

## Pike Fishing Tactics

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Many people think of the northern pike as an aggressive fish that attacks game fish and is seen as a monster. Well, this may be true, but the pike is often a target of just being the big fish in the lake. Yes, they eat other fish, what is so bad about that? The trout and other game fish people get upset with the northern pike, but I feel every fish for themselves. I am here to offer some advice to catch the monster water wolf.

Northern Pike fishing starts soon after ice out. You should use slightly smaller lures than you would in the summer, but still use larger baits that will get their attention. The key here is to start in the back bays that warm the fastest. Here you should be able to catch a few if you take my advice. Occasionally, you will see a trophy just sunning in the warm shallow water. Be careful, as they spook easily, and cast past the pike and reel toward him. Hopefully you will get a quick strike. Also, live large minnows or other bait fish work great early in the year when the pikes are not as active. I have caught a few big ones this way.

While this fish may not be appreciated as much as trout, bass, or crappie, it is still a great species in many people's eyes. Give it a chance and instead of walleye fishing next time take a few casts for a big northern.

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