



Jacklight - 2016.023.001



Summer is here and so are the fish! In honour of Father's Day, the Museum is featuring this jacklight rig donated by John Macfie.

Jacklights were used to illegally spear Lake Trout at night during spawning season, when fish lay their eggs in the shallow waters of the Georgian Bay. According to the artifact's tag written by Macfie, "[a] wire basket suspended from the hoop (now missing, but bits of this wire are still attached) was filled with resinous pine chips which, when ignited, cast light on the water allowing for spearman crouched in the bow to see and spear fish."

Since this activity was illegal, fishermen ensured their jacklights and spears remained well hidden. This rig was found in some bushes during the development of Killbear Provincial Park in the 1960s, and was possibly hidden by fishermen who did not want to be caught by the MNR for illegal fishing practices. Jacklights declined in popularity when electronic and submersible lanterns were introduced in the 1940s.

The Museum does not recommend illegal fishing practices, but we do encourage you to take your grandfather, father or uncle out this Father's Day for some quality fishing! You can also bring your family to our new exhibition, *Under the Waves: The Waters of Georgian Bay*, at the end of the month, to learn more about fishing and the Bay!

Happy Fishing!