

FISHERIES IN-WATER WORK TIMING WINDOW

October 1, 2020



Restricted activity timing windows are applied to protect fish during spawning and incubation periods when spawning fish, eggs and fry are vulnerable to disturbance or sediment. In Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has the responsibility for setting timing window guidelines. These guidelines are determined on a case by case basis according to the species of fish in the water body, whether those fish spawn in the spring or fall, and whether the water body is located in the Northwest, Northeast or Southern Region of Ontario.

Any work that comes into contact with, or impacts fish habitat, is considered to be "in-water works". All in-water

works should adhere to the timing windows. For In-water work timing window guidelines please refer to the following link:

MNRF Website:

https://www.ontario.ca/document/water-work-timing-window-guidelines

Every effort should be made to conduct works during the appropriate timing windows. However, if works cannot be conducted during the specified Timing Window, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) will need to be contacted regarding an extension.

DFO Phone Number: 1-855-852-8320

DFO Email: fisheriesprotection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Timing Windows are just one of many measures used to protect fish and fish habitat when carrying out a work or undertaking in or around water. Be sure to check out the below link on measures to avoid causing harm to fish and fish habitat:

DFO Website:

http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.

IN-WATER WORK TIMING WINDOW	
When in-water work is restricted, based on species present.	
SPRING	
Fish Species	Northwest Region
Walleye	April 1 to June 20
Northern Pike	April 1 to June 15
Lake Sturgeon	May 1 to June 30
Muskellunge	May 1 to July 15
Large/Smallmouth Bass	May 15 to July 15
Rainbow Trout	April 1 to June 15
Other/Unknown Spring Spawning Species	April 1 to June 15
FALL	
Fish Species	Northwest Region
Lake Trout	Sept. 1 to May 31
Brook Trout	Sept. 1 to June 15
Pacific Salmon	Sept. 1 to June 15
Lake Whitefish	Sept. 15 to May 31
Lake Herring	Oct. 1 to May 31
Other/Unknown Fall Spawning Species	Sept. 1 to June 15



