

MANOTAK LODGE

FISHING TIPS

The following fishing tips are suggestions to fish Perrault Lake species such as Walleye, Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Muskie and Perch.

NOTE: There are many fishing techniques and lures that can be used for each of the species listed above but we are identifying the basics and what we know works well on Perrault Lake. The most important thing you can remember is to not go heavy with fishing rod size and action, fishing line weight, and lure size. This will be explained in more detail below.

WALLEYE – Season Opens 3rd Saturday of May.

Fishing Rod: 6-6 ½ foot Light Action Spinning Rod is best. 5 ½ - 6 foot Ultra Light Spinning Rod can also be used to increase sensitivity of bite and fight of the fish.

Fishing Line: 4-6 lb. test line is optimum. We recommend a monofilament line such as Trilene XL. People always ask us about the new type of lines such as Spider Wire or Fireline. We personally do not like these lines for Walleye compared to mono. They are good lines but we have found mono lines to be more productive and easier to get light lures deeper or to the bottom.

Lures/Rigs: 1/6, 1/8, 1/4 ounce lead head jigs. It is important to not go too heavy. Even if our Walleyes are over 20 feet deep or deeper we DO NOT recommend going to heavier jigs. The light line will take a light jig down deep.

Color of jig head is not always the most important factor. However, we have found that gold glitter jigs are very effective but we also recommend having a selection of the most popular colors such as Yellow, Green, Red, Orange and Unpainted.

Bait walkers, slip sinker rigs or crawler harnesses are also very good techniques but again we ask not to go too heavy with the sinker portion of these rigs.

Live bait used on the above stated rigs is usually the number one method but plastics also work well.

Rapalas or Crank Baits in general are very good in the early season for Walleyes but as the season progresses toward fall the Walleyes go deeper which means artificial crank baits become less effective. Casting or Trolling these lures are both effective. There are a lot of different crank type baits on the market that run at various depths so it is not a bad idea to have a small selection. These would include, Rattle Traps, Sparkle Tails, Rapala DT's, etc.

NORTHERN PIKE – Open all Year

Fishing Rod: 6 - 7 foot Medium Action Spinning or Bait Casting. We do not recommend bringing a fishing rod that looks like a pool cue. You will not be able to cast smaller baits and have them travel at the required depth.

Fishing Line: 12 – 17 lb test. This line can be either Monofilament, Spider Wire or Fireline. However, we recommend having two rods for Northern Pike: both can be spooled with Mono or one rod with Mono and the other rod with Spider Wire or Fireline. The reason for this is that you can use the 12 lb Mono Line rod for casting baits and the other Spider Wire spooled rod for trolling.

Lures: Casting Spoons such as 5 of Diamond, Daredevils, and Johnson Silver Minnows are a very good choice. Crank Baits such Rattle Traps, Jointed Rapalas, Sparkle Tails, etc. are always good all summer long. In-Line Spinners such as #3, 4, and 5 Mepps or similar, along with Buzz type baits will always be a great choice. Blade color for the spinners would be Silver, Gold, Green, Yellow and Orange. Remember that Perch are one of our

better feeder fish so anything with Orange or Yellow works very good. The Mepps we like to use also can have buck tail hair around the treble hooks. Black or White hair is good along with Yellow or Orange hair. Trolling deep diving large billed crank baits such as Husky Jerks, Depth Raiders, etc. are very good for working around the deep humps and reefs. Top water baits such as Zara Spooks, Jitter Bugs, Rebel Pop “R”, or Skitter Pops are best choice.

SMALLMOUTH BASS – Open All Year

Fishing Rod: 6-6 ½ foot Light Action Spinning or Bait Casting Rod is best. This rod can double as one of your Walleye Rods listed above.

Fishing Line: 4-6 lb test. Monofilament line is best such as listed for Walleye.

Lures: 2-2 ½ inch Tubes with Lead head Jigs slipped inside are tremendous baits for Bass. Tube colors that work very well are Pumpkin Seed, Motor Oil, & Purple. The newer salted tubes are also a good choice. #3, 4, 5 Mepps or any other In-Line Spinner works good (same as listed for Northern Pike) Most crank baits on the market are very good choices for Bass but we do recommend not going too big in size. Rattle Traps, Fat Raps, Shad Raps are just a few to choose from. Live bait will always work great and the first choice usually is leeches and night crawlers. This live bait can be used with lead head jigs or as simple as single hook with split shot approx. 12 inches up on line. Top Water baits similar to ones listed for Northern Pike will work very well. Colors of top water baits are not tremendously important but blue/silver combination always seems to get great action.

MUSKY – 3rd Saturday of June to December 15

Fishing Rod: We highly suggest that for musky fishing, you should have a medium heavy- extra heavy musky specific rod. If it is not a musky specific rod, then we suggest a very stiff heavy power bait casting rod.

Fishing Line: muskies are a very delicate fish and a very special fish to catch. Please do not attempt to musky fish without 50+lb braided line and at least a 1ft wire or fluorocarbon leader.

Musky Lures: Bigger isn't always better on the lure side of musky fishing. We see most of our biggest fish caught on smaller lures such as #6-#8 size Blue Fox spinners. Bulldawgs, stick baits, Medussas, and any bucktails work well.

Other musky gear you NEED to have: A large net. Our nets we supply with our boats are geared towards walleye, bass and pike. If you want to musky fish you need to have a large net so the fish can stay in the water while you remove the hooks to keep the fish safe. Good long pliers. Hook cutters. Gloves for handling the fish.

PERCH – Open All Year

Fishing Rod: 5-5 ½ foot Ultra light Spinning Rod.

Fishing Line: 2-4 lb. Test Monofilament.

Lures: 1/32 ounce lead head jigs tipped with a small portion of nightcrawler is the best bait typically each year. 1/32 ounce jig with small twister tail can also work very well. Typical colors or twister tails would be green, yellow, chartreuse, orange, white. Simple rig as single hook tipped with portion of night crawler and split shot up the line also works great.