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GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS IN THE CANTAL IN 2026

The Fishing Federation reminds anglers that they must carry their fishing licence and present it during inspections. A licence is also required for crayfish fishing. Failure to present a licence may result in a fine and a first-category penalty.

Any anglers engaged in fishing on a watercourse or body of water must only have in his possession fish that are at least equal to or greater than the legal size in force on the watercourse.

CLASSIFICATION OF WATERCOURSES

All watercourses, canals and bodies of water are classified into two categories, pursuant to the ministerial decree of 24 November 1988 and the prefectural decree of 17 November 2009 referred to above.

1°) First category watercourses, canals and bodies of water (dominated by salmonids):

All watercourses or sections of watercourses and bodies of water not classified in the second category.

2°) Second category watercourses, canals and bodies of water (dominated by cyprinids) :

The Lot, the left bank of the Dordogne

Large hydroelectric reservoirs - Lastioules (Haute-Tarentaine) - Bort - Marèges - L'Aigle- Le Chastang (Dordogne) - Enchanet and Gour Noir (Maronne) - Saint-Etienne-Cantalès - Nèpes (Cère) - Lanau - Grandval - Sarrans (Truyère) – Madic- le Tact – la Crégut

With the sole exception of the Lot, all the department's running waters are classified as category 1, as are the reservoirs of Vaussaire, Journiac, Les Essarts, Le Taurons, and Le Gabacut.

N.B.: The boundary between 1ST Category and 2ND Category is as precise as possible, determined by the maximum elevation of the water body.

This boundary remains unchanged if the lake level has fallen.

OPENNING HOURS

SPECIES	FIRST CATEGORY WATERCOURSES	2nd CATEGORY WATERCOURSES
SALMON and SEA TROUT	Fishing prohibited all year round	
BROOK TROUT, CHAR or BROOK SALMON, ARCTIC CHAR and CRISTIVOMER	14 March to 20 September <i>(*except on certain bodies of water where closure is delayed, see below)</i>	14 March to 20 September
RAINBOW TROUT	14 March to 20 September	1st January to 31st December
GRAYLING	16 May to 20 September	16 May to 31 December
PIKE	25 April to 20 September	1st to 25th January and from 25th April to 31st December
ZANDER	14 March to 20 September	1 January to 8 March and 30 May* to 31 December <i>*Except on the Grandval and Lanau dam lakes, where the season opens on 13 June.</i>
BLACK-BASS	14 March to 20 September	1 January to 10 May and 4 July to 31 December
Red-clawed crayfish, torrent crayfish, white-clawed crayfish, and slender-clawed crayfish	Fishing prohibited all year round	
OTHER CRAWFISH	14 March to 20 September	1 January to 31 December
FROGS (green and red)	6 June to 20 September	6 June to 31 December
YELLOW EELS and SILVER EELS	The fishing dates for yellow eel in 2026 will be set at a later date by order of the ministers responsible for freshwater and sea fishing. Fishing for eels less than 12 cm long and silver eels is prohibited.	
ANY FISH NOT MENTIONED ABOVE	14 March to 20 September	1 January to 31 December

On the water bodies listed below, **the closure of the fishing season is delayed until the first Sunday in October inclusive**: Omps, Moulin du Theil (Le Rouget-Pers), Moulin du Fau (Mauris), Val Saint-Jean (Mauriac), Trizac, des Essarts (Condat), de Condat (bourg de Condat), du Pêcher (Chalinargues), de Montrozier (Pierrefort), du Taurons (Trémouille), de Belvezet (Tiviers), de Lastic (Lastic).

On the **Gabacut lake (Montboudif)**, the closure of the fishing season is delayed until the first Sunday in October for species other than brown trout (for which fishing closes on the date set for the first category).

FISHING QUOTA

- ◆ **LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF SALMONIDS THAT MAY BE CAUGHT** (brown trout, rainbow trout, brook trout, grayling) :

6 per day per angler (prefectural decree), **including 1 grayling** (Federation rules) on all rivers and lakes in the department.

- ◆ **LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF PREDATORY FISH THAT MAY BE CAUGHT** (pike, zander and black bass) :

- **In 2nd category** : **a maximum of 3 predatory fish, including 2 pike, per day and per angler** (prefectural decree).

By decision of the Federation's Board of Directors, **all black bass caught in the entire department of Cantal must be released** (internal regulations).

- **In 1st category** : a maximum of 2 pike per day per angler (prefectural decree).

LEGAL CATCH SIZES

TROUT (brown and rainbow) and CHAR (brook trout): 0.20 cm

Except on the following watercourses or sections of watercourses where the size is set at **0.23 cm**:

- **Alagnon** downstream from the RN 122 bridge at Fraisse-Haut (municipality of Laveissière)
- **Allanche** downstream from the Peyro bridge, municipality of Allanche
- **Aspre** from the Vert bridge to the confluence with the Maronne, municipality of Fontanges
- **Authre** downstream from the Jussac bridge (R.D.922)
- **Auze** (de Mauriac) downstream from the mill bridge, municipality of Brageac
- **Bertrande** downstream from the RD 922 bridge
- **Bès** along its entire course in the Cantal department
- **Célé** downstream from its confluence with the Réssègue
- **Cère** from the Pas de Cère road, municipality of Thièzac, to the department boundary
- **Doire** downstream from the Anjoigny bridge, municipality of Saint-Cernin (R.D. 922)
- **Epie** downstream from the Farin bridge (R.D. 34), municipality of Paulhac
- **Etze** downstream from the confluence with the Braulle, municipality of Saint-Victor
- **Jordanne** downstream from the Lavernière bridge, municipality of Velzic
- **Lot** along its entire length in Cantal
- **Maronne** downstream from the Saingoux bridge (CD 35), municipality of Fontanges
- **Mars** downstream from the Pons bridge (R.D. 678) municipality of Anglards De Salers
- **Petite Rhue** downstream from the D.3 bridge, municipality of Apchon
- **Rance** downstream from the Genêt d'Or bridge on the RD. 617
- **Rhue** along its entire length in Cantal
- **Santoire** downstream from its confluence with the Impradine
- **Sumène** downstream from its confluence with the Mars
- **Véronne** downstream from the Roc-Marie bridge in Riom-Es-Montagnes

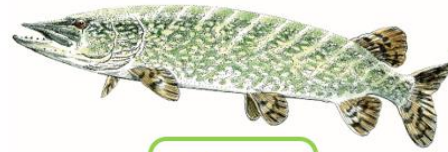
Except on the following watercourses or sections of watercourses where the size is set at **0.25 m** (for brown trout):

- **Truyère** along the entire course

COMMON GRAYLING : 0,35 m (Prefectural Decree)

PIKE : 0,60 m (Prefectural Decree)

! Capture windows are also established (FD Internal Regulations) on different lakes, only pike measuring between 60 and 80 cm can be kept on the lakes of : Saint-Etienne-Cantalès, Nèpes, Enchanet, Gour Noir, Lanau, Tact.



ZANDER : 0.50 m (Prefectural Decree)

BLACK BASS : 0.30 m (Prefectural Decree)

CRAWFISH (signal, American) : no minimum size limit

GREEN AND COMMON FROG : 8 cm (from the tip of the snout to the end of the cloaca)

OTHER MEASURES

❖ NUMBER OF LINES AND HOOKS ALLOWED :

In 1st Category, only one line is permitted (with a maximum of two hooks or three artificial flies), except at the reservoirs listed below, where two lines per angler are permitted :

- Vaussaire and Essarts reservoirs (Rhue)
- Journiac reservoir (Petite Rhue)
- Gabacut reservoir
- Taurons reservoir
- Condat micro-power station reservoir
- Moulin du Theil lake (Le Rouget)
- Val-St-Jean lake (Mauriac)
- Majonenc lake

In 2nd category, the following are permitted :

- 4 rods with a maximum of two hooks by line (all 4 lines must remain under the continuous and close supervision of the angler)
- A maximum of 6 crawfish traps
- A jug or bottle, with a maximum capacity of 2 litres.

❖ USE OF CERTAIN BAITS :

In 1st Category, the use of maggots, grubs and other dipteran larvae as bait or groundbait is prohibited, except in the following bodies of water where maggot fishing without groundbait is permitted : JOURNIAC - LE GABACUT - LES ESSARTS - TAURONS - VAUSSAIRE - L'ETANG DU MOULIN DU TEIL (municipality of Rouget), CASSANIOUZE LAKE, VEZAC LAKE, SAINT-SATURNIN LAKE, CONDAT LAKE, COLLANGES LAKE (municipality of Dienne), VAL SAINT-JEAN LAKE, MAJONENC LAKE (Riom-ès-Montagnes).

In 2nd Category, the use of maggots and other dipteran larvae as bait or groundbait is permitted.

It's prohibited to transport live fish, use them as bait or release them : sunfish, gambusia, pseudorasboras, crayfish, ide and catfish.

It's prohibited to use natural or artificial fish eggs as bait.

❖ CRAWFISH FISHING :

Please note that a fishing license is required to fish for crayfish.

Crayfish species may be fished in both first and second category waters using a maximum of 6 traps, with a maximum diameter of 30 cm and a minimum mesh size of 10 mm.

Baiting crayfish traps with fish of a minimum legal size is prohibited.

It is forbidden to possess or transport live crayfish.

❖ LEGAL FISHING HOURS :

Fishing is permitted from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

All fishing is prohibited at night except in areas marked for night carp fishing.

❖ FISHING BY WADDING (WALKING IN THE WATER) :

To protect the spawning grounds of the Common Grayling, wading is prohibited from the second Saturday in March to May 31st on the Alagnon River :

- From the Notre Dame bridge (Murat municipality) to the village bridge (La Chapelle d'Alagnon municipality),
- From the Mazelles Mill to the Charrade water intake (Neussargues-Moissac municipality).

❖ FISHING WITH NETS AND GEAR :

The use of nets, traps and other devices is absolutely and totally prohibited in all 1st category waters and 2nd category waters.

FISHING RESERVES

A.A.P.P.M.A OF ALLANCHE - LOCAL FISHING ASSOCIATION

Lake Pêcher – upstream section of the lake – Municipality of Chavagnac

A.A.P.P.M.A OF AURILLAC - LOCAL FISHING ASSOCIATION

The Jordanne River and its tributaries upstream from the Liadouze waterfall to their sources (including Rau des Curedis, de Vachy, du Puy Mary, des Embords, de Fournal).....5 km

A.A.P.P.M.A OF CHAUDES-AIGUES - LOCAL FISHING ASSOCIATION

The Remontalou River - Crossing through Chaudes-Aigues, from the entrance to the swimming pool parking lot (downstream) to the RD989 bridge (upstream).....800 m

A.A.P.P.M.A OF CONDAT - LOCAL FISHING ASSOCIATION

The Santoire River - From the bridge on the CD 680 (Pont du Puech) to the lock at the Dienne mill water intake – Dienne Municipality.....700 m

A.A.P.P.M.A OF LAROQUEBROU - LOCAL FISHING ASSOCIATION

The Cère River – 100 m downstream from the mill causeway, Municipality of Laroquebrou.....100 m

A.A.P.P.M.A OF RIOM-ES-MONTAGNES - LOCAL FISHING ASSOCIATION

The Veronne River, from the footbridge upstream of Lextrait to its source - Collandres Municipality..... 1500 m

The Petite Rhue River, from the Lapeyre bridge on the D62 (downstream) to its source (upstream) - Le Claux Municipality..... 4000 m

The Cheylat River, from the Espinasse bridge (downstream) to its source - Collandres Municipality..... 7000 m

A.A.P.P.M.A OF SAINT-FOUR - LOCAL FISHING ASSOCIATION

Ander River – From the millrace of the Blaud mill (downstream) to the bridge on the RD926 (upstream, Saint-Flour bypass)..... 600 m

A.A.P.P.M.A OF VIC-SUR-CÈRE - LOCAL FISHING ASSOCIATION


The Cère River – From the confluence with the Labouissonade stream (downstream) to the Saint-Jacques-des-Blats bridge (RD559, upstream), Municipality of St-Jacques-les-Blats..... 2000 m

The Vialard stream, Municipality of Vic-Sur-Cère, in its entirety.

❖ TEMPORARY FISHING RESERVES IN 2ND CATEGORY

All fishing is prohibited on the temporary reserves created to protect the reproduction of species (zander, black bass and pike) and indicated by signs or buoys on the dam of Grandval, Enchanet and Saint-Etienne-Cantalès from March 1st until the opening of zander fishing (note : opening on the 2nd Saturday of June on Grandval).

Grandval Dam : The Truyère: From the Garabit Viaduct to the Chaliers footbridge - The Ander: From its confluence with the Truyère to the arrival of the path located 1 km downstream from the Auberge du Bout du Monde - The Bès/Truyère: From 150 m upstream of the Grandval Dam (non-navigable area) to the confluence with the Bès (including the two coves of Chabriol) as well as the entire Bès up to the 1st-2nd category boundary.

Enchanet Dam : The Etze cove at the Rouffet bridge - The Maronne from its confluence with the Bertrand (Espons), up to the upstream limit of the 2nd category (Marty stream, left bank tributary of the Maronne) – The Bertrand upstream of the Rouffet bridge viaduct up to the 1st/2nd category limit –  the Selves cove in its entirety.

Saint-Étienne-Cantalès Dam : From the immediate downstream of the Gavanel stream cove (known as Carsac cove) to the limit of the 1st category (dam backwash at the 517 mark) – From the Marie bridge to the limit of the 1st category (dam backwash at the 517 mark) – Vabret cove in its entirety – Espinet cove upstream of a line going from the southeastern tip of the Rénac peninsula to the Espinet boat launch.

❖ **TEMPORARY FISHING RESERVES IN 2ND CATEGORY ON ADJACENT BODIES OF WATER**

Sarrans Dam : Temporary reserves from April 1st to June 12th, 2026 inclusive

Brezons Cove : From the Devèze bridge to the mouth of the "Le Brezons" stream – **Lavendès Cove :** From the end of the cove (right bank) of the Roc de Mons stream to the mouth of the Le Lavendès stream – **At the Montignac stream** to the Prade stream (including the Epie stream cove).

Aigle Dam : Temporary reserves from March 9 to June 12, 2026 inclusive.

Sumène Bay : Upstream limit: boundary between the 2nd and 1st category waters of the Sumène river, water level at the normal operating level (342.00 m NGF). Downstream limit : See on-site signage.

Bort-les-Orgues Dam : Temporary reserves from March 9 to June 12, 2026 inclusive.

Castle of Thynières Bay : The entire bay delimited by a line between a point at coordinates LAMBERT 93 X= 661,025; Y= 6,484,435 (on cadastral parcel OA no. 189, municipality of Beaulieu) and a point at coordinates LAMBERT 93 X= 661,370; Y= 6,483,533 (on cadastral parcel OA no. 101, municipality of Beaulieu).

Between Castle of Val and the Siauve River : Bank on the Cantal department side between a point at coordinates LAMBERT 93 X= 661,210; Y=6,482,640 (on the plot registered as OE no. 225, municipality of LANOBRE) and a point at coordinates LAMBERT 93 x= 660,710 ; Y= 6,481,060 (on the plot registered as OA no. 376, municipality of LANOBRE).

NIGHT CARP FISHING

❖ **NIGHT CARP FISHING AREAS**

• **GRANDVAL DAM WHERE 7 AREAS ARE MARKED**

Alleuze : 2 areas - **Laval d'Albaret le Comtal :** 1 area - **Saint-Georges :** 1 area – **Chaliers :** 1 area - **Immediately upstream of the Pont de Mallet on the D13 on the left bank of the Bès, 400 m, municipality of Fridefont :** 1 area - **Upstream of the Bridge of Garabit (RD 909) to the point where the Mongon stream enters the lake, 700 m :** 1 area

Overnight parking of boats is prohibited on this lake except for official launching points.

• **ENCHANET DAM WHERE 1 AREA IS MARKED**

- Left bank and right bank of the Maronne, from the Maronne viaduct upstream to the entrance of the Longairoux cove downstream.

• **SAINT-ETIENNE-CANTALES DAM WHERE 3 AREAS ARE MARKED**

- Left bank of the Cère River, from the upstream limit of the Ribeyres houses (GPS: 44.906437 2.248666) to the point located at GPS point 44.916471 2.244788, encompassing the Pers and Braconnat coves (9.1 km of riverbanks).
- Left bank of the Cère River at the level of the main channel, from GPS point 44.920335 2.245345 upstream to the Roudier cove at point 44.933238 2.234015 downstream (1.7 km of riverbanks).
- The arm of the Cère from the authorized limit of motor navigation upstream to the bottom of the Fontanelles cove on the right bank, and to the Ribeyres campsite (excluded) on the left bank (8 km of banks)

• **LASTIOULLES DAM WHERE 1 AREA IS MARKED**

- Former sailing base, peninsula at the level of the West dike.

- The entire Sarrans Dam (managed by the Aveyron department)
- Bort-les-Orgues Dam, where a specific area is marked (managed by the Corrèze department)
- L'Aigle Dam, where a specific area is marked (managed by the Corrèze department)

❖ **SPECIAL MEASURES**

No fish caught at night may be kept in captivity or transported.

Transporting carp over 60 cm is strictly prohibited.

Any angler fishing at night must signal their presence with a permanent light.

Permitted baits : Boilies - Seeds - Plant-based baits.

To ensure mutual respect among anglers, **lines used for carp fishing may not be cast beyond the center line of the water body** (prefectural decree). Marking fishing spots is required.

 **It is recalled that during the pike fishing closure, all fishing techniques are authorized on the 2ND category fishing lakes in Cantal.**

On the Lot River and the Sarrans Dam, classified 2ND category, the regulations of the Aveyron department apply (<https://www.pecheaveyron.fr/pecher-en-aveyron/reglementation>).

On the Dordogne River and the Bort-Les-Orgues, Marèges, and L'Aigle Dams, classified 2ND category, the regulations of the Corrèze department apply (<https://www.peche19.fr/reglementation/reglementation-generale>).


SELECTIVE PATHWAYS

For the protection of salmonids, the following fishing areas are established and marked on the ground by signs. On all of these areas, only the use of single barbless hooks or hooks with crushed barbs is permitted (Prefectural Decree).

❖ Catch and release sections limited to fly fishing only :

- **1-D6 Alagnon**, Pachou section, from the Mazelles mill to the Charrade water intake – Neussargues-en-Pinatelle municipality. To protect grayling spawning grounds, wading is prohibited on this section from the opening of the first category fishing season until May 31st.
- **2-G6 Le Bès** from the Chaldette bridge (D.D. 613) to 800 m upstream of Chaldette – Saint-Remy-De-Chaude-Aigues municipality

❖ Fishing area open to all, with specific regulations :

- **3-D6 Alagnon**, from the Notre-Dame bridge in Murat to the Chapelle d'Alagnon bridge
The daily catch limit is 3 salmonids, namely 3 trout of at least 0.25 m or 2 trout of at least 0.25 m and 1 grayling of at least 0.35 m.
To protect grayling spawning grounds, wading is prohibited on this stretch from the opening of the first category fishing season until May 31st.
-  **4-D6 Alagnon**, from the Chanteronne SNCF bridge to the Gaspard bridge (Neussargues, La Chapelle-d'Alagnon - 2.8 km). All fishing techniques are permitted, single barbless hooks or hooks with crushed barbs. Minimum size for trout: between 0.23 and 0.28 m. Trout smaller than 0.23 m or larger than 0.28 m must be released.
- **5-D3 The Aspre and the Maronne** – from the Theil bridge (downstream) to the Saingoux bridge on the RD35 over the Maronne, and from the Aspre/Maronne confluence to the Vert bridge over the Aspre. Minimum size for trout: between 0.23 and 0.26 m and larger than 0.35 m. Fish measuring less than 0.23 m, or more than 0.26 m and less than 0.35 m, must be returned to the water.

❖ Catch and release only for Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout and Grayling, all fishing methods permitted (use of single barbless or crushed hooks (Prefectural Decree), possibility to fish for and keep other species in compliance with the general regulations in force) :

- **6-F3 The Jordanne River** from its confluence with the Cère River (downstream) to the Red Bridge causeway (5200 m) – Aurillac municipality.
- **7-B5 The Grande Rhue River** from its confluence with the Santoire River (downstream limit) to its confluence with the Bonjon River (1400 m) – Condat municipality.
- **8-D5 The Santoire River** from the Gravirous service road (1 km upstream of the Pont Neuf) to 200 m downstream of the Bridge of Monteil – Ségur-Les-Villas municipality.
- **9-E2 The Etze River**, classified as a 2nd category fishing water : downstream of the Moulin de Cavernac causeway, located 480 m upstream of its confluence with the Menoire stream – St-Illide and St-Santin-Cantalès municipalities.

❖ Catch and release only for brown trout, all fishing methods permitted (use of single barbless or crushed barbs (Prefectural Decree), possibility to fish for and keep other species while respecting the general regulations in force) :

- **10-C6 The Allanche River**, from the Peyro bridge (RD39) to the Chauvet bridge (entrance to the village of Allanche) – (1950m)
- **11-E3 The Authre River**, from the footbridge at the Château de la Voulte to the Rigou bridge (800 m), Marmanhac municipality.
- **12-E2 The Auze River** (from Saint-Paul-des-Landes), from the Gresse bridge to the confluence with the Camps stream (1400 m), Saint-Etienne-Cantalès municipality.
- **13-C2 The Auze River** (from Mauriac), from the confluence with the Piallevedel stream to the footbridge upstream from the Miers forest house (1650 m), Chalignac and Brageac municipalities.
- **14-C3 The Auze River** (from Mauriac) from the Anglards-de-Salers bridge (RD22) to its source (11,000 m), in the municipalities of Anglards-de-Salers and Saint-Bonnet-de-Salers.
- **15-D3 The Bertrande River** from the Pont de la Pradines to the Pont de Cors (1,300 m), in the municipality of Saint-Chamant.
- **16-D3 The Bertrande River** from the Cors bridge (elevation 705m) to the Lavergne bridge (elevation 720m) (3300m), Saint-Chamant municipality

- **17-E5 The Brezons River**, from the CD 39 bridge at the locality of La Vergnette to the municipal bridge at the locality of Liadières (Brezons)
- **18-E1 The Cère River** from its confluence with the Chirgoulès stream to the restricted access zone 100m downstream of the Nèpes dam (upstream), Laroquebrou municipality.
- **19-E4 The Cère River** from the Ladescargues bridge downstream (GPS 44.974571, 2.620808) to the Salvanhac causeway (1900 m) – Vic-sur-Cère municipality.
- **20-E4 The Cère River** from the Thièzac campsite bridge to 500 m upstream of the RN 122 viaduct (600 m) – Thièzac municipality.
- **21-F4 The Goul River** from the Poulhès bridge (elevation 585 m) to the Golusclat bridge (elevation 595 m) (850 m), Raulhac municipality.
- **22-B4 L’Incon River** from the Groussoles bridge to the Incon bridge (2400m), communes of Barriac-les-Bosquets and St-Christophe-les-Gorges
- **23-D4 The Jordanne River** from the Mandailles RD17 bridge (downstream limit) to the Liadouze waterfall (Mandailles-Saint-Julien) (1.5 km),
- **24-D3 The Maronne River** from the causeway at the Écoles downstream of the Saint-Martin-Valmeroux bridge to the causeway at the Mas chasm upstream of the village (700 m), in the municipality of Saint-Martin-Valmeroux.
- **25-C3 The Mars River** from the causeway upstream of the Montbrun bridge to the footbridge at Pré de l’Incougou (2,300 m), in the municipalities of Anglards-de-Salers and Méallet.
- **26-C3 The Mars River** from its confluence with the Méallet stream (downstream limit) to the Moulin du Roc bridge (upstream limit) (1,300 m) – municipalities of Jaleyrac, Méallet, Bassignac
- **27-B3 The Sumène and the Marilhou Rivers** : from the Vendes bridge on RD 12 (downstream limit) to the bridge on RD 922 (upstream limit) (1,300 m), municipalities of Méallet and Bassignac.

❖ **Catch and release fishing area for pike, zander, and black bass :**

- **28-B4** Cofferdam located between the Crégut pond and the Lastiouilles lake.