

Glossary

Arbor knot

a knot used to tie fishing line to a reel

Bait

live or dead animal material used to attract fish to a hook

Baitcasting

a rod and reel combination designed for larger baits

Barbels

slender, whisker-like taste receptors found on certain fish, such as catfish, bullheads, and sturgeon; used to find food

Blood Knot

a knot used to tie two fishing lines of similar width together

Bobber

a float used to keep terminal tackle at the desired depth in the water

Cast

the action of sending fishing line out over the water

Clinch Knot

a knot used to tie a fishing hook to a fishing line

Consider Proper Release (CPR)

the steps to follow when releasing a caught fish

Creel clerk

DNR fisheries staff who gathers information from anglers such as catch rates and the size and number of fish harvested on a particular lake. The number of boats and weather data are also recorded to help determine fishing pressure.

Downrigger

a special type of fishing tackle that gets lures down into deeper water (e.g. Great Lakes)

Ethical

good, respectable, acceptable

Fillet

a cutting technique used to remove the bones from fish

Fly

an artificial lure designed to imitate an insect

Fly-fishing Gear

a rod and reel combination consisting of a long, flexible rod and a simple reel that holds the line but does not assist the angler in casting

Guides

the loops found along a fishing rod that hold the fishing line in place

Hellgrammite

the aquatic nymph stage of a dragonfly; used for fish bait

Hook

the tackle used to attach a fish to fishing line, usually used with bait

Improved Clinch Knot

a knot used to tie a fishing hook to fishing line

Jig

a type of lure; a hook with a colorful weight attached to the top of the hook

Lateral line

a canal along the side of a fish containing pores with sensory organs that detect vibrations

Line

a thin, strong, often clear, cord used to attach a fishing hook to a reel

Lure

a combination of colorful artificial bait and hook, attached to a fishing line, to attract fish

Marabou

a type of feather that looks lifelike underwater and is attached to a lure to attract fish

Nail Knot

a knot used to tie fishing lines of different diameters together

Navigable

water being deep enough and wide enough to allow a boat to pass

PFD

a personal flotation device, or lifejacket, used to hold a person's head above water

Palomar Knot

a knot used to tie a fishing hook to a fishing line

Plastic Tail

a piece of plastic used to imitate worms, salamanders, eels, or frogs; usually tied below a jig or weight to attract fish

Plug

a lure designed to imitate a small fish or other aquatic animal

Popper

an artificial bug-like fly that pops as it is pulled along the water's surface

Pork Rind

a colored, cured strip of pork skin that is attached to a jig to attract fish

Possession Limit

the maximum number of a species that you can control, transport, etc., at any time; includes fish you have at home or in a vehicle. It is twice the daily bag limit.

Rapala

a type of fishing lure

Reel

a piece of tackle used to hold fishing line and to assist an angler in casting and retrieving line

Riparian

living or located on the bank of a natural waterbody

Rod

a fishing pole, used to extend the distance an angler can cast

Sinker

a weight used to hold terminal tackle below the surface of the water at the level desired by the angler

Snap

a piece of tackle used to assist the angler in attaching a hook or lure to fishing line

Spincasting Gear

a rod and reel combination with a push-button closed-bail reel; good for beginners

Spinner

a lure that has blades which spin as it is pulled through the water

Spinnerbait

a weighted lure with one or two spinning blades attached to it

Spinning Gear

a rod and reel combination with an open-bail reel designed for long backlash-free casting

Spoon

a lure that wobbles and flutters as it is retrieved

Stink Bait

smelly bait often used to attract catfish

Stringer

a string or wire that anglers hang fish from

Swivel

a piece of tackle used to connect a hook or lure to a fishing line

Tackle

fishing gear

Terminal Tackle

the combination of tackle used at the end of a fishing line, generally consisting of hooks, bait, lures, sinkers, snaps, and swivels

Total Daily Bag Limit

the total number of fish that an angler may keep in one day from all Wisconsin waters

Uni Knot

a versatile knot used in many fishing applications

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

an invasive disease that causes fish to bleed to death