

# Ice fishing essay



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No need to stay inside during the long winter months waiting for the sun to come out dreaming about open water and summer fun. Be adventurous, bundle up, get outside and try fishing in a whole new way through the ice! Ice fishing action can be fast and furious when winter seals the lakes under ice. Best of all, there are no mosquitoes or flies to “ bug” you. Now winter fishing can be as just as much fun as warmer weather fishing, I want to tell you the essentials you are going to need to for Ice Fishing.

I want to tell you about Ice Safety, Equipment, and Shelters. Once you have made sure the ice is secure enough to go out on, you’re going to want to take your equipment and start setting up. As far as equipment goes, an auger is an absolute necessity. It’s the only way you are going to get through the ice. An auger is either a gas, Electric, or manual, drill that is about three feet in height. A hand auger is basic in design and the most commonly used auger today.

In order to drill holes, you have to use your own body strength (mainly shoulders and arms) to get the job done, which can often be a chore for those with limited strength or fitness level. Once the ice gets thick (over 12 or 16-inches) the harder the work will become, which can pose a problem if you like to move around a lot and drill numerous holes. That being said, the hand augers of today are much easier to work than those of yesteryear, with the new blade designs and ergonomic handles making the job less strenuous. The next factor in Ice fishing is the weather.

According to Yahoo Weather the average low In Michigan is -3F. Shelter in this cold is a must to enjoy fishing. There are some people who use no

shelter on a warm day. They may just sit on a bucket and bear the cold weather. However I refuse to go without what is known as a Shanty. A Shanty can be built from several different materials and vary in Size. The first types of shanties are portable. PORTABLE SHELTERS typically feature a plastic or wood floor, and an aluminum or steel frame surrounded by canvas, polyethylene or nylon material.

Depending on size, they become increasingly heavy and difficult to pull, transport and store, but are relatively easy to set up, provide full protection, and folded down allow a means of transporting gear. They're also available in a variety of sizes to accommodate various numbers of anglers. The best portable models are easy to set up, allow standing room, and feature two wide opening, zippered doors and plenty of space for holes to accommodate the number of people you plan to fish with.

In addition, quality portables have a sturdy frame and tightly sewn, quiet overlaid material, yet are lightweight for easy pulling or towing. PERMANENT SHELTERS are usually large, wood- or aluminum-framed structures, often featuring storm doors, windows and stoves, even multiple rooms with beds or a second story. Properly trailered or rigged with drop hitches they can be moved, but because they're so heavy and transport is time-consuming, they're not considered portable.

The key to choosing the shelter style that best suits your needs can be determined by the way you fish. If you plan to set up in one spot, permanent shelters are hard to beat, as they're roomy, comfortable and warm, but you will need a means of transporting the unit and a place to store it off-season.

Portable and collapsible models work well if you plan to move only once or twice in a day of fishing, but if you want to fish lots of holes and stay on active fish, most experts agree that mobile shelters are the best choice.