

What to Bring McKenzie River Lodge – Labrador

Note: The McKenzie is a relatively new fishery. We're sure this list will expand or change as more people fish the river and try new flies and methods

Rods: A 7- weight fly rod will handle most fishing situations and all species. However, Available species include Whitefish to 6 lbs, Brook Trout to 8 lbs, Landlocked Salmon to 16 plus lbs, Northern Pike to 20 plus lbs and Lake trout to 30 plus lbs. We recommend You bring several rods according to the species you are targeting. As a rule of thumb, 5, 6 & 7 weights will cover brook trout and whitefish and 7, 8 & 9 will cover Landlocked Salmon, Pike and Lake Trout. Bring at least one spare rod.

Reels: For trout a lightweight to medium duty, preferably with a disk drag and at least 50 yards of backing. For salmon, lake trout and Pike, consider a large arbor, medium to heavy duty with a good quality disc drag and 100 plus yards of backing.

Lines: Floating lines are used most frequently. Have with you an intermediate sink tip for high water and deeper pools and rapid sink tip for Lake trout. Bring a spare line and backing.

Leaders: Maxima Chameleon with an 8 – 10 lbs test tippet, is a favored materiel when prospecting waters that might produce a mix of species. For dry fly fishing specifically to brook trout and whitefish, scale down to 6 -4 lbs tippets. Leaders of 7 ½ - 9 feet in length are fine. Pike: may require either a shock tippet of mono , fluorocarbon , wire or Kevlar.

Waders: Chest waders are recommended. Stocking foot waders with a good quality wading shoe or brogue will provide better support, comfort and mobility than boot-footed waders. Good quality Gore-tex waders with a polar fleece pant will keep you dry and comfortable. Felt Soles are an absolute must! Screw in carbide studs , a wading staff and belt are highly recommended .

Clothing: Your clothing list should include: long underwear (polypropylene and or polar fleece for wearing under waders), wool socks, warm shirts, Patagonia style pullover or hooded sweat shirt, good quality wind and water proof wading jacket, hat with visor, warm gloves.

Be prepared for a broad range of temperatures (45 – 80 degrees F). It is best to dress in layers.

Accessories: Bug repellent, sun cream, lip balm, vest, clippers, leader materiel, split shot or lead weight, polarized sun glasses, dry fly floatant, forceps, pocket knife, flashlight and a small waterproof pack or bag for carrying personal gear, camera, clothing ect.

Be sure to bring any and all personal medications you will need.

Please try to keep your luggage weight to 55 lbs. Soft sided luggage is appreciated.

McKenzie River Lodge
What to bring – flies

Labrador Brook trout are rarely selective, and will take a wide range of patterns. However the McKenzie river has abundant aquatic insect populations (mayflies, caddis flies, stoneflies , giant stone flies) and bait fish (Mottled sculpins, long nose dace, pearl dace, sticklebacks , white suckers). At times they will key into a food source and matching the hatch becomes the strategy of the day. Brook trout and landlocked salmon are taken on dries and streamers. Lake trout, which can be found stacking up at the river mouth and narrows early and late in the season are taken most often on streamers. Some flies are available for sale at the lodge but we recommend that you plan to bring a good assortment with you.

The growing season is short in Labrador and Trophy fish like big meals. Large flies will catch less fish but trophy fish.

Dry flies: sizes 10 -16 usually work best if matching the hatch, but attractor patterns Work well.

Orange Caribou bug sizes 2 to 6
Bombers # 2 -6 brown, orange, grizzly, white.
Elk hair caddis # 10-16 black, brown, beige
Wulffs # 8 – 10 white, black, minionipi, royal
Hazel fly # 6 -10
McKenzie mouse # 4
Turks Tarantula or Trotinette
Irresistables, Humpies, stimulators

Bring some of your standard trout flies in case you have to match the hatch
March Brown, Adams, Pale olive dun, Brown drake, Green drake, black gnats.

Streamers: sizes 2 to 6

Wooly buggers: This is the single most effective wet fly. Like Mr. Ford and his cars, any color will do as long as it is black! But olive and brown can be good also.

Muddlers: standard, white, yellow, orange and spuddler * (grizzly hackle wing).

* very effective as it imitates a mottled sculpin

Orange marabou muddler

Gabbro muddler, orange bunny strip muddler

McKenzie sculpin

Darren Dicks special

Zonkers, Neptune streamer, Black nose dace, orange grey ghost, black ghost, Mickey fin, Magog smelt, Baby brook trout, Thunder creek, Saranac Ghost.

The Cats ass muddler and DW special, two patterns designed by guide Danny Winsor were really hot during the 2009 season

Nymphs: sizes 8 to14

Hares Ear, Prince, Pheasant Tail, Hendrickson, March Brown, 13A.

Wooly Buggers # 8 – 10, black or black /olive.

Stoneflies: Black # 4 - 6, brown # 6 – 8, golden # 8 -10.

A small nymph dropper below a dry fly is deadly for whitefish.

Big generic stone fly imitators may also be useful.

Egg patterns have been effective early in the season during the white sucker run.

If you tie or own any saltwater flies, I'd bring some sizes 2 -2/0 in orange, red/yellow, red/white, blue/white. These work well for pike but also may tempt some of the large Lake Trout at the river mouth, and we've known hungry 5 lbs Brook Trout to gobble large deceivers in other watersheds.

Pike will take a wide variety of big flies, deer hair bugs, deer hair mice, Dahlberg Diver and poppers.

Please refer to our web site and visit "Fly Box" or read guide Burt Gillis' notes for added information.

And don't be afraid to try something new or different, you could be rewarded with a True Labrador Trophy.

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