



Captain Walt's Log

Local Area Fishing Reports



Well, winter has finally left and spring is here. During April, when we could get out, we have been fishing for walleye and crappie on the Fox Chain O' Lakes. Fishing has varied from day to day and the weather played a big role in April. The walleyes have been biting on minnows and night crawlers on jigs and live bait rigs.



We caught walleyes in the south Fox River, Lake Marie, Fox Lake, and the north Fox River. Current certainly has helped the walleye bite in the river locations. The crappie's wanted small minnows, on #8 light wire hooks with 4# test line. If we used anything other than this rig, the crappie would mouth the minnows, but few hookups. We are finding the crappie in back channels where the water is warmer. When the weather is warm the crappies will certainly be more active. As of this report we have not ventured out on Geneva or Delavan.

Fishing and Boating Tips For May

May is a great month for fishing. Many fish species are becoming active after a long winter. Some fish conduct their annual spawning ritual during May. The game fish season opens in Wisconsin, so we can fish for bass and walleye on Geneva and Delavan. Remember that in cold water you must fish slowly. Look for the warmest water to find active fish. May is also a good time to get your boat ready for the fishing/boating season. Remember to check all your safety equipment. Consider getting a courtesy inspection from the Coast Guard Auxiliary. There is no charge and they are glad to conduct the inspections.

Fish of the Month Contest

The **Fish of the Month Contest** allows our guests to judge the quality of the fish they catch. The fish caught are rated against the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame record for that specie. The fish with the largest point value based on the specie specific formula is our **Fish of the Month**. There are separate contests for **Gamefish** and **Panfish**. Gamefish species eligible include Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Northern Pike and Muskie. Panfish species eligible include Crappie, Yellow Perch, Bluegill/Sunfish, White Bass and Rock Bass. A score of 100 pts. would equal the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame world record.



Game Fish of the Month was this nice 20 3/4 " walleye caught from the Fox Chain O Lakes on April 21 by Bob from Woodstock, IL., using a live bait rig with a minnow and half a night crawler. We caught a mixed bag of fish that day. This walleye scored 58 points on our rating scale to become the best game fish caught during April.

Since this walleye was in the protected slot of 18-24", it was released right after the photo was taken. Congratulations Bob!

Panfish of the Month was this 10" black crappie caught April 23 by Don from Huntley, IL. It was caught on a small hook/minnow combo under a float. We crappie fished in several back channel locations on the Fox Chain O Lakes that day. Most of the fish we caught were smaller along with a bonus largemouth bass, but this one crappie was the best.

It scored 50 points on our rating scale, the best panfish caught in April. Congratulations Don!

