

# Ice Fishing Safety Tips

## Ice Thickness

- ◆ Ice thickness is never uniform on any body of water, making it hard to judge the safety of the area.
- ◆ Ice thickness is effected by springs, currents, creek inflows, bubblers near docks, salt runoff, and ground temperature.
- ◆ Water (rain) on top of ice weakens ice.
- ◆ Temperatures above freezing weakens ice.
- ◆ The number of inches are minimums and you should never drive a vehicle on the ice in New Jersey.
  - ◇ 2 inches or less: Unsafe
  - ◇ 3 inches: One person on foot
  - ◇ 4 inches: Ice fishing on foot
  - ◇ 5 inches: Snowmobile or ATV
  - ◇ 8 inches: Car, light truck (2.5 tons)
  - ◇ 10 inches: Pickup truck (3.5 tons)

## Ice Color

- ◆ SAFE – Transparent Blue/Black Ice
- ◆ Weak – White/Opaque Ice, wet snow refrozen top ice layer— use extreme caution
- ◆ Stay Off! – Light Gray Ice, melting ice
- ◆ Stay Off! – White/Gray Mottled/Slushy, melting ice

*Clear black ice is stronger than white ice.*

*Early season ice is stronger than late season ice.*

## Safety Gear

- ◆ Polar Picks
- ◆ Ice Creepers
- ◆ Spud Bar
- ◆ Throw Rope

## Additional Safety Tips

- ◆ Keep in mind ice does not freeze uniformly.
- ◆ Ice fish with a buddy and always make sure to keep in eyesight of each other.
- ◆ Avoid large groups on ice, as it will weaken the ice. If you're fishing in a large group, make sure to spread out.