

Advanced Fishing Techniques Checklist

Use this before a serious Canadian fishing trip. Build repeatable patterns instead of changing lures at random.

1. Read the Pattern

- Check clarity, wind, current, depth, light, water level, and recent pressure.
- Name the first likely fish position before you cast.
- Look for edges: weeds, rock, timber, drop-offs, seams, bait, shade, or basin transitions.

2. Control the Presentation

- Start with one depth zone and one retrieve speed.
- Change only one variable at a time: size, colour, cadence, depth, angle, or pause.
- Write down the exact change that produced the bite.

3. Use Electronics Carefully

- Use sonar to confirm depth, bait, bottom changes, and fish position.
- Do not chase every mark if the structure and conditions do not support it.
- Mark repeatable waypoints instead of random catches.

Make Advanced Techniques Repeatable

A good technique is only useful when the trip is legal, safe, fish-friendly, and repeatable on the next waterbody.

4. Fish Care and Release

- Keep pliers, net, cutters, camera, and measuring tool ready before the bite.
- Keep fish wet, supported, and out of the air as little as possible.
- Stop targeting stressed fish when heat, low oxygen, or handling risk is high.

5. Licence, Rules, and Safety

- Check the exact province, zone, species, waterbody, bait rule, hook rule, and date.
- Wear an appropriate lifejacket or PFD when fishing from boats, canoes, and kayaks.
- Advanced technique never overrides conservation closures or possession limits.

6. After-Trip Log

- Best bite window:
- Productive structure and depth:
- Presentation that failed:

Decision rule: if you can repeat the conditions, you found a pattern.