

## Point-n-Shoot Photo Tip #9 by Dave Dawson

Deciding whether or not to keep your sunglasses on for a muskie photo is obviously a personal choice. The photo tip in this article is somewhat subjective with some strong opinions on both sides of the topic. When you decide to capture the moment, it only makes sense to try to get the best photos you possibly can.

While doing research for this article, I encountered some spirited opposition to what many "experts" recommend. It is with nervous anticipation that I ask for an open mind as I share what educated photographers, photo-journalists, and magazine editors say about photos with the subject wearing sunglasses.

Some circumstances may require people to always wear corrective lenses. And an occasional situation may occur where sunglasses are ok or maybe even desirable, but for those that have the option, **your best choice is usually to remove those sunglasses for lifetime-keepsake photos.** Good photos

should remind us about the excited happiness we felt during those magical muskie moments.

While there's little debate that your sunglasses make you look cool, this is no time for a Las Vegas tinted lens poker face. The eyes tell the story and complete the photo. With eyes obstructed by dark sunglasses, there's no story to see. It's just a redundant photo of another person holding a big fish.

Share the excitement with a broad smile and awe-struck facial features focusing on adrenalin-charged eyes. These are the ingredients for great muskie shots.

Do-overs are truly not possible after your muskie prize has been released. If you're one of those people always wearing sunglasses in photos, consider experimenting for a while by taking photos with AND without your sunglasses on. You might not want to do it, but after you have some photos to compare, you and your friends will see that it really does make a difference.

From years of experience before having Lasik surgery, Managing Editor of Musky Hunter Magazine, Steve Heiting,

suggests that if you require corrective lenses all the time, consider enhancing your muskie release routine by having your regular glasses handy along with your release tools and camera. This allows you to quickly swap glasses just before pulling the muskie out of the net for the photo shoot.

While capturing that perfect shot is the ultimate goal, taking extra time should not be part of the equation. It is important that you're ready to snap a bunch of photos in rapid succession given any photo opportunity. Take your sunglasses off with your muskie safely in the net. Practice makes perfect, so if you're interested in good photos of big fish with you showing the exhilaration in your eyes, it's worth practicing even on the smaller ones so when the time comes, you have the process dialed in.



**Left: The author's eyes and smile shows the excitement of catching this beautiful muskie. Top (right): Kurt may not have any photos without his sunglasses on. Maybe this year... Bottom (right): Steve's delight is very evident in this shot with him wearing his regular glasses.**

