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THE BIG FOUR COINCIDES



As I sit here staring out the window at Alder Lake - the **BIG QUESTION IS** - When will the ice be out? Will we have open water or will we be jigging through the ice for walleye? The phone has been ringing off the hook with this question. Have no fear, "the ice will be off most lakes in the area by opening day." If the weather doesn't change we'll still have ice on the larger lakes like Big Trout and Fence Lake.

Some people are saying the walleye will spawn under the ice or not spawn at all, but I venture to say that the peak walleye spawn will be the first week of May, except for the larger and deeper lakes which could be as much as a week later.

As most of us already know - the Native Americans are exercising their off reservation treaty rights for the eighth consecutive spring. Last year 381 Tribal Members participated in spearing during the spring and harvested 23,469 fish. 98% of the catch (23,018 fish) was walleye. The numbers of other game fish harvested were 185 musky, 147 bass, 41 northern, 0 sturgeon and 1 trout. Average lengths were 15.9 for walleye and 36.1 for musky.

This coming Saturday, May 2nd is the **BIG DAY** for rod & reel fishermen - "Opening is finally here!"

So it looks like **THE BIG FOUR** - ice-out, spawning, spearing and opening day will all be happening at the same time. IT should be interesting!

Don't forget the Zebco Crappie Tournament coming May 16 - June 30. "Big Crappie Day" will kick off the tournament on May 16. Manitowish Waters will sponsor 181 fish with a total dollar amount of \$10,375. Get more info at **The Junction**.

Good Luck and
Take a Kid Fishin'.

Bob

THE RUSH TO SLOW DOWN

Ken Reinicke

It's nice to reflect back on your "younger" days because it makes you feel like you've learned so much. Could I have really been as dumb about things as I think I was? Yes, probably more than I even realize today. Dumb about what you say? Mostly everything but fishing in particular. And all the phases that go along with it.

For instance, planning. Before the season opener a person should sit down by themselves and look out into the air and try to remember all the things you said you were going to do and do right this year. How can I get that baitwell door to stay open when I lift it so I can just drop those fish in without holding the door open with the back of my hand!

Do I have all of the tools and items I need to make repairs out in the boat? Oil? Cutting pliers? Sponge? Small adjustable wrench? What else?

Is the boat set up right? What about making the anchormates easier to operate, get that anchor rope to come in easier. Remember the trash can, oil the seat sockets, oil the lock slots and hinges on the doors, what else?

Trailer bearings. Get those bearing buddies filled up. grease and oil the hitch, touch up those paint chips so they don't rust. **LIGHTS, LIGHTS, LIGHTS.** God, some day make lights that never need to be repaired!

Reels. Do I need new washers for the drag mechanism? Is the level wind worn? **NEW LINE, LIGHTER LINE!** Grease the inside of those worm gears.

Rods. How many guides need to be replaced? Should have had that done last winter! Some thread is coming loose. Should I have them rewound or just touch them up with glue? That's what I did last year. Or was it the last two years? Couldn't be three years, could it? Cork slides on one rod. That can be glued. Thank heavens for the new composite handles. And I'm going to get a new casting glove for those Musky rods. When your hand gets soft from having water on it all day you'll appreciate the protection that a glove affords. Just look at the scars on the knuckles of your left hand.

Light rubber boots in the front locker of the boat. Always come in handy! Mosquito spray, minnow nets, hook remover, check the cords on the net, flashlight, **IT'S A DARN GOOD THING THEY MAKE BOATS BIG ENOUGH TO HAUL ALL THIS PARAPHERNALIA AROUND!** Must be a fortune tied up in all of this. **WHOA! INSURANCE!** Do I have proper coverage? And what about accidents? Just what I need, another monthly payment!

Polarized sunglasses, rainsuit. McClellan should make a list like this and post it on the outside of his front door. I can see the headline. All the things you forgot that I didn't. **COME ON IN!**

I hope this might have helped you out a bit. I'm going to go back through it so I can get ready. Funny but I feel I've done this now for a long time. You'd think a person would learn.

"Good Grief, Did I register the boat?"

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NEWSLETTER

Guips and Tips from Area Guides

MANITOWISH WATERS AREA

*Bob McClellan - Guide - Newsletter Publisher
Junction Tackle and Gift
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545
715-543-2776*

It was a mild winter here in the north this year, but it looks like Mother Nature doesn't want the season to end. With less than a week to go until fishing season opens, Alder Lake is still over half ice covered. Walleye have been getting thicker every night since the 20th of April as they start their staggering prior to spawn here on Alder Lake. On the 23rd of April there were 100's of walleye on the shore, but mostly small, up to about 2 pounds.

Fawn Lake should be the first lake to open this year on the Manitowish Chain, due to all the ice holes that were drilled in April by crappie fishermen. Crappie action was great through the ice until the 15th, when the ice became quite hazardous to be on, due to warmer weather and rain.

It looks like ice-out, spawning and the opening of the game fish season are going to coincide this year. If you live, rent or have a cottage on a rocky shore or channel, you probably won't have to launch the boat to catch your limit of walleye in the Manitowish Waters area. Remember - the daily bag is five on walleye, but all lakes on the chain have a daily bag of three except Fawn and Stone.

If you aren't fortunate enough to live by a rocky shore, I would recommend trying the following lakes and locations.

Alder Lake is an excellent spring walleye lake. Try the rocky shore on the SW side and also the center rock bars. By mid-May try the weeds on the north end and also the two weedy bars just out from shore on the north end. Toward the end of May try the weeds on the east shore. The weeds on the north end also produced some nice crappie last year in May.

Clear Lake is another spring favorite. The rocks along the SE shore should be excellent around opening, as well as many of the shallow bars down the center of the lake. As the month progresses and the weeds start to green, try fishing the cabbage and coontail that is found in the three bays on the west shore, the weeds on the NE end and also the weedy bay on the SE end. If you're looking for crappie this is an excellent lake for May crappie. Try fishing the same weedy area for crappie but, remember to move into the weeds and not to concentrate on edges as you would for walleye. Clear is also a good choice for early season musky.

Fawn Lake is usually slow for walleye, but is one of the hot lakes if you're looking for crappie. It's also a good spring lake for early season musky.

Island Lake is a premier walleye lake in the spring. Fish the rocky SW shore, around the islands and also the river mouth of the Manitowish River. Toward the middle of the month try the weeds where the Manitowish River and Rice Creek enter. The two river areas are also excellent for spring crappie and

early season musky.

Little Star Lake will have good walleye action on the rocky shores along the south shore and also the south shore of the east and west bays. In the evening try just out from the channel to Manitowish Lake.

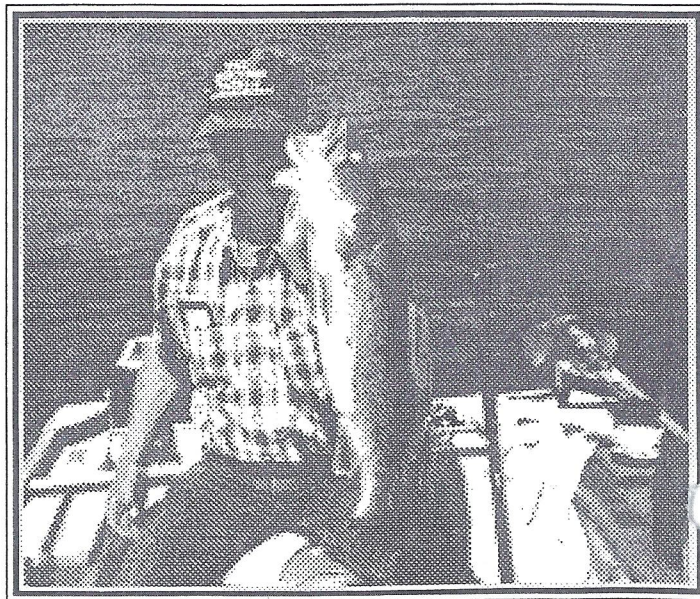
Manitowish Lake will have good walleye action by the 51 bridge, and also off Dingles Point where the Trout River enters. Also try the rocks just off the island in front of the Bayou and the rocks on the south shore before you get to the narrows heading to Little Star and also the rocks between the river and Little Manitowish. By the middle of the month try the weeds by the entrance to Little Manitowish and the weeds by Deer Park and the Blue Bayou. If you're looking for some big crappie, try little Manitowish in May. The mouth of the Manitowish is an excellent early musky spot as well as the weeds by Little Manitowish and also the weeds around Little Manitowish.

Rest Lake is one of my favorite early season lakes and will be a hot producer this season. Fish the rocks on the west shore just before the dam, and also the rocks by Red Feather Lodge. The channel mouth of the Manitowish on the south end is also a good area. Later in the month fish the stumps and weeds on the North and NW end for walleye; this is also a good area for crappie and early season musky.

Spider Lake is a sleeper, but an excellent early season walleye lake, due to the many rocky shorelines. Many a 10-pound walleye has come out of this lake over the years, by fishermen fishing off shore. If you see rock, try em!

Stone Lake is also a good spring lake. Fish the shore by Beaumont's Island, the rocks off the point on the south shore just out from the entrance to Spider and the rock bar off Fox Island. Later in the month try the new weeds to the west of Fox Island and also the weeds to the south of Beaumont's island. Stone Lake also has a good population of slab crappies which can be caught in the cabbage weed by Fox Island and also in the weeds leading to Fawn Lake. If it's early season musky you're looking for, Stone is a good choice. Fish the shallow weeds that cover the North end and also the weeds to the south of both islands, as well as the inlet and outlet areas.

Wild Rice Lake should be good along the rocky south shore. By mid May this lake has a good growth of new weeds and can produce some nice catches of walleye. This is also one of the



premier lakes on the chain for crappie fishermen and produces alot of nice slabs.

Lead Pike Lake is also an excellent spring walleye lake. Fish the rocky shoreline along the south shore. Later in the month you'll find fish by the brush and trees along the south shore and by the weeds on the north and west end, also by the weeds on the shallow bar out from the public launching area. This lake also has a good population of crappie.

Have a great season.

Bob



BOULDER JUNCTION AREA

TOM SWANSON'S GUIDE SERVICE

P.O. Box 144

Boulder Junction, WI 54512 715-385-2168

Will the ice be gone by opening of season? I think that's the number one question I've been asked in the past two weeks. It looks to me like it may be nip and tuck on Trout Lake, but the others should be out if we can just get away from that 32 degree temperature mark at night.

April seems to be the longest month of winter this year, but ice fishermen got an extended season with some very gratifying results. **Allequash Lake** produced a lot of nice bluegill and crappies during April using orange rockers and wax worms. It had to be one of the busiest lakes in our area.

There's not too much doubt that most walleye will be taken with light 1/16 oz. or 1/8 oz. jigs tipped with a small minnow, on or near their rock and gravel spawning areas. Crank baits could also work very well this year. By the second week-end of season and then for the next couple of weeks your walleye will be moving to the weeds and snags where a lot of their feeding takes place. The following are some good May fishing lakes in the Boulder Junction area.

g Lake is an excellent May walleye lake. Fish the rocks to the right and left of the moss bar, the shallow rocks out from **Rice Creek** entrance and the rocks by **Cat-Tail Cove**. Later in the

month most fish are caught at the west end of the lake, along the state camp grounds and into **Papoose Bay**. Fresh weed growth in this area seems to hold a good number of fish. **Big Lake** is also a good spring musky lake. Best action will be found in 6 to 8 feet of water on shallow weed flats and gravel bars. Sunny days seem to bring the best action this time of year. Small spinner baits, such as Rizzo Wizzs, and Mepps #3 & #4 or shallow running crank baits such as Cranes, Slammers and Grandmas. Crappie action is also superb at this time of year in **Papoose Bay** and by the **Rice Creek** inlet.

Palmer Lake produces a lot of nice walleye in the cabbage weeds of **Rainbow Bay** and also **South Bay**. Weedless jigs and fat-head minnows fished slowly through the weed growth will produce good action. It's also a good musky lake. **Palmer** is a very dark water lake and for best results use small bucktails with lots of bright colors. Another excellent lake for crappie using small minnows suspended from a bobber or tube jigs. Bright colors work best.

High and **Fishtrap** are excellent choices for walleye and musky during cloudy days and low light periods. Fish the weed edges with 1/16 oz. jig & minnow along Frog and Bear Islands and also the weeds in front of Forest Lodge. The same water can be very productive for musky using small brown, black or gray bucktails. These lakes are good crank bait lakes also - try short twitches to trigger a strike. A good lake for crappie with tubes or small twister tails. Try the mouth of the **Manitowish River** on **Fishtrap** by Wittig's Resort and also the weeds by shore in front of Forest Lodge on **High**.

Trout Lake is an excellent spring walleye lake (if the ice goes out). This will be one of the last lakes in our area to be free of ice so key to the rock and gravel areas early and the weed flats after about the 10th or 15th. Try the weeds in front of Coon's Resort, the mouth of the **Trout River** and the north bar. These weed flats will produce large pike (10 lbs and larger), as well as perch (12" to 13") in good numbers.

For quality fishing, whatever the season, practice catch and release all year 'round.

TOM

FISHING REGULATION UPDATE FOR OUR AREA

Season's opening May 2nd

WALLEYE - size limit 15"

except: Big Crooked, Big Muskellunge, Birch, Boulder, Harris, Laura, Manitowish Chain (includes Alder, Clear, Fawn, Island, Little Star, Manitowish, Spider, Stone, Rest, & Wild Rice Lakes & Rice Creek from Island to Hwy K.), Oxbow, Presque Isle Chain (includes Averill, Presque Isle, & Van Vliet), Rock, Squaw, Turtle (North&South), & in Iron County, Island, Owl, Pine, & the Flambeau Flowage, all of which have no minimum size.

WALLEYE - Daily bag is 5 fish

Except - The following lakes which will have a 3 bag limit.

VILAS COUNTY LAKES:

Alder, Armour, Big Arbor Vitae, Big Crooked, Big Portage, Big Sand, Big St. Germain, Black Oak, Catfish, Clear, Crab, Cranberry, Eagle, Harris, Island, Jag, Kentuck, Lake Content, Laura, Lac Vieux Desert, Little Portage, Little St. Germain, Little Star, Mamie, Manitowish, Oxbow, Palmer, Rest, Snipe, Spider, Star, Tenderfoot, Big Trout, White Sand, Wild Rice, and Wolf PLUS ALL LAKES ON THE Lac Du Flambeau Indian Reservation and all border line lakes.

(continued on next page)

IRON COUNTY LAKES:

Gile Flowage, Lake of the Falls, Long, Trude & The Turtle-Flambeau Flowage.

The following lakes will have a 2 bag limit:**VILAS COUNTY:** Anvil, Ballard, Big, Big, Big Muskellunge, Boulder, Fishtrap, Forest, High, Little Arbor Vitae, Long, Lynx, North Turtle, Papoose, Plum, Presque Isle Chain, Sparkling, Squaw & Twin Lakes Chain.**IRON COUNTY:** Pike, Pine, & Spider.**BASS SEASON IS CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY FROM MAY 2 - JUNE 20.****LARGEMOUTH & SMALLMOUTH BASS - Minimum size 12"****Daily bag - 5 (JUNE 21-MAR 1)****EXCEPT:****NEBISH LAKE** - Smallmouth bass open all year. No minimum size, but smallmouth from 9" to 12" may not be kept.**PALLETTE LAKE** - Smallmouth bass season open all year. Daily bag 2, minimum size 16".**SPRUCE LAKE:** Largemouth bass season open all year with a daily bag of 2.**ONE MAN LAKE** - Minimum size 18" & a 1 daily bag limit on LMB & SMB.**WILSON LAKE:** Largemouth bass from 12" to 16" may not be kept**MUSKY SEASON OPENS MAY 23RD NORTH OF HWY 10.****Size limit - 32" Bag limit - 1****(Excluding Wi./Mi. boundary waters - which opens May 2nd & has a size limit of 30" Bag limit 1)****EXCEPT:** (Vilas County) Allequash, Big Lake, Big Muskellunge, Crab, Kentucky, and Papoose - Size limit 40"**Trout Lake** - Size Limit 45"**(Iron County) Flambeau Flowage, Gile Flowage, Mercer, Moose Lake, Pine, Springstead, Trude, and Wilson** - Size limit 40"

All lakes on the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation & border line lakes have a 40" size limit.

Long Lake in Mercer - Size limit 34"**NORTHERN Bag limit - 5 Size limit - none****LAC DU FLAMBEAU AREA***Northbound Fishing Outfitters**Marty Papke - Guide**7502 River Road**Lake Tomahawk, WI. 54539 715-277-3553*

Opening weekend and once again the game fish season is about to go into full swing. If you're looking for some great early season fishing, then try the Lac du Flambeau area lakes. With ice still covering many of the lakes in our area and less than a week until season opens, it looks like most walleye will be on or near spawning areas.

ROCKS AND WEEDS

Opening week I would concentrate my fishing time to rocky shorelines and points which are prime spawning areas, but as the month progresses and spawning ends I will start to search out old weed beds and look for new weed growth. North ends of lakes would be the first area to check on as these areas will warm the quickest and allow the fresh growth of weeds which bring fish.

Cabbage, preferably broadleaf and tobacco would be an excellent find for holding fish. The key is fresh weeds, since these bring in small aquatic creatures, bait fish, and **WALLEYE'S!** Move, move, and move some more until you locate fish. Key holding areas aren't as important in spring as they are throughout the rest of the year.

BAIT PRESENTATION

Jigs and minnows are my first pick. I prefer to use a 3" redbait chub which is very tough and in most cases, natural to the lakes I'm fishing, but fatheads or small sucker minnows will

work equally as well. Stick with a light 1/16 or 1/8 oz. jig for your bait presentation and also to give you the edge in feeling those light hits. For sliding through weeds and around snags and rocks I prefer to use SloPoke jigs by Bait-Rigs. It's weight centered body is incredible for moving through obstacles. Colors can be confusing at times. Remember, florals, hot pink, chartreuse and orange are all good colors, but you have to experiment; some days one is better than the other.

Crank baits can also be very deadly this time of year. Shad Raps, Wally Divers, Ratlin' Raps, etc. are all excellent baits for several weeks after the spawn when walleyes will be shallow. It's not uncommon to find them in a foot of water or less.

MARTY'S HOT LAKE CHOICES

If it's walleye you're after, try fishing the rocky spawning areas and then the weed edges, looking for fresh green weeds. **Flambeau, Pokegama, Big & Little Crawling Stone and Long Interlocken** are all excellent choices on the Flambeau Chain. **Ike Walton, White Sand, Squirrel, Buckskin and the Sugarbush Chain** are also excellent choices in the Flambeau area. Remember the daily bag is three walleye and the minimum size limit is 15" on all Lakes **on and bordering** the reservation.



If northern is your bag, try fishing **Flambeau, Pokegama and Fence** with a jig and minnow or small spinner baits. The action should be hot & heavy in any of the many weed areas.

Crappie and perch fishing is also superb in the Flambeau area in May. **Gunlock, Buckskin, Amik, Squaw, White Sand, Fence, and Moss** are all good choices.

Musky season opens May 23rd and early season fishing is great on some of the shallower weedy lakes in our area. Some good choices to try are **Buckskin, Squaw and Middle Sugarbush**. On the larger lakes like **White Sand, Little Trout, Flambeau, Pokegama and Fence** you should concentrate on the shallow weedy bars and bays.

It won't be long and June will be here. Warm nights mean some night fishing for bass and walleye. Join me next month and learn some new tricks for taking night-eyes with leeches and slip floats. Remember, catch a lot of fish and have fun, but remember the resource and release a few too!

MARTY

A slow presentation and spot hopping will help you locate and catch fish. Don't become a one-method Pete and only use one bait. This one important point can make the difference in catching a few fish or lots of fish!

MERCER AREA REPORT

Phill Graser - Guide
PO Box 99
Mercer, WI 54547 715-476-3570

It's Time! Let's Do It!

With Old Man Winter holding on just a little longer than normal this year, it looks like we'll be fishin' for pre-spawn walleyes. And that's good because they'll be feeding and there should be some nice-sized females taken. Keep your limit of two to three-pounders and release those over three up to six-pounders, as walleyes in this range will reproduce the best.

After you've taken your limit of walleyes, why not try something different? Remember last summer all those weed-choked backbays? Well, those same bays will be holding some darned nice northern pike up until about the Memorial Day weekend at the end of May. These fish will not only be easy to catch but will readily take artificial lures. As far as equipment is concerned, all you'll need is a medium-action bass rod and either an open face or baitcasting reel spooled with 12 to 15-lb. test line.

As far as lures are concerned, a #3 Mepps or a #9 Rapala or a couple of 1/4-oz. Boonie-Bait "uncs" (willowleaf blade) will produce for you. Work any of these lures in water depths of 1- to 5 feet right over the old dead weedbeds and you'll complete your day's fishing with some added fun.

The **Turtle-Flambeau Flowage** will produce many nice stringers of walleyes on opening weekend. Work any of the deeper hole "up river" with a 1/16 to 1/8-oz. jig tipped with a small to medium-sized fathead minnow. The same set-up will work well on the south shoreline of "**Horseshoe**" and also in the **river channel** between "**Boonies Mound**" and the opening to **Horseshoe**. This method will work up until about the 20th of the month and then start working the shallow flats areas with any type of cover just as long as these areas are near the River channel.

Also, toward the end of May, look for some outstanding smallmouth bass action to start. Last year was super for smallies and this season should be even better.

Opening weekend will show good action for walleyes on most of the Mercer area lakes with **Fisher, Cedar, Mercer, Pine, Echo** and **Tank Lakes** leading the way.

Toward the end of the month, look for largemouth bass fishing to be "hot" on **Fisher, Mercer** and **Tank Lakes**.

Crappie action will be good to excellent all month long on either the **Flowage** or any of the Natural Lakes.

Fish the reeds in any of the shallow bays with a 1/64th to 1/32-oz. jig under a bobber and tipped with either a small minnow or a one-inch Twister Tail.

The Saturday before Memorial Day is the "Musky Opener". Waters that will show the best action are **Moose, Mercer, Pine** and **Fisher Lakes**. Work those shallow weedy bays with either small suckers or chubs or 1/4 to 3/8-oz. lures. Stay small to medium with your offerings at this time of the year and you'll have action!

This is going to be a great year and I can't wait for it to start! See you on the water!

"Keep movin' and Keep throwin",
Phill

Russ Smith
P.O. Box 462

Minocqua, WI 54568 715-356-5565

I know that many of us Musky Nuts have attended Sport Shows, Musky Club meetings, and seminars this past winter and spring hoping to learn a few more tips on how to capture the King of freshwater. I bet one thing that was pointed out, was that you should go to small baits like a No. 5 spinner for instance. While this is true to some extent, it is some what misleading. My experience with spring musky fishing is just the opposite. Being a walleye guide in May, I always sight a few monster musky while bringing in a cigar-sized walleye. Even though the wall-eye was small, 12 to 18 inches, this is a lot bigger than the lure used by most early season musky anglers.

My experience has proven that if you are looking to catch small muskys in the spring, throw small spinners and small crank baits. If you're looking for that fish of a lifetime, try using bigger lures.

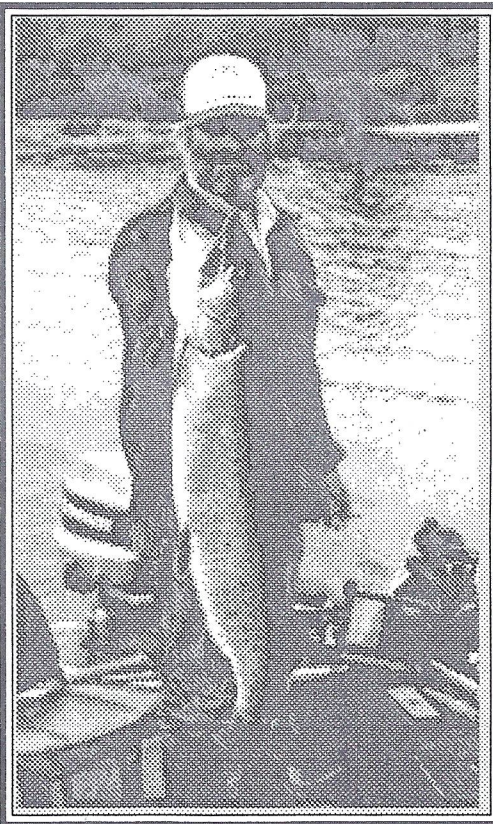
I've caught some of my biggest early season musky on my 9" Smity jerk bait. This can be worked very slowly over the tops of the new weed growth, over shallow bars and points, and the

outside areas of bays that were primary spawning grounds for musky. Also, trailing a 10" to 15" sucker rigged with the Smity quick set rig works better than you'd ever imagine.

Try **Big Lake** in the spring, fish the mouth of **Papoose Bay, Cattail Cove** and the center bars. There are some trophy fish in these areas at this time. **Wild Rice** is another good early lake for trophy fish. **Harris** is a real sleeper in spring, along with **South Turtle**. Don't be afraid to try some of the larger lakes early in the season. I've caught some big fish on larger lakes early. The big fish tend to stay shallow on the larger lakes, at this time of year and it's a little easier to present your lure to them.

I hope this has helped you to see that spring fishing isn't all small stuff!!!

Smity



Don't miss the ZEBCO 45-day Crappie Tournament starting May 16, 1992

Presque Isle - Winchester

Ken Reinicke
HC1 Box 37

Presque Isle, WI 54557 715-686-2033

I'll tell you what I'm going to do this opener. Early in the morning I'm going to go to **Little Horsehead Lake** by Presque Isle and I'm going to fish with slip bobbers and small chubs in the wood on the east shore. The water has warmed up because of the constant flow coming through the "tubes" right there and I don't think I'll have to go any further. But if I do-

I'll go to **Van Vlet** because that lake has a lot of weeds and is relatively shallow. Warm water again. I'll fish the north end at the edge of the weeds with slip bobbers, and I'll cast a sixteenth ounce jig loaded with a small chub. Or I can fish the shoreline dropoff just north of Taylor's Alpine Lodge. Last year we caught 'em in two feet of water right by the branches of the downed trees. I shouldn't have to go any further than that, but if I do-

I'll go to **Stateline Lake** during the middle of the day and cast for Northerns and Largemouth Bass by all the new weeds. They will both hit the same bait, a jig and a minnow. Might have to use some six pound test leader for the Northerns. This is all shoreline fishing. Just have to work the bait slowly. Shouldn't be a problem, ought to fill up there easy. But if I don't-

I'll get some 32nd ounce tube jigs and some Crappie minnows and I'll head for **Nosseum Lake**. Not much pressure there and lots of fish. Two or four pound test line, clear plastic bobbers, and patience. Put on the polarized lenses, work the edge, right in the weeds and branches and keep looking. It's only a matter of time til they hit. But if they don't-

It should be time, late afternoon, to try **Harris**. The fish population has rebounded there. Some real nice stringers came out of that lake last fall. I'll try the jig and minnow combination again in about 12 to 25 feet of water on the edges. They should be there. But if they're not-

I'll head for the Retreat Bar on Presque Isle Lake and look at the nice stringers of fish that came out of Presque Isle Lake. Hell, I was going to go there next anyhow.

KEN



WISCONSIN WALLEYE DILEMMA

Tom Newcomb

For the past several years I have observed, with trepidation, sweeping changes in walleye management practices here in Wisconsin. My specific concern is the 15" size limit on this species. On the surface, what could make better sense? Let the walleye grow to reproductive size before harvesting them, thus assuring more reproduction plus more and larger fish for the angler. Right? Maybe! Several factors seem to have been overlooked in the headlong rush to change the existing regulations. I view the 15" size limit as a paradox. The basic contradiction is targeting the fish in their prime reproductive years. Harvesting exclusively the very fish that should be protected. Historically the practice of culling the large fish while releasing the small ones tends to produce a stagnated population of fish predominately males, just under legal size. In many lakes males rarely reach legal size. Under such circumstances the harvest will be confined to females only! I am concerned too, about what happens to the fish which are stressed and in many cases injured and released because they are not "keepers"?

I don't question the need to update regulations. I submit that changes in regulations, to be effective, must be based on exhaustive research and supporting data. I am aware that what is good for one lake is not necessarily good for another. However, producing arbitrary rules without supporting data is a disservice to the angling public. It is time to make public a sound long-term management plan with goals and objectives based on the best available data. Please, let's manage the resource for the sake of the resource before all credibility is lost.

I have a strong personal feeling that a slot size limit which allows only one fish over 18 or 20 inches, coupled with a bag limit of three fish total would be a useful part of such a management plan.

"WALLEYE TOURNAMENT IN THE WALLEYE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD"

Presque Isle Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a walleye tournament on May 15, 16 & 17, 1992 in the Presque Isle area.

For applications and more information write or call:
Presque Isle Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 135 WTJ92, Presque Isle, WI 54567
Phone -715-686-2910



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(for Newsletter subscribers only)
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THE JUNCTION NEWSLETTER

- THE ONLY NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO SERVING FISHERMEN EXCLUSIVELY IN AND ABOUT OUR AREA.
- PUBLISHED MONTHLY APRIL - DECEMBER
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**THE JUNCTION
NEWSLETTER**

HC 2 Box 228A
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545



0061
JAMES BOKERN
1226 E 20TH ST
MARSHFIELD WI 54449

4/93

Address correction requested

To Hurley

ZEBCO U.S. CRAPPIE TOURNAMENT

Manitowish Waters and Boulder Junction will again be participating in the ZEBCO/US CRAPPIE TOURNAMENT set to begin on May 16, 1992. The Tournament will run from May 16, 1992 to June 30, 1992. The entry fee for the 45 day tournament will be only \$6.00.

The BIG CRAPPIE DAY will kick off the tournament on May 16, 1992. There will be a weigh-in site at Greer's Pier on the Manitowish Chain this year, as well as the weigh-in site at Riverview Park in Eagle River.

Entry fee for the BIG CRAPPIE DAY is \$25.00. Entry fee for the BIG CRAPPIE DAY must be mailed in to the Zebco U.S. Crappie Office by May 9, 1992. A seminar and late registration will be held at 7 PM - Friday, May 15 at Greer's Pier.

Manitowish Waters is sponsoring 181 fish with a total dollar amount of \$10,375.00 and Boulder Junction is sponsoring 102 fish with a total dollar amount of \$3600.00

GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE ENTERING!

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