

Captain Walt's Log

Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass Issue

Over the years of fishing for bass in the Chicagoland area, I have found that two of the most predictable bodies of water for bass are Lake Geneva and Lake Delavan. There are other very good bass fisheries, but none come close to the quantity and quality of bass we catch from these two lakes. Also, both lakes have an excellent population of smallmouth bass, which is my favorite species of fish. Both are relatively clear water lakes so we can use a wide variety of techniques to target the bass. The fish shown here are some of the bass our clients caught from these two lakes last season.

Lake Geneva is deep and clear. It is slow to warm up in the spring. Lake Delavan is shallower and the water is also clear, but not as gin clear as Geneva. As a result, Delavan warms up quicker than Geneva. Consequently, we begin our bass fishing season on Lake Delavan after the Wisconsin game fish season opens on the first Saturday in May. When clients request, we also fish for bass on the Fox Chain O' Lakes. Fishing is more difficult here than on Geneva or Delavan, but there are some nice bass to be caught on the Fox Chain.

We target bass with a variety of artificial baits. Plastic worms are one of my favorites. We use a variety of techniques. The drop shot rig with a plastic worm is a mainstay. Another good presentation is the un-weighted plastic bait, rigged wacky style or weed less style. Also good are the Texas Rig and the Carolina Rig. Crank baits can catch fish at times as well as spinner baits. An presentation for the early season is the suspending stick bait like the Husky Jerk or Rogue. Even top water baits will work under the right conditions. Crawfish imitating jigs work well at times too. So you can see that a variety of techniques are used to catch bass. We normally use artificial bait when bass fishing. Most of our bass fishing is CPR, catch, photo & release.

All of these bodies of water get a lot of fishing pressure. I always recommend fishing during the week if possible, when there is less fishing pressure on these local area lakes. We are fishing seven days a week, and the weekends fill up fast. So call today to schedule your bass fishing adventure with Captain Walt.

