



# 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)*

## MIXING IT UP ON ICE

Courtesy of Jeff Sundin @ <http://www.jeff-sundin.com/>

Recently we, as ice anglers, have tended toward becoming species specialists. Some like Walleye, others prefer panfish and still others would rather target Pike. You know, that's great, but sometimes I remember growing up fishing with my grandparents and to them, every fish was a good fish. That philosophy stuck with me and even now, I really enjoy those good old fashioned "let's just see what's biting" fishing trips.

Here's a fun, mixed bag ice fishing pattern that's great for those times when you just want some action! It's especially great for all kids under the age of 85 and has become one of my very favorites.

Picking the right area is the key and it doesn't take that much to get pointed in the right direction. Because most of the best mixed bag spots are shoreline related weed beds, this system great if you're hoofing it because lots of times you can find good fishing areas like this within easy walking distance of a landing.

Here's how I get started, take a look at a map of your favorite lake or maybe one that you've been wanting to try. Here's a section of the map that highlights one of my favorite mid-winter spots and shows what to look for when choosing a location. Find the areas where large, weedy flats are located near any of the lakes deeper holes. This location has everything a fish would need to set up house-keeping for the winter. 1) Deep water feeding areas, 2) shallow weed cover, 3) a nice point for feeding during active times and 4) two inside turns or pockets where fish can hold during less active times. Once you start drilling holes, you'll uncover more subtle secrets about the spot like locations of gravel, clam beds and other interesting features.

To get in on the best action, I like to be near or even just inside the weed line. I like to start drilling holes in the shallow weeds first, working my way out toward the first drop-off. Most times, I can find the weed line with my Humminbird, but occasionally I'll start by drilling in shallow water where weeds will come up through the hole as I drill. I'll drill each hole a little deeper until I come to the

first "clean" hole and use this as my starting point. Drill additional holes along the weed edges and remember to add a few out in deeper water, along the second drop-off too, just in case panfish happen to be roaming near the deeper water.

Because every lake has it's own mix of fish, the baits and presentations you choose will depend on what's available where you're heading. On my favorite lake, I've caught Perch, Walleye, Northern Pike, Crappie, Tulibee and even Largemouth Bass all on the same fishing trip. So for fishing here, I'll take along some small fatheads, Eurolarvae, wax worms or grubs to cover the Perch and panfish. Most times, Walleye and Pike will respond to artificial lures tipped with a minnow head, but if I think there's a chance to catch some nice Pike or Walleye, I may even throw in a few larger minnows like Golden Shiners or Pike size Suckers.

While I'm searching for fish, I like something a little heavy so that I can drop it in fast, watch for activity on the flasher and then move on if I need to. Northland's Buckshot Rattle Spoons or Puppet Minnow are good baits for searching and depending on which fish I find first, these might be all I need to keep catching active fish. If I think I've discovered panfish or maybe finicky fish that won't hit the aggressive jigging baits, I'll switch over to smaller more subtle presentations. For tricking finicky panfish or Perch, a small #8 or #10 Rat-Finkee is really nice, but you can substitute almost any small ice fly, ice ant or even a plain hook. Start by tipping the lure with a wax worm, grub or small minnow

and fish these baits slowly.

This can be a great time to fish for Pike with larger minnows, set on the weed line using a tip up. While you're drilling and checking holes for other fish, the tip up is working to help keep you in the action.

No matter how you plan to fish, you should prepare to adjust your fishing style according to the time of day you'll be out. On my favorite lake, the evening bite in shallow water is usually when the Walleyes roam. Evening can also be an excellent time to trick finicky Crappie or Sunfish. On the other hand, Perch, Bass and Pike may be active during the daytime. So to help keep the action going during the day, continue moving along the weed-line and catch whatever bites. As you work the structure, keep an eye on your flasher and make note of areas where you see fish looking at your bait, but don't bite. At evening, take your gear back to the area where you saw the most fish and get set up for the evening run.

During last light, I love to jig for Walleyes with a jigging spoon or Puppet Minnow and most of the time, that's what I do. I'll find that the active fish move on to the weedline from the tip of a point that drops into deep water. At times, I might decide that fishing for Crappies out a little deeper sounds like more fun. At these times, move out away from the weedline to those holes you drilled earlier on the deeper drop-off and fish with a small fathead or Crappie minnow.

The system is what is, a fun way to spend an afternoon. I've already made it sound more complicated than it needs to be. For me, it's

Continued on page 2j

### Club Calendar

December 17th ...NUASF Club Meeting (Note: Date Change)

January 14th .....NUASF Social Night at Club House

January 28th .....NUASF Club Meeting

February 11th .....NUASF Social Night at Club House

February 14th .....NUASF ICE Fishing Contest

February 18th .....NUASF Trip to DIXON LAKE

February 25th .....NUASF Club Meeting

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## From the President .....

By Jason Kuester

At our last Fish Club meeting we held elections. The club re-elected Mike Buechner. I would like to "THANK" Mike for all of his hard work and dedication to better the New Ulm Area Sport Fisherman!

ATTENTION ALL FISHERMEN: If you are interested in going on the Dixon Lake trip please sign up at the next meeting and make your \$50.00 deposit. There is 6" of ice and should be plenty by the trip...The date for the trip is February 18th \$50.00 down payment to them after the December's meeting. If you are interested in going along on this trip please contact me at 507-381-2041 or e-mail at jr@newulmtel.net. The total for the trip is \$130.00 per person for three nights, or \$185.00 per person food included. Todd and Karen also said there would be no charge for the angling and spearing houses this year. They have room for 24 people in their angling houses and about 25 spearing houses available. This is first come first serve, so if you need an ice house let me know. If you are unable to attend the meeting and need to pay your \$50.00 down payment send it to Jason Kuester 56554-446th Street New Ulm, Mn 56073.

I would like to thank everyone for doing such a great job on selling their books of tickets for the ice fishing contest and the Ice Castle Fish House. If you are interested and want more tickets contact Ken Sutherland 507-276-1534 Ross Nelson at 507-766-0765 or me at 507-381-2041. Please turn in any unused tickets and or money at the January meeting. Thanks for all your hard work!!!

Ice fishing season is here and many lakes are just froze over. Due to these conditions it is very hard to tell if you are walking on 2 inches of ice or 8 inches of ice. Please be careful if and when you are on the ice. Remember the golden rules of ice thickness- 4 inches walking only, 6 inches snowmobiles and four-wheelers, 12 inches or more for small cars and pickups, 16 inches for full size vehicles.

Winter 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!!

## MIXING IT UP ON ICE Continued from page 1

For me, it's just poking around with the idea that'm going to be happy with whatever fish I catch. Like grandpa always used to say, "ooh that's a good one"!

"Jeff Sundin is a full time, professional fishing guide and founding member of the Northern Minnesota League of Guides.

## Monthly Meeting - November 19, 2015, Members Present 35+

I. Secretary Report

A) Motion made by Ken Kohon and seconded by Jil Hilke to accept report as read.

II. Treasury Report

A) Balance - Motion made by Ken Kohn and seconded by Jim Hulke to accept secretary report as read report as read. Motion Passed unanimously

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426 North Minnesota Street  
New Ulm, MN 56073  
507-354-4164



## 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 Continued from page 2

### III. Old Business

#### A) Membership update.

1) Ken Sutherland absent. Report next month.

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

1) Drum biting on the river

2) MN River – 27"-30" walleye were caught

3) High Island – DNR netting – 4000# of walleye

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

1) Gutters need to be cleaned.

2) LP tank needs to be filled

3) Ravine Update

a) Brown County said the hillside is too steep to use smart cloth will have to use rip rap to repair. Something will probably happen in spring.

b) Jeff Nielsen will try to secure additional funding.

c) Jason K. will donate most of the charges invested into the repair to the club.

4) Going thru a lot of mouse poison. There is a pail of poison in the shed.

5) Land Purchase – We'll be getting together with the Nilson's after

Thanksgiving. Try to get a down payment to them before the end of the year.

#### IV) Other Old Business

A) None

V) New Business

#### A) Board Member Election

1) Mike Buechner position up. No one running against Mike. Re-elected without opposition.

#### 2) Scholarship Update

a) Schools are getting letters from committee about available scholarships

Also remember the scholarships are open to friends and relatives that are not within our geographic area. Received a check from Lost Dog and Fox for \$25 from the family of Del Lambrecht, will give to scholarship fund.

#### B) Ice Fishing Contest Update

1) Tickets available – see Jason, Ken or Ross

2) Posters available DEC 10th. We should have enough sponsors to cover house expense.

3) See John Rolloff if you would like to sit with the house somewhere.

4) Were at the fairgrounds was OK. Will be at Cashwise, Hy Vee, Napa, Runnings in the coming weeks.

5) Prize collection Pat Roiger chair.

6) Tom Simonson getting Food License.

7) Forbrook family will give a donation for Kids giveaways at the fishing contest.

#### D) Winter Fish Trip – Dixon Lake

1) Feb 18-21st

2) \$130 per person (\$185 w/ all food) Give \$50 deposit to Jason

#### VI) Other New Business

A) Food for next meeting – Ken K. & Jason K.

B) Thank you received from Lafayette Charter School for a presentation done by Ron Bolduan

C) Meeting moved to Dec 17th because of Christmas.

D) Lake Hanska Association annual meeting will be held Nov 24th. Motion was made by Ken K and seconded by Tom Simonson to purchase 12 memberships Passed U

E) 2016 Kids Fishing Contest will be Aug 17th

F) 3M employees past and present can volunteer 25 hours to the community and

3M will pay \$250 to your charity of choose. See John Rolloff or Pat Roiger for information.

#### VII) Adjourn @ 8:30



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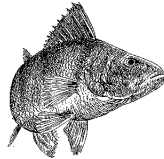
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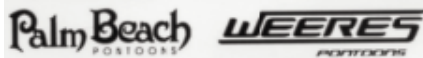




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