



Hook, Line, and Sinker

The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

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WALLEYE OVERLIMIT CASE A T.I.P. SUCCESS STORY

It's hard for a person to be everywhere at once, but the duties of a state conservation officer (CO) often require such a Herculean effort. Unfortunately, a number of poachers still go unpunished every day. That's where tips from concerned citizens, mostly on the Turn In Poachers (TIP 1-800-652-9093) hot line, come in handy.

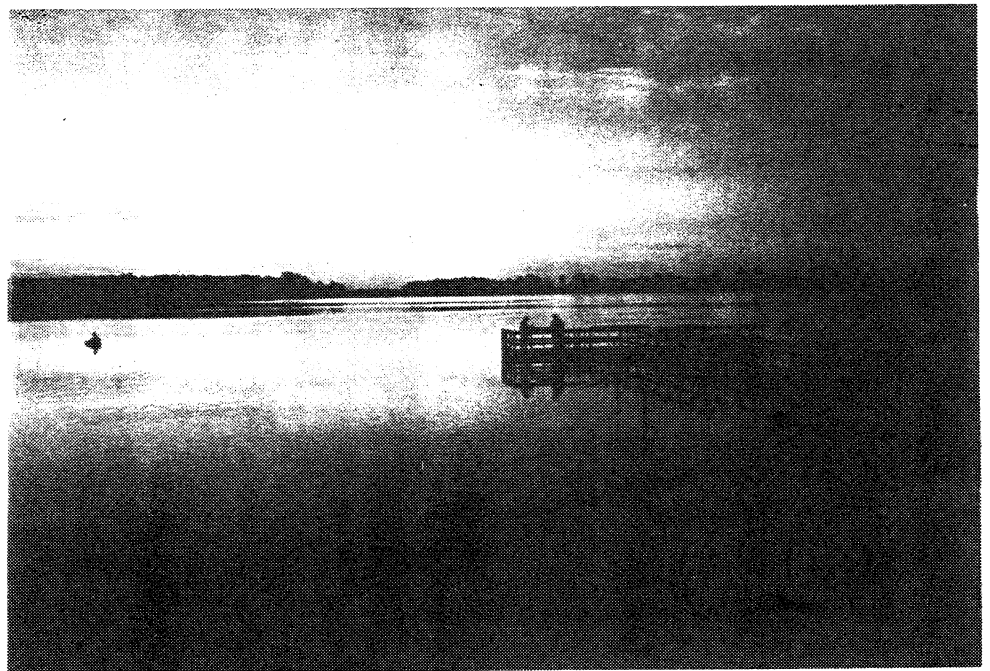
A recent case involving two Wisconsin men is a classic example of the TIP line in action. On May 26, an anonymous caller reported spotting two men taking overlimits of walleyes from the Mississippi River near Winona. The caller also provided a wealth of information about the alleged lawbreakers. "Everything was indicated, from the men's first names to the water craft registration number and the campground lot where the suspects were staying," said Nancy Huonder, the DNR's hot line liaison, who answered the TIP call. "Rarely do I get an informant this good." Huonder quickly relayed this report to area CO Fred Peterson who responded within minutes. Armed with the TIP information, he got in position as the men approached the dock with their boat.

"I managed to happen along as the violators were coming to shore, and I made what looked like a routine license check," Peterson said. That check eventually resulted in the men admitting to each having 11 walleyes in possession over the legal limit. They were cited for the crime and with the use of a credit card and a local bank, came up with a total of \$1,282 in fines and restitution. "I don't take checks," Peterson laughed. "They later forfeited the money when they failed to show up in court. Seriously, I would never have made that bust without the TIP line."

From an article by Dan Johnson.

CLEAR LAKE UPDATE

The warm weather has turned the lake into pea soup. The other week we took the club boat out to do some repairs on the aeration system. When we pulled it out, everything that had been touching water was full of green slime. The nutrient loading in the lake must be phenomenal. Needless to say, the lake is not getting much use. We have been having some trouble with the aeration lines floating to the surface. The cable ties that hold the weights onto the lines are breaking and allowing the lines to float. We have managed to keep ahead of it thus far, but we are running out of weights. Steps are being taken to have more weights made.





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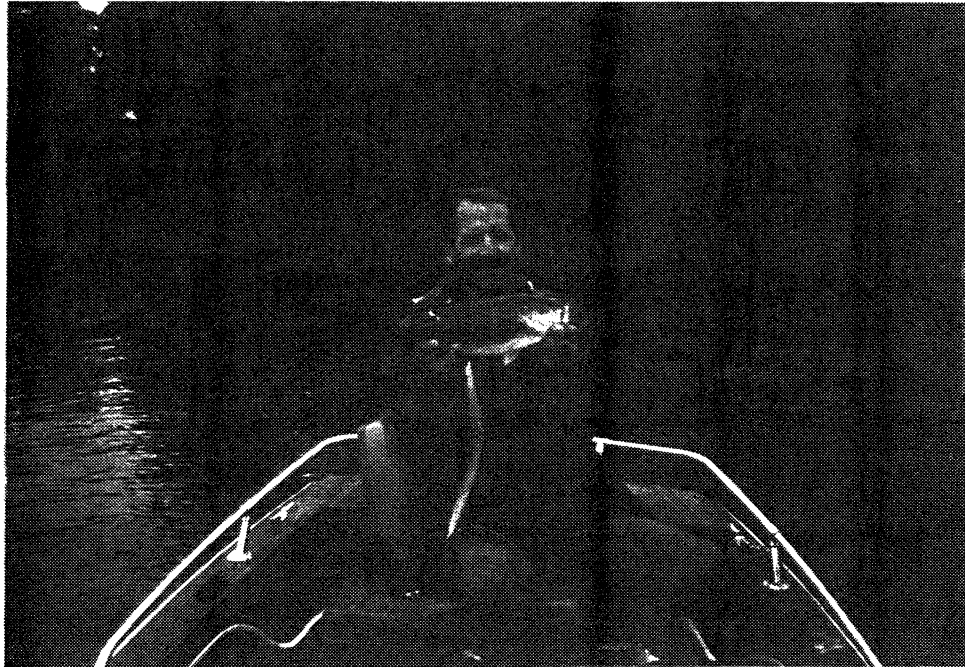


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By the time that you read this the problem that we have had with the screws that hold the walkway together at the lake will have been corrected. The County has supplied us with larger screws to replace the ones that have been breaking.

Before it gets too cold we also need to do some work on the fish house. How about a Saturday towards the end of September?



BASS FISHING'S ETHICAL DILEMMA

Bass fishing regulations in several Midwestern states have put anglers on the horns of a dilemma, a situation that many anglers feel should not exist. The heart of the problem concerns closed seasons for bass and how each fisherman can comply with the letter and spirit of regulations, and, most important, his own sense of ethical behavior.

Many bass fishermen hold the mistaken impression that catch-and-release bass fishing is perfectly legal during closed seasons. However, during closed periods on Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin, it is illegal to catch or attempt to catch bass. Thus, those anglers who intentionally try to catch bass during closed seasons are



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breaking the law. The key word here is intentionally. As a practical matter, it is nearly impossible for enforcement officers to make a case against someone who is catching and releasing bass during a closed season if other species may be legally caught from the same waters at the time. The officer must prove that the angler is intentionally targeting bass. The angler may insist that he is after other legal species. Only the angler knows his true intentions. Certainly some go out with the intention of catching bass, and consequently break the law, even if a case cannot be made against them. The ethical outdoorsman would no sooner pursue fish out of season than he would shoot birds before opening day.

But what of the angler who fishes for crappies, legally, at a time when bass season is closed? He uses a small, crappie-sized plastic-tailed jig and hooks both crappies and smallmouths on a fairly regular basis. Should he stop fishing because he is catching too many bass? Many would argue that he should, but in the Midwest, only one state gives him a legal and moral way out. Missouri permits catch-and-release fishing during a closed bass season on rivers.

Biologists say that managing bass populations involves a mixture of various regulations designed to promote a successful spawn, protect fish until they reach a minimum size, and limit the allowed harvest. Most also agree that a catch-and-release fishery during normally closed seasons would not have a serious impact on many waters. Even in instances where an impact might occur, it could be offset by raising the minimum size and reducing the allowed daily harvest during normal open seasons.

So, in most instances, fisheries managers can provide year-round bass fishing opportunities that include harvest and non-harvest periods without harming the resource. What managers need are funds for research in some states, and input from anglers regarding their preferences in terms of overall regulations that will protect the resource and still allow catch-and-release fishing for bass. Anglers who would like to see more opportunities for catch-and-release bass fishing should make their views known to state fisheries managers.

Taken from an article by-Joe Reynolds.

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THINGS THAT MAKE FISHING RODS NERVOUS

Fishing rods start to worry and tremble when they are:

- Carried tip forward through the woods.
- Stuck through an open vehicle window, especially a power window.
- Fished by a short tempered angler, especially one prone to snags.
- Leaned against anything with a sharp edge when the wind is blowing (the wind can beat a graphite rod until it fractures).
- Left naked (uncased) in a boat surrounded by big feet and heavy tackle boxes.
- Loaned to strangers.
- Left outside in porcupine country (porkies love salty cork handles).
- Picked up anywhere but by the handle or the lower section.
- Placed too close to the camp or cooking fire.
- Protruding from the bow of a canoe or boat as the angler prepares to dock.
- Made to do all the work. Like pointing dogs, fishing rods hate traveling alone. So keep them happy, always bring a spare along.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

There are only four months left in our year long membership drive. Things have kind of slowed down this summer after a great start earlier this year. Since January 1st we have renewed all but six of our current members. So far this year we have added 25 new members. This keeps us right at one hundred members. We lost approximately 20 members towards the end of last year, so we are holding about even. The leader in the drive has only signed five new members so far, so everyone still has a chance to take the lead and win the jacket at the end of the year. We need new members every year because we always lose a few. We also need our older members, who in the past have been very active and helped on quite a few of our projects, to pay their dues. Your dues are our main source of income. We need this money to keep the aeration system at Clear Lake running as well as our other projects. So please, even you haven't been an active member, your dues help us to continue to improve sportfishing in the New Ulm area.

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A NEW HEALTH FOOD?

Did you know that fish is slightly higher in protein, has fewer calories (445 calories per pound versus 1,530 to 1,669 for beef, mutton, and pork), and is easier to digest than meat?

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 5th annual Minnesota River Rally is approaching. This year's event will be held at Riverside Park in New Ulm, on Saturday, September 16th. The rally starts at noon and goes until midnight. Volunteers are needed in the areas of set up Friday evening starting at 5:00 PM. Volunteers are also needed for bartending, food service and preparation, and general. There will be minnow races, casting booth, rock skipping contest, canoe races, boat rides, entertainment, spiritual service, and much more. If you help, funds will be donated to the NUASF. If you have a boat and are willing to take people out for joy rides on the river, please let me know at the next meeting, or call the NUASF/CCMR office at 349-2346. If you can volunteer during the set up or the Rally also let me know at the next meeting or simply call the office. This year's event is shaping up to be the best ever and our corporate sponsors, August Schell Brewing Company and Alumacraft, have already made commitments.

As we look back on the progress that has been made on Clear Lake, it's inspiring to see what can be accomplished when groups, government, and individuals work in sync and do things that are doable, all the while understanding the challenges that the future holds for fish management and water quality improvement. Assuming an adversarial position is counter productive when working with a diverse society each with his or her own concerns and opinion on what a resource should be managed for. We now have a beach and landing area on the lake that connects the park to the lake, as well as a fishing pier

and handicapped accessible walkway to it. The lake also has an abundance of fish, an

aeration system, and a public access all of which did not exist a short number of years ago.

This was only accomplished when cooperation and understanding were undertaken by ALL the parties involved, the ones who paid for, worked on, and permitted the improvements. I hope this selfless spirit for the resource continues.

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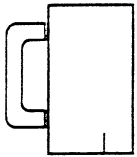
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Club Calendar

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