



Fishing Regulations

Waterton Lakes National Park

April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027

Open seasons

May 16 to September 7

Akamina Lake, Cameron Lake, Cameron Creek, Crandell Lake, Waterton Lakes (Upper and Middle).

July 1 to October 31

All other waters except closed waters.

Water levels and stream temperatures will be monitored within Waterton Lakes National Park. Drought-related closures will be issued if required.

For current information:



Closed waters

- Bauerman Creek
- Belly River (main channel, North Fork)
- Blakiston Creek
- Dungarvan Creek
- Maskinonge Lake and Inlet
- Sofa Creek

For current information:



Mandatory certification and self-inspection

- All fishing gear and waders must be self-inspected and self-certified before use.
- Self-certification stations are located at high-use water bodies and where fishing permits are sold.
- Only use gear that is clean, drained, and dried, and has been certified free of aquatic invasive species.

For more information:



A national park fishing permit is required when angling in national parks in Canada.

Provincial fishing licenses are not valid.

NOTE: THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE LISTING OF NATIONAL PARKS FISHING REGULATIONS.

Scan the QR code for a complete listing.



Temporary closures or additional restrictions may be posted separately.

Report poaching or suspicious activity by calling **1-888-WARDENS (1-888-927-3367)**

Violators can face fines of up to \$25,000 under the Canada National Parks Act.

Catch and possession limits

The possession limit is zero for many native species. You must correctly identify your catch. If you are not sure, release it immediately. Visit parks.canada.ca/banff-fish-identification for information on how to identify different fish species.

Species	Daily limit	Possession limit
Arctic grayling, rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, lake trout, northern pike, mountain whitefish, lake whitefish	2	2
Cutthroat trout: Akamina Lake, Alderson Lake, Bertha Lake, Cameron Creek, Cameron Lake, Carthew Lakes, Crypt Lake, Lineham Lakes, Lone Lake	2	2
Cutthroat trout: all other waters, including Goat Lake, Upper, Middle and Lower Waterton Lakes, and the Waterton River and its tributaries	0	0
Bull trout	0	0
All other species	0	0

If a fish has been filleted, two fillets will be considered one fish. It is unlawful to continue fishing on any day after having caught and retained the maximum daily catch and possession limit.

Fishing permits



Anyone under the age of 16 may fish in the national parks without a permit if accompanied by a national park fishing permit holder 16 years of age or older. However, their catch is then included within the permit holder's daily limit. A valid national park entry pass is also required when fishing in the mountain national parks.

It is unlawful to:

- Fish without a valid national park fishing permit in your immediate possession.
- Fish with or possess within 100 metres of park waters the following:
 - ◊ natural bait and chemical attractants;
 - ◊ any lead tackle (sinkers, jigs, lures and flies) under 50 grams;
 - ◊ lures with more than 2 treble hooks;
 - ◊ a line capable of catching more than one fish at one time;
 - ◊ live or dead fish or any parts thereof for use as bait.
- Fish by any method other than angling.
- Use barbed hooks from which the barb(s) have not been removed or pinched to the shaft of the hook.
- Use felt-soled wading boots.
- Fish with more than one line at a time.
- Fish with a line having more than one artificial fly.
- Fish closed waters.
- Leave a fishing line unattended.
- Fish from 2 hours after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise.
- Sell, trade or barter any fish caught.
- Place or transfer any fish or fish eggs between any park waters.
- Place any food for fish in park waters.
- Harass fish by throwing objects or impeding their movements.
- Use fishing gear that has not been inspected and certified free of aquatic invasive species.
- Possess more than 2 game fish at one time.
- Allow your catch to spoil or to be wasted.



Boating restrictions

New measures are in effect to protect park and downstream waters from aquatic invasives (mussels, whirling disease etc.).

- Non-motorized watercraft arriving from outside the park are prohibited from launching. Rentals available in park.
- Mandatory 90-day quarantine for all motorized and trailer-launched watercraft.

For more information:



Definitions



Angling: Fishing with a hook and line held in the hand or with a hook, line and rod held in the hand. It does not mean fishing with a set line.



Artificial fly: A single or double hook on a common shank, dressed with silk, tinsel, wood, fur, feathers or other materials (no lead), or any combination thereof without a spinning device, whether attached to the hook or line.



Natural bait ban: You can only use lures made of feathers, fibre, rubber, wood, metal or plastic. No edible material (plant or animal products), scented lures or chemical attractants are permitted.



Tributary: Any water course which flows into another body of water. This includes a tributary of a tributary. Lakes are excluded unless otherwise specified.



Trout: For the purposes of this summary, the word trout includes char species.



Daily limit: The number of fish you can legally catch and retain in one day. This includes fish that are eaten, given away or stored that day. You must stop fishing once the daily limit is reached.



Possession limit: The total number of fish you can legally have in your possession at any time. This includes fish kept from previous days. You may not possess more than the allowed number, regardless of when the fish were caught.

Help released fish survive

- Barbed hooks are prohibited from being used in Waterton Lakes National Park. Use a single, barbless hook to release fish more easily. Replace treble hooks with single hooks or remove two of the the three treble hooks with wire cutters. Make barbed hooks barbless by flattening the barb with pliers.
- Minimize fish handling time by releasing fish as quickly as possible.
- Always keep fish in the water when handling, taking photographs, and releasing.
- Handle fish with bare, wet hands. Keep fingers away from the gills and do not squeeze to avoid injuring the fish.
- Remove the hook gently with needle-nosed pliers. If the hook is deep, cut the line or leader rather than pulling the hook out. The hook will decompose in time.
- Avoid angling in hot weather. Trout are more likely to die after catch and release when water temperatures exceed 18 °C.

By following these tips, you can significantly increase the chances of a released fish surviving and thriving.

For further information:

Waterton Lakes National Park: 403-859-5133
waterton.info@pc.gc.ca