

In-water Work Timing Window Guidelines

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

March 11, 2013

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has established timing window guidelines to restrict in-water work related to an activity during certain periods in order to protect fish from impacts of works or undertakings in and around water during spawning migrations and other critical life stages.

Follow the steps below to determine which timing windows apply to your project:

1. Determine the fish species that are present in the waterbody in which the activity will occur. If you are uncertain, please contact your local MNR office.
NOTE: If species listed under the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* are present, you may be required to obtain approval under the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* prior to commencing any in-water work related to an activity.
2. Use the following map on page 2 (Figure 1. MNR Regions) to determine the MNR Region in which the activity will occur. If you are uncertain of the MNR Region in which the activity will occur, please contact your local MNR office.
3. Use Table 1 (on page 2) to determine the dates during which in-water work related to an activity is restricted based on the region and species present. If more than one species is present, then the timing windows should be combined for all species present (e.g., if a waterbody in the Northwest Region contains both Northern Pike (April 1 to June 15) and Smallmouth Bass (May 15 to July 15), then the combined timing window would be April 1 to July 15).
4. If you are required to conduct in-water work related to an activity during a restricted timing window period as outlined in Table 1, please contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources Office.



Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*), Hawk Lake, Kenora Ontario

Figure 1. MNR Regions



This map is for illustrative purposes only. Please contact MNR if you have any questions about which region you may be located in.

Map data compiled from various sources.
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Datum: 1983 North American Datum

Published March 2013
 © Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2013

Table 1. Timing windows when in-water work is restricted – based on species presence and MNR Region

	Fish Species	Northwest Region	Northeast Region	Southern Region
Spring	Walleye	April 1 to June 20	April 1 to June 20	Mar. 15 to May 31
	Northern Pike	April 1 to June 15	April 1 to June 15	Mar. 15 to May 31
	Lake Sturgeon	May 1 to June 30	May 1 to July 15	May 1 to June 30
	Muskellunge	May 1 to July 15	May 15 to July 15	Mar. 15 to May 31
	Large/Smallmouth Bass	May 15 to July 15	May 15 to July 15	May 1 to July 15
	Rainbow Trout	April 1 to June 15	April 1 to June 15	Mar. 15 to June 15
	Other/Unknown Spring Spawning Species	April 1 to June 15	April 1 to June 15	Mar. 15 to July 15
Fall	Lake Trout	Sept. 1 to May 31	Sept. 1 to May 31	Oct. 1 to May 31
	Brook Trout	Sept. 1 to June 15	Sept. 1 to June 15	Oct. 1 to May 31
	Pacific Salmon	Sept. 1 to June 15	Sept. 1 to June 15	Sept. 15 to May 31
	Lake Whitefish	Sept. 15 to May 31	Sept. 15 to May 15	Oct. 15 to May 31
	Lake Herring	Oct. 1 to May 31	Oct. 1 to May 31	Oct. 15 to May 31
	Other/Unknown Fall Spawning Species	Sept. 1 to June 15	Sept. 1 to June 15	Oct. 1 to May 31