

In This Issue

Vol. 9 No. 1

Spring 2003

From The Editor

- 5** Walleye News & Fact File
- 8** Ten Pound Walleyes Galore
by Michael Veine
- 11** Lake Erie 2003 Forecast
by Captain Phil Cadez
- 12** Beat the Winter Erie Blues -Hit the Keys
by Rick Kubb
- 18** The Walleye Road to Nowhere
by Mark Martin
- 20** Think Ahead for Big Walleyes
by Rick Olson
- 22** Buckeye Steel; Ohio Steelhead Program Booms
by Chip Gross
- 25** Planer Board Basics
by Bruce DeShano
- 27** Central Lake Erie Walleye Forecast Mostly Cloudy
by Bruce DeShano
- 28** Another Year of Great Fishing Expected for Lake Erie in 2003
From Ohio DNR
- 31** The Eastern Lake Erie Report
by Joe Fischer
- 33** Fishing Charters
- 35** Dockage for Lake Erie Fishermen
- 35** Lodging for Lake Erie Fishermen
- 36** Lake Erie Fishing Tournaments for 2003

As of this writing (March 28th), it is finally feeling more like spring. Lake Erie again looks like a lake and not the FROZEN TUNDRA of just a few short weeks ago. The excellent ice-fishing experienced by many this past winter is now a memory. Marinas are slowly beginning to open, docks are slowly starting to appear in the water. Fishermen are checking their tackle and their boats. Soon, anglers will be chasing walleyes.

Preliminary reports are that walleye numbers should be up and the forecast is promising. A very solid 2001 hatch will introduce good numbers of 13-15 inch walleyes into the fishery this year. The strong 1999 hatch will produce fish in the 16-18 inch range. Also, larger fish in the 20-26 inch range will be available from the good 1996 and 1998 catches.

A big question remains on the extent of the 'dead zone' this summer in Erie's central basin. We'll have to wait and see if this problem persists and how much it will affect the walleye catches in central Lake Erie.

And water levels continue to sink. The forecast is that Lake Erie water levels will be down another foot from a year ago. Keep a spare prop in your boat this summer.

This past year we lost one of Lake Erie's finest ambassadors, Jim Fofrich Sr. Over the years Jim worked relentlessly to protect and conserve Lake Erie's fishery resources. Most recently was his leadership in the smallmouth bass fishery with his participation in numerous tag and release projects.

See Editor, Page 7

Lake Erie Walleye

Rick Kubb, Editor/Publisher

Published each Spring, Summer and Fall for Lake Erie Fishermen. Annual Subscriptions are \$9.95
To subscribe call 1 800 347-4519, send check or money order payable to Lake Erie Walleye to: Lake Erie Walleye, P.O. Box 421 Ballwin, MO 63022, or order online at www.walleye.com.

upstream to the end of Jerome Road in Lucas County. Sandusky River anglers will find greater success from Brady's Island to Roger Young Park in the City of Fremont.

Though most anglers wade these rivers while fishing for walleyes, some choose to fish from boats. The ODNR advises boat anglers to always properly wear a life jacket, take precautions against overloading their boat and capsizing, be well dressed to avoid the onset of hypothermia, and be prepared to handle an emergency should one occur.

Legal fishing hours from March 1 through May 1 are sunrise to sunset and the daily walleye bag limit is four. Only fish that are hooked inside the mouth may legally be taken and any snagged fish must be immediately released.

Additional [fishing information](#) and [boating safety tips](#) are available on the ODNR web page at ohiodnr.com

MORE THAN 80,000 TROUT TO BE RELEASED IN OHIO WATERS THIS SPRING

More than 80,000 rainbow trout measuring 10 to 13 inches will be released in 40 Ohio waterways from March through May to enhance public fishing opportunities. The daily catch limit for inland lakes is five trout per angler.

Anglers age 16 and older must have an Ohio fishing license. Those anglers age 66 and older may obtain a free fishing license where licenses are sold. The season's new fishing license is now available and is required on March 1. The 2003 annual fishing license costs \$15 and is valid through February 29, 2004. A one-day fishing license is available and may be purchased for \$7 by residents or non-residents. The one-day license may also be redeemed for credit toward purchase of an annual fishing license.

Additional information about spring trout releases is available by calling a [Division of Wildlife district office](#) in Akron, Athens, Columbus, Findlay, and Xenia, or by calling toll free 1-800-WILDLIFE.

From Editor, page 2

In March I attended the annual Charter Captain's conference where Jim Fofrich Jr. gave a moving speech on what his father meant to him and to the Lake Erie Community. He mentioned that one of the lessons learned was Jim's philosophy of what it meant to him to be on the Lake. Being on the lake was like being a guest in someone's home. While in the home one should show respect of both the home and those in the home. Lake Erie was truly home to Jim Fofrich Sr.

We hope you enjoy the new "ONLINE" format of our publication. In each issue we will offer the full magazine and individual articles in PDF format as well in HTML format. For those fishermen (and I know there are many) who have not yet caught on to the computer lingo, simply go to www.walleye.com to see what we're talking about. Wait a minute, if you're reading this, you are already there, that is unless someone printed this text out and shared it with you, and we hope that happens often.

The current issue will be fully displayed and available from our web site for NO CHARGE. Subscribers to the magazine will gain password access to all previous issues of the magazine. Since 1995 we have archived many dozens of articles on fishing Lake Erie.

Till next time, good fishing!

www.walleye.com

for Up-To-Date Information
on the **Lake Erie Walleye Scene**

Fishing Reports
Charter & Lodging Info
Lake & Weather Conditions
Other Walleye Links
Fishing Maps
Visit the 'Braggin Board'

...and much much more