

Lake Arrowhead Tiger Muskies

Catch and release only as of 2022

Tips for healthy catch and release

- Some key tools will make it easier for both the angler and the fish: long nosed pliers, small bolt cutters to cut hooks, hook outs, jaw spreaders, fish grippers, a large landing net (hoop no smaller than 30 inches), and a measuring tape.
- Don't play the fish to exhaustion, temperatures over 75 degrees will stress tiger muskies more than normal. Try to get the fish in as quickly as possible. Net the fish and leave in the water while taking measurements and removing hooks if possible. Cut hooks with bolt cutters if you can't get them out quickly. Hooks can be replaced. If a single hook is deep in the throat then cut the line as close to the hook as possible and leave the hook inside.
- Only remove a fish from the water for a quick photograph. It is important to support the weight of the entire fish. Try using the fish grippers to help keep your hand away from the tiger muskies mouth. Avoid holding the fish by the gill plates, vertical holds will injure fish, especially large fish.
- To release, hold the fish upright in the water and hold the tail until it is ready to swim away on its own. **DO NOT** move the fish back and forth to pass water thru the gills. This passes water back both ways thru the gills and can cause more stress on the fish.
- With careful handling, tiger muskies have the potential to be recaptured several times over their lifetime. A 40-inch tiger musky is about 7-8 years old and has spent its life serving an important purpose—to control nongame fish (yellow bass, carp) while providing Lake Arrowhead anglers an enjoyable challenge.



13 ½ inch Lake Arrowhead tiger musky (2016)



23 ½ inch Lake Arrowhead tiger musky (2017)





37 inch Lake Arrowhead Tiger Musky (2019)



40 inch Lake Arrowhead Tiger Musky (2021)



41 inch Lake Arrowhead Tiger Musky in a large Frabill net. Wrap the net to a boat cleat (if available) to prevent the net from falling into the lake while trying to get hooks out of the fish while keeping the fish in the water. This is especially helpful if fishing alone without a partner to help unhook fish, hold the net and take pictures. Leave the fish in the water until ready for a quick picture and release as soon as possible to avoid stressing the fish.



41 inch Lake Arrowhead Tiger Musky (2021)



Support large fish holding them horizontally, do not lift fish vertically very long, this may cause long term damage to the fish.

