



Hook, Line, and Sinker

The Official Newsletter of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

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Why Ice Floats

The following Article is reprinted from The Sport Fishing and Aquatic Resources Handbook which is put out by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

An interesting fact is that cold water is not always heavier than warm water. Water continues to get heavier as it cools, until it reaches a temperature of 39.2 degrees F. At this temperature, one cubic foot of water weighs more than 62 pounds. Then, something unusual happens. Water colder than 39 degrees F begins to get lighter. No other liquid acts this way. What does this mean to us? Well, if water colder than 39 degrees F did not get lighter, ice wouldn't float. Instead, ice would form on the bottom of a lake and kill fish and other life in the water. The fact that water gets lighter before it freezes is important in deep northern lakes.

Turnover

As the sun melts the ice on a lake in spring and begins to heat the surface water, a change takes place. When the surface water begins to warm, it sinks to the bottom, helped by wind and currents this pushes colder water from the bottom toward the surface. This mixing of water is called "turnover." Turnover often occurs

in the spring and fall. After the turnover, the water temperature of the mixed water is nearly the same throughout the lake. During this period fish are likely to be scattered and at any depth.

Water Layers

In summer, however, something else occurs on many deep or large lakes. The water forms three layers, each with a different range of temperatures. The sun warms the top layer (epilimnion) of water faster than the wind can mix it. Another layer (hypolimnion) is the heavy cold water at the bottom of the lake. This layer may have very little oxygen. The third layer is a narrow one that separates the top and bottom layers, called the "metalimnion," and con-

tains thermocline. Here the water temperature changes rapidly with only small changes in depth.

Why is knowing about these layers important? One reason is that the bottom layer in some lakes has little oxygen. This forces fish to move to a higher level and into the metalimnion, near the thermocline. So in summer on lakes that separate into layers, fish will frequently move the epilimnion to feed and then return to their preferred temperatures near the thermocline.

Freshwater lakes are not the only places where water forms into layers. It also happens in saltwater estuaries and in the oceans.



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Spit on Your Bait?

If you superstitiously spit on your lures for luck after tying them on, you are, whether you know it or not, following sound scientific principles. Underwater experiments have shown that human saliva carries with it scent that actually attracts fish.

Fish depend on their senses of smell and hearing, as well as sight, to locate prey. They are attracted to anything that smells good and repelled by unpleasant scents. Whenever you tie on a lure, you are unwittingly sending a warning signal to fish. Scientists have discovered that the amino acid L-serine, which is the oil on human skin, gives off a strong odor that fish find noxious. Other scents that repel fish include nicotine, suntan lotions, insect repellents and perfumed soaps - all of which can be transferred from your hands to your lures and line. In clear water, fish locate prey primarily by their sense of vision. But no matter how visually tantalizing your lure or bait may be, the presence of negative scents will cause fish to turn away from it. By masking or neutralizing negative scents, you can avoid repelling fish. You can wash negative scents - including L-serine from your hands with vegetation, such as grass and leaves, soda pop, fruit juices, biodegradable detergents, and even, if you

choose, human urine.

Even better, you can replace all those negative odors with scents that actually attract fish. You don't need to apply scent directly to your lure. Simply rub it on your hands before handling your terminal gear. Besides saliva, fish slime and innards, the juices of natural baits, and milk will work. Anything that leaves a trail of the delectable smells in the water will attract fish. This is especially important in discolored water where visibility is poor, since fish tend to depend less on vision and more on their sense of smell and sound to locate food and decide if it's edible.

If you are alert to the importance of scent, you can increase your catch. Be careful not to get reel lubricant on your line, and don't tie on a lure that you have dropped in the bottom of the boat where outboard motor oil or gasoline may have spilled. Don't store lines, leaders, lures or flies in the same pocket as your suntan lotion or insect repellent, or in a cabinet containing motor oil or paint solvent. Keep your hands clean. And after you tie on your lure, go ahead and spit on it, and then run the final ten feet or so of your leader or line between your lips. It's not just superstition.

The Hook, Line, and Sinker is published monthly by John and Chris Vorwerk for the New Ulm Area Sports Fishermen. Send all correspondence to:
Mike Deinken, Editor
1022 N. Spring St.
New Ulm, MN 56073

New Ulm Area Sports Fishermen
President Scott Sparlin 359-2346
Vice Pres Jerry Carlson 354-8869
Sec./Treas .. Mike Deinken ... 359-9650
Bd. of Dir .. Randy Griebel ... 354-8461

EDITORIAL

For a long time now we have been hearing quite a bit about the Mille Lacs Lake Treaty controversy. Everyone seems to have an opinion one way or another. But what really is the issue here? On one side you have the Native Americans, who are claiming certain rights and privileges supposedly granted them in treaties with the Federal government. On the other side are a countless number of Minnesota sportpersons. Is it really about hunting fishing rights, or is it something that goes beyond this? It seems every time we turn around we are asked to give something up. will this be the last time? If we give in now, will we be back in the same position we are now five years down the road? You can't get the same answer to this question from any two sources, who supposedly know what is going on. Maybe the Native Americans deserve the concessions they are asking for. They were here before our ancestors settled this land. They were then pushed off their favorite hunting grounds and forced to live on reservations. In years past being an Indian and living on a reservation was not the most ideal situation to be in. But does this still hold true today? The plight of the Native American has greatly improved in recent years. I don't believe the Indians need special hunting and fishing privileges for their subsistence. This country was founded on the premise that all men are equal. If this is true then one ethnic group should not have any more rights than another. Hunting and fishing is no longer a matter of life or death. It is now more sport and relaxation. As I said it is a very controversial issue. It is about time or State Government and other agencies gave some straight answers as to what is really going on. We have a right to know, they are in fact working for us. If we know what the facts really are, it would be easier to understand what is trying to be accomplished. Every week we hear new and conflicting reports on what is involved in the proposed settlement with the Mille Lacs Band. Whatever your opinion, don't keep it to yourself. Call your representative and let them know how you feel. Your phone call or letter can make a difference.

For your information I have listed below the addresses and phone numbers of area legislators in the Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate in St. Paul.

*Senator Dennis E. Fredrickson,
New Ulm
Room 143 State Office Building
St. Paul MN 55155
612-296-8138*

*Representative Barb Vickerman,
Redwood Falls
Room 211 State Office Building
St. Paul MN 55155
612-296-9303*

*Representative Darrel Mosel,
Gaylord
Room 521 State Office Building
St. Paul MN 55155
612-296-8634*

*Senator John Hottinger, Mankato
Room G-29 State Capitol
St. Paul MN 55155
612-296-6153*

*Representative John Dorn, Mankato
Room 533 State Office Building
St. Paul MN 55155
612-296-3248*

*Representative Don Ostrom,
St. Peter
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From the President

The "Roast" what can I say. It was a great time and well done, just like the roastee was afterward. I'm deeply touched and will never forget it. The stories were hilarious even though they were a gross exaggeration of my past activities. Hats off to all the organizers, it has given me food for thought of a yearly banquet "shotgun" type roast. By the way I am a loss at how you kept it a secret from me for 8 months especially considering the vociferousness of our membership.

Thanks to Terry Slander we now have a club owned boat. This will come in quite handy for the many activities that we do. It is a 16 foot glass boat with a 20 horse motor. Thank him when you see him. We are going to have a meeting area above the South Side Pub as well. More on that at the next meeting.

Our Spring "Clean Up" on the Minnesota River will be either May 1st or May 8th. This will also be decided at the next meeting on the 25th.

Don't forget our meeting with the CURE group from Montevideo on April 29th. NUASF member Bob Frauenholtz has donated a van for us to make the trip to Redwood Falls. This is our regular scheduled meeting night so lets have a good turnout. There will be room for everyone, sign up by contacting Mike Deinken or at our March meeting.

Club Calendar

Meeting - March 25 - Schells Tap Room - 7:30 PM

Meeting - April 29 - Redwood Inn North - Redwood Falls

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Clear Lake Update

On February 28th we pulled both houses off the lake as required by law. Jr. Berg was kind enough to allow us to store both of the houses on his property. On behalf of the Club I would like to extend a big thank you to Jr. I would like to thank the members who came out and helped get the houses off. The oxygen level has been holding steady, although it is still a bit low. Hopefully with the warmer weather and a few windy days it will start climbing again. Fishing has been awfully slow the past month or so. Anglers are still picking up a few nice fish every now and then. Remember, if you plan on doing some late winter ice fishing, check the ice thickness as you go out onto the lake.

TIP LINE

Always thaw frozen fish completely before cooking it. Unlike meat, which can be cooked while still frozen, fish loses both flavor and texture unless it is first thawed and preferably slowly, in the refrigerator, not at room temperature.

Store leather boots in a dry place, never in a damp basement, so they won't become mildewed between now and next season. To keep the leather soft, first clean with saddle soap, then treat according to manufacturer's instructions.

SURPRISE!!!!

As many of you know by now, on Saturday March 6th, we held a surprise roast to honor our fearless leader and president, Scott Sparlin. It was a well kept secret dating back to our June meeting when it was hatched in the always fertile mind of one David Mecklenburg. Needless to say it was a smashing success. Scott was completely surprised, we had an excellent meal served by the Turner Ladies and were thoroughly entertained by a host of speakers who proceeded to dredge up some very embarrassing moments from Scott's past. A pat on the back goes out to Rod Mueller and John Vorwerk, who did most of the organizing and selling of tickets, which made the evening a success.



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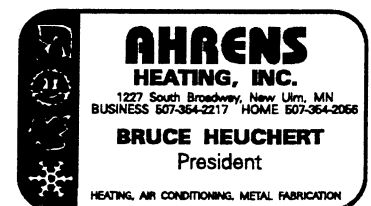
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