

Lesson 5: Tips, safety and ethics activity

Planning your trip and going fishing

What you'll need: For this activity, you'll need access to Fish ON-Line (www.ontario.ca/fishonline).

Instructions: It's time to plan your fishing trip! Follow the steps below to complete your trip planning.

Step 1: Research and regulations

Using Fish ON-Line (www.ontario.ca/fishonline), find a fishing location. If you want to stay close to home, try searching your address. If you're interested in fishing a specific species or waterbody, search by the species or waterbody name. If you simply want to see what's out there, start zooming in to the map wherever you'd like!

1. Choose a waterbody to fish.
2. What Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) is it in?
3. Has the waterbody ever been stocked?
4. If yes, name the species.
5. According to the MNRF, how many fish species can be found in this waterbody?
6. According to the public, how many fish species can be found in this waterbody?
7. Does this waterbody have any exceptions to the Zone Wide Seasons and Limits?
8. If yes, what are they?
9. Choose a species you'd like to fish for.
10. What is the limit for this species on this waterbody? S: _____ and C: _____

Step 2: Gearing up

You've completed your research and now you're ready to gear up! Run through the checklist below to make sure you are ready for a day on the water.

- A valid Outdoors Card and fishing licence. You can create your account or sign into an existing account at www.huntandfishontario.com
 - PRO TIP: There are licence-free fishing events each year where you can try fishing without having to purchase a licence. Visit www.ontario.ca/page/licence-free-family-fishing for more info.
- Fishing rod. Try to rig your rod at home so you aren't losing valuable fishing time
- Tackle box with lures, hooks, and other terminal tackle
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Life jacket
- First aid kit
- Snacks (and remember to pack out any garbage)

Step 3: Fishing!

Using your completed research and information from this program, it's time to officially cast a line. Below are a series of challenges and tasks that will put all your fishing knowledge to the test.

- Once you've arrived at your fishing location, confirm that it is a public area (don't trespass).
- Take note of any garbage cans or fishing line receptacles.
- Take a look around: what insects, minnows, and/or other small animals do you see that your target fish species might be eating?
- Complete a successful cast.
- If you catch a fish, carefully and safely return it to the water.

Step 4: How did it go?

1. What worked well?
2. What was the most fun?
3. What do you want to learn more about?
4. When are you going to go again?