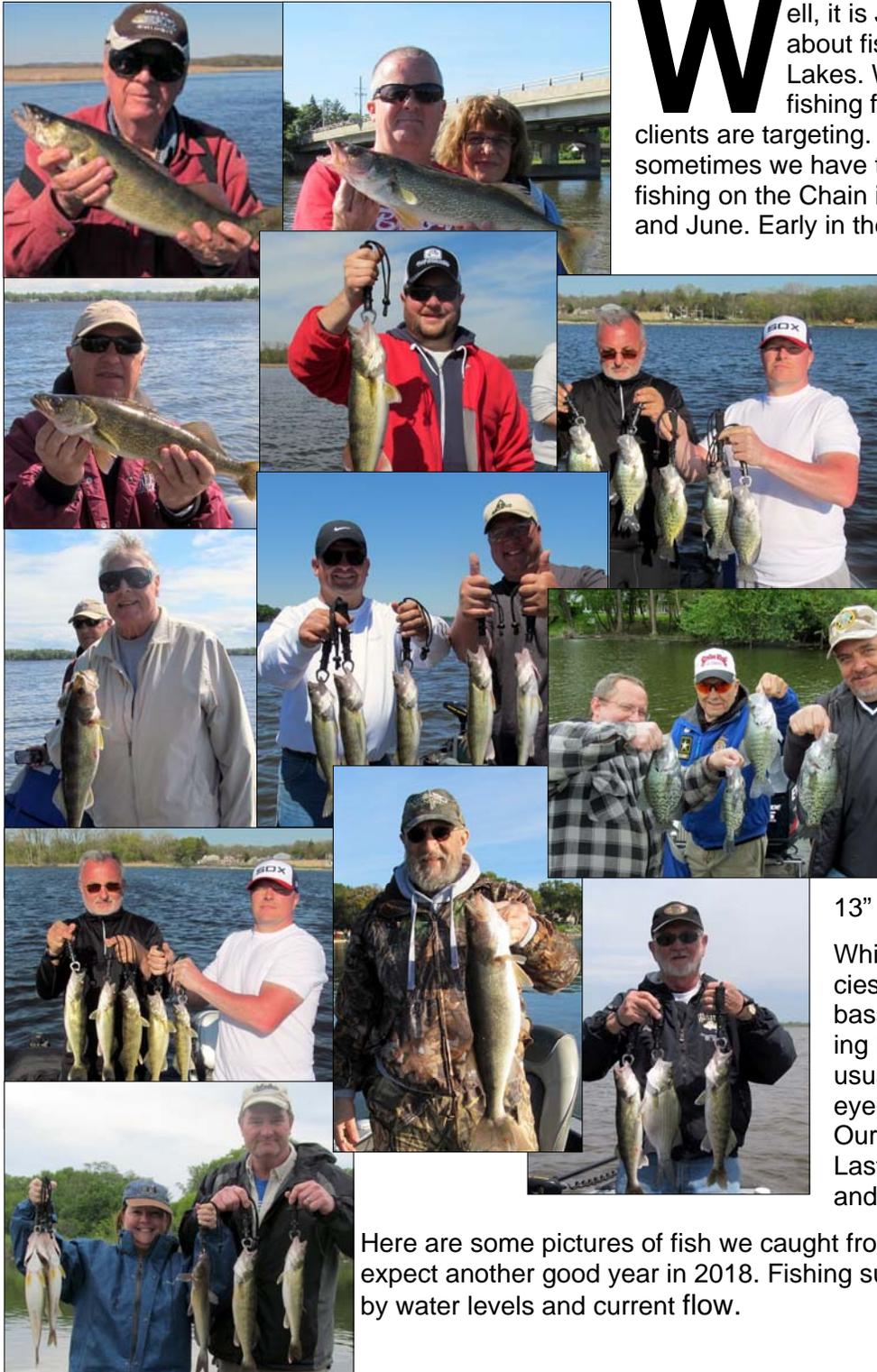




Captain Walt's Log

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 are targeting. 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 hard bottom gravel and rocky areas. As the year progresses, live bait rigging becomes important. Last year our largest walleye was 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and weighed 4 lbs. 12 oz. This walleye was caught in October on a live bait rig and minnow. We caught lots of nice 18-24" aka slot walleyes last year. Plenty of short fish too. The walleye population on the Chain is very healthy.

My preferred alternate to walleye is the crappie. 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 2017 our largest crappies were 13" and caught in April/May on live bait rigs.

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. Last year our largest white bass was 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ " and was caught in April on a live bait rig.

Here are some pictures of fish we caught from the Fox Chain O' Lakes in 2017. We expect another good year in 2018. Fishing success on the Chain is greatly influenced by water levels and current flow.