



# FISH FOR THE FUTURE.....

*Wabakimi fishing is among the best in Ontario due to a well managed fishery and remote setting. Let's help keep it this way for future generations.*

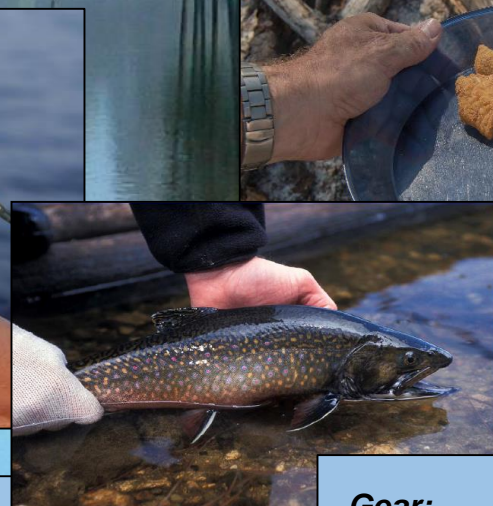


## **Enjoy your good old shore lunches and fish fries but here is some food for thought:**

- Photograph the real big ones and then release. Why?
- The smaller "eater size" fish taste better and bio-accumulate less toxins
- Large fish are the "breeders" of the population and important for producing more fish for the future. Harvesting smaller fish takes less of the population from the system
- Replicas look more realistic and last longer

## **Catch and Release:**

- Capture your REAL BIG fish with a camera to post on Facebook and then release....
- Time could be the single largest factor in a successful release – time to land, remove hook and revive
- Artificial lures and barbless hooks greatly reduce handling time when removing hooks and reduces the severity of tissue damage (most barbs can be pinched down).
- Try to avoid using live bait as it increases mortality of released fish and introduces invasive and non-native species which can be extremely harmful to the aquatic ecosystem.
- **Please do not dispose of any live or plastic bait in the park.**



## **Fish First Aid:**

- Do not remove the fish from the water unless necessary
- Take care when releasing fish that have been brought up from deep water
- Never hold a fish vertically or put fingers in eye sockets
- In moving water release the fish facing upstream into the current
- Use of cotton gloves is recommended

## **Gear:**

- Gear selection is the key to a successfully released fish
- Your line and rod should match the target fish and size. Light lines are not needed and out dated.
- Forceps, hemostats and small pliers are essential. Boga grips are NOT a good idea!
- The use of cradles for large fish can aid in landing the fish, weighing and removing the hook and releasing

## **Drastic Plastic:**

- In some areas where live bait is banned, plastic bait has been found in the stomachs of 2% of the fish population. This could increase death rates as fish get plugged up with plastic.
- If you decide to use artificial, consider the many biodegradable brands that also have pheromones to attract walleye. TriggerX Nightcrawler is just one example.



















