

# Annual Sportfishing Regulation Engagement

Every year, Albertans are asked for their feedback on the management of sport fisheries. This is done through an engagement process that allows Albertans the opportunity to interact with fisheries management staff, learn about the statuses of fisheries, and provide feedback on proposed regulatory changes on specific fisheries.

There are two components to this engagement:



**Consultation:** Public feedback is considered on proposed options for changes to sportfishing regulations.

These changes support management objectives.

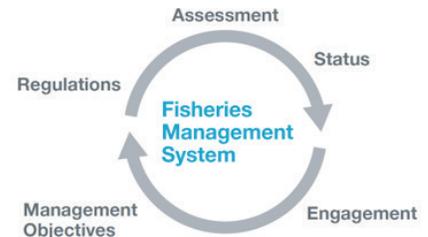


**Notification:** Proposed changes to sportfishing regulations that are recommended to address conservation concerns.

Public surveys are not undertaken as there are few management options available. Any questions can be directed to regional fisheries biologists.

Public engagement is an important component of the fisheries management cycle. Below are some key steps to be aware of before participating in the annual sportfishing regulation engagement, as they are referred to throughout the survey and supporting materials.

The Fisheries Management System outlines the approach to fisheries management in Alberta. Each step of the process is an important component to managing fish populations and fisheries in accordance with [Alberta's Fisheries Conservation and Management Strategy](#).



## Assessment and Status:

Alberta follows well-defined and transparent approaches to ensure fisheries resources are managed appropriately and sustainably. In order of priority, fish are allocated to conservation, Indigenous People and recreational users. Fish populations and fisheries are monitored using standardized techniques to determine their status and how fish may be allocated.

The Fish Sustainability Index (FSI) is Alberta's method of assessing fish stocks on a provincial scale. The assessment is focused on risk to long-term sustainability. Like a report card, standardized fish sustainability assessment provides consistent reporting for individual fish stocks while allowing province-wide comparisons of the status and sustainability of Alberta fish species. Biologists use current and historical catch rates and data on habitat, access, development, for example, as part of Alberta's Fish Sustainability Index (FSI).

This is the FSI scale:



Learn more about Alberta's report card for fish here: <https://www.alberta.ca/fish-sustainability-index-overview.aspx>

Stay up to date with the walleye and Northern pike population assessments for your lake here: <https://www.alberta.ca/fall-index-netting-summaries.aspx>

## Common Recreational Fisheries Management Objectives in Alberta

Once the sustainability risk of a fishery has been assessed, the next step is to set the direction and target for its management. To improve common understanding and consistency, Alberta uses a suite of categories which represent the types of fisheries which are generally sought for management purposes. The objectives are used to help biologists determine suitable options for management actions, such as sportfishing regulations, and guide the engagement efforts with anglers.

Objective Types	Objective Description	Common sportfishing regulations for this objective
<b>Sustainable Harvest Fishery</b>	<p>This management objective is the long-term goal for the majority of Alberta's recreational fisheries. A basic requirement is that fish must live long enough to spawn 3 to 5 times in their lifetime.</p> <p>The goal of this objective is to provide anglers with a harvest opportunity while maintaining the fish population at a lower risk status. Generally, an FSI score of 3 or higher is the management target for this type of objective.</p>	Regulations include moderate to large minimum size limits, a range of possession limits, and quota licences (e.g., Special Harvest Licence, SHL).
<b>Liberal Harvest Fishery</b>	<p>The goal of this management objective is to provide anglers fish for harvest with fewer restrictions.</p> <p>These types of fisheries are often limited in some way (e.g. irrigation reservoirs, waterbodies that winter-kill) and thus not able to achieve a sustainable population with predictable harvest. An FSI score in this category may be a 1 or 2. The angling community understands the limitations and is able to have input into how fish are allocated in these fisheries.</p>	Regulations vary but include increased possession limits. The goal of these regulations is the equitable sharing of fish, rather than supporting sustainable fish populations.
<b>Quality Harvest Fishery</b>	<p>The goal of this management objective is to provide anglers with the opportunity to catch and occasionally keep a memorable fish.</p> <p>This objective supports low rates of mortality including harvest and a wide range of fish sizes and ages. This objective requires the fish population is only lightly exploited (i.e., low fishing effort and harvest) and may be characterized by an FSI score of a 3 or higher.</p>	Regulation's include catch-and-release, quota licence (e.g., SHL), very large minimum size limits combined with low possession limits.
<b>Old Growth/ Trophy Fishery</b>	<p>The goal of this management objective is to provide opportunities to catch a large, memorable-sized fish.</p> <p>In Alberta, this type of fishery requires a fish population to be maintained at a nearly unexploited state. To meet this management objective, there would often be low fishing effort, low mortality and restrictive regulations</p> <p>These populations may be characterized by a range of FSI scores including higher to lower risk populations.</p>	Regulations include zero possession and or quota licences (e.g., SHL).

### Get Involved!

All public engagement opportunities related to fisheries will be posted throughout the year here: <https://www.alberta.ca/fisheries-engagements.aspx>

Remember to check your Alberta RELM email if you are a sportfishing licence holder – updates are provided throughout the year!

Follow us on Social Media to stay up to date with what our staff are working on throughout the year! [Facebook.com/MyWildAlberta](https://www.facebook.com/MyWildAlberta)

Get in touch with your local fisheries biologist and ask questions! Find contact information here: <https://www.alberta.ca/fisheries-and-wildlife-management-contacts.aspx>