

Lake Erie Fall Trophy Walleyes

by
Captain Phil Cadez

Overall 2003 has been a good year for walleye fishing. After a tough April and early May the fish cooperated as the weather became friendlier. The 1999 hatch was the 4th best in the history of the lake. These fish were 17 to 21 inches and made up most of the limit catches.

While most anglers filled their coolers with these great eating walleye a few fishermen are waiting till late September and October when the trophy walleye return to the Western Basin. This large school will head for the deeper water off the coast of Cleveland. They stay there until the water temperature begins to drop. Last year was like a duck shoot when these big walleye returned. Many of these fish ranged from 4 to 11 pounds. They all were very well fed and fat.

There's quite a few charters that secure temporary dockage in Huron, Ohio, approximately 10 miles east of Marblehead. This makes for shorter runs to the fish. The fish begin appearing about mid September and stayed till the ice was on the lake with charter and local fishermen sharing fishing

information, it's a sure bet the word will spread about their coming back.

Most of these big walleye move towards the west in either large



schools or smaller packs. There's lot's of boats looking for these fish and the trollers usually find them first. If you see a half dozen charters trolling in a formation you can bet they've found the schools. There's no structure, the bottom is either clay or sand. The fish will rise and fall as they feed on the schools of shad and minnows. The water depth of Huron is a little deeper than the Western Basin. You might be fishing in 40 foot of water or even deeper if you're 10 miles off shore.



When it's calm the trollers have a distinct advantage. They can keep moving in and out of the patches of walleye varying their depths till they find out what's working the best. When there's a chop on the lake most anglers prefer casting for these fish.

The trollers prefer using dipsy divers and plainer boards. They'll troll anywhere from 4 to 16 lines at once. Different colored spoons from 3 to 4 inches are the most widely used lures. Some of the local fishermen also troll deep diver big lipped minnow shaped lures with lots of success.

The casters will drift and use the countdown method

When the weather is right fall is the right time to land good size walleyes

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