



# 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](http://newulmsportfish.org)*

## Selective Harvest

Ever heard this one, "I had so many fish, I couldn't even GIVE 'em all away!" This is the kind of impact on the resource that we absolutely must put an end to. The days of long stringers of dead fish, "freezers full," and worst of all - fish killed but not used - need to come to an end to protect our fisheries. I recall an uncomfortable situation. One friend said, "Oh, I always keep as many as I can, because I know John (another friend) loves fish, so I always like to bring him some. I've already got all I can eat." My friend John, not long after, confided in me, "Bill's always bringing me fish, and they just go bad in my freezer, but I hate to hurt his feelings." Don't let yourself be either of these guys. Catch as many fish as you like, but bring home only what YOU will legitimately use. If somebody's offering you fish, thank them for their generosity, but kindly suggest that they let 'em swim next time. "Limit Your Catch - Don't Catch Your Limit!" It's a "catch phrase" that's "catching on."

A simple look at Selective Harvest is just this: harvesting only the fish you intend to use for food and releasing the rest of your catch unharmed. It implies that you understand your role in the environment not just as a predator, but also as a steward of the environment.

That's a fine, simplistic explanation, but for those willing to delve deeper into their role as steward, consider this more advanced approach:

Selective harvest isn't just a matter of taking only the fish you personally plan to use/eat. Rather, it is the knowledgeable taking of fish when removal will improve a fishery and releasing them when releasing will improve or sustain a fishery.

Many bass fisheries have too many small bass, particularly those with slot limits. If the state has properly applied a slot limit, it means that anglers should harvest every under-the-slot bass they catch. This means

take them all home and give them to friends as long as the friends actually eat them all. It does not mean kill them and waste them.

A fine point occurs when a small or moderate-size bass is caught with obvious injury, such as deep and bleeding hook damage with the hook down into the heart and liver area. As the fish has a greater than 50% chance of dying after release, such fish could be retained if legal to do so.

As a general rule there are never too many lunker-size bass and all are rare in fisheries. All lunkers should be released regardless of injury, even when it is legal to keep them. A trophy wall-hanging is never an excuse to kill a bass, as a good taxidermist can duplicate the catch in a fiberglass or plastic reproduction. How do you identify population dynamic problems that could benefit from harvesting some fish? The condition or body shape of the fish is the easy determinant. When most or all of a fish size-class are underweight and skinny, this indicates there is insufficient food of suitable size for that class. If the condition is not temporary these fish should be thinned-out by anglers. Even if a limit seems to encourage harvest, if the bass are all fatter than average, it means the fish have more than an ample supply of prey and that all of the size-class are contributing to the fishery and should be released.

Therefore, in certain bodies of water, it may be good for the resource to harvest some fish. A call to the state department of natural resources could help identify which bodies of water have an abundance - or over-abundance - of a certain species. In some bodies of water, non-native or invasive fish have been introduced, and fisheries managers actually encourage you to catch and keep these fish to protect

other more desirable species. Targeting those fish and keeping some for the table will provide not only good eating, but more larger fish in the future.

In general, species that reproduce quickly are good choices for selective harvest. The panfish species can be good choices, and their light, sweet meat is delicious. In many areas, catfish are a good selective harvest option. Consider keeping a few "pan sized" cats and releasing the larger, muddy tasting fish that will lay far more eggs next spawning season. In many places, temperate bass like yellow bass or white perch have been introduced (often illegally) and should be kept. Any member of the carp family is a good choice for selective harvest (with the exception of sterile grass carp used for weed control), and all big-head or asian carp should be removed immediately, all of the time.

More about Selective Harvest in next month's Club newsletter

Fishing for  
the big one  
at Clear  
Lake on  
Sunday



## Club Calendar

**February 28th NUASF Club Meeting/Fish Dish Night/DNR**

**March 2nd Studtmann Pond Fishing Contest**

**March 14th NUASF Social Night at Club House**

**March 28th NUASF Club Meeting**

**April 11th NUASF Social Night at Club House**

**April 25th NUASF Club Meeting**



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## From the President .....

By Jason Kuester

**CONTEST NEWS!** What a great day for a contest! There was over 850 people fishing and enjoying the day on Clear Lake this past Sunday. I want to express a great **Thank You** to everyone that helped with this contest. This contest would not be a success without everyone volunteering, selling tickets, collecting prizes, and organizing the event. **Great job everyone!!**

We just got back from a great trip to Dixon Lake Resort. I would like to Thank Todd, Karen, Roger, and Sharron for all their hard work. They did an awesome job keeping all 38 fishermen happy. We look forward to seeing them again next year! If you have any questions about their resort, give them a call at 1-800-362-7298.

The next meeting is **"Fish Dish Night"**. (YAY) If you like fish (and who doesn't) you will want to be at the next meeting! I invite you to bring your best fish dish to pass or just bring some fillets. In the past we have had fish sultz, pickled fish, Pete's smoked fish, Scotts Cajun Fish Gumbo, fish chowder and many other great dishes. As always with our February meeting we will be having DNR fisheries staff on hand to give us updates on Clear Lake, Lake Hanska, Sleepy Eye Lake, High Island Lake, and the Minnesota River. We will also have Joe Fellegas as a guest speaker on Thursday night.

I would like to thank Eric Olson for filling our bellies at the last meeting with some delicious Montana venison steak. Eric has also been very generous in the past and present by donating trips to Canada for our club. One of these trips is handed out to the member who signs up the most new members for the year. The other trip is given away as a big prize at our ice fishing contest by purchasing a five dollar raffle ticket. Eric would like everyone to know that there are some openings on the July 4th weekend for three or more people to come up to Canada fishing. There will also be some club members going up over this weekend. If you are interested contact Eric at 406-395-4515 for more details.

*We would like to give Eric a big Thank You for everything  
he has done for our club.*

**Just a reminder, the deadline to have your icehouse off of the ice is March 4th.**

We are always looking for new friends and ideas. Feel free to bring them to the next meeting. We will be discussing dates for events for the rest of the year.

Hope to see you at the next meeting!!

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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 Jan. 31. 2013 Members present 80+

- I. Secretary Report
  - A) Motion made by Jim Liebl and seconded Scott Sparlin to accept report as read. Passed unanimously.
- II. Treasury Report
  - A) Balance
  - B) Motion made by Scott Sparlin and seconded by Jim Liebl to accept report as read. Passed unanimously.
- III. Old Business
  - A) Membership update.
    - 1) Membership stands at 196 with 41 due
  - B) Area Lakes and Rivers Report.
    - 1) Clear Lake – Catching Crappies
  - C) Club House and Grounds Update.
    - 1) Furnace is dead, Barry Zimmermann has loaned us a unit to use till he can put in a new one. Barry will sell and install a new furnace for only \$1,000.00. Thank You Barry.
    - 2) Driveways, front and back parking lot are open.
    - 3) Jim Hulke installed rod holders made by Jim Liebl in the new shed.
    - 4) Neal Haaland donated \$120 Neal Bucks for the bar.
    - 5) Members should not park in front of the back parking lot entrance. Tony will make a sign.
- IV) Other Old Business
  - A) None
- V) New Business
  - A) Tony Miller Carp Update.
    - 1) Tony would like to have a meeting every month for everyone that is interested.
    - 2) A meeting was held Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> – they talked about possible barriers to hold back the carp in Mankato at a cost of \$8 Million. The group suggests the barriers be placed farther south on the river with secondary barriers more north on the river.
    - 3) New organization Southern MN Asian Carp Coalition has been formed. Anyone who is interested can join, there is no cost. The group will be used as a vehicle to make people and Politicians aware of the problem
  - B) Ron Bolduan – River Ranger Report
    - 1) River Rangers have adopted a portion of the Cottonwood River and cleaned out several yons of garbage.
    - 2) Ron received a call from a trouble teen group leader. She would like to have us help teens, Ages 13-17, and take them ice fishing. We'll help.
  - C) Eric Olsen Update
    - 1) Fishing and hunting is great
  - D) Ice Fishing Contest Update.
    - 1) Ice House tickets will be sold on Feb 1<sup>st</sup> at Kwik Trip, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at Hy Vee, Feb 7<sup>th</sup> at NAPA, Feb 8<sup>th</sup> at Schweiss Meats.
    - 2) Prize collecting going well.
    - 3) Food committee signup sheet at the front desk, need 8-9 members.
    - 4) We'll have a meeting to quodinate last minute details on Thursday Feb 7<sup>th</sup>
    - 5) The day of the contest meet at the clubhouse @ 8AM
    - 6) Everyone will have to use the public landing. There is a mound of dirt blocking the Berg Landing.
  - E) Club Fishing Trip to Dixon Lake.
    - 1) 35 members have signed up; meet at Runnings at 6AM
  - F) Friends of High Island Fishing Contest – Contest was great, had over 200 people attend.
  - G) Club Ice Fishing Houses – 2 are on Clear Lake. The other house is at the Orin Schultz estate If anyone wishes to use it. You'll need a 2" ball to haul it.
  - H) Motion made by Jason Kuester seconded by Jim Liebl to give Ron Ludewig \$50 cash for expenses Incurred working on the aeration system.
  - I) Food Next meeting - Fish Night bring a fish dish to pass.
- VI) Other New Business
  - Smart Phone apps for MN lakes
  - Russ Radenbaugh has been finding the front page article for the newsletter.
  - Tony Miller put together a letter head w/ a version of our mission statement.
  - Anyone interested on going on this summer's Lake Diefenbaker trip, dates are July 6-8, see Jerry Carlson.
  - Orin Schultz can have the old club trailer he has been storing; we don't have any use for it.
- VII) Adjourn 8:45 PM

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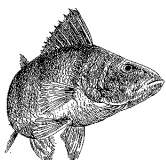


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