

Fishing in Walpole



A guide to the common
fish you will find in Walpole
2011

Brought to you by
Walpole Ponds Management

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Please Respect the Ponds

Walpole Ponds Management is working diligently to improve the local ponds here in Walpole and we are asking for your help while you are enjoying these ponds. Please pick up after yourself. More importantly, please consider bringing a small bag with you when you go fishing and at the end of your day, pick up anything someone less environmentally considerate might have left behind. If we work together, the areas around the ponds will remain beautiful.

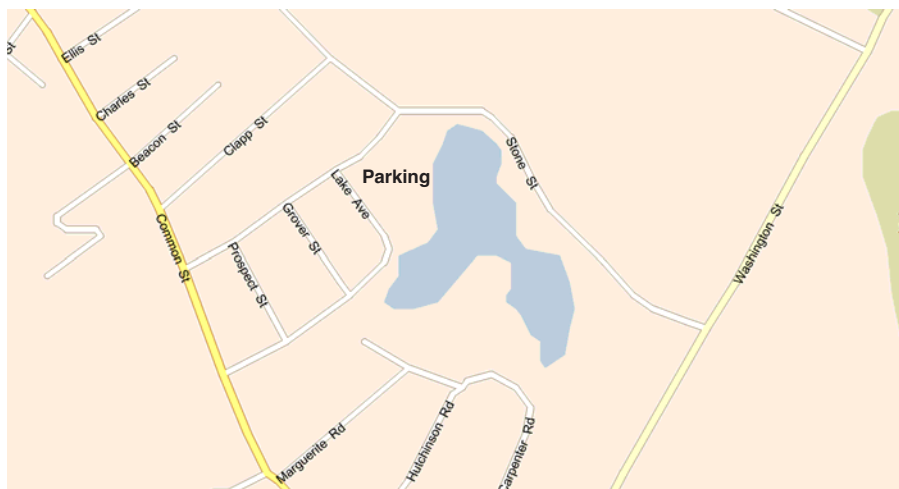
Thank you,
Walpole Ponds Management



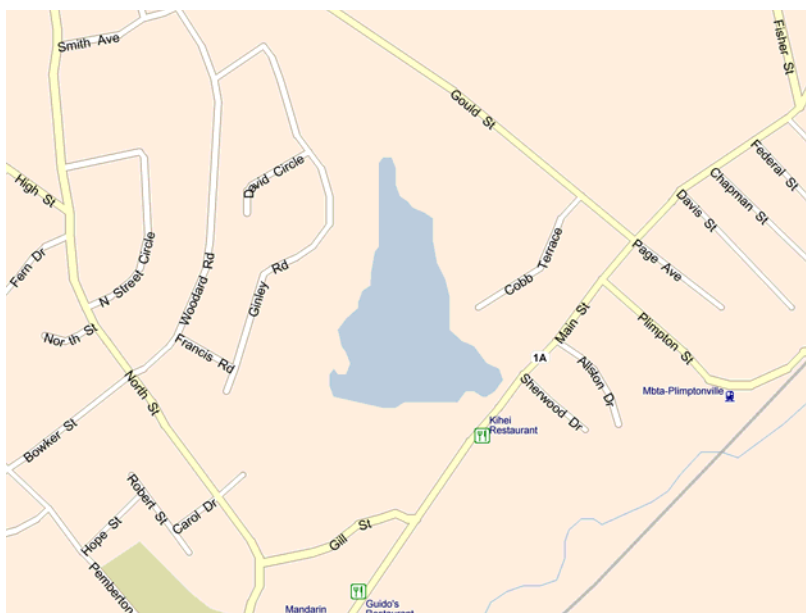
Fish can be found in a number of ponds here in Walpole. Here is a list of ponds with the best access.

- Memorial Pond (School St.)
- Clarks Pond (Stone St.)
- The Dam (Washington St.)
- Cobbs Pond (Main St.) across from Stop & Shop
- White Bridge (South St.)
- Turner Pond (Elm St.)

Walpole unfortunately has a lot of weeds in it's ponds due to the shallow depth. Although there are still plenty of ways to find and catch the fish. Various weedless methods can be used and top water methods as well. In the winter and early spring a lot of regular lures can be used before the growth starts. Spring into summer is when weedless tactics come into play. Fall back into winter is when you may be able to switch back to some other lures, but don't forget that live baits and chum bait like chicken liver are always proven ways to bring in the lunkers.



Clarks Ponds

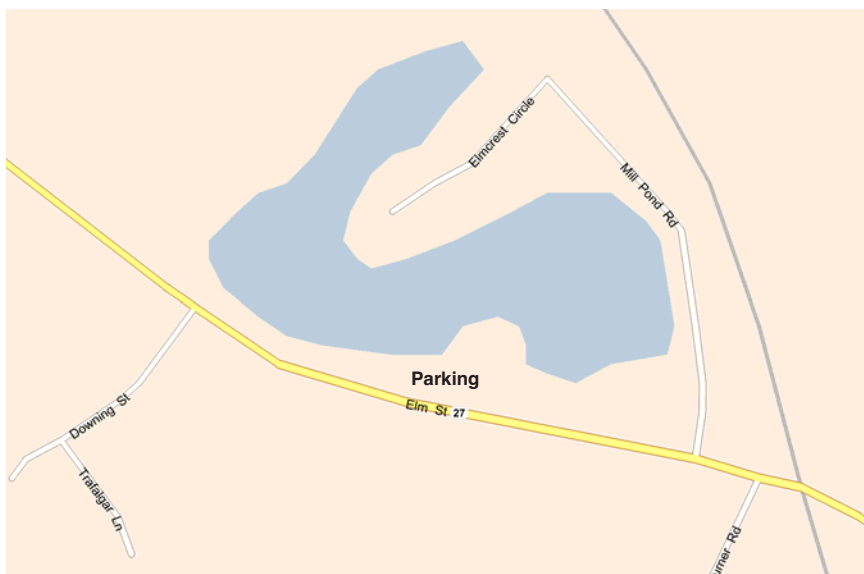


Cobbs Ponds

Parking across the street at Stop & Shop



Memorial Pond



Turner Pond

Here is a group of photos of not only the fish you will find, but also many other forms of wild life around our ponds. Also enclosed are some different fishing lures and baits that can be used. You will also find various swivels and knot methods that will make fishing easier for you.



Bluegill Earth worms/small spinnerbaits



Yellow Perch Earth worms/shiners



Sun fish Earth worms/small inline spinners



Large Mouth Bass Any live bait/any lure



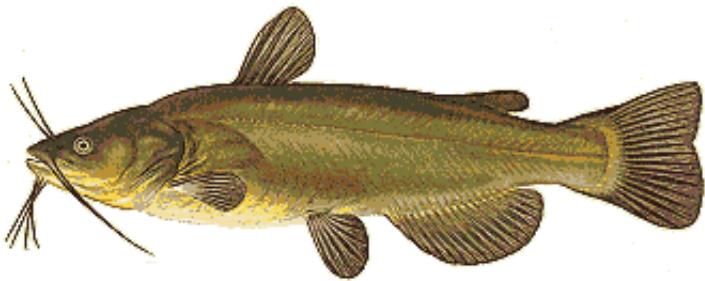
Cat fish Dead shiners/chicken liver



Eel Dead shiners/chicken liver



Pickerel Any live baits/many lures



Hornpout use catfish methods



White Perch Shiners and small lures



Blue Heron



Snapping Turtle



Common Sun Turtle

How to Start Up a Freshwater Fishing Tackle Box



How to Start Up a Freshwater Fishing Tackle Box

Overview

Outfitting a tackle box can seem challenging, especially when you are in the sporting goods store with thousands of potential items to include. Understanding what kind of fishing you want to do and the species of fish you will target helps determine the type of tackle box you need and what will go inside. For example, using live bait for catfish requires sinkers, swivels, hooks and bait jars, while largemouth bass fishing needs crank baits, soft plastics and other artificial lures. With a little forethought and planning, you can have your tackle box properly set up for your next fishing trip.

Step 1

Select a tackle box that is large enough to hold the amount of tackle you need, with about 20 percent more room to spare. Examine the tackle box trays for wells and racks that can hold the type of tackle you use, from small swivels to large spools of fishing line. Consider purchasing a tackle box that is expandable, with add-on trays to increase and vary the storage space.

Step 2

Ensure the plastic the tackle box is made from is not sensitive to the solvents used in many pieces of tackle, such as soft plastic lures.

Step 3

Purchase a good supply of basic tackle if you are building an all-around freshwater tackle box. A range of utility tackle such as sinkers, swivels, beads, bobbers, hooks and other items will help you be prepared for any fishing trip. Select tackle that works for the size of fish species you want to catch.

Step 4

Divide your tackle by type. Place utility tackle in one drawer, and soft plastics such as worms and grubs in another. Jigs, hard baits, flies, spinner baits and other artificial lures should each have their own compartments.

Step 5

Make space in your tackle box for other non-tackle items. Include nail clippers, pliers, surgical clamps, knives and other such gear that come in handy at one time or another while fishing. A first aid kit and sunscreen are also useful.



Earth worms (All)



Buzz Bait (for Bass)



Jerk bait (various)



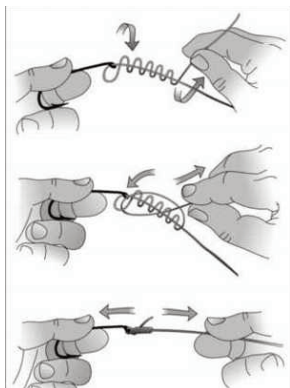
Shiners (all)



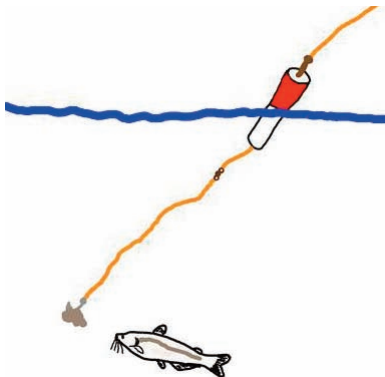
Crayfish (Bass)



Weedless frog (Bass)



Popular knot



Hook/swivel setup



Swivels



Wacky worm (Bass)

Senko Worm Texas Rigged



The weedless worm is the most popular way to catch Bass

Canoe Safety Tips

Before you go canoeing this summer, there are some important things you should know to keep yourself safe.

Canoeing is a lot of fun, but if you don't know the dangers, you could get into trouble on the water. Here are some tips for keeping dry and steering clear of danger:



CANOE SAFETY TIPS:

- **TO GET INTO YOUR CANOE:**
 - **HAVE SOMEONE HOLD THE CANOE STEADY** - you don't want to tip the canoe before you even get out on the water!
 - **CROUCH LOW** - keep your knees bent and
 - **GRAB THE SIDES OF THE CANOE FOR BALANCE** as you walk to your seat
 - **ALWAYS WALK ALONG THE CENTER** - keeping your feet on the centerline will help keep the canoe from rocking.
- **STAY LOW** - do not stand up or walk in your canoe when you are away from shore.
- **ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET** - you never know when you might fall out or tip over unexpectedly.
- **AVOID SUDDEN OR JERKY MOVEMENTS** - rocking from side to side could cause the canoe to tip over.
- **BE AWARE OF THE CURRENTS IN THE WATER** - you don't want to end up floating farther downstream than you planned. If the current starts to pull you along faster or you see lots of rocks in the water ahead of you paddle away from them or paddle towards the shore.
- **ALWAYS SIT ON THE SEATS OR IN THE CENTER OF THE CANOE** - sitting on the side of a canoe will cause it to tip over.
- **STAY AWAY FROM LOW HANGING TREES AND BRANCHES NEAR THE SHORE.**
- **DO NOT CANOE IN BAD WEATHER.**
- **AVOID LETTING BIG WAVES HIT THE SIDE OF YOUR CANOE** - always try to keep your canoe at a right angle to the waves otherwise the wave might push your canoe over.

- **DON'T PANIC**
 - **STAY WITH YOUR CANOE**
 - **PADDLE OR PUSH YOUR CANOE TO SHORE** - with the help of the other person in your canoe, you can get out in shallow water and flip the canoe to dump out the water and climb in. Your canoe will float even if its full of water until you can get to shore to empty it.
 - **ALWAYS BRING ALONG EXTRA CLOTHING IN A WATERPROOF CONTAINER**- you want to be prepared in case your canoe tips or the weather changes.
- **BE SURE TO BRING THE PROPER EQUIPMENT:**
 - **SUN PROTECTION** - hats, sunscreen, long sleeves and pants
 - **FIRST AID KIT**
 - **PLENTY OF FOOD AND WATER**
 - **LIFE VESTS**
 - **MAP** - be sure you know where you are so you do not get lost!
 - **TIE ALL YOUR EQUIPMENT TO THE CANOE** - put your equipment into a waterproof bag to keep it dry and tie it to one of the center beams in the canoe so that you don't lose everything if your canoe tips over.
 - **DO NOT LITTER** - carry out everything you bring in - the animals don't like a messy home.

Once you learn these important tips, you'll be set to go! So grab your paddle and life jacket, and, always remember to canoe safely and have fun on the water!

Ice Fishing



What is Ice fishing?

The basics of Ice fishing is finding an iced up body of water that contains fish. If the ice is thick enough to support you and your tackle's weight then just drill a decent size hole and drop a hook and line with a bait or maybe a lure and your Ice fishing.

Of course you might have guessed like everything in life, if you want to become good add it, experience and knowledge make a big difference.

So let's get the very basic questions answered of what's required to get started.

Tackle

An ice fishing rod and reel does not need to be long, about 2 ft is a standard size. A basic rod and reel costs just a few dollars.

Ice fishing line is manufactured and designed especially for extreme conditions like Ice fishing and is probably a good idea to get this type of monofilament.

Bait

Most ice fishermen either use bait on hooks or jigs and lures.

Making a Hole

To get access to the fish a hole must be made to drop your line into.

To drill a hole through ice most anglers need to use a tool called an auger which makes your hole in the ice.

The auger is best described as a giant screw with a blade that penetrates the ice after rotating a number of times.



Ice Strength & Safety Tips

This ice strength and safety information is presented for the benefit of ice anglers and other winter sports people recreating on iced-over bodies of water.

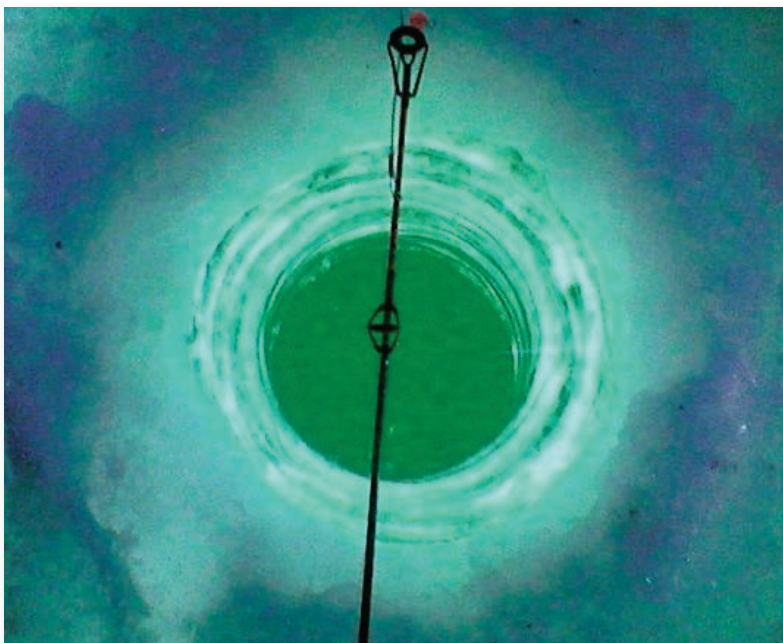
The figures in the table below are for clear, blue ice on lakes and ponds. Reduce strength values 15% for clear blue, river ice. Slush or snow (white) ice is only one-half the strength of blue ice and can be very treacherous. "Honeycombed" ice, which occurs in the spring or during major winter thaws as the ice is melting, is the most dangerous ice, and best avoided unless the angler is certain there is a safe layer of solid ice beneath the honeycombed surface.

Anglers should also be aware that many lakes and ponds contain spring holes and other areas of current that may create deceptively dangerous thin spots in areas that are otherwise safe. Always use caution, and don't venture out onto unfamiliar waters without checking ice thickness frequently.

How can you tell if ice is safe?

There are no guarantees -- always consider ice potentially dangerous. Assess ice safety by using an ice chisel to chop a hole in the ice to determine its thickness and condition. Make sure you continue to do this as you go further out on to the ice, because the thickness of the ice will not be uniform all over the pond or lake. Be aware that ice tends to be thinner on lakes and ponds where there are spring holes, inlets or outlets. Don't venture on to ice bound rivers or streams as the currents make ice thickness unpredictable.

Ice Thickness and Strength	
Ice Thickness (inches)	Permissible Load (clear, blue, lake ice)
2" or less	STAY OFF!
4"	Ice fishing or other activities on foot
5"	Snowmobile or ATV
8" - 12"	Car or small pickup truck
12" - 15"	Medium truck



What if you, a companion or pet fall through the ice?

As with any emergency, don't panic! If you fall through the ice, briefly call for help. It doesn't take long for the cold water to start slowing your physical and mental functions, so you must act quickly. Air will remain trapped in your clothes for a short time aiding your buoyancy.

Kick your legs while grasping for firm ice. Try to pull your body up using "ice pins" that should be hanging around your neck. Once your torso is on firm ice, roll towards thicker ice. This will better distribute your weight. Remember that ice you have previously walked on should be the safest. After you reach safe ice, don't waste precious time because you need to warm up quickly to prevent hypothermia. Go to the nearest fishing shanty, warm car, or home.

If a companion falls through the ice remember the phrase "Reach-Throw-Go" If you are unable to **reach** your friend from shore, **throw** him or her a rope, jumper cables, tree branch, or other object. If this does not work, **go** for help before you also become a victim. Get medical assistance for the victim immediately.

When walking on or near ice, keep your pets on a leash. If a pet falls through the ice do not attempt to rescue the pet, go for help. Well meaning pet owners can too easily become rescue victims when trying to assist their pets.

Outdoor recreation activities on the ice is a safe pursuit. By using a little common sense, these activities will stay that way.

For other ice safety tips and winter weather preparedness, check the [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency](#) website.





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KNOTS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Fishing knots allow you to properly tie your line to your hook, lure and other tackle. These knots have been developed and tested thoroughly to assure tying ease and strength. Each knot has a specific purpose. Before you learn any new knot, consider the following:

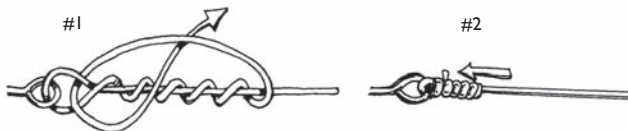
- The right knot is important. You want the strongest knot possible so that you don't lose the fish. A simple overhand knot weakens line by about 50 percent.
- Practice tying knots. Take a length of fishing line, a hook with the point cut off or buried into a cork, and practice. Practice until you can tie each knot correctly.
- Wet knots with saliva as you pull them tight. This prevents damage to the line and allows the knot to pull tight.
- Pull knots tight to prevent slippage.
- Trim knots closely with a nail clipper. A good knot, pulled tight, will not come loose. Close trimming prevents the knot from catching snags or weeds. Do not burn the tag end – heat damages the line and knot.
- Knots have their own terminology. The "tag end" (sometimes called the "working end") is the end of the line used to tie the knot. The "standing end" is that part of the line coming from your fishing reel.
- Leave a foot or more of the "tag end" of line for tying knots so that you can tie them properly.
- Pull up all ends when tightening the knot. With some knots this will be only the standing end and tag end; with other knots it might be three or four ends.
- Knots are rarely as strong as the line. Knot strength is often expressed in percent, such as the percentage of the strength of the line at which the knot (weaker than the line) will break. As an example, a knot testing 90 percent will break at nine pounds of tension in a line testing ten-pounds.

There are several types of knots. These knots are especially good for nylon monofilament, the most commonly used line for all fishing.

KNOTS TO TIE ON HOOKS, LURES, RIGS

Knots to tie a fishing line to a hook or lure are the basic and used in all fishing.

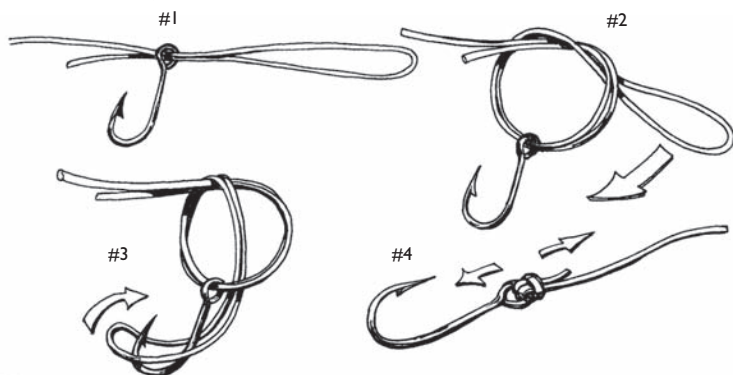
IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT- This is a variation of an older clinch knot. The variation (a final tuck of the line back through a loop) makes this knot test 95 percent of the line strength. The secret of this knot is to make five turns of the tag end of the line around the standing end part before running the tag end back through the formed loop. Use for lines up to 20 pound test.



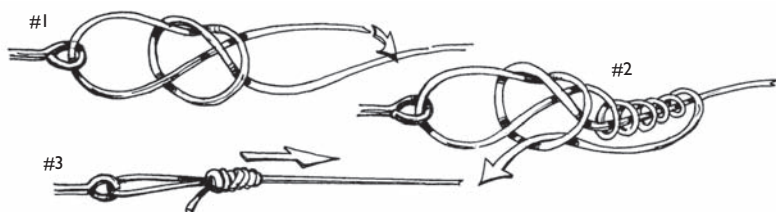
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PALOMAR KNOT – This knot, over 95 percent in strength, takes more line to tie because it is doubled first. It is good for lines up to and over 20 pound test. Because it is run doubled through the lure or hook eye, knotted and then looped over the hook or lure, it may tangle easier. It is a favorite knot of many anglers.



NON-SLIP LOOP KNOT – This knot creates a fixed loop so that a hook can freely move. It is best with larger lines where a tight knot such as the Improved Clinch can impede the hook/bait or lure movement. It is similar to tying the Improved Clinch Knot.



KNOTS TO JOIN LINES

Knots to join line are good for retying broken lines and to join a leader to the end of the line.

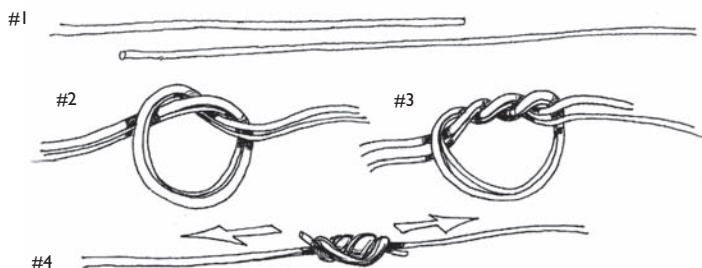
BLOOD KNOT – This knot requires five turns of line, with each tag end around the overlapped standing end of line. This is easy to do by making one series of turns and tucking the tag end between the two lines and then repeating with the second line. It is a good knot if the lines are not too dissimilar in diameters. It's good for tying 15 pound test line to 20 pound test line; not good for tying 15 pound test line to 50 pound test line.



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SURGEON'S KNOT – This makes it easy to join two lines, but one line must be short, since you have to bring the one end through the formed overhand loop. As with other lines, use a lot of overlapping line so that you can pull on all four ends to properly pull tight. Work with both lines together as you tie this, and make sure that both loops are the same size to assure a strong knot.



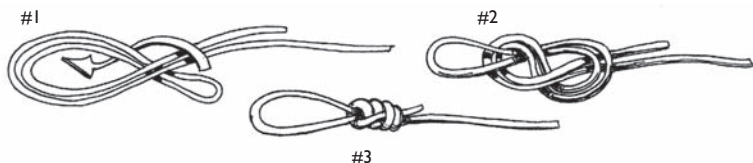
LOOP KNOTS

Use loop knots to make a loop in the end of a rig to which the line can be tied or to make two loops for an interconnecting loop system of attaching tackle parts.

SURGEON'S LOOP – This knot is similar to the Surgeon's Knot for joining lines. To make this, fold over the tag end of line and form the knot using both strands to make a double overhand knot. Pull up carefully on both the two ends and the loop.



FIGURE-EIGHT LOOP – This loop knot is also easy to tie. Fold over the tag end of line (leave lots of line for this) and then form a figure-eight bend with the two lines, ending by going through the first loop. As with the Surgeon's Loop, pull tight on the loop and both tag ends.

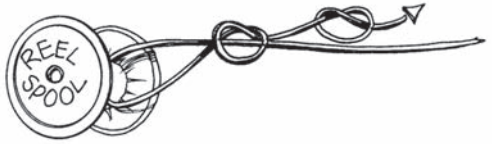


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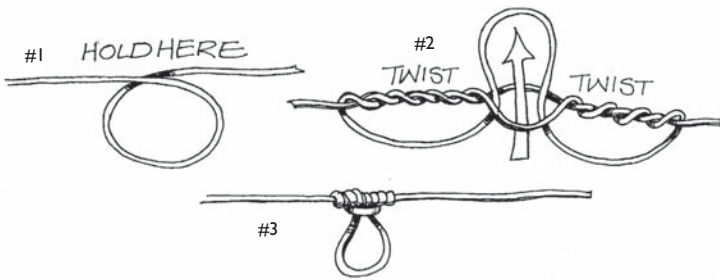
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SPECIAL KNOTS

ARBOR KNOT – You need to attach the line to your fishing reel, but this knot does not need to be strong. Run the line around the spool hub (arbor) and make an overhand knot around the standing line. Clip and pull tight.



IN-LINE DROPPER – This allows you to make a loop in the middle of your line to attach a hook or other rig. Fold the line back over itself to make a loop, and then twist the two overlapping line sections four or five times. Pull the loop through this center twist. Pull tight.



Check your library or tackle shop for fishing knot booklets/books to learn more knots and more about knot tying.



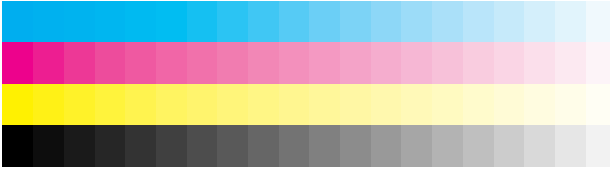
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To advertise your business in future editions contact:

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We hope that we have provided you with a good guide to what can be caught here in Walpole. Don't forget that some of these fish will be very difficult for you to catch. Patience is needed when fishing.

Please visit us at Walpole-ma.gov/PondMgt.htm. For the latest Turner Lodge information, click on our Facebook link at the bottom of the page.

To book your event at Turner Lodge contact:
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