

Kayak & Canoe Fishing Trip Planner Canada 2026

Page 1 - Safety and PFD checklist

Use this before launch. Small craft fishing becomes safer when the PFD, weather, access, route, and return plan are handled first.

Safety before launch

- PFD/lifejacket packed and worn: yes / no
- Weather, wind, and thunder risk checked: yes / no
- Launch and exit points confirmed: _____
- Trip plan shared with: _____

Boat and paddle checks

- Kayak/canoe hull checked for damage: yes / no
- Paddle and spare paddle plan: yes / no
- Whistle/light/signalling device packed: yes / no
- Bailer, pump, sponge, or rescue gear packed: yes / no

Water risk notes

- Current: none / light / strong / unknown
- Cold water risk: low / moderate / high
- Boat traffic: low / moderate / high
- Emergency exit shoreline: clear / limited / unknown

Gear and Storage Planner

Page 2 - Rods, tackle, electronics, and organization

Pack fewer things better. Kayaks and canoes reward compact systems, dry storage, and tools that stay attached.

Fishing setup

- Primary rod: spinning / baitcasting / fly / trolling
- Target species: bass / walleye / pike / trout / panfish / mixed
- Line and leader checked: yes / no
- Net, pliers, cutters, and measuring tool packed: yes / no

Storage plan

- Dry bag or dry box packed: yes / no
- Tackle tray limited to proven lures: yes / no
- Tools leashed or stored in PFD/crate: yes / no
- Weight balanced bow/stern/center: yes / no

Electronics and power

- Fish finder charged: yes / no / not using
- Transducer mount secure: yes / no / not using
- Battery dry and protected: yes / no
- Phone/GPS/map backup ready: yes / no

Water, Weather, Species, and Trip Notes

Page 3 - Pattern and review

Record what the water taught you. Better notes help you choose the right craft, route, gear, and presentation next time.

Water and route

- Water type: lake / river / reservoir / coastal / backcountry _____
- Route distance: _____
- Wind direction and speed: _____
- Portage or carry distance: _____

Fishing pattern

- Best depth or cover: _____
- Best lure or bait: _____
- Fish activity window: morning / mid-day / evening / night _____
- Presentation: casting / jigging / trolling / drifting / fly _____

Trip review

- What worked: _____
- What failed: _____
- One gear change for next trip: _____
- One safety change for next trip: _____