

# Ice Fishing Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

- Clothing
  - Layer your clothing, wear a T-shirt, turtleneck or long underwear shirt, a sweater, and then a coat.
  - Eliminate the space that cold air can get through.
  - With three to four layers of clothing you can add or subtract layers and be comfortable.
  - Have an extra set of dry clothes.
  - Have hats and gloves.
  - Wear warm socks and insulated boots (waterproof).
- Equipment
  - Get a first aid kit.
  - Bring high energy snacks.
  - Have a thermos of hot liquids.
  - Have a five-gallon bucket to carry gear.
  - Use a sled to transport gear.
  - Use an ice auger to drill a hole in the ice.
  - Use an ice skimmer (strainer-type instrument) to clear the hole of ice chips.
  - Have ice fishing poles.
  - Get a small dime-sized bobber or a spring-tipped fishing rod.
  - Bring a piece of carpeting or cardboard to stand on.
  - Use small hooks with a bead to attract attention to the bait.
  - Get an insulated minnow bucket to keep bait from freezing.
  - Use a minnow dipper to keep hands from getting wet and freezing.
- Miscellaneous
  - A camping lantern or powerful, reliable flashlight.
  - A needle-nose pliers and a knife for removing hooks and cutting line.
  - A tape measure or length limit ruler is needed to measure fish which have length limits.