



Hook, Line, and Sinker

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New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen • P.O. Box 294 • New Ulm, MN 56073 Web Site: newulmsportfish.org

Early season report: Fishing license sales climb; AIS violation rate down

BY JOEL ALBERT

St. Paul — A warm spring and delightful weather on opening weekend of the walleye season mean license sales are running well ahead of last year.

Anglers have bought more than 413,000 fishing licenses this year, compared with just more than 344,000 at the same time last year.

“I would say, good weather (in general) and nice weather on the opener is probably a good reason to get out fishing,” said Dirk Peterson, DNR Fisheries chief.

Despite the uptick in sales, this year is just the ninth-highest sales figure at this time in the past 13 years. In 2000, for example, anglers had bought 461,549 licenses at this time. On the other hand, they’d bought just 338,491 at this time in 2008.

But when it’s all said and done, the total number of fishing licenses sold all year likely will be around 1.1 million. Since 2000, the total number of fishing licenses sold has ranged from about 1.169 million (2009) to just less than 1.1 million (2011).

“And there’s another half-a-million anglers who don’t need licenses – usually kids who are out there tossing a worm into the water,” Peterson said.

When license sales lagged during the

early part of last year, there was some concern that it reflected a decline in the number of people fishing. But sales ultimately picked up, though the total for the year likely was dragged down by the three-week state government shut-down, during which fishermen couldn’t buy licenses.

“We’re always concerned about declining participation,” Peterson said. “We have seen that across the nation. It really hasn’t affected Minnesota much, but when we see lowered license sales, that is a concern.”

Though fishing license sales in the state are relatively stable, Peterson noted the state’s population has been on the rise. The state’s population was estimated at 5.3 million during the most recent census.

The estimate in 2000, for example, was about 4.9 million.

“There is room for growth and room for people to take up fishing,” Peterson said.



Invasives update

Conservation officers have been busy enforcing the state’s aquatic invasive species laws.

“Every officer in the state has dedicated additional time from opening of fishing through Memorial Day Weekend – above and beyond what they would normally do,” said Capt. Phil Meier, operations manager for the DNR Enforcement Division. “Our goal with that was to set the expectation for everyone utilizing our water resources that they can expect to be checked by conservation officers.”

So far this year, the violation rate for aquatic invasive species laws has been about 12 percent. “Last year, it was 18 percent.”

During opening weekend, COs made more than 4,000 contacts with boaters. They wrote 70 criminal citations and 135 civil citations. It is up to the officers’ discretion if they write a civil or criminal citation, he said.

“Our goal is not to write tickets,” Meier said. “Our goal is to have everybody take the responsibility for their actions before going to or leaving a lake.”

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Club Calendar

- May 31st NUASF Club Meeting
- June 14th Social Night at the Club House
- June 28th NUASF Club Meeting
- July 12th Social Night at the Club House
- July 26th NUASF Club Meeting



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From the President

By Jason Kuester

I hope everyone had a great Fishing Opener, the weather was great! I'm sure there will be a few stories at the next meeting about the big one that got away. So bring your stories along with your hot fishing spots and share them with your friends at the next meeting!! Your secret hot spots are safe with us!!! If you find yourself without a boat this summer the club has two that are available for our members, remember it is first come first serve.

We got a great deal on a 14' Ice Castle to give away at our 26th annual Ice Fishing Contest on Clear Lake. I will have the fish house at the May meeting for everyone to see.

It's defiantly summer like weather again and that means the grounds at the club will need to be mowed and trimmed. We are going to have a sign up sheet for mowing, please help us by signing up. Thanks in advance for your help!

At the next meeting we will be presenting the award to, 2 very special members that pasted away this last year. They both gave endlessly to our club time and time again and will be missed by all. The award will be given to Wayne Forbrook, and Ervin Fisher's Family members.

Summer is here and what a great time to bring our friends and family to the New Ulm Area Sport Fisherman Club. We are always looking for new members to join. If you know of someone bring them along and show them how much fun we have at our club. As always, bring a friend and each of you will receive a free refreshment of your choice!

Hope to see you at the next meeting!!

Early season report from Page 1

The most common violation officers see is boaters not removing their drain plugs and draining the water from their boats. And people seem to be having the hardest time with the requirement that they drain their bait buckets before leaving a body of water.

Anglers should bring water with them (and ice, too, if the weather is warm), drain the water from the bait bucket, and then add the new water before leaving the access.

New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen Monthly Meeting

April 26th, 2012 • Members Present: 45+

I. Secretary Report

A) Motion made by Scott Sparlin and seconded Gary Sprenger to except report as read. Passed unanimously.

II. Treasury Report

Motion made by Orv Rannow and seconded by Scott Waldner to except report as read. Passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

A) Membership update.

1) Membership stands at 191 with 38 due

B) Area Lakes and Rivers Report.

1) Clear Lake – Catching everything in shallows.

C) Club House and Grounds Update.

1) Siding and floors in boat shed need to be repaired.

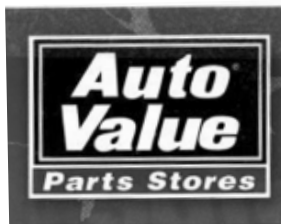
2) Gary S. will get bids for siding on the clubhouse.

3) John Rolloff will mow the lawn. Volunteers are still needed, signup

sheet at desk.

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The *Hook Line and Sinker* is published monthly by Joyce Reese graphic design 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 **New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen, P.O. Box 294, New Ulm, MN 56073.**

The NUASF Board

President - Jason Kuester (381-2041); Vice-President - Gary Sprenger (359-9358); Secretary - Ross Nelson (507-766-0765) Treasurer - Tony Miller (354-2457); Board Members: Ron Ludewig (507-276-6093), Mike Buechner (354-2739 s), Ken Sutherland (507-276-1534).

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IV) Other Old Business

A) Additional parking behind the boat shed

V) New Business

A) Community Cleanup report

1) 609 bags were picked up and 170 green cards were returned. \$18000 was saved in Phosphorus reduction.

2) Scouts did the river bank.

3) Tony Mille – 3M River Rats will try to do another cleanup in the fall.

B) Stoney Award will be presented next meeting. We'll try to get family members to the meeting.

C) Kid's Fishing Contest.

1) Date set for August 15th

a) Talk to Berkley

b) Motion was made by Gary S. and seconded by Scott S. to spend what it takes to cover expenses. Passed U

c) We should also consider getting a trophy and cash prizes.

d) Permit is needed from the city

e) Tom Simonson will do the food.

D) Ice Castle Fish House –

1) Jason Kuester checked – 5 houses to pick from. He'll be going soon to pick one out.

2) We will be checking with sponsors to see if they will sign up again.

3) Give Northland a call to see if they will be a sponsor.

4) We will do the same number of tickets and sell at the same price.

5) We should hold some tickets back to sell at the Ice Fishing Contest.

6) Gambling permit must be done before we sell tickets.

E) New fishing Regulations was discussed. 2012 regulations books are available.

VI) Other New Business

Fishing for challenged kids

Date set June 27th 1:00 – 4:00 Fliers are out. Limit of kids are set at 15-20.

3-4 nurses will be coming from NUMC

Transportation will be provided by NUBL

Families of kids will also be invited.

We should give kids some type of memento for coming. Possible a medallion.

Scholarship Committee Report 4 will be given out. We will give scholarships to students outside our area if we get a referral by a club member.

Motion was made by Scott S. and seconded by Ken Sutherland to give a donation to the EE Mecklenburg Scholarship Fund. Passed U

Willmer Studtmann Memorial Fishing Contest Update.

20 + Present

A new Wayne Forbrook Memorial Traveling Trophy was handed out.

A check was given to the EE Mech. Fund from money raised

Tony Miller – He will be having a graduation party June 3rd

Web site- Mike Studtmann is doing research to make the site more interactive.

Possible will be more cost involved.

Canadian Fishing trip – July 9th-11th contact Ken Sutherland – Cost \$675

Prizes from ice contest not delivered. People have been called but no response.

Will give prizes away at next year's contest or raffle off.

Nilson family thank you was read.

VII) Adjourn 9:00 PM



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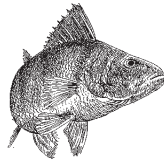


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