## Fishing Terms: A-Z...



Terms familiar to some can be foreign to others. If you're an avid angler, terms like jig, sinker, trolling and crank baits are common. To a novice or casual angler, however, they might make no sense at all. If you're in the latter group you might find the following list of fishing terms helpful.

Fishing Angler/angling: with a hook and line. Angling is another word for fishing and an angler is a person who fishes.

Backlash: Tangled fishing line on a bait casting fishing reel. Tangled fishing line is also referred to as a bird's nest

Bait: Food, or some substitute, used to lure in fish. Live bait includes worms, minnows, insects, crabs, etc.

Bait casting: Fishing with a revolving spool reel and bait casting rod. The reel is mounted on the topside of the rod.

Bobber: A device that is attached to fishing line designed to float on top of the water. Their purpose is to keep the bait off the lake bottom and signal a fish bite by "bobbing" on the water. Also called a "float," they come in various shapes and sizes.

Buzz bait: A large bait with propeller-type blades that churn when retrieved on top of the water.

Catch and release: After catching a fish, rather than keeping it, the angler unhooks and quickly returns the fish to the water. The practice of catch and release is used as a conservation technique.

Crank bait: Minnow-like invasive species. lure with a lip that causes the lure to dive under water during the retrieve; usually made from plastic or balsa wood.

Usually involves using live board a boat. Throwable de-

fur, hair, feathers or synthet- primary lifesaving devices. ics tied to hooks. They are For more information, check intended to resemble insects, the Boating Guide larvae or minnows and used in fly-fishing.

nique where anglers use a spe-minnows, fish, frogs, bugs, cial light, springy fishing rod etc. Can be either floating or (called a fly rod) to cast either sinking. live or imitation flies tied to a hook. A preferred trout-fish- that holds fishing line and ing method.

plastic bait resembling a reels, most notably spin-castsmall fish. The usual fishing ing, spinning, bait-casting and technique for this bait is to fly-casting. Many beginners use quick jerks to resemble a choose a spin-casting reel bebait fish

Jigs/jigging: Jigs are lures less prone to tangling with a weighted head and a fixed hook often dressed ing pole. Usually made of with fur, feathers, or a plas- fiberglass, graphite or comtic body/tail. Live bait can be added to the hook. Jigging is a technique in which the jig Different types of rods can be is moved up and down fre- used for fly fishing, spinning,

Leader: Length of monofilament, wire or other stranded lures from floating up in the material tied between the end of the line and the lure or ferent weights, shapes, and hook. Provides extra strength types. and guards against abrasion from sharp teeth or rough slides up and down on the mouths of fish.

Livewell: Compartment in in place. a boat that holds water, used to keep caught fish alive. To snap is a hook-shaped piece of prevent transport of harm- wire with a clasp that is tied ful invasive species from one to a fishing line. A lure is atlake or river to another, drain tached to the snap. Snap swivwater from livewell while on els are the same concept but land before leaving any wa- also help prevent line twistterbody. In Minnesota it is ing. illegal to transport harmful

to resemble live bait.

Device, such as a life jacket the sinker in place. Preferred *Drifting*: A method of fish- or floating cushion. Minneso- sinker for the novice angler. ing where the angler allows ta law requires one wearable

the boat to drift in the wind. life jacket for each person on vices, such as buoyant cush-Flies: Lures made from ions, are no longer acceptable

Plugs: Type of lure made of wood, plastic or rubber Fly-fishing: A fishing tech- and designed to imitate small

Reel: Mechanical device is attached to a fishing rod. Jerk bait: A soft or hard There are various types of cause they are easy to use and

Rod: The pole part of a fishposite materials, rods come in various lengths and strengths. spin casting, and bait casting.

Sinker: Weight used to keep water. Sinkers come in dif-

Slip-sinker: A sinker that line rather than being locked

Snap/snap swivel/swivel: A

Split-shot sinker: Small round weight that's split open Lures: Artificial bait made on one side. It is placed directly on the fishing line and PFD: Personal Flotation then pinched together to hold

Strike: A pull on the fish-

bait. Also called a "hit."

Trolling: Fishing from a moving boat. The bait is cast rine equipment and fishing behind the boat and the mo- tackle. Microscopic larvae tor is kept in forward gear at a slow speed. Back-trolling is an alternative technique in which the boat motor is put in reverse. This allows the boat operator to make sharper turns to follow changes in lake bottom structure and helps to keep fishing lines from tangling. Live or crank baits are preferred for this type of fishing.

Zebra Mussels: Zebra mussels are an invasive species that foul beaches, interfere with food webs, smother native mussels, clog water intakes and are linked to fish and wildlife die-offs. Mussels attach to boat hulls, fish-

ing line signaling that a fish ing equipment, nets and boat attempting to take the lure or lifts. They can be transported on those materials or aquatic plants that remain on mamay be carried in the water of undrained bait buckets or livewells. It is illegal to import, possess, transport and/or introduce zebra mussels into



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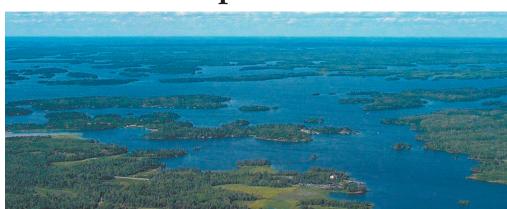


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M-F: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

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## Minnesota's top 10 lakes



With a combined surface area of more than 825,000 acres, Minnesota's 10 largest lakes account for about 40 percent of the annual statewide walleye harvest and make a significant contribution to the \$2.4 billion spent each year on fishing in Minnesota.

The top 10 lakes include: Cass, Kabetogama, Lake of the Woods, Leech, Mille Lacs, Pepin, Rainy, Upper Red, Vermilion and Winnibigoshish. Profiles of the some of these lakes are featured in the regional fishing outlook elsewhere in this supplement.