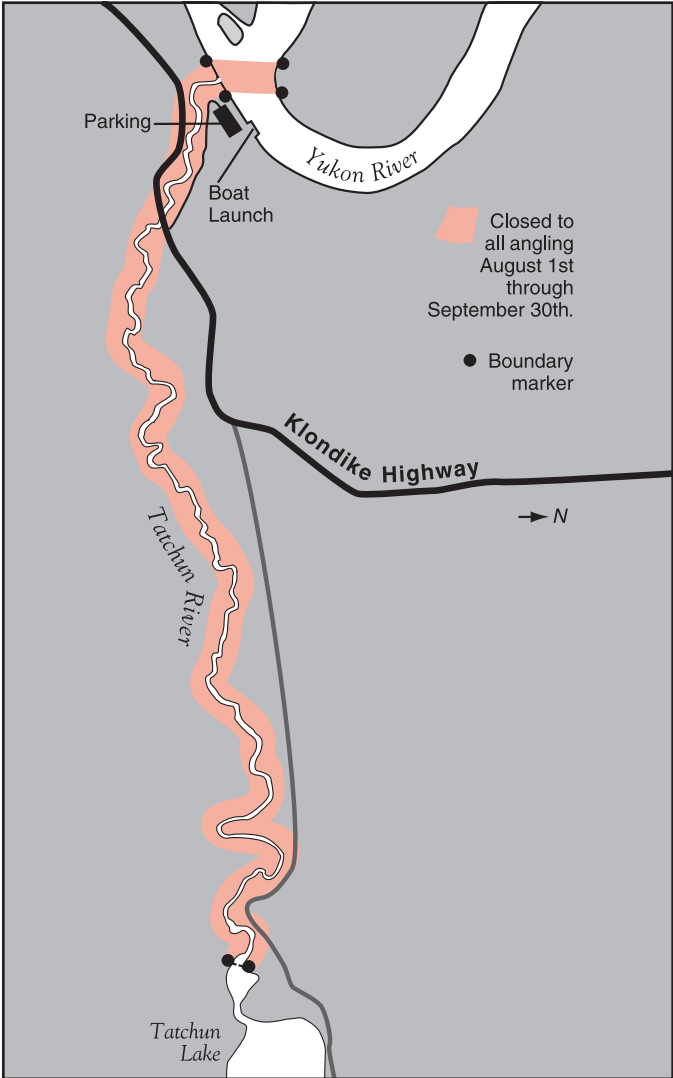
McIntyre Creek (from the Alaska Highway to the Yukon River)

All salmon must be released.

Tatchun River (and Yukon River at mouth)

- **August 1 to September 30:** no fishing is permitted in Tatchun River including the Yukon River at the mouth of the Tatchun River as marked by boundary signs. 

TATCHUN RIVER – AREA 18 ON CATCH CARDS



K Pine Lake*, Snafu Lakes, Tarfu Lakes



Only barbless hooks are permitted.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Size Limit
Lake trout	All lake trout must be released.		
Arctic grayling	2	2	All grayling longer than 40 cm (16") must be released.
Northern pike	4	4	All pike longer than 75 cm (30") must be released.
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 12-13 apply.		

**A federal regulation change process requiring mandatory use of single barbless hooks is underway for Pine Lake. Anglers are requested to use single barbless hooks and will be required to do so once this regulation is in place.*

L Fishing Branch Ecological Reserve and adjacent Settlement Lands

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Size Limit
Arctic grayling	1	1	
All other species	Limits for General Waters on pages 12-13 apply.		

Limits for Stocked Lakes

The Department of Environment works closely with the Yukon Fish and Game Association to provide easily accessible, high-quality fishing opportunities near many communities .

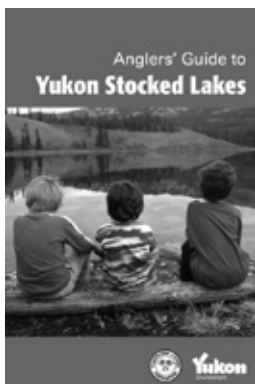
Nineteen lakes are stocked with rainbow trout, Arctic char, kokanee salmon, or bull trout:

- Cantlie Lake
- Chadden Lake
- Coffee Lake
- Fisheye Lake
- Gloria Lake 2
- Haldane Lake
- Hidden Lakes 1 & 3
- Hour Lake
- Judas Lake
- Long Lake (near Whitehorse)
- Lucky Lake
- Marcella Lake
- Rantin Lake
- Salmo Lake
- Scout Lake
- Veronica Lake
- Whiskers Lake
- Wrong Lake

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Size Limit
Rainbow trout	5	10	
Bull trout	2	4	Only one bull trout may be longer than 50 cm (20").
Arctic char	5	10	
Kokanee salmon	5	10	
Chinook salmon	5	10	

For more information and the location of a stocked lake near you, pick up your copy of the *Angler's Guide to Yukon Stocked Lakes* from an Environment Yukon office or download a copy from www.env.gov.yk.ca/brochures.

Remember! You need a current angling licence to fish in a stocked lake.



General Regulations and Definitions

Angling

Angling is fishing with a hook and line whether a rod is used or not. It does not include fishing with a set line.

Artificial fly

An artificial fly is a hook that is dressed only with fur, feathers, textiles or tinsel wire, and does not have a spinning device or external weight attached.

Attending your line

It is unlawful to leave a fishing line unattended when angling. A line is attended when the angler is nearby and has a direct line of sight on it. This applies to open-water fishing and ice fishing.

Bait

It is unlawful to use any live fish as bait or possess any live fish for use as bait while fishing in Yukon waters. The head, tail, fins, bones or viscera of legal fish (but no edible parts of a fish, except cisco) may be used as bait.

Buying and selling fish

It is unlawful to buy, sell or barter fish caught under the authority of a Yukon angling licence or domestic fishing licence.

Dip nets

A dip net is a net that is hung on a ring or frame and has a closed bottom. It is unlawful to use a dip net to catch any species of fish, except lake whitefish or suckers, in which case a free sport fishing licence is required (see **page 9**).

Dressing and packaging your catch

It is unlawful to possess any fish, caught while fishing, that has been dressed or packed so that the fish cannot be readily identified, counted or measured, except at your place of ordinary residence.

Size limits apply to some species so you should leave the head and tail on until you get the fish to your permanent residence. We suggest you gut the fish immediately.

Fish size

The length of a fish is the distance from the tip of a fish's snout to the tip of its tail. All fish less than 20 cm (8") in length, caught by angling, must be returned to the water in the least harmful manner. For easy reference, this booklet is 20 cm (8") tall. See **page 10** to learn tricks for measuring fish.

Fishing

For the purposes of this booklet, "fishing" is fishing for recreational purposes. It includes fishing by angling, using a dip net, or using a set line. All other methods of taking fish are unlawful.

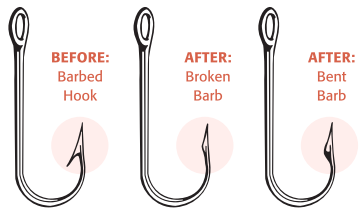
Hooks

A barbless hook is a hook without barbs, a hook that has all its barbs filed off or broken off, or a hook that has all its barbs bent down flat to the shaft.

A single hook is one hook with a single point.

A treble hook is one hook having three single points on a common shaft.

Some types of 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.



Barbless hooks are recommended on all Yukon waters, and are mandatory on all Conservation Waters, some Special Management Waters, and when fishing for salmon. The use of barbless hooks makes hook removal easier, reducing fish handling and injury. This increases the chances of survival for released fish.

Inspections by Conservation or Fishery Officers

You must show your angling licence, sport fishing licence(s) and Salmon Conservation Catch Card to a Conservation or Fishery Officer when asked to do so. You must also allow your catch and gear to be examined.

Limits

The daily limit (or daily catch limit) is the number of fish that may be legally caught and retained in a 24-hour period from one midnight to the next midnight.

The possession limit is the total number of fish that an individual may have in his or her possession, including the freezer at home. Possession is having an item in your personal custody, the custody of another person, or in any other place for the benefit of yourself or anyone else.

Mandatory release of some fish

If you catch a fish that the regulations do not allow you to keep, you must return it to the water in the least harmful manner—even if the fish seems to be fatally injured. It is an offence to be in possession of any fish in violation of the size or catch limits. At first thought, returning a fatally injured fish to the water doesn't seem to make sense.

However, if anglers are allowed to keep injured or dead fish in excess of or contrary to the limits, then the regulations cannot be enforced and the resource will suffer.

National Wildlife Area

Federal regulations prohibit and restrict many activities within National Wildlife Areas (NWAs), including the Nisutlin River Delta.

While Yukon angling licences and Salmon Conservation Catch Cards are valid within the Nisutlin River Delta NWA, it is unlawful to use lead sinkers. This federal regulation is necessary to protect waterfowl from lead poisoning.

For more information on prohibited and restricted activities within the Nisutlin River Delta NWA, contact the Canadian Wildlife Service at 867-393-6700 (Whitehorse) or toll free at 1-800-668-6767. To report NWA fish and wildlife violations, please call Environment Canada at 1-888-569-5656.



Number of lines and hooks

It is unlawful to use more than one line except while ice fishing, when two lines may be used. It is unlawful to use any gear on a line that is designed to catch more than one fish, except while fly-fishing when two artificial flies may be used, or when set lining when more than one hook per line may be used.

Set lines

A set line is a line with one or more hooks attached, left unattended in the water. Set lines may be used to fish for burbot in specified waters during the ice covered period. A free sport fishing licence is required (see **page 9**). The hook(s) on a set line must rest on the bottom of the river or lake, and lines must be checked at least every 30 hours. Other licence conditions apply.

Snagging

Snagging is catching or attempting to catch a fish with a hook in any manner other than by inducing it to take the hook in its mouth. It is unlawful to snag fish, with one exception (see "Snagging cisco for bait", **page 10**). All snagged fish, with the exception of those caught under this special licence, hooked in any part of the body other than in the mouth, must be released in the least harmful manner.

Transfer of live fish or other aquatic organisms



It is unlawful to bring live fish, uncured fish eggs, crayfish, leeches or other water creatures into Yukon or transfer live fish, fish eggs, or other aquatic organisms from one body of water to another without a permit.

Unlawful equipment

It is unlawful to use a landing gaff or spear while fishing or to be in possession of a landing gaff while fishing. It is unlawful to use a firearm to kill or injure fish. It is unlawful to use torches or artificial lights to attract fish.

Waste and abandonment

It is unlawful to abandon fish or waste any portion that is suitable for human consumption. (Releasing a fish you may not legally keep is not considered waste or abandonment.) The head, tail, fins, bones or viscera of legal fish do not have to be consumed.

! Whitehorse Rapids Fish Ladder Area

It is unlawful to fish within 25 metres (80') downstream of the Whitehorse Rapids Fish Ladder.

The Yukon government does not test products and services offered in the advertising section of this booklet. Consumer comments should be directed to the appropriate retailer.

Supplies and Services

Hougen's Sportslodge

Yukon's Outdoor Store since 1944.

305 Main Street, Whitehorse

(867) 668-2103

sales@sportslodge.ca

Yukon Yamaha

Lund boats, Yamaha outboards,
Legend boats. For your motorized
recreational enjoyment.

91311-B Alaska Hwy, Whitehorse

(867) 668-2101 1-800-661-0430

www.yukonyamaha.com

WHITEHORSE

YOUR ONE STOP SHOP

- licenses
- Tackle
- Canoes
- and more

HOURS:
Mon - Fri
8:30 - 9:00
Sat/Sun
8:30 - 6:00

18 Chilkoot Way, Whitehorse
(867) 668-3652
- On 2 Mile Hill -

CANADIAN TIRE

YUKON

if you spot a wildfire, please

REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY

1-888-798-FIRE

(3473)

When you call, be prepared to provide the following information:

- your name, immediate location and phone number
- the location of the fire in relation to prominent landmarks such as roads, lakes, creeks or highway kilometre posts
- any information known about people or property in immediate danger
- a description of the fire

Yukon
Community Services

The Whitehorse Rapids Fishway

Come see the chinook salmon and local freshwater fish travel through the longest wooden fishladder in the world.

Opening
June 1

633-5965 or
www.yukonenergy.ca

YUKON
ENERGY



Alpine Aviation for all your Fly-in needs.

WIR SPRECHEN DEUTSCH



867-668-7725

Operating Year Round on Floats, Wheels and Skis
www.alpineaviationyukon.com  alpineaviation@gmail.com



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada

Public Notice

Hazardous Materials Warning Within the Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area

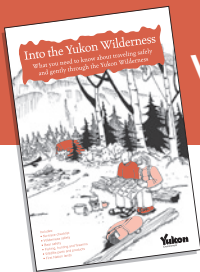
Users of the Nisutlin River Delta NWA, Yukon, should be aware of the potential hazards of military debris in this area. Nisutlin Bay, including the area within the Nisutlin River Delta NWA, is a former bombing range that was used by the Department of National Defence as a training area for aircraft. Military explosives and hazardous debris may remain in Nisutlin Bay and could cause serious injury or death.

**What to do if you see a suspicious object on land or in water:
Do not disturb it.**

Contact the RCMP at: **867-390-5555** (Teslin)
867-667-5555 (Whitehorse)

Do not use a cellular or satellite phone near the object.

To obtain more information on unexploded explosive ordnance, please visit the Department of National Defence's Unexploded Explosive Ordnance and Legacy Sites Program website at: www.uxocanada.forces.gc.ca



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

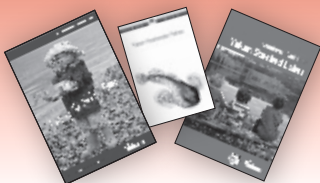
about travelling safely and gently
through the Yukon Wilderness

Available at all Environment Yukon offices
and Visitor Information Centres



COMPANION PUBLICATIONS

Pick up these fishing brochures at any Visitor Information
Centre or Environment Yukon office, or download them
from www.env.gov.yk.ca/brochures



If you operate and
all-terrain/snowmobile
within the City of Whitehorse
you need a Safe Card.

For more information please
visit www.whitehorse.ca
or call Bylaw Services
at 668-8317



Report

Report fishing violations as soon
as possible to Fisheries and Oceans
Canada by calling toll-free:

Observe, Record, Report

1-800-465-4336

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

CONSERVATION

EDUCATION



FISHING

HUNTING

Since 1945 the YFGA has been promoting sportsmanship, stewardship and long-term wildlife management through our many programs, services and activities.

Enter our competition to become Angler/Junior Angler of the Year

**Become a Member Today!
Find out more at yukonfga.ca**

Tel: (867) 667-4263 Email: yfga@klondiker.com
509 Strickland St., Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2K5



Status of Fish in Yukon

Have you wondered how the fish in your favourite lake are doing? All the information you want about the status of fish across the Yukon is now available in one place.

The Department of Environment report, *Status of Yukon Fisheries 2010*, provides a comprehensive look at fisheries management issues, threats to fisheries, the value of fishing in Yukon, and the health of fish stocks across the territory.

You can find this report on the Environment Yukon website at: www.env.gov.yk.ca/hunting-fishing-trapping/wherfish.

Use the status table

At the back of the report (and available as a separate download), the lake trout status table gives anglers a lake-by-lake assessment of lake trout populations in Yukon. Anglers can use this table to make informed decisions about where to fish. It's important to understand which fish stocks can sustain high harvest pressure and which stocks should only be fished lightly or occasionally. Get informed!

Your role in fisheries management

Do you have information on the status in particular lakes or rivers? Is the fishing better or worse than it used to be? Your comments can help fisheries managers focus their efforts on ensuring the sustainability of fish stocks for all Yukoners. Let us know your observations about fish stocks by emailing fisheries@gov.yk.ca or calling 867-667-5721 (toll free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5721).

Quiz Yourself!

1. *What is the fastest species of fish in Yukon?*
2. *What is the smallest species of fish in Yukon?*
3. *What Yukon fish has only one nostril?*

Answers on page 48

? Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

The Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC) is a public advisory body set up under the Umbrella Final Agreement. The YSSC's main concern is the conservation of salmon stocks. With this guiding principle in mind, the YSSC makes recommendations to Yukon First Nations and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on all matters related to Yukon salmon.

YSSC members also serve on the Yukon River Panel which makes recommendations to Canadian and U.S. management entities concerning the conservation and coordinated management of Yukon River salmon stocks of Canadian origin.

The YSSC works closely with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Yukon First Nations, Renewable Resources Councils and the public. Your input is welcome.

To find out more about the YSSC:

*Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee PO Box 31094
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5P7*

Location: 106 Main St., 2nd floor, Whitehorse

Phone: 867-393-6725

E-mail: executivedirector@yssc.ca

Web: www.yssc.ca



! Live Release Ethics

1. Treat the fish gently, with respect.
2. Learn the proper handling techniques.
3. Practice live release in moderation.
4. Keep any legal fish that is bleeding or injured.
5. Stop fishing when you reach your limit.
6. Do not practise live release in schools of spawning fish.
7. Do not practise live release in hot weather or warm water.
8. If you are not going to keep a fish, release it right away.

Live Release Angling

Live release angling as a component of size-selective harvest is a conservation tool that will help to ensure that the government does not have to close lakes or streams for parts of seasons or even whole seasons, as is the case in other parts of Canada.

Survival rates are high

Studies reviewed by the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board show that survival rates for released fish can be very high. These studies suggest that about 94 per cent of released pike survive along with about 90 per cent of grayling. Survival rates for released lake trout range from 93 per cent for lightly-handled fish to 76 per cent for deep-hooked fish. Hook placement is a significant factor affecting the survival of all species.

Select what you keep

Live release is most valuable when it's used to help you select the fish you are going to keep to eat. Large females carry more eggs and are able to dig deeper redds, which means more of their eggs survive. These are the fish you should release to maintain fish stocks for the future. You can make a healthy fresh meal out of the smaller fish, which are more numerous and tastier.

Be considerate

Live release in excess can harm rather than help the resource. Survival rates are high, but if you practise live release without restraint, the number of dead fish can add up. For example, even with a high survival rate like 90 per cent, if you catch and release 20 fish, it is likely that two of those fish will not survive. From a population point of view, this is equivalent to harvesting two fish—similar to the daily catch limit on many waters.

Read the list of ethics on **page 36**. Good fish management practices will ensure that Yukon's rivers and lakes continue to have fish for generations to come.

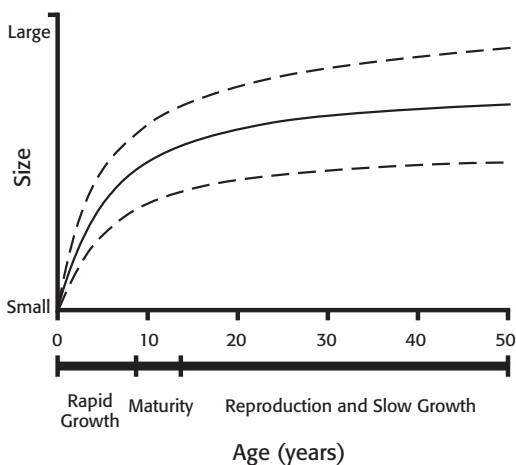
? Treat it humanely. Kill it quickly!

Fish that are not released should be killed immediately. Using stringers (tethers) and live wells to keep fish alive is not respectful. It is an offence to injure or molest fish.

? Yukon Lake Trout: release the large spawners

Lake trout are one of the most sought after species in Yukon's recreational fishery and are vulnerable to over-harvesting. Anglers catch a lot of large, old fish because these fish feed aggressively in the summer and are more likely to take a lure. In particular, females must feed voraciously to produce eggs, which can account for up to 20 per cent of their body weight. Releasing large fish favours females and protects future fish stocks.

Lake trout spend their entire lives in cold, freshwater lakes that are not very productive. Consequently it takes them a long time to grow to a large size. Though at a young age they grow rapidly, once they reach sexual maturity (9 to 12 years), growth is very slow. Large lake trout may be more than 40 years old!



Large fish are susceptible to depletion through over-fishing. Because lake trout grow slowly, if large fish are removed from a lake it can take many years before a new cohort of large fish replaces them.

The conservation of lake trout stocks is achieved through size limits and live release. Studies have shown that lake trout have very high survival when live release is done properly (see page 37).

How to Release Fish Unharmed

Use the right gear

- ▶ Use barbless hooks. They're easy to remove and require less handling time.
- ▶ Long-nose pliers make hook removal easier on you and the fish.
- ▶ Use artificial lures, not bait, to reduce the chance of deep hooking.
- ▶ If you use a landing net, use one made of rubber or knotless mesh.

Limit the stress on the fish

- ▶ Bring the fish in quickly before it becomes exhausted.
- ▶ Handle the fish as little as possible, and always with wet hands. Limit its exposure to the air.
- ▶ Be aware of how changes in pressure affect fish. If you intend to release your fish, avoid fishing in deep waters. "Fizzling" (squeezing the belly to induce deflation of a swim bladder) can damage a fish's internal organs if not done correctly. Fizzling is not recommended.

Release the fish carefully

- ▶ Remove the hook as gently as possible, using your pliers to grasp the hook by its shank.
- ▶ If you must handle the fish, hold it gently with one hand on its tail and the other under the fish, just behind the gill cover. Do not touch the gills or squeeze the belly.
- ▶ Consider cutting your line if the fish is deeply hooked.
- ▶ To revive a fish, hold it upright and move it slowly back and forth to run water through its gills. Release it when it begins to swim normally.
- ▶ Warm water is very hard on fish. Release fish into water as cold as where they were caught.



Public Rights and Responsibilities on First Nation Land

In general, First Nation lands have little effect on recreational fishing because all navigable water bodies remain open to the public. However, there are public rights and responsibilities that you should be aware of when travelling and camping on First Nation lands.

Locating First Nations lands

To view detailed maps of where First Nation Settlement Lands are located, visit an Environment Yukon office or visit www.env.gov.yk.ca/maps.

Your rights

You may:

- ▶ fish in all navigable water bodies within or beside First Nation lands, subject to the fishing regulations,
- ▶ use dead wood (standing or down) to make campfires within 30 meters of navigable water bodies, and
- ▶ enter, cross and stay for a reasonable period of time on undeveloped First Nation lands for non-commercial recreation, including camping and fishing, subject to the responsibilities described below.

Your responsibilities

When using undeveloped First Nation land you must NOT:

- ▶ damage the land or structures,
- ▶ interfere with the use and enjoyment of the land by the First Nation, or
- ▶ commit acts of mischief.

A person who does any of these things is considered a trespasser.

Exceptions

Some lands owned by Yukon First Nations are closed to public camping and fishing from shore. Consult maps at your local Environment Yukon office for locations or visit the Fishery Closures web page at www.env.gov.yk.ca/hunting-fishing-trapping/fisheryclosures.

For more information

Contact an Environment Yukon office or the office of the First Nation with a Final Agreement whose lands you may visit.

Subsistence Fishing by First Nations

If you are a beneficiary of a Yukon First Nation with a Final Agreement...

If you will be fishing for subsistence (food) in your Traditional Territory:

- ▶ you must follow your First Nation's rules about harvest limits or reporting,
- ▶ you do not need a Yukon angling licence,
- ▶ to set a net, you do not need a domestic fishing licence, and
- ▶ when fishing for salmon you are subject to the conditions of your First Nation's communal fishing licence.

If you will be fishing for subsistence (food) in the Traditional Territory of another First Nation with a Final Agreement (not including overlap areas):

- ▶ you need the written consent of the other First Nation, and you must follow their rules about harvest limits or reporting,
- ▶ if you do not have consent, you need a Yukon angling licence and must follow Yukon angling regulations,
- ▶ to set a net, you need the written consent of the other First Nation and you must follow their rules, and
- ▶ when fishing for salmon, you need written consent and you are subject to the conditions of that First Nation's communal fishing licence.

If you will be fishing for subsistence (food) in the Traditional Territory of another First Nation without a Final Agreement, or in overlap areas:

- ▶ you need a Yukon angling licence and must follow Yukon angling regulations, and
- ▶ when fishing for salmon, you need a Yukon angling licence and a Salmon Conservation Catch Card.

Fishing gear: Mark your name and the name of your First Nation on each gill net, fish trap and set box so Fishery and Conservation Officers and Game Guardians know that it is legal.

If you are member of the White River First Nation, Liard First Nation or Ross River Dena Council, or if you are a member of a non-Yukon First Nation or an Inuk, please refer to the publication First Nations and Inuvialuit Hunting and Fishing in Yukon, available at all Environment offices or at www.env.gov.yk.ca/brochures. Contact Aboriginal Relations at 867-667-5995 (toll free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5995) if you have further questions about your rights and responsibilities when subsistence fishing.

Health Benefits & Risks of Eating Yukon Fish

Yukon fish are generally healthy and are a good food choice. When handling, cleaning or cooking any fish, follow good food safety practices. There is a wealth of information on the benefits of eating fish, food safety, mercury, and fish parasites in the *Yukon Fish Health Handbook*. This handbook is available from Environment Yukon offices and from our website at www.env.gov.yk.ca/brochures.



Omega 3s

Fish are an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids, particularly fish with high fat content or those that live and grow in cold waters. Compared to other species of fish that we commonly eat, some species of fish from cold Yukon waters have a high level of omega-3 fatty acids.

Mercury

Just like fish available in the grocery store, fish caught in Yukon may contain small amounts of mercury. In general, adults do not need to limit their intake of lake trout or burbot. However, because larger fish have higher concentrations of mercury, consuming smaller lake trout and burbot (i.e., less than 60 cm or 24" in length) would give an extra degree of safety in limiting mercury exposure.

Women of child-bearing age and children under the age of 12 should limit the number of large lake trout and burbot they eat (i.e., only 1 or 2 meals per week of fish greater than 60 cm or 24"). Small fish (less than 40 cm, or 2 lbs) do not pose a risk and can be consumed in any quantity.

All other commonly targeted species of fish, including grayling, pike, whitefish, inconnu, and salmon have very low levels of mercury that are well below the Health Canada guideline. All Yukoners can eat as much of these fish as desired.

Fish parasites

Parasites may be found in the flesh and organs of some Yukon fish. Many of these parasites are unsightly, but are not harmful to humans. The threat of infection can be eliminated by thoroughly cooking the fish and using proper hygiene when cleaning and handling raw fish.

Parasite load varies between species and lakes and some populations typically have a high parasite load. Don't harvest these fish unless you plan on eating them.

For more information, visit www.env.gov.yk.ca/hunting-fishing-trapping/eatingfish.

Fish care in the field

Fish flesh decays much quicker than moose meat because it lacks the connective tissue that holds red meat together.

The following tips will help you preserve the quality and flavour of your catch:

- ▶ Bring an ice-filled cooler and keep it out of the sun.
- ▶ Kill the fish quickly with a sharp blow to the head just behind the eyes.
- ▶ For best results, gut the fish immediately. See **page 27** for information about dressing the fish.
- ▶ If you choose to gut the fish later, bleed it immediately by inserting a knife through the gills and cutting straight down.
- ▶ Put the cleaned or bled fish in a plastic bag and put the bag in your cooler, preferably on ice.
- ▶ If you fillet your catch, do not rinse the fillets in water; wipe them with paper towels.
- ▶ Freeze your catch as soon as you get it home or cook it within 24 hours for best results.

? Fresh Fish — The Perfect Food

Fresh fish may just be the tastiest, healthiest food available in Yukon. That's why Yukon anglers eat over 50,000 wild fish every year. So enjoy a meal of fresh fish, obtained from nature with your own hands. To help conserve the resource, we ask that you eat the smaller fish and let the big ones go.

Stop Aquatic Invasive Species

Help protect our waters

Aquatic invaders can harm native species by bringing disease and altering ecosystems. This impacts fisheries, tourism, health and recreation in Yukon. Keep aquatic invaders out by following these simple steps when moving between bodies of water:



CHECK and remove mud, weeds, and aquatic life from motors, boats, trailers, and gear before leaving the area.



DRAIN water from bilges, pumps, coolers and buckets before leaving the area.



CLEAN your boat, trailer, and gear by freezing solid overnight, fully drying in the sun, or power washing.



CHOOSE GEAR WISELY Studded or soft rubber waders are your best choice. Felt and other porous soles of boots can trap moisture and spread aquatic invaders. If you have felt-soled wading boots, it's best to freeze them solid overnight.

Pay special attention when you are moving between lakes and rivers. Report all sightings of possible invaders to the Department of Environment.

To learn more, visit www.env.gov.yk.ca/ais or www.yukoninvasives.com.

! Report Zebra and Quagga Mussels

Zebra Mussel
Amy Benson
bugwood.org



Quagga Mussel
David Britton



Report all possible sightings of aquatic invasive species to Environment Yukon. Zebra and quagga mussels attach to boat hulls and underwater infrastructure, and can cause millions of dollars of damage. Adult mussels can live several weeks out of the water and are easily transferred from one body of water to another. They are usually fingernail-sized (less than 5 cm) and

look like D-shaped clams with yellow or brownish shells and light-coloured strips. They are the only freshwater mussels that attach themselves firmly to solid objects.

Ice Fishing

Planning your first ice fishing trip

More and more Yukon anglers are discovering how exciting and enjoyable fishing through the ice can be. Ice fishing requires very little special gear, and can be a great social activity; with a frozen lake at your disposal, there's room for friends to enjoy fishing together.

Gear

To get started, you'll need the following basics:

- ▶ Ice auger: a hand auger with a 6–8" diameter is the best choice for beginners.
- ▶ Ice scoop: use this to clean slush and ice out of the hole—a slotted kitchen spoon works just fine.
- ▶ Rod and line: your equipment can be as simple as a spool of line that you jig and retrieve by hand, but the easiest gear to use is a short (45–75 cm) ice fishing rod with a matching reel, spooled with 6–10 lb monofilament line.
- ▶ Lures: simple is best when ice fishing—try a selection of jigs, spoons and spinners that range in size from small (for rainbow trout, kokanee and whitefish) to large (for northern pike, burbot and lake trout).
- ▶ Seats: a comfortable place to sit, either on a folding chair or a bucket, means a better day of fishing.

Comfort and safety

Like any other winter activity, the key to being safe and comfortable is to choose which days you go out, and to dress for the conditions. Check the weather forecast, and choose other activities on colder, windier days. Bring layers of clothing, so you can shed a layer when walking and drilling holes, then bundle up again when sitting down to fish.

Always use caution when walking on ice—avoid ice travel until there is at least 15 cm or 6" of clear, strong ice (or 25 cm or 10" for snowmobiles). Avoid areas with current, where ice may be thin.

Regulations for ice fishing

Anglers fishing through the ice can use up to two lines each, as long as they are both attended (see **page 29**). Anglers can also apply for a sport fishing licence to set lines for burbot through the ice on specified waters (see **page 9**). Other regulations are the same as for the open water season—look up these details for each waterbody.

Catching Tagged Fish

If you catch a tagged freshwater fish, please contact the nearest Environment Yukon office. You'll be asked to provide the tag number and information about when and where the fish was caught.

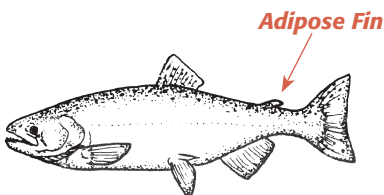
If you keep the fish, please send in its tag with its weight and length. If you release the fish, leave the tag in place and record the tag number and the length of the fish if possible.

Send your information or the tag to: Fisheries Section, Department of Environment, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6. Or call 867-667-5721 (toll free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5721).

We'll give you a Fisheries hat for your effort!

Chinook salmon

If you catch a chinook salmon, please check to see if the adipose fin is missing. If this fin is missing, the salmon likely has a microscopic coded-wire tag in its nose carrying information about its origin.



Please record all required information on your Salmon Conservation Catch Card. If you keep the fish, please remove the salmon's head and freeze it in a plastic bag along with information on the date and place of capture, sex, length and weight of the salmon. Please return the head in frozen condition to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Yukon Transboundary Rivers Area office in Whitehorse, at #100-419 Range Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3V1. Or call 867-393-6722 (toll free 1-866-676-6722).

If you catch a salmon with visible external tags ("spaghetti" or other), please return the tag to DFO. These tags are important for management. Please include the following information with the tags:

- ▶ Your name, address and telephone number.
- ▶ Date and time caught, location, gear used.
- ▶ Sex of the fish.
- ▶ Is the adipose fin absent or hole-punched?

Southern Lakes Lake Trout Study

Environment Yukon is carrying out a multi-year study of lake trout migration, genetics and harvest in Yukon's interconnected Southern Lakes (Bennett, Tagish, Marsh and Atlin). This project will show how different groups of lake trout use these lakes for feeding and spawning, and where and when these groups of lake trout are caught. This information helps the Yukon government manage lake trout in the Southern Lakes to ensure good fishing for generations to come.

Trout movement

Environment Yukon has set up a system of thermos-sized telemetry receivers in the lakes and in the channels between the lakes and has also implanted a number of lake trout in each lake with AA battery-sized internal transmitters that emit an acoustic signal. The records of trout passing by the receivers show when and where lake trout move within and between lakes.

Trout genetics

Lake trout are members of different groups that spawn in different locations. These groups can be identified using genetic "fingerprints". By comparing genetics and movement, Environment Yukon will learn about the migration of the different groups of lake trout. The genetics of harvested lake trout will show where and when lake trout from different groups are harvested, and in what numbers.

Participate

You can help this research in a number of ways:

- ▶ **Release lake trout with pink tags:** lake trout with internal transmitters also have an external pink tag just below their dorsal fin. These lake trout provide valuable data but only as long as the fish is still alive—please consider releasing these fish, even if you are permitted by regulation to keep them.
- ▶ **Talk to our surveyors:** over the next several years, we will be conducting angler harvest surveys and collecting biological samples at study lakes. Please stop by and share your knowledge with them.

► **Sign up for the Angler Sampling Program:**

Environment Yukon is looking for dedicated anglers to help collect samples and other data from lake trout in the Southern Lakes. If you would like to be involved in collecting data for this study, or have further questions, please contact the Fisheries Section at fisheries@gov.yk.ca, or 867-667-5721 (toll free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5721).

? Answers to Quiz (page 35)

- 1. Northern pike, though usually rather sedentary, are capable of incredible bursts of speed when ambushing prey. These fish can cover up to 10 body lengths per second, equivalent to 35 km/h for a large pike.*
- 2. Despite their names, Yukon's smallest fish is neither the least cisco nor the pygmy whitefish. The prize for being tiny is shared by the northern redbelly dace and finescale dace, two closely-related fish species that range between 4 – 6 cm (1½" – 2½") long as adults, and are found in the Liard Watershed in south-east Yukon.*
- 3. The Arctic lamprey has only one nostril. This odd-looking fish also has no scales, lacks paired fins, and has a notochord made of cartilage rather than a bony spinal column.*

Spawning Time — Time Out

During spawning, fish concentrate in small areas, making them easy targets for anglers. But it doesn't make sense to harvest these fish just as they are about to reproduce. Please direct your angling effort away from spawning fish.

Lake trout spawn over rocky or gravel areas along lakeshores from mid-August to October.

Dolly Varden and bull trout spawn over stream gravel beds from September to early October.

Arctic char spawn over gravel beds in lakes or in pools below river rapids from September to October.

Whitefish spawn over sand, gravel or rocky reefs in lakes or river shallows from late August to December.

Rainbow trout spawn over stream gravel beds from May to June, shortly after ice break-up.

Northern pike spawn in shallow, weedy flooded areas of lakes or large rivers from April to May shortly after ice break-up.

Arctic grayling spawn in small streams over gravel or rocky bottoms from early May to mid-June shortly after ice break-up.

Burbot spawn under the ice in shallow bays over sand or gravel from March to April.

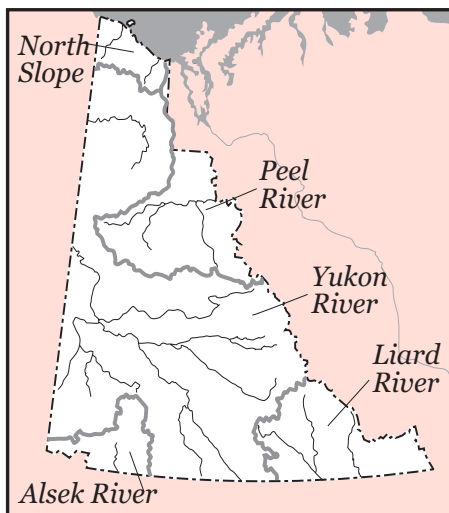
? Fish Mothers, Fish Fathers "My old people say"

Anthropologist Catherine McClellan documented some of the traditional knowledge of Yukon First Nation peoples during her cultural studies of the 1960s.

In her report, My Old People Say, she mentions being told about "several lakes where there are particularly large fish which the Tagish and Inland Tlingit refer to as 'Fish Mothers' or 'Fish Fathers'. According to some people these fish are responsible for maintaining the fish supply."

Studies carried out by the Yukon government's Fisheries Section confirm that the larger fish, most of which are female, are indeed responsible for maintaining the fish supply

Drainages and Species



There are five drainages in Yukon. Arctic grayling, northern pike, lake whitefish, round whitefish, lake trout, burbot and longnose sucker are present in all drainage systems in Yukon. Other species are present as follows:

Alesk River drainage: chinook salmon, coho salmon, sockeye salmon, kokanee salmon, rainbow trout, steelhead, Dolly Varden and pygmy whitefish.

Liard River drainage: bull trout, mountain whitefish and white sucker.

North Slope drainage: Dolly Varden, Arctic lamprey, inconnu, rainbow smelt, least cisco, broad whitefish, and chum salmon.

Peel River drainage: Dolly Varden, inconnu, white sucker, and broad whitefish.

Yukon River drainage: chinook salmon, chum salmon, coho salmon, inconnu, pygmy whitefish, broad whitefish, Arctic lamprey and least cisco.

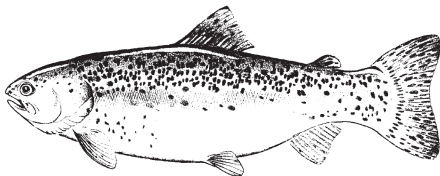
? Cabins - Do Not Disturb

Most of the cabins you'll find in the backcountry belong to licensed trappers who use them during the winter trapping season. Please do not disturb these cabins or any traps or equipment you find in wilderness areas. Chances are, someone is counting on that cabin being in good shape, and the equipment being in place, when winter returns.

Freshwater Fish of Yukon

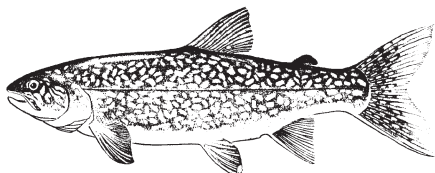
Rainbow trout

- ▶ Dark spots on light body.
- ▶ Radiating rows of black spots on tail.



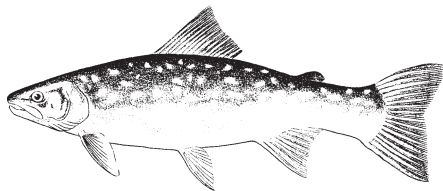
Lake trout

- ▶ Light spots on dark body.
- ▶ Worm-like markings on back and dorsal fin.
- ▶ Deeply forked tail.



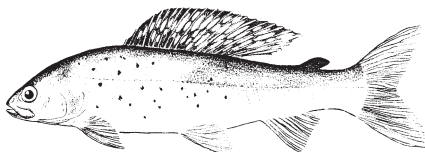
Arctic char

- ▶ Light spots on dark body.
- ▶ Slightly forked tail.
- ▶ **Found in Pumphouse Pond, McIntyre Creek, Porter Creek and some stocked lakes.**



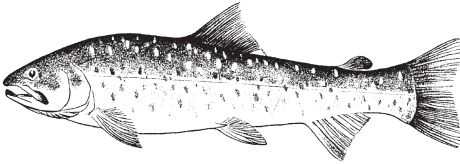
Arctic grayling

- ▶ Long, high dorsal fin edged with a coloured band and dotted with rows of spots.



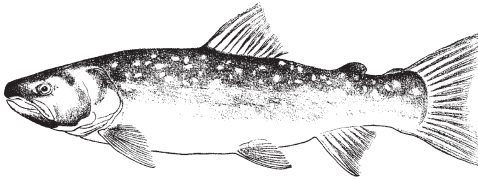
Dolly Varden

- ▶ Light spots on dark body.
- ▶ No worm-like markings on dorsal fin.
- ▶ Slightly forked tail.
- ▶ Small head.
- ▶ **Found in North Slope, Alsek and Peel drainages.**



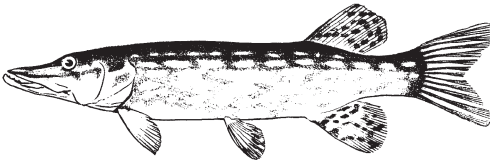
Bull trout

- ▶ Similar to Dolly Varden.
- ▶ Large, flattened head.
- ▶ **Found in Liard drainage only.**



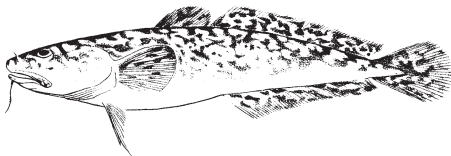
Northern pike

- ▶ Large mouth with prominent teeth.



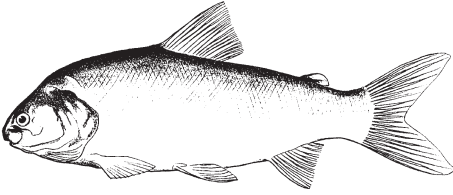
Burbot

- ▶ Flattened head with barbel under jaw.



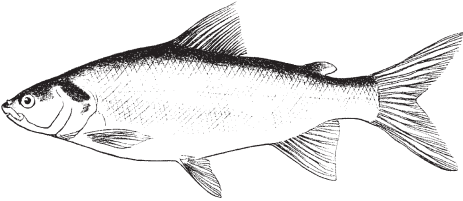
Broad whitefish

- ▶ Upper jaw projects beyond lower jaw.
- ▶ Tip of snout is lower than the eye.



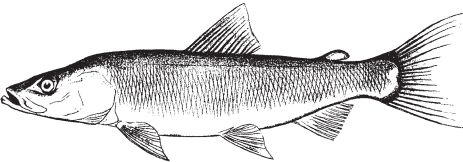
Lake (humpback) whitefish

- ▶ Upper jaw projects beyond lower jaw.
- ▶ Tip of snout is above lower margin of eye.



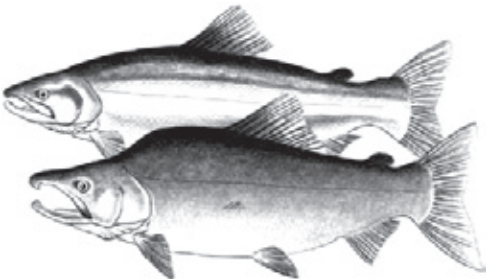
Inconnu

- ▶ Lower jaw projects beyond upper jaw.



Kokanee

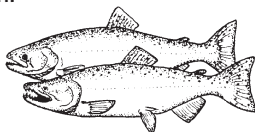
- ▶ Landlocked sockeye salmon.
- ▶ Seldom longer than 40 cm or heavier than 0.5 kg.



Salmon of Yukon

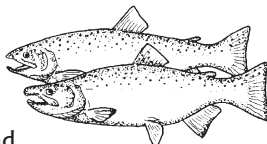
Chinook salmon

- ▶ Mature fish become dark and reddish, spots on both lobes of tail and dorsal fin.
- ▶ Black gums.
- ▶ Usually 5–20 kg.
- ▶ Adults return to the Yukon River watershed and Alsek River watershed between June and September.



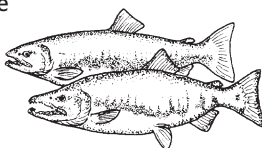
Coho salmon

- ▶ Wide tail base with black spots on upper portion of tail.
- ▶ Mature males are reddish on sides, green on back and head, dark on belly, hooked jaw.
- ▶ Mature females are less strongly coloured.
- ▶ White gums.
- ▶ Usually 3–6 kg.
- ▶ Adults return to the Alsek River watershed in September and October and to the Yukon (Porcupine River) watershed in October and November.



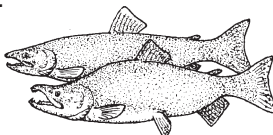
Chum salmon

- ▶ Tail without spots.
- ▶ Large pupil, more than half the diameter of the whole eye.
- ▶ Adults return to the Yukon River watershed (including the Porcupine River) between August and October.



Sockeye salmon

- ▶ Mature male has pale green head, dark hooked jaws, humped back, bright red body, red fins.
- ▶ Mature female is the same with green & yellow blotches on body, no hump or hooked jaw.
- ▶ Mature fish are bright scarlet.
- ▶ Usually 2–4 kg.
- ▶ Adults return to the Alsek River watershed from June to October.



The Life of a Lake Trout

Year 1: Lake trout eggs are laid in September and October in shallow water over rocky shoals. The eggs incubate down among the rocks over the winter, hatching in early spring. The tiny lake trout young, called **alevins**, stay down among the rocks, getting energy from their large, external yolk sac. Once the yolk sac is absorbed, the young lake trout, now called **fry**, emerge from their rocky hiding places and begin to feed on plankton.

Years 2 – 8: Through the early part of their life, lake trout focus on feeding, growing, and staying alive. As they grow, lake trout begin to switch from eating plankton to larger invertebrates, such as snails, insect larvae and crustaceans. Young trout often stick to deeper waters to stay safe; shallower depths are home to larger adult lake trout and other predators of small fish.

Years 9 –12: After a decade or so of growth, lake trout are ready to spawn for the first time. To prepare for their first fall spawning, lake trout feed heavily through the summer. This is particularly true of females, which must consume enough food to produce relatively large, fat-rich eggs. At this stage, some lake trout begin to switch from eating invertebrates to small fish, while other lake trout may remain invertebrate eaters throughout their lives. Lake trout at this age have also just started to reach a size (30–45 cm, 12–18") where they are catchable by anglers.

Years 13 – 50: After reaching maturity, lake trout devote most of their energy to reproduction. Mature fish gain length and weight very slowly, converting most of their food energy into eggs and milt (sperm). In Yukon's cold, low-productivity lakes, female lake trout may not get enough food to spawn every year; some females only spawn once every two or three years. Large, older lake trout are the most successful reproducers, capable of laying more and higher-quality eggs than younger, smaller trout.

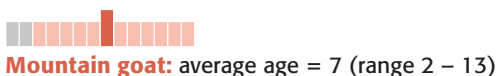
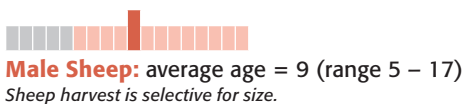
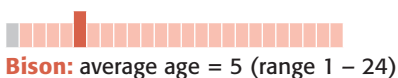
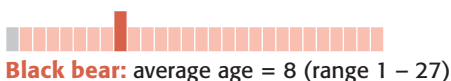
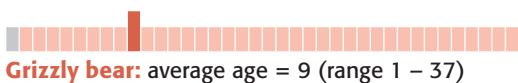
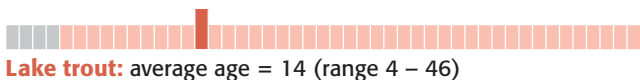
Years 50+: While lake trout can live to be more than 60 years old, fish of this age are exceptionally rare. By this age, predation, disease and human harvest have claimed most lake trout. Over its lifetime, a successful female lake trout will have spawned approximately 15 – 20 times.

How Old are Yukon Lake Trout?

Compared to other animals commonly harvested in Yukon, lake trout can be surprisingly old.

Lake trout grow slowly, which means they take a long time to reach catchable size. The average age of lake trout harvested by licensed anglers in Yukon is 14 years old.

Environment Yukon collects age information from many different fish and mammals commonly harvested by licensed anglers and hunters. How do lake trout stack up?



Lake Productivity

Productivity is the ability of a lake to produce plants and animals from sunlight and nutrients. Lake productivity starts with tiny algae, known as phytoplankton, which use sunlight and nutrients (like carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus) to grow and reproduce. This phytoplankton, in turn, is eaten by small, drifting invertebrate animals, known as zooplankton. Zooplankton are fed on by larger invertebrates and small fish, which themselves are prey for larger fish like lake trout, northern pike and burbot.

Clean lakes, short summers

In Yukon, our short summers make for a brief growing season. Also, our clean, cold lakes contain relatively few of the nutrients that phytoplankton need to grow and reproduce. Like an aquatic version of a northern vegetable garden, our lakes don't grow as much plant matter every year as warmer, more nutrient-rich lakes in southern areas. This translates all the way up the food chain to fish such as lake trout; our lakes produce fewer kilograms of lake trout each year than lakes further south.

A Yukon example

By estimating the amount of fish a lake can produce each year, we can identify appropriate harvest levels that will maintain good fishing into the future. We use measures of temperature, lake size and nutrient levels to estimate productivity and sustainable harvest. As an example, we estimate that Lake Laberge can sustain 1,300 kg of lake trout harvest per year. For a similar-sized lake further south, with temperatures 3°C warmer and nutrient levels 50 per cent higher, we would expect a sustainable harvest of 2,100 kg of lake trout per year.

Manage with care

Low lake productivity means sustainable harvest levels for Yukon fish are lower than those in more productive areas. As a result, our fish populations need to be managed with particular care. By following the regulations, and choosing to harvest conservatively, you can help make sure that we all share in high-quality fishing and that our fish populations remain abundant in the future.

Bear Safety

Bears are present throughout Yukon. Your chances of encountering one increase if you are near an active fish spawning area, especially a salmon spawning stream. Pick up more information at a Visitor Information Centre, any Environment Yukon office or visit www.env.gov.yk.ca/bears.

In camp

- ▶ Don't camp on the shore of a spawning stream.
- ▶ If you're tenting, store your fish and food away from your tent, in sealed plastic bags or hard containers.
- ▶ If you have a vehicle nearby, keep your fish cooler in it.
- ▶ Burn your garbage thoroughly or store it in odour-proof containers and pack it out. Generally keep a clean camp.
- ▶ Do not handle bait or clean your fish on picnic tables.

When fishing

- ▶ Keep an eye out for bears so you can give them plenty of room. Look for bear signs such as tracks, scats, fresh diggings or partly eaten fish.
- ▶ Fish with a friend. Bears are less likely to approach groups.
- ▶ Make noise, especially when your visibility is limited. If a bear hears you coming it will probably leave the area.
- ▶ Carry a can of bear spray and be sure you can reach it quickly and know how to use it.
- ▶ Do not leave your catch exposed and unattended. If fishing from shore, store your catch in your vehicle or in a sealed container.

After fishing

- ▶ Clean your catch at the shoreline, not at your campsite
- ▶ Throw the guts into deep or fast-moving water. Pop the air bladder so the guts will sink. You may also bag the guts and dispose of them at home. Do not leave fish guts on the bank or in shallow water.
- ▶ Wash your hands, knife and cutting board after cleaning the fish. Do not get fish odours on your clothes or waders.

If you have an encounter

- ▶ Stay calm. Encounters rarely result in an attack.
- ▶ Cut the line if you're fighting a fish. The splashing may attract the bear.
- ▶ If there are other people present, group together.
- ▶ Speak calmly but firmly to the bear.
- ▶ If the bear is stationary, back away slowly, but **DON'T RUN**. Leave the area.
- ▶ If the bear stays focused on you and keeps coming as you back away, try standing your ground, raising your arms and calling out in a calm voice.
- ▶ Report your encounter to a Conservation Officer.

Boating Safety

By law, all boats are required to carry safety equipment. What exactly you must carry depends on the type and size of your boat. Check all equipment regularly, maintain it well and replace if necessary.

The common items needed on board are:

- ▶ Canadian approved personal floatation device or lifejacket for each person,
- ▶ paddles or oars,
- ▶ a bailing device,
- ▶ a fire extinguisher,
- ▶ watertight flashlight or flares,
- ▶ a buoyant heaving line,
- ▶ a sound signaling device, and
- ▶ navigation lights.

Check with Transport Canada for the legal requirements for your boat or visit www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety.

Pleasure Craft Operator Card

All operators of pleasure craft must carry on board a proof of competency (Pleasure Craft Operator Card). For more information, contact Transport Canada's Office of Boating Safety at www.tc.gc.ca

For More Information

Freshwater Fish

Environment Yukon

Main Office at 10 Burns Road..... 867-667-5652
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Toll free in Yukon 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5652

Fisheries Section 867-667-5721
Email..... fisheries@gov.yk.ca

Conservation Officers:

Whitehorse..... 867-667-5652
Carmacks867-863-2411
Dawson City..... 867-993-5492
Faro 867-994-2862
Haines Junction..... 867-634-2247
Mayo..... 867-996-2202
Old Crow..... 867-966-3040
Ross River 867-969-2202
Teslin 867-390-2685
Watson Lake 867-536-3210

Salmon

Fisheries and Oceans Canada Offices (DFO)

Fishery Officers.....867-393-6820

Main Office 866-676-6722
#100-419 Range Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3V1

Observe, Record, Report line.....1-800-465-4336

Web: www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/yukon/index-eng.html

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Main Office at 106 Main Street, 2nd floor 867-667-3754
Box 31104, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5P7

Web.....www.yfwmb.ca

Not a Legal Document

This pamphlet is not a legal document and does not contain all the details of the current fishing regulations. It is an abbreviated guide designed to help you interpret the rules. For details, consult a Conservation or Fishery Officer.

Protect Yukon Wildlife

Turn In Poachers and Polluters

Call toll free



- ▲ 24-hour
- ▲ anonymous
- ▲ rewards available

How can you help?

If you see someone violating the fishing, hunting or environmental laws, do not confront them and risk an unpleasant reaction. That's Environment Yukon's job. You can help by watching carefully and recording that facts including:

- date and time
- location
- number of people involved
- description of the people
- description of the vehicle and licence plate number
- details of the violation or activity

As soon as you can, call the TIPP line at 1-800-661-0525 or visit www.env.gov.yk.ca/tipp to report the details of the offence. You'll be helping the wildlife conservation effort and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

OFF THE HOOK MEAT WORKS

Smokehouse and Deli

*Yukon's newest butcher shop
offering prompt efficient service*



YUKON FAMOUS HOMEMADE BEEF JERKY

*cutting & wrapping • sausage making
fresh & smoked meats • refrigeration & storage*

WILD & DOMESTIC GAME PROCESSING



FOR ALL YOUR BUTCHERING NEEDS
Call us at 456-7460 • 5th & Hanson Street

Yukon's #1 Preferred Butcher Shop!
See you soon!