

Wellesley Lake Fly Fishing Equipment Guide

Lake Trout

The fly fisher has a very good chance of hooking fish well in excess of 20 pounds so it is a good idea to use a rod that will handle a large fish thus reducing the time taken to land and release it. Fast action 8 and 9 weight rods in 9 or 9.5 ft lengths are ideal for this fishery. These rods will also double for the pike fishing action. Sinking fly lines are needed to get flies down to the lake trout. This means casting and retrieving or trolling flies in shallow shoal areas to in excess of 40 feet in depth. Flylines from Type 1 to type 7 sinking rates or density compensated 24ft sinking tip lines with 200 to 400 grain head weights will get you down to the fish. Make sure these heavier lines are matched to the weight of your rod. Leaders for lake trout can be as simple as a 3ft butt section of 20 lb to which is added a 2 ft section of 15 lb tippet. These fish are not leader shy. Tie your flies on with a non-slip loop knot which allows the fly to undulate or swim more naturally when stripped or trolled through the water.

The bigger lake trout are fish eaters. They key in on the Cisco and smaller lake whitefish in the lake. Patterns such as Lefty's Deceivers or Clouser Minnows in chartreuse and white, black and white, olive green and white are consistent producers. There are many other commercially tied baitfish patterns that will catch these fish. A very effective way to fly fish for the lake trout is to drift and cast. This covers lots of water and helps locate higher densities of actively feeding fish. A droque or sea anchor is a real valuable tool to bring on your trip. A droque is basically a 4 to 5 ft square piece of lightweight woven nylon with nylon cord coming off each corner like a parachute. The droque is attached to a 10 ft piece of parachute cord and thrown over the side of the boat. The droque fills with water and slows the boat down as it drifts downwind. This slower drift allows the angler to continually cast and retrieve ahead of the slowly drifting boat. The choice of flylines (sinking rate) used is based on the depth of water fishing and speed of the drift.

Northern Pike

Pike fishing will be concentrated in water less than about 15 feet in depth and often in less than 5 feet. These fish are aggressive feeders looking to ambush any food item that they can get in or partially into their mouths. The most exciting pike action is fishing with floating flies and watching for the telltale signs of a fish chasing after the fly as it is stripped quickly back to the boat. The strikes on surface patterns are explosive. Pike Taper floating flylines have short, thick front taper sections which makes it easier to cast bushy spun deer hair or foam poppers. Baitfish streamer patterns can also be fished with the floating line in the shallow water flats. In water 10 to 15 feet in depth the ideal line are 15 ft, type 4 or 5 sinking tips or a 200 to 250 grain, 24ft shooting head. Pike leaders can be as simple as a 5 ft leader with a short piece of wire shock tippet used to tie the fly on. Pike leaders are made by several companies so make sure there are a few extra ones in the tackle bag. Regardless of the depth being fished, the fly should be stripped quickly through the water to attract the attention of nearby fish.

Lake Whitefish

The lake whitefish in this lake grow large, well in excess of 6 pounds. They are extremely strong fighters on lighter fly rods. Whitefish eat invertebrates such as leeches, scuds and insects. Wellesley supports superb emergences of midges (chironomids), mayflies, caddisflies and damselflies. A 9-10 ft long rod in 5 or 6 weight is ideal for catching both insect feeding whitefish and lake trout. Floating lines and long leader nymphing or fishing with strike indicators are both very effective when fishing leeches, chironomid pupa, mayfly nymph, caddis pupa and migrating damselfly nymphs. Your efforts will be concentrated on the shoal areas of the lake, in water from 5 to 25 feet in depth. The crystal clear water of this lake allows one to see concentrations of fish as well as any insects that may be hatching. In the evenings, the whitefish will often feed on the surface where they are chasing down egg laying chironomids or caddisflies. Make sure you have at least 75 yds of backing as you will see it if any amount of time is spent fishing for shallow water whitefish or lake trout.

Fly Patterns for Wellesley Lake

Lake Trout

Lefty's Deceivers – chartreuse and white, olive green and white, black and white
Clouser Minnows
Sea Habit Bucktail
Blanton's Punch
Egg sucking leech
Gold bead headed Woolly bugger– olive green, black , chartreuse

Northern Pike

All lake trout flies will catch pike
Blanton's Flashtail Whistler
Dahlberg's Rabbit Strip Diver
Pearly Popper
Marabou Muddler
Matuka Sculpin
Umpqua Pike Fly
Zonker

Lake Whitefish (and lake trout in shallow water)

Ruby-eyed Leech in maroon, black, olive green
Chironomid pupa – black & red, black & silver, chromies, brown, olive green
Prince nymph
Gold bead pheasant tail nymph
Gold bead hares ear nymph
Marabou Damsel nymph
Stillwater Caddis pupa
Deep Sparkle Pupa
Elk hair caddis
Lady McConnell
Parachute Adams