Government of Alberta

The Way Forward

Information bulletin

Alberta

*February 5, 2010*

# Fishing trip memories are bigger than the catch: Fish for free February 13-15

*Edmonton...* Try fishing for the first time, or introduce family and friends to the joy of angling, during the upcoming Family Day free fishing weekend. From February 13 to 15, Albertans and visitors can fish without a licence in any public water body outside of a national park that has an open fishing season.

Alberta's sport fishing regulations still apply during free fishing weekends. Pick up a free copy of the 2009 Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations wherever licences are sold, or at any Fish and Wildlife office. The guide is also available on the My Wild Alberta website. Anglers are also reminded to follow the ice safety tips and procedures found at: www.mywildalberta.com/Fishing/SafetyProcedures/IceSafety.aspx.

Those who want to fish more after the free fishing weekend can easily purchase a Wildlife Identification Number (WIN) card and an Alberta sportfishing licence by accessing the online licence application website, AlbertaRELM, at: www.albertarelm.com/.

Alberta has two free fishing weekends each year: the Family Day weekend and during the summer to coincide with National Fishing Week. This summer's free fishing weekend will take place July 10 to 11.

For more information about fish and fishing in Alberta, visit: srd.alberta.ca and click on Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping; visit the My Wild Alberta website at: www.mywildalberta.com; or call the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Information Centre at 1-877-944-0313.

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**Backgrounder:** Ice Safety Tips and Procedures

## Media inquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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# Ice Safety Tips and Procedures

Keep the following guidelines in mind when playing near or on the ice:

- Never walk on ice that is less than 10 centimetres (four inches) think and do not drive on ice that is less than 20 centimetres *12 inches) thick. When in doubt, don't do it.
- Beware of ice near the inlet and outlet of streams. Always be extra cautious on river and stream ice. Ice can vary in thickness and strength from area to area because of temperature, water current, springs, snow cover and time of year.
- Do not drive fast, follow closely behind or park near another vehicle on the ice. Ice can bend and crack with the weight of people, vehicles or heavy snow. Keep an eye on ice and snow conditions ahead of you. If the weather has been warm or heavy snow has depressed the ice, there may be hidden slush pockets that can trap a vehicle.
- When travelling in a vehicle on lake ice, keep your seat belts off, open your window a crack and half unlatch your door so it can be opened quickly. Always carry a shovel and tow rope in your vehicle.
- Always carry waterproof matches and nails or spikes in your pocket to help you get out of the water.

If you should fall through the ice:

- Exit your vehicle immediately.
- If in the water, go to the ice edge and break your way to ice that can hold your weight. Time is of the essence.
- Crawl on your belly up on the ice, spreading your weight as far as possible. Use nails or spikes for added traction.
- Immediately seek a warm place to remove wet clothes. This may mean going to shore and quickly building a fire.

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