

Ottawa Fishing



- Fish species native to the Ottawa area**
- Boat launches on the Ottawa River, Constance Lake, Rideau River and Jock River**
- Obtaining a fishing licence**

\$4.95
(includes taxes)

FISH DESCRIPTIONS



Small mouth bass

Small I mouth bass

TYPICAL SIZE: 0.5 - 1.8 kg (1-4 lbs.)

ONTARIO RECORD: 4.5 kg (9.8 lbs.)

Smallmouth bass have a deep, compressed body with a bronze back and greenish-brown sides with irregular bars fading into an olive belly. The jaw extends back to the reddish eyes. Smallmouth bass, common throughout the Ottawa and Rideau rivers, are found over hard bottoms, close to shore in early summer and move into woodbeds, boating channels, sandbars and rocky bottoms as water temperatures rise. Small fish, crayfish, leeches and frogs form a major part of their diet so they can be caught on a variety of live bait and artificial lures such as surface plugs, crankbaits, jigs and flies. The firm, white and flaky flesh is good eating.



Largemouth bass

Largemouth bass

TYPICAL SIZE: 0.9 - 2.3 kg (2- 5 lbs.)

ONTARIO RECORD: 4.7kg (10.4 lbs.)

Largemouth bass have dark green backs blending into lighter green sides with a broad horizontal band of irregular black patches. A large jaw extends beyond the eye. Largemouth, abundant in the Rideau River south of Kas and the lower Ottawa River, prefer warm, shallow backwaters with a profusion of weeds, lily pads, and logs. They are opportunistic feeders preying heavily on small fish, crayfish and frogs. They can be caught on a wide variety of live bait and artificial lures, which include plastic worms, spinnebaits, crankbaits, flipping jigs and flyrod hair bugs. The firm, white and flaky flesh is good eating.



Pumpkinseed, better known as sunfish, have a flat, deep body with a greenish-olive back, orange-yellow sides with reddish blotches, wavy blue streaks on the cheeks and a spot on the gill flap. They like shallow sheltered shorelines, rock docks and bays with patches of weed and brush.

Sunfish feed mostly on aquatic insects, snails, crayfish and small fish. They are readily caught on worms, grasshoppers and small artificial lures such as panfish jigs, small spinners and flyrod poppers. The white, flaky flesh is sweet and good eating.



Bl uegill

Bl uegill

TYPICAL SIZE: 12-23 cm (5- 9 in.)

ONTARIO RECORD: 0.8 kg (1.8 lbs.)

Bluegill have a flat, deep body with dark olive back, bluish iridescent sides marked by 6 to 8 vertical dark bars and a black gill flap. The throat is white or orange depending on the sex. They are found in shallow, weedy areas with an abundance of underwater debris and often suspended in loose schools around docks, fallen trees and rock piles in summer.

Bluegill feed on plankton, aquatic insects, snails, worms and small fish. A popular panfish readily caught on worms, grasshoppers and small artificial lures such as panfish jigs, small spinners and flyrod poppers. The white, flaky flesh is tasty pan-fried.

Lake Sturgeon are a prehistoric-looking fish with an elongated silver body protected by rows of bony plates, a long snout and an underslung mouth with barbels.

Little is known about sturgeon in the Ottawa River except that their numbers are declining; they have been known to exceed 45.5 kg (100 lbs.) in the past. They are very slow growing, taking 14 years or more to mature. Small Sturgeon, caught incidentally, should be released as a conservation measure.

Exotic species:

Ontario's waters are threatened by exotic species that can be spread unknowingly by anglers and boaters. These exotics include zebra mussels, river holly, round goby, Eurasian watermilfoil, rusty crayfish and water lilies. Here are several steps to prevent exotics from causing more harm to Ontario's environment.

At the launch ramp:

- remove any weeds caught on the boat's hull or anchor, motor and trailer
- drain water from the motor, livewell and transom wells on land

At home:

- wash down the boat, motor, trailer and fishing equipment, such as downriggers, to kill harmful species not visible at the boat ramp. Some aquatic nuisances can survive more than two weeks out of water.

- dry your boat and equipment for at least five days before launching at another waterbody.

Bait:

- Anglers should empty bait buckets on land before leaving any waterbody. Leftover live bait should never be released to a lake or river. Never take water from one lake and empty it into another.

For more information:

- Anglers and boaters can help by learning how to identify zebra mussels and other exotic species. See the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters website: www.invasivejigs.com
- If you suspect a new infestation in your area, report it to the Invasive Species Hotline (toll-free 1-800-563-7711) or the Kempenfle MNR office (613) 258-8204.

For major urban centres can match the recreational angling opportunities available to Ottawa area residents and visitors with two major waterways converging in the city—the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers. A variety of fish species from trophy muskie, to elusive walleye, to powerful Carp live within the shadow of highrise buildings, all within reach of anglers of all ages and experience, both from shore and afloat. Those looking farther afield will find boat access points at regular intervals along both rivers and other nearby smaller waterways.

This brochure is intended as a guide to fun and safe fishing adventures with family and friends close to home for a day or, perhaps, for just a few evening hours.

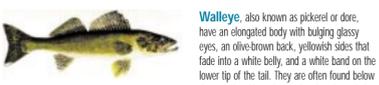
Obtaining a Fishing Licence:

Ontario residents between the ages of 18 and 65 require either a Resident Sport Fishing Licence Tag or a Resident Conservation Fishing Licence Tag affixed to an Outdoors Card. Details on licences are provided in the annual Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary along with catch limits and seasons for various species by location, size limits and other helpful information.

Licences and summaries are available at:

- Fishing tackle outlets in the Ottawa area: the Ministry of Natural Resources office in Kempenfle: Postal Bag 2002, Concession Road, Kempenfle, ON, K0C 1J0. call (613) 258/8204.
- Access Ontario, 161 Elgin Street, Ottawa (provincial court house) call (613) 238 3630 or fax (613) 564-2234

\$4.95
(includes taxes)



Wal l eye

Wal l eye

TYPICAL SIZE: 0.9 - 3.2 kg (2- 7 lbs.)

ONTARIO RECORD: 10.1 kg (22.2 lbs.)

Walleye, also known as pickerel or dore, have an elongated body with bulging glassy eyes, an olive-brown back, yellowish sides that fade into a white belly, and a white band on the lower tip of the tail. They are often found below dams and rapids, and along boating channels in the Rideau and Ottawa rivers.

Walleye feed mainly on small fish and are caught by anglers fishing near the bottom with worms, leeches and minnows. Walleye readily strike artificial lures such as deep-diving crankbaits and bottom-bouncing jigs, especially under low-light conditions. Claimed the best eating of all panfish.



Northern Pike

Northern Pike

TYPICAL SIZE: 0.9 - 2.7 kg (2 - 6 lbs.)

ONTARIO RECORD: 19.1 kg (42.1 lbs.)

Northern pike, widespread in shallow warmer waters around Ottawa, have an elongated body with a dark green back with white oval rings on greenish sides fading to a white belly. A large protruding jaw is studded with needle-sharp teeth.

Pike are not selective and will eat small fish, frogs, snakes and occasionally ducklings and small mammals. They are often caught on large minnows suspended under a float and by casting or trolling flashy spoons, large diving plugs and spinners over weed beds and along channels. They are good eating but bony.



Yellow Perch

Yellow Perch

TYPICAL SIZE: 15-25 cm (6-10 in.)

ONTARIO RECORD: 1.0 kg (2.25 lbs.)

Yellow perch have an oblong body with a black back and golden-yellow sides marked by dark vertical bars fading into a white belly. They are widely dispersed in shallow, weedy bays and around hard bottom shoals.

Perch eat aquatic insects, minnows and crayfish. They can be caught in numbers on a simple float and a hook baited with a worm or minnow, or a variety of small artificial lures. Considered the best eating of all the panfish.



Channel Catfish

Channel Catfish

TYPICAL SIZE: 0.9 - 4.6 kg (2-10 lbs.)

ONTARIO RECORD: 11.4 kg (25.0 lbs.)

Channel catfish are similar in shape but much larger than a bullhead. They have a long, tapered body with a large head and barbels (whiskers) on the chin, a black back shading to silver grey on the sides, scalesless skin and a deeply forked tail. They are very abundant in the Lac des Chenes portion of the Ottawa River.

They are found close to shore in spring but seek clearer, cooler waters in midriver or below dams and rapids in summer.

Channel cats have an unselective appetite which includes aquatic vegetation, insects, crayfish, molluscs and small fish. They are commonly caught by anglers fishing on the bottom with worms, clams, minnows or special sink baits. Occasionally they will strike minnow-imitating artificial lures. The firm white flesh is acceptable eating especially fried or smoked.



Brown Bul l head

Brown Bul l head

TYPICAL SIZE: 0.4 - 0.7 kg (1-1.5 lbs.)

ONTARIO RECORD: 1.1 kg (2.4 lbs.)

Bullhead are nocturnal bottom scavengers feeding on insect larvae, crayfish, molluscs and aquatic vegetation. Most are caught in May by anglers night fishing from shore using worms for bait. The reddish-tinged flesh is popular eating.

Provincial Parks:

Two provincial parks in the vicinity of Ottawa offer fishing as well as camping, hiking, nature study and other outdoor recreational opportunities:

- Fitzroy Provincial Park, along the Ottawa River on Road 15 and 22. (See #13 on map.) Call (613) 623-5159.
- Rideau River Provincial Park, along the Rideau River on Road 5, 6 km north of Kempenfle. Guidelines for *Eating Ontario Sport Fish*. This guide provides recommendations for the safe consumption of various species by size and location based on the contaminants, if any, found from testing. It is important that women of childbearing age and children under 15 follow the advice of the guide.

Guidelines to Eating Ontario Sport Fish is available free at LCBO and Ontario beer stores, or from the Public Information Centre, Ministry of the Environment, 135 St. Clair West, Toronto, ON, M4V 1P5. For specific questions on contaminants in Ontario sport fish, contact the Sport Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program toll-free at 1-800-820-2716. Email: sportfish@ene.gov.on.ca.

Parking:

Respect property properly and the City of Ottawa regulations when parking around the city.

Parking is available at no cost near most of the popular angler access points but spots could be limited on weekends, so go early. Don't litter and please keep noise to a minimum in residential areas.

Time out of Water Critical: Be quick! Returning fish unharmed to the water should be done quickly yet carefully. Different fish species and sizes may require different techniques. Handling and time out of water are the most important factors for a successful release.

For similar non-toxic items at special booths at sportsman shows and fishing tournaments.

Free Fishing Weekend:

Ontario has a free fishing weekend in early July. It's an opportunity for non-anglers to get hooked on one of Canada's great family traditions. It's a time when anyone may fish without a licence.

The Family Fishing Weekend lets parents, kids and friends spend time together on the province's many lakes and rivers enjoying angling. It can help develop an appreciation of our aquatic resources and Ontario's outdoor heritage.

Although a fishing licence is not required, the daily catch and possession limits of a *Resident Conservation Fishing Licence* apply, as provided in the *Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary*. For more information, call toll-free 1-800-667-1940 or visit the website: www.familyfishingweekend.com.

The Ethical Angler: Always follow the rules and be courteous to your fellow anglers and other water fishing. Poor behaviour not only reflects badly on you, but can tarnish the image of all fishermen. Everyone must do their part to preserve angling as an enjoyable, healthy sport.

Get the Lead Out:

Lead, a toxic substance found in most fishing sinkers and jigs, can cause death when ingested by water birds. Deep diving ducks and especially loons can ingest lead and when they swallow anglers' baits along with "hook, line and sinkers." Some waterfowl, such as puddle ducks, geese and swans, swallow lead when they scoop up pebbles from the bottom of a lake or river to help grind their food.

Anglers can help reduce lead mortality by purchasing sinkers and jigs made of a non-toxic substance such as biolum or tin. These items are readily available and are an inexpensive alternative to lead. Also, lead sinkers and jigs accumulated over the years can be exchanged

for similar non-toxic items at special booths at sportsman shows and fishing tournaments.



Carp

Carp

TYPICAL SIZE: REBAU RIVER 2.3-6.8 kg (5-15 lbs.)

ONTARIO RECORD: 217.3 kg (38 lbs.)

Carp are noted for their large, robust size. They are easy to identify with a grey back and copper coloured sides with large scales, and an overhanging snout with two barbels on each side of the upper jaw. They prefer warm shallow water with an abundance of aquatic vegetation. Carp are most noticeable in the spring when spawning in marshes, creeks and ditches.

Carp feed mostly on aquatic vegetation, aquatic insects and molluscs. They are caught on worms, doughbaits or corn niblets lying on the bottom, and bread crusts or artificial flies on the surface. Acceptable eating but special recipes are required.



Black Crappie

Black Crappie

TYPICAL SIZE: 17-30cm, (7-12 in.)

ONTARIO RECORD: 1.6 kg (3.5 lbs.)

Black crappie have a deep, thin, flat body with silvery sides marked with irregular black blotches and a distinctive upturned snout. In May and June they are found in shallow, weedy areas and around fallen trees, slumps and other shoreline obstructions. They seek deeper waters in summer and fall.

Crappie feed primarily on aquatic insects and small fish. They can be caught in large numbers on minnows or small artificial lures, especially in the spring. An excellent sweet-tasting fish.



Rock Bass

Rock Bass

TYPICAL SIZE: 15-20 cm (6-8 in.)

ONTARIO RECORD: 1.4 kg (3.0 lbs.)

Rock bass have a short, chunky body with brownish green sides marked by dark spots forming horizontal rows, and large reddish eyes. Abundant around docks, rocks and shorelines.

Rock bass feed on aquatic insects, crayfish and small fish. An aggressive species that is readily caught on live bait such as worms, minnows, grasshoppers, small artificial lures and flies. The flesh is firm, white and good eating but often ignored as tablefare.

White sucker, the most common species in the Ottawa area, have a round, elongated body with pronounced turned-down mouth and a blackish back with silver sides. They spawn in spring on clear gravelly bottoms of creeks and streams but in summer prefer the edges of river holes and eddies.

Suckers are primarily bottom feeders eating mainly small worms and aquatic insects. They can be dunned or speared during their spring spawning runs and caught by anglers fishing on the bottom with worms at other times of the year. The flesh is bony but sweet and flaky, and is best when the fish are caught from cold water.



White Sucker

White Sucker

TYPICAL SIZE: 0.4 - 0.9 kg (1-2 lbs.)

ONTARIO RECORD: 2.5 kg (5.4 lbs.)

Note: Larger northern suckers, weighing up to 3.6 kg (8lbs.), are also found in the Ottawa River. The river residents, distinguished by a pale red tail, is endangered and should be returned to the river.



Muskellunge

Muskellunge

TYPICAL SIZE: 2.3 - 6.8 kg (5-15 lbs.)

ONTARIO RIVER: 3.6 - 25.9 kg (8-35 lbs.)

ONTARIO RECORD: 29.5 kg (65 lbs.)

Muskellunge (muskie) have a similar shape to pike but can grow much larger. Their sides are marked with dark vertical wavy bars, or at times spotted or clear, on a light greenish grey background. Only the upper half of the cheek and gill covers have scales and the tail is more pointed, compared to the chin. Often found around weedlines, shoals and edges of deeper channels.

Muskie are not selective and feed mostly on small fish and, occasionally, ducklings and small mammals. Common fishing techniques include trolling with large spoons and downrigger plugs, and casting large flipping plugs and bucktail spinners, especially in fall. They are edible but with the potential of growing to trophy size, catch-and-release is recommended.

For Trophies: Be camera ready! Take a quick picture, holding the fish horizontally supporting its weight with your arms and hands. Take fast measurements then carefully return it to the water. A fiberglass mount can be made by a taxidermist, which will last far longer than a skin mount. Have the satisfaction of knowing the big one is still out in shallow water.

Go Barless: Be considerate. Catch-and-release will be easier and more successful if anglers use lures with single hooks rather than those with one or more treble hooks. This is safer for the angler as well. Also, barbless hooks, or those with the barb crimped down, are easier to remove and cause less tissue damage. They have been proven to be just as effective at holding fish destined for the frying pan. Don't keep a fish on a stringer only to release it later to a bigger or better catch; chances are it won't survive.

Hook Removal: *Be gentle.* At all times, prevent a fish from flopping around in the boat or on the ground to prevent injury. With wet hands, hold a fish firmly but gently just behind the gill covers when removing hooks taking care not to put your fingers in the gill or eye sockets. A "fish glove" also works well. Long-rope pliers come in handy for hook removal with the least harm. If a fish has swallowed the hook or is "gut hooked", cut

the line and leave the hook in, as it will rust with fish and may work over time. If a returned fish is too exhausted to swim properly, revive it by gently moving it back and forth until the gills are working normally and the fish gains enough strength to surge away. If possible, do it in shallow water.

For the Future: *Limit your kill and not kill your limit* is a good motto for conservation-minded anglers wanting their kids to enjoy high quality sport fishing in the future.

Peu de gros centres urbains peuvent offrir autant de possibilités de pêche sportive aux résidents et aux visiteurs que la région d'Ottawa. Cette région comprend deux voies navigables importantes qui convergent dans la ville : la rivière des Outaouais et la rivière Rideau.

Différes espèces de poisson – du maskinongé de grande taille au dore difficile à capturer et à la carpe appurieuse – vivent à l'ombre de grands édifices. Les pêcheurs de tous les âges plus ou moins expérimentés peuvent profiter leur sport sur l'eau ou du rivage. Les personnes qui sont prêtes à sortir un peu des lieux achalandés trouveront des points d'accès pour leur embarcation à de nombreux endroits le long des rivières et d'autres étendues d'eau plus petites et proximales.

Ce dépliant est un guide expliquant les nombreuses aventures de pêche amicales et sécuritaires que les familles et les amis âgés de la maison, que ce soit pour toute une journée ou seulement quelques heures en soirée.

Obtention d'un permis de pêche: Les résidents de l'Ontario âgés de 18 à 65 ans ont besoin soit d'une vignette de permis de pêche sportive de résident soit d'une vignette de permis de pêche écologique de résident apposée sur une Carte-Plein air. Vous trouverez ces renseignements sur ces permis dans la publication annuelle intitulée *Résumé des règlements de la pêche sportive de l'Ontario* ainsi que des renseignements sur les limites de prise et les saisons de pêche pour divers espèces de poisson, selon l'emplacement, les limites de taille, et bien d'autres données utiles.

Détails are provided in the Free Fisheries and Oceans Canada Safe Boating Guide available at boat dealers, marinas or from the Boating Safety Infoline at 1-800-671-6687 (toll-free) and online at <http://www.ccg.gc.ca/otbs/bst/sbgp/mn/main.htm>

Debarassez-vous du plomb
Le plomb est une substance toxique qui se trouve dans la plupart des poids et larlettes utilisés pour pêcher. Il peut être ingéré par des oiseaux aquatiques et causer leur mort. Les canards plongeurs, spécialement les huards, peuvent ingérer le plomb lorsqu'ils avalent les appâts des pêcheurs. Certains oiseaux aquatiques, comme les canards de surface, les diés et les cygnes, avalent les poids lorsqu'ils ramassent les petits rochers dans le fond des lacs et des rivières pour les aider à brayer leur nourriture.

Les pêcheurs peuvent aider à réduire la mortalité des oiseaux due au plomb en achetant des poids et larlettes sans plomb. Les pêcheurs qui portent des vêtements en bléum ou lin. Ces items sont disponibles partout sur un substitut peu coûteux au plomb. De plus, les poids et larlettes en plomb

DESCRIPTION DES POISSONS



Achigan à petite bouche

Achigan à petite bouche

Poids typique : 0.5 à 1.8 kg (1 à 4 lb.)

Record ontarien : 4.5 kg (9.8 lb.)

L'achigan à petite bouche est commun dans la rivière des Outaouais et la rivière Rideau. On le retrouve au-dessus des fonds sables près du rivage au printemps et les hivers les herbiers de la navigation.

Les bords de sable et les herbes rochers lorsque la température de l'eau monte. L'achigan à petite bouche se nourrit de petits poissons, d'écrevisses, de sangues et de larves de poissons. Il est capturé avec divers appâts vivants et huards artificiels comme des bouchers de saque, des poissons nagars, des larvettes et des mouches. La chair blanche, ferme et feuilletée de ce poisson est délicate.

L'achigan à grande bouche est un dos vert foncé, des côtés d'un vert plus pâle avec des barres horizontales irrégulières nées. Une grosse machoire se prolonge au-delà des yeux.

On retrouve beaucoup d'achigans à grande bouche dans la rivière Rideau au sud de Kas et dans la rivière des Outaouais inférieure. Ce poisson préfère les eaux de rivières chaudes et peu profondes qui renferment beaucoup de Hs herboux, de nénuphars et de graminées. Ce poisson est un opportuniste qui se nourrit surtout de petits poissons, d'écrevisses et de grenouilles. L'achigan à grande bouche peut être capturé avec divers appâts vivants et huards artificiels comme des vers de terre en plastique, des spinnetails, des poissons nagars, et des larvettes à baucule. La chair blanche, ferme et feuilletée de ce poisson est délicate.



Achigan à grande bouche

Achigan à grande bouche

Poids typique : 0.9 à 2.3 kg (2 à 5 lb.)

Record ontarien : 4.7 kg (10.4 lb.)

Le perchaude est un poisson oblong, un dos vert olive, des côtés jaune doré avec des barres verticales foncées et un ventre blanc. On le retrouve un peu partout dans les bacs herbueux et peu profonds ainsi que près des hauts fonds solides.

Le perchaude se nourrit d'insectes aquatiques, de mènes d'écrevisses. Elle peut être capturée en grand nombre à l'aide d'un simple flotter et d'un hameçon sur lequel on a placé un ver de terre ou un minne, ou un utilisant divers petits huards artificiels. Ce poisson peut être le plus délicieux de tous les crapets.



Crapet-soleil

Crapet-soleil

Taille typique : 12 à 20 cm (5 à 8 in.)

Record ontarien : 0.4 kg (1 lb.)



Crapet Arlequin

Crapet Arlequin

Taille typique : 12 à 23 cm (5 à 9 in.)

Record ontarien : 0.8 kg (1,8 lb.)