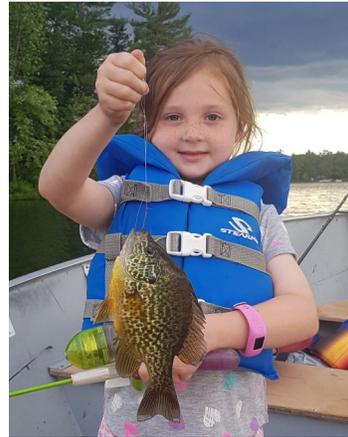


Junior Angler of the Month — Meet Maisie Brown

“Using a fish finder is like playing electronic talking Battleship.”

Maisie Brown, from Kitchener, has been fishing since she was two and now, at 6 ½ years old, she has travelled to and fished in many parts of the province with her family. Maisie has fished mostly on Crowe Lake near Marmora but has also been on the French River, Lake Temagami, Big Gull Lake, Doe Lake and Rice Lake. This year, she and her family will be enjoying time on Lake Erie, near Dunnville, in a new trailer they bought. “I remember when we



when I was standing in the water,” recalls Maisie. “I was scared at first, but then I liked it and got used to the feeling.”



“I really like catching fish and letting them go back into the water,” says Maisie. “I mostly fish with a worm and bobber but sometimes like playing with the plastic baits that I have in my tackle bag, even though they’re stinky.” She likes to eat fish too but hasn’t harvested any of her catches for the frying pan just yet.

Maisie was taught how to fish by her mom, Corina, and her dad, Chris. Her brother, Quinn, age 11, enjoys the relaxation of going out in the boat, and fishing...but only when they’re biting! “Maisie has a lot of patience and will fish on the dock for hours,” says her dad. “She’ll hold her own fish, touch worms and has her own rod and tackle bag”. She and Quinn practice casting in the back yard with rubber plugs and use a bucket as a target.



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Newsletter Contributors

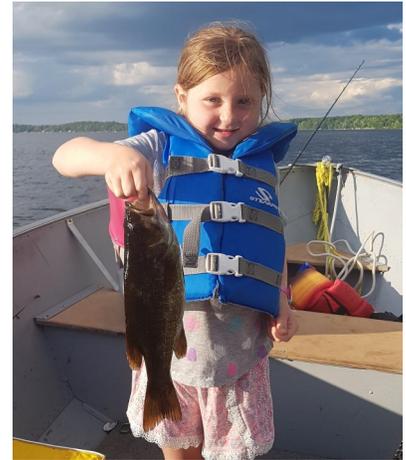
Amanda Tracey
 Yvonne Brown
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 Chris McDougall
 Ava Wickens



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Maisie also fishes with her great-aunt Mary. Now in her mid-80's, Mary was also one of the people that taught Chris and his siblings how to fish on the shores of Rice Lake in the 70's. Fishing in the Brown family has been a multi-generational activity for over 50 years! "I haven't been ice fishing yet but I would like try it and go with my Aunt Yvonne," says Maisie. "I like the idea of drilling holes in the ice and fishing in a hut."



"I like to go out in my dad's boat to fish because it is relaxing and I get to see different things in nature like seagulls, snakes and turtles sunning themselves on logs near the shore." Maisie explains. "Everyone can fish, young or old, boys or girls," she says. "Everyone should try fishing at least once to see if they like it. It is important to enjoy the outdoors with your family".



Maisie has caught bluegills, perch, pumpkinseed, largemouth bass, pike and minnows. Her biggest fish was a largemouth bass. She reeled it in by herself and, it was so heavy, she thought she was going to drop her rod into the water. Her dad helped net it into the boat and, after a couple of pictures, it was put back into the water.

Maisie would like to encourage her friends to get involved in fishing by letting them know that they can catch lots of different fish with many different patterns on them. They could also get a fishing rod with really cool designs – like the princess rod that she uses. Advice that she would like to pass on to new anglers is that they have to protect themselves from the sun by wearing a hat and using sunscreen. She cautions people to keep their hands away from the motor and advises that they should wear a lifejacket for safety.



Do you know a young lady that we can feature as our next Jr Angler of the Month?

Please contact Yvonne at yvonne.owa101@gmail.com to arrange for an interview.

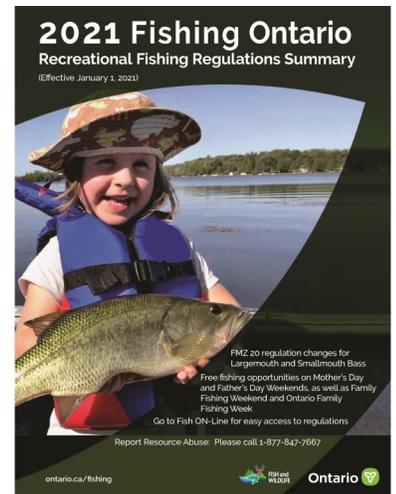


Family Day Weekend Ice Fishing

Four times each year, Canadian residents can fish without a license in Ontario. Family Day weekend is one of those license-free weekends so there has never been a better time to fish with your family!

From February 13 to 15, 2021, Canadian residents can fish in Ontario without buying a license. While these three days offer many people a chance to experience ice fishing, it is important to remember that conservation license catch limits apply. You must obey all size limits and sanctuaries and follow all fishing regulations. You can find out more about fishing regulations here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary>



In a typical year, there are several events and derbies offered across the province. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these events are much more limited this year and even include some virtual events. You can find out more about family ice fishing events here:

<http://www.ontariofamilyfishing.com/events/>

You can also colour and mail in the next page for the Ontario Family Fishing Events colouring draw. Visit the OFFE website to print off more copies!

Tackle Share

Tackleshare is an Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters program that is supported by Ontario Power Generation. Again, in a typical year, you can borrow fishing equipment from this program from Provincial Parks, Conservation Authorities and libraries. For the time being this program has gone virtual. Each week, Tackleshare staff head out to a lake or river to fish different species. Weekly videos are posted to the website showing the staff's success and offering tips and tricks. Viewers can upload their own fishing photos and win prizes/entries into draws. <https://www.tackleshare.com/>

Can't make it out ice fishing this Family Day weekend? No problem!

There are three other license-free fishing opportunities in Ontario:

- ⇒ Mother's Day Weekend in May (May 8-9, 2021)
- ⇒ Father's Day Weekend in June (June 19-20, 2021)
- ⇒ Family Fishing Week in July (July 3-11, 2021)



<https://www.ofah.org/>

KEEP  CANADA FISHING
<http://www.keepcanadafishing.com/>

Ontario Family Fishing Events COLOURING DRAW



Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Age _____
Phone _____
Postal Code _____

Instructions: Colour this drawing any way you like, then complete the form below and either email it to offe@ofah.org or mail it to:

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters • P.O. Box 2800 • Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8L5

DEADLINE FOR COLOURING SUBMISSIONS: February 28, 2021

Draw will take place March 2021 • Draw is open to children only • This is a draw, not a competition.

Enter this draw and you could be eligible to win: a rod and reel, lure kits, one-year magazine subscription & other fishing products from:



www.ontariofamilyfishing.com

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OUTDOORS



Types of Fishing Line

There are many brands and types of fishing line; however, the three main and commonly used types are monofilament (mono), fluorocarbon (fluoro), and braided line (braid). Here is a little introduction to these three main types of fishing line:

Monofilament

Mono has been around for many years and is the most commonly used line. It costs less than the other types of line. Making knots works well with mono and it cuts easily. Mono line has some stretch in it, which some anglers like, but some do not. Because of the stretch, you must have a good hookset and may miss some bites. Mono line floats on top of the water and does not sink like fluoro.

Braid

Braid has become a popular line over the last few years. It is a strong line and has a smaller diameter than other types of line in the same strength (lb test).

Because braid has almost no stretch, it is much easier to detect a bite. Braid is more expensive than mono; however, you do not need to replace it as often as mono. Some knots are more difficult with braid and you need a good pair of scissors to cut braid as it is strong.



Braided Line



Fluorocarbon Line

Fluorocarbon

Fluoro is a fairly new line and it is also somewhat expensive. It is virtually invisible because light passes through it. Fluoro has a little stretch, more than braid, but not as much as mono. It is hard to tie some knots in fluoro as it is stiffer than both mono and braid.

FISHING LINE CHARACTERISTICS

Attributes	Monofilament	Fluorocarbon	Braid
Price	Low	High	High
Buoyant	Yes	No	Yes
Casts	Easy	Can Tangle	Backlash
Visibility	Low	Very Low	Very High
Knot Strength	High	High	Poor
Abrasion Resistance	High	Very High	Very High
Sensitivity	Low	High	High
Stretch	High	Low	None
Strength vs. Diameter	Low	Medium	Very High
Memory	Low	High	None

Fish of the Month: Walleye

When I volunteered to write the article on Walleye for this month's newsletter my thoughts immediately turned to Scottie Martin of the Canadian Fishing Network (CFN).

<https://www.canadianfishingnetwork.com/>

Many of us know Scottie, his passion for walleye fishing and all things walleye such as conservation and education. I reached out to Scottie and he was thrilled to give me some tips for this article.

“One of the best reasons walleye are such a great fish to target is because they are year-long feeders and require very little gear to target them. Simply, a jig, a minnow, a half decent rod combo and you're halfway there.

If you're an angler that gets bored easily by sitting in one spot and vertical jigging, make sure to bring some of your favourite casting baits to pass the time. My go-to has always been a 3/8 oz jig head and plastic paddletail. Once it hits bottom, you can simply perform a steady retrieve or use a “rise and fall” type retrieve. Walleye will 99.9% of the time hit your bait on the “fall”, and in the spring time, just after they spawn, walleye are at their peak when it comes to activity, so ripping a hair jig through weed lines can prove deadly as well.

Late spring/early summer, some anglers will opt to go to worm harnesses or long slender crankbaits but almost any and all presentations will have varying degrees of success depending the body of water and the food those walleye feed on.



Scottie Martin with a nice walleye



A 13.1 pound walleye!

So, do your homework. It's important to know the food web of your particular body of water that you fish. It will assist you when it comes to colour choices and what live bait to purchase.

Anglers who target walleye usually do so for their table fare and, make no mistake about it, they sure do taste good, but knowing the importance of catch and release and which walleye to release, is crucial in ensuring their continued existence.

(Continued on page 7)

Some good slogans we use here at CFN are: “Catch Your Limit, But Limit Your Catch”, “Release the Hens”, and “Release the future TODAY”.

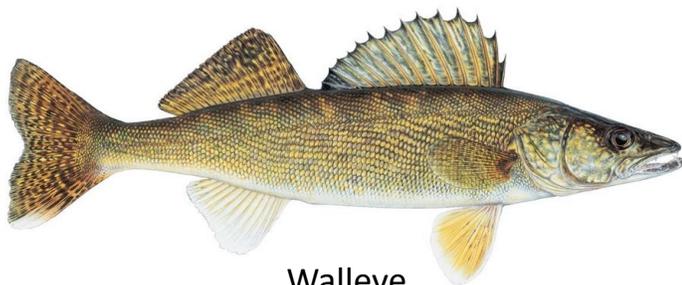
When it comes to those large female walleye, we call “egg-wagons”, they are, without a doubt, the most important to release. A typical 2-3 pound female can produce approximately 50,000 eggs but an older ten-pound female can produce up to 500,000 eggs. So, “if in doubt, throw it out”, and Keep Canada Fishing Walleye. “



A close-up of a walleye

Walleye are some people’s favourite fish to eat. Some of the nicknames for walleye are, Walters or Eyes because they have large dark eyes good for seeing in low light and some people call them Pickerel.

<https://watersheds.ca/walleye-or-pickerel-the-great-debate/>



Walleye



Grass Pickerel

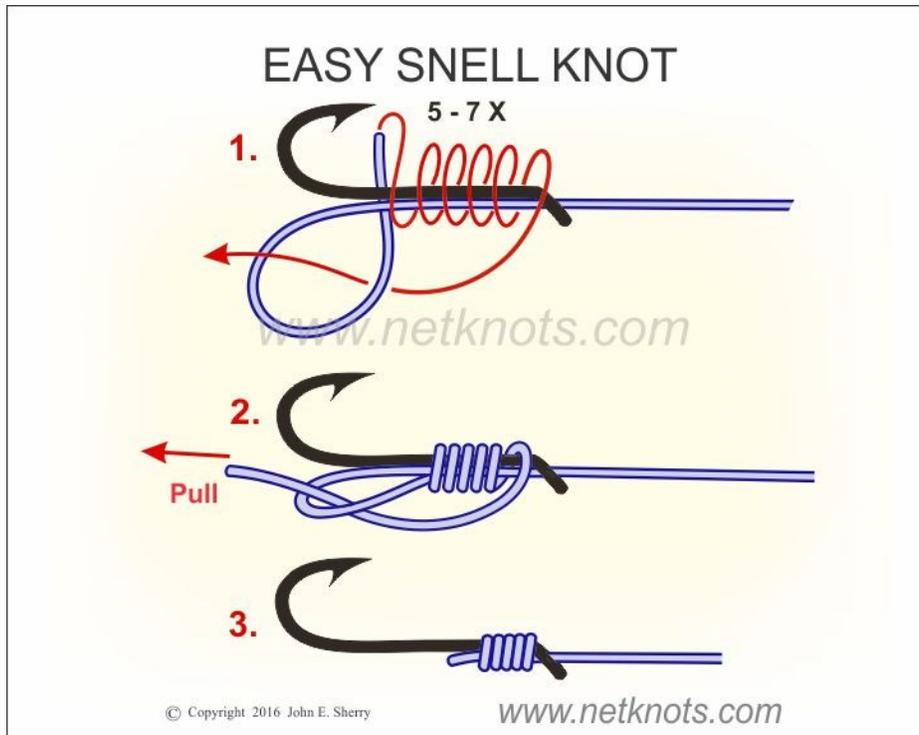
As always, check the regulations for the lake you are fishing in and, more importantly, have FUN !!!

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary>



The Easy Snell Knot

The Easy Snell Knot is a hitch knot used to attach an eyed fishing hook to a fishing line. It provides an even, straight-line pull when setting the hook to a line. It is the strongest knot for tying your hooks to fishing line, and when done correctly, it is almost unbreakable.



This knot is also easier to learn when you can see it being done. Please look at both the diagram in this article and the videos on the links provided. Information for the knot this writer got from the links provided.

Directions for tying the knot:

Run the tag end through the hook eye toward the point of the hook, and then form a small loop and bring the tag end behind the hook shank (the hook shank is the long, straight part of the hook). You will want about 10 cm or 4" of the tag end to work with.

Then begin wrapping the tag end around the hook shank and the line, working from the point to the eye. Make 5 to 7 wraps and then feed the tag end out through the loop, from underside to topside.

While holding the wraps in place, pull the tag end to tighten. Make sure all of the wraps are nice and neat on the hook shank and pull both ends very tight. Then clip the tag end.

Please check out these helpful resources:

<https://www.netknots.com/>

https://www.netknots.com/fishing_knots/easy-snell-knot

You can practice this knot at home before you hit the open water or ice. Again, I often take a laminated copy of this knot and tuck it in with my other knot diagrams in my fishing tackle box, which makes it easy to refer to. Hope you find this knot helpful and easy to learn.

Tackle Tips

Some time ago, I unfortunately tipped my kayak and all its contents in the lake. Not only was learning stability in the kayak a lesson learned but I also found out, the hard way, what happens when you don't clean and dry your wet tackle immediately afterwards. At the time, I did not look after my tackle quick enough and all my hooks, jigs, lures etc. ended up with rust all over them.

Please remember fellow anglers that rust happens in all seasons. Rust will weaken hooks and may cause them to break off when you hook into that big one!

How to Tackle Rust

Remove all items from the tackle box or trays. If the rust cannot be removed from a metal tackle box, consider getting a new one or sand off the rust and repaint. The rust will return and spread!

Clean the tackle box or trays with a mixture of warm water and dish soap and rinse repeatedly to make sure that all the soap has been removed.

Use a blow dryer to eliminate moisture in all the corners. Turn the box or tray upside down until you are ready to fill it again.

Separate the different style of hooks, jigs, and lures. This makes it easier to organize them later.

Mix salt and lemon juice into a thick paste. Use an old toothbrush or a bit of aluminum foil to cover and scrub the hooks. Rinse and repeat as needed. Then give them a dust with some nontoxic oil.

To get hard body lures shiny again, mix up some baking soda with a few drops of water into a thick paste. Use a clean kitchen cloth to wipe them clean. Works stupendously! Rinse, then hang the lures by the hooks to let them dry inside and out.



Another helpful tip in reducing moisture in your tackle boxes, trays and rod lockers is to place a small package of silica in each container. The silica absorbs moisture and reduces the chance of rust forming on your tackle. You can find silica packages in items that you buy from the store like shoes, electronics, clothing and vitamins.

Here are some links for you to investigate some other ways to help to keep your tackle clean, organized and free from rust.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30KVunHqQH8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2fta8fIWks>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfV4ZLsUuQE>

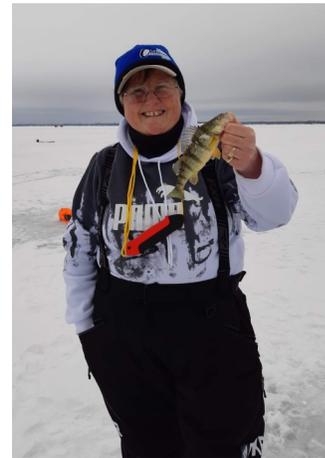
Meet your Ontario Women Angler Volunteers!



Sylvia Beneteau



Anneliese Bochenek



Catherine Bodden



Sarah Ashwood



Yvonne Brown



Linda Gallus



Leslie Dungog



Melanie Cassey



Jen Brooks



Tanya MacLean



Amanda Holder



Ava Wickens



Chris McDougall



Erin Wilson



Tammy McIndless



Amanda Tracey



Katie Petrie



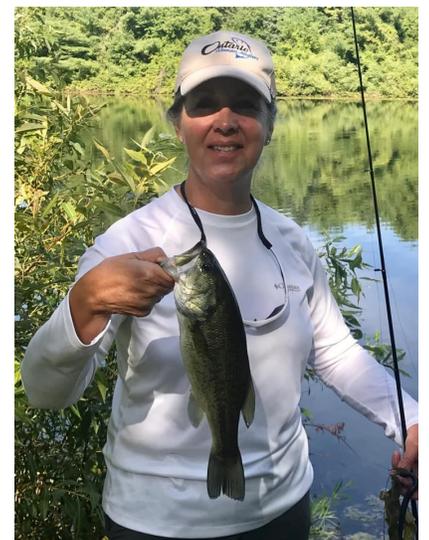
Dana Parker



Chris McCoy

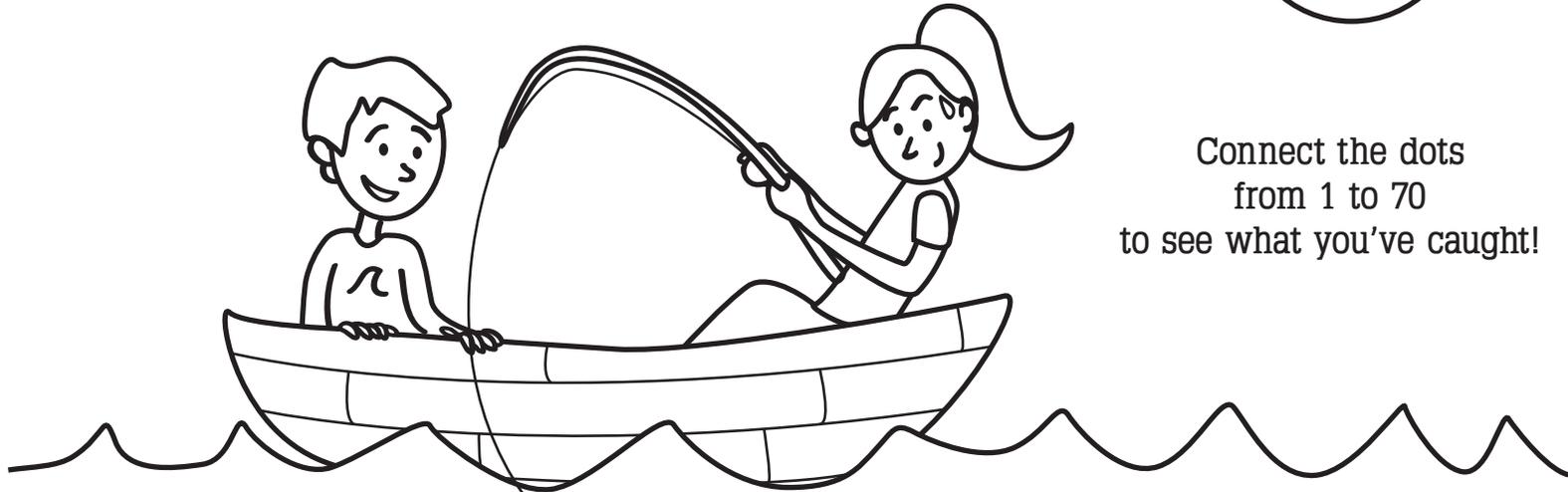
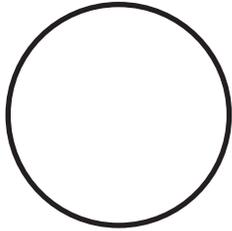


Patricia Merka



Patti McDougall

Let's Go Fishing!

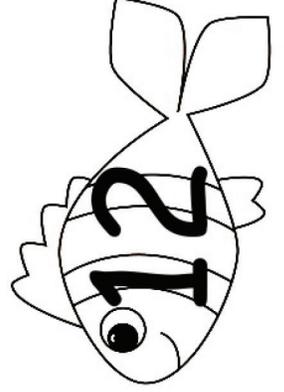
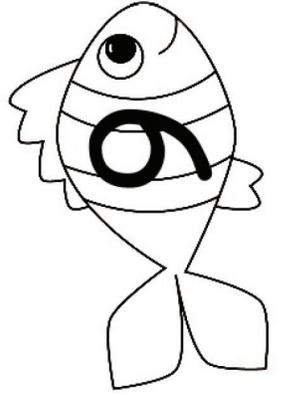
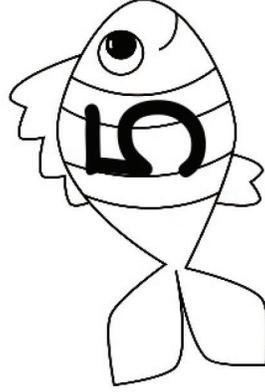
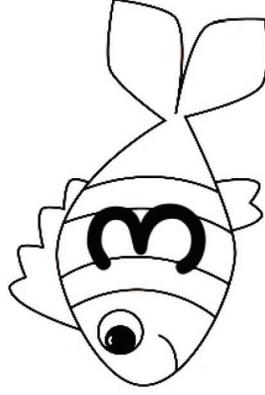
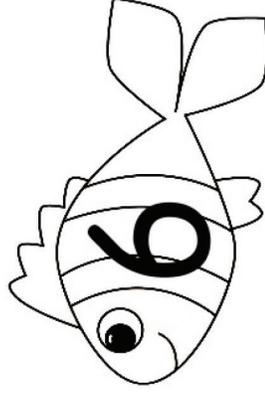
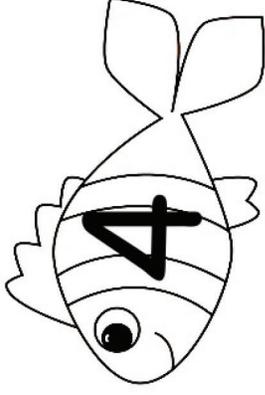
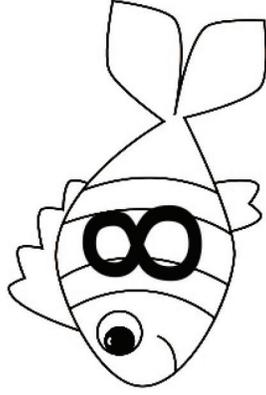
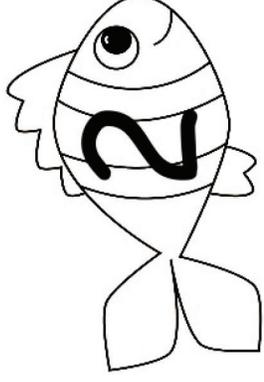
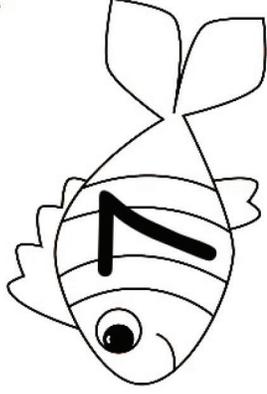


Connect the dots from 1 to 70 to see what you've caught!

DICE & ICE FISHING

Name _____

To Play: Roll 2 dice, add the dots & color in the fish with the corresponding number. or cover with a counter.



Fishing

for Answers #25



Circle the fish below that show ways of making 7.

7

$11-4$

$5+3$

$0+7$

$3+4$

$12-6$

$12-5$

$10-3$

$1+6$

$2+5$

$14-3$

$13-5$

$15-6$