

Boundary Waters Fishing Guide

The Tackle Box

It is important to note that whatever you bring you must portage—so don't bring a lot of tackle. Ideally all your gear (minus the filet knife and pliers) should fit into a small Plano or similar tackle box. The list below is comprised of general items that have proven useful over the years. Many of the items do have suggested colors. These are only suggestions, "hot" colors change constantly so don't be afraid to experiment. You also will want to tailor this list towards the type of fishing you plan to do, and don't forget to throw in a couple of your own secret lures. We also highly recommend using live bait. Night crawlers and ribbon leeches are the easiest to use and keep alive. We do have a small tackle shop stocked with all the items listed below in the all "hot" colors.

To Bring:

Spinning rod and reel: Medium action rod with 6-10 lb test line, depending on your skill level and desired species of fish. It is best to have a case for your rod and reel.

Hooks: Minimum of 25, bait type with short shank in size 6-4

Spinners: "Pre-Rigged" hooks with spinner blades, beads and approx: 12 inches of line. Hook sizes from 6-4 with spinner blade colors in chartreuse, silver, hammered brass, yellow, red/white and black/white.

Jigs: 1/8 to 3/8 ounce sizes

Hair and Feather Type Jigs: 1/8 to 1/4 ounce sizes in yellow, orange, chartreuse, red and white. For Lake Trout a few 1/2 to 1 ounce jigs in black, white, yellow, red/white, and black/white.

Rubber Bodied Jigs: With and without spinner blades in 1/8 to 3/8 ounce sizes. Chartreuse, white, yellow, black and brown.

Plugs: Both surface and diving. Sizes from 2 to 5 inches. Ex: Rapalas, Lazy Ikes, Heddon Torpedoes

Spinner Baits: Such as Mepps in sizes 1 and 2

Sinkers, Split Shot, Slips Sinkers: Bring an assortment of split shot from "bb" size on up; slip sinkers should range from 1/8 to 1/2 ounce. For deep trolling bring 1 to 3 ounce weights.

Swivels: Two and three way type

Bobbers: Slip bobbers work well and are the most functional

Stringer: One or tow cord stringers work well and are compact

Needle Nose Pliers: For releasing fish

Filet Knife: ADULTS AND OLDER SCOUTS ONLY

Suggestions for Specific Species:

Smallmouth & Largemouth Bass: Surface and diving plugs (not exceeding 2 inches); Spinner baits such as Mepps; hair and feather type and rubber bodied jigs; slip bobbers

Walleye: Sinking plugs (not exceeding 2 inches); Spinners in mid sizes; 1/8, 1/4 and 3/8 oz Jigs; Hair and feather type jigs; slip bobbers.

Northern Pike: Spoons, Spinner baits, and surface diving plugs in mid to large sizes; steel leaders from 6-12 inches

Pan Fish: Spinner and assorted jigs in small to mid sizes; slip Bobber

Lake Trout:

Spring—Surface and diving plugs; spinner baits such as Mepps

Summer—Hair and feather type jigs in 1/2 to 1 ounce sizes in black, yellow, white, red/white.