

Point-n-Shoot Photo Tip #6

by Dave Dawson

With our muskie season now in prime-time, the heaviest fish of the year are out there waiting for you to catch them! Photo opportunities at this time of year can be among the most important of the year.

The photo tip in this article was suggested to me by a muskie fishing friend who is also a professional photographer. He recommends that we fill our camera's display screen with the subject and **capture good quality, non-distorted and non-blurry shots using your widest camera lens setting without activating your zoom.**

I had to do a little research for this tip since I wasn't familiar with what my photographer friend was referring to. It turns out that on many point and shoot cameras, making use of the digital zoom feature can cause many of the following issues:

- Stray pixels around the perimeter record improperly which produces purple edges in a photo.

- Left and right sides of shots can appear stretched and distorted. This produces disappointing shots that can not be corrected.
- With the camera lens zoomed, the shutter speed is reduced and can prevent you from capturing that unique situation that only appeared for a very short time.
- Blurry shots are very common and very disappointing with the camera lens zoomed. Using a tripod can help prevent these blurry shots, but most of us won't have a tripod ready or even available.

Instead, manually "zoomed" shots are especially easy when photographing your fishing partner holding a muskie. Thinking about your muskie fishing experiences, even in the biggest boat you've fished from, you're never very far from your fishing partner so, to avoid all of the camera zoom feature problems listed above, move closer to your fishing partner with your camera and fill its display with the scene you're trying to

capture. This will produce the best quality shot. As an alternative you can take a non-zoomed shot with your subject well inside the camera's display frame and later crop that shot using photo editing software. These cropped shots still offer very high quality without any distortion.

Use this photo tip along with the other photo tips shared in prior *MCW Release* issues to help ensure you capture great shots of you and your fishing partners. As I always say, 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 great shot. Consider the lighting for your shot. Taking a few shots with and without your camera's flash enabled gives you the best chance of capturing that perfect shot.

If you haven't put your boat away for the season, good luck to you on those few remaining muskie adventures. The fat muskie opportunities will be no better than now. Your MCW friends would love to see a great photo of you smiling with your biggest muskie of the season... and maybe even your life!



You decide: The 30.25" walleye replica mount photos above (sorry it's not a muskie pic but I was pressed for time) attempt to show the difference between a non-zoomed shot (left pic taken just 4 feet from the walleye) and a fully zoomed shot (right pic taken approximately 12 feet from the same walleye). Both shots are fairly clear, but the non-zoomed one overlaps its backdrop, possibly portraying a view of the walleye that looks larger than the same walleye in the zoomed shot. That observation alone might convince you to avoid using your camera's zoom feature and instead take the shot a step or 2 closer.