Third Edition—October 2020

Ontario Women Anglers Junior Club Newsletter

Junior Angler of the Month—Meet Kassidy Kohtala

From Sudbury, Kassidy started fishing when she was five years old and remembers catching a tiny perch. From that day on, she hasn't stopped fishing! There are lots of lakes to choose from in her area and she and her family enjoy discovering new bodies of water. They fish every weekend and also enjoy camping, hiking, swimming and hunting.

Heading into Grade 5 this year, Kassidy's group of friends are more into hunting than fishing but that doesn't stop her at all. She uses her time on the water to improve her angling skills and to have fun. One of her favourite memories is when she out-fished both her mom and step-dad catching eight brown trout when they only got one each!

Kassidy is a multi-species angler and has caught silver, largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, lake trout, rainbow and brown trout, several types of pan fish and catfish…lots of catfish…which she doesn't like to touch. She doesn't like to hold most of the bigger fish she catches but her mom, Krystina, challenges her to try so she can learn more about fish care.

To catch a muskie is on Kassidy's bucket list and she would like to get more involved in ice fishing, which she tried for the first time last winter. She and her family were out targeting splake and enjoying the warmth of some hot chocolate. Unfortunately, there was a lot of slush under the snow and Kassidy got a "soaker"!

Kassidy prefers casting over trolling and enjoys top-water fishing for bass with her favourite lure – the Whopper Plopper. She likes to hear the plopping sound it makes as she works the bait.

And what do you think Kassidy's lucky charm is when she goes fishing?…BANANAS! Ignoring all the stories and superstitions, she recommends that anglers always bring bananas with them to guarantee a better day on the water.

Although she already knows a bit about driving a boat, she would like to be able to run one on her own when she's a bit older. When she's not fishing or enjoying other outdoor activities, Kassidy likes to play volleyball and draw…because art is for everyone!

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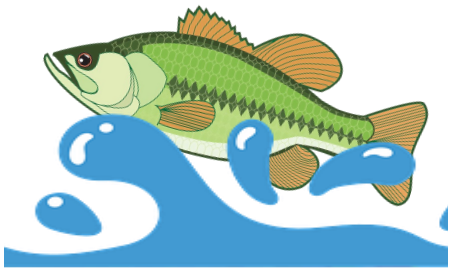

Safety Tips

Anglers often get so excited about fishing that they have a hard time sleeping the night before! How about you?

We have also learned from some of the mistakes we have made and some of the accidents that have happened while we're out fishing. It is very important to "Stay Safe and Stay Smart" while you are out on the shoreline.

Here are 10 things to help you "Stay Safe and Stay Smart":

Assemble a fishing first aid kit!
Things to include:
Band-Aids, antibiotic ointment, insect repellent, whistle, flashlight, map, rope, sunscreen, float and line, cell phone. Have an adult check your kit to make sure you have everything you need.

Make sure to learn about the fish that you are going to be fishing for and that the area that you want to go fishing is open fishing.
Some fish have teeth so it is smart to do some research to learn what you may catch so you know what to bring with you.
Check fishing regulations online so you know where and when you can fish. **www.ontario.ca/page/fishing**

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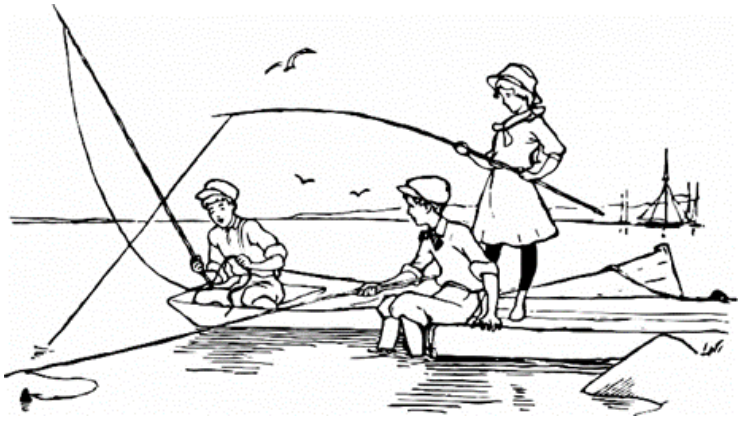
Dress properly for your outing.
Hat, polarized sunglasses, rainproof clothing if needed, proper shoes, etc. Remember that sun rays are powerful when you are close to water so use sunscreen and stay covered up!

Never go fishing alone!
Make sure that you and your friend can always see each other. Remember - who is going to believe that you caught the biggest fish ever if you do not have someone with you to witness it!

Wear a life jacket.
You can never be sure what is going to happen when you are fishing on the shoreline! A simple stumble on a stone could make you fall into the water.

Make sure someone knows where you are.
Let your parents know exactly where you are fishing and if you move to a different location, let them know. Be home on time!



Do not bring too much gear.
Remember you will be carrying your gear and it can be heavy and clumsy. Take the time the night before and decide what you "need" to take and not what you "want" to take!

Bring Drinks and Snacks.
Dehydration can happen very quickly when you are in the hot sun. Make sure that you are drinking lots. Remind each other to drink lots of water.

Do not fish too close to other anglers.
Be respectful to the other anglers on the shoreline. Everyone needs space to be able to cast their line safely.

Remember to Stay Safe!!
The same rules apply when you are fishing! If someone is making you feel uncomfortable for any reason. Just leave and phone your parents right away.

HAVE FUN FISHING SAFELY!

The Uni Knot

The following information was taken from a very helpful website: **www.netknots.com**

The Uni knot is one of the knots that anglers first learn and that many use often. It can be used for many different purposes and is easy to learn and do. It is a strong and dependable knot that you can use with a variety of lines such as monofilament, fluorocarbon and braid. You can use it to attach line to the arbor of a reel, for joining lines, and for attaching line to hooks, lures, snaps, swivels and weights.

Here are the instructions for tying the knot, although you may find it more helpful to see a diagram, or even better, to watch an animated demonstration, which you can view here:
www.netknots.com/fishing_knots/uni-knot

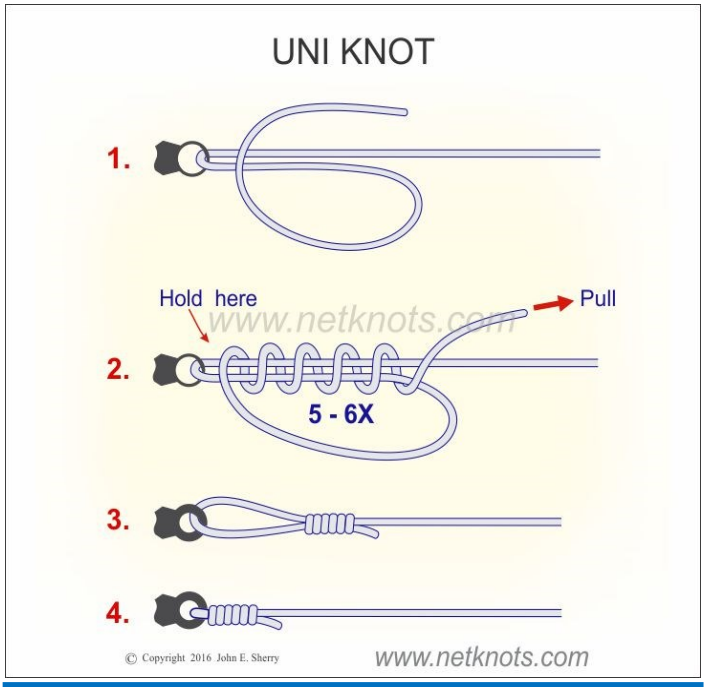
1) Run the line through the eye of the hook and double back parallel to the standing line. Make a loop by laying the tag end over the double line.

2) Make 6 turns with the tag end around the double line and through the loop.

3) Moisten the lines and pull the tag end to snug up the turns.

4) Slide the knot down to the eye of the hook or leave a small loop if you like.

If there is one knot to learn, this is an easy one and can be used in many situations.



For more about knots check out:
www.animatedknots.com/fishing-knots and
www.101knots.com/category/fishing-knots

Want to learn more?

What is the drag and how do you set it?

www.takemefishing.org/how-to-fish/how-to-catch-fish/how-to-set-the-drag/

Learn about all kinds of fish and what it takes to catch them! **www.takemefishing.org/fish-species/**

Plan a fishing trip, check fishing rules and identify Ontario sport fish species using the Fish ON-Line tool!
www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/fishonline/Index.html?viewer=FishONLine.FishONLine&locale=en-CA

Holding a fish properly is very important to ensure it is healthy when you release it. Learn how to properly hold a fish here: **www.google.ca/amp/s/www.wikihow.com/Hold-a-Fish%3famp=1**

Tackle Tip—Protecting your Rod and Reel

Many of us have known the heartbreak of a crushed or snapped rod tip, or a bent bail on your reel. Whether you have spent a lot of money or have a more economical set up, you still want to protect your equipment and take care of it so you can enjoy it for many years.

There are several products available at very reasonable prices that can help you take care of your rods and reels.

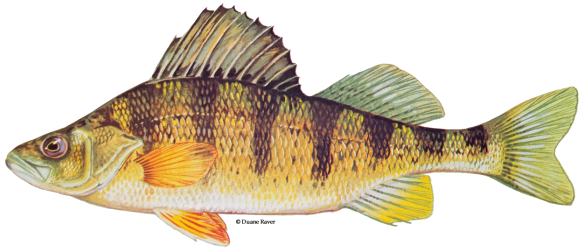
The most delicate area of your rod is, of course, the tip. There is a product called THE ROD GLOVE that will help you protect your rod as you travel back and forth to your fishing destination and for when you want to store your summer rods over the winter. It is basically a giant sleeve that slides easily over your rod. These retail for approximately $10.00. They have models available for one and two piece rods as well as ice fishing rods. THE ROD GLOVE also makes the REEL GLOVE to protect your reel which retails for about the same amount. One of the company's popular products are the ROD GLOVE WRAPZ. These are stretchable neoprene straps so you can bundle your rods together snuggly and securely. This keeps them safe during transit whether in a car or a boat.

All these products will keep your equipment safe and ensure it is ready to use the next time you go fishing.

Fish of the Month: Yellow Perch

What does it look like?

The yellow perch has a light-yellow body with 6 to 8 obvious vertical black stripes in mature fish. The two dorsal fins (fins on the back) are completely separated. Their bodies are oval-shaped, and their bellies are white/beige underneath. Most yellow perch weigh below 1 lb and measure about 15 to 30 cm in length; however, "jumbo perch" have been caught in many lakes in Ontario including Lake Simcoe. The record size for perch in Ontario is nearly 2.5 lbs!



Where do they live?

The yellow perch is widely distributed throughout Ontario and can be found in both large bodies of water like Lake Ontario, and in many smaller lakes and rivers. Yellow perch prefer areas in lakes with open water and some vegetation present for cover from predators with the bottom of the lake being muck, sand or gravel. They are usually found in similar habitats to bass. In early spring, after ice out, you can find them in abundance near shorelines as they spawn in shallow waters when the water is only about 6°C.

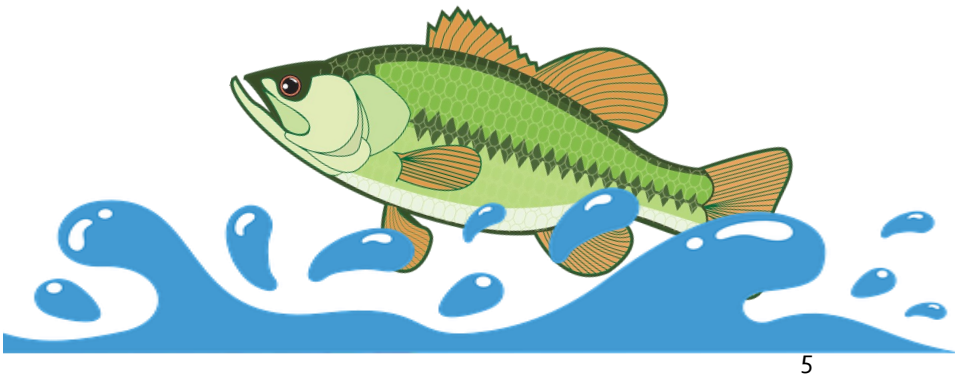
How can I catch a yellow perch?

Yellow perch prefer smaller baits. This includes small minnows, tube jigs or spinners. Yellow perch see well in brighter light and they feed in schools. So, when you catch a yellow perch, be sure to get your line right back down in the water as there are probably even more fish down there! Be sure to check fishing regulations for your zone and license type for daily yellow perch catch limits.

Chloe F.

Junior Club Giveaway Winner

Congratulations to Chloe F. This 10-year-old angler is our winner of the OWA Jr Club Giveaway and will be receiving a Shimano Baltica Tackle Bag!



Junior Clu

Cameron L.

Callie L.

Jenna R.

Caleb L.

Grayson D.

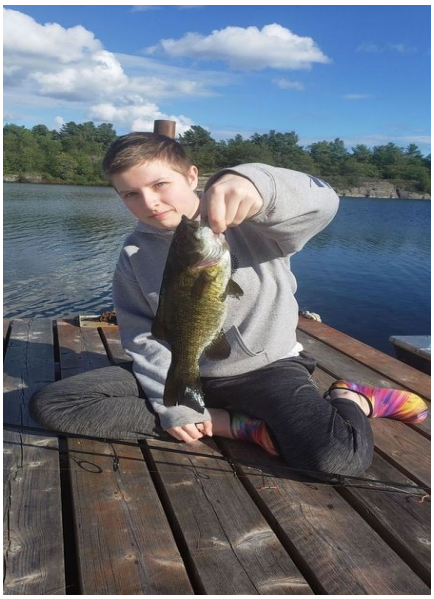
Amelia M.

Emily W.

Lucas P.

b Giveaway Entries

Aurora T.



Haley A.

Jackson A.

Dawson F.

Jace P.

Lauren H.

Hazel H.

Thanks to all who entered the giveaway. Check out these great entries!

Ezra L.

Paetyn

Seth L.

FISHING AND BOATING

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Q B I O H B H E V C O H Z Y O D M G E N Z Z R S I
K I Y C E N C D J R S Y D P B V F F E I I P L L Y
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R U Y U T O R Z S K M U G V S Q P R M U Q A A L B
N Y R A N X R Q X X L P E C T L C O W R F O H A V
Y O C E K O H Y U Z F E M B O D E C O Y Y X E N X
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A F P L T I O A J C P N R O S I B R A W W Y U R G
Z T C F S B K E U M B O B W X Z T B D A E X Y P W
R L P D F Y P P U M E V O N J O F O V D S W K Q G
R B M N B J P G C N A G W X W G Q N W A P R P Q G
F I S H I N G R O D N W L I F E J A C K E T G K J

FLUOROCARBON
LIFE JACKET
FISHING ROD
TACKLE BOX
WADERS
LAUNCH
BOBBER
STERN
CATCH
KAYAK
HOOK
BAIT
BOAT
LURE
NET
BOW