

FISHING AT PIKE LAKE IS CATCH AND RELEASE. WE ASK THAT THE FOLLOWING TIPS BE FOLLOWED TO HELP PREVENT INJURY TO THE CAUGHT FISH THAT YOU PLAN TO RELEASE.

1. Ontario residents need an Outdoors card to fish in Ontario if they are at least 18 years old but have not reached their 65th birthday. For further information on fishing licenses, please contact the office.
2. NO KEEPERS! All fish must be released, unless injured.
3. Children under 14 should be supervised by an adult experienced in catch & release.
4. Respect people's campsites and fish in appropriate areas only.
5. Barbless single fly hooks cause less damage. Use hooks that will rust quickly in the presence of water. Usually the dark colour hooks indicate the kind of hook that will disintegrate quickly in a fishes' mouth or stomach. Stainless steel hooks are real killers and shouldn't be used as bait hooks. Generally, artificial lures are best as they are usually hooked in the mouth or lips – not the gills or throat. This means the hook is more easily removed. By contrast, live bait rigs often mean fish swallow the bait, making quick hook removal more difficult.
6. Do not play with the fish too long as they could die after release.
7. If you use a net to land a fish, consider buying one with a coated or rubberized mesh that helps reduce injury to gills, eyes and fins.
8. Handle all fish quickly and gently. When releasing fish, remove hooks while the fish is still in the water, if at all possible. Don't hold the fish by the gills or eyes or in the air by the leader, this can result in serious damage and even death.
9. If a fish must be removed from the water, be careful not to drop it. Don't let it thrash around, this can injure the fish and remove the slime coating which helps protect it from disease. Don't keep a fish out of water too long – it needs water for its oxygen supply.
10. Never attempt to tear out the hook. If the hook is deeply embedded in the throat or stomach don't try to dig it out. This action causes more damage than simply leaving it in the fish. When you cut the mono off the hook attempt to get it all, mono doesn't rot away like the hooks. Learn how to twist away from the point of the hook by making an effort to grab some part of the hook, bend with needle nose pliers and rolling your wrist to pull in such a motion as to retrieve the hook point in the same direction as its entry.
11. Small mouth and largemouth bass can be gripped by the lower jaw and lifted vertically, which immobilizes them temporarily. Larger bass should be supported under the stomach area to help prevent internal injuries.
12. Sometimes the fish are really tired from the battle and upon the release turn belly up and float. In this case hold the fish upright and push it back and forth just under the water. Most of the time this is all it takes to revive it and it will kick out of your hands.

The lake holds bass, perch, brown trout, rainbow trout, sunfish, and catfish and with everyone's co-operation we hope that all will have a great experience!

