



Ojibwe Lifeway: Fishing

CONNECT WITH CULTURE ACTIVITY GUIDE

Use this activity guide to understand the cultural importance of cold and coolwater fish species to the Ojibwe people and evaluate place-based evidence of how climate change may be affecting their sustainability. Investigate the importance of fishing as a treaty right retained by the Ojibwe people.

1. Besides being used for subsistence, fish played a role in the culture of the Ojibwe people, both historically and today. Explain their importance in Ojibwe culture.
2. The Ojibwe processed the traditional ecological knowledge needed to harvest cool and coldwater fish to help them survive. Explain why the harvest of cold and coolwater fish species, especially walleye, are important to the Ojibwe culture both historically and today

Historical importance

Today's importance

3. Explain why the Ojibwe people in Wisconsin have the right to spearfish on the state's northern lakes. Explain why the exercise of this right is culturally important to the Ojibwe people.
4. List two specific habitat conditions coldwater species like the brook trout and lake trout need in order to survive and thrive. How would changes in each of these conditions affect the sustainability of this fish species?
 - a.
 - b.

5. List two specific habitat conditions the coolwater species such as walleye, northern pike, and muskellunge need in order to survive and thrive. How would changes in each of these conditions affect the sustainability of these fish species?
 - a.
 - b.

6. From your investigation of place-based evidence of climate change on fish, list three observations from three different sources that suggest climate change is affecting the sustainability of coldwater species such as the brook trout and lake trout. Do the same for place-based evidence of climate change impacts on coolwater species such as the walleye, northern pike and muskellunge. Cite the source for each of your observations. Are these sources credible and why?

Observation of Impacts to Brook Trout or Lake Trout

Information Source

- a.
- b.
- c.

Observation of Impacts to Walleye, Northern Pike
And/or Musky

Information Source

- a.
- b.
- c.

7. How would these climate impacts affecting cold and coolwater fish species and the habitat they depend on, affect you and your culture?

Do culture and science agree that climate change is affecting the Lake Superior region? Take the next step and go to [Investigate the Science.](#)



