



NOTO Policy on Recreational Fishery Management

Background

The government of Ontario has committed to maintaining and enhancing a healthy world class fishery in the province.

The nature and outdoor tourism industry recognizes that the fishery resources of Ontario serve multiple users, including commercial fishers, First Nations, resident recreational anglers, as well as guests of tourism establishments.

Sport fishing is of significant concern to the nature and outdoor tourism industry, since approximately 80% of our guests identify angling as the prime recreational activity driving a trip to a tourism establishment. The quality of the angling experience is a key determinant of a guest's destination choice and level of satisfaction.

Policy

Ontario should implement a range of management strategies that will not only maintain but enhance the quality of the province's fisheries resources.

- Ontario must provide a sufficient number and variety of angling opportunities so that our tourism industry can compete effectively with other jurisdictions such as Quebec and Manitoba
- Manage for a variety of angling experience types (e.g. trophy fishery, high-action fishery, consumption fishery)
- Control consumption while maximizing recreational opportunities (e.g. Catch & Release sizes rather than shorter seasons)
- Develop regulations that help minimize mortality of released fish for eg.
 - barbless hooks
 - no trading fish on stringers or in live wells
 - ban live boxes
- Attempt to impact the activities with the lowest socio-economic benefit when restrictions are necessary (e.g. restrict the winter fishery before shortening the summer season, if the winter fishery brings less economic and recreational benefit to communities)
- Enhance remote and semi remote fisheries with conservation fishing and the use of *Exemplary Practices*.
- Develop enhanced management practices for road accessible fisheries in order to improve angling opportunities.