



Captain Walt's Log

Fox Chain O' Lakes Update

Well, it is January and winter is here. We dream about fishing the open water of the Fox Chain O Lakes. When we fish the Chain, we are usually fishing for walleyes. That seems to be what most clients want to fish for on the Chain. Sometimes the walleyes cooperate and sometimes we have to defer to an alternate species. Walleye fishing on the Chain is best in the spring months of April, May, and June. Early in

the spring we begin our walleye fishing by pitching a jig/minnow combo onto shoreline rocky areas. As the year progresses, live bait rigging becomes important. Last year our largest walleyes were 4¾ and 5½ lbs.

My preferred alternate to walleye is the crappie. Last year, the crappies fishing was not as good as it was in 2015. Early in the spring migrating pelicans made a stop over on the Chain and it seemed like they cleaned out some of my favorite crappie holes. Both black and white crappies inhabit the Chain. Crappie fishing on the Chain is best in the spring and fall, with the months of April, May, September and October being my favorites. Usually we fish for crappies with some sort of live bait presentation. In 2016 our largest crappie was a whopping 17" and weighed 3# 3 oz.! Biggest crappie ever in my boat.

White bass are another good alternative species if the walleyes are not cooperating. White bass are aggressive and will hit a faster moving bait. Sometime we troll baits for them, but usually they are incidental catch to the walleye and crappie when fishing live bait rigs. Our best fishing for white bass is spring & fall.

Here are some pictures of fish we caught from the Fox Chain O' Lakes in 2016. We expect another good year in 2017. Fishing success on the Chain is greatly influenced by water levels and current flow.

