

Catch-and-Release Muskie



Muskies are a long-lived species and have the potential of being caught multiple times over their lifetime. Here are a few tips to help maximize muskie survival:

- 1. Be prepared with the necessary equipment.** A large net or cradle, jaw spreaders, hook or bolt cutters, and long-nose pliers will aid in landing and handling a hooked muskie.
- 2. Land the fish quickly and do not play it to exhaustion.** Use a rod and reel with sufficient power to land the fish and reduce unnecessary stress.
- 3. Keep the fish in the water as much as possible.** Leave the fish in the water while removing hooks and minimize air exposure when taking photos.
- 4. Allow the fish to recover before release.** Hold the fish upright in the water until able to swim away.

Consider limiting muskie fishing when water temperatures are greater than 75 degrees. Even fish that swim away strongly are stressed and may die after being released.

