



British Columbia Sport Fishing Guide



Get your
B.C. Tidal Waters
Licence online:
bc sportfishguide.ca

Contact Numbers

Maritime Search and Rescue/Emergencies:..... 1-800-567-5111
***16 on your cell phone**
Channel 16 on VHF radio

Observe, Record, Report:

Report fisheries and wildlife violations 1-800-465-4336
Greater Vancouver:(604) 607-4186

Recreational Tidal Waters Licensing 1-877-535-7307

Sport Fishing Information

24-hour recorded message,
PSP closures included 1-866-431-3474
Greater Vancouver:(604) 666-2828

Recreational Fisheries

South Coast (Nanaimo)(250) 756-7270
North Coast (Prince Rupert)(250) 627-3409
Lower Fraser River (Delta)(604) 666-6509
BC Interior (Kamloops)(250) 851-4821

Salmon Sport Head Recovery Program 1-866-483-9994

Weather Broadcast Service Channels 21B, WX1,
WX2, WX3

Marine Mammal Incidents/Sighting Reporting 1-866-I SAW ONE
(1-866-472-9663)

Government of Canada 1-800-O-Canada
(1-800-622-6232)

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Fisheries and Oceans Canada Offices

Office	Area of Responsibility	Phone Number
Bella Bella	7, 8, 9, 10, Region 5	(250) 957-2363
Bella Coola	7, 8, 9, 10, Region 5	(250) 799-5345
Campbell River	13, Region 1	(250) 850-5701
Chilliwack	Region 2.....	(604) 824-3300
Delta	28, 29, Region 2.....	(604) 666-3300
Duncan	18, Region 1.....	(250) 746-6221
Gold River	25, 26, Region 1.....	(250) 283-9075
Kamloops	Region 3, 8	(250) 851-4950
Langley	28, 29, Region 2.....	(604) 607-4150
Lillooet	Region 3.....	(250) 256-2650
Masset	1, Region 6	(250) 626-3316
Mission	Region 2.....	(604) 814-1055
Nanaimo	14, 17, Region 1.....	(250) 754-0230
Nass Camp (New Aiyansh)	3, Region 6	(250) 633-2408
Port Alberni	21, 22, 23, 25, 26, Region 1	(250) 720-4440
Port Hardy	11, 12, 27, Region 1	(250) 949-6422
Powell River	15, Region 2.....	(604) 485-7963
Prince George	Region 7.....	(250) 561-5366
Prince Rupert	3, 4, 5, Region 6	(250) 627-3499
Queen Charlotte City	2, Region 6	(250) 559-4413
Salmon Arm	Regions 3 & 8	(250) 804-7000
Smithers	Region 6.....	(250) 847-2312
Terrace	6, Region 6	(250) 615-5350
Tofino	24, Region 1	(250) 725-3500
Vancouver/Steveston	28, 29, Region 2.....	(604) 664-9250
Victoria	19, 20, Region 1	(250) 363-3252
Whitehorse	Yukon, Region 6	(867) 393-6722
Williams Lake	Region 5.....	(250) 305-4002

Fisheries and Oceans now publishes the names of violators, their infractions and fines at bcsportfishingguide.ca

DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC

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Licences and regulations are different for tidal waters and freshwater fishing.
Know your boundaries.

Maps showing the North and South Coast Management Areas and the freshwater
Regions of British Columbia are at the back of this guide.

Before You Go Fishing

The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) manages sport fishing in tidal (salt) waters as well as sport fishing for salmon in non-tidal (fresh) waters in British Columbia. This guide covers both types of fishing.

This guide is in effect until further notice. Please refer to the DFO website (bc sportfishguide.ca) for up-to-date information.

Sport fishing in fresh waters for species other than salmon is managed by the British Columbia government and is not covered in this guide. Instead, see the British Columbia *Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis* (env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations).

Review this guide

This guide contains important information that you need to know if you're going sport fishing in tidal (salt) waters or sport fishing for salmon in non-tidal (fresh) waters in British Columbia.

Be sure to read the guide *before* you go fishing. Regulatory and other technical terms are defined in the glossary starting on page 60.

You are responsible for knowing the regulations and getting the latest information before you head out to fish. Always check the online version of this guide (bc sportfishguide.ca) for the most current information for all fishing areas.

The material in this guide is for information purposes only. It is not a substitute for the *Fisheries Act* or its regulations. If there is any inconsistency between this guide and the *Fisheries Act* or its regulations, the legislation will prevail.

Get the right licence

If you're going fishing in tidal waters, you need a Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence, issued by DFO.

If you're going fishing in fresh waters for salmon, you need a Non-Tidal Angling Licence, issued by the Province of British Columbia.

See Your Licence in this guide for information on how to get your licence.

Note: If you're going fishing in fresh waters for species other than salmon, this guide is not for you. Visit env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations for details.

B.C.'s Family Fishing Weekend

In British Columbia you can celebrate the sport of fishing every Father's Day weekend by fishing without a licence (unless you intend to catch and keep salmon, lingcod or halibut). There are also free events in many communities. There's no better time to get together with family and friends and go fishing.

For more information and a list of weekend activities, visit the event website (bcfamilyfishing.com).



Know where and how you can fish

Fishing information for tidal waters is provided by management area. Maps of the area divisions are on the inside back cover of this guide. More detailed maps of areas and subareas are available online (bcsportfishguide.ca).

Fishing information for fresh waters is provided by region. A map of the freshwater regions is on the inside back cover of this guide.

Regulations and limits

You are responsible for knowing the regulations for the species and area you intend to fish. There are daily limits for each species, which may differ depending on the fishing area. There may also be restrictions on the type of gear you can use while fishing for a species.

This guide provides some regulatory information. You can get more details and updates through the various information resources listed on the next page.

Because the limits and management measures for salmon change often, this guide does not include detailed area tables for salmon. You can find this information online (bcsportfishguide.ca).

Closures

Areas may be closed to fishing for many reasons. For example, paralytic shellfish poisoning (red tide), which can be deadly, can result in an area being closed to bivalve shellfish harvesting. Always check for the latest closures before you go fishing.

See Closures and Conservation Areas in this guide for some areas that are closed to fishing. For more details and updates, check the resources that follow.

Get the latest information

Online

Visit the DFO website (bcSPORTFISHGUIDE.ca) for up-to-date information on the management area or region where you plan to fish. You can also find out which areas are closed to bivalve shellfish fishing.

Email

Sign up online (bcSPORTFISHGUIDE.ca) to receive emailed Fishery Notices for your favourite fishing areas.

Twitter

Follow [@sportfishingbc](https://twitter.com/sportfishingbc) for updates on openings and closures.

Fishing info line

Call **1-866-431-FISH (3474)** for recorded information, including updates on red tide closures. In Greater Vancouver dial **604-666-2828**.

DFO offices

Contact your local DFO office for the latest fishing information in your area. Local offices are listed on the inside front cover of this guide.

GPS

Use your GPS technology to locate areas closed to fishing.

Plan ahead

Guides

If you're planning to use guiding services when you fish, consider hiring a certified guide. DFO supports the Certified Tidal Angling Guide program, run by the Sport Fishing Institute of British Columbia (sportfishing.bc.ca).

Travel

If you're travelling to British Columbia to fish, visit hellobc.com/british-columbia/things-to-do/water-activities/fishing.aspx for information on activities, accommodations and guides.

Before you go fishing, make sure you can answer these five questions:

1. Can I fish now at this location?
2. Is the gear I want to use legal, and can I use it the way I want to in order to catch fish?
3. What can I catch and keep, and in what amount?
4. Do I have my licence (and supplementary salmon stamp if needed), and do I need to record my catch on my licence?
5. How many fish can I possess, and how am I allowed to clean, package and transport them to my ordinary residence?

Your Licence

It's your responsibility to buy the right licence for the species and area you are fishing. Always read the conditions on your licence. You are required by law to comply with these conditions. You must also keep your licence with you when fishing and transporting your catch.

For tidal waters

If you're going fishing in tidal (salt) waters, you need a Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence, issued by DFO.

Buy your licence

You can buy a licence online (bcsportfishguide.ca) or from an independent access provider. Licences are available to Canadian residents and non-residents. Fees may vary and are listed online.



Understand your licence

A Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence:

- is required to fish for any species of finfish or shellfish in tidal waters
- cannot be transferred to another person
- must be produced if requested by a fishery officer, conservation officer or fishery guardian (keep your licence with you while fishing and transporting your catch)
- must have all the fish you keep recorded on it immediately in ink (this applies only to those species specified in the conditions of your licence)
- must include a salmon conservation stamp if you are catching and keeping any species of Pacific salmon
- is required for children under 16 years of age (a child's licence is free, but if the child is going to catch and keep any species of Pacific salmon, you must buy a salmon conservation stamp)
- for an annual licence, is valid from the date on the licence to the following March 31
- for a shorter-duration licence, is valid until midnight on the expiry date

For non-tidal waters

If you're going fishing for salmon in non-tidal (fresh) waters, you need a Non-Tidal Angling Licence, issued by the Province of British Columbia.

Buy your licence

Visit the provincial website (env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/licences) to buy your licence. Licences are available to B.C. residents and non-residents. Fees may vary and are listed online.

Understand your licence

Information on your Non-Tidal Angling Licence is available in the British Columbia *Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis* (env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations). The synopsis covers important freshwater regulations, such as gear restrictions and power vessel restrictions. Always consult the synopsis before you go fishing in British Columbia's fresh waters.

Your Non-Tidal Angling Licence must include a provincial salmon conservation stamp if you're going to keep any salmon that you catch in fresh waters. A stamp is not required if you release all salmon caught.

Lose your licence?

If you lose or accidentally destroy your licence, you must get a replacement before you continue fishing. A replacement licence is available online or from any independent access provider.

Do not buy a new licence. It's illegal to hold more than one of the same type of licence.

Any catch that you recorded on the lost licence must be transferred to the replacement licence.

Fishing Legally

It's your responsibility to know and follow the regulations for the species and area you are fishing. Always check for updates on the DFO website (bcsportfishguide.ca) before you go fishing.

Illegal actions

There are penalties if you contravene the *British Columbia Sport Fishing Regulations, 1996*. You could be ticketed up to \$1,000 for each offence and have your fishing gear and catch taken away. Or you could be fined up to \$100,000 for your first offence and be prohibited from fishing.

Contravening the federal *Fisheries Act* could lead to fines or imprisonment. You could also have your catch or equipment seized, and in some cases your boat or vehicle.

It is illegal to do the following:

- fish for salmon, other finfish or shellfish without a valid licence
- catch and keep salmon without a valid salmon conservation stamp attached to your licence
- possess more than your daily limit or possession limit (see glossary) except for what is at your ordinary residence
- wilfully foul hook (see glossary) or attempt to foul hook any fish except herring, mackerel, northern anchovy, Pacific sand lance, Pacific sardine and squid
- fish for salmon, cutthroat trout or steelhead with a barbed hook, including within the tidal portions of any stream (such as the Fraser River and Skeena River)
- angle with a fishing line that has more than one hook, artificial lure or artificial fly attached except:
 - in the tidal waters of the Fraser River, where you can attach two hooks, artificial lures or artificial flies to a bar rig
 - in tidal waters, where you can attach any number of hooks to a fishing line if using the hooks in combination to hold a single piece of bait
 - in tidal waters, where you can attach any number of hooks to a fishing line if fishing for herring, mackerel, northern anchovy, Pacific sand lance, Pacific sardine or squid

- use spears to fish for salmon, trout, char, sturgeon, octopus or shellfish other than shrimp
- use gaff hooks in angling except as an aid to landing a fish
- use explosives or chemicals to molest, injure or kill fish
- use snares to catch or attempt to catch any fish, including crab
- use torches or artificial lights while sport fishing except when they are submerged and attached to a fishing line, within 1 m of the fishing hook
- fish with a fixed weight (sinker) greater than 1 kg except on a downrigger line, in which case the fishing line must be attached to the downrigger by a release clip (see glossary)
- leave a fishing line unattended in the water
- angle in a rockfish conservation area (see Closures and Conservation Areas in this guide)
- kill, harm, harass, capture or take a species listed as extirpated, endangered or threatened under the *Species at Risk Act* (see Know Your Species in this guide)
- fail to release with the least amount of harm any fish caught that you may not legally retain; when releasing a fish, you must immediately return it to the water you caught it from
- release live fish into any fish habitat except for fish that you immediately return to the water you caught it from
- trap or pen fish on their spawning ground, or in rivers or streams that lead to spawning grounds
- buy, sell or barter or attempt to buy, sell or barter any fish caught by sport fishing
- possess any fish caught while sport fishing that is not dressed or packed as described on the DFO website (bcSPORTFISHGUIDE.CA)

Attention Divers

Sport fishing regulations, including the need for a valid fishing licence, apply to any hand picking, hand digging or spear fishing you do while diving.

Always check the species tables and area closures for daily quotas, closures and other restrictions that may affect you as a diver.

Spear fishing is allowed only for certain species. Refer to the finfish and shellfish tables on pages 30 and 39 of this guide.

All tidal waters within the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve are closed to scuba and skin-dive fishing for all species, all year.

Amount you can catch

Before you fish, visit the DFO website (bcSPORTfishguide.ca) for up-to-date limits in the area you'll be fishing.

Daily limit

This is the maximum number of fish you can keep for each individual species, regardless of the area where you caught the fish.

All the fish you catch in one day count towards your daily limit. This includes fish from tidal and non-tidal waters and from different areas and subareas. For example, if you fish in two different areas and the daily limit for coho in each area is two, your daily limit is two coho, not four.

Daily limits for salmon are listed online (bcSPORTfishguide.ca). Daily limits for other fish are listed in Fishing for Finfish (Other Than Salmon) and Fishing for Shellfish in this guide, except for halibut. For current halibut limits, visit the DFO website (bcSPORTfishguide.ca).

Possession limit

This is the maximum number of fish you can have in your possession at any given time, except for what's at your "ordinary residence" (see glossary).

Fish that you eat

A fish that you've caught and are preparing to eat immediately while you're away from your ordinary residence is considered part of your daily limit and your possession limit. Once the fish is eaten, it's no longer part of your possession limit. However, it is still part of your daily limit for the day it was caught.

Packaging and transporting your catch

From section 36, *Canada's Fishery (General) Regulations*

Identify, Count, Weigh and Measure Fish

36. (1) 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 weight is used to determine catch limits, the weight of the fish cannot be readily determined; and
- (d) where size limits are applicable, the size of the fish cannot be readily determined.

Packaging your catch

It's your responsibility to follow the regulations above for packaging your fish. If you prefer not to keep your fish whole, DFO has guidelines to help you prepare and package your catch so that it meets the regulations (bcsportfishguide.ca).

Transporting crab

So that the size of your crab can be checked, the shell of any sport-caught crab must stay attached to the body until the crab is eaten or arrives at your ordinary residence.

Not a Canadian resident?

Check with customs officials in your country for regulations on importing your catch.

Fishing Responsibly

The Sport Fishing Advisory Board has provided advice to DFO since 1964. For more information on the board, or to get involved, visit the DFO website (bcsportfishguide.ca).

Follow the Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct has been developed and endorsed by the Sport Fishing Advisory Board.



1. Handle all fish with care.
2. Limit your catch to ensure fish for the future.
3. Leave your fishing spot cleaner than you found it.
4. Respect the rights of property owners and other outdoor enthusiasts.
5. Use the proper tackle and methods for the species being targeted.
6. Promote the sport by teaching children and new participants how to fish.
7. Become informed about your fishery and participate in its management.
8. Report all illegal fishing activities to the proper authorities.
9. Respect the space of others; leave enough room for everyone to fish.
10. Learn the fishing and boating laws and abide by them.

Catch and release properly

- Use large lures or artificial bait so that you're less likely to catch undersized fish.
- Use barbless hooks for all species; consider using circle hooks.
- Don't overplay your catch; bring it in as quickly as possible.
- Use a net with soft knotless mesh to minimize scale loss.
- Handle a fish as little as possible while releasing it.
- Whenever possible, unhook a fish at the water surface. For a large fish that's difficult to unhook in the water, bring it on board and lay it on a wet surface to reduce scale loss and protect the slimy coating. Remove the hook quickly (e.g., with needle-nose pliers), handling the fish carefully but securely, then release the fish gently back into the water.

- To avoid injuring a fish when you lift it, support the fish by placing one hand around the base of its tail and the other under its belly. Keep the fish horizontal. Don't squeeze it too hard or you can damage its internal organs.
- When you return a fish to the water, keep gripping its tail and supporting its belly. Help revive the fish by moving it slowly back and forth in the water, so that water flows over the gills, until it feels strong enough to swim out of your hands.
- Don't touch a fish near its eyes or handle it by its gills.
- If your fish is hooked deep inside the mouth, cut the line as close to the hook as possible and leave the hook in. It will erode in time.

National Recreational Fisheries Award

Each year DFO presents the National Recreational Fisheries Awards to people and groups that have made outstanding contributions to conserving and developing recreational fisheries and fish habitat. For details and nomination forms, visit the DFO website (bcsportfishguide.ca).

Observe, Record, Report (ORR)

One way you can help protect the fisheries is to stop violations before they happen. The watchful eyes of everyone who fishes can deter possible violators. If you see an offence, think ORR: Observe, Record, Report.

Observe what the person is doing. Some common violations are going over the daily limit, fishing in a closed area, using illegal gear, damaging the fish habitat and polluting.

Record what you observe. As soon as possible, write down what you've seen. Include these details:

- the date, time and location (e.g., nearest town, fishing location, stream, address)
- the violator's identity or description (e.g., height, weight, hair colour, age, clothing, number of violators)



- the boat or vehicle description (e.g., vehicle licence, boat registration number, vessel length, colour, make, type, distinguishing features)
- evidence that might still be at the scene (e.g., catch, fish offal, gear used)

Report the violation. As soon as possible, call DFO's ORR phone line:

- **1-800-465-4336**
- **604-607-4186** in Greater Vancouver

For more information on ORR, visit the DFO website (bcsportfishguide.ca).

Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP)

While you're out fishing, if you see any wildlife or environmental offences in non-marine areas, call British Columbia's toll-free RAPP line (Report All Poachers and Polluters): **1-877-952-RAPP (7277)**.

Closures and Conservation Areas

In many areas of British Columbia, fishing is not allowed or is restricted for conservation purposes. Before fishing, check the latest closures and restrictions online (bc sportfishguide.ca).

Fishing closures

Finfish (including salmon) closures

Some areas are closed to fishing for all finfish at certain times of the year. Before fishing, check with your local DFO office or online (bc sportfishguide.ca) for the latest information.

Shellfish closures

Some areas are closed year-round to harvesting certain shellfish for conservation or health reasons. Other areas are subject to change, depending on whether conditions are safe. Immediately before harvesting shellfish, check with your local DFO office or online (bc sportfishguide.ca) for the latest closures.

Eating contaminated shellfish can be harmful or even fatal. See Safety in this guide for details on the illnesses that can occur.

Paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP, red tide) is a serious and sometimes fatal illness that comes from eating contaminated bivalve shellfish. Because the conditions for PSP can develop quickly, red tide closures are not listed in this guide. Always check the latest closures online.



Watch for this symbol on signs around B.C. It means the area is closed to harvesting bivalve shellfish.

Conservation areas

Rockfish conservation areas

Populations of British Columbia's inshore rockfish are at low levels, especially in the inland waters of the Strait of Georgia (Salish Sea). DFO needs your help to keep the numbers from falling more.

Certain coastal areas are designated rockfish conservation areas (RCAs). Sport fishing is not allowed in RCAs, except for gathering the following:

- invertebrates by hand picking or diving
- crab by trap
- shrimp or prawn by trap
- smelt by gillnet

Before you go fishing, find out where British Columbia's RCAs are located (bc sportfishguide.ca). Be sure to change your technique or area if you encounter many rockfish where you're fishing.

National parks and marine conservation areas

Canada's national parks and marine conservation areas help protect marine species and their habitat from the threat of human activities. In British Columbia, DFO cooperates with Parks Canada and others to manage sport fishing in these areas.

Before fishing in a national park or marine conservation area, check online for the latest information, including closures and special management measures.

- Pacific Rim National Park Reserve: pc.gc.ca/pacificrim
- Gulf Islands National Park Reserve: pc.gc.ca/gulf
- Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site: pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas
- Proposed Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve: pc.gc.ca/straitofgeorgia

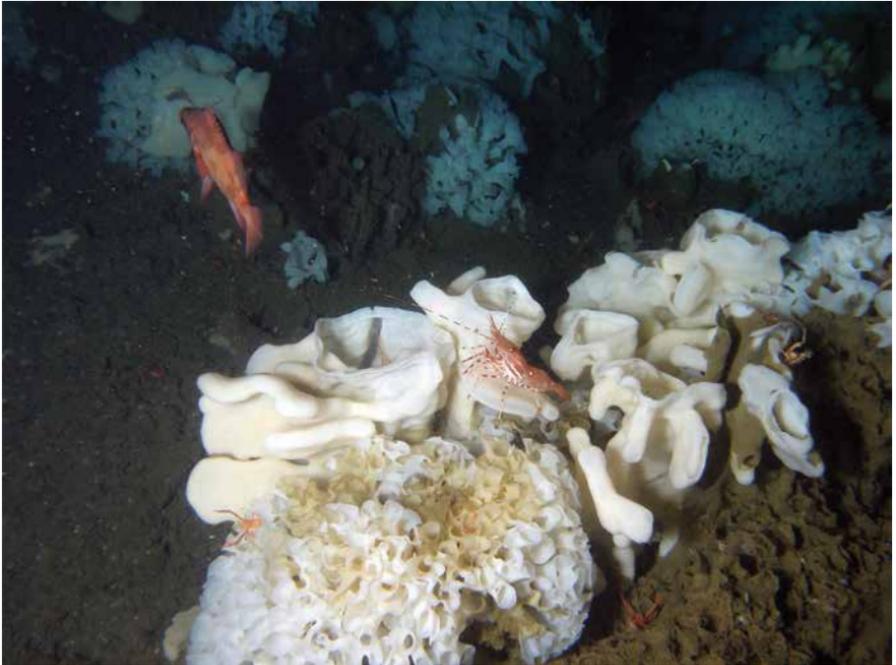
Marine protected areas

DFO designates marine protected areas (MPAs) to protect and conserve fishery resources and habitat, including unique habitat. MPAs also protect endangered marine species and areas that are especially diverse or productive.

There are three MPAs on the B.C. coast:

- Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents (off the west coast of Vancouver Island)
- Bowie Seamount (off the north coast of British Columbia)
- Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound Glass Sponge Reefs (near Haida Gwaii; soon to be designated)

Before fishing in or around an MPA, check online for the latest information, including area restrictions and fishing closures (bcsportfishguide.ca).



Glass sponge reef, Hecate Strait

Catch Monitoring and Reporting

The conservation and management of the fisheries you enjoy are shared responsibilities. You can help by supplying information about your catch and by taking part in reporting programs for certain kinds of fish.

If you hold a Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence, you're required to give DFO representatives information about your fishing activity and catch when asked. The information you provide, combined with the reports of thousands of other sport fishers, helps DFO meet domestic and international requirements for monitoring the sport fishery.

Monitoring surveys

To monitor the sport fishery, DFO conducts surveys in tidal and some freshwater locations. Fishery technicians at certain marinas, boat ramps and rivers may ask you about your fishing, including the times and places you fished, the number of fish you kept and released, the size of your fish and any instances of hatchery-marked salmon. They may also ask to collect biological samples from your catch (e.g., tissue for DNA stock identification analysis, scales for age analysis).

In addition to these surveys, many fishing guides, lodges and independent anglers keep logbooks and collect samples to help with the shared task of monitoring catches.

iREC

The Internet Recreational Effort and Catch (iREC) survey is an ongoing email survey conducted for DFO by an independent company. Participants are chosen randomly from among B.C. sport fishing licence holders. If you're chosen, you'll receive emails about your required participation. You will be asked to summarize all your fishing activity and catch during the survey period.

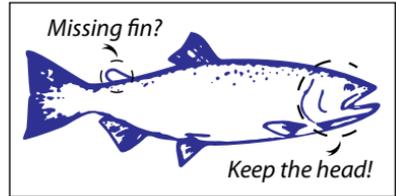


Tagging programs

Salmon Sport Head Recovery Program

Each year, to monitor the health of salmon stocks, DFO tags chinook and coho salmon with coded wire tags. You have an important role to play in recovering these tags.

Although you can't see the tag, you'll recognize a salmon carrying one because the fish will be missing its adipose fin (located between the dorsal fin and the tail). If you catch a chinook or coho that's missing its adipose fin, please remove the head, complete a sport head label (available at any Salmon Sport Head Recovery Depot) and submit the head to a nearby depot. Every tag you submit provides valuable data about the health of salmon in B.C. waters.



For more information and a list of depots, see the DFO website (bc sportfishguide.ca).

Halibut tagging

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC)

runs a tagging program to monitor halibut stocks. Different types of tags may be found in different parts of the fish. Halibut tagged with a large electronic satellite tag may have the entire tag attached (see photo) or only the plastic leader and dart, meaning the tag body has come detached. Each type of tag has a unique number and "IPHC" printed on the side.



Satellite tag

If you catch and keep a tagged halibut, here's what to do:

- Record the tag number, date you recovered it, location, depth, fish length and fish sex.
- Remove the halibut's ear bones if possible.
- Remove the tag from the fish.
- Send the information, ear bones, tag and your name and address to International Pacific Halibut Commission, 2320 W. Commodore Way, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98199-1287 (U.S.A), or call **206-634-1838**.

For information on the different tag types, see the IPHC website (iphc.int/component/content/article/21-biology/118-tag-recovery.html).

Safety

Keep fish stocks safe

The use of natural bait has been linked to infections in fish. If you carry fish and fish products, including roe, from one area to another, you could be transferring disease-causing agents that may harm local fish.

To keep fish stocks safe, don't transfer untreated roe or other fish products from one body of water to another. If you use roe as bait, treat it with a combination of freezing and borax, or heating and borax, so that it's less likely to transfer disease.

Protect yourself from shellfish contamination

Wash your hands after handling raw seafood. Use only treated drinking water to rinse ready-to-eat seafood.

If you think you have a severe case of shellfish poisoning, or if your symptoms continue, get medical attention immediately.

Gathering shellfish to eat is a favourite pastime, but it can be harmful or even fatal if the fish are contaminated. Shellfish contamination can occur throughout the year, and there are different types. It's important to know the symptoms and risks of each type if you're going to harvest and eat shellfish.

Paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP or red tide)

Bivalve shellfish (e.g., clams, oysters, mussels, scallops) feed by filtering the water around them. Sometimes they accumulate toxins, produced by tiny organisms in the water, leading to red tide. Red tide is not always visible in the water and is not always red.

PSP is a serious and sometimes fatal illness that can result from eating bivalve shellfish contaminated with red tide.

Risks: Only bivalves accumulate the PSP toxin; other shellfish (e.g., shrimp) are not affected. Crabs and predatory molluscs (e.g., moon snails) may build up the toxin in their internal organs. Always discard the guts of crabs if you harvest them in areas closed for PSP. In areas open for butter clams, discard the neck, gills and liquid released during cooking. In areas open for scallops, discard the roe and guts.

Symptoms: Tingling in the lips and tongue, which may spread to fingers and toes. Headache or dizziness. Can progress to loss of muscle coordination, paralysis, inability to breathe, death.

Cooking bivalve shellfish does not destroy the toxins that cause illnesses such as PSP, ASP and DSP. Cooked shellfish can still make you sick.

Amnesic shellfish poisoning (ASP or domoic acid)

ASP toxins come from algae blooms in the water. The toxins can accumulate in filter-feeding bivalves.

Risks: Although no illnesses from ASP have been reported in British Columbia, the toxin has been found in B.C. shellfish.

Symptoms: Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, memory loss.

Diarrhetic shellfish poisoning (DSP)

Mussels are most often associated with this type of poisoning, which is caused when bivalves and crustaceans take in toxin-producing algae.

Risks: The first outbreak in British Columbia occurred in 2011, when over 60 people became ill from eating cooked mussels. DSP symptoms vary and can occur between 30 minutes and 15 hours after consumption. Recovery takes up to 3 days. There are no known complications.

Symptoms: Diarrhea, nausea, abdominal cramps, chills, vomiting, headache.

Sanitary contamination

Bivalve shellfish can be contaminated by human or animal feces that contain bacteria and viruses such as Norwalk virus, hepatitis A and salmonella.

Risks: Eating raw or partially cooked bivalves from contaminated areas increases the risk of illness. This is especially the case for people with certain medical conditions or weakened immune systems. Fully cooking the shellfish may destroy the illness-causing organisms.

Symptoms: Diarrhea, nausea, abdominal cramps, chills, vomiting, headache.

***Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (VP)**

A kind of bacteria naturally found in British Columbia's coastal waters, VP can concentrate in filter-feeding bivalves. It is more common in summer. Even when an area is open to harvesting, the shellfish may still contain VP.

Risks: To reduce the risk of VP-related illness, harvest bivalves at the water's edge when the tide is going out. Refrigerate immediately at 4°C or freeze at -18°C. Cook the shellfish for five minutes at 60°C.

Symptoms: Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting.

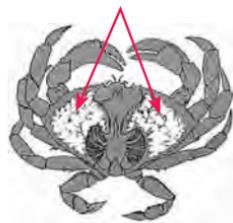
Dioxins and furans

These toxic substances, usually found around industrial sites, can contaminate shellfish. Check the DFO website for areas of concern (bcsportfishguide.ca). You'll find consumption advisories on the page for the area you intend to fish.

Risks: In crab this contamination is concentrated in the hepatopancreas. To reduce the risk of illness, don't eat the crab hepatopancreas/liver when there's a consumption advisory out. Consumption advisories apply only to this part of the crab.

Symptoms: Research shows that exposure to dioxins and furans may be linked to negative health effects.

Hepatopancreas



DFO works with other organizations to ensure that shellfish areas are safe for harvesting. Always check whether the area where you plan to harvest is open. See Closures and Conservation Areas in this guide or check online (bcsportfishguide.ca).

Stay safe on the water

See a Marine Emergency?

- On **channel 16** of your VHF radio: contact a Coast Guard marine communications and traffic service officer
- On your cell phone: dial ***16** or **911**
- Call the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre: **1-800-567-5111**

Safety basics

Remember to take an accredited safe boating course before you head out to fish.

Always follow safe navigation practices. Respect vessels at anchor. Watch for flags that mark diving areas—slow down and keep 100 m away from these areas and from vessels displaying dive flags.

Transport Canada regulates recreational boating in Canada. For more information or to get a copy of the *Safe Boating Guide*, visit the Office of Boating Safety website (tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-menu-1362.htm) or call **1-800-267-6687**.

Safety tips

The majority of boating deaths occur when a person unexpectedly enters cold water unprotected, resulting in drowning. Learn more about the effects of cold water and the “1-10-1” principle online (coldwaterbootcamp.com).

Here are some tips for keeping yourself and others safe on the water:

- Buckle up. Wear a life jacket or PFD and thermal protection to reduce the chilling effects of cold water and increase your chances of being rescued.
- Don't drink alcohol. Operating a boat while impaired is a criminal offence.
- Don't overload your boat. Maintain its stability, and operate it within your ability.
- Know how to alert search and rescue. Carry a VHF radio and keep it tuned to **channel 16**, the channel for distress messages. Take a cell phone as a backup.
- Understand marine weather and how it affects tides and currents, and keep updated on changing conditions. Tune in to **channels 21B** and **Wx 1, 2, 3** on your VHF radio for marine weather forecasts, or get forecasts online (weather.gc.ca/marine/index_e.html).
- Know where you are at all times. GPS technology is helpful, but electronics can fail. Carry an up-to-date marine chart.
- Leave your trip details (sail plan) with someone on shore so that they can alert search and rescue if things go wrong. If no one knows you're missing, no one will be looking for you.

Marine charts and tide tables

Get marine charts, as well as information on tides, currents and water levels, online (waterlevels.gc.ca/eng). For recorded tide predictions, call **1-877-775-0790**.

Fishing for Salmon

In many areas of British Columbia, fishing is not allowed or is restricted for conservation purposes. It's your responsibility to know the regulations. Before you go fishing, check the latest closures and restrictions online (bcsportfishguide.ca).

In tidal waters

Gear

- Barbless hooks are required for all salmon and sea-run trout fishing. Treble barbless hooks are acceptable in most areas; however, single barbless hooks are required in many tidal areas of coastal rivers and in areas requiring special management measures.
- If you pinch a barbed hook, the barb must be crimped flat against the shaft. Partially crimped barbs are not allowed.
- In tidal waters, there's no limit to the number of fishing rods you can use. In rivers and streams, including the tidal waters of the Fraser River, there's a limit of one rod per angler.
- It is illegal to angle with a fishing line that has more than one hook, artificial lure or artificial fly attached except:
 - in the tidal waters of the Fraser River, where you can attach two hooks, artificial lures or artificial flies to a bar rig.
 - in tidal waters, where you can attach any number of hooks to a fishing line if using the hooks in combination to hold a single piece of bait and if they're not arranged so as to catch more than one fish. This does not apply in areas restricted to the use of only one single barbless hook.
- It is illegal to fish with a fixed weight (sinker) greater than 1 kg except on a downrigger line, in which case the fishing line must be attached to the downrigger by a release clip (see glossary).
- It is illegal to sport fish with nets, including dip nets, minnow nets, gillnets or cast nets.

Reminders

- Properly identify all your salmon using three or more distinguishing characteristics (see pages 46 to 51).
- If your coho or chinook salmon is a hatchery fish, it will have a healed scar in place of the adipose fin. Remove the head and submit it to a Salmon Sport Head Recovery Depot (see page 18), unless removing the head brings the remaining part of the fish under the required size limit.
- You must release incidental catch (see glossary) alive, to the place where you caught it, in a way that causes the least harm to the fish.
- It is illegal to wilfully foul hook a salmon. If you accidentally foul hook a salmon in the ocean, you can keep it. If you foul hook a salmon, wilfully or accidentally, in any lake or stream, including the tidal parts of coastal streams, you must release it immediately.
- Unless otherwise specified online, all chinook you keep must measure 45 cm or more from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail. All coho, sockeye, pink and chum must measure 30 cm or more.
- You must immediately record in ink on your licence all chinook you keep.

Limits

- The daily limit for all species of Pacific salmon from tidal and fresh waters combined is four. Individual species limits also apply.
- The possession limit for all salmon from all waters is twice the daily limit. You cannot possess more than eight salmon in total, except for salmon that are at your ordinary residence.
- The total annual limit for chinook is 30 from any tidal waters, of which at most:
 - 10 may be caught in the tidal waters of the Fraser River;
 - 15 may be caught in the waters of Areas 12 to 18, 28 and 29 and that portion of Area 19 north of Cadboro Point;
 - 20 may be caught in portions of Area 20 (20-5 to 20-7) and that portion of Area 19 (19-1 to 19-4) south of Cadboro Point.

In fresh waters

Gear

- Single barbless hooks are required for all salmon fishing.
- If you pinch a barbed hook, the barb must be crimped flat against the shaft. Partially crimped barbs are not allowed.
- It is illegal to angle with more than one fishing line in any lake, stream or river. The only exception is if you are alone in a boat on a lake, in which case you can have two lines.
- It is illegal to sport fish for salmon and trout using any method except angling.
- When an area is restricted to fly fishing only, you may not attach a weight or float to the line.
- It is illegal to sport fish with nets, including dip nets, minnow nets, gillnets or cast nets.

Reminders

- Properly identify all your salmon using three or more distinguishing characteristics (see pages 46 to 51).
- If your coho or chinook salmon is a hatchery fish, it will have a healed scar in place of the adipose fin. Remove the head and submit it to a Salmon Sport Head Recovery Depot (see page 18), unless removing the head brings the remaining part of the fish under the required size limit.
- It is illegal to wilfully or accidentally foul hook a salmon. You're not allowed to keep any salmon you wilfully or accidentally foul hook in any lake or stream, including the tidal parts of coastal streams. You must release it immediately as incidental catch.
- You must immediately record in ink on your licence all adult chinook you keep.

Limits

- The daily limit for all species of Pacific salmon from tidal and fresh waters combined is four. Individual species limits also apply.
- The possession limit for all salmon from all waters is twice the daily limit. You cannot possess more than eight salmon in total, except for salmon that are at your ordinary residence.

- There's an annual limit of 10 adult chinook from all fresh waters. The definition of adult chinook can vary depending on the time and area, so be sure to check online before fishing.

You are not allowed to fish for salmon:

- within 23 m below the lower entrance to any fishway, canal, obstacle or leap
- within a 100 m radius of any government facility operated for counting, passing or rearing fish

How to measure your salmon

Missing fin? Keep the head! (see page 18)



*Lay the fish on top of a measuring device.
Measure from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail.*

Salmon limits and management measures

Because the limits and management measures for salmon change often, this guide does not include detailed area tables. Instead, you can find the information online (bcSPORTfishguide.ca).

Fishing for Finfish (Other Than Salmon)

In many areas of British Columbia, fishing is not allowed or is restricted for conservation purposes. It's your responsibility to know the regulations. Before you go fishing, check the latest closures and restrictions online (bc sportfishguide.ca).

Gear

- There's no limit to the number of fishing rods you can use except in the tidal waters of the Fraser River, where the limit is one.
- It is illegal to angle with a fishing line that has more than one hook, artificial lure or artificial fly attached except:
 - in the tidal waters of the Fraser River, where you can use two hooks, artificial lures or artificial flies attached to a bar rig.
 - in tidal waters, where you can attach any number of hooks to a fishing line if using the hooks in combination to hold a single piece of bait and if they're not arranged so as to catch more than one fish. This does not apply in areas restricted to the use of only one single barbless hook.
 - when fishing for herring, mackerel, northern anchovy, Pacific sand lance or Pacific sardine, when you can attach any number of hooks to a fishing line. This does not apply in areas restricted to the use of only one single barbless hook.
- It is illegal to use an unattended line or "set line."
- It is illegal to fish with a fixed weight (sinker) greater than 1 kg except on a downrigger line, in which case the fishing line must be attached to the downrigger by a release clip (see glossary).
- A gillnet that you use to fish for smelt cannot be more than 7.5 m long. Mesh size must be between 25 mm and 50 mm. A floating buoy clearly marked with the operator's name must be attached to each end of the net. You can fish only one gillnet at a time.
- A dip net that you use to fish for herring, mackerel, northern anchovy, Pacific sand lance, Pacific sardine or smelt must be hung on a frame measuring at most 90 cm in its greatest dimension. The bag can't be longer than 1.5 times the greatest dimension of the frame.
- Be aware of the entanglement risks for hook and line, downrigger and trap gear near the University of Victoria's VENUS project in Patricia Bay, Saanich Inlet. Details are available online (venus.uvic.ca/notice.php).

Reminders

- You must release incidental catch (see glossary) alive, to the place where you caught it, in a way that causes the least harm to the fish.
- When sport fishing, you may not waste any fish that's suitable for human consumption. However, you are allowed to use fish offal, herring, mackerel, northern anchovy and Pacific sardine as bait when fishing with traps.
- It is illegal to have any sport-caught halibut on board any vessel on which there are fish destined for sale.
- It's recommended that you not consume the liver from groundfish caught near industrial sites because of possible dioxin and furan contamination. The muscle tissue (fillets) of coastal groundfish and other finfish species is not affected.
- It's recommended that you eat only those spiny dogfish under 60 cm long because of high mercury levels in the tissues of larger, older dogfish.
- You must immediately record in ink on your licence all halibut that you keep from any area, and all lingcod you keep from Areas 12 to 19 (excluding Subarea 12-4), from Subareas 20-5 to 20-7 and from Subarea 29-5.

Notes on specific finfish

Rockfish

Rockfish stocks, particularly in the Strait of Georgia (Salish Sea), are at low levels. Avoid rockfish by fishing away from rocky reef areas, key habitat for these fish.

Rockfish rarely survive after being caught, so keep what you catch within your limit. Move to another area or change your gear or fishing method if you reach your rockfish limit.

For more on rockfish conservation areas and the types of sport fishing allowed there, see Closures and Conservation Areas in this guide.

Sturgeon

You're not allowed to keep sturgeon from any tidal or fresh waters in British Columbia. If you are catch-and-release fishing in the tidal waters of the Fraser River, you must use a single barbless hook.

Smelt

When fishing for smelt in Vancouver's Stanley Park, please be considerate of others using the seawall. If you fish with dip nets or gillnets, be careful not to get in the way of pedestrians or cyclists. Clean up scales and other fish parts that may make the seawall slippery for others.

Halibut

Halibut have a better chance of survival when you release them properly by removing the hook or cutting the line close to the hook. You're encouraged to use a circle hook when fishing with bait to reduce the chance that a released fish will die. The circle hook's point should not be offset from the hook's shank.

If you'd like to know the weight of your halibut, use the table below from the International Pacific Halibut Commission. It accurately estimates halibut round weight (whole, head-on weight) based on the length of your catch.

Length (cm)	Round Weight (kg)	Length (inches)	Round Weight (lbs)	Length (cm)	Round Weight (kg)	Length (inches)	Round Weight (lbs)
80	6.1	31	13.4	155	52.2	61	115.0
85	7.4	33	16.3	160	57.8	63	127.4
90	9.0	35	19.8	165	63.9	65	140.9
95	10.7	37	23.6	170	70.4	67	155.2
100	12.6	39	27.8	175	77.3	69	170.4
105	14.8	41	32.6	180	84.7	71	186.7
110	17.2	43	37.9	185	92.5	73	203.9
115	19.8	45	43.7	190	100.9	75	222.4
120	22.8	47	50.3	195	109.7	77	241.9
125	26.0	49	57.3	200	119.1	79	262.6
130	29.5	51	65.0	205	129.0	81	284.5
135	33.3	53	73.4	210	139.5	83	307.6
140	37.5	55	82.7	215	150.6	85	332
145	42.0	57	92.6	220	162.2	87	357.6
150	46.9	59	103.4	225	174.5	89	384.6

Halibut Length/Round Weight Table

Finfish (Other than Salmon) Tidal Waters Fishing Limits and Management Measures

Dates, limits and gear are subject to in-season change. Check with your local DFO office or online (bcsportfishguide.ca) to confirm the latest limits, gear and fishery openings.

The same management measures apply to offshore waters as to corresponding inshore waters (e.g., limits in Area 23 apply in Area 123) unless otherwise specified. Offshore waters include Areas 101 to 111, 121, 123 to 127, 130, and 142.

In addition to the gear and daily limits restrictions for finfish in this table, some areas are closed to fishing for all finfish at certain times of the year; therefore, please consult your local DFO office or online.

Please note: With certain exceptions (e.g., halibut), the possession limit is two times the daily limit for that species.

Species	Area	Daily Limit	Open Times	Gear	Management Measures
Codfish	1 to 29	8	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line, spear	Species includes: Pacific cod, Pacific tomcod, pollock and hake but does not include lingcod.
Eulachon	1 to 29	0	Apr 1-Mar 31	N/A	Due to conservation concerns harvesting of eulachon is prohibited.
Greenling	1 to 29	3	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line, spear	
Halibut	1 to 29	0	Closed	N/A	Open times, daily quota and management measures to be announced prior to season. Details at your local DFO office or bcsportfishguide.ca .
	1 to 29	To be determined prior to season	To be announced	Hook and line, spear	
Herring	1 to 29	20 kg	Apr 1-Mar 31	Dip net, herring jig, herring rake, cast net	Harvesting of herring roe from marine plants or plants placed in the water for the purpose of harvesting herring roe is prohibited.

Species	Area	Daily Limit	Open Times	Gear	Management Measures
Lingcod	1 to 10, 101 to 110, 130, 142	3	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line, spear	
	12-1 to 12-13, 12-15 to 12-48, 20*	1	To be announced	Hook and line, spear	Annual limit of 10. Minimum length is 65 cm with head on and 53 cm for head off, including the tail. Subarea 12-14 excluded. *Area 20 east of a line from Sheringham Point to the International Boundary. Details at your local DFO office or bcsportfishguide.ca .
	13 to 19, Subarea 29-5	1	To be announced	Hook and line, spear	Annual limit of 10. Minimum length is 65 cm with head on and 53 cm for head off, including the tail. Record catch on your licence. Details at your local DFO office or bcsportfishguide.ca .
	11, 12-14, 20* to 27	3	Apr 1-Nov 15	Hook and line, spear	Minimum length is 65 cm with head on and 53 cm for head off, including the tail. *Area 20 west of a line from Sheringham Point to the International Boundary.
	28, 29 (except for Subarea 29-5)	0	Closed	N/A	Due to conservation concerns, there is no fishing for lingcod in these areas.
Mackerel	1 to 29	100	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line, dip net, herring jig, cast net	See Gear in Fishing for Finfish section on page 27.
Northern anchovy	1 to 29	20 kg	Apr 1-Mar 31	Dip net, herring jig, herring rake, cast net	See Gear in Fishing for Finfish section on page 27.
Pacific sand lance	1 to 29	5 kg	Apr 1-Mar 31	Dip net, herring jig, herring rake, cast net	Also known as needlefish. See Gear in Fishing for Finfish section on page 27.
Pacific sardine	1 to 29	100	Apr 1-Mar 31	Dip net, herring jig, herring rake, cast net	Also known as pilchard. See Gear in Fishing for Finfish section on page 27.
Perch	1 to 29	8	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line	Includes kelp, shiner and pile perch, and all species of surf and sea perch.

Species	Area	Daily Limit	Open Times	Gear	Management Measures
Rockfish	1 to 10	5	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line, spear	Aggregate daily limit for all rockfish is 5; no more than 3 may be yelloweye.
	12 to 20*	1	To be announced	Hook and line, spear	*Special management zone in Area 20 that applies here is east of a line from Sheringham Point to the International Boundary. Details at your local DFO office or bcSPORTfishguide.ca .
	13 to 19, Subarea 29-5	1	To be announced	Hook and line, spear	Details at your local DFO office or bcSPORTfishguide.ca .
	11, 20* to 27	3	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line, spear	Aggregate daily limit for all rockfish is 3; no more than 2 may be yelloweye. *Special management zone in Area 20 that applies here is west of a line from Sheringham Point to the International Boundary. Special limits apply for groundfish in Pacific Rim National Park.
	28, 29-1 to 29-4 and 29-6 to 29-17	0	Closed	N/A	Due to conservation concerns, there is no fishing for rockfish.
	1 to 29	Ensure you check DFO's website at bcSPORTfishguide.ca to confirm closure areas.			
Rockfish: Bocaccio	1 to 29	Management measures for Bocaccio rockfish are being considered. Notice of future measures to protect Bocaccio will be posted at: bcSPORTfishguide.ca .			
Sablefish	1 to 29	4	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line	Also known as blackcod.
Sculpin	1 to 29	8	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line	Includes cabezon, Pacific staghorn sculpin and all other sculpin species.
Shark, Including basking, tope, bluntnose sixgill, blue, brown cat & great white	1 to 29	0	Closed	N/A	There is no fishing for these species of shark.
Salmon shark	1 to 29	1	Apr 1-Mar31	Hook and line and spear fishing while diving	

Species	Area	Daily Limit	Open Times	Gear	Management Measures
Spiny dogfish	1 to 29	4	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line	
All other shark species	1 to 29	0	Closed	N/A	Other shark species incidentally encountered must be released.
Skate	1 to 29	1	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line	
Smelt	1 to 27	20 kg	Apr 1-Mar 31	Gill net, dip net	See Gear in Fishing for Finfish section on page 27.
	28 to 29	20 kg	Aug 16-Jun 14	Gill net, dip net	Fishery is open only from 8:00 AM Thursday to 8:00 AM Monday. See Gear in Fishing for Finfish section on page 27.
Sole/flounder	1 to 29	8	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line, and spear fishing while diving	Includes all species of flounder and sole, but not halibut.
Sturgeon	1 to 29	0	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line	Catch and release only.
Trout	1 to 10	2	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line	Species includes hatchery steelhead only, and hatchery or wild cutthroat, brown and dolly varden. Only 1 fish per day may be greater than 50 cm. Daily limit is 0 in the tidal waters of Tlell River in Area 2. Minimum length is 30 cm.
	11 to 29	2	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line	Retention of hatchery-marked fish only. No retention of wild fish south of Cape Caution. Minimum length is 30 cm.
Tuna, albacore	1 to 29	20		Hook and line	
Tuna, all other species	1 to 29	20		Hook and line	
Wolfeel	1 to 29	0	Apr 1-Mar 31	N/A	Catch and release only.
Other species	1 to 29	20	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hook and line, spear fishing while diving	

	In-Season Management Measures
Area 2	The waters shoreward of a line between two boundary signs on either side of the Copper River estuary and the Pallant Creek estuary: a single barbless hook restriction applies April 1 to March 31.
Area 9	Rivers Inlet Special Management Zone from June 1 to September 15, in those waters of Rivers Inlet inside a line between fishing boundary signs located at Rutherford Point and McAllister Point, no person shall angle with a fishing line or downrigger line that is attached to a weight that is greater than 277 g or an attracting device that is not affixed directly to hook. All chinook retained in this area shall be recorded on the licence as being taken in Area 9 SMZ.
Area 14	The waters of Courtenay River mouth and the shoreline, a single barbless hook restriction applies August 1 to October 15.
Area 18	Subarea 18-10: Fulford Harbour northwesterly of a line between a fishing boundary sign located near the navigation light and Jackson Rock on the north shore of Fulford Harbour across the harbour to a fishing boundary sign on the opposite shore, only one single-pointed hook may be used October 10 to January 15.
Area 22	Only a lure or bait with one single-pointed barbless hook may be used August 1 to October 31.
Area 23	Subarea 23-1: Port Alberni Harbour and the lower Somass River northerly of a line from Harbour Quay to a boundary sign on the opposite shore, only a single-pointed barbless hook may be used January 1 to December 31.
Area 28	From August 1 to December 31, it is prohibited to use more than one single-pointed hook that measures no greater than 15 mm between the point and the shank of the hook in the tidal waters of the Seymour River from the B.C. Railway bridge downstream to the fishing boundary signs located on the west and east shore of the Seymour River. If fishing for salmon, cutthroat trout or steelhead trout, hooks must be barbless.
	Two single barbless hooks in tandem, each measuring no greater than 15 mm between the point and the shank of the hook, may be used in Burrard Inlet near the mouth of the Capilano River from the 14 St. Pier, to Prospect Light, to the north tower of Lions Gate Bridge.
Area 29	Barbless hooks are required when fishing for ALL finfish in the tidal waters of the Fraser River. The lower and upper tidal fishing boundaries of the Fraser River are described at the back of this guide.
	Bait ban in effect for all species in tidal portion of Fraser River. Details at your local DFO office or bc sportfishguide.ca .

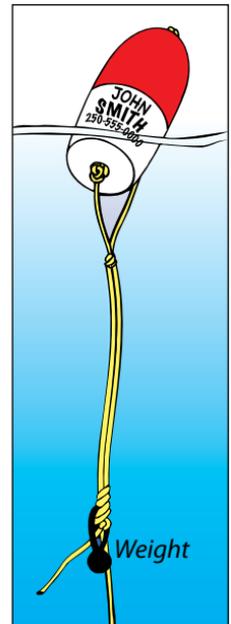
Fishing for Shellfish

In many areas of British Columbia, fishing is not allowed or is restricted for conservation purposes. It's your responsibility to know the regulations. Before you go fishing, check the latest closures and restrictions online (bcsportfishguide.ca).

Shellfish include all aquatic invertebrates, including clams, cockles, crabs, mussels, oysters, prawns, scallops, sea urchins and shrimp. Octopus, sea cucumbers and squid are also managed as shellfish in British Columbia.

Gear

- All traps you use for crab, shrimp and prawn fishing must be marked with a floating tag or buoy that has your name on it. This includes traps tied to a boat or dock or fished from shore.
- Only one name can appear on the trap. It must be legibly printed in a colour that's easy to see and must be at least 7.5 cm high. Consider including a phone number in case your trap is lost (this may soon be a legal requirement).
- You're not allowed to use trap gear that has another person's name on it when fishing for crab, shrimp, prawn or octopus.
- All single traps must be marked with a buoy. If two crab traps are attached to one ground line, you are allowed to mark the ground line with only one buoy.
- Buoys must be highly visible. They must be big enough for the tides and current in your fishing area so that they don't submerge. Household plastic jugs, bottles and Styrofoam chunks are not recommended because they're hard to see in the water and difficult to print your identification on. They also tend to deteriorate and sink.
- Make sure your buoy line doesn't float and become tangled in boaters' props. Either use sinking line or, if you use floating line, attach a weight to keep the extra line under the water at all tide levels (without sinking the buoy).



- Keep navigation channels clear of buoys and lines. Any fishing gear that interferes with safe navigation can be removed under the *Navigation Protection Act*.
- You are allowed to use mechanical devices to recover your traps.
- You are not allowed to use spears or chemicals to harvest octopus.

Reminders

- You must release incidental catch (see glossary) alive, to the place where you caught it, in a way that causes the least harm to the fish.
- When sport fishing, you may not waste any fish that's suitable for human consumption. You're not allowed to use any finfish suitable for consumption as bait in trap fishing. However, you are allowed to use fish offal, herring, mackerel, northern anchovy and Pacific sardine.
- Bivalve shellfish include clams, cockles, mussels and oysters. Before harvesting these species, you must make sure there are no red tide or sanitary contamination closures in your area. These closures can change often and quickly during the season.
- It is illegal to harvest shellfish from closed or contaminated areas.
- Never hang bivalve shellfish off docks or the side of your boat when travelling. The waters could be contaminated.
- Bivalve shellfish that you harvest may be shucked or cooked while you're in the field (e.g., on a beach). However, they must stay in a condition that makes them easy to count and identify until they arrive at your ordinary residence. Crabs are an exception: so that the size of the crab can be checked, the shell of any sport-caught crab must stay attached to the body until the crab is eaten or arrives at your ordinary residence.
- You're not allowed to harvest shellfish from a clam or oyster aquaculture site unless you have permission from the leaseholder.

The harvesting of northern abalone, an endangered species in British Columbia, is prohibited.

Notes on specific shellfish

Crab

You must measure your crab immediately. Measure in a straight line through the widest part of the shell. It's best to use a caliper device. A Dungeness crab must measure at least 165 mm. A red rock crab must measure at least 115 mm. You must immediately release all undersized crabs.

You must immediately release all female Dungeness and red

rock crabs. The female's abdomen has a wide "beehive" shape; the male's has a narrow "lighthouse" shape. You're not allowed to possess female Dungeness or red rock crabs.

Release crabs gently into the water. Throwing them into the water from the height of wharves and docks harms the crabs and is a violation.

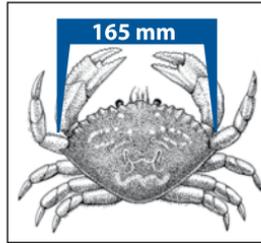
Crab may be caught only by trap, ring net, dip net or hand picking. You can use up to two rings, dip nets or traps in combination. It's illegal to use snares, rakes, spears or other pointed instruments to fish for crab.

All crab traps **must** have an opening in the top or side wall that's been sewn shut with a length of untreated cotton twine no greater than #120 (often called "rot cord"). When the twine rots, it must produce a rectangular opening at least 7 cm x 20 cm, or a square opening at least 11 cm x 11 cm. This regulation exists so that if a trap is lost and the twine rots, captive crabs can escape and the trap can no longer catch fish.

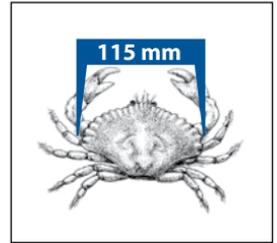


On traps with a rigid frame and a freely opening hinged lid, the trap lid must be secured by a loop of the same type of twine so that the lid will open freely when the rot cord breaks. There must not be any other fastenings that can interfere with the opening of the lid.

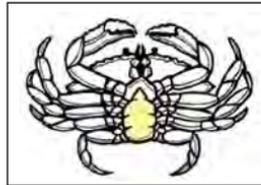
For more on crab harvesting, see the brochure *Sport Fishing Guidelines for Crab*, available at your local DFO office or online (bcSPORTFISHGUIDE.ca).



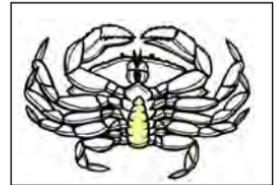
Dungeness crab



Red rock crab



Female



Male

Shrimp and prawn

The maximum number of shrimp and prawn traps you can fish is four.

You're allowed to fish a maximum of four traps on a single bottom line (ground line). If you set three or more traps together on a single ground line, then you must have a floating tag or buoy at either end of the ground line. Only one person's traps can be set on a single ground line.

You should use rot cord on all prawn traps (this recommendation may soon become a requirement; check online for the latest regulations). Create an opening in the top or side wall of your trap that can be sewn shut with a single strand of untreated cotton twine no greater than #120. The opening should be large enough so that if the trap is lost and the twine rots, captive prawns are able to escape.

Sponge Reef and Coral Advisory

Sponge reefs in British Columbia are essentially living fossils. Individual sponges can survive for up to 450 years, and their communities date back some 9,000 years.

Do your part to protect sensitive sponge and coral habitat by not fishing trap gear for crab, octopus, prawn or shrimp in areas where such fishing is not allowed. Move to another location any time you recover your trap gear and find pieces of sponge or coral attached.

Find out more, including where sensitive sponge and coral areas are located, on the DFO website (bcSPORTfishguide.ca).

Shellfish Tidal Waters Fishing Limits and Management Measures

Dates, limits and gear may change from year to year. Check with your local DFO office or online (bc sportfishguide.ca) to confirm the latest limits, gear and fishery openings, including shellfish contamination closures.

The same management measures apply to offshore waters as to corresponding inshore waters (e.g., limits in Area 23 apply in Area 123) unless otherwise specified. Offshore waters include Areas 101 to 111, 121, 123 to 127, 130, and 142.

Species	Area	Daily Limit	Open Times	Management Measures
Crab, all species combined	1 to 10, 21 to 27	6	Apr 1-Mar 31	Maximum of 2 ring nets, dip nets or traps or combination of these per fisher. Ensure gear is properly marked. Hand picking is permitted, including by diving. No sharp-pointed instruments are permitted for harvesting crab. It is illegal to use snares in catching or attempting to catch crabs. Maximum aggregate (combined total) daily limits are in place and include individual limits on those species listed below, excluding shore crab. Check latest area-specific crab management measures on the DFO website: bc sportfishguide.ca .
	11 to 20, 28, 29	4	Apr 1-Mar 31	
Crab, Alaska king	1 to 10, 21 to 27	2	Apr 1-Mar 31	Aggregate daily limit of Dungeness, red rock, box, Puget Sound and Alaska king in Areas 1-10 and 21-27 is 6; and in Areas 11-20, 28 and 29 is 4.
	11 to 20, 28, 29	0	Closed	
Crab, box and Puget Sound king	1 to 29	1	Apr 1-Mar 31	Minimum size limit for Dungeness crab is 165 mm measured across the widest breadth of the shell.
Crab, Dungeness	1 to 10, 21 to 27	6	Apr 1-Mar 31	Minimum size limit for red rock crab is 115 mm measured across the widest breadth of the shell.
	11 to 20, 28, 29	4	Apr 1-Mar 31	
Crab, red rock	1 to 10, 21 to 27	6	Apr 1-Mar 31	It is prohibited to possess female Dungeness and red rock crabs. In order to be accurately measured, the carapace of Dungeness crab and red rock crab that you catch must remain attached until the crab arrives at your residence or it is consumed.
	11 to 20, 28, 29	4	Apr 1-Mar 31	
Crab, shore	1 to 27	75	Apr 1-Mar 31	Check Crab Hepatopancreas Consumption Advisory (see page 21).
	28 and 29	0	Closed	
Crab, other	1 to 29	4	Apr 1-Mar 31	Check latest area-specific crab management measures on the DFO website: bc sportfishguide.ca .

Species	Area	Daily Limit	Open Times	Gear	Management Measures
Abalone	1 to 29	0	Closed	N/A	ENDANGERED SPECIES. Closed for conservation purposes.
Barnacles, giant	1 to 27	6	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking	
Barnacles, goose	1 to 27	2 kg	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking	
Clams, all	1 to 11	0	Closed	N/A	Closed due to paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) concerns. Details at your local DFO office or bcsportfishguide.ca .
	12 to 27	75	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand digging	All species aggregate daily limit combined Areas 1 to 27 is 75. It is illegal to use any mechanical apparatus or dredge for harvesting clams. Pacific Rim National Park (Area 23) aggregate daily limit: 8 razors, 3 geoducks, 12 horse clams, 24 littleneck or Manila clams, and 0 butter clams, and maximum aggregate of all clam species is 24. Areas 28 and 29 are closed to all bivalve harvest due to contamination. Check for closures due to PSP. Details at your local DFO office or bcsportfishguide.ca . Clam harvesters are encouraged to fill in holes to reduce predation on exposed juvenile clams.
Clam, butter	12 to 27	25	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand digging	
Clam, horse	12 to 27	6	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand digging	
Clam, littleneck	12 to 27	75	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand digging	
Clam, Manila	12 to 27	75	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand digging	
Clam, softshell	12 to 27	25	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand digging	
Clam, varnish	12 to 27	75	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking	
Clam, razor	Subarea 1-5	50	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand digging	Waters of McIntyre Bay on Queen Charlotte Islands.
	12 to 27	12	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand digging	Areas 28 and 29 are closed to all bivalve harvest due to contamination.
Cockles	1 to 11	0	Closed	N/A	Closed due to PSP concerns. Details at your local DFO office or bcsportfishguide.ca .
	12 to 27	25	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand digging & picking	Areas 28 and 29 are closed to all bivalve harvest due to contamination.
Geoduck	1 to 11	0	Closed	N/A	Closed due to PSP concerns. Details at your local DFO office or bcsportfishguide.ca .
	12 to 27	3	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand digging & picking	Areas 28 and 29 are closed to all bivalve harvest due to contamination.
Limpet/whelk	1 to 27	75	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking	Subject to PSP or contamination closures. Consult your local DFO office or bcsportfishguide.ca .
Mussel, blue	1 to 11	0	Closed	N/A	Closed due to PSP concerns. Details at your local DFO office or bcsportfishguide.ca .
	12 to 27	75	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking	All species aggregate daily limit combined. Pacific Rim National Park (Area 23) daily limit:12. Areas 28 and 29 are closed to all bivalve harvest due to contamination. Combined aggregate daily limit of all mussel species is 75.

Species	Area	Daily Limit	Open Times	Gear	Management Measures
Mussel, California	1 to 11	0	Closed	N/A	Closed due to PSP concerns. Details at your local DFO office.
	12 to 27	25	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking	Pacific Rim National Park (Area 23) daily limit: 12. Combined aggregate daily limit of all mussel species is 75. Areas 28 and 29 are closed to all bivalve harvest due to contamination.
Octopus	1 to 29	1	Apr 1-Mar 31	Trap, hook and line, diving and hand picking	Use of sharp-pointed instruments, snares, hand pumps and chemicals is prohibited.
Oyster, Olympia	1 to 29	0	Closed	N/A	To avoid inadvertently harvesting Olympia oysters while you are harvesting Pacific oysters, do not harvest any oyster less than 5 cm in diameter.
Oyster, Pacific	1 to 11	0	Closed	N/A	Closed due to PSP concerns. Details at your local DFO office.
	12 to 27	15 in the shell or 0.5L shucked	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking	Daily limit for oysters can be either shelled or shucked (unshelled), but not both. Harvesters are encouraged to shuck oysters on the beach and leave the shells there, or return oyster shells to the beach from where you collected them whenever possible. In order to avoid the transfer of European green crab, please dispose of any oyster shell harvested from the west coast of Vancouver Island back to the beach from where it came or with your household garbage. Consult your local DFO office. You will need permission to harvest oysters from marked oyster farms. Areas 28 and 29 are closed to all bivalve harvest due to contamination.
Scallop, all species	1 to 11	0	Closed	N/A	Closed due to PSP concerns. See special limit on weathervane scallops in Subarea 1-5. Consult your local DFO office.
Scallop, pink & spiny	12 to 27	75	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking, diving	Areas 28 and 29 are closed to all bivalve harvest due to contamination.
Scallop, rock	12 to 27	6	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking, diving	Areas 28 and 29 are closed to all bivalve harvest due to contamination.
Scallop, weathervane	Subarea 1-5	100	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking, diving	Within the waters of McIntyre Bay, Queen Charlotte Islands. Other portions of Areas 1 to 11 are closed for all species of scallop.
	12 to 27	6	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking, diving	Areas 28 and 29 are closed to all bivalve harvest due to contamination.
Sea cucumber	1 to 29	12	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking, diving	
Snail, moon	1 to 29	2	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking	Moon snails may be subject to PSP, check for closures. Consult your local DFO office or bcSPORTfishguide.ca for details.

Species	Area	Daily Limit	Open Times	Gear	Management Measures
Sea urchin	1 to 29	12	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking, diving	
Shrimp/prawn	1 to 29	200	Apr 1-Mar 31	Harvest by spear, ring net or trap	You may harvest dock shrimp by spear when diving. Maximum of 4 traps or ring nets or combination of these per fisher. The release of female prawns carrying eggs is encouraged for conservation. Some areas may experience in-season closures. Check with your local DFO office or bc sportfishguide.ca to confirm fishery openings.
	13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 23, 25, 28				In Saanich Inlet, Stuart Channel and Alberni Inlet, "pulse" fishing may be implemented after Labour Day weekend to increase prawn escapement and prawn abundance. Closures may be implemented January 1 to March 31 in waters around Quadra and Cortes Islands; the communities of Powell River and Lund; Sechelt and Salmon Inlets; Malaspina and lower Jervis Straits, Stuart Channel, Saanich Inlet, Alberni Inlet, Tahsis Inlet, Muchalat Inlet and Howe Sound, to allow the prawn spawning cycle to complete. Confirmation of these closures are made in-season. Consult your local DFO office or bc sportfishguide.ca .
Shrimp, ghost	1 to 29, except 29-8	50	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand digging, hand pump	Species is also known as sand shrimp. There is no fishing for ghost shrimp in Subarea 29-8 from May 1 to August 31 annually.
	29-8	50	Apr 1-Apr 30 Sep 1-Mar 31		
Sand dollar	1 to 29	6	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking	
Starfish, sea star	1 to 29	6	Apr 1-Mar 31	Hand picking	
Squid, Oopal	1 to 29	200	Apr 1-Mar 31	Cast net, jigging	
Squid, all other species	1 to 29	20	Apr 1-Mar 31	Cast net, jigging	This includes Humboldt squid and neon flying squid in the aggregate.
Other species	1 to 29	20	Apr 1-Mar 31	Various	The daily limit is per individual species not already listed in this guide.

Know Your Species

Before you go fishing, you should be familiar with the different species you might see. This includes the species you're fishing as well as some that you're not, such as invasive and at-risk species and marine mammals.

Aquatic invasive species

Plants and animals that don't occur naturally in local waters are known as aquatic invasive species. These species can be harmful to native plants and animals.

You have a part to play in controlling aquatic invasive species in British Columbia's waters. Keep an eye out for European green crabs, tunicates and other non-native plants and animals. Information and photos are available online (bcSPORTfishguide.ca).

Report them

If you find any aquatic invasive species, report them to DFO by email (AisPacific@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) or phone (**1-888-356-7525**). Include the date and exact location (GPS coordinates if available). You're encouraged to send photos of the species to the email address.

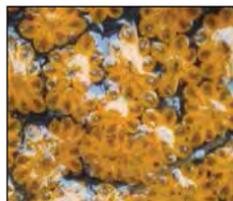
Don't spread them

Don't move any live marine animals from one body of water to another, or even from one part of the shore to another. Be careful when moving your boat from one body of water to another; invasive species may tag along. Take these precautions:

- Inspect your boat, motor, trailer and equipment, and remove visible debris.
- Drain water from your motor, livewell, bilge and transom wells while on land.
- Wash and dry your boat, tackle, downriggers, trailer and diving equipment.
- Empty your bait bucket on land before leaving the area where you've fished.
- Learn to identify aquatic invasive species.



European green crab



Golden star tunicate



Club tunicate

Species at risk

Sport fishing may bring you into contact with species that need protection, like the basking shark in British Columbia. Under Canada's *Species at Risk Act*, you are not allowed to kill, harm, harass, capture, take, possess, collect, buy, sell or trade a species listed as extirpated, endangered or threatened. It's also illegal to destroy the habitats these species use for living, breeding, rearing their young and feeding.

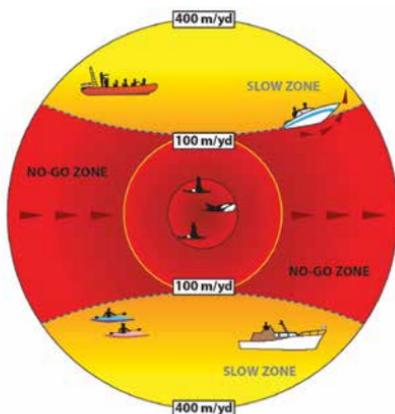
A list of aquatic species at risk is available online (bc sportfishguide.ca). Here's how you can help protect them:

- Report any sightings:
 - marine mammals and turtles, call **1-866-I SAW ONE (472-9663)**.
 - sharks, call **1-877-50-SHARK (507-4275)**.
- Report any violations by calling **1-800-465-4336**.
- Avoid conflict with marine mammals while you're boating and fishing.
- Educate yourself and help educate others about species at risk and the legislation.

Marine mammals

The *Marine Mammal Regulations*, under the federal *Fisheries Act*, make it illegal to disturb marine mammals, such as whales and seals.

Guidelines have recently been developed for viewing these animals. Do your part to protect marine mammals by following the laws and guidelines. For more information, visit the DFO website (bc sportfishguide.ca).



*Do not get too close to marine mammals.
Respect these boundaries.*

Do's and don'ts

DO:

- report any marine mammal that's being harassed or harmed, or that's sick, entangled, injured or abandoned, by calling the ORR line: **1-800-465-4336**
- report any sighting of a whale, dolphin, porpoise or sea turtle
 - phone: **1-866-I SAW ONE (472-9663)**
 - email: sightings@vanaqua.org
 - online: wildwhales.org

- check your gear to make sure no marine mammal is entangled in it

DON'T:

- touch, move, disturb or harass marine mammals
- try to feed marine mammals
- force seals or sea lions into the water
- encourage marine mammals to interact with anyone

Keep your distance from all marine mammals, including seals and seal pups. It's illegal to disturb marine mammals in Canada; this includes interacting with them. You could face a fine of up to \$100,000.

Whale depredation

The removal of fish from fishing gear by whales, known as whale depredation, is a growing problem in British Columbia. Depredation is a learned behaviour that spreads throughout whale social groups. Once established, it's impossible to eliminate.

Please don't encourage whales to associate fishing activity with depredation. Do not feed whales (or any marine mammals). If whales seem interested in your activities, fish in another area until they leave.

If you experience whale depredation, do your part to keep it from spreading by reporting the incident:

- phone: **250-756-7253**
- email: **marinemammals@dfo-mpo.gc.ca**

Seals and seal pups

Every year people find seal pups on the shore and pick them up, thinking they've been abandoned. Often the mother is simply out foraging, or is frightened by human presence, and will shortly return to reclaim and tend to her pup.



If you encounter a lone seal pup, keep your distance. Do not attempt to move the seal. It may not need rescuing, and your actions can endanger its life.

Please report any seal that you believe is injured or abandoned:

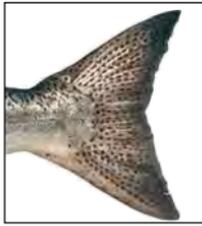
- phone: **604-258-SEAL (7325)**

Identifying salmon

Chinook (also known as spring, tyee, king, blackmouth)

- Lightly spotted blue-green back.
- Flowing V-shaped tail is silvery, often spot-covered, squarer by adult stage.
- Black gums, dark mouth. Large, sharp teeth.
- Weight: 1.5–30 kg. Lives three to seven years. Largest, most prized game fish.
- In juvenile stage, sometimes confused with pink (both have tail spots).

Missing fin? Keep the head! (see page 18)



Chum (also known as dog, keta)

- White-tipped anal fin, silvery sides, faint gridlike bars as fish nears spawning stream.
- Slightly forked tail, silver streaks on about half of tail. Narrow tail base.
- Fleshy lips, large teeth in both jaws, no teeth on tongue.
- Weight: 4.5–6.5 kg but can reach 15 kg. Lives three to five years. Sometimes confused with sockeye (similar colouring, both lack tail spots). Look for larger size and silver streaks in tail.



Coho (also known as blueback, silver)

- Bright silver, lightly spotted, metallic blue spots on upper part of body.
- Square, silver tail with light spotting, usually on upper part. Wide tail base.
- Nearly white gums in lower jaw. White mouth, sometimes with black edge. Black tongue. Sharp, strong teeth.
- Weight: 1.3–14 kg. Lives average three years. Grows fast in final year. Sometimes confused with chum (similar colouring). Look for white gums and some spots on tail.

Missing fin? Keep the head! (see page 18)



Pink (also known as humpy)

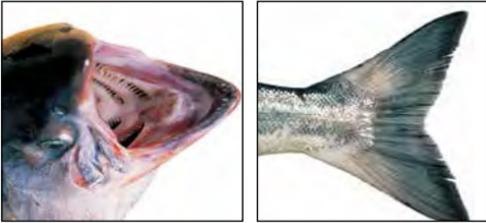
- Tiny scales. In ocean: silver bodies, spotted backs.
- V-shaped tail covered with large oval spots. Unlike other salmon, no silver on tail.
- White mouth, black gums, no teeth on tongue.
- Weight: average 2.2 kg but can reach 5.5 kg. Lives two years. Smallest Pacific species.
- In early adult stage, sometimes confused with chinook (both have tail spots).



Sockeye (also known as red)

- Silver-blue with many long gill rakers. Prominent, glassy eyes.
- Moderately forked tail with no black spots.
- Fleshy lips, small teeth in both jaws, no teeth on tongue.
- Weight: 2.2–3.1 kg but can reach 6.3 kg. Lives four to five years. Slimmest, most streamlined Pacific species.
- Sometimes confused with chum (similar colouring, both lack tail spots).

Missing fin? Marked sockeye should return to Cultus Lake hatchery. Please release!

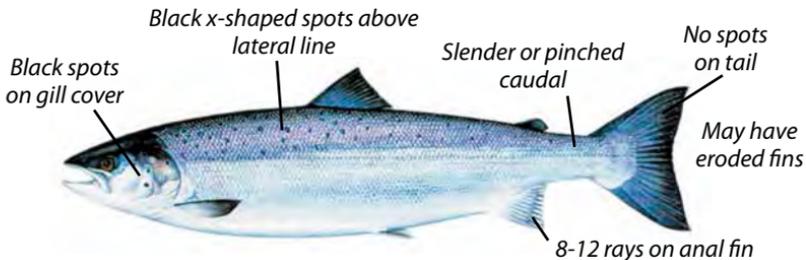


Features of Pacific salmon

	Chinook	Chum	Coho	Pink	Sockeye
Mouth	Dark with black gums; large, sharp teeth	White, tongue may be black; large teeth	White, may have black edge, white gums; sharp, medium-sized teeth	White with black gums; in marine areas, almost no teeth	White with white gum line; small teeth
Tail	V-shaped, silvery; spots on both lobes	No spots, silver streaks covering about half of tail; narrow tail base	Square, silver; some spots, usually on upper lobe; wide tail base	V-shaped, no silver; large oval spots on both lobes	Moderately forked; no spots
Other distinguishing features	Large spots on back	No spots on back or tail; possible faint vertical bars on silver fish; white tip on anal fin	Spots on upper part of body	Large spots on back; smallest species	No spots on back or tail; prominent, glassy eyes
Age at maturity	3 to 7 years	3 to 5 years	3 years	2 years	4 to 5 years
Freshwater markings	Body turns olive brown to black	Vertical bands on sides, may be reddish-purple on male	Greenish-black head, red body	Pronounced hump on male	Greenish head, red body

Features of Atlantic salmon

- Raised commercially in pens in marine waters of B.C. and Washington.
- Large black spots on gill cover (uncommon on Pacific salmon).
- Cross-hatched spots along body, above lateral line (uncommon on Pacific salmon).
- Large scales, usually no spots on tail, 8–12 anal fin rays (13–19 on Pacific salmon). Tail, dorsal and other fins may be eroded from containment in pens.



Identifying other finfish

Greenling

- Found inshore near rocky habitat, kelp or eelgrass beds.
- Average length/weight (of kelp greenling): 50 cm, 2 kg.
- Elongated with long dorsal fin split into sections. Male is brown with blue spots on back; female is golden-brown with red spots.



Kelp greenling

Halibut

- Found in deep waters in areas with gravel/mud bottoms.
- Maximum length/weight: 267 cm, 225 kg.
- Mottled olive green, brown or black on one side, white on opposite. Broad, slightly forked tail. Two eyes on one side of head.



Pacific halibut

Herring

- Found in shallow regions or in midwater over greater depths. Found in huge schools.
- Average length: 25 cm.
- Silvery with blue-green back, large scales. Toothless.



Pacific herring

Lingcod

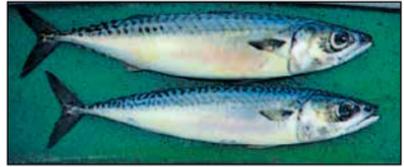
- Found mainly over rocky bottoms at depths to 2,000 m.
- Length/weight: 100–150 cm, 20–35 kg.
- Mottled colouring, brown/grey/green. Many sharp teeth.



Lingcod

Mackerel

- Fairly abundant off west coast of Vancouver Island and Prince Rupert Harbour.
- Chub or Pacific mackerel: Average size: 45 cm but can reach 60 cm. Streamlined spindle shape. Two dorsal fins and five small finlets between second dorsal and tail.
- Jack mackerel: Bigger than Pacific mackerel, reaching 80 cm. Only one finlet following second dorsal fin.



Chub mackerel

Pacific sardine

- Found in large schools, feeding on plankton.
- Average length: 30 cm.
- Small, silvery fish of herring family.



Pacific sardine

Rockfish

- 37 species found in B.C., both near shore and offshore.
- Average length: species range 18–120 cm.
- Stout, heavy build. Large, broad heads, usually bearing spines and strong ridges. Heavily spined fins. Colouring varies from black and drab green to orange and crimson; some accented by wide red or black vertical stripes.



Quillback rockfish



Yelloweye rockfish

Sculpin

- Cabezon: Found in northern B.C., often in kelp beds from shallow to moderate depths. Weight: up to 11 kg.
- Pacific staghorn sculpin: Found in shallow waters along Pacific coast. Average length: 46 cm.
- Large eyes high on head. Pectoral fins smooth on upper edge, webbed with sharp rays along lower edge.



Pacific staghorn sculpin

Smelt

- Found inshore. Spawn on beaches and in estuaries.
- Average length: 15 cm.
- Small, schooling, silvery fish.



Surf smelt

Sole/flounder

- Found in deep waters in areas with gravel/mud bottoms.
- Average length/weight (of English sole): 36 cm, 1.5 kg.
- Oval or diamond-shaped. Both eyes on dark-coloured side of head, other side white and eyeless.



English sole

Spiny dogfish

- Surface swimmer, found throughout B.C.
- Average length/weight: 75–105 cm, 10 kg.
- Dark grey/brown on back, light-coloured belly. May have irregular white spots on back. Dorsal fins preceded by spines.



Spiny dogfish

Sturgeon

- Mainly bottom dweller, found inshore and in large river systems.
- Maximum length/weight: 6 m, 600 kg.
- Long nose, projecting mouth, whiskers near tip of snout. Armour-like plates instead of scales.



Sturgeon

Surfperch

- Found in shallow inshore waters.
- Length: up to 45 cm.
- Compressed, deep body with large eyes and small mouth. Varieties have different markings. Striped seaperch: Blue and gold stripes. Pile perch: Silvery with black vertical bars.



Pile perch

Trout

There are many species of trout besides those listed below. Wild trout have an adipose fin. Hatchery trout have a healed scar in place of the adipose fin.

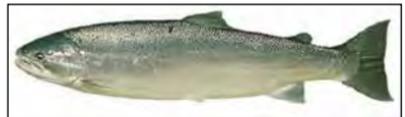
- Cutthroat: Large mouth extends well past eye. Teeth in throat, at back of tongue. Many spots from front to back.
- Dolly Varden: Small head. Oval, snakelike body. White leading edges on lower fins.
- Steelhead: Slender lateral profile. Small black spots on back, uniform spots on square tail. No teeth in throat, at back of tongue.



Cutthroat



Dolly Varden



Steelhead

Tuna

- Highly migratory across Pacific.
- Average length: 125 cm.
- Long sabre-like pectoral fins reaching beyond anal fin.



Albacore tuna

Identifying shellfish

Northern abalone are listed as endangered under Canada's *Species at Risk Act*. It is illegal to fish for abalone, to harm or harass them or to possess any abalone or part of abalone, including the shell.

Abalone

- Thin, oval shell with irregular reddish or greenish upper surface.
- Shell sometimes marked with blue or white. Often encrusted with organisms.
- Iridescent white shell interior with faint pink and green sheen.
- Series of three to six raised holes to allow water currents to pass over gills.



Northern abalone

Clam

Five species are of most interest to sport fishers: Manila, native littleneck, butter, varnish, razor.

- Manila, littleneck, butter, varnish: Found in gravel/sand beaches in protected bays. Razor: Found on wave-swept sand beaches open to Pacific.
- Manila and littleneck look alike, with lines up and across outer shell surface. Manila: Elongated. Purple shell interior. Littleneck: Round. White shell interior.
- Butter: Large, thick-shelled with well-developed concentric ridges but no radial lines.
- Varnish and razor have shiny brown covering on outer shell surface. Varnish: Round. Large external ligament at hinge. Razor: Oblong.



Butter clam



Littleneck clam



Manila clam



Razor clam



Varnish clam

Crab

Two species are of most interest to sport fishers: Dungeness and red rock.

- Three to four pairs of walking legs. Pair of claws for feeding and defence.
- Female carries egg clusters on underside of body.
- Female's abdomen wide, like a beehive. Male's abdomen narrow, like a lighthouse.
- Dungeness: Gray-brown back, yellow underneath. White-tipped claws. Red rock: Brick red back, white underneath. Black-tipped claws.



Dungeness crab



Red rock crab

It is illegal to possess female Dungeness or red rock crabs.

Mussel

- Bluish-black shell, distinctive "D" or flattened teardrop shape.
- Pearly violet or white shell interior.
- Blue mussel: Native. Found in inshore waters. Smooth outer shell surface with growth rings. Length: up to 9 cm.
- California mussel: Found in beds along wave-swept rocky shores. Raised radial ribs. Length: up to 25 cm.



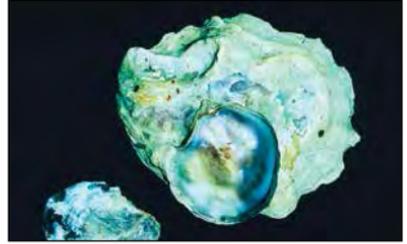
Blue mussel

Oyster

- Pacific: Large. Thick shell, rough sculptured appearance. The main species cultured in southern B.C.
- Olympia: Small. Length: up to 9 cm but usually not over 5 cm. Illegal to keep.
- Olympia only native oyster on B.C. coast. Once in large clusters in Georgia Strait. Now small groupings, mainly at a few sites on west coast of Vancouver Island.
- Little information on Olympia populations in Johnstone Strait or B.C.'s central and north coasts.



Pacific oyster



Olympia oyster

It is illegal to keep Olympia oysters.

Scallop

Four species are of most interest to sport fishers: spiny, pink, weathervane, rock.

- Spiny, pink, weathervane: Swimming scallop. Adult rock: Attaches to objects.
- Spiny and pink: Reddish shell. Size: up to 10 cm.
- Weathervane: Brown upper shell, whitish lower shell. Size: 15–20 cm.
- Rock: Thick, rough shell. Often encrusted with organisms. Size: up to 20 cm.



Spiny scallops

Shrimp and prawn

Five species are of most interest to sport fishers: coonstripe, humpback, smooth pink, spiny pink, prawn.

- Coonstripe (dock): Red-brown. Irregular brown and white oblique lines on shell and abdomen. Found in shallow water on or near pilings and floats.
- Humpback: Red-tan. Dark red and bright white markings. Found on soft or hard bottom.
- Pink: Uniform translucent red. Live on soft bottom.
- Prawn: Red. White horizontal bars on shell, at least two pairs of white spots on abdomen. Found in rocky areas. Largest shrimp in B.C., up to 25 cm.



Coonstripe shrimp



Pacific prawn

Squid

Three species are of most interest to sport fishers: opal, neon flying, Humboldt.

- Soft-bodied swimmer. Muscular tube (mantle) has fins at narrow end, contains internal organs. Mantle supports head (with large eyes), arms, two feeding tentacles with suckers and sometimes hooks on ends.
- Opal: Pale lavender. Size: up to 13 cm in B.C. Found in inshore waters. Often gather in large schools to spawn in shallow water.
- Neon flying: Mauve on upper surface, silvery or gold below. Tentacle sucker rings have four large teeth with many smaller teeth between. Size: up to 100 cm, 5 kg.
- Humboldt: Brown or red. Size: up to 200 cm, 45 kg.



Opal squid

Glossary

Below are definitions of some technical terms found in this guide and in the fishing regulations.

ADIPOSE FIN

The fleshy appendage found on salmon and trout, located between the dorsal fin and the tail.

AGGREGATE

The combined total number.

AREA

A statistical area as defined by the *Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations*.

BARBLESS HOOK

A hook from which all barbs have been removed—either filed off or pinched flat against the shaft. The shaft of a hook is the straight part between the eye and the bend.

BAR RIG

A line or leader with a weight no greater than 1 kg attached at the end, and from which no more than two lines are attached by means of one or more swivels, spreader bars or other means. Each of these two lines may have only one hook attached.

BIVALVE MOLLUSC

Shellfish with two shells, including clams, cockles, mussels, oysters and scallops.

CARAPACE

The protective bony shell covering the inner organs of any member of the crab or shrimp family. On a crab it is the top outer shell and must remain attached to prove that a crab in your possession is of legal size.

CATCH AND RELEASE

A conservation measure that requires that if a fish is caught, it must be returned to the water. Similar terms include “closed to retention,” “non-retention” and “daily limit is 0.”

CIRCLE HOOK

A hook in which the shank, bend and point form an almost enclosed circle, with the tip pointing towards the shaft at roughly 90 degrees. Circle hooks may not be offset more than 10 degrees. The shape of the circle hook makes it difficult for the hook to set except in the fish's jaw. Should a hook be ingested, it may be drawn back out of the fish's gut without engaging.

CODED WIRE TAG

Microscopic stainless steel tag inserted into the nose cartilage of a salmon before ocean migration. The salmon's adipose fin is removed so that the tagged adult can be recognized.

DAILY LIMIT

The maximum number of a given fish species that a person is allowed to keep in one day.

DAYLIGHT HOURS

The hours that start one hour before sunrise and end one hour after sunset. Sunrise and sunset refer to the times for those events calculated by the National Research Council of Canada.

DOWNRIGGER

A device consisting of a winch (electric or hand-powered) that lowers a wire line with a heavy weight attached. In use, a fishing line from a separate rod and reel is attached to the downrigger by a release clip, which can be lowered to a chosen depth. When a fish is hooked, the fishing line is released from the downrigger line and the fish can be played without resistance on the rod and reel.

FINFISH

Includes all fish other than crustaceans, echinoderms (sea urchins, sand dollars, etc.), molluscs, shellfish and marine mammals.

FISH

Includes finfish, shellfish, crustaceans and molluscs in any stage of life, including eggs. Also includes any parts of a fish.

FISHING BOUNDARY SIGN

A sign that may be posted to identify a closed area, the boundary of a management area or subarea, or the division between tidal and non-tidal waters. The sign may be either a white triangle or a white square.

FOUL HOOKING (SNAGGING)

The hooking of a fish, accidentally or intentionally, in any part of its body other than the mouth.

HATCHERY-MARKED FISH

A fish usually marked by the absence of the adipose fin, or sometimes the pelvic fin or the pectoral fin, and having a healed scar in place of the absent fin.

INCIDENTAL CATCH

Any fish that a person is not allowed to take at a given time and in a given area. Also, any fish that a person is allowed to keep but chooses not to.

INSIDE

Shoreward from a point or a boundary line towards the shoreline.

LENGTH OF A FISH

The distance measured from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail; where there is no fork, to the tip of the tail.

LICENSED FISH PROCESSOR

A person or business licensed by the British Columbia government and registered with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to process sport-caught fish.

MANAGEMENT AREA

Same meaning as "area."

NATURAL BAIT

Foodstuff or other natural substance (other than wood, cotton, wool, hair, fur or feathers) that is used as bait. Does not include finfish, other than roe.

NON-RESIDENT

A person who normally resides outside a place (e.g., Canada, British Columbia). A Canadian non-resident is a person who is not a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada.

NON-RETENTION

A conservation measure that requires that if a fish is caught, it must be returned to the water. Similar terms include "catch and release," "closed to retention" and "daily limit is 0."

ORDINARY RESIDENCE

A residential dwelling where a person normally lives, with all associated connotations including a permanent mailing address, telephone number, furniture and vehicle storage; the address on the person's driver's licence and vehicle registration; where the person is registered to vote. A motor home at a campsite or a vessel at a marina is not considered to be an ordinary residence.

OUTSIDE

Seaward from a point or a boundary line towards the open ocean.

POSSESSION LIMIT

The maximum number of fish of any species that a person is allowed to have in his/her possession at any given time, except at a place of ordinary residence. With certain exceptions (e.g., halibut), the possession limit is two times the daily limit for that species.

PROCESSED FISH

Any fish intended for consumption that has been cooked, canned, brined, smoked, salted or prepared to prevent spoiling.

REGION

A fish and wildlife management region of the province as determined by the British Columbia government.

RELEASE CLIP

A device that allows a fishing line to be detached from a downrigger line when a fish takes the lure or when a person sets the hook, allowing the fish to be retrieved by rod and reel or a separate handline.

RESIDENT

A person who normally resides in a place (e.g., Canada, British Columbia). A Canadian resident is a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident who normally resides in Canada.

SALMON

Species belonging to the family Salmonidae, including Atlantic, chinook, chum, coho, pink and sockeye.

SET LINE

A line with one or more hooks left unattended in the water.

SHORELINE

The waters inside and shoreward of the 2 m depth contour measures below the chart datum (0 tide).

SINGLE BARBLESS HOOK

A barbless hook with only one point. A treble hook (with three points) is not considered to be a single hook.

SNARE

A looping mechanism of wire or cord that creates a noose-type form that can be drawn closed to capture prey.

SPEAR FISHING

Fishing by means of a spear propelled by a spring, an elastic band, compressed air, a bow or by hand.

SPORT FISHING

Fishing by any means for personal use of the fish or for recreation. This includes angling, helping to land a fish, harvesting shellfish and spear fishing. Sport fishing does not include fishing for commercial purposes or fishing carried out under the authority of licence issued under the *Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations*.

TAGGED FISH

Some finfish are marked with a variety of tags (plastic, metal, etc.) to show that they are part of research programs that gather information on the species.

TIDAL WATER BOUNDARY

Unless otherwise specified, the tidal boundary is a straight line drawn between the two most seaward points of land located on either side of the mouth of a river or stream. A tidal boundary may also be designated by a fishery officer by placing a triangular sign near the mouth of a river or stream. Maps and descriptions of other specified tidal boundaries are at the back of this guide.

TREBLE HOOK

A hook with three separate points radiating out from one common shank.

WHALE DEPREDATION

The removal of fish from fishing gear by whales. Depredation is a learned behaviour that spreads throughout whale social groups. Once established, it is impossible to eliminate.



B.C.'s Family Fishing Weekend

In British Columbia you can celebrate the sport of fishing every Father's Day weekend by fishing without a licence (unless you intend to catch and keep salmon, lingcod or halibut). There are also free events in many communities. There's no better time to get together with family and friends and go fishing.

For more information and a list of weekend activities, visit the event website (bcfamilyfishing.com).



Tidal Water Boundaries

Licences and regulations are different for tidal waters and freshwater fishing. Know your boundaries.

Maps showing the North and South Coast Management Areas are on the back of this page and the next.

Below is a map of the freshwater Regions of British Columbia.



Region 1: Vancouver Island

Region 2: Lower Mainland

Region 3: Thompson-Nicola

Region 4: Kootenays – no salmon

Region 5A: Cariboo (Fraser River Watershed)

Region 5B: Cariboo (Coastal Watershed)

Region 6: Skeena

Region 7: Omineca-Peace

Region 8: Okanagan

For streams and rivers, the boundary between tidal waters and non-tidal waters, unless otherwise specified, is a straight line drawn between the two most seaward points of land located on either side of the mouth of that river or stream. Any waters seaward of a line formed between two points of land immediately adjacent to the stream mouth or delta is considered tidal waters.

[South Coast Management Areas Map >>](#)

Tidal Water Boundaries (continued)

Rivers in Tidal Water Areas 28 & 29 (Region 2):

Brunette River: Burlington Northern Railway Bridge

Capilano River: BCR Bridge

Coquitlam River: Mary Hill Bypass Bridge

Fraser River: CPR Bridge at Mission

Kanaka Creek: CPR Bridge

Nathan Creek: CNR Bridge

Nicomekl River: Burlington Northern Railway Bridge

Pitt River: CPR Bridge

Serpentine River: Burlington Northern Railway Bridge

Seymour River: CNR Bridge

Stave River: CPR Bridge

West Creek: CN Railway Bridge

Whonnock Creek: CP Rail line

York Creek: CP Rail line

Fraser River-Pitt River

Includes the Fraser River downstream of the CPR bridge at Mission to a line drawn from a fishing boundary sign near the entrance to Canoe Pass, then to a fishing boundary sign on Westham Island, then following the westerly shoreline of Westham Island and Reifel Island to Pelly Point on Reifel Island, then to Garry Point on Lulu Island, then following the westerly shoreline of that island to the most northwesterly point of Lulu Island, then to the most southwesterly point of Sea Island then following the westerly shoreline of that island to the Iona Island Causeway, then following that causeway and continuing in a straight line in a northerly direction to a fishing boundary sign on the north shore of Iona Island, then in a straight line in a northerly direction to a fishing boundary sign on the mainland. It also includes those waters of the Pitt River downstream of the CPR bridge.

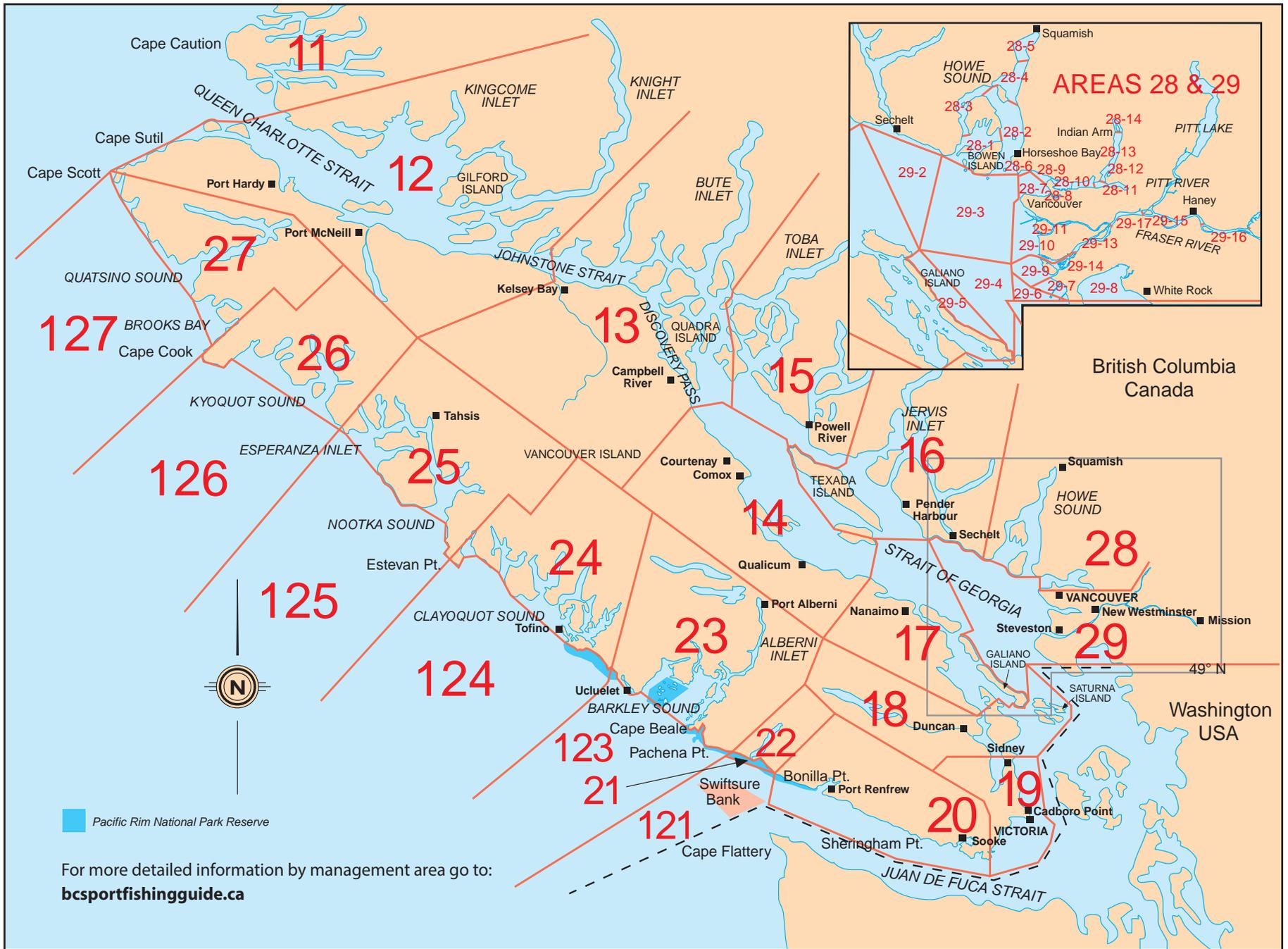
Squamish River – Area 28

Defined by a line due west from the end of the Squamish Spit.

The Squamish estuary and the Mamquam blind channel are considered tidal waters.

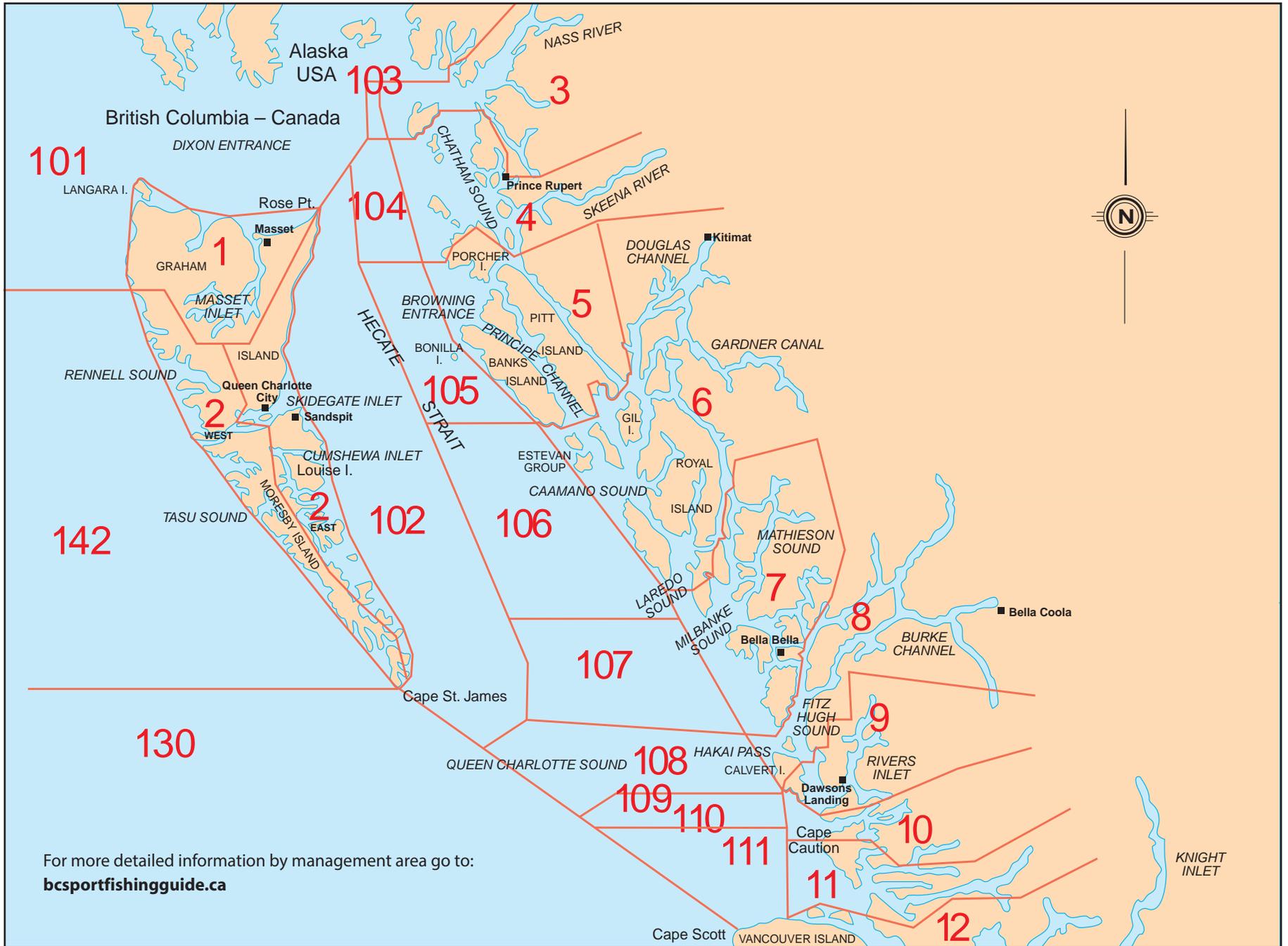
Skeena River - North Coast and Region 6

Skeena River: a line drawn from Mowitch Point to Veitch Point.



South Coast Management Areas

For reference only





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