



O.C.O.A.

ONTARIO CONSERVATION OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION

February 25, 2024

Ice anglers are reminded that ice fishing season is quickly coming to an end

The Ontario Conservation Officers Association (O.C.O.A.) would like to remind anglers to think ahead and prepare to remove their fish huts from Ontario's frozen waterbodies.

"While some lakes in the province are just starting to form safe ice, anglers need to remember that ice huts must be removed from the ice by the prescribed deadlines," says O.C.O.A. President Derek Hebner, "after the ice hut removal dates, anglers may fish without an ice hut or use a portable fish hut that is made of cloth or synthetic fabric that is seven square metres in size or less."

Ice Hut Removal Dates:

- March 1st in fisheries management zones (FMZ) 17 and 20
- March 15th in FMZ 14, 16, 18, 19 and below the Lake Timiskaming dam in FMZ 12
- March 31st in FMZ 9, 10, 11, 15 and above the Lake Timiskaming dam in FMZ 12

"Anyone who has an ice hut out on the lake should monitor the weather conditions closely," says Hebner, "the ice hut removal deadline are set in legislation but they do not take into account the different ice conditions each year. Many lakes in the province will be ice free before the hut removal deadlines and any huts that fall through the ice are a danger to anyone who has to remove them or to boaters in the summer if the huts are not removed prior to ice out."

Anyone with information about a natural resources or public safety related offence is encouraged to call the MNRF violation reporting line at **1-877-847-7667**, contact their local Conservation Officer directly, or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

For more information about natural resources regulations and enforcement please visit the OCOA website at <http://www.oco.ca> or contact your local Conservation Officer.

Remember to follow us on



-30 -

For more information contact:

Derek Hebner
President
Ontario Conservation Officers Association
Dhebner@oco.ca