

Fisheries Management Zone 15 (A comparison of existing and proposed regulations)

General information

- See [general fishing regulations](#) for more information on how to use this summary.
- There are a number of brook trout and lake trout waterbodies that have species-specific regulations in addition to restrictions related to gear, bait and fish sanctuaries. These additional restrictions are applicable to the waterbody, regardless of what species is/are being targeted. See [species exceptions](#) for more details.
- The following waterbodies, or portion of them, have different regulations that are listed in the [waterbody exceptions](#):
 - all waterbodies in Algonquin Park
 - **Bonnechere River**
 - Calabogie Lake
 - Carmichael Lake
 - Jack Lake
 - Kushog Lake
 - Lake Clear and Little Lake Clear
 - Madawaska River
 - Mud Lake
 - Murphy's Lake (Arabis Lake)
 - Royal Lake
 - Slipper Lake
 - South Wildcat Lake
 - Stocking Lake
 - Stoney Lake
 - Trout Lake
 - Wendigo Lake
- FMZ 15 is part of the Central Bait Management Zone (BMZ). [Baitfish or leeches, whether live or dead, may not be transported into or out of a BMZ with some limited exceptions.](#) See [bait](#) for more details.

Zone-wide seasons and limits

Zone-wide seasons and limits apply to all waters in the Zone except for the specific waters and species listed in the [species exceptions](#), [waterbody exceptions](#) and [fish sanctuaries](#).

Existing RegulationsProposed Changes

<p>Aggregate limits for trout and salmon (including splake)</p>	
<p>Limits: S-5 and C-2; total daily catch and possession limit for all trout and salmon species combined</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Atlantic salmon Season: closed all year</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Brook trout Season: January 1 to September 30 Limits: S-5 and C-2</p>	<p>Zone wide Season: 4th Saturday in April – September 30th Daily Catch Limit: 2(S) and 1(C)</p> <p><i>Proposed Prime Natural Lakes regulation via exception (Lakes absent of harmful introduced species and supporting high quality fisheries and/or at high risk of intentional species introductions):</i> Only Mag Lake and Wendigo Lake in the Pembroke District have been designated as Prime Natural Brook Trout Lakes.</p> <p>Season: 4th Saturday in April - September 30th Daily Catch Limit: 2(S) and 1(C) Bait, Gear and Other Restrictions: Use and possession of live bait fish prohibited. Target Species: Brook Trout fishing only.</p> <p><i>Proposed Stocked Lakes (not named) regulation via exception (Additional Opportunities):</i> Season: Open All Year Daily Catch Limit: 5(S) and 2(C) Rationale: Maintaining a liberal regulation for stocked Brook Trout Lakes is intended to encourage the diversion of angling effort and harvest away from natural populations.</p>
<p>Brown trout Season: open all year Limits: S-5 and C-2</p>	<p>No change</p>

<p>Channel catfish Season: open all year Limits: S-12 and C-6</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Crappie Season: open all year Limits: S-30 and C-10</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Lake sturgeon Season: closed all year</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Lake trout Season: January 1 to September 30 Limits: S-2 and C-1</p>	<p><i>The proposed changes do not apply to Golden Lake, since it is not listed as a Natural Lake Trout Lake</i> <i>(https://www.ontario.ca/page/inland-lakes-designated-lake-trout-management)</i></p> <p>Definition of small and large-bodied Lake Trout forms: (The growth rate, size at maturity and potential maximum size of Lake Trout follow two general patterns (small-and large-bodied forms), dictated largely by the type and size of food that is available. This variability has important implications for the management of Lake Trout.</p> <p>‘Small-bodied’ populations occur in lakes where the primary prey are invertebrates and small fish; they mature at a small size, grow slowly as adults, and seldom attain large sizes. Typically, they become mature at about 35cm and adults grow to about 55cm.</p> <p>‘Large-bodied’ populations occur in lakes where larger fish, especially cisco, comprise a large proportion of the diet; they mature at a larger size, grow more as adults, and attain large adult sizes.</p> <p>Typically, Lake Trout become mature at about 50 cm and grow to over 80cm. As always, there is considerable variation between populations, but most populations can be classified as one of the two types.</p>

Proposed zone-wide Regulation (small natural Lake Trout lakes < 500 ha, small-bodied):

Season: 3rd Sat. in May – Labour Day

Daily Catch Limit: 2(S) and 1 (C)

Size Limit: Minimum 40 cm

Proposed small natural Lake Trout lakes < 500 ha, large-bodied regulation via exception:

Season: 3rd Sat. in May – Labour Day

Daily Catch Limit: 2(S) and 1 (C)

Size Limit: Minimum 50 cm

Proposed large natural Lake Trout lakes > 500 ha, small-bodied regulation via exception: Round Lake is a Natural Lake Trout Lake (3074 ha).

Season: Sat. before Family Day to 3rd Sun. in March and 3rd Sat. in May to Labour Day

Daily Catch Limit: 2(S) and 1(C)

Size Limit: Minimum 40 cm

Gear Restriction: Only one line may be used when angling through the ice.

Proposed large natural Lake Trout lakes > 500 ha, large-bodied regulation via exception:

Season: Sat. before Family Day to 3rd Sun. in March and 3rd Sat. in May to Labour Day

Daily Catch Limit: 2(S) and 1(C)

Size Limit: Minimum 50 cm

Gear Restriction: Only one line may be used when angling through the ice (no Change).

Lake whitefish

Season: open all year

Limits: S-12 and C-6

Proposed zone-wide regulation:

Season: Open all year

****Daily Catch Limit:** 4(S) and 2(C) This change should help conserve the Lake Whitefish population of Golden Lake.

	<p>**Proposed dip netting regulation - Lake Whitefish and Lake Herring (Cisco): **Season: Closed all year Waterbodies where permitted: **Proposing to cease dip netting opportunities on the 18 waterbodies where a limited fall season currently exists.</p> <p>This will impact the Golden Lake area, specifically: 1. the Bonnechere River (45°37'22"N., 77°27'08"W.) – North Algona, Fraser and Hagarty Townships, between the Tramore Bridge and Golden Lake, 2. Bonnechere River (Richards Township) – between Jacks Chute and Round Lake, 3. Golden Lake (45°33'56"N., 77°19'29"W.) – North and South Algona Townships.</p> <p>This closure and end to dip netting should serve to protect the Lake Whitefish population of Golden Lake and the Bonnechere River.</p>
<p>Largemouth and smallmouth bass combined Season: fourth Saturday in June to November 30 Limits: S-6 and C-2</p>	<p>Proposed zone-wide regulation: Season: 3rd Saturday in June to December 15th (this is an extended opportunity to fish for bass) Daily Catch Limit: 6(S) and 2(C) No change</p>
<p>Muskellunge Season: 1st Saturday in June to December 15 Limits: S-1; must be greater than 91 centimetres, and C-0</p>	<p>No changes are proposed for the zone-wide Muskellunge regulations. There are proposed changes to the Pickerel River exception season and minimum size limit.</p>
<p>Northern pike Season: January 1 to March 31 and third Saturday in May to December 31 Limits: S-6 and C-2</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Pacific salmon Season: open all year Limits: S-5 and C-2</p>	<p>No change</p>

<p>Rainbow trout Season: open all year Limits: S-5 and C-2</p>	
<p>Splake Season: open all year Limits: S-5 and C-2</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Sunfish (and Bluegill?) (defined as panfish) Season: open all year Limits: S-50 and C-25</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Walleye and sauger combined Season: January 1 to March 15 and third Saturday in May to December 31 Limits: S-4 and C-2; not more than one greater than 46 centimetres</p>	<p><i>Proposed zone-wide regulation:</i> Season: January 1st to March 15th and 3rd Saturday in May to December 31st Daily Catch Limit: 4(S) and 2(C) Size Limit: 40-50 cm harvestable slot</p> <p>Lake Muskoka is proposed to have a 40-55 cm harvestable slot size limit.</p> <p>All existing sanctuaries will have no fishing March 1st to Friday before 3rd Saturday in May and due to late spawning populations an alternative with no fishing March 1st to June 15th. This affects the Bonnechere River (see below for section of river)</p>
<p>Walleye (Golden Lake) Limits: S-2 and C-1; must be greater than 50 centimetres Golden Lake (45°34'26"N., 77°20'10"W.) - North Algona Township</p>	<p><i>Proposed size limit regulation via exception:</i> A handful of waterbodies (they are not named, but we should insist that Golden Lake and the Bonnechere River - downstream of the Tramore Dam (Round Lake) (45°37'N., 77°28'W.) and upstream of the Golden Lake Dam (45°34'N., 77°14'W.) be included*****) in the eastern portion of the zone are proposed to maintain a minimum 50 cm size limit.</p>
<p>Yellow perch (defined as panfish) Season: open all year Limits: S-50 and C-25</p>	<p>No change</p>

Waterbody exceptions (existing regulations)

Bonnechere River and the expansions - being Sicards, Square, Wilson and Kranz bays and Griffins Narrows lying between the south face of the Tramore Dam and the northerly edge of the bridge at King's Highway 60 (North Algona, Hagarty and Richards Townships)

- Fish sanctuary - no fishing from March 1 to Friday before third Saturday in May**

Bonnechere River - downstream of the Tramore Dam (Round Lake) (45°37'N., 77°28'W.) and upstream of the Golden Lake Dam (45°34'N., 77°14'W.)

- Walleye - S-2 and C-1; must be greater than 50 centimetres

Why are Brown Bullhead, Rock Bass and Burbot absent from the existing and proposed regulations? Reasons cited are lack of data and only a low intensity recreational fishery, however, in the Golden Lake End of Spring Trap Netting Report of 2007, 766/1914 (~40%) of the total fish catch were Brown Bullheads and 61 (3.2%) were Rock Bass. Dramatic declines of Brown Bullhead have been reported by local residents in some waterbodies. They are also the most widely distributed fish species in Fisheries Management Zone 15(FMZ15 draft report, 2022). Regulations should be included to protect the existing populations in Golden Lake.