

## Point-n-Shoot Photo Tip #5 by Dave Dawson

Hopefully you are having much more luck on the water this summer than I am and are taking advantage of plenty of photo opportunities by digitally recording those events on camera.

The photo tip in this article returns to the topic of lighting and is intended to help you **capture great photos in full sun by observing the location of the sun before snapping the shots**. This tip should be very obvious, but plenty of club member photos are submitted with poor lighting and heavy shadowing.



***No shadows appear on the author's face or on his muskie in this well lit 'money hours' shot. A Minnesota marketing firm discovered this photo on our [MCW website](#) a few years ago and got permission to use it in a newspaper ad!***

During the day, the sun is the primary light source when taking pictures. It is best to position the lucky angler supporting a muskie with the sun shining directly on him/her. Try to avoid shadows by properly positioning the sun on the angler.

Be sure to think of the lighting well before the first photos are taken. After you catch your muskie prize and it is safely in the net with the hooks removed, discuss the lighting for the photos that are about

to be taken. Before picking up the muskie for the photo shoot determine which end of the boat offers the best lighting or consider turning the boat with the trolling motor so your preferred spot is well lit.

The few hours after sunrise and then again before sunset have been identified as 'money hours' by professional photographers. The sun is low in the sky during these times and has a tendency to really highlight the scene. Fantastic shots can be captured during this time so be sure to take advantage of these optimal moments. The shadow to avoid during these times is the one the camera person can cast on the subject.

When the sun is high in the sky, especially around mid day when it is almost directly overhead, shadows under the angler's cap very often darken his/her entire face. This is a time to consider turning the cap backwards, tipping its bill up, removing it entirely, or simply snapping the photo with the camera's flash enabled (most preferred). Consider using your old point-and-shoot digital camera for this since its flash is superior to the LED flash in most of today's camera phones which just aren't intense enough to conceal those shadows.

When preparing for that perfect shot in direct sunlight, it is important for both the camera person and the angler to work together to ensure the best lighting. If, for example, the boat has turned slightly so the sun isn't shining directly on the angler and the camera person notices his/her

nose is casting a shadow, fine tune the lighting by asking him/her to turn slightly to eliminate those shadows. If the angler turns for better lighting, remember to move the camera so s/he is still looking directly into it. Then fill the camera's frame with the muskie and ensure the lucky angler's smiling face is entirely in the shot.

Remember that do-overs are not possible after the muskie is released so be sure to snap several photos to give you the best chance of capturing a good shot. Know how your camera's flash feature works and consider taking some photos with and without the camera's flash enabled.

Good luck on the water for the remainder of the season. Whenever you get the chance, try to capture fantastic photos of the muskies you and your fishing partners catch that include great lighting. And be sure to smile and have fun!



***This shot of the author isn't bad, but could be better. While the muskie is shown with decent natural sunlight, the top of its head and snout is dark with shadows plus the angle of the sun on Dave's nose causes shadowing on his face. Also a fairly heavy shadow appears under his cap and along the side of his face. All of this shadowing can be prevented by using the camera's flash.***