



Captain Walt's Log

Fox Chain O' Lakes Walleye Update



An April 24th Double Header

Walleye fishing on the Fox Chain was a popular option again last year. As you can see from the pictures, the walleye fishing was good during April and May (June too!). We used a variety of techniques including, casting or trolling crank baits and rigging or jigging with live bait. My favorite technique is the famous **Fox Chain Double Rig**, which caught a lot of our walleyes last year. This presentation gives the angler two presentation/bait/color combinations to increase the chances of catching fish. You may even catch two fish at one time!



Walleyes are plentiful on the Fox Chain and they are protected with a slot limit. The minimum keeper size is over 14" long. You may keep three fish in the over 14" to under 18" range, or you may keep two in that range plus one over 24". Most large fish are females and their offspring are the future of walleye fishing on the Chain. Fish in the 18-24" protected slot range must be released. We practice **CPR** and **Selective Harvest** on Fox Chain Walleye and encourage the release of all walleyes in the over 24" size. All the slot fish shown below were released right after we took the photo. Many of the other legal sized walleyes were released also.

Walleyes may be caught throughout the Fox Chain. We have caught walleyes on each of the lakes throughout the Chain. I focus my efforts in the most productive areas and we fish the current areas around bridges and in the lower and upper Fox River. We are always finding new locations and methods to catch walleyes. One method which shows a lot of promise is the **Slow Death Rig**. We will use that more in 2013. We also will troll crank baits more. There is a growing presence of shad in the Fox Chain and the walleye are feeding on this new food source. Trolling shad style baits should become increasingly effective.



A 18½" fish on April 30th brought this client back for a nice mix of walleyes on May 30th.

Last year's drought conditions resulted in slow walleye fishing in the summer and fall. Lake levels were low and there was little current throughout the entire system.



On May 14th this family got into a group of walleyes with the largest going 21" at 3 lbs. 4 oz.



Historically, our best success for walleyes on the Fox Chain is in the April - June time frame. Spring rains, resulting in high water levels and good current flow really enhances your chances for catching some nice walleyes like these.



A May 23rd walleye that went 18½"