Lake Erie Walleye

www.walleye.com

The Complete Fishing Scene on Lake Erie

Fall 2002

vol. 8 No. 3

Fall 2002

- The 2002 Perch Report
- Ten Tips for More/ Bigger Walleyes
- Fall Trophy Walleyes
- Locating 'Eyes & Steelies after the Lake Erie Winds Blow
- Lake Erie "Perch-Jerkin Fever"
- Two-Timing Walleyes
- Walleyes Anytime
- Small Boats- Big Water
- The Eastern Lake Erie Report

Plus

Walleye News & Fact File
Charter Fishing Information
Dockage For Lake Erie Fishermen
Lodging for Lake Erie Fishermen
It's Fall, once again and the fishing is fantastic, that is when Mother Nature cooperates. The late summer and early fall winds have blown hard and often making it difficult for fishermen to get out on the lake consisently. When the lake churns for a couple of days it plays havoc with the fish down below too. They tend to scatter, move, and just plain turn off until things settle down again.

Let's hope for a calm long-lasting Indian Summer. Some of my best fishing memories are of fishing with family in late September and through October when the Perch are easy to find and plentiful. When the lake 'turns over' and the waters begin to cool the perch gather from deeper waters and concentrate in closer to shore, making them easy pickins for even the young and inexperienced anglers.

Later in the fall the walleyes will also be moving into shore, searching for baitfish. As late as November and even into early December monster 'eyes can be taken from jetties, piers and even the shoreline, late at night as they pursue their prey. Huron, Ohio in recent years has been the place to be for a 'Walleye Bonanza' in late fall.

With this issue we welcome W. H. (Chip) Gross as a contributing writer. Chip recently retired from the ODNR and brings with him many years of outdoors writing experience. Welcome aboard Chip!

Finally, we've lost a great walleye angler in Norb Wallock who passed away on September 15th. Out of respect, we printed a piece Norb wrote, shortly before his death. Norb, we'll miss you.
Subscribe Now to
Lake Erie Walleye "Online" Magazine
The Complete Fishing Scene on Lake Erie

With your subscription you'll receive passworded access to the "ONLINE EDITION" where the current and back issues of the magazine are posted at the www.walleye.com web site. Hundreds of fishing articles, all about fishing, all about Lake Erie, the "Walleye Capitol of the World"!

Call 1 800 347-4519 today to subscribe

or

Subscribe online at www.walleye.com
or complete section below and mail to:

Lake Erie Walleye P.O. Box 421 Ballwin, MO 63022

Name: ______________________________________
Address: __________________________ City, St., Zip: ____________________________
Phone: __________________________ Email:______________________________________

One Year Subscription $9.95 Two Year Subscription $15.95
Enclosed is Payment of $_________
Charge my credit card

Mastercard Visa
Card Number ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________
Expiration Date: __________

Sign me up for Lake Erie Walleye "Online" Magazine

LAKE ERIE WALLEYE 3 FALL 2002
Captain
Timothy D. Garrett
6076 Walden Court, Mentor, Ohio 44060
(440) 257-3231 (phone)
(440) 257-6995 (fax)
(216) 596-3033 (pager)
(216) 319-5847 (boat)
www.aquafantaseainc.com
timgarrett@buckeyeweb.com

"Where All Your Fishing Fantaseas Come True!"

Luxory & Comfort Aboard a 31' Baha Sport Fisherman

Corporate Specialist * Multiple Charters
Limousine Service & Lodging Packages Available

Fish Lake Erie's Central Basin -Deep Water Means Big Fish

20 pounds and 38 inches

14 pounds and 34 inches
A More Secure Lake Erie

Our nation’s war on terrorism will become more apparent to Lake Erie boaters this season. In its continuing efforts to protect the North Coast, the Coast Guard will be enlisting the support of the boating community to report any suspicious act - while at the same time restricting access to parts of the lake offshore from critical shoreline infrastructure.

Three security zones have been established on Lake Erie to protect the three nuclear power plants; Fermi (Monroe, MI), Davis Besse (Port Clinton, OH) and Perry (Perry, OH) on the lake’s southern shore. Although the exact configuration of each zone varies, boaters are prohibited from entering an area approximately 1000 yards offshore from the plant property. Security zones have been designed to provide the necessary protection to plants - yet with as small a footprint as possible so as not to minimize the area eliminated for recreation/fishing or create an unnecessary navigational hazard to boaters. Although future plans call for the placement of buoy system, to clearly mark these zones, boaters are fully responsible for being aware of the location of these zones, entering them into their navigation charts, and staying clear. Permission to enter a security zone for any extraordinary purpose must be requested in advance from the appropriate Coast Guard Captain of the Port (Toledo for Fermi and Davis Besse, and Cleveland for Perry).

Although the Coast Guard pledges to practice patience in enforcing these zones while boaters become accustomed to their existence, the potential penalties for violating a security zone are stiff. Under current law, violators can be fined $10,000, imprisoned for 10 years, and have their vessels seized.

The intent in establishing these zones is to provide a buffer that will give early warning of any intruders attempting to approach the plant by water, reaching the beach and gaining access to a nuclear power plant. The zones also provide a measure of security for a plant’s offshore water intakes. Anyone following the news over the past nine months is fully aware that our nation’s nuclear energy industry has been implicated as a primary target of Al-Qaeda and other international terrorist organizations.

Boaters are also being asked to assist our national security effort by keeping their eyes open while on the lake, and report anything suspicious or any unusual activity that they may observe. Project Coast Watch, with roots going back to the World War II Civil Defense effort, has been launched by the Coast Guard throughout the Great Lakes to expand the gathering of essential terrorism intelligence. In several instances since 9/11, citizens have observed and reported invaluable leads to authorities concerning potential terrorist activities around the lakes.

For information concerning both security zones and Coast Watch, contact the Coast Guard Captain of the Port in Toledo (419/418-6040) or Cleveland (216/937-0128).

Security Zone Coordinates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Fermi</th>
<th>Davis Besse</th>
<th>Perry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41-58.5’N</td>
<td>83-14.8’W</td>
<td>41-58.2’N</td>
<td>83-13.7’W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-56.7’N</td>
<td>83-15.3’W</td>
<td>41-36.3’N</td>
<td>83-09.0’W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-35.9’N</td>
<td>83-02.5’W</td>
<td>41-35.4’N</td>
<td>83-03.7’W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-48.7’N</td>
<td>81-8.2’W</td>
<td>41-48.7’N</td>
<td>81-8.5’W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lake Erie’s “Walk-On” Fishing Charters Offer Cost-Effective Fun

Many people know that Ohio’s Lake Erie playground is famous for its island-hopping fun and world-class roller coasters. But the area also offers a cost-effective family activity that receives far less attention – walk-on charter boat fishing.

Geared to those wanting to spend a fun day on the lake without spending a lot of money, walk-on charter boats are a great way to experience Lake Erie sportfishing for the first time. Averaging $25 to $30 a person, the charter provides several hours of fishing in well-scouted fishing areas; all necessary bait; a bucket of ice for preserving your catch; and lots of tips on how to reel in the big ones.

Getting on board:

Hooking up with one of these fun boats, which holds from 20-30 people, is easy. Visit one of the many Internet sites, such as www.fishlakeerie.com and www.lake-erie.com or contact any of the region’s visitors bureaus. Most walk-on charters run twice a day, early in the morning and again around 2:30 in the afternoon. Reservations are not necessary for most walk-ons, but they are welcomed.

What to bring:

All you have to do is supply your own fishing pole, tackle and an Ohio fishing license. A one-day license costs $7, and an annual license is $15. It’s a good idea to pack along a small cooler of sodas and snacks. Remember that the sun is more intense out on the water so include a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen in your daypack. If you are prone to motion sickness, don’t forget to take whatever remedy works best for you.

Cleaning your fish:

For many people, one of the less enjoyable sides of fishing is the cleaning. Well, don’t worry because once back on shore anglers can choose from several local fish “houses” where, for a modest fee, catches can be quickly cleaned and filleted.

Including your snacks, a fishing adventure this fall can cost less than $40 – a bargain by today’s entertainment standards. Best of all, you’ll have some nice fresh, delicious fish fillets to show for your “work.”

Numerous fishing services from Ashtabula to Toledo offer daily walk-on charters to pursue smallmouth bass, walleye or yellow perch, depending on the season. An alternative – and more personalized fishing trip – to consider is scheduling with a private charter boat captain. Most of these boats accommodate four-to-six people.

Charter captains will be plying Lake Erie’s waters through October – and beyond if the weather allows – providing their customers with some great late season fishing. Fisheries experts with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources say September and October should be great months for yellow perch and smallmouth. The walleye fishing is also expected to pick up as the fish move in closer to shore, feeding on numerous shad and baitfish.

Summer may be waning, but the fishing on Ohio’s northcoast is still hot. Now is a great time to find out first hand why national fishing magazines rank Lake Erie as one of the country’s finest fishing holes.

Reprinted courtesy of ODNR from the September/October ODNR Outdoor Notebook. Laura Jones, author.

Visit www.LakeErieBoating.com for the complete Lake Erie Boating scene

*Ports O’ Call Marinas Boat Dealerships*
*New & Pre-owned boats*
*Boater’s Forum*
*Anything and everything to do with Lake Erie Boating!*

### Michigan Stinger Scorpion Spoons###
Order online at www.walleye.com or call 1-800-347-4519
The 2002 Perch Report
by
Rick Kubb

During the mid-to-late 1980s the yellow perch populations in Lake Erie were among the highest on record. Limit catches by fishermen were extremely common during that time. In the early to mid 1990's the perch populations experienced a rapid decline.

In recent years Fisheries Agencies have put forth efforts aimed at rehabilitating the perch population. In 1996 the state of Ohio posed a 30 perch daily bag limit. Similarly the State of Pennsylvania places an 8 inch minimum size limit and a 20 perch daily bag limit on perch. Tighter regulations were also levied on commercial fishermen.

In the past few years it is apparent that perch stocks are improving in Michigan, Ohio and in Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. Perch stocks are still low further east in New York waters.

This report represents our eighth consecutive year of reporting annual data on the status of yellow perch stocks in Lake Erie. The data used in this report have been obtained from official fisheries status reports obtained from Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York fisheries agencies. These reports were produced in the spring of 2002 and the data in them represent the perch stocks as evaluated in the year 2001. As in previous years, we examine each state individually to obtain an overall view of the yellow perch fish stocks lake-wide.

Michigan Waters of Lake Erie

Harvestable-size yellow perch abundance in 2002 should be about the same in Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair compared to last year, with continued strong contributions from the 1998 year class.

Biologists estimated that around .27 million perch were harvested from the Michigan waters of Lake Erie during the 2001 season. This is up slightly from the year 2000 (.22 million) but lower than the .4 million caught in 1998 (see figure 1).

In 2001 the yellow perch harvest was dominated by age 3 fish (1998 year-class), which accounted for 44% of the total harvest. In combination age 2 (26%), 4 (17%) and 5 (11%) contributed 54% of the total harvest. Average lengths of harvested age 2,3, and 4 yellow perch were 7.4 inches, 8.4 inches and 8.7 inches. The observed average length at age for yellow perch taken in the Michigan sport fishery in 2001 remained below the levels of the mid-1990s, but similar to those of the early 1990s. Biologists suspect that increased abundance of yellow perch in recent years has resulted in slower growth in western Lake Erie.

Ohio Waters of Lake Erie

Yellow perch abundance in Ohio waters improved again in 2001, relative to the low numbers in the early 1990s due to successful reproduction in four of the last six years and reduced fishing mortality. The strong 1996 year class was mostly responsible for this increase. With moderate reproduction success in 1999 and poor reproduction in 2000, the numbers of yellow perch available to Ohio anglers in Lake Erie will be slightly lower in 2002 than a year ago.

Ohio sport and commercial fishermen met their allotted quotas in 2001. The 30-fish daily bag limit is again in effect for 2001.

In 2001 the combined private and charter yellow perch harvest was 5.5 million fish, virtually the same total as in 2000 (see figure 2). Private boat anglers harvested an estimated 5.2 million yellow perch, the same as was harvested in 2000. Charter anglers harvested about .3 million yellow perch in 2001. The overall catch rate in 2001 increased about 8% and anglers averaged 3.2 fish per angler hour during 2001. Private boat limit trips ranged from 20% in District 3 to 26% in District 1.

The 1998 year class made up 49% of the yellow perch harvest followed by the 1999 (22%) and the 1996 (21%) year classes.

Comparing Districts

The Ohio waters of Lake Erie are divided into three Districts. District 1 is comprised of the western basin, extending to Huron,
OH. District 2 is in the central basin and extends from Huron to Fairport. District 3 extends from Fairport to Conneaut, OH.

Traditionally the greatest numbers of perch are harvested from the shallow western basin (District 1). In 2001 a total of 2.6 million perch (combined private & charter) were taken there. A total of 2.0 million fish were taken from District 2. A total of .8 million fish were harvested from District 3.

Generally, yellow perch harvested by sport anglers are larger as one moves from west to east (see figure 3). In 2001 this trend continued. The average size yellow perch caught in District 1 was 8.6 inches and .27 pounds. This increased to 9.5 inches and .4 pounds in District 2. In District 3 perch taken by anglers averaged 10.2 inches and .54 pounds.

**Commercial Harvest**

In 2001 the total allocation to trap netters for yellow perch was 1 million pounds, the highest since the quota system was established. In District 1, a total of 179,234 pounds of yellow perch were harvested. In the central basin (combined Districts 2 & 3) a total of 909,560 pounds were harvested. The commercial harvest of yellow perch in Ohio waters was the highest in 10 years. The average trap net catch rate of 173 pounds/lift was the highest ever recorded and more than four times the ten-year average. The commercial harvest from District 2 accounted for 82% of the total commercial harvest for Ohio waters. The strong 1998 year class was the most abundant of the six year-classes reported in the harvest.

**Diet of Yellow Perch**

Adult yellow perch ate primarily benthic invertebrates (72%) in the Spring. As the summer progressed, perch switched to fish (44%). In the fall perch fed primarily on zooplankton (49%) and round gobies (29%).

**Outlook for 2002**

The excellent perch fishing anglers have experienced the past four years should continue through 2001 and beyond, although the numbers predicted for 2002 will be slightly lower than the past two seasons due to the poor hatch of 2000 and the moderate 1999 hatch. Conservative regulations for sport and commercial fishers and improved spawns in the mid-to-late 1990s have helped Lake Erie’s yellow perch stocks to gradually recover after low levels in the early 1990s.

Perch fishing will peak in September and October. The daily bag limit for yellow perch in Ohio waters will remain 30 fish/angler.

**Pennsylvania Waters of Lake Erie**

In 2001 anglers directed an estimated 90,000 hours at yellow perch, a 29% increase in fishing effort from the 2000 estimates. In 2001 anglers harvested an estimated 271,000 yellow perch. This represents a 60% increase from the 2000 estimated harvest and a 335% increase from the 1996-2000 (see figure 4).

The strong 1998 year-class should yield larger numbers of perch caught in Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie in 2002. The persistence of the older age groups in the perch population (average age of 5.7 years) indicates desirable survival of the fishable stock.

Yellow perch angling was concentrated mainly in the central basin waters where over 88% of the harvest occurred. August and September accounted for 75% of the total yellow perch catch in 2001.

The average length perch caught in Pennsylvania waters was 9.6 inches. Yellow perch caught in 2001 ranged in age from 3 to 13 years, with 4 and 5 year-old fish (97 & 96 year-classes) accounting for the greatest proportion (43%) of the catch. Older age groups (>8 years old) accounted for 20% of the total catch.

**New York Waters of Lake Erie**

The status of the yellow perch continues to improve in the New York waters of Lake Erie. Gill net and bottom trawling programs continue to corroborate observations of neighboring jurisdictions that abundance of adult yellow perch has increased in eastern Lake Erie. However, it remains uncertain whether this recent increase forecasts the beginning of a long-term recovery or simply the chance occurrence of two strong year classes within three years.

In 2001, in New York waters of Lake Erie an estimated 32,000
yellow perch were caught by fishermen. This is the highest total recorded since 1989 (figure 5).

Age-3 and age-5 yellow perch were the most abundant age groups in the 2001 collections. These age groups, representing the 1998 and 1996 year classes, together comprised 72 percent of the yellow perch sampled in the gill net assessments.

Figure 1. 10 year comparison of yellow perch catch from the Michigan waters of Lake Erie.

Figure 2. 10 year comparison of yellow perch catch from the Ohio waters of Lake Erie.

Looking for a GREAT GIFT for the Fisherman in Your Life?

Give a subscription to Lake Erie Walleye Magazine

Published every March, June and September at www.walleye.com
Annual subscriptions are only $9.95

Plus, subscribers have 24/7 to the Lake Erie Walleye ARCHIVES where the current and back issues of Lake Erie Walleye Magazine can be viewed, 24/7.

Call today at 1-800-347-4519 or visit www.walleye.com to order your gift.
Figure 3. Comparison of yellow perch size among Ohio’s District 1 (western basin), District 2 (west-central basin) and District 3 (central basin).

Figure 4. Six year comparison of yellow perch sportfishing catch in Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie.

Figure 5. Ten year comparison of yellow perch sportfishing catch in New York waters of Lake Erie.
Ten Tips for More/Bigger Walleyes

Incorporate these tips into your walleye fishing arsenal to boost your success

by

Michael Veine

Walleye fishing on Lake Erie seems to be evolving at breakneck speeds. Today’s consistently successful anglers use equipment and techniques unheard of twenty years ago. Many of those leading edge techniques can be chalked up to the proliferation of tournament angling, charter captains and super serious, recreational anglers.

Today’s anglers have driven a revolution of new and improved ways to catch more and bigger walleyes from the same old waters. Here are ten tips that will help any angler fill their livewell with lots of nice walleyes.

Trolling Speed

Perhaps the biggest mistake that I see trollers make on Erie are improper trolling speeds. I monitor the speed on my Lawrance Global Map 1600 GPS receiver. Water temperature governs trolling speeds more than any other factor. When the surface of the water is below 47 degrees, I almost never troll faster than one mile per hour: Usually much slower. When I’m trolling crankbaits in water 47-60 degrees, my speed usually ranges between 1.0 and 1.5 miles per hour. In warm water conditions, I usually troll between 1.8 and 2.2.

When pulling crawlers in cold water, my speed is always very slow. However when the water temp is warm, I like to troll crawlers faster, sometimes over 2.0 miles-per-hour.

To achieve those precise trolling speeds, most savvy pros rely on a 4-stroke auxiliary motor. I depend heavily on my Mercury 9.9, 4-stroke and couldn’t even imagine fishing on Lake Erie without it.

With the Wind

A few years back, I spent the day fishing for walleyes with Gary Roach. I posed

This long and fat walleye was the largest one taken in the author’s charter boat this year and was one of 145 walleyes that weighed 10-pounds or more.
Repeating precise setbacks with line counter reels resulted in this 33-inch monster. Photo taken by Michael Veine.

this question to him: If he only had one piece of advice to give anglers, what would it be? His response, “Troll with the wind.” He explained, “Walleyes typically feed facing into a current. They wait for bait to be carried to them and then swim around the unsuspecting prey and ambush it from behind. Winds and waves create currents. By trolling with the wind, you’ll be presenting your lures more naturally, the way walleyes want them. Besides, boat control is much easier when trolling with the waves and the surging action also puts a pull and pause action on the lures that triggers more strikes.”

In-Line Planer Boards

Using inline boards is the only way to go when making trolling passes with the wind. Not surprisingly, inline boards are the choice among most of the top walleye pros. Keep in mind that tournament pros can use any planer board system they want, but in the past ten years, I’ve never seen a major walleye tournament won using the large, tethered board systems. Inlines allow for precise depth control, quick setup, constant tension, easy storage and awesome fish catching action. They also provide a lure spread that covers water very efficiently.

Line Counter Reels

If trolling for walleyes is on the agenda, then outfitting yourself with some quality line counter reels will put more fish in the boat. Just about every time I fish for walleyes, precise setbacks are necessary to catch fish consistently. Line counter reels, like my Daiwa SG47LC models, allow me to quickly repeat those productive trolling patterns that fill the livewell fast.

Bottom Bouncers

When the going gets tough, the tough put down bottom bouncers with crawlers. This past May and June, all of my charters managed to limit out in short order despite the general lack of success among other anglers fishing around us. Our secret: Plain bottom bouncers fished with spinner/crawler rigs. When Mayflies are hatching during late spring, there is no better presentation that a big bottom bouncer and crawler. By big, I mean at least 3-ounces. I sometimes use 4-ounce bouncers and would probably use larger ones if they were commercially available. Those large weights actually attract fish by kicking up silt, wigglers and other goodies. The walleyes are literally jolted into a feeding frenzy at times and it’s not uncommon to catch multiple walleyes on the same harness when they’re going good.

Net Enhancement

Good netting starts with a quality net. I prefer a long handled (10 foot) net with a medium sized hoop and a deep, rubber coated nylon net bag. My preferred brand is the Cummings. I attach an Offshore release clip to the net handle close to the hoop using a small bolt and lock nut. The release is attached to the bottom of the net bag to keep it from trailing into the fish during the netting process. This net enhancement prevents the net bag from catching on hooks and loosing fish. When the weight of the fish slides into the net, the release lets go of the net bag.

See Ten Tips, page 32
Fall Trophy Walleyes
by
Captain Phil Cadez

The year 2002 has been a good year of walleye fishing on Lake Erie. The 4th largest walleye hatch in 1999 will ensure many good fishing days for quite a few years. These fish average about 18 inches and were all over the lake. There was also a few 1998 and 1997 hatched fish being caught. These fish ranged from 20 to 24 inches. April and May were slow again because of inclement weather and cold water. June thru August were again the best months to fish our shallow lake. The lake rose to record high temperatures of 80 degrees as a result of another hot summer.

While most anglers filled their coolers with great eating walleye a big walleye returned. Many of these fish ranged from 4 to 11 lbs, they all were very well fed and fat.

Quite a few charters secure temporary dockage in Huron, OH, 10 miles east of Marblehead to make a shorter run to the fish. The fish begin appearing about mid September and stay until the ice is on the lake. It doesn’t take long for the word to spread when the fish make their comeback.

Lake Erie “casting weapon” caught this nice walleye. Photo by Capt. Paul LaCourse
Most of these walleye move towards the west in large schools or smaller patches. There’s lots 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 school.

There is 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 off 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 plainers 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 a lot of success.

The casters will drift and use the countdown method after they’ve found the right depth. If the fish are high they’ll use ½ or ¾ oz egg sinkers on their “walleye weapon” casting rigs. As most of the locals use these casting harnesses they experiment with colors and size of blades. All summer we’ve used a No. 3 spinner with a few beads and a small hook at the end. A few anglers go to a No. 4 Indiana or Colorado spinner.

Colors most widely used are gold, chartreuse, silver, white and bi-colored spinners. The beads can also be gold, red, green, chartruese, yellow or white. A few anglers use a little larger hook at this time of year. They’ll go from a No. 4 to a 2 or even No. 1.

Regardless of the size we use only half a nightcrawler on these hooks. It’s supposed to resemble a May Fly. If you use a big or whole worm without a stinger you’ll just be feeding them if they bite short.

A few of the guides have gone back to weight forward spinners at this time of year.

They prefer 5/8 or better yet ¾ oz lures. Favorite lures are Erie Dearies, crooked eye and parish “P” lures. Most popular colors are gold with gold blades, chartreuse, green and white, silver and green with large silver blades.

If you’re coming in your own good sized boat you can put in at Huron and go out the river mouth to the fish. There’s also ramps in Sandusky Bay or Marblehead. It will all depend when you come and how close to the Marblehead area the fish are. In November you won’t need a boat, you can catch these big fish at night casting crank bait that stay a few feet from the surface. The walleye push the schools toward the lighted docks all thru the nighttime hours. It’s strictly timing, they could there at dusk or come at 4:00 AM.

See Fall Trophy, page 32
Lake Erie's Dynamic Duo!

Lake Erie Smallmouth
Learn how and where the experts
catch smallmouth bass throughout
Lake Erie. Includes 41 detailed
fishing maps.

Lake Erie Walleye
Top guides and tournament anglers
reveal how they catch big walleyes
from Lake Erie.

Big River Press
P.O. Box 130
Millfield, OH
45761

$14.95 each, plus $3.50 shipping.
(Ohio residents add $.93 tax per book.)

WOW!
Buy both books for only $28.58,
shipping included. Save $8.48

Have a Boat to Sell?
Try the Lake Erie Walleye
Boat Classifieds
at
www.walleye.com
List your boat for sale
for only $30.00
with photo

List till it sells!!
Call 1-800-347-4519
or visit
www.walleye.com

With over 5 million
hits to the
walleye.com web site
each year, your boat
will "BE SEEN"

Lake Erie Fishermen
Find up-to-date fishing reports
at
www.walleye.com

Advertise in
Lake Erie
Walleye Magazine
Full Page ..........$ 400
Half Page ..........$ 200
Quarter Page ......$ 100
Business Card ....$ 50
Call 1 800 347-4519
or visit www.walleye.com

Nemecek Insurance

Marine Insurance Specialists
800-686-3474

RICK NEMECEK
nemecer@nationwide.com  (419) 732-3624

FishUSA.com

COMPLETE WALLEYE FISHING GEAR
Great Prices  Flat $3.95 Shipping  Fast Delivery

Downrigger and Diver Rods
Trolling and Line Counter Reels
Spoons, Plugs and Ball Rigs
Divers and Releases
and much more . . .

On the web: www.FishUSA.com
By phone: 800.922.1219

With over 5 million
hits to the
walleye.com web site
each year, your boat
will "BE SEEN"
Locating 'Eyes and Steelies after the Lake Erie Winds Blow

by

Jeff Frischkorn

The hunt was on but it was good to know that two of the Central Basin's best bird dogs were hot on the fish's tail. "People always ask why we fish every day but really, every day is different. You have to find them and stay with them," said Ron Johnson of Perry Township.

A well-known and equally well-respected Lake Erie charter captain, Johnson was tag-teaming with fellow Grand River fishing guide, Marv DeGreen of Huntsburg Township.

Johnson and DeGreen were engaged in a scouting mission designed to relocate both steelhead trout and walleye. The effort was made necessary because last weekend's nasty winds created rough seas. This tumultuous duo of titans scattered the lake's horde of walleye and steelhead, also sending the baitfish to parts unknown. All that was left was a nickel's worth of change.

"Every blow is different and a good one sometimes sets up a mud line, which is fine. You can usually locate fish at the edge of a mud line," DeGreen said.

Thus, finding both the prey and the predators is a never-ending chore. So even when the men aren't working they are, well, working, both charter skippers said.

"Before the blow everything was cooking," DeGreen said, rigging up one of the planer board lines with clips.

To these snaps DeGreen and Johnson attached lines cabled with Stinger spoons. The most popular Stinger spoon colors of late include the firm's "confusion" - a mixed bag of hues that sparkle and dazzle the fish into striking.

Other good Stinger spoon colors include what's called "yellow jacket" and "boy/girl" - a pattern that involves fusing pink on the lure's port side, blue on the starboard side and a streak of silver showing down the middle.

"The steelies' love it," Johnson said. "But when things get tough and the water is turned all around then sometimes body baits work better. I think it's the size of the lure and the fact that a body bait can attract the attention of a walleye or a trout."

Yet first finding fish is the highest priority since throwing lures at something that isn't swimming within a few yards will guarantee a cooler filled with air instead of walleye.

To that end the charter captains watched the passing of the images on the boat's electronic fish finder. They also looked for slicks, or trails of water that appear on the lake's surface.

"Those are currents," Johnson said, pointing to a set of zig-zagging slicks in the trackless lake. "Find those and a steelhead might be nearby."

Importantly, DeGreen also said, is the need to look for the establishment of a thermocline, an invisible cordon that separates the lake's warmer waters from its colder waters.

The more well defined the thermocline the better the odds are in favor of the fishermen as the walleye and the steelhead are found straddling the barrier.

Even more telling is that the thermocline represents the zone in which the all-important bait fish uses as their reference point, DeGreen says. "Walleye and steelhead have to eat so you have to go looking first for the bait," DeGreen said. In these kinds of conditions, after a blow, the fish and the bait could be anywhere, top to bottom."

The hunt this particular evening started out many miles from Lake Erie's south shore. In water about 68 feet deep Johnson and DeGreen set up their usual arsenal.
of directional divers and Jet Divers to which went a selection of spoons.

In short order a 5-pound trout tripped a directional diver as did an equally sized walleye. Neither fish impressed the two charter captains who modulated the boat's speed either faster or slower to see if any alteration would help get the fish's attention.

When their work failed to yield the hoped-for results, DeGreen and Johnson then throttled up the boat's engines. Their destination was south toward much more shallow water off the Mentor Lagoons. It was here that a coterie of fellow fishing guides were plucking walleye.

With a water depth never exceeding 50 feet, the zone for locating fish became all that much more confining. “Last year we had the fish in this same area all the way through July. It was good for business because we didn't have to run very far or use up much gas,” DeGreen said. “It was our gravy run.”

Dinner was definitely being spooned up as the Stingers bit the lips of nearly one dozen walleye before the sun tilted below the horizon.”Once you know the program, where to go and what to use, then you're going to catch fish,” DeGreen said.

For information about fishing with DeGreen, contact him at (216) 970-1246. For information about fishing with Johnson, contact him at (440) 487-0002.

Better Walleye Days Ahead??
By Jeffrey L. Frischkorn

Though all of the statistics are far from in, chances are that Lake Erie’s Central Basin will have experienced an average walleye angling year. If that. Yet ongoing fisheries research is pointing to much more productive angling beginning in 2003.

"Our work so far is showing that we have a good 2001 year class of walleye, which will help build up the population. These should start to appear in the fisheries beginning next year as right now they are only 7 to 8 inches long,” said Kevin Kayle, manager of the Ohio Division of Wildlife’s Fairport Harbor Fisheries Research Station.

The lake’s largest stock of walleye is made up of fish from the 1999 year class with the fish measuring 15 to 18 inches. Another strong year class of walleye include those fish which were hatched in 1996. These latter fish measure 21 to 25 inches and make up about 20 to 25 percent of the lake’s total population, Kayle said.

"And we still have from 2 to 5 percent of fish from the 1986 year class. These fish are the real trophies: 29 inches or longer,” Kayle said.

With such heavy weights, a possibility exists that the current state record walleye title will fall. This record-holding fish weighed 16.19 pounds, measured 33 inches long and was caught by Tom Haberman of Brunswick on November 23, 1999.

"There is always that potential, especially when you consider that the lake has about 40 million walleye,” Kayle said. Kayle added that last year an estimated 217,000 fish out of the 1.16 million taken by Ohio Lake Erie sport anglers were caught in the Central Basin.

The net result is that Lake Erie's sport fishing fleet should experience angling at least as good as it was last season. “Next year it will be different because then we'll begin to see those 2001 year class fish enter the picture,” Kayle said.
Anglers and other vacationers who travel to Lake Erie this year will not want to miss out on the perch fishing bonanza Lake Erie anglers have been enjoying in recent years. This popular Lake Erie species provides a fun, easy, and affordable angling experience with big rewards.

Most anglers agree that the walleye ranks number one in popularity, but yellow perch are considered the tastiest fish in the lake. They are abundant, widespread, easy to catch, and provide perfect family-style entertainment.

‘During September and October, sportmen who journeyed to the lake from all parts of Ohio and surrounding states to enjoy the beautiful Indian summer weather were treated to large catches of big perch daily... Catches from 100 to 300 perch per small boat were not uncommon and, of course, the take by party fishing boats was proportionately greater. “In this area where a catch of one fish per hour is average, (creel census during the period showed a range in the perch catch of from three to 11 fish per hour; other species excluded. On October 4, 1955 a creel census from 108 anglers revealed a catch of 2,411 perch which figures to be about 11 fish per hour.”

In the Toledo Blade in 1955, outdoor columnist Lew Klewer reported that one party fishing boat out of Toledo caught 19,467

Mom and son with a 'Double-Header' of perch which are common in Lake Erie, especially during the fall perch run. Photo by Norm Kubb

Perch of the Past

This popular fishery has been luring anglers to Ohio’s big lake for decades. In a January 1957 article in the Ohio Conservation Bulletin (the forerunner of Wild Ohio), the author summed up the 1955 yellow perch season.
perch for the season. The park manager at Catawba State Park estimated that for a 30 day period during September and October of that year, approximately 60,000 pounds of perch were brought in by the boats using the launch ramp at the park.

Today, although perch are now second to walleye as the most sought after sport species, this was not always the case. Division of Wildlife creel records show that in 1975 anglers spent more than 3.3 million angler hours fishing for yellow perch and only 660,000 angler hours in pursuit of walleye. But two years later, the walleye fishery took off with anglers spending 3.5 million angler hours in hot pursuit of walleye and yellow perch (total allowable catch) that can be taken from the lake without harming the populations.

“Yellow perch stocks have declined all across the Great Lakes, but Lake Erie is the only Great Lake where yellow perch have had a steady recovery (after low numbers in the mid-1990s). That speaks well for the Lake Erie Committee,” Fofrich said.

Today, Ohio Lake Erie anglers fill coolers with 5.5 million yellow perch annually. Despite the popularity of walleye, yellow perch takes center stage in late summer and fall. Some anglers fish for yellow perch spring through fall, but the traditional perch-fishing months are August through October when perch are concentrated in large schools near shorelines. The best action and highest catch rates occur in September and October, when limit catches of 30 fish per angler are often caught within two or three hours of fishing. The action continues into early winter, often as late as November and December for some hardy anglers with only wind or storm events slowing the action.

Yellow perch are well distributed across the entire lake with traditional fishing hot spots too numerous to mention. But boat anglers need not go far from shore to get into a school of perch. If perch aren’t biting at one location, the best strategy is to move to another location until a school is located.

Anglers usually know right away if they have found a school of perch. The action usually starts soon after dropping anchor and can be fast and furious. The fish’s quick, light to medium tugs or “jerking” on the rig makes perch fishing loads of fun. Upon getting a bite, anglers instinctively jerk their rods up to set the hook, hence the nickname “perch jerking.” Catching doubles and triples- more than one perch taking separate baits on the same rig at one time- are common.

Erie’s yellow perch are not only plentiful and well distributed, but large. The number of jumbo-sized perch has increased in the past few years as recent hatches have

Head boats are an affordable way to get out on the water and enjoy the fall perch season on Lake Erie.

Photo by Chip Gross.

Great Lakes Fishery Commission - Lake Erie Committee
matured. Perch from a large hatch in 1996, the largest hatch in 10 years, now measure 10 to 12 inches. Other year classes that are adding to the current catch include 1998-spawned perch (8 to 10 inches) and 1999-spawned perch (8 to 9 inches.)

Make it a Family Affair

The traditional fishing method used for catching perch is easy to master, making yellow perch fishing an ideal family activity. The equipment is simple, no casting is involved, and for kids, catching lots of smaller fish such as perch is more satisfying than catching fewer, bigger fish such as walleyes.

“Having grown up within walking distance from Edgewater breakwall in Cleveland, perch fishing on Lake Erie has been a family activity since I’ve been old enough to bait a hook,” said Gene Emond, Lake Erie angler and fisheries biologist with the Division of Wildlife’s Lake Erie Fisheries Research Unit in Sandusky. “Tools of the trade were and continue to be affordable for all income levels, with the added bonus of a delicious perch dinner for the table.”

Emond has passed the perch fishing tradition on to his two children and offers some advice for families considering a perch-fishing outing.

“Keep in mind that each child will have a different level of interest. Some kids, like my daughter, Lauren, will fish all day and love every minute of it, even when the fish aren’t especially cooperative. Others, like my son, Nathan, look for a book or some other activity if the fish aren’t jumping in the boat right from the start.”

Nothing discourages a new angler more than a reel that’s difficult to use or fish that won’t bite, says Emond. Younger anglers requiring assistance should be provided with a reliable rod and reel combination. These can be purchased at most discount stores for under $20, less for youth-sized gear. Easy to use, closed-face spinning reel and rod combos, equipped with perch or crappie rigs or spreaders and sinkers, should be all that the beginning angler will need. For the best success, trips planned during the months of April and May or August through October offer dependable and exciting action at most public piers and breakwalls, according to Emond.

Walk-on charter boats (holding 20 to 50 people) are available at a reasonable cost at many major ports along Ohio’s shoreline, with most operating twice a day for your choice of either a morning or afternoon excursion. The cost is around $25 per person, versus a “six-pack” charter (for up to six people) that goes for about $400 to $450.

“A common mistake of new perch anglers is storing your perch in a bucket, either empty or filled with water, especially in warmer weather,” Emond said. “The inevitable result is that tomorrow’s meal tastes fishy or stronger than expected, which can turn off many people to future perch fishing trips. Always take along a cooler of ice for the day’s catch and get your perch cleaned as soon as possible.”

For those who want a quick and convenient option of cleaning the day’s catch, Emond recommends the many fish-cleaning businesses situated in and around most ports and harbor communities along the lake.

“One thing is for sure. When the fishing is good, everyone’s happy and the smile on a child’s face when a fish is on the line is a memory made for life,” he said. “There’s a saying that when you give someone a fish, you feed them for a day, but when you teach someone to fish, you feed them for a lifetime,” said Emond.

How It’s Done

The simplest and most effective technique for catching perch uses two or three hooks attached to a spreader or “perch rig” and weighted with a sinker of up to two ounces. This is baited with live emerald shiners or minnows. Anglers are most successful by varying the location of the bait on or near the bottom in a jigging fashion, moving the rig up and down in the water column.

Yellow perch tend to move offshore in the summer months, moving back closer to shore or islands as waters cool in the fall (10- to 20-foot depths in the Western Basin, and 20 to 40 feet or more in the Central Basin.) Perch fishing is also very popular with shore anglers. Many public
fishing piers and breakwalls located all along the Ohio shoreline from Toledo to Conneaut provide easy access to some good perch fishing. See the sidebar with this article that lists some shoreline areas providing good perch fishing, especially spring and fall. Shore anglers can be successful using traditional perch spreaders tipped with minnows, but many perch are also caught when using other live bait while fishing for “whatever bites.”

Ice anglers also do well in pursuit of yellow perch when the lake and Sandusky Bay get sufficient ice cover. Again, minnows are the preferred bait, but some perch are taken on jigging spoons or jigs tipped with waxworms, maggots, or worms. Once the ice melts, anglers have found several traditional spring hot spots: Marblehead/ Catawba area and downtown Cleveland breakwalls generally provide good success in April and May.

“The with wise management and a healthy outlook for Lake Erie’s yellow perch population, perch jerking will continue to be a Lake Erie tradition for generations to come,” said Emond. “It’s the stuff memories are made of, so don’t forget to take along your camera to capture the fun on film.”

Good Places to Fish for Yellow Perch from the Lake Erie Shore:

Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area - SR 2 at Bono Road, Curitice

Port Clinton Pier - Perry Street (SR 163), down-town

Port Clinton Catawba State Park Pier - Moors Dock Road, Catawba

Mazurik Access - 8 1/2 miles east of Port Clinton off SR 163 on Northshore Blvd.

Dempsey Access - CR 135 (Bayshore Road) at CR 14, 5 miles east of SR 169

Sandusky Bay Bridge Fishing Access - Exit SR 2 at SR 269, exit on west end, Bayview

Battery Park Marina - 701 E. Water St., downtown Sandusky

Jackson Street Pier - foot of Jackson Street, down-town Sandusky

Kelles Island State Park Breakwall - north tip of Kelles Island

Huron Pier - north of SR 286 at Huron

Cleveland Lakefront State Park – Edgewater Memorial Parkway, use Edgewater Park exit
East 55th Street Access - north end of East 55th Street, Cleveland

Gordon Park - north end of East 72nd Street, Cleveland

Euclid Beach - SR 283, east of East 156th Street, Cleveland

Wildwood Park - junction of SR 283 and East 174th Street, Cleveland

Fairport Harbor Port Authority Boat Launch - north end of Water Street, Fairport

West Breakwall - Walnut Beach Park, Ashtabula

West Breakwall - Conneaut Harbor, north end of Broad Street, Conneaut

The following county visitors bureaus located along the Lake Erie shoreline can provide more information on charter boat services and lodging:

? Ashtabula County Convention & Visitors Bureau (1-800-337-6746)
? Lake County Visitors Bureau (1-800-368-5253)
? Convention & Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland (1-800-321-1001)
? Lorain County Visitors Bureau (1-800-334-1673)
? Sandusky/Erie County Visitors Bureau (1-800-255-8070)
? Ottawa County Visitors Bureau (1-800-441-1271)
? Greater Toledo Convention & Visitors Bureau (1-800-2243-4667)
? Ohio Division of Travel & Tourism (1-800-BUCK-EYE)

Advertise in Lake Erie Walleye Magazine
Full Page ............ $400
Half Page ............ $200
Quarter Page ...... $100
Business Card .... $50

Sign up for three issues and receive the THIRD AD FREE
Call 1 800 347-4519
or visit www.walleye.com for more information
Ted Takasaki's Newest Video - Just Released

Techniques of a Champion

With Ted Takasaki
1998 In-Fisherman PWT Champion

Learn the techniques Ted used to capture the coveted $100,000 PWT Championship in this Brand NEW, Action Packed 60 minute video!!

FREE gift from Ted with every order!!
Get your copy today!
Send $19.99 + $3.00 S&H to:
Ted Takasaki 1281 Sun Vallee Drive East Gull Lake, MN 56401
(Minnesota Residents add $1.30 sales tax - $24.29 total)

Great Offer!!
Order the Champion's video package
(all three of Ted's Videos)
Trophy Walleye Tactics, Top Gun Walleye Tips
and the brand new Techniques of a Champion
for the special price of $45.99 ($60.00 value)
plus $6.00 shipping & handling

"Year Round Walleyes"

by walleye Pro Mark Martin

Everything you NEED to know to catch walleyes!

Order your autographed copy today! for only $19.95
plus $3.00 S&H
Send check or money order to:
Mark Martin
POB 103
Twin Lake, MI 49457
Michigan residents add 6% sales tax
Two-Timing Walleyes

by

Mark Martin

In fall, I follow a pattern that mirrors the predictability of the walleyes. It goes like this: jig moderate depths most of the day; cast or troll minnowbaits in the last hour or two before dark and on into the night.

Sound straightforward enough? You bet it is. Although other patterns exist, say, plumbing the depths with lead-core line, I like to keep it simple everywhere from the natural lakes of the North Country to the big water of Lake Erie and the rest of the Great Lakes. This is the time of year when walleyes are primed to feed before winter, focusing on minnow-related prey. That’s precisely why I do the same, working live bait or plastic minnows on jigs during the light of day, then casting jerkbaits and trolling slim-minnow imitations once the witching hour arrives. The way I look at it, it’s a recipe for destruction.

Bigger Bait, Live or Fake

Grab a handful of Northland Fire-Ball jigs and a bucket of shiners and chubs and you’re partway there. To complement a live-bait approach, I’ll stock up on Berkley Power Minnows and long-shank Northland jigs an option for when walleyes are really popping or when they’re really not. By that I mean that plastic minnows jigged a little faster work great when fish are highly aggressive or rather neutral. Sometimes the neutral ones respond to a little more speed than to standard jigging with bait. Try some of each to find what’s working. One new offering from Berkley is an assortment of bulked-up four-inch minnows, new additions beyond the standard three-inchers that mimic the bigger baitfish of fall.

When picking out prime areas, I look for points, humps, weeds and flats near deep water. During the daytime, I’ll slide off the edges of them, starting at the break and working deeper. Quality electronics, such as the Lowrance liquid-crystal units, will pinpoint both bait and fish, pretty fine starting points by me. Another asset for such areas is a fairly steep break, which gives the fish the ability to hang out on mud or rock bottom for most of the day and climb into the shallows to chow down as
evening approaches.

Typically I’ll control my drift with a bowmount Minn Kota trolling motor, jigging vertically with sizable minnows (just what walleyes are looking for in fall). I pay attention to when I feel the minnow struggling, a tip-off predators are in the area. With plastics such as Power Minnows, I’ll pitch out and snap them back with a lift-and-drop retrieve or work them right below the boat, hopping them six to 10 inches off bottom. If the wind’s an issue, consider investing in Trojan deep-cycle batteries, which have the staying power in the gusts of fall, teamed with an easy-to-open, easy-to-retrieve drift sock from JNB Originals. The sock, along with the long-lasting batteries, will keep you from speeding too fast even in the gales of October and November.

Prime depths depend mostly on water clarity. If the lake has a little stain, I can catch fish jigging with bait or plastic between about 12 and 18 feet. If it’s pretty clear, I’ll go deeper, as deep as 30 feet. Here it’s important to watch for fish on electronics. Remember, the deeper you get, the easier it is to see them, particularly in depths in excess of 15 feet. One solid strategy for finding fish is to check out a Fishing Hot Spots map and to look for the most prominent structure on the lake. Then I take a closer look to find where the contour lines are closest, an indication of steeper drops. That’s the key area to key in on, and it’s the fastest way to find fall walleyes.

The Boatside Bash

For all the excellent fall fishing in the depths during the daytime, I know when to say when, that is, when to slide shallower when the sun nears the top of the trees. Like clockwork, walleyes move in farther and are even more aggressive. That makes them perfect targets for minnow baits.

My favorites are Rapala Husky Jerks, suspending baits that dive when retrieved and stay put, hovering at the same depth, when stopped. In fall, I seldom use anything smaller than a No. ‘0, usually going larger with a No. ‘2 or No. ‘4, even if the fish aren’t all that large. The reason is that autumn walleyes key in on large baits. It’s that simple. A trick, though, is to add a strip of reflective tape from WTP Inc. to the bait’s side. I was sold when I watched minnows flash in a fish tank in low light; I was sold even more when I tried the tape long ago and caught more walleyes than other anglers in my boat without it.

To work the five- to 12-foot depth profile, I whip out a Husky Jerk, crank to get it down and stop. If you’re around walleyes, you sometimes can let it sit until you get bit. If you don’t get one to hit the bait, twitch it once, twice or three times and stop. Repeat all the way back to the boat. Warning: Big walleyes will often smack a jerkbait when it’s a foot from the boat. That’s a riot.

In this instance, keep a loose drag so walleyes don’t come unbuttoned on a short line. I put Berkley 6-pound FireLine, a thin-diameter superline, on my Mitchell reels. The reels cast great, eliminating twists and snarls from the line, and offer a smooth drag to help offset the boatside bash.

My other favorite technique, although it’s not as up close and personal, is to troll Rapala Original Floaters with an electric motor. When I’m 10 feet or less during the evening or after dark, I seldom add weight to a No. 13 Rap, the perfect size in fall. (I just make sure I add reflective tape and a ring of glow paint around the tail and head of the bait, then attach the Rapala with a Berkley Cross-Lok snap to allow the bait to wobble.) I’ll let the lure out 80 to 120 feet and tune in the trolling motor at a speed just fast enough to make the lure wobble. Now you’re in business. The Rapala is buoyant enough to stay above weeds or rocks. If you’re smacking bottom too often or snarling in weeds, bring the Rap in 20 feet at a time until it’s running free. It’s often difficult to run a bait too high above the fish, since they’ll rise up to smack it. The distance behind the boat simply provides a little cushion between you and the fish to minimize spooking.

With all the techniques out there and all the options that exist when fish are scattered from shallow to deep in summertime, jigging and working minnow baits are refreshing returns to simplicity. After all, when the walleye’s patterns are downright predictable, it makes the most sense to mirror their patterns with minnow imitations out deeper during daylight and in shallower when the light wanes. Well, what are you waiting for?
Walleyes Anytime

by

Norb Wallock

The ability to catch walleyes consistently, on a wide variety of waters, requires a certain amount of versatility. Versatility can help you overcome tough fishing situations, or make the most out of a good one. The lack there of could result in fewer fish boated, and may seriously dampen your chances for a nailing a real hawg.

Top tournament anglers know just how important it can be, and the most successful have made becoming more versatile their number one priority. When you travel the country competing in tournaments on waters ranging from the Great Lakes to natural lakes, and from rivers to reservoirs, you quickly learn where your shortcomings are, and where you might need some work.

During the early years of big time walleye tournaments you could pick who was going to do well on certain waters by their background. If they came from Ohio or Michigan there was a good chance they would dominate an open water trolling bite, while the Midwest anglers were a safe bet for doing well in a rigging or jigging bite. Western anglers excelled at rigging, jigging, and trolling contours with crankbaits. However, it didn’t take long before the local advantage disappeared as the rest of the field got up to speed, and became much more versatile. They also learned that the knowledge gained on the trail helped to unlock a few more secrets on their home waters.

Once you achieve the ultimate level of “being versatile” your confidence level will explode, and confidence is the most important element of overcoming a tough angling situation. When you possess all of the tricks in your bag, you’ll have the confidence needed to handle any situation that you may be faced with, which can open up a whole new world to you.

Being versatile in your approach to walleye fishing is the key to catching ‘eyes during the different seasons and conditions.
new world of opportunities.

Being versatile isn’t something that comes easy, and is achieved by spending a good deal of time outside of your comfort zone. Getting outside of the comfort zone means letting go (or at least putting aside) what you already have confidence in, and getting into the experimental mode.

The experimental mode will likely cost you some time, time that could be spent doing other things, like catching walleyes using the usual methods. But that won’t help you grow as an angler, as there is a price to be paid to get to the next level.

Before an angler can claim the title of being “versatile”, there’s a certain set of criteria that must be met. The criteria includes becoming proficient using a variety of methods under varying sets of conditions.

With so many different methods available to the modern walleye angler, it’s easy to get confused and maybe even lost. Rather than spreading yourself too thin trying to learn it all at once, you’d be better off concentrating your efforts on one specific presentation and mastering it before moving on to the next.

If you’re starting from scratch you might as well start at the beginning with the most basic of techniques, like jigging. Jigging is one of the best ways to extract walleyes from a variety of situations as they can be cast, jigged vertically, and even trolled. Take a jig like the Blue Fox Foxee Jig and maybe tip it with a minnow, leech, or piece of crawler and you’re in business.

Next on the list of basic presentations is rigging, which has a number of options available, including sliding sinkers and long leaders, a simple split shot and a hook, or a bottom bouncer and live bait combination. It’s all designed to deliver live bait as naturally as possible, and what you choose will depend on the area you happen to be working.

A twist on the standard live bait rig is a spinner harness, which will allow you to present a natural bait like a night crawler and give it some added wiggle and vibration, as well as a good measure of speed.

Crankbaits are next and have a higher difficulty rating than rigs and jigs but are definitely worth the time and effort needed to learn their uses. They can be either cast or trolled along structure from shallow to deep, or out in the middle of nowhere when the fish are found suspended.

Whether you’re casting or trolling, it would be a good idea to stick with a bait that is a known producer, like a Shad Rap or Down Deep Husky Jerk. That will allow you to spend more time concentrating on exactly where you’re running the bait, and less time wondering if you’re using the right lure.

While there are several trolling options like using braided or leadcore line, it would be a good idea to get comfortable with monofilament first. A good pick would be a low stretch line like Rapala’s Tough Fishing Line, which will give you more vibration in the rod tip from a clean running bait.

The thing is, even though there are variations to just about everything, you’re better off keeping things simple.

By keeping it simple, you’ll master the basics more quickly, and get you closer to the goal of “being versatile”.

Editor’s Note: Norb Wallock passed away on September 15th, 2002. This article was submitted to us by Norb, shortly before his death. Norb will be missed by friends and fellow walleye anglers from all across the country. See Ron Anlauf’s tribute to Norb on page 27.
To Friends of Norb Wallock

On Sunday September 15, 2002 Norb Wallock lost a hard fought battle with cancer. He was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in the spring of 2002, and learned that the disease had spread to other parts of his body. He knew that he was in an uphill battle but never gave up (his nature wouldn’t allow it), and kept a positive attitude through it all.

One of the most important accomplishments to Norb was actually becoming a full time Professional angler, and was a goal he reached after a twenty year career with UPS. The step was a big one and a dream he was able to finally realize.

Norb’s accomplishments as a professional angler are impressive to say the least, and include numerous major tournament wins. An unprecedented four year winning run began in 1997 when Norb won the NAWA Lake Erie Qualifier and finished the season by earning the coveted NAWA Angler of the Year Title. He won a major pro am event in the next three consecutive years. More info on his tournament finishes and bio are posted at the walleyeconnection.com.

He has always been willing to share the secrets of his success and has done so through seminars, written contributions, TV and radio segments and interviews, as well as one on one conversations.

His success didn’t come by accident and was the result of a lot of hard work. His work ethic earned him the nickname of Sarge (compliments of close friend Keith Kavajecz) as he abided by a discipline that was almost military. That characteristic may have been the direct result of some time spent in the Army, or an energy system that was permanently cranked up on high, as Norb seemed to be in constant motion even when he was standing still. That energy got things done and helped get reels re-spooled, or spinners tied, or needed maintenance performed even when he was dog tired from the trials and tribulations of tournament angling. Anybody that has spent time in Norb’s boat knows that he kept his equipment in tip top shape, and always came prepared.

Norb’s work ethic didn’t get in the way of his enjoying himself though, even when things didn’t go the way they should. For example, during an earlier PWT event on Lake Erie one of the other competitors (Joe Miller) had the bright idea to plant a live snake in Norb’s boat. Joe left a dandelion on Norb’s live well lid which was his calling card indicating something was up. The snake found a place to hide and didn’t show himself until later on when Norb and his amateur partner George Fredin were hard at work trying to put fish in the boat. Norb’s partner was deathly afraid of snakes and was a fact that Norb was well aware of. Norb noticed the snake poking his head out of a pedestal base hole and kept the information to himself, while he tried to nonchalantly grab the thing.

The snake would drop back down the hole before Norb could get a hand on him and kept the game of cat and mouse going for quite a while before he finally subdued the snake.

When George finally realized what was going on he got a little frazzled and ended up in the front of the boat. The whole thing was serious at the time but Norb had a good laugh about the ordeal after it was over.

Besides his passion for fishing, Norb was an avid archer and especially loved the time he spent searching for monster whitetail bucks. Taking a big buck with a bow and arrow takes a lot of skill, patience, and a never give up attitude. Norb was made for the sport and his successes were many, although he never did get that buck of all bucks.

As well as being an accomplished professional angler, Norb was a father, husband, and friend to many. He had a positive effect on all that knew him, and his never give up attitude was contagious. A short conversation with Norb could bring you out of a depression and quickly give you a new improved outlook on life.

In his passing the angling world has lost a real player, the effects of which will be felt for years. The void created will not be filled, and there is no other choice but to go on.

To go on fishing, hunting, and celebrating life. We must, and know that Norb would have wanted it that way.

…. Ron Anlauf
Small Boats, Big Waters...

by

W. H. (Chip) Gross

It was a sobering sight. A fiberglass bass boat bobbed vertically in the water—only the tip of its pointed bow visible and stabbing toward the sky with every swell. Flotsam in the form of tackle boxes, coolers, life jackets, and other, smaller items floated on the waves surrounding the swamped craft.

As we approached, another boat already on the scene advised us that the anglers had been rescued and that no one appeared injured, just shaken. Still, it made such an impression that the image remains in my mind yet today, though the incident happened years ago.

The swamping occurred in an area of the Western Basin of Lake Erie known informally as the Slop Chute, that area between the Catawba Peninsula and South Bass Island, where, on a busy summer’s weekend, the wakes of thousands of fishing boats and pleasure craft crash together from every possible compass heading. Unfortunately, the low-sided bass boat was ill prepared for such choppy waters.

An angler who survived a similar mishap, this one caused by wind-driven waves, is George Wolfe of Columbus, Ohio. An accomplished tournament bass angler, Wolfe was fishing on Lake Erie in October of 1998. Two miles off shore in his 20-foot bass boat, Wolfe and his partner headed in as the wind shifted and four- to five-foot waves began to build.

“I had not topped off both my fuel tanks before leaving shore as I usually do,” said Wolfe, “and the motor began to cut in and out. I stopped to change tanks and that’s when we took a wave over the transom. Then the engine stalled. After several more waves we were swamped, and then the boat completely rolled over.”

Wolfe and his partner clung to the upturned hull of their boat for most of an hour in 57-degree water before being spotted and rescued by a passing charter boat—the only other boat they had seen out fishing on that particular day. While being treated for hypothermia at a local hospital, the doctors told the two fishermen that they couldn’t have lasted much longer in those lake temperatures.

In reflecting upon the situation, Wolfe believes that staying with the boat and not panicking may have saved his life and his
partner’s. “We were holding onto the trolling motor, and I knew that in those waves we wouldn’t be able to do that much longer. So we worked our way to the back of the boat and I straddled the motor shaft while keeping my buddy in front of me between the motor and transom.”

Wolfe learned several things from the mishap. “My buddy is six feet, five inches tall and weighs nearly 300 pounds,” he said, “and his life jacket was not nearly adequate for someone of his size. He also didn’t have the straps pulled tight enough, and during the time we were in the water the jacket kept working its way up around his neck and head, almost to the point of coming off.”

Wolfe also learned something about his boat-owner’s insurance. He had been paying for a special rider that would cover his rods, reels, and tackle boxes should he ever lose them. But he came to find out that the policy did not cover those items “…thrown, dropped, or propelled overboard…” only theft. So, unfortunately, he was out of luck with his lost tackle. The policy did, however, cover the damage to the boat and motor.

But all is not negative when it comes to small boats on big waters. At times, they have many advantages over larger craft. For example, small boats are usually less expensive to buy, run, maintain, and store than their bigger brothers, and in addition, they can be more readily trailered. If, for instance, a hot bite suddenly occurs many miles down the lake, with a small boat it’s a simple matter to merely hook up the trailer and go. This mobility also allows the opportunity of fishing multiple Great Lakes per season and even inland lakes if desired. And small boats have advantages on the water, too. Anglers can safely get closer to fish-producing reefs and shorelines, control drift, and precision troll much better from a small boat.

The main disadvantage of a smaller craft, of course, is the danger of getting too far from shore and being caught in open water by wind, waves, or lightning. Lake Erie is serious water and at times very unforgiving, especially during cold-water seasons. Using common sense and being prepared are the best ways to make sure that you always return to the launch ramp when fishing from a small boat.

The number one rule for all small boat anglers should be: wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD). It doesn’t matter if you can swim or not. If you are knocked unconscious as you go overboard or are otherwise injured, your Olympic swimming abilities will do you little good.

Another important preparation strategy is to have an alternate source of power for getting back to shore if your main engine should fail. Small “kicker” or electric trolling motors can do double-duty here as cheap insurance. It may take awhile to get back from several miles offshore in this way, but at least it beats the alternative.

But should you not be able to get off the water for some reason, having a way to signal for help is imperative. Most small boats are not equipped with marine radios. However, with the proliferation of cell phones today, don’t leave yours in the car if you have one. There are even inexpensive cell phones on the market now that allow you to make only out-going calls. Again, cheap insurance. Lastly, signal flares and a distress flag should be on board, as well as all the other required safety equipment. And just as a reminder, don’t forget to top off all your boat’s fuel tanks before leaving shore.

Someone who has safely fished Lake Erie’s Central Basin from a small boat for more than 40 years is Alex Koroknay of Mansfield, Ohio. Alex docks his boat at Cranberry Creek Marina just a few miles east of the Huron River, where it is a short run to the productive Ruggles Reef area.

“I first started fishing there for yellow perch,” said Alex, “and then in the 1970s the walleyes began showing up. I used a 14-foot aluminum boat for years and wore out half a dozen motors trolling. But two years ago I bought a 17½-foot Lyman to be able to get out to deeper water more safely, because that’s where the walleye seem to have moved.”

Alex attributes this walleye shift from shallower to deeper water to two phenomena: natural fish cycles and the clearing of Lake Erie waters by zebra mussels. “It seems to cycle like the weather,” he said. “For example, there may be a period of four or five years when you can catch walleyes close to shore. Then, all of a sudden things change and the

See Small Boats, page 33
The highlight of the summer walleye-fishing season in eastern Lake Erie has to be a tournament in which 86 walleyes were caught exceeding 10 pounds! This happened at the recent Southtowns Walleye Association’s 18th Annual Tournament which ran from June 29th - July 7th. The winning fish, caught by Mark Kessler, weighed in at 11.77 pounds. Mark won $15,000 in cash and merchandise exceeding $2,000 in value. In all, over 20 fish weighed in over 11 pounds with the top 200 prize-winning fish exceeding 9.45 pounds! These weight totals far exceed any of the previous 18 Southtowns tournaments. To cash in the tournament this year you had to catch a walleye that exceeded 9.45 pounds which is well above last years cut of slightly over 8 pounds.

John Chapman won the bass division of this tournament with a 5.73 pound smallmouth bass. John won $500 with his prize-winning fish. All 3-prize winners in this category entered fish exceeding 5 pounds.

I had the pleasure of fishing off Sturgeon Point during this tournament with Paul Stoos, an experienced Lake Erie walleye fisherman, and his brother Norman. We did have some success, boating two prize-winning walleyes over 10 pounds. We caught 6 walleyes during my 1-day fishing stint with Paul. Almost all of the walleyes were suspended as they were caught using No.20 & 30 Jet Planers and worm harnesses of various colors (watermelon, copper & blue, etc.) off planer boards. Paul runs his lures approx. 200 feet back of the planer boards and prefers Fireline, one of the new generation of super braided lines. These lines have several distinct advantages over the traditional monofilament line as they do not stretch and are very thin which cuts down their visibility in the ultra clear Lake Erie water. These lines also can withstand quite a bit of abrasion and cut the water well, which allow the lures to run deeper. Care must be taken when setting the hook as these lines do not stretch and one could literally yank the hook right out of a walleye’s mouth.

Paul also likes to use a walleye attractant like Berkley’s walleye scent on all of his lures. Paul constantly repeated “Did you put walleye scent on the lure” during our 7 hour fishing trip. His policy, like many other Lake Erie walleye veterans, is to check and possibly change lures every 1/2-hour if no walleyes are caught. This is especially true if your graph is detecting fish or you are in a “hot spot”. Another lure that has again proven to be extremely successful this year is the Ronesky plug. This lure has become the staple of walleye fishermen who like to run body baits in the eastern basin.
Why did this tournament have such an impressive jump in the number of large walleye caught this year? Some fishermen attributed it to the excellent weather, which allowed most fishermen, even in small boats, to fish almost every day. Another theory was the later date for the tournament improved the fishing as this tournament took place the first week of July, which traditionally produces better offshore walleye fishing. Previous Southtowns tournaments normally took place in early June. The very warm Lake Erie water temperatures might have also turned the “bite” on. Some fishermen theorized that the increase in the catch of large fish might be due to more tournament entries but this was not a factor as the entries were in fact slightly down from the previous year. In truth it was probably all of the above plus other unknown factors! The Southtowns Walleye Association deserves a great deal of credit for a well-run tournament, which annually attracts approximately 2000 entries. They promote conservation and will only accept fish in excess of 26” at their weigh in booths. Southtowns, by the way, has decided to move back the tournament date to early June for 2003.

Incidentally quite a few tagged “swimmers” (nomadic suspended walleye) from the western basin were caught during the tournament which could bode well for the late summer offshore walleye fishing. A heavy influx of western basin “swimmers” augments the local population of walleyes and greatly improves the eastern basin fishing. Many fishermen were also very encouraged by the amount of 3 to 6 lb. walleye that were caught during the tournament and a “mixed bag” walleyes weighing from 3 pounds to 10 pounds was common.

New York Walleye Association’s mid-July Ameri-Can team tournament also had impressive catch results with the winning team of Capt. Eugene Malczewski weighing a 79.94-pound total for the 2-day tournament. John Dolly’s team came in a close second with 78.66 pounds. Captain Gene now has won this tournament 3 times in row, an unprecedented feat, due to the incredible variances normally experienced in Eastern Lake Erie offshore walleye fishing.

The bottom line is that the walleye fishery in the Eastern basin has become a fishery of quality instead of quantity with trophy fish (10 pounds) becoming more and more common as the years have passed. Fifteen years ago most Eastern basin walleye tournaments would have been considered successful if 10 fish were caught in excess of 10 pounds. Limit catches of smaller walleye was also very common during this time but now are rare.

Smallmouth bass fishing continues to be world class in numbers and size and reported catches in excess of 10 fish (most bass fishermen practice catch and release) is the norm. Information on yellow perch fishing remains sketchy but most of my contacts report that the rather secretive Veteran Lake Erie perch fishermen are doing very well. Perch tend to be in small tight schools so most of the successful perch fishermen have to move continually to find and stay with the nomadic perch schools.

On the negative side, the goby has become a very dominant fish in the eastern basin and is a continual pest for most bottom fishermen. This is true whether you are in shallow or deep water as the population of this exotic has exploded! The Zebra and its larger cousin, the Quagga mussel, appears to have stabilized and they continue to clarify the water with some Secchi disc readings in excess of 30 feet. These 2 exotics appear to play a major role in the botulism problem in the lake and also are suspects in the new “dead zone” reported in Lake Erie’s central basin.

Several relatively large fish kills have occurred this year. Alarmingly these kills did contain some bass and walleyes. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Lake Erie fisheries station at Dunkirk felt that these kills were probably due to Type E botulism and upwelling of cold water due to sudden directional wind changes. It is expected that waterfowl will also be affected during the late summer months. Undoubtedly more ecological changes will take place in the future as new exotics make their impact on the ecosystem of the lake. Lake Erie is the shallowest of all the Great Lakes and any ecological changes generally occur first in this lake. It truly is “the canary in the mine”.

-----------
securely engulfing the fish in the mesh. Incidentally, Cummings is now starting to offer nets with an offshore release already installed.

Pack Mentality

It seems like the vast majority of Lake Erie anglers like plenty of company, because most folks fish among packs of other boats. While it’s true that fish can be caught in the huge armadas, keep in mind that the best fishing is usually found elsewhere, especially if you’re after bigger walleyes. I almost never fish in the packs, preferring instead to find my own fish away from everybody else. In fact, when too many boats start to cluster around me, I usually move elsewhere. If you want to catch big fish, then you need to fish away from the packs. Besides I hate the stress of all the boat traffic.

Rubber Core Sinkers

Whenever I fish with crankbaits, I always attach a rubber core sinker one rod-length ahead of the lure. Those sinkers function by stopping debris from sliding down the line to the lure. They also allow a shortened setback, which increases hook-setting efficiency, reduces tangles and quickens the line setting and retrieval process. Rubber core sinkers will not damage the line and they can be easily changed when different weights are needed to target varying depths.

Sharp Hooks

One of the keys to consistent hookups with tough-mouthed walleyes are sharp hooks. Most baits, out-of-the-box, have rather dull hooks. I’ve tried just about every method for sharpening hooks and have settled on the sharpening stone as the best method. The stone I use has narrow slots where the hook is gently pulled through. A few passes on the stone and the hook is ready for business. I also replace my hooks whenever they get bent or damaged. By keeping a supply of hooks and my stone ready to go in the back of the boat along with needle nose pliers, I’m ready for action.

Get Out Fishing

The one thing that stops more anglers from catching walleyes is simply not getting out on the water enough. Many folks list fishing as a low priority that ranks behind just about everything else in their lives. Several friend of mine never seem to have enough time to get out on the water, so it’s no wonder that they are stressed out all the time. You won’t be doing yourself, your work or your family any favors by not going fishing if you succumb to a stress related illness that could have been prevented by more time relaxing on the water. Do your health a favor and schedule your fishing times as top priorities and stick to your guns on your fishing dates. Also, when the weather is stable for several days in a row during early spring and the temperatures are mild, get out on the water at all costs. The reward of big walleyes will be worth just about anything. Send questions or comments to veinemr@aol.com.

Advertise for three issues and get the third ad FREE!

Advertise in Lake Erie Walleye Magazine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ad Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Page</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Page</td>
<td>$ 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter Page</td>
<td>$ 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Card</td>
<td>$ 50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Call 1 800 347-4519

Advertise in Lake Erie Walleye Magazine
Try this Fish Taco Recipe
Serves 4-6

2-3 lbs of fish fillets
vegetable oil
1 cup of all purpose flour
1/2 tablespoon of salt
1/4 tablespoon of pepper
1/4 tablespoon of garlic powder
1 package of store bought tortillas
your favorite store bought Spanish Rice
large can of ranch style beans
1 bottle of Lawry’s Mesquite marinade
2-3 average sized tomatoes
grated cheddar or jack cheese
1 jar of your favorite salsa

Wash and pat dry the fillets. Place fillets in large bowl of Lawry’s Mesquite marinade for at least 2 hours prior to cooking (overnight is best). Refrigerate until ready to cook (be sure to flip the fillets several times during marination to ensure even saturation). Prepare bowls of your toppings - diced tomatoes, grated cheddar or jack cheese, salsa. Sour cream-black olives-and chopped lettuce are optional. Heat 1/4 inch of vegetable oil in a frying pan. Mix flour, salt, pepper, garlic powder on a paper towel. Using this mixture coat fish fillet on both sides, then shake off excess flour. Place into deep frier and cook until the fillets begin to rise. Remove from frier and drain on paper towel. While fish is frying, heat tortillas according to package directions. Serve on counter or buffet style(paper plates and bibs are good). Each diner layers fish and condiments into warm buttered tortillas—rolling and folding tortillas envelope style. Serve with Spanish Rice, made earlier from a packaged mix and open a can of Ranch Style Beans heat in the microwave.

From Small Boats, page 29
walleyes don’t seem to come into the shallow water like they used to. In the fall—September and October—we used to get big fish right off shore, in anywhere from 15 to 25 or 30 feet of water. Lately, we’ve had to go deeper to get fish."

But deep or shallow, Alex Koroknay will no doubt be chasing walleyes, perch, smallmouth bass, and even an occasional steelhead as long as he is able. "maybe it's the little boy in me, but as old as I am I still get enthused about fishing. I’m 79 years old and I’ve fished Lake Erie for 45 years, but I still look forward to every fishing season."

And Alex has been able to pass along his love of fishing and the outdoors to his three sons. His youngest son, Tom, has even built a full-time business around the water, restoring and repairing Lyman boats, the classic wooden craft of Lake Erie.

So when it comes to small boats and big waters, how small is too small? Conventional wisdom says that a deep, V-hulled 14-footer is the absolute minimum when it comes to Lake Erie fishing, and then these boats are only safe close to shore when the weather is clear and calm. Deep-sided 16-, 17-, and 18-footers, with as much freeboard as possible, are even better choices if you are considering fishing from a relatively small boat.

But whether you choose to fish from a small boat or large, common sense, being prepared for emergencies, and keeping a sharp eye on the weather will keep your fishing trips safe and enjoyable. And like Alex Koroknay, no matter what your age, you’ll continue looking forward to every upcoming fishing season.

Fish Ohio’s Lake Erie Artificial Reefs!

Lorain
Polish Fisherman’s Club Reef
41 28 .076 N
82 12 .758 W

The Mountain Reef
41 28 .150 N
82 12 .750 W

Lakewood
Cuyahoga County Commissioners Reef
41 30 .175 N
81 47 .266 W

1984 Experimental Reef Site “A”
41 30 .271 N
81 47 .533 W

1984 Experimental Reef Site “B”
41 30 .256 N
81 47 .041 W

Cleveland Stadium Artificial Reefs

Edgewater
Cleveland Stadium Reef West #1 (north)
41 30 .148 N
81 45 .575 W

Cleveland Stadium Reef West #2 (south)
41 29 .970 N
81 45 .416 W

Euclid
Cleveland Stadium Reef East (Euclid)
41 35 .933 N
81 33 .804 W
# Lake Erie Charters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charter Name</th>
<th>Captain</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Try Charters</td>
<td>Captain Ray Smith</td>
<td>(800) 898-5516</td>
<td><a href="mailto:capt@awavewitch.com">capt@awavewitch.com</a></td>
<td>Oak Harbor, OH 43449</td>
<td>USCG, Ohio Licensed Guide, Member L.E.C.B.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.-B.'s Pride Charters</td>
<td>Captain Austin Tester</td>
<td>(419) 798-8621</td>
<td>ewbpride.com</td>
<td>Port Clinton, OH 43440</td>
<td>Wild Wings Marina, Port Clinton, OH U.S.C.G. Licensed, Member L.E.C.B.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Erie Charters</td>
<td>Captain Phil Cadez</td>
<td>Phone: 1-888-686-4422</td>
<td><a href="mailto:capt.phil@cros.net">capt.phil@cros.net</a></td>
<td>Sandusky, OH 44870</td>
<td>Docked at West Harbor U.S.C.G. Licensed &amp; Ohio Licensed Guides Members LECBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coe Vanna Charters</td>
<td>Captain Dave Whitt, Bob McCoy &amp;</td>
<td>(419) 898-4545</td>
<td><a href="http://www.coevannacharters.com">www.coevannacharters.com</a></td>
<td>Port Clinton, OH 43449</td>
<td>USCG Licensed &amp; Insured, Walleye * Perch * Smallmouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fashion Lady Sport Charters</td>
<td>Captain Bob Banioff</td>
<td>(440) 988-8849</td>
<td><a href="http://www.coevannacharters.com">www.coevannacharters.com</a></td>
<td>Port Clinton, OH 43440</td>
<td>Walleye * Perch * Smallmouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquafantasea Charters</td>
<td>Captain Tim Garrett</td>
<td>(440) 257-3231 or (216) 319-5847</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aquafantaseasinc.com">www.aquafantaseasinc.com</a></td>
<td>Oak Harbor, OH 43440</td>
<td>U.S.C.G. Licensed, Ohio Licensed Guide Proud Member LECBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rising Sun Charters</td>
<td>Captain G.W. Jumper, Jr.</td>
<td>(937) 652-2412</td>
<td><a href="mailto:captgwjumper@foryou.net">captgwjumper@foryou.net</a></td>
<td>Oak Harbor, OH 43440</td>
<td>U.S.C.G. Licensed &amp; Insured, Walleye * Perch * Smallmouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Charters</td>
<td>Captain Edwin A. Taylor</td>
<td>106 Center St. Huron, OH 44839</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tc915@aol.com">tc915@aol.com</a></td>
<td>Port Clinton, OH 43440</td>
<td>USCG &amp; Ohio Licensed guide Proud Member LECBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dealers Choice Charters</td>
<td>Captain Dennis Lutz</td>
<td>(937) 866-8391</td>
<td><a href="mailto:timgarrett@buckeyeweb.com">timgarrett@buckeyeweb.com</a></td>
<td>Mentor, OH 44839</td>
<td>31' Baha Sport Fisherman, 27' Sportcraft, Angel Bay Marina Port Clinton, OH U.S.C.G. Licensed, Ohio Guide Licensed, Fully Insured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McReel Thing Charters</td>
<td>Captain Jerry McRill</td>
<td>1-800-589-6568</td>
<td><a href="mailto:GOMCREEL@aol.com">GOMCREEL@aol.com</a></td>
<td>Port Clinton, OH 43440</td>
<td>Multiple Boats Available Free Lodging USCG Licensed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angel Eyes Charters</td>
<td>Captain Gary Watkins</td>
<td>Toll Free at (800) 475-8655</td>
<td><a href="mailto:angeleye@infinet.com">angeleye@infinet.com</a></td>
<td>Port Clinton, OH 43440</td>
<td>U.S.C.G. Licensed, Ohio Guide Licensed Fully Insured</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lake Erie Walleye** 34 FALL 2002
Lake Erie Charters

Parker Guide Service
Guiding on Lake Erie Since 1973
Walleye * Smallmouth * Perch
Three 30' Boats
1-800-700-ERIE
www.parkerguideservice.net
Full-Time, Fully Licensed & Insured Captains
Captain Bob Parker (419) 726-5509
Captain Jeff Parker (419) 726-3557

Walleye * Bass * Perch * Salmon
Sturgeon General
Lake Erie Fishing Charters
Captain Hank Cocain
Licensed Captain and Guide
Keister Marina 6914 Hassell Road
Ashtabula, Ohio 16150 (724) 962-4725

Dealer's Choice Charters
(937) 866-8391 (937) 654-0791 - cell
Special reduced rates for smaller groups of 2, 3, 4 or 5 fishermen
New 2001 Baha 30' Fisherman
Wild Wings Marina, Oak Harbor, OH
Captain Dennis Lutz
www.walleye.com/dealers.htm

Capt. Bob Vicek
Sandpiper
Sportfishing Charters
Catawba Island, OH
701 Elizabeth Drive
Huron, Ohio 44839 (419) 433-6664

Pied Piper Charters
Fishing the Central and Western Basins on Lake Erie
walleye perch smallmouth
(419) 433-9685
Captain Mike Perry
USCG Licensed Master 330 Ontario St.
Licensed Lake Erie Guide Huron, Ohio 44839

Danny Buoy Fishing Charters
Walleye - Perch - Bass
Aboard the Danny Buoy II
Marblehead - Lakeside, Ohio
Website: www2.wcoil.com/~danybuoy

Dealer's Choice Charters
(937) 866-8391 (937) 654-0791 - cell
Special reduced rates for smaller groups of 2, 3, 4 or 5 fishermen
New 2001 Baha 30' Fisherman
Wild Wings Marina, Oak Harbor, OH
Captain Dennis Lutz
www.walleye.com/dealers.htm

Capt. Bob Vicek
Sandpiper
Sportfishing Charters
Catawba Island, OH
701 Elizabeth Drive
Huron, Ohio 44839 (419) 433-6664

Pied Piper Charters
Fishing the Central and Western Basins on Lake Erie
walleye perch smallmouth
(419) 433-9685
Captain Mike Perry
USCG Licensed Master 330 Ontario St.
Licensed Lake Erie Guide Huron, Ohio 44839

Danny Buoy Fishing Charters
Walleye - Perch - Bass
Aboard the Danny Buoy II
Marblehead - Lakeside, Ohio
Website: www2.wcoil.com/~danybuoy

Dealer's Choice Charters
(937) 866-8391 (937) 654-0791 - cell
Special reduced rates for smaller groups of 2, 3, 4 or 5 fishermen
New 2001 Baha 30' Fisherman
Wild Wings Marina, Oak Harbor, OH
Captain Dennis Lutz
www.walleye.com/dealers.htm

Capt. Bob Vicek
Sandpiper
Sportfishing Charters
Catawba Island, OH
701 Elizabeth Drive
Huron, Ohio 44839 (419) 433-6664

Pied Piper Charters
Fishing the Central and Western Basins on Lake Erie
walleye perch smallmouth
(419) 433-9685
Captain Mike Perry
USCG Licensed Master 330 Ontario St.
Licensed Lake Erie Guide Huron, Ohio 44839

Danny Buoy Fishing Charters
Walleye - Perch - Bass
Aboard the Danny Buoy II
Marblehead - Lakeside, Ohio
Website: www2.wcoil.com/~danybuoy

LAKE ERIE WALLEYE 35 FALL 2002
Lake Erie Charters

Walleye - Perch - Smallmouth
Coe Vanna Charters
& Lodging
Captains Dave Whitt & Bob McCoy
www.coevannacharters.com
(419) 898-4545
30' Sportcrafts * Bait & Tackle Furnished
USCG Licensed & Insured Captains 1759 N. Carroll-Erie Road
Over 30 Years Experience Port Clinton, OH 43452

Captain William B. Rice
RICE CHARTERS
28' "Friendly Mission"
Lake Erie Walleye • Bass • Perch
(419) 635-2068 1-800-770-0904
P.C. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Coast Guard Licensed
Ohio Licensed Guide
6206 W. Harbor Rd.
Port Clinton, OH 43452-9439

Captain Gary Watkins
Angel Eyes Charters
800-475-8655 angeleye@infinet.com
28' Baha Sport Fisherman & 27' Sportcraft
Angel Bay Marina Port Clinton, OH
USCG Licensed Fully Insured
Walleye, Smallmouth
Perch Charters

Fire Escape Charters
28' Marinette
Fully Equipped
Insured
Captain Frank Henderson
353 Highland Way, Worthington, Ohio 43085
614-885-0192
fish4uafh@hotmail.com
North Coast Sportfishing

Top Gun Fishing Charters
Captain Frank Godina
(724) 927-6912
Email: fishtopgun@hotmail.com
Western & Central Basin walleye and smallmouth Fishing
Lake Ontario for Salmon
Master USCG Licensed
Ohio Guide, Fully Insured
3814 Bentley Rd.
Espyville, PA 16424

Lucky Duck Charters
Captain Rick Comstock
(877) 967-6853
27' Sportcraft 270 Fisherman
Docked at Captain’s Corners Marina, Vermilion, OH
USCG Licensed
Ohio Licensed Guide
3275 Cooper Foster Park Rd.
Vermilion, OH 44089

E-B's Pride
Fishing Charters
Captain Austin Tester
www.ebpride.com
Walleye - Bass - Perch
Phone: 419-798-8621
Fax: 419-798-5417
Email: fishing@ebpride.com
Docked at Lakevue Marina
1999 34' Baha Catamaran
One of the fastest & safest boats on the water

North Coast Sportfishing
Lake Erie Charters

Windrift Charters
Lake Erie Sport Fishing
Captain Mel Fenger
419-797-9803
www.walleye.com/windrift.htm
windrift@cros.net
Anchors Away Marina
419-734-1395

C'est La Vie Charters
Lake Erie Sport Fishing
Ashtabula, Ohio
Capt. Ray Lilak
840 Almasy Dr.
Campbell, OH 44405
Capt. Joe Romito
28 Gertrude Ave.
Campbell, OH 44405
Home - (330) 755-3334
Home - (330) 755-7915
Mobile - (330) 565-3963
Mobile - (330) 770-9365
rclilak@aol.com

Dockage for Lake Erie Fishermen

Brest Bay Marina
4088 Brest Rd.
Newport, MI 48166
(734) 289-1234
Wet Dockage
Rack & Launch
Winter Storage
Inside & Out

Fleitz Marina
11109 Coruoy Rd.
Curtice, OH
15 min from Toledo
(419) 693-1247 -Office
(419) 836-1305 - Marina
On South Shore of Lake Erie

Bay Point
Private Marina & Family Resort
10948 Bayshore Rd.
Marblehead, OH 43440
(419) 798-4434
www.baypointmarina.com

Luna Pier
Harbor Club
10420 S. Harold Dr.
Luna Pier, MI 48157
(734) 848-8777
Dock Space Available
Marina
Fish Cleaning

Marina Del Isle
On Scenic East Harbor
Casual Waterfront Dining
Free Guest Dockage for your dining pleasure
Full Service Marina
Certified Mechanics
Mercury * OMC * Volvo
Marina Open Year Round
(419) 732-2587 - Marina
(419) 732-2816 - Restaurant

Lost Peninsula Marina
6300 Edgewater, Erie, MI 48133
(734) 723-7466
600 Floating Docks & Gas Dock
24 Hour Security
Outside Storage $6.00/ft.

Inland Marina
1/4 mile East of Junction of Rt. 2 and Rt. 19
Near Port Clinton, OH.
For Reservations call
1-419-898-5071 (Bait Store)
1-419-450-5681 (Marina Mgr)
Boat Dockage and Campsites Available
Daily, Weekly, Monthly and
Full Season Rates Available
* Camper Rentals
* Bait Store
* Boat Ramp
* Fishing Charters
Excellent Walleye, Perch and Smallmouth
Fishing in Erie's Western Basin
the "Walleye Capital of the World"
### Lodging for Lake Erie Fishermen

**East Point Cottages**  
419-285-2204  
Excellent Fishing  
Fishing Tackle/Licenses  
Fully Equipped  
Bill & Cheryl Massie  
PO Box 213  
Put-in-Bay, OH 43456

**Peninsula Motel**  
908 E. Main St.  
Marblehead, OH 43440  
Rooms * Suites * Mobile Homes  
Heat * Air * Cable  
Fish Cleaning Table & Freezer  
(419) 798-4684  
www.lakepointmotel.com

**Country Hearth Inn**  
1815 E. Perry St., Pt. Clinton, OH 43452  
1-800-282-5711 or (419) 732-2111  
SIX PACK CHARTER SPECIAL  
Perfect for the Six Pack Charter  
Spring and Fall  
Valid Dates: May 1 to June 30, 2002 & September 4 to October 1, 2002  
Includes the Weekends!  
With all taxes included  
Room w/ 2 Double Beds $65.90 $74.86  
Room w/3 Double Beds $65.90 $74.86  
$149.72 per night w/all taxes include.  
$24.95/person based on 6 people

**Fisherman's Inn**  
Furnished Apartments  
Daily or Weekly  
Fully equipped kitchens w/full size stove & refrigerator  
Sleep 6 in separate beds/$125/night  
(419) 732-3655 or 800-336-3443

**Lake Point Motel**  
*On the Lakefront*  
908 E. Main St.  
Marblehead, OH 43440  
Rooms * Suites * Mobile Homes  
Heat * Air * Cable  
Fish Cleaning Table & Freezer  
(419) 798-4684

**Elle-Mate Rentals**  
on Lake Erie, the "Walleye Capital of the World"  
Between Oak Harbor & Port Clinton, OH, off S.R. 2  
1,2 & 3 BR condos in Green Cove Resort  
New 2 BR House near Marina  
AND  
Great fishing near Wester Sister Island.  
Close to Cedar Pt., Put-in-Bay, Kellys Island  
Call Elle  
1-888-898-2300

**Little Ted's Cottages and Family Resort**  
800-837-5507 - (419) 798-5507  
Clean Air-Conditioned/Heated Cottages  
Dockage available so bring your boat  
Fish Cleaning Facility and Freezers.  
8390 North Shore Blvd., Marblehead, OH 43440

**Holiday Village Resort**  
Motel * Suites  
Charter Fishing  
800-493-7003  
419-797-4732  
3247 N.E. Catawba Rd. Port Clinton, OH 43452  
info@holidayvillageresort.com  
www.holidayvillageresort.com  
Lodging  
Newly Remodeled Motel Rooms,  
Suites (1-3 bdrms.), AC/Heat, CATV,  
Swimming Pool, Jacuzzi, Playground  
Charters  
27-30' Sport Fishing Boats,  
Group, Corporate and Executive Trips,  
Excellent/Free Fish Cleaning Facilities  
Free Fish Freezing  
Full-Time Professional Guides
Lake Erie Maps, Hats and Spoons!

Order online at www.walleye.com or complete order form below

Select from the following maps:

☐ Lake Erie Western Basin
☐ Lake Erie Major Western Basin Reefs
☐ Lake Erie Bass Islands
☐ Lake Erie Sandusky Bay
☐ NEW Lake Erie CENTRAL BASIN - West
☐ NEW Lake Erie CENTRAL BASIN - East
☐ Lake Erie Eastern Basin PA/NY Line to Sturgeon Pt.
☐ Lake Erie Eastern Basin Sturgeon Pt. to Peace Bridge

Lake Erie's Western Basin
on CD ROM ($34.00 each)

Lake Erie Maps, Hats and Spoons!

Lake Erie Fishing Caps (Walleye, Smallmouth, Steelhead)

Subscription

to Lake Erie Walleye Magazine $9.95 = $ __________

Total Maps  _____ x $10.00 each = $ __________

CD ROM  _____ x $34.00 each = $ __________

"Six Pack"  _____ x $19.95 each = $ __________

Walleye Cap  _____ x $11.95 each = $ __________

Smallmouth Cap  _____ x $11.95 each = $ __________

Steelhead Cap  _____ x $11.95 each = $ __________

Shipping & Handling @ $3.95

Total ........................................... $ __________

Charge my ___ Mastercard  ___ Visa

Account No. ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ Expiration date: ___________

Clip or copy this form and mail to: Lake Erie Walleye  P.O. Box 421 Ballwin, MO  63022

or call toll free to order by phone: 1-800-347-4519 or visit  w.walleye.com to order online

"Six Pack" of Erie's most effective stinger spoons ($19.95 each)

Includes:
- Rainbow Trout - Perch - Watermelon
- Confusion - Shrimp - Copper Oil Slick

Lake Erie Walleye Magazine
New in 2002
Lake Erie Central Basin Fishing Maps
$10.00 each. To order call 1-800-347-4519 or visit the walleye.com shop at www.walleye.com

Central Basin - West
Covers the central basin from Ruggles Beach to Geneva

Central Basin - East
Covers from Ashtabula, Oh to the New York State Line