

2024

Highlights of changes to fishing rules in Fisheries Management Zone 10

In 2024, changes were made to the recreational fishing rules in Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) 10. The Ministry of Natural Resources made these changes in collaboration with the FMZ 10 Advisory Council and through public consultation. These changes will help improve the future of recreational fishing in FMZ 10.

Goals of the FMZ 10 changes:

- promote the growth of a world class muskellunge fishery
- increase fishing opportunities by removing and modifying sanctuaries
- increase harvest opportunities for smallmouth and largemouth bass
- modify stocking to create year-round and trophy brook trout fisheries
- enhance the conservation of walleye and northern pike by reducing the harvest of large fish
- harmonize the fishing regulations throughout the entire French River, which spans FMZ 10 and 11 for muskellunge, walleye, bass and northern pike to make the rules easier to follow

Please see the 2024 Ontario Fishing Regulations Summary for details.

Changes have been highlighted in red bold font.



View and download

2024 Ontario Fishing Regulations Summary
ontario.ca/FishingRegulations

Highlights of Changes in FMZ 10

Please read the 2024 Ontario Fishing Regulations Summary for all FMZ 10 seasons and limits, including species exceptions, waterbody exceptions and fish sanctuaries.

Walleye and sauger combined

Change: New size limit and season

Location

Zone-wide

Season

January 1 to the third Sunday in March
Third Saturday in May to December 31

Limits

S - 4; none greater than 46 cm

C - 2; none greater than 46 cm

Rationale

Increase the number of mature spawning walleye to support quality fishing opportunities for the future.



Northern pike

Change: New size limit

Location

Zone-wide

Season

Open all year

Limits

S - 6; not more than one greater than 61 cm and none greater than 86 cm

C - 2; none greater than 61 cm

Rationale

Increase the number of mature spawning northern pike to support quality fishing opportunities for the future.



Muskellunge

Change: New size limit

Location

Echo River and Echo Lake - downstream from the dam to FMZ 14

French River - waters north of Highway 64 and west of Highway 69 starting at the Highway 69 bridge and downstream to Georgian Bay including all connected waters within the boundaries of French River Provincial Park

Goulais River - Whitman Dam to Lake Superior

Mississagi River - downstream from the dam at Red Rock Lake to FMZ 14

Serpent River - downstream from Highway 17 to FMZ 14

Spanish River - downstream from the Highway 6 bridge, and the Aux Sables River from its confluence at the Spanish River upstream to Highway 17

Thessalon River - downstream from Rydal Dam to FMZ 14

Wanapitae River - downstream from Sturgeon Chutes to the French River

Season

Third Saturday in June to December 15. Sanctuaries where no fishing is permitted for all or part of the year may overlap with open seasons. See the Ontario Fishing Regulations Summary for sanctuaries within these waters.

Limits

S - 1; must be greater than 137 cm

C - 0

Rationale

These unique waterbodies demonstrate the potential to support a world class muskellunge fishery.

