

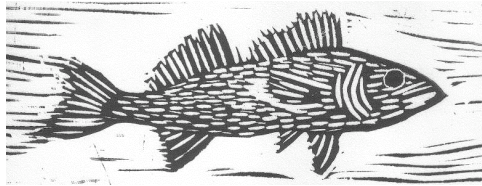
Go Fish!

Fishing for Kids

Fishing is a great activity to introduce to young people. It is a life long sport that anyone can participate and excel in no matter what their size, age or athletic ability. It's also a great way to spend time with family members. The BWCAW offers four main species of fish including Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, and Lake Trout.

Tackle Box Check List for Kids

- A small, soft-sided tackle box (one per canoe)
- Needle nose pliers with a cutter
- Red and white spoon (1/2 oz.-3/4 oz. are a good size spoon)
- Copper and orange hammered spoon
- Steel leaders 6-8 inches in length
- Smithwick Rattlin' Rouge® (blue & silver, black & silver, or firetriger)
- Rapalas® (3-4, sizes 9-18, mixing floaters & divers, blue, silver, perch)
- Mepps® spinners (4 or 5 varying color size and with or without tails) #2 or #3 with buck tails with silver blades are my favorite.
- Jigging spoon
- A couple of slip bobbers with corresponding lead free split shot
- Plain hooks (consider barbless)
- Leeches and a leech locker or night crawlers in a foam worm box
- Camera



harder to release fish after they have been netted. But overall, it is a lot easier. You may lose a few fish, but it will be a lot easier.

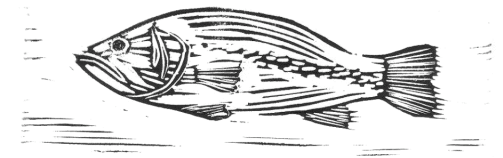
Fish for whatever is easiest on the particular lake and for the season. Keep a fish or two to eat and release the rest. All four species are delicious because of the clean, cold, deep water.

Walleye

Tackle selection for kids: Rapalas®, Smithwick Rattling Rogues®, slip bobbers, plain hooks, leeches, leech locker, 8 lb. test. Walleyes are a somewhat elusive fish. They are a finicky species, so it isn't wise to use bulky items such as leaders or big hooks. Keep in mind they are nocturnal and do much of their feeding in the evenings and early mornings, so this is when you can experience some outstanding action. Slip bobbers with leeches are probably the best method, but probably not the most exciting. In May and June Walleyes are usually in 10-15 feet of water along the shorelines and points or where running water enters the lake. In the evenings, they will tend to go a little shallower even into 5 feet of water. This is the time to use your Smithwick's or floating Rapalas. In July, August and September Walleyes move into deeper water off of reefs, down to 30 feet of water. Use casting deep diving Rapalas in the evening over reefs in about 10 feet of water.

Smallmouth Bass

Tackle selection for kids: Mepps® spinners, jigs, Rapalas®, and slip bobbers with crawlers, 8 lb. test. This species can be found the majority of the summer along the shorelines, at the beginning and end of moving water and around reefs. Underwater rocks provide great cover, so that is where they will be found. They also like weeds, but prefer rocks. They will be most abundant in areas with both rocks and weeds. Smallmouth bass are excellent eaters and great fighters. They are the easiest fish for kids to catch because they can fish right from the campsite with a slip bobber and night crawler. Adjust the bobber to 5-6 feet deep, wait for the bobber to go under, set the hook, and reel them in.



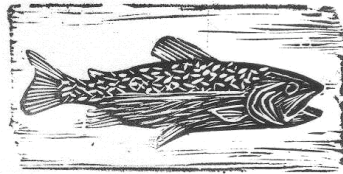
This is a large list of tackle, but it covers fishing for all of the species. Look over the following and bring what you need for what you want to fish for. Keep in mind these lakes have been formed by glaciers and there are many rock piles and outcroppings for lures to get snagged on, so bring enough gear to cover losses. There isn't a landing net on the list because we feel it is too bulky to carry along on a canoe trip and it is

Northern Pike

Use spoons, leaders, Rapalas, and 8-16 lb. test to catch northern pike caught near running water in May and early June. In mid-June the weed beds start forming and provide great habitat for Northern pike. Fish on points and islands throughout the summer, but especially in the fall. Northern pike can be caught on many lures, but if you are pursuing the Northern pike exclusively, try using a steel leader and spoon. They're a territorial species and will hit on anything in the area. Since the water will remain cool throughout the summer, Northern pike are great eating. Ask your outfitter how to remove the Y-bone if you don't already know.

Lake Trout

Jugging spoons, and other spoons, 8-12 lb. test and up. Trolling with spoons is an effective way to catch Lake Trout. This species loves cool water, (around 44 degrees), so in early spring these fish will be feeding in shallow water, and they will keep getting deeper throughout the summer. Make sure to bring enough weight, up to 2 oz. to get your spoon down. When Trout are deep, you will need to troll very slowly with lots of line to get it down to the 30-50 foot range and deeper. Troll just fast enough to feel the lure turning over. On a hot calm summer day, try floating off of a point or a rock wall. Drop your jugging spoon straight to the bottom and reel up a foot or two. Jig the spoon up and down and wait for a trout to hit.



General Fishing Tip

Since you will not have a net along, you will need to take care when removing your fish from the line. Using a barbless hook is a good idea for catch and release. They are also much safer with kids just in case someone gets hooked. When removing Walleyes and Northern pike, grab them carefully by squeezing their gills closed. For a Smallmouth, put your thumb inside and grab its lower lip. Never put your hands inside the fish's gills or grab it by the eyeballs. Wet your hands before handling a fish and return it to the water as fast as possible.

An unattended lure is an accident waiting to happen. Always remove lures from the rod when not fishing and especially when portaging. To make transporting your rod and reel easier on a portage, take the reel off and pack it into one of your bags. Then, using Velcro straps attach

your rod to the canoe, one strap on the tip and one at the butt of the rod. A medium action rod 5½ to 6 feet is a good choice for wilderness fishing. Buy a middle-of-the-road quality rod and reel for your kids. 30-40 dollars for a combo is about right. A "closed face" reel is easier for kids. Avoid buying a "snoopy" pole because it won't last and will usually give out on the first fish caught. Practice casting and reeling in a pail at home in the yard.

- Keep it simple - A spin-cast rod and reel, live bait, bobber, split shot and hook make the perfect kid's fishing rig.
- Look for action - Walleye or Lake Trout may be your preferred catch, but to a kid, any fish is a trophy. Smallmouth or Northern Pike are often the most cooperative and can usually be found near shore.
- Safety - Wear lifejackets. Also, be sure to pack band-aids, pliers, a handkerchief, sunscreen and raingear.
- Have fun - At its heart, fishing is about memories. So encourage them take the time to stop and turn over rocks, feed the ducks or just wander around looking for frogs.

License Requirements

All anglers, 16 and older, need a Minnesota fishing license. Resident youth, 15 and under do not need a license and get their own possession limit. Non-resident youth 15 and under do not need a license if accompanied by a licensed parent or guardian and their possession limit is combined with the adults.



Take a Kid Fishing Weekend

If you are a Minnesota resident, then you can fish without a license June 6-8, 2008 if you are fishing with a youth under the age of 16.

Activity: Go Fish!

Before leaving on your camping trip, make a set of "Go Fish" cards by drawing, Xerox copying, or scanning at least 2 copies each of different species of fish. Make sure the 4 main BWCAW species are included, but choose several others as well. Make the cards all the same size. During a break or on a rainy day, pull the cards out, place them face side down on a large rock or flat space in the tent and take turns turning over two cards at a time. If someone turns over two cards of the same species, he or she gets to keep the pair. Continue until all pairs are taken. The person with the most pairs, wins. This game is not only good for memory it also helps to learn different species of fish.