

SHORT ANGLER'S GUIDE

Offered by Sépaq, proud co-presenter of the exhibition *Fishing Stories* at the Musée de la civilisation



SPORT FISHING IN QUEBEC

Fishing is a great activity to get in touch with nature and to live pleasant moments with family and friends. Sépaq offers the ideal setting to enjoy these special moments in protected territories.

This is your first time?

Getting organized for an inaugural fishing experience can seem very daunting indeed. No need to become bewildered. Take advantage of this guide to learn the basics.

Did you know

that there are about a hundred species of freshwater fish in Quebec?

Fish



Fish species can be differentiated by their body shape and size, fins, mouth, colouring, and lifestyle habits. Fish in the same family have similar characteristics.

How to differentiate between char, trout, and salmon:

CHAR:

Pale spots on a dark background



TROUT / SALMON:

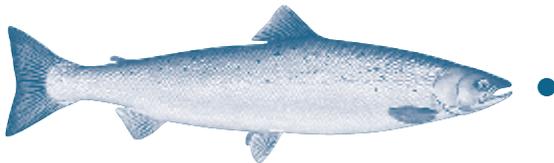
Dark spots on a pale background





Who am I?

Link the illustration of each fish to its name and description.



● **1. Atlantic salmon**

I have a small head, a rounded snout, and a mouth that extends to just under my eyes. I have large black dots on my back. I weigh from 2 to 10 kg.

● **2. Muskellunge**

I am as much as 120 cm long, and some people call me the freshwater shark. I have a long, flattened head. My lower jaw extends beyond the end of my snout.

● **3. Northern pike**

I am as much as 75 cm long. I have an elongated body. My lower jaw is longer than the end of my snout. I am known for my voracity.

● **4. Brook trout**

I have a slightly forked tail, called a square tail, and I am as much as 30 cm long. I am dark in colour with pale spots.

● **5. Lake trout**

I have small pale spots all over my body and a chunky head. My tail is quite forked, forming a “V”.

● **6. Walleye**

I have two distinct dorsal fins, the first of which is spiny. My eyes are large. I have small very reflective gold spots on the scales of my flanks.

Scale:  10 cm

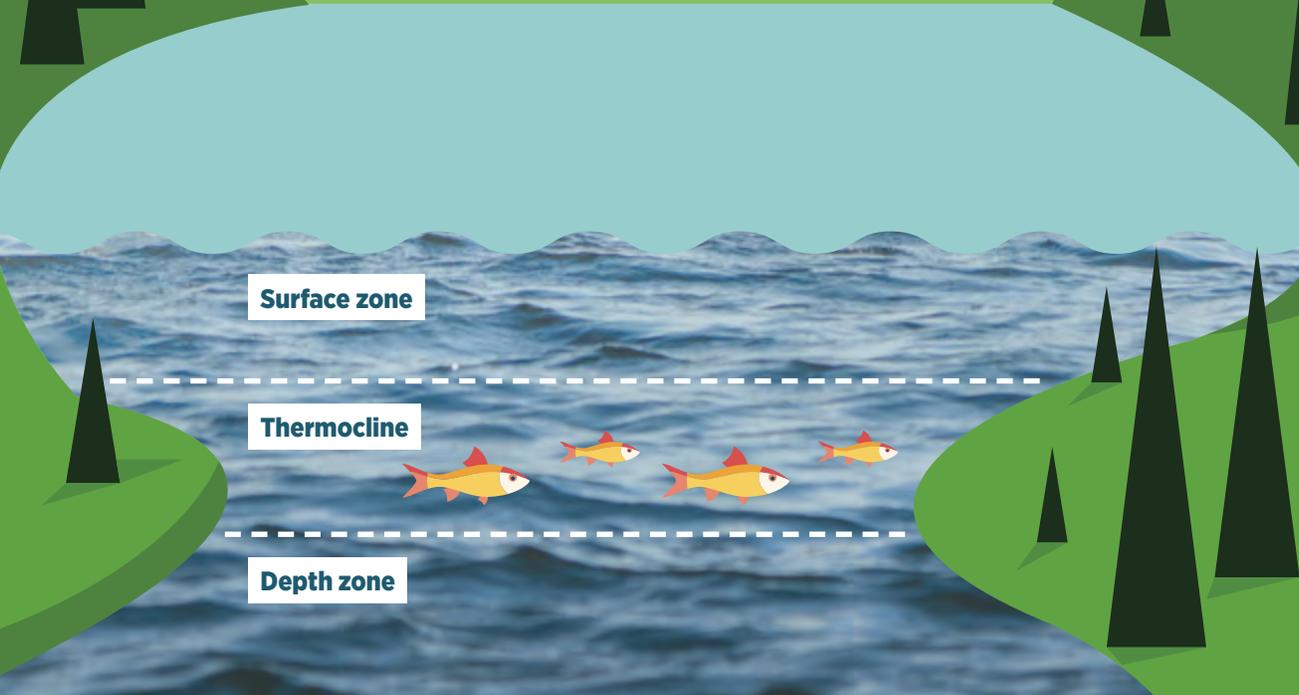
HABITAT

Have you ever seen two identical lakes? Luckily, no!
Each lake offers a new discovery.

Every good angler must learn the particularities of their lake in order to uncover the best sites where fish will be able to find food and oxygen, such as a bay, an estuary, or around islands.

Did you know?

Fish seek cold, oxygenated water. They will avoid surface water to take refuge in their comfort zone during the warm season known as the thermocline.



Surface zone

Thermocline

Depth zone

1. The angler must be discreet to avoid being detected by the fish with its keen senses.

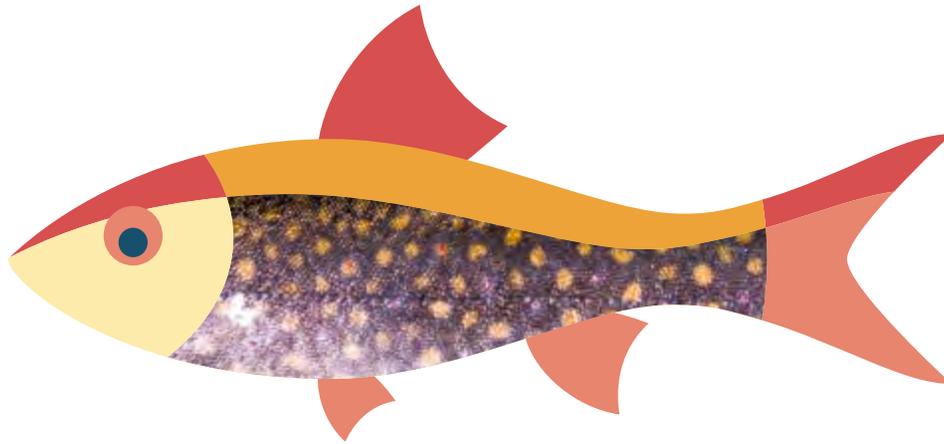
TRUE or FALSE

2. Children fish for free at Sépaq when accompanied by an adult who has paid the fishing access fee.

TRUE or FALSE

3. Even if you're a good swimmer, it will be exceedingly difficult for you to locate your life jacket, put it on, and tie it once it falls into the water.

TRUE or FALSE



4. You absolutely have to get up at 5:00 a.m. to catch fish.

TRUE or FALSE

**TRUE
OR
FALSE**

5. Fish are cold-blooded.

TRUE or FALSE

6. You can't fish in winter.

TRUE or FALSE

7. In order to preserve species and ecological balance, rules and catch limits must be respected.

TRUE or FALSE

8. You need a lot of gear to fish.

TRUE or FALSE



FISHING GEAR

There's a wide variety of gear available for freshwater sport fishing, and each angler will be able to find the set that suits their tastes and needs. First of all, simply choose the basic equipment adapted to the species you're trying to catch.

Basic gear:

- Life jackets
- Reel
- Fishing rod (chosen according to the type of reel)
- Basic tackle (swivel, lure, hook, bait, bobber, and weight)
- Fishing box with compartments for storing material
- Long-nose pliers
- Threading knife (Rapala)
- Nail clippers
- Cooler to keep your catch fresh
- Bait
- Fishing net

Additional material:

- Polarized lenses
- Mosquito repellent
- Sun cream
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Brimmed hat or cap
- Raincoat
- Rubber boots
- 15 m floating rope





Knots

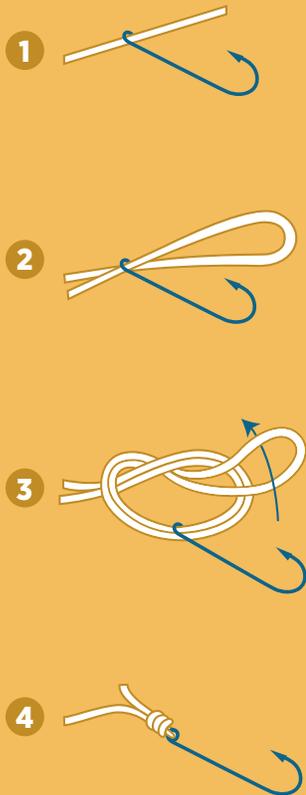
Lures and bait are the keys to an angler's success. A classic leader is used with a spoon placed at the end of the fishing line and attracts the attention of the fish by the vibrations, noise, and reflections produced. A hook baited with a worm or artificial lure at the end of the line will ensure a successful catch.

To assemble the leader, you need to know a few knots to make loops and attach lures, hooks, artificial flies, weights, and other tackle to it.

Here are a couple of typical knots:

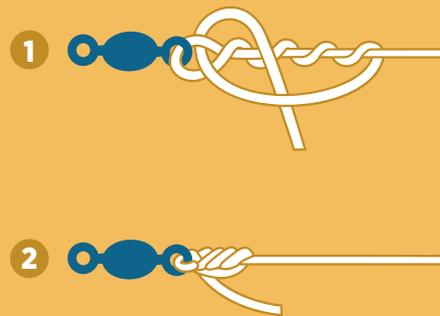
Palomar knot

It's among the best-known knots and is used to attach a hook or swivel to a line.



Jamming knot

It's used to attach artificial flies (or a hook) and is easily removed by pinching your fingernails on either side and pulling along the line.



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO TRY!



FISHING TECHNIQUES



A few tips:

- 1 Take the time to identify the lake's most promising fishing sites.
- 2 Explore the lake in trolling mode.
- 3 Concentrate your efforts around the spot where you get bites or catches.

Troll fishing

This technique is relatively simple. You move around on a lake and leave your lead line behind your boat. You can then test the waters, using various lures at different depths, to find the best fishing spots.

Heavy or light casting

Casting requires a certain amount of skill because you have to know how to skim the water... to better lure the fish. In other words, you cast and retrieve your line repeatedly to whet the appetite of your prey. Each method requires specific equipment.

Heavy casting is more precise, but more demanding. The spinning reel is attached to the top of a rod designed to snag larger fish.

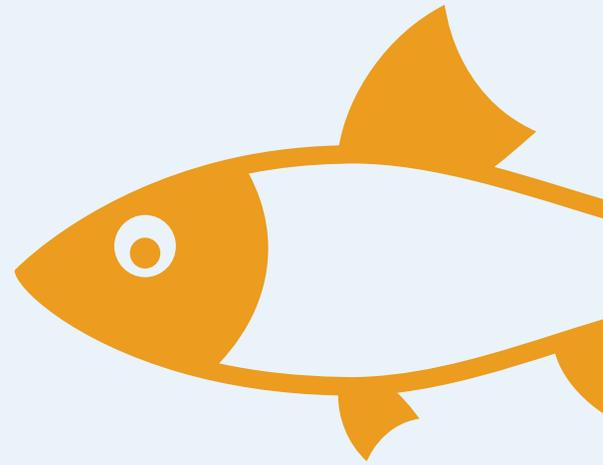
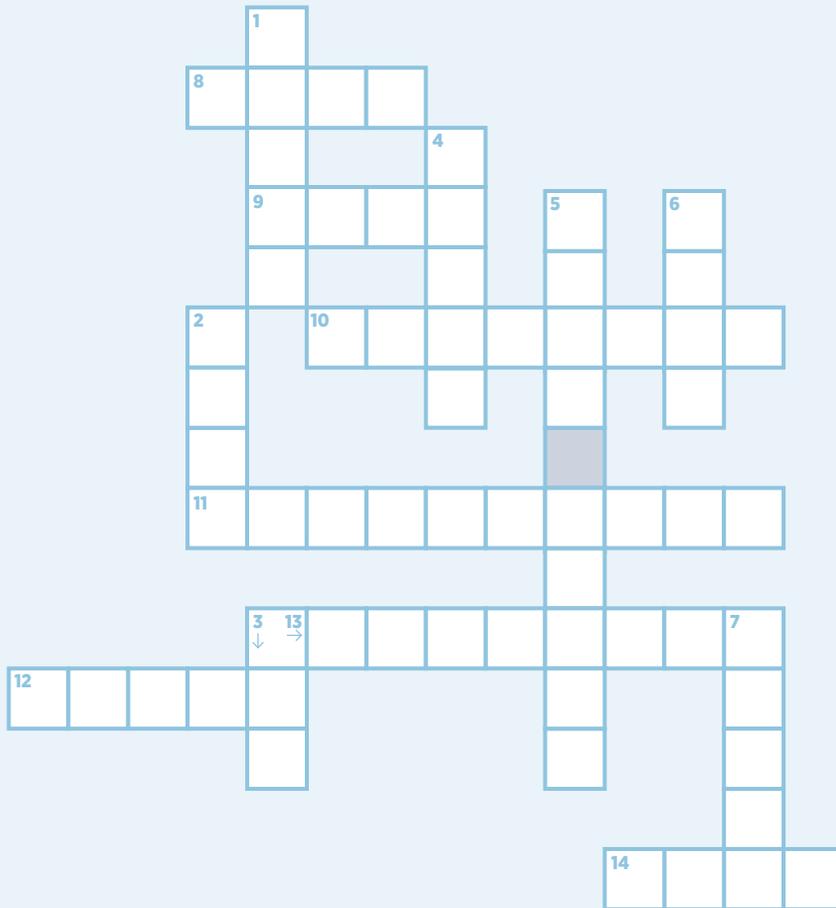
Easy to perform, **light casting** is quite common among fishing enthusiasts. The fixed-spool reel is attached to the underside of a rod designed to cast lighter lures.

Fly fishing

Fly fishing is done with artificial flies as lures, using a silk fly line instead of a regular fishing line. This technique consists of casting and retrieving the line repeatedly in a smooth whipping motion, in order to deposit the fly delicately on the water with a minimum of splash and proper precision. Ideal for rivers.

Fishing

Do the following crossword puzzle:



VERTICAL

1. Respiratory organs that enable fish to extract oxygen from the water.
2. Most popular live bait.
3. A young fish still living off the reserves of its yolk sac or not yet having reached adult size.
4. Abbreviation for Société des établissements de plein air du Québec.
5. Sport fish also called Canadian char.
6. A metal object attached to the end of a fishing line.
7. An elongated metal lure that spins around in the water to attract fish.

HORIZONTAL

8. A jacket that must be worn at all times when in a rowboat or near the water.
9. Artificial bait used for cast fishing.
10. A set of transparent microscopic organisms that float more or less with the currents and are eaten by the fish.
11. Small insects that make an annoying noise when flying. Only females bite and feed on blood.
12. Fish can't do without it! Neither can we!
13. The bony parts and small spines that support the fins, which must be carefully removed before eating the fish.
14. That which allows fish to move, turn, stabilize, and propel themselves.

SPORT FISHING

Definition

What is sport fishing? Fill in the blanks using the following list of words. There is one space for each word.

everyone	fishing	joy	gear	physical	patience
eating	sport	lakes	experience	more	fish

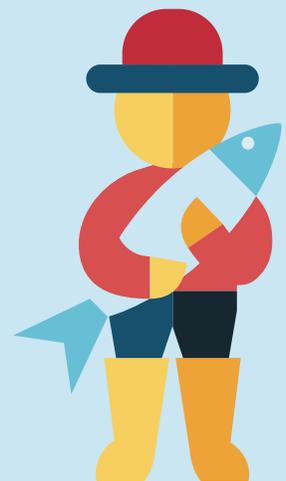
Fishing is trying to catch _____ !

Sport _____ is first and foremost about the _____ of the activity itself and eventually the pleasure of _____ your catch.

Sometimes anglers also put their fish back in the water. You don't need very sophisticated _____ or special training to have a chance to catch fish.

However, _____, _____, knowledge, and even good _____ conditioning can contribute to a _____ successful catch.

In Quebec, _____ fishing is generally done in rivers, _____, and streams and, above all, it's accessible to _____ .



ANSWERS:

Who am I? (p.2): 2, 6, 5, 1, 4, 3

True or false (p.4): 1. TRUE, 2. TRUE, 3. TRUE, 4. FALSE, 5. TRUE, 6. FALSE, 7. TRUE, 8. FALSE

Crossword puzzle (p.8) :

VERTICAL: 1. Gills 2. Worm 3. Fry 4. Sépaq 5. Lake trout 6. Hook 7. Spoon.

HORIZONTAL: 8. Life 9. Lure 10. Plankton 11. Mosquitoes 12. Water 13. Fishbones 14. Fins.

Definition (hidden word) (p.9): Fishing is trying to catch fish! Sport fishing is first and foremost about the joy of the activity itself and eventually the pleasure of eating your catch. Sometimes the angler also puts their fish back in the water. You don't need very sophisticated gear or special training to have a chance to catch fish. However, patience, experience, knowledge, and even good physical conditioning can contribute to a more successful catch. In Quebec, sport fishing is generally done in rivers, lakes, and streams and, above all, it's accessible to everyone.



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