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To receive a copy of the NSFAH monthly E-Newsletter simply fill out the contact form at the Federation website, include your name and email address...it really is that simple!

Winter Sportfishing Season Open

Anglers will have more locations to enjoy sportfishing throughout the province after the winter sportfishing season opened on New Year's Day.

Fishing venues are expanding with more lakes open for brook trout, chain pickerel or perch.

In fresh water lakes open for winter, rainbow trout sportfishing anglers may also fish for brook trout. There are also a number of new lakes open for brook trout fishing. The bag limit remains at two fish per license.

"Winter sportfishing is a great way for Nova Scotians of any age to enjoy the outdoors," said Keith Colwell, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture. "I would like to encourage all anglers to use caution this season when winter fishing from shore, in boats, or through the ice."

A 2013 general fishing license is required to winter fish and can be purchased at Department of Natural Resources offices.

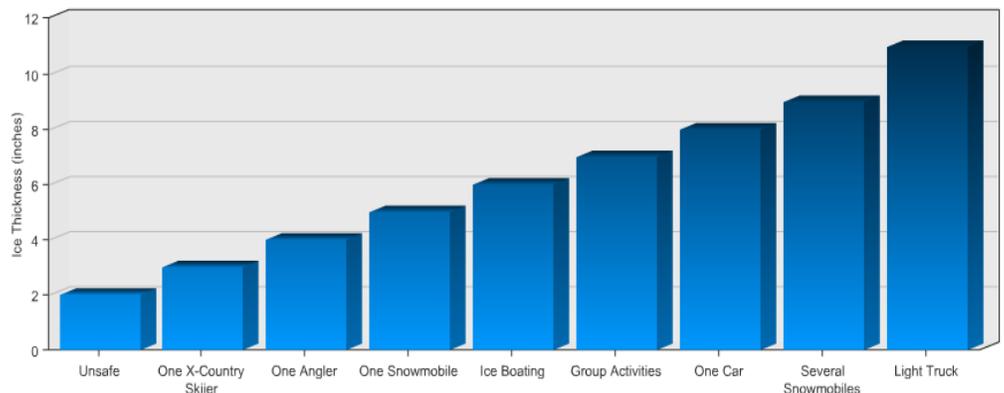
Licenses are valid until March 31, 2014 and cost \$26.73. Anglers may also purchase one-day licenses at a reduced rate

Anglers can take advantage of the annual winter sportfishing weekend, Feb. 15 and Feb. 16, when residents and non-residents can fish in open winter sport fishing areas without a general fishing license.

For more information on Winter Sportfishing, [click here](#).

NOTE: Five areas of the Bras d'Or Lakes are closed to all angling Jan. 1 through March 31 to protect brook trout and Atlantic salmon. They include the areas above the Baddeck River Bridge on Highway 105 (including Cains Pond), inside the East Bay sandbar, above Crowdis Bridge in River Denys Basin, above Black River Bridge in Dundee and above MacKenzie Brook bridge near the south side of River Denys.

Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness For New Clear Hard Ice



Preparing Resolutions for the Federation AGM

“Resolutions are to be returned to the Federation as soon as possible for evaluation and submission to the 2014 AGM”

This is the time of year that affiliate clubs should be considering what resolutions they would like to see the Federation consider for policy at the 2014 AGM. Using the following guidelines when preparing your resolution will greatly improve the chances of acceptance.

Guidelines for preparation of resolutions for presentation to the NSFAH AGM:

*Review existing Federation Policy to ensure your suggestion is not already included in our policy manual. The Policy manuals are available on our web site, in the members' area.

*Limit the Resolution to a single topic or idea. Resolutions that try to encompass more than one topic or idea are very confusing and generally quite difficult to deal with.

* Fully explain the problem, or reason for the resolution in the “Whereas” sections. Use as many of these sections as necessary to explain the problem, but try not to overuse them.

*When preparing the Resolution, ensure that you have fairly evaluated other related interests in the topic. Ensure that you feel the Resolution has a reasonable chance of acceptance. “Pie-in-the-sky” resolutions while usually supported by very noble ideals, only serve to waste time and do little to promote the club or the Federation as responsible organizations.

*Ensure you have investigated the problem behind the Resolution fully. On occasion, Resolutions have been presented regarding a supposed problem which later turned out not to exist.

Mersey Biodiversity Fish Hatchery Closing

Time is running out to save the most important Atlantic Salmon and Atlantic White Fish facility in the world. The Mersey Biodiversity facility in Queen's County is being systematically decommissioned by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans while a group of dedicated volunteers tries to save it and the fish it's supports.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters is calling on DFO to take a step back from the dismantling of the site and hold off its work until more discussion can take place on the continued operation of this world class facility, said Tony Rodgers, executive director of the Federation.

There is no need to rush to kill this facility but be assured that once it's gone there will never be a chance to reopen it, Mr. Rodgers said.

Please let's make sure that we have exhausted all opportunities to operate it. The fall-out from this will be huge. We are asking the public to lend their voice and ask DFO to wait, he said.

The Mersey Biodiversity Facility Supporters Society under the chair of Mike Fralic of Queens County have been working hard to keep this hatchery open for the benefit of the Salmon, the Atlantic Whitefish and the people of Nova Scotia.

If government cared as much about wild fish as it does about supporting aquaculture, this would not be an issue Mr. Rodgers said.

For additional information call Tony Rodgers at 477-8898



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5 Great Ice Fishing Gadgets

Ice anglers who are ready to upgrade from the beginner kits to some serious ice-fishing gear and gadgets will want to add this hi-tech equipment to their tackle kit.

Here is some gear to move you into the big leagues.

Click on each picture to get more information.

5 Great Gadgets for Ice-fishing

1. Fishfinder with GPS Chart-plotter

A fish-finder with a GPS chart plotter allows anglers to quickly locate, mark and save the best locations on the lake. This unit can be mounted to the snowmobile allowing the fisherman to quickly and easily locate top ice-fishing spots. This one has a colour monitor that can be adjusted for a full range of light situations. It is also ideal for summer use on the boat, making it a great year-round fishing gift.



2. Dual Beam True Color Ice-Fishing Sonar

This **flasher unit** provides ice-anglers with sharp colour images that clearly show the bottom, fish, baitfish and lure as distinct objects. In tough fishing conditions where fish are moving around the lake and feeding at a variety of depth levels, this piece of equipment is critical for success.



3. Handheld Depth Finder

A handheld depth finder is great for ice-fishing when you want to quickly check the conditions under newly drilled holes, especially around reefs that are known to attract fish.



4. Underwater Camera

After you find the spot using the GPS and mark the depth where the fish are feeding with the flasher, you want to see them take the bait. Here is a great ice-fishing camera that can be used both inside the comfort of the ice shelter, or outside on the ice enjoying sunny day. This one comes with a storage bag that fits nicely into a pail or the ice-fishing sled.



5. Two-Way Radio

Safety is rule number one on the ice. Having a means of communicating with friends and other anglers is important when ice-fishing on a large lake.



A Preliminary Look at the 2013 Deer Hunting Seasons

With the changes made to deer hunting licenses and seasons and in 2013, many Nova Scotia deer hunters are anxious to hear the results of the 2013 deer harvest.

At this time we are in the process of entering data from registration stations, submitted hunter report cards, and the age and antler size data obtained from hunters who submitted jawbones of their harvested deer to DNR. This task must be completed before we can get a complete picture, but online registration allows us to take a preliminary look at the 2013 harvest level. As a choice for deer registration, online registration has been increasing yearly, so based on this we estimate that in 2013 deer registered online represent at least 70% of the total harvest. However, even with such a high proportion of the harvest already known, we prefer to wait until the final numbers have been determined before presenting actual results and only general comments based on the online registration results are presented here.

A number of Hunters have expressed the concern that the 2013 changes, specifically the length of the hunting period available to Archery and Muzzleloader (A&M) license holders and the separate bag limits under each license, will lead to a huge increase in deer harvest level.

The online results indicate however that the 2013 harvest, while up from 2012, will not increase dramatically. Also, some will find the number of hunters who registered two deer surprisingly low, likely less than 3% of licensed hunters.

A complete report on the outcome of the 2013 deer hunt will be provided at the Federation AGM in March. We will be taking a close look harvest level, effort level and relative success by license type, weapon used and hunting method. Having all data in hand should allow us to get a better handle on the factors responsible for the increased harvest in 2013.

In order to analyze the 2013 harvest data we need Nova Scotia deer hunters to provide their **mandatory** hunter reports. Hunters who registered their deer, whether online or at a registration station, have already provided theirs. What we still need are the reports from those who hunted but were not successful. This is critical information, so please help with managing Nova Scotia deer and get your report to DNR if you have not yet done so. This can be done online, or by mailing in the card provided in the regulations summary booklet.

Peter MacDonald
Department of Natural Resources

Questions?

Contact info below:

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Large Mammal Biologist
Wildlife Division
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of Natural Resources
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**Report Fires,
Poaching or
Emergency
Wildlife situations**

1-800-565-2224

Elections at the Federation AGM, 2014

In June of 2013 a motion was passed changing the election process as follows:

C7.4.5 Term of Office
(Approved by the Board in June 2013)

Officers elected to The Board of The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters shall serve 2 year terms, with no more than 2 consecutive terms in any position. Election of officers at the Annual General Meeting & Convention shall be staggered over odd and even calendar years, with the

following being elected in *Even Years*:

President
Treasurer
2nd Vice President

and the following in *Odd Years*:

1st Vice President
Secretary
3rd Vice President

Therefore in March of 2014 we shall be electing a President, Treasurer & 2nd Vice President to 2 Year terms. Nominations for these positions should be submitted ASAP.

Preparations for the Federation AGM in March, 2014

Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters

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The NSFah Journal is published monthly, except during hunting season. If you or your club has an article to submit, send along before the 25th of each month to ensure your information is inserted.

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.nsfah.ca

What should a club expect from its delegates while at the AGM

Before the AGM the delegate should:

- a. Familiarize themselves full with the resolutions that your club has presented for consideration at the AGM.
- b. Familiarize themselves with the stand or viewpoint of the club on various topics.

During the AGM the delegates should be prepared to:

- a) Explain fully the Resolutions your club has submitted for consideration.
- b) Take part in discussions on other resolutions which come before the AGM for consideration and express the views of your club.
- c) Gather data pertaining to the proceedings of the AGM for presentation to his club.

After the AGM delegates should inform his club of the following:

- a) The results of his club's resolutions relative to the AGM
- b) Any other resolutions which were presented for consideration and the result.
- c) The general proceedings of the AGM and what the Federation foresees for the ensuing year.
- d) The results of elections and the names of those elected.

For more information on the Federation Annual General Meeting, contact Tony Rodgers by using the contact information found to the left.
Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Annual General Meeting
March 21-23, 2014
Bridgewater, NS



Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters Affiliate Club Listing

All Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia
Archery Association of Nova Scotia
Bowhunters Association of Nova Scotia
Bowhunters Instructors Association of Nova Scotia
Bras D'or Wildlife Association

Cape Breton Wildlife Association
Conservation Enforcement Officers Association of Nova Scotia
Delta Waterfowl Association
Digby East Fish & Game Association
Halifax Wildlife Association

Hants West Wildlife Association
Kings County Fish & Game Association
Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers
Lansdowne Outdoor Recreation Development Association

Lunenburg County Wildlife Association
Nova Scotia Association of Crossbow Hunters
Nova Scotia Guides Association
Nova Scotia Houndsmen Association
Nova Scotia Bear Hunters Association

Mic Mac Rod & Gun Club
Port Morien Wildlife Association
Queens County Fish and Game Association
Bluenose Longbeards Chapter, NWTF
Shelburne County Fish & Game Association

South Shore Wildlife Association
The Big Game Society of Nova Scotia
Traditional Archers Association of Nova Scotia
Trappers Association of Nova Scotia
West Pictou Wildlife Association