



## **TIP-UP FISHING TECHNIQUES**

### **BAIT SELECTION**

Live bait Shiners or Sucker Minnows are most commonly used for tip-up fishing. Dead bait Smelt, Herring, Ciscoes are popular with Northern Pike Anglers and require less maintenance and care. Using smaller Panfish for live bait can also be productive – where allowed.

### **LOCATION**

Most tip-ups are commonly set in 4-20 ft of water. Setting tip-ups near weed edges can be productive since fish use these edges as ambush points for feeding. Try fishing 5-10 ft away from the weed edge for best action. Large weed flats are also key spots that can hold many different fish species including Panfish. Larger Gamefish will most likely be nearby feeding on the Panfish.

### **PROPER BAIT DEPTH SETTING**

Visibility is key. The fish need to be able to see your bait. Northern Pike / Largemouth Bass / Crappie typically like baits set higher up off the bottom. Walleye / Perch prefer baits set closer to the bottom. When setting up over weeds, make sure your bait is 2-4 ft above the weeds for proper visibility. Hook bait lightly through back near dorsal (top) fin.

### **CHECK TIP-UPS OFTEN**

When finished baiting / setting all of your tip-ups, immediately check them all to see if the bait is still lively and free from line tangles or weeds. If in shallow water, you may be able to look down the hole to visually inspect. Re-check all tip-ups every 30 minutes. Skim ice from holes if necessary. Move tip-ups around to search for active fish if no action.

### **CATCH & RELEASE**

When a fish bites, set the hook immediately if line is going out. If line is not going out, gather slack in line - set hook once you feel weight of the fish. Bring hook-out tools, tape measure, and extra leaders to the hole to aid in releasing / re-baiting. Release fish ASAP to avoid freezing. If keeping fish, put on fish stringer below the ice in extra ice-hole to prevent freezing.