



# Hook, Line, and Sinker

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## Clear water walleyes - cleaning up late summer walleyes

**Pro fisherman, Mark Courts, had to adapt to nail giant clear water walleyes**

by Ron Anlauf

Things change, that's the way it is. There usually isn't much you can do about it either, except maybe adapt. When it comes to clear water walleye angling there have been plenty of changes, including water that has been getting clearer and clearer. Some of it has been good and due to more diligent efforts to clean up the environment like restricting agricultural runoff and limiting drainage from leaching septic tanks all of which can add to a lake's fertility and produce more algae blooms and reduce visibility.

The bad has been the spread of invasive species like zebra mussels which filter nutrients from water and can sterilize a system and limit the amount of forage available to plankton which feeds minnows, immature perch, as well as young of the year walleyes. Even so it's the way it is, at least for now. Hopefully in the near future there will be an economical way to eradicate the zebra mussels and the other similar species that have been raising havoc with natural plankton production, water intakes, native species etc. Until there is a fix we will just have to adapt if we want to keep catching clear water walleyes, and bottom-line that's what it is all about.

Humminbird Pro Kevin McQuoid has seen his share of changes, even on his home lake; Mille Lacs Lake in East Central Minnesota. Kevin on the change: "In years past the fish would move shallow in late summer and early fall but we haven't had a good shallow bite in a number of years. Now the clear water walleyes stay deep, out in the main lake basin. They can still be caught and the fishing is actually pretty darn good late in the summer and into October, it's just that action isn't where it used to be.

Instead of slip-bobbering shallow rocky reefs in four to eight feet of water with jigs and leeches we're trolling with crankbaits and leadcore in thirty to thirty-five feet of water. It's hard to say what is the real culprit but the water is definitely clearer now and the zebra mussels have something to do with it. Another consideration is the proliferation of smallmouth bass which have been increasing in number and rule the shallow water structure which may be contributing to clear water walleyes staying out deep late into the fall."

The clear water effect has been in full force on the Great Lakes for years and has been cycling.

Ranger Pro Mark Courts of Harris, MN has seen lakes like Erie clear up and then darken after a big zebra mussel die off. Mark on the cycle: "It seems the mussels eat themselves out of house and home until there is a big die-off. After it happens the water darkens up a bit until the mussels establish themselves again. I've even seen piles of dead zebra mussels on Mille Lacs and may be the start of the same type of Great Lakes cycle."

Trolling with leadcore has become a much more dominant technique among pros and tournament anglers and is being picked by more and more weekend anglers. It's being accepted because it works; plain and simple. Courts relies heavily on leadcore and has used it from Mille Lacs, to Green Bay, and to Lake Erie. Mark on getting down with lead: "Leadcore seems complicated at first but is actually easy to use. The key is getting a bait to run at the right depth and there are some rules of thumb to help get you started. For starters I like to use a longer fluorocarbon leader when fishing clear water, up to 50' in length. That 50' of line will allow a diving bait to dive to its normal diving depth on a trolling run which may be 8' or more depending on the type of crankbait I'm using.

Then you can figure you can add another 5' feet of

depth for every color of lead you let out at 2mph. Faster trolling speeds achieve less depth and slower speeds result in more. To give you an example; If I want to get to 23 or 24 feet of water I'll tie on a #7 Flicker Shad and let out the fluorocarbon leader and another three colors of leadcore and expect to get into that range at 2 mph. It's not an exact science but you can get pretty close with a little practice."

Finding basin clear water walleyes can be a challenge when there are a lot of potential hot spots and is when good electronics can really help narrow it down. McQuoid on running down basin fish: "The nice thing about the Humminbird is the fact that you can actually mark fish holding off the bottom at 20mph or more. They won't look like the classic "hooks" but will look more like a spike, or an up and down line. If you're seeing spikes you better slow down and take a closer look. Thicker marks off the bottom are quite possibly walleyes and are likely to be active which means they can be caught. Fish close to the bottom don't spike all that well and may or may not be active enough to take a bait."

Besides the basin clear water walleye bite another pattern on Mille Lacs that has been becoming stronger and stronger and is actually happening in relatively shallow water. Courts on staying shallow: "The weed bite on Mille Lacs has been phenomenal the last few years and really starts early in the season and lasts right into the fall. Clear water walleyes will hang out in the deep cabbage and coontail where they can be readily caught and are surprisingly aggressive at times.

Productive techniques include pitching jigs and plastics like the new paddle tail swim baits into the weeds, along the deep edge, and right over the tops where you can "swim" the bait back in. I like to use a braided line with a fluorocarbon leader for my jig work and prefer jigs with a 2/0 or 3/0 hook. Another option when the fishing are really active is to work a jerk bait like a suspending Husky Jerk over the tops of the weeds with a twitch, twitch, twitch, pause retrieve. Another shallow water option even in super clear water is working reed beds early in the morning. Clear water walleyes will move in during the low light period of early morning and are there for one reason; to fill their bellies."

## Club Calendar

**Aug. 22th NUASF Club Meeting**

**Aug. 30th & 31st Riverblast at Riverside Park**

**Sep. 12th NUASF Social Night at Club House**

**Sep. 14th Peterman Fishing contest on Minnesota River**

**Sep. 26th NUASF Club Meeting**

**Continued on page 2**



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## From the President .....

By Jason Kuester

First things first, I would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped  
with the Kids fishing contest. Everyone did a great job!!! We had our best  
turnout ever this year on the river. (250 Happy Kids) Thanks Again!!

I would like to remind everyone about the **Peterman's Fall Fishing  
Contest. The date is Saturday September 14th, starts at noon and goes until  
the last man is standing.** It is on the Minnesota River off of the bottom road by  
Hwy 4 (watch for the signs). All proceeds go to the EE Mecklenburg  
Scholarship. **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!** (P.S. Bring a camper if you can,  
there is plenty of room!!!!)

Labor Day is just around the corner, where did summer go? As you all  
know Riverblast planning is under way. The dates for the event are August 30th  
and 31st. Scott is looking for bartenders to work the beer tent, if you are avail-  
able please contact him at 507-276-2280 or at [yasure@lycos.com](mailto:yasure@lycos.com)

Tickets are here for the Ice Castle Fish House, you can pick them up at  
the next meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like some  
tickets, please contact Ross Nelson 507-766-0765 [rnnuw@newulmtel.net](mailto:rnnuw@newulmtel.net) or Ken  
Sutherland 507-276-1534 [ken.sutherland@ci.new-ulm.mn.us](mailto:ken.sutherland@ci.new-ulm.mn.us) or myself at 507-  
381-2041 [jr@newulmtel.net](mailto:jr@newulmtel.net)

The tickets come in books of 5 and are \$20.00 each. If you take the tickets you  
will be responsible for selling them or turning them back in before the Ice  
Fishing Contest in February.

Here are some important upcoming events for your calendars. The first  
event is the Peterman's Fall Club Fishing Contest. Plans are also being made for  
the winter fishing trip. There has been a lot of talk about going back to Dixon  
Lake Resort after the Ice Fishing Contest. If you plan on attending this trip and  
would like to be part of the planning, please come to the next meeting or contact  
me at 507-381-2041 or [jr@newulmtel.net](mailto:jr@newulmtel.net) with your request.

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!

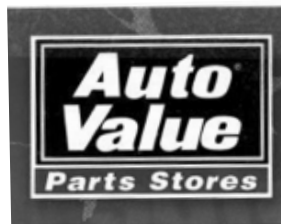
Hope to see you at the next meeting!!

## Walleyes continued from page 1

In summary; to have a good shallow water bite in clear water you better have  
some deep growing green weeds. Otherwise deep may be the way to go and  
trolling may be the only answer to getting your pole bent enough times to keep  
you happy with those clear water walleyes. See you on the water.

Article Accredited to: <http://fishingminnesota.com>

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426 North Minnesota Street  
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**Hook, Line,  
and Sinker**

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).

## Monthly Meeting July 25<sup>th</sup> , 2013 Members Present: 35+

### I. Secretary Report

A) Motion made by Jim Hulke and seconded Orv Rannow to except report as read. Passed unanimously.

### II. Treasury Report

#### A) Balance

B) Motion made by Orin Schultz and seconded by Tom Simonson to except report as read. Passed unanimously.

### III. Old Business

#### A) Membership update.

1) Membership stands at 192 - 23 Due. Jason Kuester leads w/9

#### B) Area Lakes and Rivers Report.

1) Lake Hanska – Minnows or fry were put in and the fishing shut off.

2) Lake Koronis – Walleye's are great.

3) Clear Lake – Lots of bullheads, 24" walleye off the dock.

4) Lake Diefenbaker – John Rolloff won a trip from our contest, Eric Olson is a class act and his group caught fish like you couldn't believe.

5) Dixon – Orv R. caught 8# walleye w/ Pink Barbie Pool.

#### C) Club House and Grounds Update.

1) Jason will be working on the driveway.

2) Tony Miller and wife did the mowing.

3) Orv Rannow waxed the floors. Look great!

4) Tony and wife cleaned out the refrigerators, thru out thinks they felt was bad.

5) Radio is going out. Looking into finding a new one.

6) Rain Gutters were replaced by Gary Sprenger.

### IV) Other Old Business

Clear Lake landing - Should have permit from DNR by next meeting. Jason is looking at 2 units and will purchase best option. Donation from the Lost Dog and Fox was made to help offset cost of cleaning out the landing

### V) New Business

A) The trip to Iowa to tour carp control site was canceled for lack of participation. We should also consider visiting the Waterville Hatchery.

#### B) Boy Scout project Presentation by Rob Swanson

1) Rob made a request to the club for a donation to help replace life jackets used by the Boy Scouts. Motion was made by Mike Deinken and seconded by Tom Simonson to donate. Motion passed to the board for consideration.

2) Boy Scouts would also like to have a booth at the kids fishing contest.

C) Lake Hanska fish cleaning shack will be talked about at future meetings

D) Kids Fishing Contest Update.

1) Aug 14<sup>th</sup> – Signup sheet at front desk. Setup will start at 2:00 at Riverside Park.

2) Grill needs to be cleaned. Tom S. will take care of it.

3) Motion was made by Ken Sutherland seconded by Mike D. not to have a donation bucket at the contest. Passed w/ dissenting votes.

E) River Blast Donation - Motion was made by Mike D. seconded by Gary S. to donate money to RB. Passed U. Vote has already been preapproved by board.

G) Next Month meeting will be moved up one week to Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> because of River Blast setup

H) Food next meeting – Happy Joes Pizza Night. \$4.00 per person.

#### VI) Other New Business

Ron Bolduan doing great after back surgery.

Verizon will be sending a check soon that will be matched by the Studtmann

Family. Donations coming from monies raised from club fishing contest at Study Pond.

We should go talk to Sleepy Eye Sportsmen Club to help w/ landing project on Clear Lake.

We will be bring in speaker system to see how it will work.

VII) Adjourn @ 8:55

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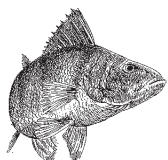


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