



# Hook, Line, and Sinker

**DECEMBER  
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*The Official Newsletter of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen*

## **FISHING LICENSE HOLDERS DECLINE**

The number of licensed anglers fell slightly during 1993 according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) compilation of certified license holders reported by states. Expenditures for licenses, tags, and other permits rose moderately last year. The USFWS reported that 30.2 million anglers purchased licenses during 1993, compared with 30.6 million in 1992.



Anglers bought more types of licenses, however. The total number of licenses, tags, permits and stamps bought by anglers rose to 38.1 million in 1993 from 37.4 million in 1992. To make these purchases, anglers spent \$412.1 million in 1993, compared with \$398.5 in 1992.

Over the past 10 years, the number of license holders nationally has increased only by about four percent. However, many states have experienced relatively large losses or gains in license holders over the same period. For example, increases in Alaska, Delaware, and North Carolina all exceeded 30 percent, while Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, and Tennessee had increases of over 20 percent. On the other side of the ledger, North Dakota and Vermont experienced losses of more than 20 percent over the past 10 years. License holder losses in California, Iowa, and Nevada exceeded 10 percent during the last decade. Factors causing changes in license sales from year to year are not clear. However, long term trends have been shown to be related to weather (drought or floods), perceived or actual fish abundance, and population growth. Increases in license fees generally have been found to have a minor, short-term effect on license sales.

License sales figures are compiled annually by the USFWS from certified information submitted by state fish and wildlife agencies. State funding through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program, administered by the USFWS, is apportioned in part by the number of paid fishing license holders in each state.



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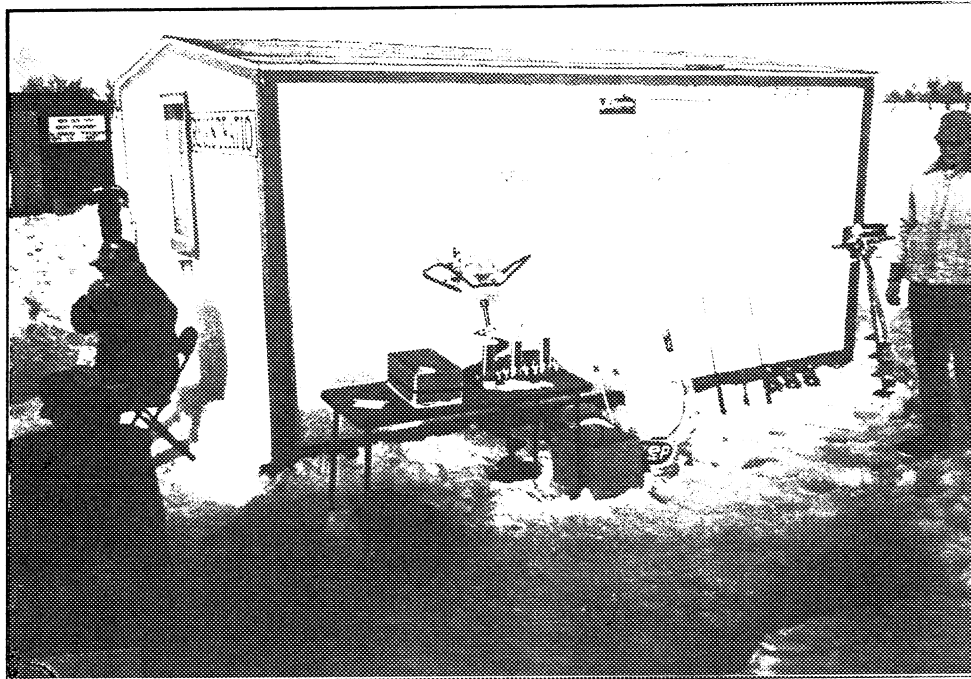
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**NEWSLETTER ADS**

It is that time of year again. All newsletter ads are due and payable in January. We also have room for more ads. If you know of someone who might be interested in placing an ad with us, be sure to let me know about them.



**ICE FISHING CONTEST**

Our annual ice fishing contest at Clear Lake has been scheduled for February 5th, 1995. We will need your help to make this a successful event. Details will be finalized at the December meeting.



**Hook, Line, and Sinker**

*The Official Newsletter of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen*

Send all correspondence and submissions to:  
Mike Deinken, Editor  
1022 N. Spring St.  
New Ulm, MN 56073

**NUASF Board**

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The *Hook, Line, and Sinker* is published monthly by Chris Vorwerk and John Vorwerk for the New Ulm Area Sports Fishermen. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely that of the respective writers and are not to be construed as the opinion of the NUASF or its members.

# RAMBLINGS

Just the other day I crawled up into the attic to dig out my ice fishing gear. What really surprised me, was that I had to make four trips to get it all down. I can remember the day when it could be carried with one hand. All I used to have was a cheap jug stick and a brown paper bag with a few hooks and some split shot. Well the times have changed. It now takes two 5 gallon pails to carry all my gear, plus a plastic sled for the bait bucket, ice auger, lantern and ice spud. Usually my son goes with, so there is more gear to drag onto the ice. The kid has almost as much tackle and equipment as I do. I don't know why he needs so much stuff. Now, I don't have a power auger something I could dearly use in my advanced years. I guess I should be thankful, that would be a lot of extra weight to drag out. A portable depth finder, something there would always be room for, is also missing from my arsenal.

I guess what I am trying to get around to here is how complicated the simple sport of ice fishing has gotten. When you add a portable fish house you can have quite an investment. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy all these toys, and the comfort with which I have when on the ice. Why do they have to be so expensive? There are so many things I still need. There isn't enough time to enjoy it all either. Why is it that the things I enjoy are so expensive and don't fit my schedule? I think I'm losing it here, it has been too long since I have been fishing. Is the ice thick enough yet?

## ICE FISHING TRIP

The reservations have been made, we are going to Winnibigoshish. We will be fishing out of Nodak's Resort in Bena, which is on the south shore of the lake. The trip will be made by motor coach, leaving New Ulm at 6:00 A.M. on January 20th. We will return to New Ulm at approximately 6:00 P.M. on January 22nd. This year the fish houses are not sleepers, and since Winnie is not much for night fishing you won't miss anything by not being on the ice at night. We will be staying in modern cabins on shore. Basically it will be the same type of arrangement as other years. The cabins sleep from 5 to 7 people, and you will need to bring your own food and refreshments. Transportation will be available to take us to and from shore. This will be a new and exciting experience for us. The jumbo perch bite is supposed to be excellent again this year, with fish in the one pound or better category, according to a local expert. We have room for only 26 people, so don't wait too long to sign up for this trip. Cost for this year's ice fishing expedition will be about \$105. This includes fish houses, cabins and motor coach transportation. A \$20 deposit is required to hold your spot on the trip. If you would like more information or would like to sign up, come to the December 29th meeting or call Mike Deinken at 359-9650.

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# CLEAR LAKE UPDATE

The seasons have changed. Winter is upon us, and the lake is starting to freeze over. In fact, by the time you read this, a few brave souls will probably have ventured onto the ice for some early ice angling. Before you head out, be sure there is enough ice to safely support a person on foot. Just because the ice is thick enough in one place, doesn't always mean it is everywhere. Ice thickness can vary a great deal in even a short distance. With early ice you should be checking often as you walk out. When you do go out, be prepared. I always carry a pair of ice picks on a string, either in my coat pocket or around my neck. A length of 1 inch poly rope can come in very handy if someone should go through the ice, and 25 to 50 feet doesn't take up a lot of room. Even though Clear Lake is a fairly shallow lake, breaking through in just a couple of feet of water is no fun. It may sound like a lot of extra fooling around just to go fishing, but how much is your life worth?

It sounds like we should have some pretty good fishing this winter. According to the latest test netting done at the lake, it is loaded. Unfortunately, along with an abundance of game fish, the lake is also loaded with baitfish. Walleye and sunfish populations are way above the state average. We have a chance to experience some very good fishing this winter, but it is going to take some work. They won't be jumping out of the holes like a couple of years ago, but I believe with a little experimenting, some nice fish will be caught. Don't forget, when the thin ice signs go up this winter, it is now against the law to be inside the signs. One last thing, the big fish house is no longer white. It has received a fresh coat of paint and is now a light green.

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## From The President

I hope all of you are enjoying the holidays and the cold (ice making) weather. Clear Lake should provide some pretty good angling this winter. The fish houses will be going out shortly so if you are called to help put them out please respond by showing up, it can be a challenge sometimes.

As the new year approaches it's always good to look back to the past year and see where we've come from. I am proud to claim membership to a group such as ours, that gives a great deal of time to the promotion of fishing and fish habitat. The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen City Wetland comes to mind right away. Take a Kid Fishing was a very good event on the banks of the Minnesota River this past year. And who can say enough about the time and sweat that went into clearing (by hand) the weeds in front of the park at Clear Lake. This all culminates in February when Hoffman Construction (who gave us a really good deal) lays the sand blanket down at the two open areas in front of the park. I also want to recognize the fund raising efforts for the SCCMR by NUASF members who worked at the Blues Festival and at the 4th Annual River Rally in Shakopee. Without these types of efforts our ability to raise other funds from the likes of the McKnight Foundation and others is out the window. This club is not all work and no play either, The Ice fishing trip, the club picnic at Studtmann's pond, and our outreach to other communities. I also neglected to mention our Spring Riverbank clean-up, what a huge success that was with the help of the 3M employees and the National Guard and the New Ulm Medical Clinic. As I look forward to 1995 I will do so with a great deal of satisfaction knowing the past accomplishments of the many members that make up this fine organization, my "hat's off to all of you".

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# CLUB CALENDAR

**December 29th**  
 Meeting-7:30 PM  
 Club Offices above Southside Pub

**January 20-22, 1995**  
 Ice Fishing Trip to Winnibigoshish

**January 26th**  
 Meeting-7:30 PM  
 Schell's Tap Room

**February 5th**  
 Ice Fishing Contest  
 Clear Lake



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