

# Catch, Photo and Release



# Catch



- Gear Selection is key to a successfully released fish.
- Your line rating and rod should match the targeted fish and fish size.
- Although it happens accidentally quite often, a light action rod is no match for a big summer musky.
- Line is the only thing that connects you to the fish and with today's technology, light lines are completely out dated and not necessary.
- Artificial lures reduce the handling time when removing hooks and reduces the severity of tissue damage.

- Barbless hooks are greatly reduce handling time. Most barbed hooks can be pinched down.

- Correct handling to remove hooks. Wet hand over the head if required. Forceps, hemostats and small pliers are essential C&R tools.

- Boga Grips or similar products are NOT a good idea.

- Never hold a fish vertically



- The use of cradles for large fish can aid in landing fish, weighing fish, removing hooks and releasing fish. This is a must have tool for Esox anglers.



# First Aid for Fish





- Stress, trauma, contusions, lacerations, fatigue...all apply to fish
- In a moving water situation the fish should be held facing upstream and into the current.
- In an open water or ice fishing situation the fish should be cradled and NOT...NOT moved back and forth, this causes drowning.
- Keep the fish submerged as long as it takes. Too quickly of a release can result in severe damage.

- Again...NEVER hang or hold a fish vertically that is to be released
- Never push your fingers into eye sockets of a fish that is going to be released
  - Distribute body weight horizontally or better yet, in the water
  - Use of cotton gloves or "tailing" gloves are highly recommended
    - Do not remove from water unless necessary
- Avoid "dead baits" and use of quick strike rigs are recommended
  - Cut the line...leave the hook

# Photo

- Great photographs make great trophies and allow us to release our catch



- Outdoor photography can be difficult - ever changing light and weather conditions
- Steps we can take to successfully photograph and release that fish of a lifetime...

# Be Prepared

- Photograph and return fish to the water asap
- A large or beautiful fish is the primary ingredient for a great photo - best to prepare for the photo before the fish is in the boat
- Have your camera ready with the right settings



# Be Prepared

- You and your fishing partners are the models - dress like you are planning on being photographed
- Avoid dark, drab clothing

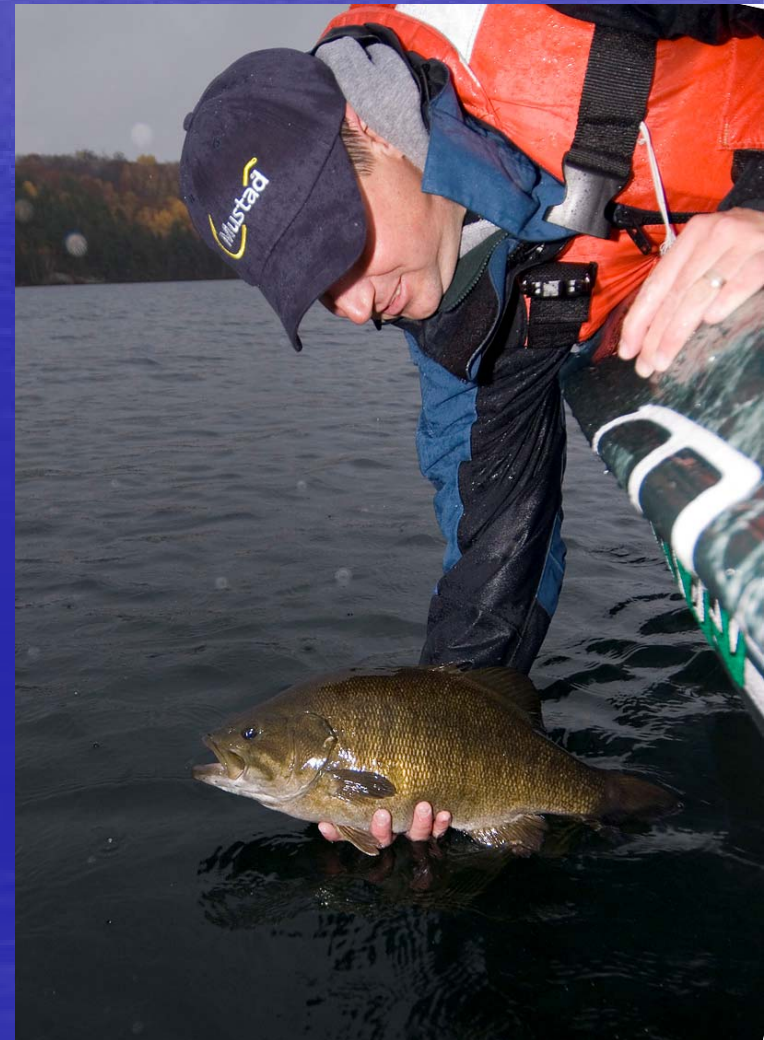


# Holding and Handling fish

- Make it look good without harming the fish
- Support the fish, don't hang vertical



- bass resilient species but still benefit from gentle handling



# Holding and Handling fish

- Extra care with steelhead, trout and salmon
- No need to hoist fish up for shot
- Action shots/ in water shots are good photo options
- Cotton/acrylic tailing glove



# Holding and Handling fish

- Less is more - let the fish show



# Fishing Alone



- Be prepared
- Be fast



# Photography Basics - daylight

- Shoot with sun behind or off to the side
- Shutter speed of 125 or much higher in bright light with ISO setting of 100-200
- Bright sun - use flash - fill flash minimises shadows



## Shoot into the sun

- silhouette - underexpose for pronounced shadow



- back lit with flash

# Photography basics - daylight

- Bright days - use a polarizer to accentuate blue of the sky, white of clouds



- Removes the glare so we can see fish in the water

# Photography basics - low light

- Low light situations - lower shutter speeds - less than 1/60th can mean blurry images
- Tripod not an option - boat, moving subjects
- Turn up your ISO (digital) to 400 or more
- Use Flash or both

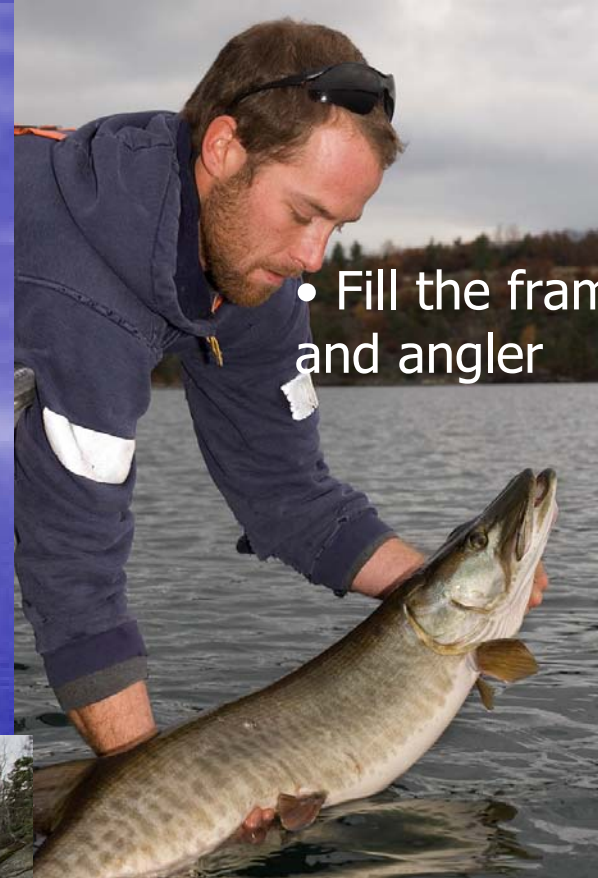


- Really dark you have no choice but to use flash



# Photography basics - Composition

- Keep horizon level



- Fill the frame with fish and angler



- Include background when appropriate

# Photography basics - composition

## Zoom out and move in



- Use wide angle lens or widest zoom setting





And...Release...!





- Weather plays a very important role in the survivability of released fish.
- Extreme cold weather catches should not be released unless required by regulations. Gill filaments and eyes can freeze quickly causing severe and sometimes mortal damage.
- Extreme hot weather can also affect a cold water species.
- Time – could be the single biggest factor in a successful release. The time it takes to land, the time it takes to remove hooks and the time you take to revive.



- Oddly enough coldwater species like lake trout can better adapt to pressure changes than cool and warm water species. Take care when releasing fish that have been brought up from deep water.
- Stringers and live wells are for keepers...no exceptions!
- Protecting fish against disease is essential to survival after release. Rubber nets, cotton gloves and cradles are key.

# Selective Harvest and Ethics



- Nothing wrong with a good old fashioned fish fry or shore lunch
- Let the big ones go...even the REAL big ones
- Replicas look more realistic and last longer
- Small fish have less bio-accumulation of toxins
- Some harvest is good for population growth
- Helps to eliminates disease in populations

- Teach your children where their food comes from and the ethics that come with harvesting food
- Harvesting small fish takes a smaller percentage of the population from the system
- Harvesting large fish is harvesting large fish genetics
- Fish fecundity is directly associated with angler harvest...the more harvest pressure a lake see's the younger the maturation rate. Body size Vs. egg health



# Be Prepared

# Tools of the Release Trade

