

# Proposed Changes to Coldwater Recreational Fishing Regulations in Zone 17



Fly fishing for trout in Cobourg Creek (Photo: M. Dunkley)

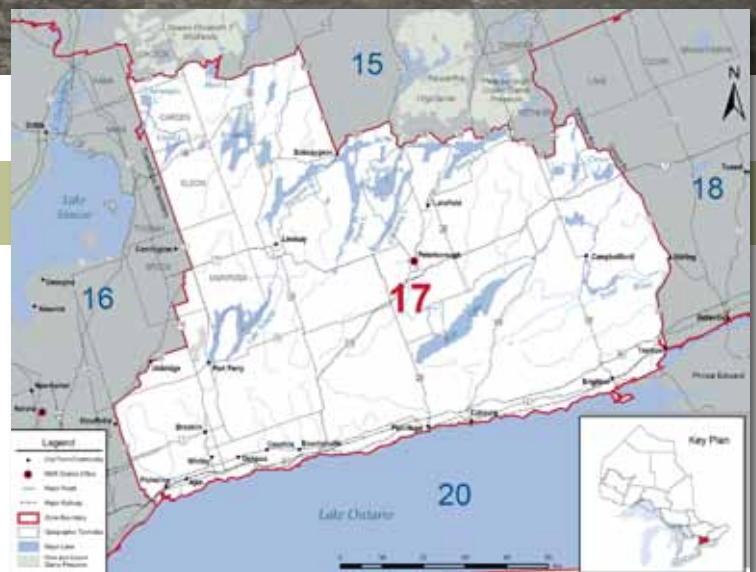
## Have Your Say

The Ministry of Natural Resources, with the support of the Fisheries Management Zone 17 Advisory Council, is inviting Ontario residents to provide input on proposed changes to coldwater fishing regulations for trout in Fisheries Management Zone 17 (Peterborough and the Kawartha Lakes).



The trout fisheries in Zone 17 are highly valued by many anglers. The ministry is considering changes that will help to ensure that these fisheries are healthy and available for generations to come.

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Fisheries Management Zone 17 is the smallest management zone in the province. It includes all of the Kawartha Lakes, part of the Trent and Crowe River Watersheds, and the rivers and streams of the eastern portion of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

### Proposed Changes Include:

- Catch and possession limits for brook trout and brown trout

# Catch and Possession Limits for Brook Trout

## Proposed Options

Option # 1: Sport Fishing Licence: 5, Conservation Licence: 2 (*status quo/current regulation*)

Option # 2: Sport Fishing Licence: 2, Conservation Licence: 1



## Rationale

- MNR manages brook trout as a priority native salmonid species in FMZ 17.
- Brook trout abundance and distribution has declined across FMZ 17; this has been attributed to habitat loss and competition with other non-native salmonid species (i.e. brown trout and rainbow trout).
- Reducing the catch/possession limit is an available tool supported by MNR and the FMZ 17 Advisory Council, which may help to increase brook trout populations.

## Other Considerations

- Angler effort may shift to brown trout.
- Increase in brook trout abundance and distribution is not guaranteed unless populations are also protected from habitat loss and competition.
- Anglers seeking brook trout fishing opportunities may shift their efforts to neighbouring fisheries management zones.



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# Catch and Possession Limits for Brown Trout

## Proposed Options

Option # 1: Sport Fishing Licence: 5, Conservation Licence: 2 (*status quo/current regulation*)

Option # 2: Sport Fishing Licence: 2, Conservation Licence: 1



## Rationale

- Simplify regulations (provides consistency if brook trout limits are also reduced)
- Anglers have indicated a decline in the quality of the brown trout fishery (reduced angling success)

## Other Considerations

- Increased brown trout abundance may increase potential competition with brook trout
- In some systems, brown trout offer higher quality angling opportunities than brook trout, because they are larger and able to survive in a wider range of environmental conditions



## Provide Your Comments

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the FMZ 17 Advisory Council welcome your input on these proposed changes and all feedback received will inform the decision-making process.

To complete the survey and provide your input on these important decisions, please visit [www.fmz17survey.ca](http://www.fmz17survey.ca), or contact the Peterborough District MNR at [FishPTBO@ontario.ca](mailto:FishPTBO@ontario.ca) to request a paper copy. All completed surveys must be received by the date shown on the FMZ 17 website. To access the site, and for more information on this and other matters related to zone 17, go to [ontario.ca/zonecouncils](http://ontario.ca/zonecouncils) and click on the link for FMZ 17.

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