

Northwestern Ontario

FREE

# Outdoors



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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE



NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO  
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# Spring Pike Strategies

By Davis Viehbeck

**Davis hoists a huge Pike caught using early spring tactics**

Northern pike are one of the most common, yet overlooked fish species found across Northwestern Ontario. In most areas of our region, pike have a year-round open season (be sure to consult Fishing Regulations Summary for exceptions) and tend to be really co-operative in the early part of the open-water period. These fish crush baits, pull hard and love to put on a performance regardless of size!

As soon as the ice goes off, northern pike make a push towards smaller to mid-sized bays, inlets and slow-moving creeks with an abundance of weeds. Areas such as these with predominantly soft bottom excel over rockier areas in the spring. These locations are the type of habitat that pike require to spawn and they will typically spend at least a week or two in these haunts. Of course, not all pike spawn at once and pulses of fish will frequent these shallow, weedy areas for the first few weeks of ice-free water. Right after ice-out, seeking out the warmest water will result in the most success. Focus your efforts in locations on the north-side of a lake, as these areas tend to be the earliest to go ice-free and warm much quicker than other areas. The further you go into these bays away from the main-lake, the warmer the water temperature. In terms of depth, locating areas less than 8 feet deep is critical. Even monstrous pike will be caught in super shallow water, often less than 3 feet deep.

The average-sized pike found in most lakes in the Northwest likely range from 4 to 6 pounds, but many systems offer real trophy opportunities with fish pushing upwards of 20 pounds, particularly in the spring. You really don't need heavy-duty tackle to target pike as I've seen my fair share of big pike reeled in with lighter-action walleye gear; however, if you're going to dedicate some time and effort to chasing these fish, I would recommend a 6'6" to 7'6" medium-heavy action spinning rod or baitcast rod. A larger spinning reel or baitcast reel spooled up with 12 to 17lb test abrasion-resistant monofilament line like Berkley Big Game or Trilene XT or 30 to 40lb test braided line will cover most applications. I prefer to use a baitcast combo spooled with braided line which allows me throw slightly larger baits with ease and muscle fish out of the weeds. Heavier rods will definitely help to control larger fish and speed up the landing process. A few favourite "go-to" pike combos are a 7' medium-heavy action Abu Garcia Veritas bait cast rod paired with an Abu Garcia 5500 C4 bait cast reel and a 7'6" medium-heavy, moderate action Veritas baitcast rod with the same reel. Both of these reels are spooled up with 30lb-test braid and are tied to 6 to 12 inch leader to prevent snip-offs from the razor-sharp teeth of pike. The best leaders I've used are made by a Canadian company called Stringease out of Southern Ontario. They make a variety of leaders which are made of thinner diameter titanium featuring quality snaps and swivels on either end of the leader.

In terms of lures, you really don't need to go too wild in terms of assortment. A handful of spoons in the 3 to 4" range, larger in-line spinners, a few jerkbaits in the 4 to 6" size and some larger soft-plastic minnow baits really cover off most pike fishing situations. As early-season pike are often in shallower weedy areas, I tend to prefer baits with a single hook or that offer some weed-resistance. The Johnson Silver Minnow is classic pike bait that has a single hook and a wire weed guard to help reduce tangles with vegetation. Pike find the slow wobble of this spoon irresistible! In terms of spinners, the Bluefox Vibrax spinner in #6 or a smaller Mepps Musky Killer or Giant Killer are solid pike options and are relatively weed resistant due to the spinner blade. The latter two baits have a second treble hook which I'll often cut off to make hook-extraction easier on both you and the fish. I'll also pinch the barbs on most of my in-line spinners when pike fishing to speed up hook removal. Adding a small plastic trailer to spoons and in-line spinners can offer some additional colour and bulk to your presentation. A small plastic trailer can also offer some buoyancy and allow you to slow your presentation down. Crankbaits like the Rapala BX Swimmer, Storm Thunderstick and Smithwick Rogue are all great pike baits and are tough to beat when fishing areas with fewer weeds. 5 to 7" soft-plastic minnow baits like the Zoom Super Fluke or Lunker City Slug-Go rigged weedless with a larger off-set hook are a great option if the pike are a touch lethargic and you need to slow down your presentation.

A few other essential items required for targeting pike include long-handled needle nose pliers, side-cutters and "jaw spreaders". The "jaw spreaders" are a device which will assist holding open the tooth-filled mouth of pike while extracting hooks. Longer, sturdy needle nose pliers are a must for reaching into the mouth of a pike and pulling out the heavier gauge hooks on most pike baits. Quality polarized sunglasses are another must have for targeting pike up in the shallows. These glasses allow you to see fish up in the skinny water and pick out pockets of weeds that pike will often be setup on. Polarized glasses will really assist you spotting a pike swimming behind your bait in advance of the fish biting. Nothing is more fun that sight-fishing a big pike and watching it strike your bait!

Take advantage of these shallow-water predators that are often overlooked and eager to chomp your baits!



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Sam Neureuther with a big Center Pinned Steelie Hen

## Centre Pin & Float Fishing for Steelhead On Our North Shore

*By Sam Neureuther, NOSA Member*

One of the most effective way to catch Steelhead on the North Shore ; The Center Pin reel. I grew up using a spinning reel for float fishing Steelhead for years before I was curious enough to give the Center Pin a go. Learning to use this reel takes a lot of time, practice and maybe a few birds nests, but once you hook your first Steelhead on the Center Pin you'll probably want to make the switch. It's one of the most flawless and exciting ways to fish for Steelhead.

The Center Pin is designed with a large free spooling reel that allows the angler to cast their float directly into the current. This action allows anglers to run long smooth drifts without having to feed the line out by hand like you would with a spinning reel; the Center Pin will pull the line off the reel basically doing it all for you. Setting the hook fast is essential while Steelheading, and having a free spooling reel allows for a much more precise and faster hook up compared to having to open and close the bail on a spinning reel. It provides much better drift speed control and a very smooth natural presentation. Pairing your Center Pin with a 10 to 13ft rod will give you the best control over your drift resulting in more hook-ups.

Of the fish species I have fished for, Steelhead are the most attentive to detail. While surely you can catch them on spoons and such, during the spring Steelhead run the most effective way is to use a float set up. When it comes to a float fishing set up it has to be precise. The smallest detail could turn them off if it doesn't look natural and right. During my earlier days on the river, I can remember a time where I was fishing downstream from my partner and a friend during the peak of the Steelhead run. My fluorocarbon line had broken off from being caught on a rock, and instead of re-tying on my fluorocarbon to the main line, I opted to just tie on another hook to the 'main line'. I caught 1 Steelhead in an hour opposed to the two guys with me who had landed next to 4 or 5 each. I decided to throw in a few casts in the same drifts they were fishing to see if it could be something wrong with my set up. Nothing. I chalked this up to be a lesson learned about how smart Steelhead actually are, and that they could actually see the main line tied onto the hook , where as the fluorocarbon is next to invisible, which is key. Keep in mind it was very clear water. I switched up and within 5 or 10 min had hooked one on and was back in the game. Even the smallest of details matter if you want to catch them in numbers.

The Float should be angled slightly upstream and never pulling or dragging the line, when this happens it results in the most unnatural looking presentation which Steelhead will steer away from. You want your bait to be as close to a few inches off bottom as possible and you can achieve this with the right amount of weight, paired with the correct float size. The ideal set up is a slip float followed by weights ranging from largest at the top to smallest at the bottom. Then attach a small barrel typically followed by 6lb fluorocarbon leader line. Tie on a size 6 or 8 octopus hook tipped with Roe, a single egg or yarn flies. I like to run Raven Tackle floats, hooks, swivels & weight for my set up. The Raven Matrixfully ported is my choice of Center Pin, paired with the Raven IM6 11'6 float rod, this is the most basic setup.

If you do end up buying a float fishing rod and reel there are many informative videos online for various types of casts and ways to try and learn how to use a Center Pin. I was lucky enough to have someone teach me, and watching a few Center Pinner over the years on the rivers. The most popular cast for using a Center Pin is the Wallis cast which is the cast I like to use 99% of the time on the rivers, it is the best cast for distance and speed. If you're looking to try float fishing with a Center Pin it may be a bit of a learning curve, but the reward is worth it. Give it a try next spring and you won't be disappointed in the results! It is a fantastic way to fish for our North Shore Steelhead!



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# SPRING WALLEYE FRENZY

*By Rich Brochu, NOSA Member*

Spring walleye fishing is a well anticipated time for most anglers in the north. After a long cold winter there's nothing like getting the boat ready for the May long weekend and the great fishing that can be experienced. In my opinion it's one of the best times of the year to get out and catch a limit of fresh Pickerel.

Spring fishing can offer loads of action given you hit the right spots. Late May have the fish pooling at different areas in a lake. While most anglers head for river mouths and river bends there are other prime spots that may be overlooked. Rocky shorelines or sandy bays can also offer great action. Not all fish migrate to rivers for spawning as some lakes are free of rivers. Fish will congregate in the same spawning beds year after year. Finding these areas will help you be successful in catching a limit or two and have fun reeling them in.

Once walleye have spawned they will progress from defensive feeding to active feeding to regain energy spent on spawning beds. Defensive feeding occurs when walleye attack your bait as it approaches them while they are spawning. Once the fish have completed their spring ritual they look for feed to replenish their energy. This will occur gradually and can go on for days until the fish move on to their early summer haunts. From late May to the first two weeks of June the action can be off the wall. It is truly an exciting time to be fishing.

Presentation to catch these fish can be simple but effective. A good 1/4 ounce or 1/2 ounce jig baited with a medium size minnow can keep you in action for hours. Experiment with different color jigs. I prefer chartreuse or yellow jigs during this time of year. If one doesn't work, I try another. For the most part the feeding frenzy should have fish biting on any type of jig. Trying rapala's can also offer some great action. Be aware that while the pickerel are feeding, predators are feeding on them. Often you can find yourself reeling in a walleye with a giant pike chasing it down or attached to it. In these situations I find myself trying to catch the large gator for extra action. If this occurs a leader will be needed, or say good bye to your jig.

A 6-foot to 7-foot medium to medium-light action 2 piece graphite rod with a medium to medium-light spinning reel filled with 8 to 10 pound line will help you catch your fish. It's important to make sure the outfit is balanced, (the rod and reel are "matched" to hold the same size line). Visit Thunder Bay's DNR friendly staff to get you fitted with the right rod and reel this year. You won't regret it.

Remember, this time of year the fish are not picky. They are hungry and will bite on almost anything. Find a spot where the fish are feeding and the action will keep you engaged till you've had your fill.

Bring the kids out this spring. Kids love catching fish when they are biting. They will be hooked for life if their experience is one of nonstop action. Get out and enjoy our natural resources, the opportunity to catch an abundance of fish is at its peak during the last weeks of spring. Enjoy!

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# Bill C-71: Trudeau Liberals Target Firearms Owners

By John Kaplanis, Executive Director/  
Northwestern Ontario Sportsmen's Alliance



When Justin Trudeau's Liberals were running in the last federal election in Canada, they promised Canadians would enjoy legalized marijuana. Simultaneously, Justin Trudeau promised firearms owners that a newly elected Liberal government would not resurrect the federal long gun registry that was scrapped by the Conservatives under Steven Harper. So what do these two issues even remotely have in common? If you are a firearms owner who thought Trudeau was going to be the coolest Prime Minister ever, because of his promise to legalize pot, then let's talk about Bill C-71.

Over two weeks ago the federal government tabled Bill C-71 with the stated goal of introducing federal firearms controls in the name of "reducing crime" and "making it harder for criminals to commit gun violence." The Bill was introduced in a timely manner. It's as though the Liberals were sitting on it and just waiting for what they believed would be the perfect moment to drop this little bomb on firearms owners. Therefore, in the wake of a recent mass shooting at a Florida highschool, and with an ever present gun control lobby effort right here in Canada, it doesn't take a genius to figure out that the Federal Liberals were eager to pounce on some low hanging fruit, so to speak.

On that note, right about now I'm guessing some Canadian firearms owners are sitting back and in typical Canadian fashion many of them are somewhat complacent, maybe not even paying very much attention to what Justin Trudeau is up to. Some of these firearms owners may even have become supporters of Justin and some of his election platforms. I mean, the guy has to be pretty cool if he wanted to legalize pot! Right? Of this, I'm absolutely certain because I know firearms owning individuals who certainly enjoy a bit of recreational "smoke" every now and then. I also know they bit hook, line and sinker when Justin and his gang promised not to dig up and resurrect the long gun registry that was scrapped by the previous Conservative Government. So what's wrong with this picture? Everything.



## THIS MONTH'S NEWS

Bill C-71 is problematic for a lot of reasons for firearms owners. In a nut shell, the proposed legislation calls for more detailed back ground checks and more rigid record keeping procedures for firearms retailers. But the proposed legislation is "dressed" as a wolf in sheep's clothing in my view. Should firearms owners support a piece of legislation that will keep firearms out of the hands of mentally deranged psychotics and criminals if these new laws genuinely reduce gun violence and firearm deaths? Absolutely they should. Does Bill C-71 do that? No, it doesn't in my opinion. But it opens the door to violating a good many of the rights that law abiding firearms owners currently enjoy.

For example, back ground checks which I'm certain we all agree are necessary, will dig down not into the previous 5 years of a firearms owner's life, but rather these back ground checks will dig down into the entire life of the individual. So whatever dirt this screening process will make fair game of digging up dirt from your past dating back to well, birth! Is that fair? Can a person have a moment in their life and recover from it and move on? Will this screening process uncover some small detail that occurred 20 years ago in someone's life and hold it against them for wanting to buy a shotgun to hunt partridge? It would seem that this screening process has been designed not to determine if a person has shown recent tendencies or the potential toward demonstrating violence, but rather the screening process seems designed to find some fault with most everyone in order to justify the denial of a person's attempt to own or acquire a firearm.

Here are some questions that firearms owners need to be asking their Federal Member of Parliament:

- Who evaluates the information resulting from a background check?
- What qualifications do they have to evaluate this information?
- Whose opinion(s) will form the basis for an investigation and by what legislative authority?
- What is the criteria the evaluations are based on?
- Why is there no appeal process?
- What is the start-up cost and annual operating cost for this system?
- How did the existing background check system fail? In other words, what is the evidence proving the existing 5-year background check fails its public safety goal?

What else does Bill C-71 have in store for legal/licensed firearms owners in Canada? Firstly, it will certainly make things more difficult for Restricted Firearms owners to transport their guns. Restricted Firearms owners were formerly permitted certain privileges under the current Authorization to Transport (ATT) permit regulations, however things are going to change in this regard. Afterall, legal/licensed firearms owners with ATT's have been a real crime problem for the feds (I jest). Here's what's changing:

- 1) Transportation to and from gunsmith will not be permitted under your current ATT. A new system of authorization will replace the current permitting system and it will require you checking in with the feds each time you wish to take your restricted firearm to a gunsmith shop.
- 2) Transportation to and from gun store/sporting goods store for the purpose of appraisal or sale will not be permitted. Separate ATT authorization will be required each time.
- 3) Transportation to and from a border point will not be permitted. Current ATT will no longer apply.
- 4) Transportation to and from a gun show will not be permitted.

Here are some questions firearms owners need to ask their Federal Member of Parliament about authorizations to transport:

- Why was "Transport to/from a Gunsmith eliminated?" Was there any public safety issue and, if so, what was it?
- Why was "Transport to/from a gun store for Appraisal or Sale" eliminated? Was there any public safety issue and, if so, what was it?
- Why was "Transport to/from a Gun Show eliminated?" Was there any public safety issue and, if so, what was it?
- Why was "Transport to/from a Border Point eliminated?" Was there any public safety issue and, if so, what was it?
- What is the government's estimate of the annual cost to perform these mundane functions individually?
- Will the four previous ATTs be issued on paper? If not, how will an individual prove they have an ATT for the purpose stated?
- Was there a cost/benefit analysis completed? If so, what conclusion did it make?

But the biggest question for firearms owners is this; is Bill C-71 a "back door" firearms registry? Yes, it is. Here's why:

Business are required to perform licence verification and keep records which will include the individual's information and all information regarding the firearm(s) transferred. The business must keep the records for twenty years unless the business ceases to be a business. In that case all records must be surrendered to the authorities. What does this mean?

For the business end of this, this is a gun registry, pure and simple. It isn't a very good one but, anytime you force people to fill out a document that attaches a individual firearm to an individual person, that is a gun registry – and it includes long guns. Dealers must keep the records of the transaction for twenty years and if the business should go out of business, all records must be surrendered to the authorities. The Liberals state the information belongs to the dealer but the truth seems to be that the dealer is merely entrusted with its care-taking.

Here are some questions firearms owners need to ask their Federal Member of Parliament about the data collection methods associated with purchasing firearms:

- Businesses are forced to keep a record associating an individual person to an individual firearm. How is this not a gun registry?
- Are all Licence Verifications entered into a database to track individual firearm owner activity?
- Who keeps this Licence Verification activity data, for what purpose, and how long will it be retained?
- Is Licence Verification data attached to an individual's licence? If so, who can access it?
- What is the criteria for the Licenve Verification to be approved or denied?
- What is the start-up cost and annual operating cost for the License Verification system?

The media has a terrible habit of characterizing non-restricted firearms AND legal/licensed firearms owners as the reason for a "gun problem" in Canada/North America. Meanwhile, criminals, gangs and drug related gun crime all get a free pass. Firearms owners have been down this path before. We learned a few things then. The Federal Liberals obviously have not. Call, write and email your Federal MP and remind them that they should have learned that targeting law abiding firearms owners is not only destined to be another monumental failure for all Canadians to have to bear the financial cost of, but it's also a great recipe for losing the next federal election.

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# Women's Range Day Coming to Thunder Bay

By Amanda Lynn Mayhew



## THIS MONTH'S NEWS



The demand for the Ontario Women's Hunting Association Range Day has finally reached a club in Northern Ontario for the 2018 year. As the founder and as a native of Northern Ontario it only made sense that when my friends reached out to me about hosting this event in Thunder Bay that I should attempt to make it happen. I made a phone call to the President of the Thunder Bay District Fish and Game Association, Doug Johnson, and spent the winter months organizing the details.

I'm proud to say "Range Day" is a go for Thunder Bay on July 15,

2018! This event does NOT require a firearms license. This event gives you hands-on one on one mentoring with pistol, shotgun, rifle and archery. Range Day will run from 9am until 1pm rain or shine. We allow the girls to have ample time with each firearm, discussing safety measures, loading and unloading firearms, shooting firearms and discussing all questions that any may have.

I like to start the day off with a "Meet and Greet" where we normally have a special guest and at this particular event I have asked Katie Ball, owner of Silver Cedar Studio, to join

us to talk about trapping and the beautiful handcrafted fur garments she creates with her talents and creativity. Also, NOSA Director Kirsti Harris will be on hand to share her outdoor knowledge and to assist our clients with the variety of activities we have planned.

In the years since 2011, I have seen over 900 women go through this event, most of whom continue on with a range of interests in shooting and/or hunting hobbies. That is an incredible number that shows that women are interested and want to learn to participate in these events and the outdoors.

In Southern Ontario this event is quite popular due to the lack of opportunity available in the demographics that most have not grown up like I have. I noticed this was becoming an issue when I was working behind the gun counter and that is what sparked the creation of Women of the Outdoors Range Day.

The support from local clubs, Range Safety Officers, and my personal sponsors is intense and all are supportive of this event. The cost to participate is \$75.00 per person and you can register by emailing myself

a  
amandalynnmayhew@hotmail.com and you can also read about all details, view photos and videos on [www.owhaontario.com](http://www.owhaontario.com)

We have in the past produced a Range Day for my TV Show called Just Hunt which airs on WILD TV and are looking at scheduling this Range Day event in Thunder Bay as another opportunity to showcase women getting involved in the outdoors and firearms industry.

My goal is simple: To empower, EDUCATE and inspire women of all ages find their place in the hunting and shooting community. Becoming an outdoors woman, which is important to me because it is who I am, and it is how I feed my family.

You can find Ontario Women's Hunting Association on Facebook, instagram and twitter for more information, fun, photos and more.

I can't wait to see you all there.

*Amanda Lynn Mayhew is the Founder of Ontario Women's Hunting Association [www.owhaontario.com](http://www.owhaontario.com) and also a feature host of the hit outdoor television series Just Hunt on Wild TV network.*

## NOSA Annual General Membership Meeting

The Northwestern Ontario Sportsmen's Alliance (NOSA) Annual General Membership meeting will be held on June 21 at 7pm located at the Westfort Prosvita main upstairs hall at 721 Gore St. W. in Thunder Bay. This is a "members only" meeting that will conduct the agenda of the Board and Members for the year 2017-18.

At this time there are no vacancies coming due for election on the board of Directors, however the meeting will hear discussion pertaining to possible bylaw changes, business items and financial report for 2017-18 as well as members forum to set the organizational goals for the coming year.

All in attendance will be eligible to win an attendance door prize to be announced at the start of the meeting. Hopefully we will see many new and old members alike at the AGM in June!

## UPCOMING EVENT/DATES:

- Antlerless Deer Draw deadline - July 3, 2018**
- AYA Thunder Bay/Tournament - July 7, 2018 - McKellar Island Boat Launch**
- Salmon Derby/Thunder Bay Salmon Assoc. July 13-15, 2018**
- Shebandowan Smallmouth Showdown July 14/15 @ public boat launch**
- Manitouwadge ATV Jamboree July 21, 2018**
- 22nd Annual Red Rock Lake Trout Derby June 1-3 at Red Rock Marina**
- Dog Lake Open Walleye Tournament June 2, at East Bay launchsite, Dog Lake**

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# Great Lakes Steelhead on the fly

**Rebekka Redd releases a  
spring steelhead caught  
using fly fishing tackle**



## The lake run rainbow – One of the finest freshwater fighters

*By Rebekka Redd, NOSA Member*

Great lakes steelhead fishing has slowly gained a reputation as one of the top fisheries on this side of the Country. Skeptics tend to mention that “lake run” steelhead are not true steelhead as they are not anadromous like the west coast fish.

Of course this has caused and still raises a confrontation of opinions. However, after great scientific research the final outcome is that there is zero anatomical difference between pacific coast and Great Lakes steelhead.

Now that we can let that rest, allow me to share with you some insight and info on this dime bright fish we love so much.

### Key times of year to fish for steelhead:

Fall and winter runs start in late September and go right through to ice-up. Normally in Ontario “ice-up” would be into December. From my experience the steelhead are a lot chunkier and cleaner, more “fresh” looking in the fall. They leave the lakes bright and healthy, fueled up for the journey up-river to spawn.

In the spring they can be a bit lean from the long winter, and have more of the rainbow trout colors, but spring time steelhead is pretty much “high church” amongst steelhead aficionado's! Either season is great, and gets the heart pumping from the thrills and spills of fighting a scrappy steelie as it's sets sail into the air cartwheeling on a tightline!

### Locating Steelhead:

One of the most important aspects of stream fishing is stealth. Steelhead are a very cautious fish. Use the trees and bushes for cover, and definitely keep hidden by staying well back from the bank.

Try to only move upstream, as well as cast your fly upstream. This gives the most realistic and natural presentation and you stay behind any fish. Fish's sight is keen from side, forward and above, and nearly none from behind.

Typically you will find good steelheading in most of our tributary streams that feed into lake superior.

It is important to note that steelhead are not in the river to feed, they are just passing through, so they tend to use certain parts of the river as “holding water” to take a brief rest on their journey upstream. Above or below sections of rapids or fast water are good places to look, as steelhead will stop here to rest before and after making a push through the swift current. Slow water is great too, just as long as there is depth and structure for the fish.

One of my favorite places to find steelhead is in the slow, placid flow of the tailout.

Tailouts are great to cast flies through as they can hold great numbers of “chromers” (steelhead). The slower water flow is excellent for steelhead to rest in after swimming up through a riffle or chute. Even better are tailout waters that have boulders in them. Deep, slow tailouts can be effective especially productive in low water conditions.

### Hooking, landing and releasing:

To hook into these silver treasures is to attach yourself to all the wild power and energy of our northern waters! It's a magnificent rush and they will make your reels scream! Make sure to have your drag well adjusted and keep a gentle and steady pressure throughout the fight, try not to “horse” them to you, they'll come unbuttoned if too much pressure is on the line – meaning the fly will pop out. The first few seconds are when most big fish are lost, so be ready for these rockets!

**Continued on Page 7.**

# The lake run rainbow – One of the finest freshwater fighters

After you have landed your fish, and you're grinning uncontrollably and roaring with elation and you want that great photo to prove you got your steelhead, you will first want to make sure the camera is ready before taking the fish out of the water. So, once the camera is good - go ahead and lift the fish up carefully - with one hand gripping the tail firmly and support the fish's body behind its head near the pectoral fins with the other hand. For really big / heavy fish I recommend keeping them partially in the water for the photograph, this helps ward off internal damage.

Don't keep them out of the water too long! After a quick snapshot, hold the fish gently in the current and release the fish facing upstream, allowing it to instinctively swim away on its own energy – the “release moment” in its self is magic!

### Weather:

Stable consistent weather creates good fishing. Cloudy conditions are favorable, although those northern sunshine days are not necessarily a negative factor and have much less impact when the water is stained. In many cases I've found during the cold temps steelhead become more active from mid-morning and afternoon sun. I also feel no matter the time or weather, there is always fishing to be had most days. You can't catch a fish if your fly isn't in the water.

One of the greatest rewards of fly fishing is to feel the sudden surge of power as a hefty steelhead takes your fly, and the line becomes bowstring tight as the fish becomes enraged, giving a fantastic show in cartwheels and it's silvery body splashes and slices thru our icy northern waters. The best part is also the release of the fish, free once again. Good luck on the water, tight lines and big fish!

*Rebekka Redd is a Global pro-fly angler, traveling full time filming and fishing. Her films, tv shows, photography and articles can be seen world wide on PBS, WFN, Outdoor channel and numerous publications including Mens Journal, Womens Health, and more. Hosted fishing trips with Rebekka are booking for 2019/20 www.rebekkareddflyfishing.com*

# Members In The Field



Kirsti Harris with a chunky walleye



Paige Towsley and an opening weekend lunger



Nate Andrychuk's big bass



Kyla Legros and a fat largemouth



5 yr old Sydney Thomasson's trout



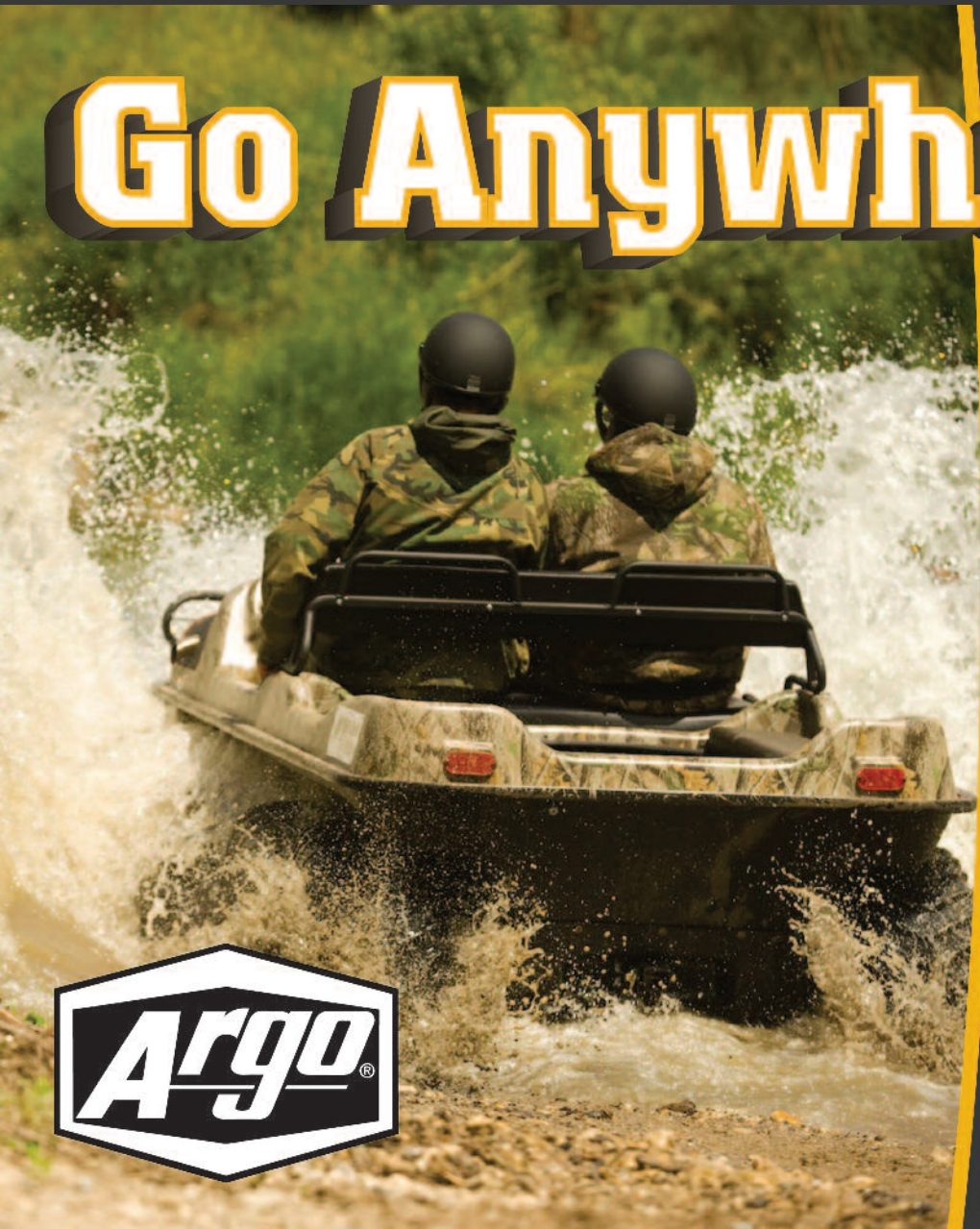
Nikko Grigio with a big pike



Sydney Larsen, Karly & Denise Dudar with walleyes



Justin Reid & James Hill tackle some big bass



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