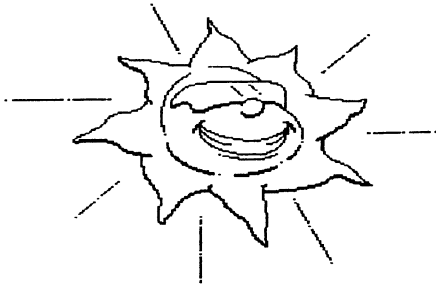




Hook, Line, and Sinker

The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

July
1996
Volume 5
Issue 7



The Sun and your Eyes

If you're a fisherman or boater, you are probably already aware of the punishing effects of the sun's glare on your eyes. In fact, the effect of the glare on the surface on the water can be 25 times brighter than the light level indoors. For most activities, sunglasses should be able to absorb about 60 percent of the sun's rays. For fishing or boating, however, sunglasses should be darker, absorbing at least 80 percent of the sun's rays. Bausch & Lomb suggests this simple in-store test for lens darkness: Look in the mirror with the sunglasses on. If the lenses are dark enough, you will have some difficulty seeing your eyes. Ultraviolet rays, hidden in the sun's rays, can be irritating and dangerous, causing both short and long-term harmful effects on the eyes. Make sure that the sunglasses you select are ones that afford UV protection. If you are a fisherman, you should select sunglasses with Polarizing lenses, which are usually made by sandwiching Polarizing film between layers of dark glass or plastic. They eliminate reflections on the surface of the water and allow fishermen to see beneath the surface. Sunglasses come in a variety of lens colors, but most eye-care professionals recommend green, gray or brown for outside activities.

Membership Drive

It's getting close to the halfway point of this year's drive. Just a little over one month until the August meeting, when someone will win three cases of Schells Beer. All you need to do to win, is to have signed the most new comers by the meeting. It won't take much, everyone still has a shot at this one. The leader thus far has only two new members signed so far. The July meeting will be the perfect setting to bring a prospective member. We will be having a bullhead fry in conjunction with the meeting. This meeting will be held at the Ulmer Cafe on July 25th at 7:30 p.m. If you can, bring a friend or two along and lets get them signed up.

Just a reminder, before we can have the bullhead feed at our next meeting, we have to clean the fish. We will be doing this at Mike Deinken's garage, 6:30 p.m., on July 24th. If you can help, bring your fillet knife and a pliers. Park your vehicle on the side street and walk in the alley.

Club Calendar

July 24th

Clean fish - M. Deinken's garage - 6:30 p.m.

July 25th

Meeting & Fish Fry - Ulmer Cafe - 7:30 p.m.

August 10th

River Fishing Contest

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WHAT IS A GOOD YEAR CLASS ?

I'm sure most of you have heard the words "year class" mentioned when it comes to fishing success, or the lack of it. Why don't we have a good year class of fish every year? I mean the fish spawn every year don't they? For a good year class to exist, a number of things must happen.

Where natural reproduction occurs, suitable spawning habitat must be present. For walleyes this means gravel or gravel mixed with rock in relatively shallow water. When water temperatures reach about 48 degrees F, spawning usually peaks. Sudden and severe cold fronts at this critical time can push fish off spawning areas. Continued bad weather may influence how many fish spawn and how successfully. But ample habitat under prime conditions doesn't guarantee a good spawn. In rivers and reservoirs, rain or a heavy snow melt can transport extraordinary loads of silt into the system, burying the unhatched eggs, which need oxygen to survive, thereby killing substantial numbers. In some areas, a super-successful spawn can only occur when winter or spring precipitation is lower than normal. Aside from being buried, walleye eggs can survive most things other than being eaten. In years when prolonged cold spells delay hatching, eggs are vulnerable for a prolonged period of time to predation by baitfish, suckers, crayfish, bullheads, and other nest robbers. Once hatched, the alevins could suffer high mortality rates if water temperatures dip back into winter temperature ranges. Floods can sweep them out of sheltering areas. Young fry are susceptible to predation by such unlikely enemies as smelt and insects, along with the usual host of bass, perch, and birds. Finally, young walleyes can starve for lack of adequate prey in rearing areas, as determined by weather, water, and other conditions. An early spawn and subsequent cold fronts can be brutal on such fragile little fish.

If the serendipitous occurs-if conditions conspire to bring the most walleyes to spawning areas at the right time under prime conditions, the hatch is successfully carried off, predator counts are low, shelter is good, and forage is high-lots of young walleyes hatch. But another critical hurdle must be jumped. Young-of-the-year walleyes that don't find adequate prey in summer may be too small and weak to escape predators and survive the winter. If significant numbers survive their first winter, odds are they'll become a super year class in several years, barring other potential disasters-environmental problems like freeze-out and pollution, or biological disasters like disease and lack of forage. Then, when the year class edges into the catchable size range, great year classes begin showing up in creel surveys and test nets. Only then can you be certain that a great year class exists, the kind of year class that increases odds for fishermen. But knowing and catching are flip sides of a coin. Fishing should be good for another six years or more, unless a major bloom of perch, shad, or ciscos keeps walleyes so fat and happy they're impossible to catch; or unless anglers crop the year class too quickly; or unless weather conspires against you every time you visit the fishery; or unless...



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The Hook Line and Sinker is published monthly by Joyce Reese for the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of respective writers and not to be construed as the opinion of the NUASF or its members. Send all correspondence and submissions to Mike Deinken, Editor, 1022 Spring Street, New Ulm, Minnesota 56073.

The NUASF Board

President - Scott Sparlin (359-2346); Vice-President - Jerry Carlson (354-8869); Secretary / Treasurer - Mike Deinken (359-9650); Board Member - Jim Huelke (354-3654).

Study's Pond

Some of you may have heard that due to the heavy rains earlier this summer, part of the bank around Jeff's pond has started to slip away. Jeff had everything set and ready to do the repairs on Saturday, July 13th. Due to, shall we say, cold feet by the person that was to supply the rip-rap, we were not able to get anything done. There is still a chance that we will get another chance yet this summer to help the Studtmann's save this beautiful pond. On behalf of Jeff and Tammy, thanks to the guys who showed up to help that day.



RIVER FISHFEST '96

Saturday, August 10, 1996
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Sign in at Minnecon Park anytime after 11:00 a.m.

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Prizes include trophies. All entries are eligible for the Grand Prize of a Depth Finder / Locator. Entry fee tickets are available at R & R Bait in New Ulm or from members of the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen. Entry fee is \$5.00 per person.

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