

Pike Anglers Club of Great Britain



Pike baits

There are three types of bait which are used regularly for pike fishing; live-baits, dead-baits and lures. All can be successful in the right place and on the right day!



LIVE-BAITS

A live fish is the natural food of pike so it makes sense that it will also make a good bait. Any small fish will catch pike. We recommend fish under 8" (20 cm) in length to preserve fish stocks and to make presentation of the bait and hooking the pike easier. Some fisheries might not allow live-baiting in order to preserve their fish stocks. Live-baits must only be used on the water they have been caught from so you must always be aware of the fishery byelaws which you can find out more about here.

DEAD-BAITS

Since the late 1950s pike anglers have been using dead fish as bait, but they should not be looked on as an alternative to live-baits, rather as another method altogether. Some fisheries seem to respond better to live-bait than they do to dead-baits (and vice versa) - so keep your options open.

Pike sometimes show a preference for particular dead-baits so it pays to use a selection of sea and freshwater fish. Freshwater fish can be used as bait, either freshly caught or frozen, and sea fish also catch pike. Large dead-baits can be cut in two and both the head and tail ends used as bait.

Roach, trout and eel are two popular freshwater baits, while sprats, mackerel and herrings have also caught plenty of pike, as have migratory fish like smelt and lamprey. During recent years, pollon, launce and blueys have become popular baits. But anything is worth a try!

LURES

Artificial lures can be used to catch pike in many situations and come in an amazing array of types, sizes and colours. Again they are not an alternative to natural baits, but an extra string to the pike angler's bow.

Always check the fishery rules before fishing to ensure that the baits you intend to use are allowed.

