

The *2019 Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations* is now available online through **My Wild Alberta**: <https://mywildalberta.ca/fishing/default.aspx>. In addition, anglers are advised to regularly check the above link on the My Wild Alberta website as *Advisories, Correction and Closures* are posted throughout the year. Anglers will discover that there are regulation changes for 2019. The Alberta Fish and Game Association's position has been that no changes to sportfishing regulations should occur, unless for environmental emergencies, until the independent third-party science review of the *North Central Native Alberta Trout Recovery Program* (NCNATRP) and the *Northern Pike and Walleye Management Frameworks* are completed. This must also include additional time for broader public consultations on the findings and recommendations.

The draft review of the *North Central Native Alberta Trout Recovery Program* (NCNATRP) has been viewed by the members of the *Fisheries Stakeholder Advisory Committee* (FSAC) but remains embargoed internally within the Government of Alberta. As such it cannot be released to the public. The Alberta Fish and Game Association is a member of FSAC. One outcome of the review appears to be the planned sportfishing closures as outlined in the NCNATRP for 2019 within the Kakwa River, Berland River, North Saskatchewan River, Ram River and Clearwater watersheds have not been implemented this year. The Alberta Fish and Game Association applauds the Government of Alberta for making this decision.

The focal questions for the independent review of the *Northern Pike and Walleye Management Frameworks* are being developed by the *Fisheries Stakeholder Advisory Committee* (FSAC) and the Government of Alberta. This second review process is scheduled to be complete by late 2019. From the Alberta Fish and Game Association's perspective, there are critical questions that need validation through the review process. Are the benchmarks used within the Alberta Fish Sustainability Index (FSI) to delineate the status of a fishery, its ecosystem health, and subsequent risk weighting sound? Have the appropriate sportfishing regulatory options been developed and included in the frameworks to deal with the diversity of fisheries and their ecosystem dynamics? Does the online consultation and notification process established within the framework meet the test of "meaningful consultation" and statistical validation?

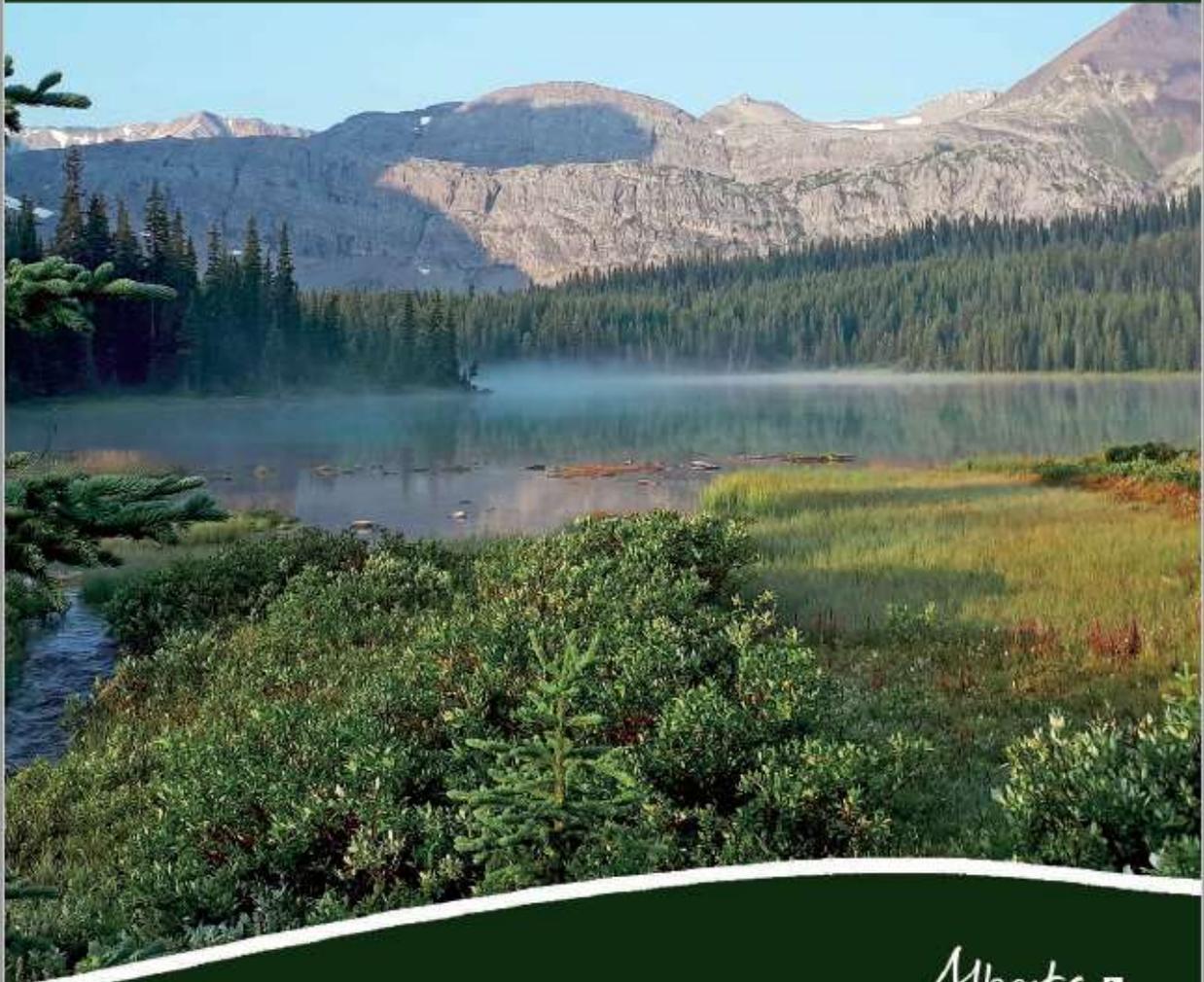
That Alberta Fish and Game Association is disappointed that the Government of Alberta (GoA) did not pause implementing the *Northern Pike and Walleye Management Framework* during the review process. We were informed during the *Fisheries Stakeholder Advisory Committee* deliberations by the GoA that that it would be business as usual despite AFGA's recommendation to pause.

Future sportfishing regulations must be balanced to meet environmental, economic and social objectives. There must be a comprehensive plan to deal with issues related to the sustainability of our fisheries and the habitat they depend. This must however be founded with meaningful consultation that creates the necessary buy in from the angling community plus involvement of multiple stakeholders and ministries within the Government of Alberta that are impacting our fisheries resource and their habitat.

FREE OF CHARGE

2019 Alberta

GUIDE TO SPORTFISHING REGULATIONS



How to Use this Guide ... 10
Fish Management Zones ... 29

Important Changes ... 12
Angler of the Year ... 100

Alberta
Government

photo by Michael Sullivan