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# LAKEFISH NETS



## EXTENDED INFORMATION GUIDE



Choosing the Right Net for Your Lake, Species, and Season



547 King Edward St. Winnipeg, MB.  
Monday to Friday | 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

 [sales@lakefish.net](mailto:sales@lakefish.net)  
  [@lakefish.net](https://www.instagram.com/lakefish.net)

 [www.lakefish.net](http://www.lakefish.net)  
 Toll free 1 877 866 2935

 204 774 1887  
 Text 204 774 1887

## LAKEFISH GILL NETS

A gill net is a large upright wall of netting that is set in water to catch fish. There are two types of nets. The first is a single sheet of netting in which the fish are trapped by their gills as they try to swim through the individual mesh. The second is a Trammel Net, which consists of several sheets of netting in a variety of mesh sizes, where fish become entangled in the layers of the mesh.

Gill nets can be set in a variety of ways. The two most common procedures for setting a gill net are bottom-set (demersal) and mid-water (pelagic). The top of a gill net is attached to a floatline or floats, and the bottom is tied to the leadline. Controlling the size and number of floats or the diameter of the floatline on the top line and the size and number of weights on the leadline determines how deep or shallow your net will rest in the water. The combination of these two lines also maintains the vertical stretch of the net. Gill nets can be set end to end in strings or fleets.

Our nets are hung on the 1/2 bases, and designed to naturally sink to catch fish in the benthic zone of freshwater lakes.



### MEASURING A GILL NET

It is important to note that due to factors such as temperature and humidity, mesh size can vary slightly. Atmospheric conditions, as well as humidity levels during manufacturing, transit, and storage, all affect the moisture content of the netting. Even when completely dry, the netting can absorb moisture from the air, causing the mesh size to increase by up to 1/8 inch.



**For accurate sizing, soak netting in water for 30 minutes before measuring. Nylon absorbs moisture and expands, so wet measurements reflect real-world conditions.**

### NET DEPTH AND MESHERS DEEP

Net depth refers to the distance from the float line (top) to the lead line (bottom) when the net is deployed in the water. This depth is measured either in feet or as MD (Meshes Deep), which indicates the number of mesh openings vertically in the net.

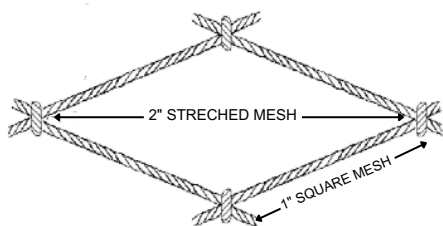


**You can calculate the depth in feet using MD (meshes deep) with the formula:**

$$\text{Depth (ft)} = \text{Stretched Mesh Size (in)} * \text{MD} * \frac{0.866}{12}$$

### MESH SIZE

A mesh is the hole formed in the netting when four strands of twine are knotted together, usually creating a diamond shape in gill nets. Our nets, mesh size is measured as the stretched mesh, meaning the full diagonal opening when pulled tight. Note that the square mesh (is always half the size of the stretched mesh).



The square measurement is half the size of a stretched measure, which is determined from the center of one knot to the center of the next. Our catalogue uses standard methods for stretched measurements based on this knot-to-knot distance.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT MESH SIZE

The required mesh size for a net can vary depending on the size of the target species, as well as local regulations and sustainable fisheries management practices.

- **Target species:** the mesh size of the net should be large enough to allow the head of a target species to pass through but small enough to prevent the fish from swimming all the way through, such that the fishes gills get caught on the twine. This involves knowing the average size of the target species.
- **Regulations:** Consult local fishing regulations and restrictions on where you plan to fish. Fisheries authorities often impose minimum requirements to protect juvenile fish stocks and maintain the sustainability of the fishery.
- **Sustainable practices:** Consider using mesh sizes that minimize bycatch of unwanted or protected species and the safe release of non-target species.
- **Expertise or Preference:** Experienced fishers may choose mesh sizes based on personal fishing techniques or specific conditions to optimize their catch efficiency.



See our recommended mesh sizes for various fish species — including Walleye, Pike, Trout, and more — in the table on page 4.

## MONOFILAMENT VS MULTIFILAMENT

All our netting is made in Taiwan with the highest quality nylon. The netting is doubled salvaged and double knotted for strength, and depth way stretched heat set for maximum knot holding and mesh consistency. Our commercial ready-to-use gill nets are made with either monofilament or twisted (multi-mono) netting. Our custom nets are built in house by hand with either monofilament or multifilament netting.

- **Monofilament Netting**, also called plastic or glass, is made from a single strand of line similar to monofilament fishing line used on a rod and reel.
- **Multifilament netting**, is netting that is made from a string composed of many tiny filaments that are twisted together
- **Twisted (multi-mono) netting** consists of 2 or more monofilament lines that are slightly twisted together.



The decision on which twine to use is largely dependent on personal preference.

- Monofilament is more rigid than multifilament and won't bag as much, allowing you to catch the targeted fish size and reducing bycatch.
- Monofilament is not as strong as multifilament on a pound-for-pound basis.
- Monofilament is easier to keep clean from debris
- Monofilament catches better due to the fish having a harder time seeing the netting in the water.
- Monofilament can be harder on your hands to handle.
- Twisted (multi-mono) netting shares qualities of both types of netting and offers the best of both worlds, but is more expensive than mono and picks up debris.

## HOW TO PICK A TWINE FOR YOUR LAKEFISH NETS

Picking a twine size is a balancing act, with different tradeoffs that you'll have to consider. The most important criteria are it has to be strong enough for the targeted fish. In general, the bigger the fish, the heavier the twine and for smaller fish you can use a lighter twine.



**.52mm or 210/9** are our most popular twines to catch **Arctic Char**.

Also, consider where you will be fishing, is the water rough or calm? For example, in rougher water, you'll want a heavier twine. Where the balancing out comes in, is choosing between nets that will last longer vs catching better. The heavier the twine, the longer the net will last you, but the thicker the twine, the more visible it will be to the fish, reducing the catch rate.

## DRY BREAKING STRENGTH TESTING

Since knots reduce the overall strength, the netting's breaking strength will be lower than that of the twine. The following chart shows the typical breaking strengths from dry testing.



Monofilament	
String Thickness	Dry Break Test (lb)
0.10 to 0.18mm	1 - 4
0.20mm	5
.23mm	6
.25mm	7
.28mm	8
.33mm	12
.40mm	16
.47mm	21
.52mm	25
1x3 (.18mm x 3)	12
.60mm	33

Multifilament	
String Thickness	Dry Break Test (lb)
210/3	10
210/4	13
210/6	20
210/9	28
210/12	42

## OUR RECOMMENDED MESH SIZES FOR VARIOUS FISH SPECIES, INCLUDING WALLEYE, PIKE, TROUT, AND MORE.

Freshwater fish species which are targeted by commercial net fishers include walleye (pickerel), lake whitefish, sauger, goldeye, and northern pike.

The mesh size is crucial for ensuring efficient capture while minimizing bycatch and complying with local regulations. Always adjust mesh size based on the average size of the target fish species in your area and be mindful of local fishing restrictions to protect juvenile stocks.

### COMMON FISH SPECIES IN MANITOBA



Retrieved from: [www.manitobafisheries.com](http://www.manitobafisheries.com)

### RECOMMENDED MESH SIZE FOR SPECIES

Fish Species	Recommended Stretched Mesh Size	Notes
<b>Walleye (Pickerel)</b>	3" to 4"	Ideal for catching adult walleye. Smaller mesh may trap juveniles.
<b>Northern Pike</b>	4" to 6"	Larger mesh prevents capture of smaller pike, ideal for adults.
<b>Lake Trout</b>	4" to 6"	Suitable for adult lake trout, while avoiding smaller individuals.
<b>Yellow Perch</b>	1-1/2" to 2"	Small mesh ensures effective capture of this species.
<b>Smallmouth Bass</b>	3" to 4"	Similar to largemouth, allows for capture of adults.
<b>Largemouth Bass</b>	3" to 4"	Same mesh size as smallmouth bass for adult-sized fish.
<b>Whitefish</b>	3" to 4"	Commonly caught with mid-range mesh sizes.
<b>Lake Whitefish</b>	4-1/2" to 5-1/4"	Same mesh range for whitefish, avoids smaller catches.
<b>Carp, Sturgeon</b>	8" to 11"	Larger mesh size for catching mature carp in deeper waters.
<b>Catfish</b>	8" to 11"	Ideal mesh size for adult catfish in freshwater lakes.

### RESOURCES:

- ✓ [Available Commercial Nets](#) or visit <https://www.lakefish.net/page/nets-stock>
- ✓ [Netting options for Pre-order](#) - To ensure availability, **pre-order at least 3 months in advance**
- ✓ [Use our builder tool to configure your nets](#), or call us to place your order



## COMMERCIAL STYLE MONOFILAMENT NETS READY TO FISH

Our commercial-grade monofilament gill nets are designed for durability and reliability in tough fishing conditions. Key features include:

- **Mesh Sizes:** 3" to 6" stretched mesh.
- **Twine Options:** Monofilament twine 0.23mm, 0.28mm, 0.33mm, or twisted netting (0.18mm x 3 strands) for extra strength.
- **Lengths:** 100YD, 80YD.
- **Preconfigured Float & Leads:** Floats and lead setups for optimal performance.
- **Premium Quality:** Made with high-quality materials for long-lasting use.



### GILL NET HANGING DEPTHS VS MESH SIZES

Use the chart to check the number of meshes you need for different depth's (in feet) for various mesh sizes.

Mesh Count Guide for Desired Hanging Depths (1/2 Basis)							
Deep	Stretched Mesh Size						
	3"	3-1/2"	4"	4-1/2"	5"	5-1/2"	6"
3'	14	12	10	9	8	8	7
3-1/2'	16	14	12	11	10	9	8
4'	18	16	14	12	11	10	9
5'	23	20	17	15	14	13	12
6'	28	24	21	18	17	15	14
7'	32	28	24	22	19	18	16
8'	37	32	28	25	22	20	18
10'	46	40	35	31	28	25	23
12'	55	48	42	37	33	30	28
14'	65	55	48	43	39	35	32
16'	74	63	55	49	44	40	37
18'	83	71	62	55	50	45	42
20'	92	79	69	62	55	50	46

### CARP NETS

Designed for targeting carp, these nets are crafted with durable 0.60mm monofilament to withstand tough fishing conditions. They are fully equipped with leads and floats and ready to use.



**CHECK OUR COMMERCIAL WEBBING  
AVAILABLE FOR PREORDER**

Our commercial webbing in stock.



**CHECK AVAILABLE COMMERCIAL  
NETS**

Our commercial nets in stock.



**Need Help?**

Talk to Our Product Advisor

**Alex Jackson**

[ajackson@lakefish.net](mailto:ajackson@lakefish.net)

## CUSTOM GILL NETS

Tailored for your fishing needs, our ready-to-fish gill nets offer flexibility and performance. All custom nets are made to order, with our standard #30 leadline for ballast, #200 floats or 3/8" floatline for flotation.

Let our team know the mesh size, depth, twine (see charts with available netting), and length. We will do the rest.

**Build time:** The lead time varies between 2 and 6 weeks.  
Contact us for a quote and estimated lead time.



## ADDITIONAL NET CONFIGURATION OPTIONS

Our gill nets can be customized to suit specific freshwater fishing needs:

- **Flotation:** Choose between *floatline* (available in various diameters and buoyancies) or individual *floats*, which come in different sizes to adjust the net's buoyancy according to your fishing environment.
- **Ballast:** Select from *leadline*, available in multiple calibers and weights for optimal sinking, or individual *lead* weights, which come in varying sizes to achieve the desired net depth and stability.
- **Sideline:** Available with *sideline-only* configurations if you want to add your own flotation and ballast.
- **Length:** Nets can be constructed in lengths ranging from 10 to 300 feet, providing flexibility for different fishing areas.

***Each option allows for tailored net performance in any freshwater environment.***

We offer a variety of webbing options for building custom gill nets, available in both monofilament and multifilament twines. The following tables outline the stretched mesh sizes, twine strengths, and net depths available for each mesh size, allowing you to choose the optimal configuration for your specific fishing needs.

### RAINBOW TROUT NETS TO HARVEST

Our Rainbow Trout Harvest Nets are specifically designed for efficient and sustainable commercial trout fishing. Built with premium materials, these nets provide the strength and durability needed to handle the rigors of trout harvesting while minimizing damage to the fish.

Fish Length	Fish Weight	Stretch Mesh Size
9" - 11"	Up to 100Z	2-1/2"
12" - 14"	100Z - 180Z	3"
14" - 18"	1LB - 2LBS	3-1/2"
18" - 22"	2LBS - 4LBS	4"
22" - 26"	4LBS - 7LBS	4-1/2"

### STURGEON NETS

These nets utilize strong multifilament twine **(210/12) with a depth of 7'** to endure demanding conditions. Tailored for strength, we offer various mesh sizes to accommodate specific fishing needs. Each net is fully prepared with floatline or floats options.

### WHALE / SEAL NETS

These nets utilize strong multifilament twine **(210/12) with a depth of 7'** to endure demanding conditions. Tailored for strength, we offer various mesh sizes to accommodate specific fishing needs. Each net is fully prepared with floatline or floats options.

## AVAILABLE WEBBING OPTIONS FOR CUSTOM NETS: MONOFILAMENT & MULTIFILAMENT

We offer a variety of webbing options for building custom gill nets, available in both monofilament and multifilament twines. The following tables outline the stretched mesh sizes, twine strengths, and net depths available for each mesh size, allowing you to choose the optimal configuration for your specific fishing needs.

### COMMERCIAL WEBBING AVAILABILITY



Use the QR code to quickly access our selection of commercial webbing. Browse through the available options to customize your nets and explore our stocked inventory.

### Need Help?

#### Talk to Our Product Advisor

Alex Jackson  
[ajackson@lakefish.net](mailto:ajackson@lakefish.net)

Available Monofilament Webbing Options for Custom Net Build

Stretched Mesh Size	0.10mm - 0.18mm	0.23mm	0.28mm	0.33mm	0.40mm	0.47mm	0.52mm
1/2"	0.10mm - 6.0'						
5/8"	0.10mm - 6.0'						
3/4"	0.13mm - 6.0'						
1"	0.13mm - 6.0'	6.0'					
1-1/2"	0.15mm - 6.0'	6.0'	6.0'				
2"	0.18mm - 6.0'	6.0'	6.0'				
2-1/2"		6.0'	6.0'				
3"		6.0'	6.0'	6.0'		6.5'	6.0' / 8.5'
3-1/2"			6.0'	6.0'	6.0'	6.5'	6.5'
4"		6.0'	6.0'	6.0' / 8.0'			6.0' / 8.0'
4-1/2"		6.0'	6.0'	6.0'	6.0'		6.0' / 8.0'
5"					6.0'		6.0' / 8.5'
5-1/2"		6.0'			12.0'		6.0' / 9.5'
6"							5.5'

Available Multifilament Webbing Options for Custom Net Build

Stretched Mesh Size	210/3	210/4	210/6	210/9	210/12
1"	6.5'				
1-1/2"	6.5'				
2"	6.5'				
2-1/2"	6.5'				
3"	6.5'	6.5'	6.0'		
3-1/2"	6.5'	6.5'	6.5' / 9.0'	8.0'	
3-3/4"	6.0'	6.0'			
4"		6.0'	6.0' / 8.0'	6.0' / 8.0'	
4-1/4"		6.0'			
4-1/2"		6.0'	6.0' / 8.0'	6.0' / 8.0'	
5"		6.5'	6.0' / 8.5'	6.0' / 8.0'	
5-1/2"		6.5'	6.0' / 9.5'	6.0' / 8.0' / 9.5'	
6"			6.5'	8.0'	7.5'
7"					7.5'
8"					7.0'
9"					7.0'
10"					7.0'
12"					8.0'
14"					7.0'



**Build time:** The lead time varies between 2 and 6 weeks.

Contact us for a quote and estimated lead time.

### MORE OPTIONS

Our flexible build options can accommodate a wide range of commercial fishing applications. Please contact our team for further assistance and to discuss lead times for your custom net orders. We can customize the webbing to match the exact depth you need.