

## **What to Bring on Your Fishing Trip**

warm insulated coat	personal medical prescriptions
long underwear	chap stick or lip balm
underwear	rod case
cotton socks	tackle
wool or thermal socks	digital camera/camera and film
light camp shoes	waterproof daypack
waterproof boots	binoculars
insulated waterproof gloves	flashlight & extra batteries
light gloves	filleting/ pocket knife
pants/shorts	insect repellent
t-shirt/pullover	small thermos
rain gear	sunscreen
removable turtleneck	waterproof lighter/matches
personal toiletry kit	spare prescription glasses
hat	sunglasses

Remember it is always best to dress in layers. This allows you to remove or add clothing as needed and the weather can change several times during the day in the far north.

**Please restrict your personal gear to a maximum of 75 pounds.**

### **Tackle**

Fishing in these remote northern waters can spoil you, as you are pretty much guaranteed to catch a lot of fish. That being said, there are certain factors that will greatly influence your success, such as the time of year, the weather, your technique and the gear you use.

The weather in the north changes quickly and you need to know how to adapt to the constantly changing conditions. This requires some basic knowledge of the different fish species, where they like to hang out at different times of the season and how they will react to the weather changes. When you combine this with a basic knowledge of the lake structure, you can make an educated guess at where to try your luck.

Our season begins with ice-out, which usually occurs sometime during the second or third week of June, but can be as late as the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. Our season ends by mid September. After ice-out northern pike and lake trout are ravenous and are found in shallow water. As the month of July progresses and the water warms in shallow areas, the lake trout begin to move to deeper waters and the pike move to slightly deeper water and drop-offs around rocky areas, islands and points, channels and sheltered bays. During August, when the water is at its warmest the fish become less aggressive and sit in deeper water. At the end of August and beginning of September things begin to cool down once more and the fish head back to the shallows.

## **Northern Pike**

**Spinning/Bait Casting** – Use 6' – 7' medium-heavy spinning or bait casting rods with medium to medium/heavy spinning or casting reels, 12-20 lb. test line and 9-12 inch wire leaders. Northern pike love medium size spoons with shiny finishes and in bright colors like yellow, red and orange. It is hard to beat such old favorites as Dare Devils, Five-O-Diamonds, Len Thompsons, Johnson Silver Minnow and the Wolverine, as well as the #4 and 5 Mepps spinners. Big crank baits, surface plugs and plastic lures like the medium size Bulldawgs are also good producers.

**Fly-fishing** - Only in the last decade have fly-fisherman really come to realize what a fantastic experience fly-fishing for pike is. Little Duck Lake and Nejanilini Lake offer some of the finest fly-fishing for pike in the world. Fly-fishing for these big pike requires a 9' – 8 or 9 weight rod with a good quality reel that has a smooth drag system and at least 100 yds. of backing. Use a weight-forward floating line and a 7' to 9' – 12 lb. tippet with about a foot of wire at the end. Large flies are the order of business with pike. Big flashy streamers, 4"-8" in length, with hooks size 1/0-3/0 and patterns with bright color combinations of red, black and white, polar bear, crystal hair and flashabou are sure producers.

## **Lake Trout**

**Spinning/Bait Casting** – Use 6' – 7' medium heavy spinning or bait casting rods with medium to medium/heavy spinning or casting reels and 12-20 lb. test line. Lake trout prefer big spoons and crank baits. Dare Devils, Len Thompsons, Five-O-Diamonds, Red Eyes, and Doctor spoons are favorites. In the summer when fishing deeper water the same spoons can be used with 3 way rigs or a portable down rigger. Vertical jigging also works well with 2-4 oz. jigs and Twister Tails of Berkley Powerbaits.

**Fly-fishing** – The best opportunities to fly-fish for lake trout are just after ice-out and in the fall when the fish are in shallow water. Tackle requirements and fly selection are similar to what is required for northern pike, except the wire leader is not mandatory with lake trout.

## **Arctic Grayling**

**Spinning** - A 5 ½' – 6' ultra-light rod with 4 lb. test is just about perfect. Small spinners with shiny flashers, such as Mepps and Panther Martins in sizes 0 and 00, are always a good bet with grayling. Dry flies fished with a small bobber or with a small spinner and a short leader, also work well.

**Fly-fishing** – Use a 3-6 weight rod from 7'-9', with a weight-forward floating line and dry flies. Woolly buggers, various nymphs and bead-eye patterns work well, as do the

Adams, Caddis, Royal Wulff and Fur Ant. Generally darker patterns work best with grayling. Switch to wet flies when the hatches are off. Hook sizes 12 to 18.