



Experience world-class fisheries during 2018 Winter #MiFreeFishingWeekend

Ice Safety Tips



Before you go out:

- Ice conditions vary from lake to lake. Find a good local source that is knowledgeable about ice conditions on the lake you want to fish.
- Purchase a pair of ice picks or ice claws, which are available at most sporting goods stores.
- Tell an adult where you are going and what time you expect to be back. Sharing your plan can help save your life if something does happen to you on the ice.

What to know about ice:

- You can't always tell the strength of ice simply by its look, its thickness, the temperature or whether or not it is covered with snow.
- Clear ice that has a bluish tint is the strongest. Ice formed by melted and refrozen snow appears milky, and is very porous and weak.
- Ice covered by snow always should be presumed as unsafe. Snow acts like an insulating blanket and slows the freezing process.
- If there is slush on the ice, stay off. Slush ice is only about half as strong as clear ice and indicates the ice is no longer freezing from the bottom.
- Be especially cautious in areas where air temperatures have fluctuated. A warm spell may take several days to weaken the ice; however, when temperatures vary widely, causing the ice to thaw during the day and refreeze at night, the result is weak, spongy or honeycombed ice that is unsafe.
- The DNR does not recommend the standard "inch-thickness" guide to determine ice safety. A minimum of four inches of clear ice is required to support an average person's weight on the ice, but since ice seldom forms at a uniform rate it is important to check ice thickness with a spud every few steps.



Michigan's Fisheries

- 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline
- More than 11,000 inland lakes
- Tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams
- More than 150 fish species

Free Fishing Weekend



Want to try ice fishing for the first time? Consider going out during the 2018 Winter Free Fishing Weekend; February 17 & 18.

Winter fishing events are occurring throughout the state that weekend - check them out at Michigan.gov/freefishing.

Not sure about cold weather fishing? Then why not head out during the *Summer* Free Fishing Weekend; scheduled for June 9 & 10!

How Fishing License Dollars Help Keep Michigan's Fisheries World-Class

After #MiFreeFishingWeekend, consider purchasing a Michigan fishing license to keep enjoying the fun! All annual fishing licenses are valid from March 1 of a given year through March 31 of the following year. Fishing license dollars fund a variety of activities including fish management work on the state's waters, habitat rehabilitation and protection, fish stocking, information distribution, education and outreach efforts to anglers and the public, and much more.