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Hook, Line, and Sinker

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Follow The Baitfish To Catch More Walleyes

By: GARY HOWEY Courtesy of: www.northlandoutdoors.com

Temperatures are on the rise, both air temperatures and water temperatures on rivers, lakes, ponds and reservoirs.

Once summer begins, many anglers feel that they need to head toward deeper water as that's where the cooler more comfortable water temps are located and where walleyes hold during summer months.

Part of this is true, but, depending on the body of water you're fishing, they could be almost anywhere.

Walleye like all fish have to follow the food. There are several factors bringing them out of deeper water into the shallows to feed.

Baitfish — minnows and the young of the year prey fish feed on zooplankton and they too follow their food source, which can be deep or shallow.

The wind can be a huge factor indicating where the walleyes might be as baitfish feed on suspended zooplankton.

If the wind is blowing hard from the west, much of the zooplankton is carried to the opposite shoreline or point. Because of this, baitfish will be on the move, following the zooplankton carried by the wave action of the wind.

Anglers who fish larger lakes and reservoirs know that when the wind picks up, with the waves crashing into the opposite shoreline, that soil and debris is picked up by the waves, and then carried back out into the shoreline creating a mud line.

This allows the light sensitive walleyes the opportunity to move shallow underneath the mud line to feed on the baitfish following zooplankton.

When your locator shows a suspended cloud of baitfish, the majority of the time, you will have the larger prey fish arcs below them and when they get hungry, they simply move up and pick off a few baitfish for lunch.

When water temperature begins to rise, the baitfish will be in search of cooler water temperatures in areas where they can find the zooplankton.

Submerged trees in deeper water are just the place they are looking for, as in, on and around the deeper submerged

trees, the baitfish will find a lot of zooplankton along with cooler water.

The walleyes are in search of cooler water, too, which the submerged trees provide — but they also produce a smorgasbord for the walleyes suspended in the deeper water near or in the trees.

The baitfish tend to hang in the upper reaches or just above the submerged trees, where they don't have to move far to find something to eat.

As mentioned, walleyes and other game fish look for cooler more oxygenated water in the heat of the summer but it isn't always found deep during this time of the year.

Weed growth in both shallow and deeper water is another area where fish will find comfortable cooler temperatures, as the weeds provide shade and give off oxygen, creating a cooler location for the fish.

The walleyes have followed the baitfish during the cooler part of the day, early morning and late evening as they moved into the vegetation to feed.

Once the sun gets higher, the shallows will begin to warm with the walleyes moving deeper, generally of the first break where it goes into deeper water.

The panfish and northerns will tough it out longer than the light sensitive walleyes as they have cover to hide in and the baitfish to feed on.

When fishing for walleyes in shallow water, a jig worked along the edge of the weeds or through the mud line works very well as do slip bobber rigs cast up to the edge of the weeds or into the mud line.

By positioning your boat out away from these and casting up towards them, you will be far enough out so not to spook the fish, yet close enough that you can make an easy cast into them.

Those anglers that will pound out the deeper water, the suspended trees, will have marked concentrations of baitfish and walleyes, and be presenting their baits above the trees, allowing the prey fish to locate and come up after them.

Baitfish continued on page 2

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Hook, Line, and Sinker

Club Calendar

August 29th..... NUASF Club Meeting
September 12th NUASF Social Night at Club House
September 26th NUASF Club Meeting
October 10th..... NUASF Social Night at Club House

October 24th..... NUASF Club Meeting
November 7th..... NUASF Social Night at Club House
November 28th..... NUASF Club Meeting

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The NUASF Board

President - Jason Kuester 507-381-2041; Vice-President - Gary Sprenger 507-359-9358; Secretary - Mike Studtmann 507-766-0765; Treasurer - Jen Kuester 507-766-0143; Board Members: Mike Buechner 507-354-2739, Wyman Forbrook 507-420-5828, Wes Ludewig 507-276-6092.

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 a great turnout this year with great weather. It was a great day on the river for (around 230 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? Please be safe while enjoying the holiday!!

Here are some important upcoming events for your calendars. The first event is the Peterman's Fall Club Fishing Contest September 15th. NUASF Ice Fishing Contest is on February 9th 2020. The winter club fishing trip to Dixon Lake is on February 13-16 2020.

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!!

Baitfish continued from page 1

Some anglers will spend the better part of the day, trolling crankbaits on planer boards, or using downriggers to get down, just above where the walleyes are located in the deeper water.

Others using their kicker or trolling motor will position their boat above the trees and having used their locators will know the depth the top of the submerged trees, will use slip-bobber rigs to drift their baits over and alongside

the submerged trees.

No matter how and where you fish summertime walleyes, your best fishing is going to be early morning or late afternoon, on cloudy overcast days and when there is a walleye chop on the surface of the water.

Don't think that all of the walleyes will be deep as you will be missing some of the best fishing going on in the shallow water.

NUASF Monthly Meeting July 25, 2019

Meeting Start Time – 7:25 PM

Members Present: 21 - *Not enough present for official meeting* Anything that required a vote was tabled.

I. Secretary Report - Mike S.

- 1st Motion:
- 2nd Motion:

II. Treasury Report - Wes L.

- 1st Motion:
- 2nd Motion:

III. Old Business

A. Membership: John H.: 149 Members, 23 Due, 1 New for total of 5.

B. Area Lakes and Rivers Report:

- Sunfish biting on Sleepy Eye Lake yesterday
- 4 were out at Devils Lake, 53 Walleye's and threw that many back. Fishing was good!
- Little Winnie has been pretty hot.

C. Club House & Grounds News:

- Restoration has started, rain has delayed.
- Prop is broke on the boat out here.

D. Other Old Business:

- None

IV. New Business

A. Fishing lesson for Boy Scouts

- Spring Lake Park, Mankato 650 Webster Ave, N.
- Starts at 5:30 pm on July 31st.
- Around 25 kids/ 2 groups (done at 8:00), Need volunteers from the club.

B. History Learning Center – Ron B.

- Move to next meeting

C. Fishing 1,2,3 Update and Sparlin Corner

- High School Class event made the Outdoor News.
- Today's NU Journal has the write up on the Fishing 1-2-3. Good turn-out and we need more volunteers in the future.
- Looking for help at the Studtmann Pond to help with the dike wall erosion.

D. Pick up your Ice Castle tickets tonight -

E. Kids Fishing Contest Update – Jim H

- Date: August 14th
- RR, Walt's, Runnings, Napa – Jims is working with them for the prizes. Reiger's will do the night crawlers.
- River Flooding, City Park Cleanup? – Let the kids fish.

F. Other New Business

- None

V. Food for next meeting - Nothing

VI. Meeting Adjourn @ 8:15 PM

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