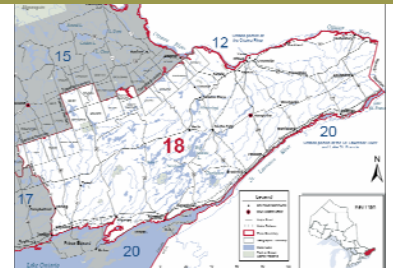


## Proposed Bass Regulation Changes (FMZ 18)

### FMZ 18 – LOCATION

FMZ 18 is the most easterly Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) in the province. Most of the zone lies within the watersheds of the Crowe, Mississippi, Napanee, Cataraqui, Rideau, Salmon, South Nation and Raisin Rivers. The variety of angling opportunities in this zone, its proximity to the United States, and the population base within and nearby, make this one of Ontario's most popular angling destinations.



### THE GOAL

MNR, with the support of the FMZ 18 Advisory Council, has developed a goal for bass management: ***“To maintain the current high quality bass fishery supported by naturally reproducing populations”***

For more information on the bass objectives and strategies, please refer to [ontario.ca/zonecouncils](http://ontario.ca/zonecouncils) and click on [FMZ 18](#).



### STATUS OF BASS IN FMZ 18

Bass (largemouth and smallmouth) in FMZ 18 are abundant and providing quality angling opportunities. Climate change studies have determined that earlier spring warming of lakes has resulted in earlier bass spawning dates (approximately 10 days). Based on this new science, the FMZ 18 Council and the ministry are recommending that the bass season be changed to the third Saturday in June to December 15.

### PROPOSED FISHING SEASON REGULATION FOR 2013

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June – December 15** (Current season: 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in June – November 30)

### RATIONALE

The larger males contribute the most offspring to the population by spawning early and being the best nest guarders. Their offspring grow the biggest and are able to survive better than the offspring of smaller bass that spawn later. If any bass were to be impacted by a fishing season one week earlier, it would be the late spawning bass that contribute few offspring to the population. This season extension would provide additional angling opportunities and improve economic opportunities for business operators.

Extending the bass season into early winter would probably have minimal impact since there are few anglers fishing at that time of the year. This season extension would provide a limited amount of additional angling opportunities.

### PROPOSED SANCTUARY CLOSE DATES FOR 2013

The proposed season change would shorten the sanctuary close dates to January 1 – Friday before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June (Lingham L. and Sand L. (N. Crosby Twp.) and December 16 – December 31 (Lingham L.).

**Deadline to provide feedback in the Fisheries Management Options Questionnaire is April 12, 2012**  
([ontario.ca/zonecouncils](http://ontario.ca/zonecouncils), click on [FMZ18](#)).

# Proposed Walleye Regulation Changes (FMZ 18)

## THE GOAL

MNR, with the support of the FMZ 18 Advisory Council, has developed a goal for walleye management:

**“To increase walleye populations and improve future walleye angling and harvesting opportunities”**

For more information on the walleye objectives and strategies, please refer to [ontario.ca/zonecouncils](http://ontario.ca/zonecouncils) and click on [FMZ 18](#).

## STATUS OF WALLEYE IN FMZ 18

With the current regulation of a four fish limit, with one walleye over 46 cm (18.1 inches), the ministry expects the walleye populations in FMZ 18 will remain at low numbers. Habitat improvements and other non-regulatory programs alone are unlikely to increase walleye populations. Therefore, **two new size limit options** (see below) were developed to achieve the FMZ 18 fisheries management goal.

## PROPOSED WALLEYE SIZE BASED REGULATION FOR 2013

Harvest Slot Option 1 **Harvest walleye between 35-45 cm (~14-18 in)**

*Only walleye within the harvest size may be kept.*

- four fish limit (Sport Fishing Licence)
- two fish limit (Conservation Licence)



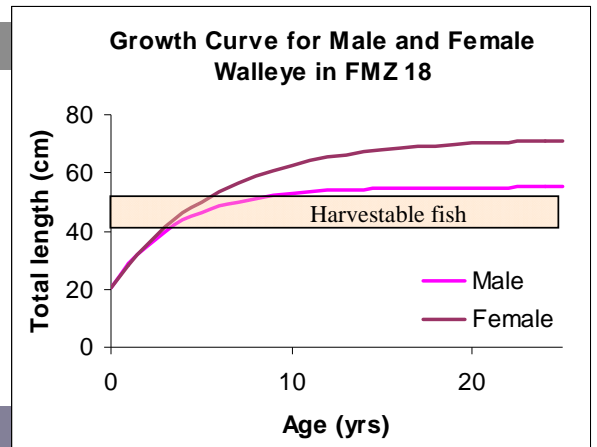
Harvest Slot Option 2 **Harvest walleye between 40-50 cm (~16-20 in)**

*Only walleye within the harvest size may be kept.*

- four fish limit (Sport Fishing Licence)
- two fish limit (Conservation Licence)

## RATIONALE

When modeled, both of the above harvest slot options result in an increased walleye population. The growth curves of walleye in FMZ 18 indicated that these options would protect large females that are important to ensure an increasing population (see right). The large females produce the most eggs and have higher survival rates than eggs produced by smaller walleye. The recent science indicates that regulations should protect these valuable large females.



## PROPOSED SANCTUARY CLOSE DATES FOR 2013

**To be consistent with other walleye sanctuaries across FMZ 18, sanctuary close dates of March 1 – Friday before 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in May, are being proposed for Crotch Lake and Mississippi River (at Innisville only).**

Current sanctuary close dates are March 1 to June 15 (Crotch Lake) and closed all year (Mississippi River at Innisville).

Deadline to provide feedback in the Fisheries Management Options Questionnaire is April 12, 2012, at [ontario.ca/zonecouncils](http://ontario.ca/zonecouncils), click on [FMZ18](#).