SYDNEY LAKE PHOTO CHEAT SHEET

How to Take a Great Fish Photo

A better picture in about 10 seconds, and a fish that swims away strong.

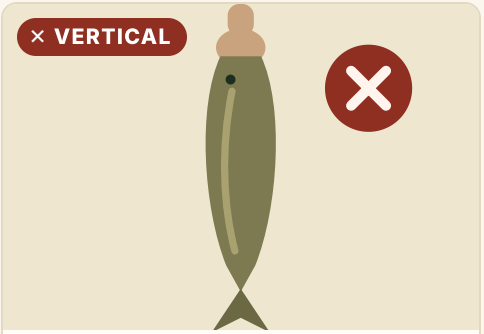
HOLD IT LIKE THIS



Level, side to the camera
One hand under the chin, one under the belly, arms out. You see the whole fish, nose to tail.



Diagonal, head a little high
Shows off the length and looks natural. Both hands still support the fish.



Not straight up and down
Hanging a big fish by the jaw can hurt it and hides its shape. Small eaters are fine.

★ **The big one: hold your arms out.** Push the fish toward the camera, not against your chest. It fills the frame and shows the fish off.

THE 10-SECOND PHOTO

1. **Get ready first.** Phone out, unlocked, camera open. The fish waits in the net, in the water.
2. **Wet your hands.** Lift with one hand under the chin (fingers out of the gills) and one under the belly.
3. **Arms out.** Push the fish out toward the camera, level or on a diagonal. Not tight to your chest.
4. **Show the side.** Tilt it slightly toward the light. **Walleye tip:** use your index finger to show off the dorsal fin.
5. **Smile.** Hat brim up, sunglasses off if you can.
6. **Back in the water.** About 10 seconds out, tops. Want another try? Let it breathe in the water first.

FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHER

- **Get low.** Shoot at the fish's level, not down from above.
- **Turn the phone sideways.** Landscape fits the fish, the angler and the lake.
- **Fill the frame.** Step closer instead of zooming, and keep the whole fish in, tail too.
- **Use the 1x lens.** The 0.5x wide lens bends the fish and the boat.
- **Tap the fish's eye** to focus, then hold the shutter for a burst.
- **Wipe the lens** first. A slimy thumbprint blurs every shot.

LIGHT & BACKGROUND

- **Sun behind the photographer**, shining on the angler.
- **Harsh midday sun?** Use the flash to fill hat shadows.
- **Lake behind you:** water, shoreline and sky.
- **Clean up the boat.** Nets, cans, tackle and life jackets out of the shot.
- **Keep it wet.** Water drops make the fish shine.

TROPHY? MEASURE IT

- Lay it on a **wet** bump board, mouth closed, nose at zero.
- Pinch the tail together and read the length at the tip.
- Take one shot where the numbers are easy to read.
- **Walleye 27″, pike 38″, lake trout 32″** or longer: register it at camp with a witness and a photo.

DON'T

- Put fingers in the gills.
- Lay the fish on a dry boat floor or seat.
- Squeeze the belly.
- Hang a big fish straight down by the jaw.
- Keep it out while you fiddle with the phone.
- Let a deep lake trout flop in the boat. Keep it in the net, in the water.

SHOT LIST 1 The hero shot 2 A close-up of the eye and fins 3 The tape, for trophies 4 The release

More cheat sheets: sydneylake.com/trip-planning-hub
Sydney Lake Wilderness Lodge · fly-in fishing 30 minutes north of Kenora, Ontario
Questions? Call **1-800-437-9937** or text Jeb **1-780-660-7171**

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