

Ice Fishing – From a green angle(r)



“We have regulations in place to prevent the spread of invasive species, to protect critical parts of fish populations, to manage the sustainable harvest and enhance our fishery management. Catching, cooking and eating the fish you catch is a very important part of the fishing experience so these regulations help ensure folks can fish in an enjoyable and responsible way.” –

Matthew Garvin, Fisheries Program Biologist with the MNRF

Don't be fuelish

Prevent contaminants from entering the water by fueling up vehicles, snowmobiles and ice augers before going on the ice. Look for leaks to ensure all vehicles and ice augers are in good repair before heading onto the ice. Don't idle – reduce your carbon footprint *and* protect your pocket book.

Watch your waste

Protect the lakes and streams you love by disposing of your waste responsibly on land. Never leave garbage on the ice or dump grey water down an ice hole. Remember that fires on open ice are not permitted. If you do have a fire, ensure all fire waste is removed to shore. Bring an extra pail to use as a toilet. Keep a garbage bag handy and be sure to bring along an extra in case your neighbor forgets! Remember to never burn garbage.

Ice Fishing Huts

Ensure that all construction materials are securely attached to your ice fishing hut. Don't be this season's lucky loser - take your hut off the ice as soon as possible to prevent any potential accidents or losses!

Gone Fishin'

Responsible fishing practices can go a long way in protecting the environment – and the sport – that you love. Help prevent the spread of invasive species by disposing of live bait on shore, away from all water sources. Always check the regulations for the lake you are fishing before you head out. Some lakes only allow one line for ice fishing (instead of the usual two) and/or may not allow the use of live bait.

Always monitor your fishing lines for the entire period they're in the water and be sure to keep your fishing depth less than 10 meters (30 feet) to ensure timely retrieval and release. Take only what you need and respect all possession limits and slot size restrictions. Promptly release any fish you don't intend to keep. Use barbless hooks.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Snowmobile Stewardship



Snowmobiling is a popular way to enjoy winter in Northwestern Ontario. Before you head out on the trails this season, take a minute to learn about how responsible riding can help to reduce your impact on the environment.

Maintain your snowmobile

Perform regular maintenance checks and promptly fix any leaks or other concerns. Drips and leaks from snowmobiles can be a significant contributor to environmental contamination, especially when travelling on or over sensitive waterways. Newer snowmobiles have lower emissions and noise levels than older models. Prevent increasing emissions by avoiding aftermarket modifications to exhaust systems.

Check for enough snow

Many plants survive beneath the snow during the winter. Snowmobile tracks can damage sensitive plant material if there is not adequate snow cover to protect the vegetation.

Stay on the trail

Stay on the marked trail whenever possible. These trails have been planned and designed to avoid sensitive areas. Refrain from snowmobiling through wetlands, along shorelines and down river or stream beds as these areas are especially susceptible to damage and disruption from motorized vehicles.

Respect wildlife

Snowmobile traffic and noise pollution can be disturbing to wildlife. Be respectful by quietly observing any wildlife from a distance. Never chase or harass wildlife.

Learn about your trail network

Take the time to learn about the environmental features in the area you ride. A bit of knowledge can make your ride more enjoyable and help to protect and preserve significant environmental features. Share your knowledge with your riding companions to enhance their experience too!

North Western Ontario
Snowmobile Trails
Association – NWOSTA
www.nwosta.ca

Access maps of the local
groomed trails network,
information about
permits, tours, and the
availability of local
training courses.

Ontario Federation of
Snowmobile Clubs:
ofsc.on.ca

Purchase permits and
register for a Motorized
Snow Vehicles Operator's
License training course.

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