



PLAY

Summer
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Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth

Kayak Fishing?

Do you like to fish? Do you own a kayak? Have you ever fished from a kayak? If you have not, then join the fastest growing outdoor recreational sport in the country, and try kayak fishing. All it takes is some fishing equipment, a kayak, a paddle and a life jacket. Over the last few years, kayak companies have redesigned kayaks specifically for fishing. Kayak anglers want stable, comfortable and maneuverable kayaks. Pennsylvania is made up of several small streams, large rivers, reservoirs and even Lake Erie, so finding a kayak that works for the waters you fish is important.

This *PLAY* issue covers some of the basics for paddling safety, bass fishing combos, fishing kayak setup and competitive kayak fishing tournaments.



Paddling Safety

Before heading out on the water, let's talk paddling safety. While kayak fishing, always wear your life jacket and dress for the weather. Plan to use the buddy system while fishing. If you are fishing near dusk or dawn, turn on your headlight. If you plan

to fish in the early spring or late fall, wear the appropriate cold weather gear. Always file a float plan with a family member in case of emergencies.



Kayak fishing on rivers or small streams can be a rewarding experience. Kayaks are designed to float on skinny or shallow water. If you venture out on moving water, never exceed your skill level. Next, let's talk about bass fishing equipment.

Bass Fishing Setup

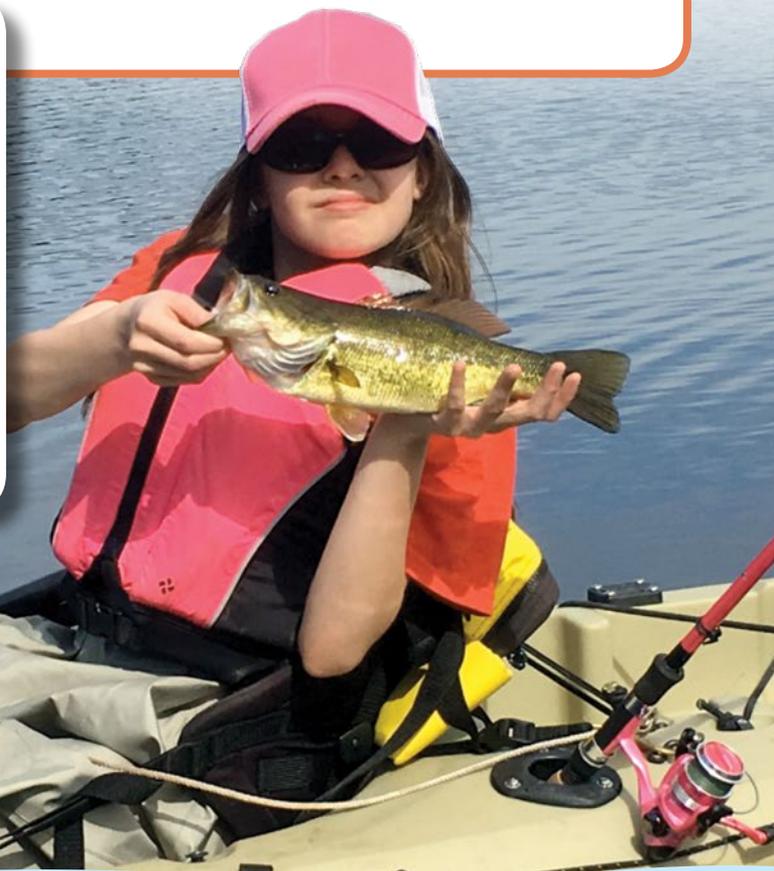
You just launched your kayak in a lake or a river and want to know what lures to use. The most popular fish species for kayak fishing is bass. In lakes, you will find Largemouth

Bass or Smallmouth Bass. In rivers, you will find mostly Smallmouth Bass. Here are a few fishing setups to use while targeting either bass species.

In rivers and lakes, you can use either a spinning or baitcasting setup. If you are a beginner, start with a spinning setup. A medium-action rod paired with a 2000 series spinning reel is a great combo. As far as baits and lures,

use the following chart as a guide. Start at the top of the water column and work towards the bottom. If the water is clear, use baits that look like the natural forage. If the water is stained, use dark or flashy-colored lures.

Water Column	Baits or Lures
Topwater	Buzzbaits, Whopper Ploppers, Frogs
Middle	Chatterbaits, Spinnerbaits, Jerkbait, Crankbaits, Swimbaits
Bottom	Ned Rigs, Senkos, Drop Shot Baits, Soft Plastic Crayfish Baits, Soft Plastic Tubes



Fishing Kayak Basic Setup

Over the past few years, the popularity of fishing kayaks has increased. The next two pages will cover two types of fishing kayak setups. Fishing kayak setups can range from \$500 to \$3,500, so knowing the type of fishing you want to do is the first step. Will you be fishing small creeks or big lakes? Will you be an avid angler or just go fishing a few times a year? Keep these questions in mind when you purchase your first fishing kayak.



If you have a local kayak dealer nearby, test paddle as many kayak brands as possible to find the right kayak for you.

The first type of fishing kayak is a basic recreational sit-inside kayak outfitted with a few rod holders and gear tracks. These

kayaks are not very stable or comfortable for fishing but get you on the water. Next, let's talk about the advanced fishing kayak setup.



Fishing Kayak Advanced Setup

The second type of kayak is a fully customizable sit-on-top fishing kayak. Most kayak companies make fishing kayaks that are more comfortable, easier to fish from while standing and more maneuverable than even a few years ago. Nearly all kayak companies

put gear tracks everywhere, so the angler can adjust as needed. For gear storage on a kayak, use a milk crate to hold tackle boxes behind the seat. If the kayak has a bow storage hatch, store extra clothes and even a few spare fishing rods in the hull.

Kayak anglers are putting shallow water anchors, fish finders and even motors on their kayaks. Each one serves a purpose, allowing anglers opportunities to catch more fish. A great way to see advanced kayak fishing setups is to attend a kayak fishing tournament near you.



A shallow water anchor and motor



Dave Lefebre, professional tournament angler



A sit-on-top fishing kayak with an advanced setup.

Competitive Kayak Fishing Tournaments

Interest in kayak fishing has grown so much over the past few years that competitive kayak bass fishing tournaments are popping up everywhere. You may ask yourself, "Where do you put a live well on a kayak to keep your limit?" Since there is no room for live wells, most kayak tournaments use the Catch, Photo, Release (CPR) format to keep track of the length of fish caught.

How does CPR work? An angler catches a legal bass. The bass is put on a measuring device with a unique identifier. A photo is taken. Once the angler

checks the photo for all requirements, the fish is released. The winning angler has the most inches in length not in pounds as at normal bass fishing tournaments.



A Smallmouth Bass on a Hawg Trough Fish Measuring Device.

If you are interested in entering kayak bass fishing tournaments, visit Kayak Anglers at www.kayak-anglers.com or Kayak Bass Fishing (KBF) at www.kayakbassfishing.com.



Kayak Anglers Kayak Fishing Tournament.

Kayak Fishing Word Search

Before kayaking on a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources State Park lake or using a Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission launch, get a Pennsylvania launch permit or a Pennsylvania unpowered registration for your unpowered kayak. If you have a motor on your kayak, get a powered registration. Visit www.fishandboat.com for more information about launch permits and registrations.

Complete the word search below to learn about some of Pennsylvania's fish species and waterways to explore in a kayak.



Word List

- BASS
- WALLEYE
- STEELHEAD
- MUSKELLUNGE
- SUSQUEHANNA (RIVER)
- PRESQUE ISLE BAY
- ALLEGHENY (RIVER)
- PYMATUNING (RESERVOIR)
- (LAKE) NOCKAMIXON
- JUNIATA (RIVER)
- YOUGHIOGHENY (RIVER)
- DELAWARE (RIVER)

(Hint: Some words may appear backwards.)

Produced by: the Bureau of Outreach,
Education & Marketing
Written by: Chad Foster
Editor: Spring Gearhart
Design and illustrations: Andrea Feeney
Photos: Dee Fisher, Chad Foster, John Oast,
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