

**THE SECRET OF
THE PIKE**

**Icing
Trout**

**Perch
on Ice**

**Punching
Bluegills**

**Developing a Touch
for Bite Detection**



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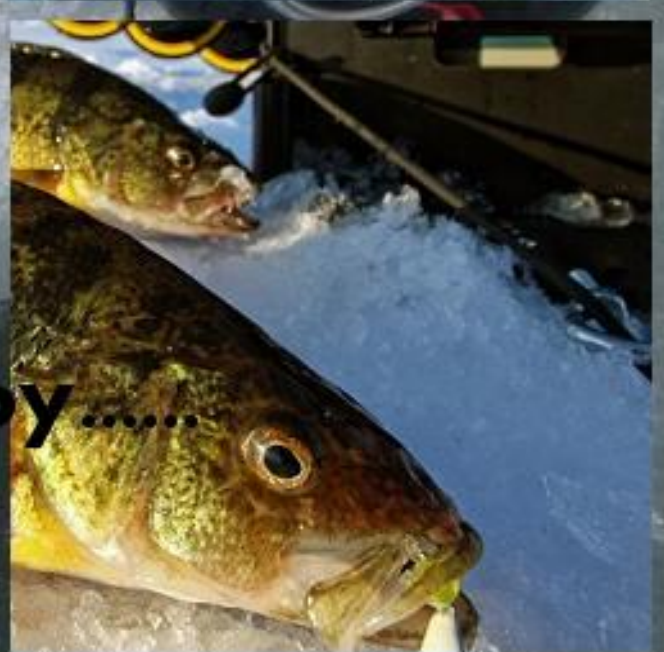
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Photo from D & B Ice Adventures



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ODUMagazine™ finished 2012 with a bang setting all kinds of records and un-believable growth... We ended the year with over 10,000,000 hits and almost 3,000,000 page views. If the trend continues January will be another record-setting month and what a great start to the New Year.

As usual, I attended the Henry's/Big Rock show in Raleigh this year and was not sure what the format change was going to have on the show if any i.e. they changed from a four day to a three-day format. To my surprise, everyone's upbeat attitude. This was a lot different attitude than I had experienced the past few years and especially last year. Almost everyone whom I talked to said sales was brisk, and a few vendors that I surveyed after the end of the show said that sales were up anywhere from 10 to 20 percent. I just read a report that a few National Marine Manufacturers Associations, Boat shows report early boat shows attendance was up as much as two

percent, another good indicator that things are starting to pick up.

I have to believe that part of the overall optimism is because we had another mild winter; gas prices are edging lower; the unemployment picture is not quite as bleak, and of course, the election is finally over, thank God. Now let's hope the bureaucrats in Washington get their act together and also give us some bi-partisan leader ship.

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Windlass Tip-Up Tactics To Improve Your Game

By Tom Gruenwald

Tip-up technology has come a long way.

We now have lightweight, premium Polar tip-ups, complete with wind-free trips and smooth, lubricated mechanisms guaranteed against freeze-up, Polar Therm tip-ups that not only feature mechanisms guaranteed against freezing, but built-in whole covers designed to seal out blowing snow and eliminate hole freeze-up...and another revolutionary design, the Windlass tip-up.

Unlike standard tip-ups, Windlass tip-ups harness the wind and use it to jig your bait—adding a highly effective, unique dimension to any tip-up presentation.

The design is really quite simple: A base supports a perpendicular frame that cradles a “rocker” arm balanced at the top. This arm features a metal plate at one end and a spool on the other; as the plate catches the wind, it naturally bobs the arm up and down, in turn moving the line and generating a controlled jigging motion. Try doing that with a standard tip-up!



In extremely cold weather, the Ice Stopper can be incorporated into your rig to be sure the line flows freely from your Windlass spool without icing up.

Basic rigs consist of a braided tip-up line backing, tipped with a barrel swivel, leader, split shot and hooks of the desired style and size, then bait up and go. Just understand that thanks to the Windlass tip-up's unique jigging action, you have additional options. Consider, for example, splicing small in-line spinners or smaller profile, lightweight spoons into your rig as fish-attracting flashers, or if

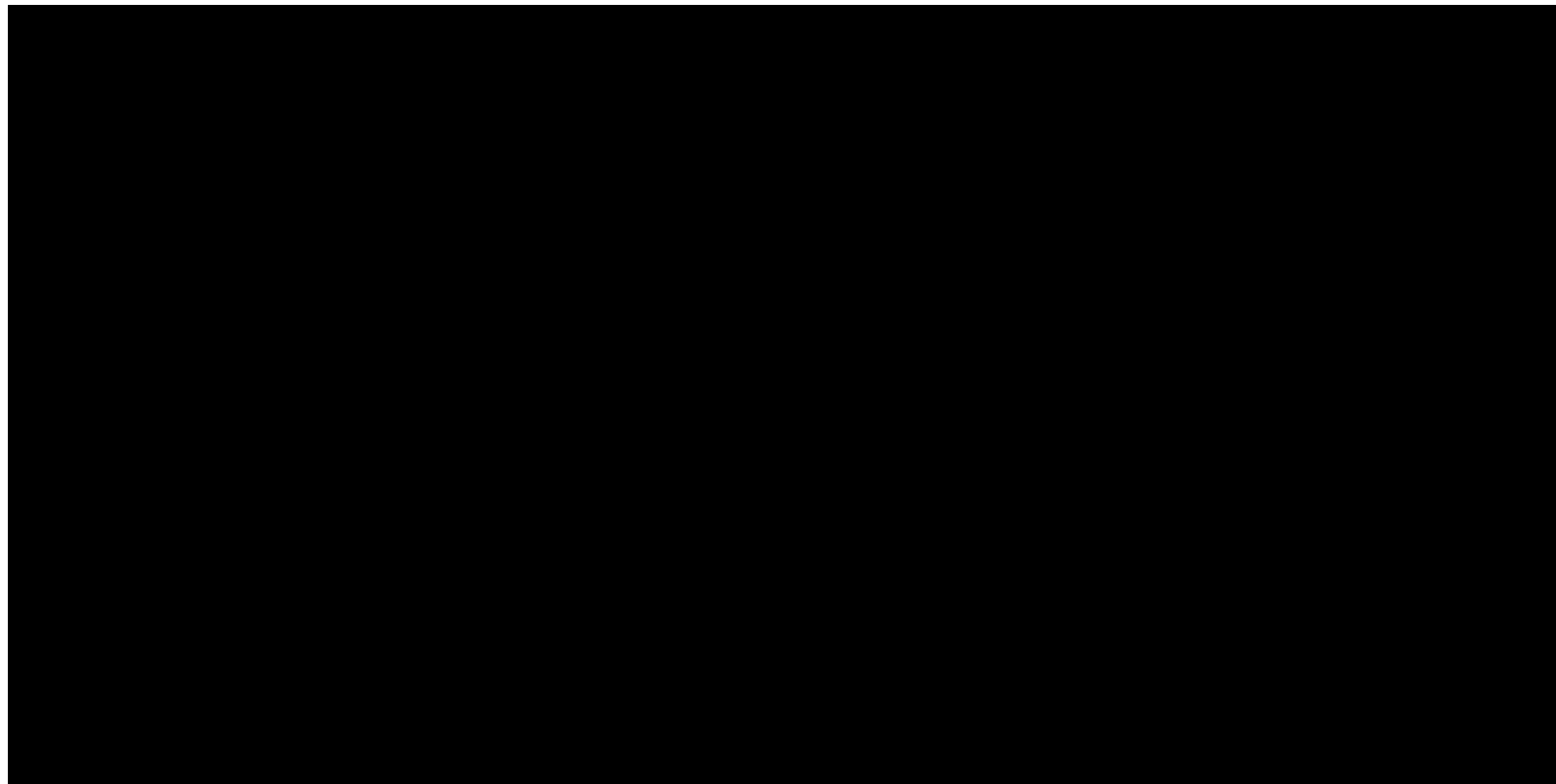
desired, even various small sized jigging lures!

In other words, when the conditions are right, you can rig using a variety of small jigging presentations, opening up an entirely new realm of strategies. Now you can use your tip-ups to candidly “jig” clear water shallows with minimal overhead activity, present moving baits silently to spooky fish without casting shadows, even experiment with different lure styles, sizes and colors at various locations and depths, so you can cover expansive areas more quietly and efficiently!

THINGS TO KNOW

Before fishing a Windlass tip-up, however, there are a few basic rules to follow.

First, be sure your line is wound onto the spool counter clockwise—meaning that once filled;





line revolves off the top of the spool. This is a necessary practice so your flag will trip properly when a fish strikes.

Next, feed your line through the grommet in the wind flap and down into the water. An adjustable drag tension allows control of how the fast line can flow from the spool as fish run. Tighten or loosen as

It's critical your line revolves off the top of the Windlass spool, so your signal flag will trip properly.

conditions dictate.

To set the amount of movements, find the tension bracket on the frame.

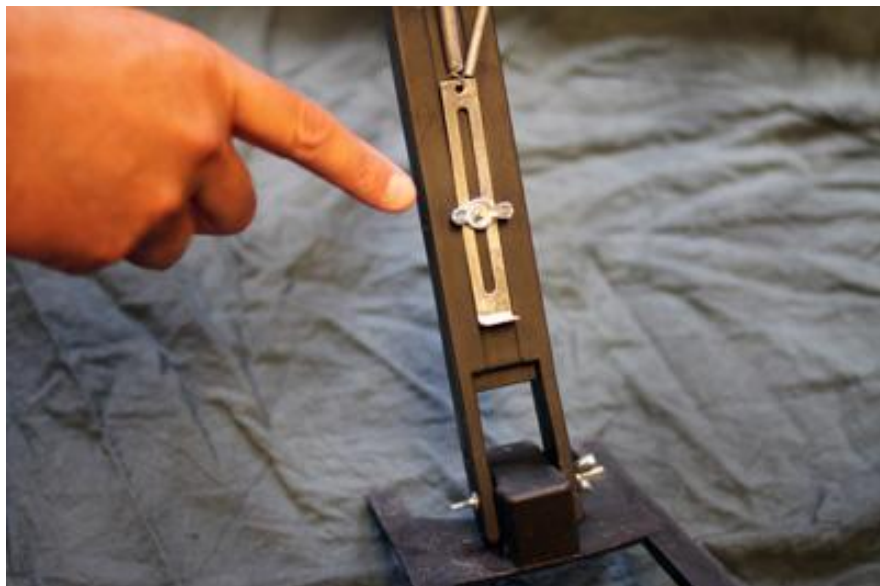
You'll notice a spring extending between this bracket and the underside of the rocker arm—this is used to control how high the angle of the rocker arm will rise, and consequently; how much jigging motion will be attained.

For minimal action, adjust the spring tension so the rocker arm remains positioned parallel to the ice.

To create more aggressive motion, gradually increase this tension by lowering the bracket. This will cause the arm to rise at an increasingly higher pitch. The greater the angle, the more wind the arm will catch, and the more pronounced the jigging motion becomes. Winds will now blow the exposed flap down, and the spring tension will offer a counter force, pulling it back up as gusts subside, hence generating the desired jigging action. When using larger baits, you can also bend the edges of the aluminum flap upward so it captures more wind.

Once positioned, be sure to weight down the tip-up frame with snow or slush to secure it in place, then lower your

To set the amount of tension on the Windless rocker arm, and consequently, control the amount of jigging motion, fine tune your adjustment bracket according to the size of your bait and strength of the wind.





Windlass Spool close-up

presentation to the desired depth, and place the tip of the thin steel strip fitted with the colored flag against the spool. This will hold your bait in the proper location and place the flag in a downward, “set” position.

I usually position my Windlass tip-ups so the wind blows from the backside of the unit toward the wind flap—meaning winds will blow the rocker arm down, causing the bait to drop, while allowing the spring-loaded tension bracket to lift it back up whenever the wind lets up.

Note that when fishing weeds, however, it may be better to have the wind catch the flap from the front side. This way, winds will cause the rocker arm, and consequently, your bait—to rise upward, away from the vegetation. As gusts let up, the presentation will return down only as far as its original position, in turn keeping your bait from snagging within the weeds

below.

When a fish bites, the spool turns, releasing the flag and signaling the strike. (Note: This is why it's critical for the line to be spooled counterclockwise and feed off the top of the spool: If the spool spins in the opposite direction, the flag won't trip as the spool rotates).

Furthermore, be sure to keep the arm moving freely—something relatively easy to accomplish on relatively mild days. However, you must remember that because the Windlass tip-up isn't an “underwater” spool style tip-up, the exposed spool leaves your line susceptible to freezing within the spool itself—and at the point where your line enters the water.

To control these issues, strip the line dry whenever re-winding, and place a commercial hole guard such as HT's thermal hole cover, or simply something along the lines of a carpet remnant

with a narrow slit cut from the outside edge to the center (to accommodate your line), over the hole. Packing slush around the outside will form a sealed fit.

In extremely cold conditions, products like the Ice Stopper, essentially a hollow slip bobber filled with non-toxic, environmentally safe, freeze resistant fluid can also be incorporated into your rig to prevent water from beading and freezing along the line, ensuring your line will flow freely from the spool and into the water without icing up.

Once set, just walk away, always keeping an eye on your flag, just as you would with any standard tip-up. When a fish bites, the rocker arm will dip down, and line will spin from the spool, tripping the signal flag. You'll also be able to see if a fish is running, and how fast, simply by watching the movement of the rocker arm and the spool as the fish move away with your bait.

Now is the time to move in quietly, carefully grasp the line and give it a short, firm pull to set the hook. As with other tip-ups, fish are then hand-over-handed to the surface. To re-set your Windlass tip-up, simply clear your line and re-wind it evenly back onto the spool, place fresh bait on your rig, position it at the desired depth and secure the base in place.

Of course, I recommend monitoring your tip-ups. You may have to periodically add fresh bait or consider re-setting the position of your tip-up and angle of the rocker arm based on variable wind speeds and obvious changes in wind direction, otherwise, that's really all there is to it!

So this winter, consider adding Windlass tip-up strategies and tactics to your ice-fishing approaches. It won't take long to discover Windlass tip-ups provide an entirely new dimension of heightened ice fishing excitement and productivity unlike anything you've likely ever experienced before.





Icing Trout

By Ben Leal

Trout in general tends to be some of the feistiest fish that you will ever pursue. Whether you're standing in a trout stream shooting a fly upriver hoping to see your indicator disappear or in a lake trolling or casting for them, once you've hooked into a trout, you are in for a great tug of war. Targeting and fishing for trout through the ice in a pond or lake is no different. Trout will put a great bend in your rod and give you tons of angling enjoyment.

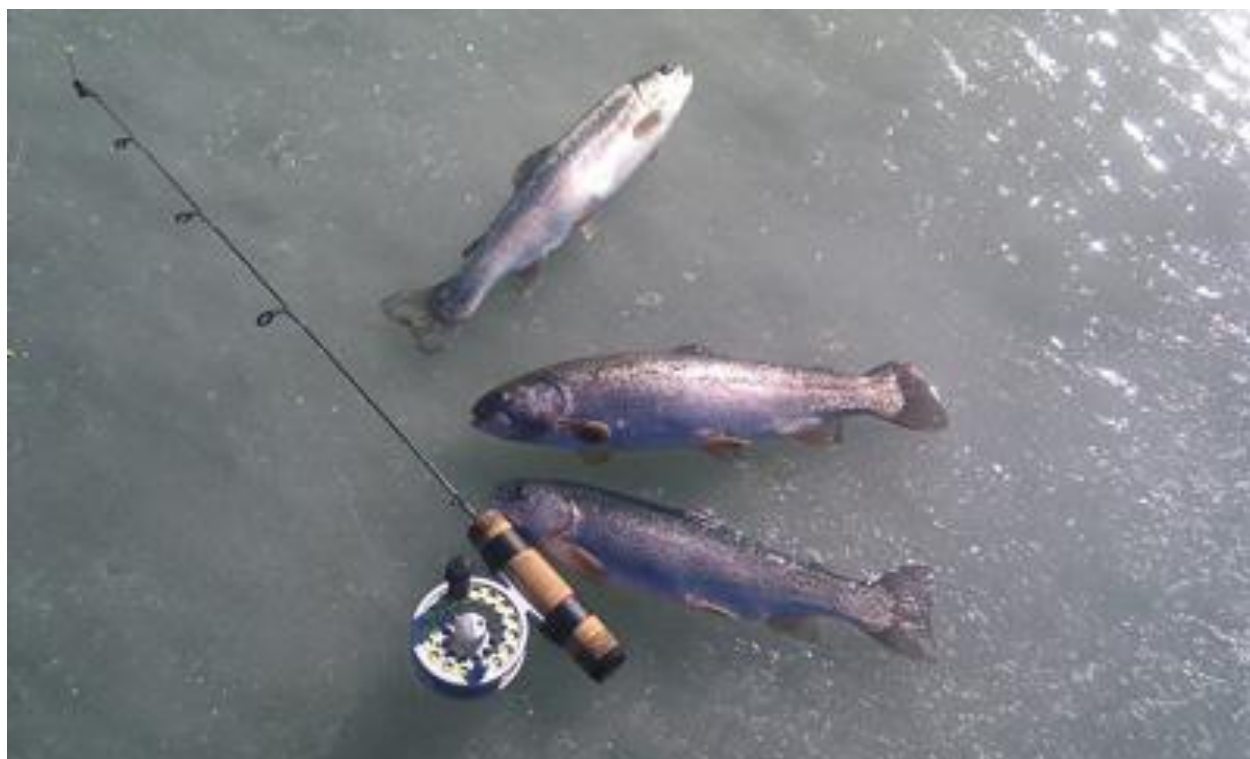
So let's take a look at doing exactly that, what do we need to do or how can we use what we know about open water in an ice-fishing environment? Trout are much different in how they relate to the environment they are swimming around in. Unlike warm water species like bass, bluegill and crappie, these fish don't relate to structuring. In a lake or pond these fish are nomadic, roaming along the shoreline in search of any tasty morsel they can find. The real key to hooking into a trout or two on the ice is to mimic their nomadic instinct, in other words, you need to roam around and punch some holes until you find one or two cooperative trout. Don't be afraid to punch holes in water as shallow as three feet, you'll find them there too.

Use your electronics to target these fish; once you've seen a fish or two swim by, grab your ice rod and lower a small jig with your choice of baits. One of the very best soft plastics that I've used is a Nuggie, made by Little Atom. These baits have incredible action in the water. Presentation is probably the most important factor in using these baits. The Nuggie is a horizontally fished bait. It's important when threading these baits on to a small jig, once tied to your line; it's perfectly horizontal in its presentation. A great way to get an idea of how's these work and check your rigging is to lower the bait into the water through the hole you've just cut in the ice. Drop it down a few inches, you'll notice that just a small movement with your rod will cause the tail of these baits to move, and folks let me tell you, the action is awesome. So send this bait down, suspending it off the bottom of the lake or pond; maybe even in the middle of the water column depending on how deep the fish are moving through and start jigging. You'll know when it's a trout, the hit is usually very aggressive and once you hooked it, it'll take a quick run. The two best colors I've used are white and red. You can get these in a micro Nuggie size. as well, great for smaller jigs.



Okay so let's take a look at a few other great baits that can be used for trout fishing through the ice as well. These are not listed in any particular order, each bait and technique work just as well as any other. Like any species of fish you target, there will be one specific technique or bait that will work better than another at times depending on environmental influences such as barometric pressure, clarity of the water, sunny versus cloudy days, etc.

Small Jigs Tipped with Maggots – Using a small jig tipped with a maggot, or spike as they are also known, can be a very effective tool in catching trout. These come in various colors the most common being pink and red. Using these small baits doesn't require a lot of jigging. Subtle movements will attract the fish to the bait.



Wax Worms – Wax worms may be the most commonly used "live bait" for trout. Like the maggot, you can tip a jig with the worm; a subtle presentation works best. One thing about the wax worm is that once you've penetrated the worm and lowered it into the water, it will leave



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AND WHAT TO
CATCH THEM ON

a scent trail. These work well in a pond or lake that has stained water.

Powerbait – Powerbait is an excellent bait for trout. It’s a multi-seasonal bait and can be used throughout the year. This bait works well with trout that are stocked or planted. It’s also a great bait for kids...easy to use. Use a small jig, a small treble hook (weighted), or single hook that you can roll a small “egg” of bait on to. Drop it down and wait for the trout to take your offering.



Live Minnows – Live minnows work well for almost any species of game fish. Trout are not the exception. A great way to rig minnows is with a slip bobber in about 2 to 6 feet of water. Slip a hook in just below the dorsal fin towards the tail, lower it down to your preferred depth. You can also use tip-ups if you’re allowed to fish multiple lines or use a tip-down. Tip-downs hold your rod for you and when you get a bite, well it tips down.

Fishing for trout through the ice can some of the most enjoyable fishing you can have. It’s also a great to get kids involved. There are quite a number of areas where urban stocking takes place in the winter giving folks a chance to get out and chase after these feisty fish. So get out there, give these techniques a try and ice some trout...Tight Lines All!

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Two Sides To Winter Walleyes, The Right Spoon The Right Way

By Matt Straw

A double-edged sword & the other side of the coin. Every important thing, it seems, has a “flip side.” Why should spoons be any different?

For every dense, fast-dropping Acme Kastmaster there's a light, slow-dropping Northland Forage Fish. For ice fishermen, the

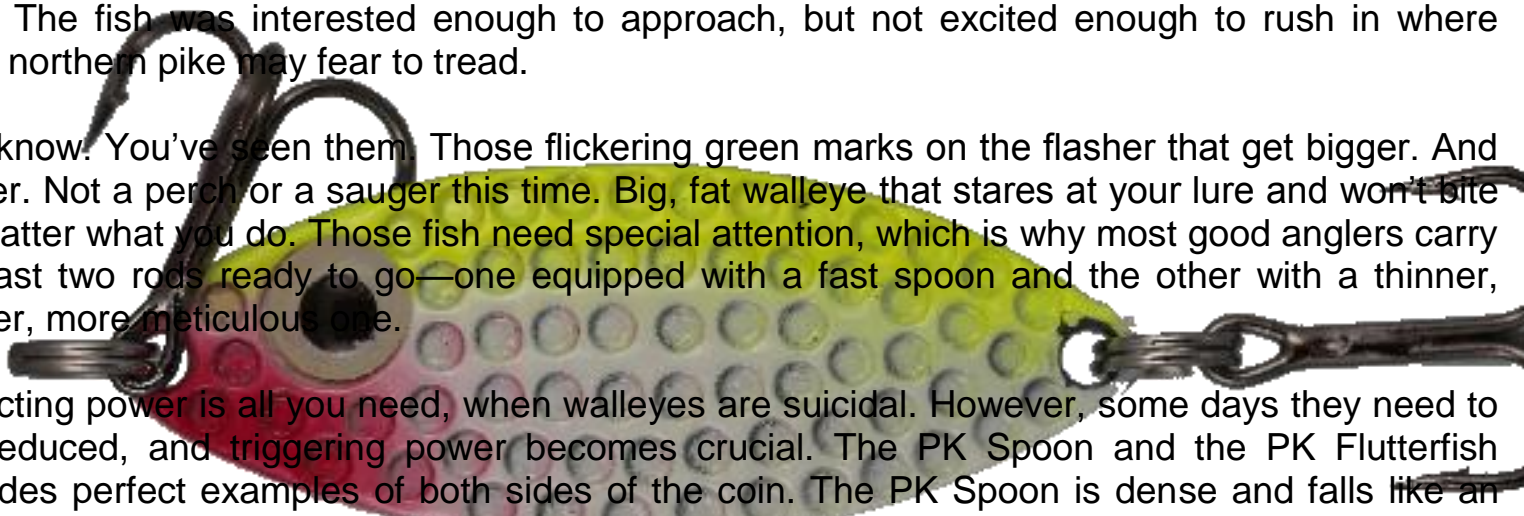
walleye spoons of note fall into one of those two categories: Dense, heavy versions that fish fast and cover water when we don't know where the fish are, or light, wobbling spoons that target reluctant fish.

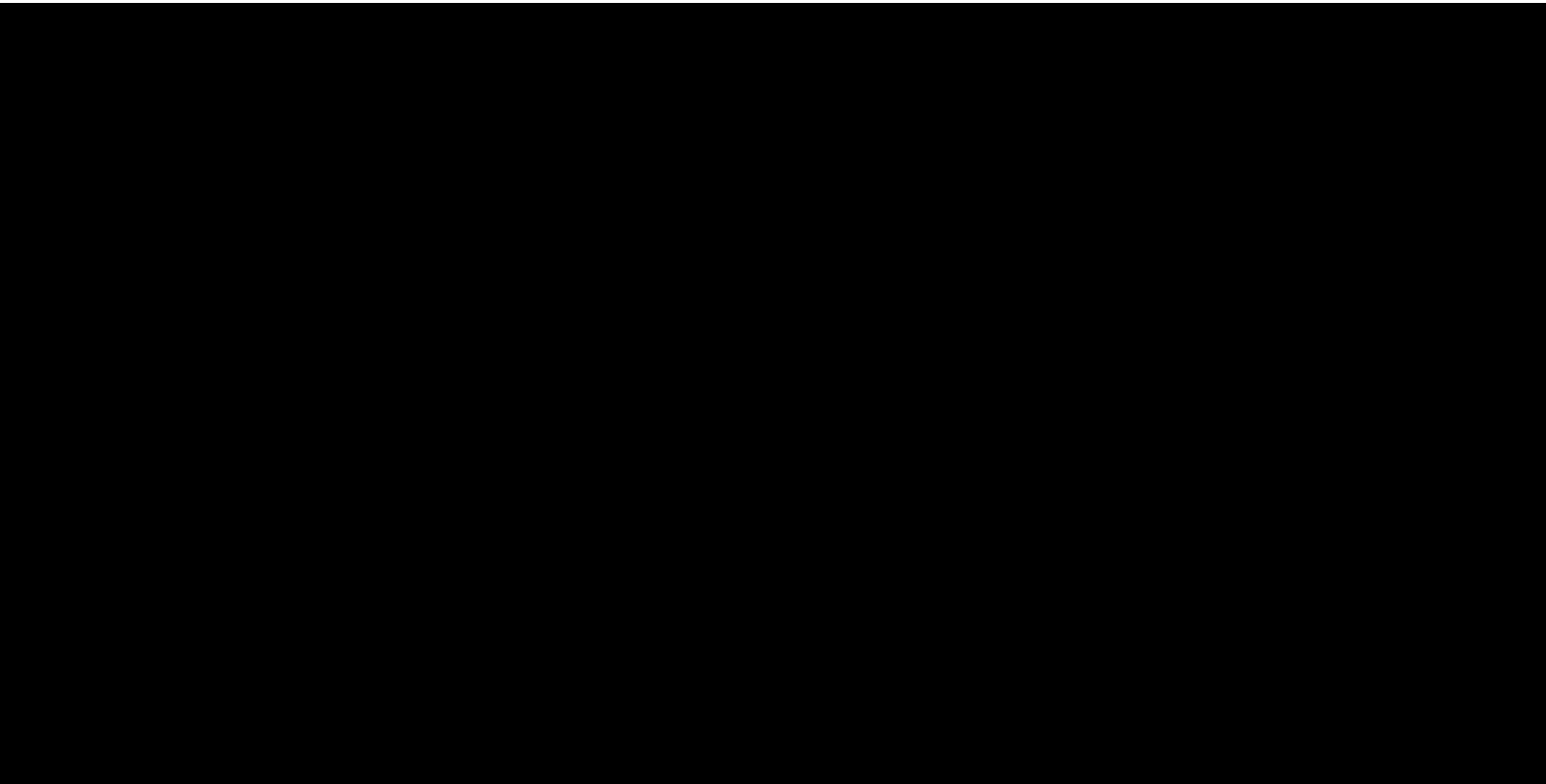
You lift the spoon. The mark stays where it is. That means everything depends on what you do next. The fish was interested enough to approach, but not excited enough to rush in where even northern pike may fear to tread.

You know. You've seen them. Those flickering green marks on the flasher that get bigger. And bigger. Not a perch or a sauger this time. Big, fat walleye that stares at your lure and won't bite no matter what you do. Those fish need special attention, which is why most good anglers carry at least two rods ready to go—one equipped with a fast spoon and the other with a thinner, slower, more meticulous one.

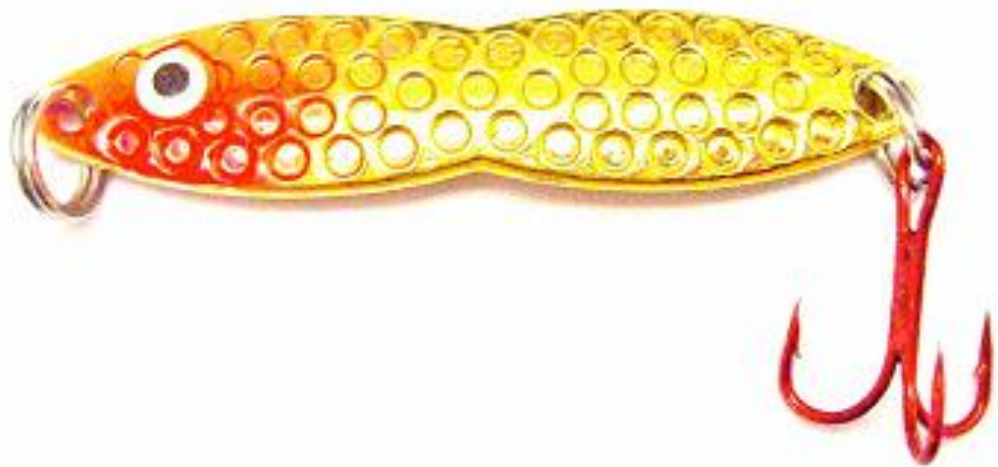
Attracting power is all you need, when walleyes are suicidal. However, some days they need to be seduced, and triggering power becomes crucial. The PK Spoon and the PK Flutterfish provides perfect examples of both sides of the coin. The PK Spoon is dense and falls like an arrow fired into the depths. The Flutterfish, when dropped, turns on its side and flutters down, creating a slow, enticing, “dying minnow” effect. Both are smooth on one side with machined “dimples” on the other side catch light at all angles, creating two very distinct types of flash.

The inventor of both lures, Pat O'Grady, uses the PK (“Pat's Killer”) Spoon to find fish fast. “The PK Spoon is my hunter-seeker lure that drops straight down in a hurry,” he said. “I'll raise it 6 to





8 feet and let it flutter back down to start things off, so walleyes sitting farther off can see it. After that, I fish from the bottom to 18 inches up with a rhythmic lift drop. A lot of guys like to rip these dense spoons aggressively. You're not going to get a lot of action out of most seeker spoons unless you rip them. With the PK, a rhythmic lift-drop-pause, stopped a foot off bottom and twitched, triggers more strikes. Every so often, I drop it to bottom and pop it 2 or three times to raise some silt. Can't do it a lot or you'll kill visibility, but those puffs of silt attract attention."



O'Grady allows a few minutes for the attraction power to take effect before moving to the next hole. "I seldom drill holes less than 25 feet apart," he said. "I feel I can draw fish from 40 feet away by lifting the lure high and letting it flutter down."

When O'Grady encounters reluctant fish, he switches to a spoon that drops slower with more triggering action. "You work the Flutterfish slower because it turns horizontal and flutters down softly," he said. "I let this lure work for me more. It swims off to the side more, drops slower, and you have to let it do its thing to catch those reluctant fish once you find them, so I lift and let it fall, injecting longer pauses more subtle twitches with the rod tip."



Walleyes can move around a lot in winter, especially before the staging process begins near spawning habitat. The need for speed becomes palpable. The time to slow down comes only after a fish or two is drawn into the range of a depth finder or underwater camera. Count on a "seeker hunter" lure until visible walleyes refuses to bite. Then turn the sword around and use the other blade.

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Search and Destroy... The Quest For Pig Perch

by Jason Freed



Perches are one of the tastiest freshwater fish and are a favorite among ice anglers everywhere. Catching them through the ice is becoming more difficult but your odds will improve with a solid game plan. You can't catch 'em if you don't know where they live; the search will turn to destroy more often if the "when and where" is understood. A quick study of a detailed contour map or handheld GPS, and consideration of these areas; shallow bays, mudflat and deep basins, will put you on top of the "feed trough". Hammering into a school of perch is exhilarating, especially when you get into the "Pigs"; those of the 10-14-inch size.

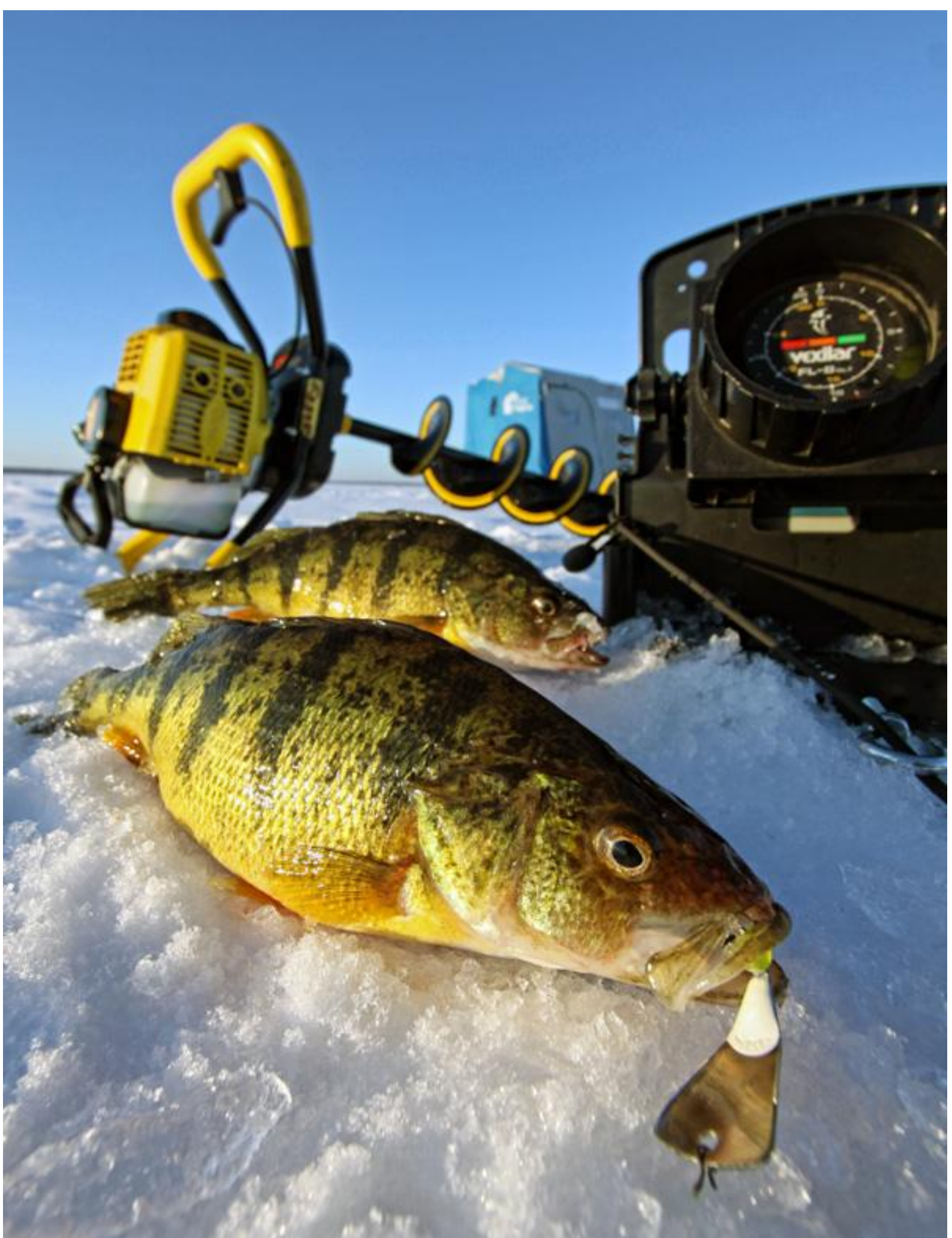
At first, ice, shallow bays are a magnet to pig perch and here, the dinner bell rings. These bays often hold the healthiest weeds which in turn hold the most oxygen. Perch will use this area as long as the last hardy stock of bait fish remained. Commit yourself to stay

mobile to both locate them and then stay with them. At any time if you get on top of a school of perch and decide you want to set up the portable on them be sure to continue to have a couple different rod set ups ready for these fish. Jigging spoons are a great tool, but don't forget there are times where those pig perch will get drawn into that tempting fluttering spoon



thus reinforcing the notion of flexibility. However, don't be surprised when the perch tells you a kicking fathead minnow dancing in the next hole on your dead stick or bobber set-up is even more enticing. For this set up something as simple as an Ice Buster Bobber, split shot, and hook can be deadly or simply switch out the hook for a glow jig such as a Gem N Eye or Forage Minnow jig will do the trick. Set that presentation about a foot from the bottom and be ready! It can be hard to beat for any fisherman





the sight of a bobber disappearing down the ice hole and knowing there is a pig perch running with your minnow. Keep in mind Perch are nomads and known to roam in big schools looking for food. If perch are nowhere to be found, in basins or mudflat, it's worth taking a look in this area, as they are known to move in and out of bays, all winter in chase of food.



After the early part of the winter, perch settles back off of the first drop-offs and occupies the mudflat for much of the winter. Mud flats are the breeding ground for larvae and other insects such as, freshwater shrimp or bloodworms, which pig perch love to feed on. These areas are often large and intimidating but well worth your time. Additionally, given the fact that they are preying on the bloodworms and shrimp, you should pay attention to this and try to “match the hatch” so to speak. Look at using many of the different insect baits, some tried and true favorites are Bro’s Bloodworms or Scudbugs. A good flasher will indicate their presence before you drop a line. What this means is to fish the holes where you mark fish with your flasher. This will allow you to hone in on certain pieces of the mudflat that is holding the fish and help you put the pieces of the perch puzzle together. What you may find out is some of your holes might be near clumps of weeds, a transition area between mud and sand, or a contour or slight depth change that is serving as a highway for the fish.

Pay attention and ask yourself why this hole is producing and others are not because this will help speed of the process of patterning the fish. If the fish aren’t present or biting, MOVE. You may have to move several times; pig perch are hungry and always looking for the next mudflat meal. At LOA, we like to call this moving method on ice, “search and destroy”; you need to move, move, move around the mudflats until you find them. Remember the smart thing to do when using the search-and-destroy attack on a perch is to have a couple of different rods set ups to entice those perch as you are hole hopping. Lures such as Forage Minnows, Lindy Flyer Spoons, or Jigging Rapalas are the great search type lures to use when looking for aggressive perch. Tip them with a minnow head or larvae and you will have something pig perch have a hard time resisting. Be sure to use different jigging presentations, many times perch will react to the jigging spoon being dropped and pounded into the sand, stirring up the bottom. Most importantly, use your flasher to read the fish and how they are reacting to your jigging presentation, The new zoom features, within the flasher market, allows you to hone in on that attitude of the perch even more.

The most difficult area to fish for “pigs” is a deep basin, but if you love catching numbers of perch, this is sometimes the only place to find them. During the course of the open-water season, perch rarely are suspended, making them easy to find in the water column. In the

middle of winter it is a different story; perch will suspend anywhere from 8-45 feet off of the bottom in the deepest water in the lake, 50+ feet. This makes them very difficult to locate, but rewarding in numbers. Drill lots of holes and use a flasher to search and destroy them. Start by looking in the deep basin near the closest piece of structure and at the same depth of the structure. Pay attention to your flasher for bait fish or plankton as the perch will be chasing them throughout the basin, and it is often these insects that keep these perch in certain parts of the basin. Be sure to pay attention to potential transition areas, which will vary in every lake. This can be done by simply watching your flasher's bottom content. This can be done on your flasher by looking at the bottom read out. A crisper and smaller red band means a hard bottom whereas a wider red band with a trailing bottom after it extending farther from the back end of your initial red bottom signal. Be sure not to change your gain on your flasher when checking your holes, that way you can identify these transition areas effectively. Furthermore, it is important to use lures that will draw the attention of these perch. Lures such as a Buckshot Rattle Spoon and a Chubby Darter are great baits for making noise under the water to help draw in the interest of the school. Moreover, don't be afraid to imitate the bugs below by using plastics, such as the new Impulse baits by Northland, tipped on a Northland Hexi Fly jig for example. By using plastics, this allows you to get your bait down quicker without having to rebait between catches. It is also helpful to have friends along to team up and help with the search in these deep basins. It's a lot of work, but it will sometimes be the only way to produce fish.



Spending a day searching and destroying “pig” perch can be rewarding, but what we all love to do is put the pieces of the puzzle together. Remember, perch fishing can be easy when they are in the shallow bays. After that, perch will pass the first drop-offs and head to the mudflat, they are more dispersed, but with enough patience and effort you can still pile them up. Then, when they head out to suspend over the deepest water in the lake, perch can be tough customers to find, but they are still there for the taking if you can get on top of a school. Good luck this winter and be safe!

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The Secret of the Pike

Anthony Larson

Northern Pike are the most misunderstood yet over estimated fish in the ice belt. Loved by some, hated by others; equipped with slime, knurly teeth, and an aggressive strike the pike has earned its reputation as an ugly entity in both the hard and open water it haunts.

So why do anglers spend so much time hunting them? I asked a few people at a community fishing hole about their opinion of our slimy friend. "I don't (fish for them)" says Ed, an old timer fishing for perch. "The damn things come along and cut my line and chase the perch away." Another person I talked to John says "I just love fishing for them. We put our tip ups out and chase flags and drink beer. It's like a family tradition for us. We like to pickle 'em."

It seems that when thinking of pike, there is a clear line in the sand of people that love them versus the people that hate them.

For the people like John and myself, who love fishing for the northern pike; there are a lot of different ways to catch the fish. The most popular is tip up fishing.



Tip up fishing is relatively simple, the angler drills a hole; puts the minnow on the hook; sets the minnow depth; and attaches the flag to a pin. When the fish bites, it pulls the line, and dislocates the flag from a pin and the angler sees the strike indicator. To set the hook, the angler pulls the fish in hand over hand.

However, modern technology has made the tip up more unique and created strike indicators that can be used with existing rods such as the, I Fish Pro Tip-UP, First Strike, and the HT Ice Rigger to name a few.

For the anglers who hate the pike, the most common way to catch them is by accident. According to Ed “I catch more of them pike by accident than I do perch some days. I just use a jigging rap (Rapala) or a jig with a minnow.”

Which brings up a point: three years ago, I caught a 40 inch northern on the Mississippi River on a Swedish Pimple and a waxie. It was the only pike of the day for our fishing group. I saw an old timer catch and throw back a couple of other pike that he caught on light tackle that day as well.

Most anglers I know use jumbo shiners and suckers (in live bait applications), and some use the biggest they can find. When I sized down my gear, I knew I was going to get challenged. Side by side, there is no real comparison in the amount of tip up success (fish caught versus false flags). It seemed to be a battle of tit-for-tat of some days the big shiners out fished the smaller ones and vice versa.

However, one thing I did notice that I caught bigger pike on lighter tackle while fishing for other species. I would fish in known pike areas with small spoons, crappie, and pink minnows.

Pike aren't that mysterious of a fish when it boils down to it. In the summer, their reputation



precedes themselves when they find trouble on the end of a bass guy's \$7.00 frog, or just sent his favorite buzz bait down to Davey Jones's locker. Truth is, they really don't go too far from their summer homes.

Pike like to run along weed beds, drop offs, and shallows looking for an easy dinner to chomp. I've caught them in 20 feet of water, and I've caught them in 2.5 feet of water. Typically, wherever you find perch, you can find pike.

Another factor I've come to realize is that pike like to swim looking up. If you look at pike's head, you will see his eyes are angled upward. I spent a whole winter watching my shiners under tip-ups with my Aqua view camera and discovered that a majority of the time, the pike would sidle up to the bait from beneath. So when I set my tip-up, I set the shiner just under the ice in shallow water, or higher than the fish I am marking on my Showdown. In other words, if I am in 20 feet of water, and am marking fish at 10, I'll set the shiner at 5 or 6 feet. I also like to set my tip ups at varying depths, to sort of hone in on feeding pike. The tip up that gets the most action will determine the depth, I need to set the rest.

The most often asked question I get about northern pike fishing is how to get the fish out of the hole, a lot of people are intimidated by the fish's size and teeth. For me, getting these beautiful fish out is easy. I gently coax the fish to the hole, then line its snout up with the center of the hole and gently apply pressure; the fish will rise to the surface of the ice, and will often continue swimming upward-shooting out of the hole.

Too many people use gaffs, a giant hook that looks like something of a mid-evil torture device. Anglers get the fish to the surface of the ice and hook the fish, causing it permanent damage or killing the fish unnecessarily. In the last 3 years, I've needed a gaff once; and that is when my daughter side hooked the fish, and we needed to use the gaff to straighten the fish out.

Love 'em or leave 'em, the northern pike is a big sensational fish geared up for a fight and a worthy adversary on any rod any season.





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The Strikes of Winter

By Scott Brauer

Strike indication is perhaps the most important feedback that we get from fish. It is the acknowledgement that what we are doing above the ice with bait, rigging and action is correct. The way we see, feel and sense the strike can also teach us lessons from fish. I don't think of a strike as a single thing, rather a series of clues as to how what we are doing, is making the fish act.



The Positive Strike...

This baby is the rod smack'n, spring bobber bending, line loop rippin, party at the end of your line. Most people have no trouble seeing or feeling this one just drop the rod tip and set the hook "Dave Young style". This one accounts for more hook-ups than the next two combined, but we can change that with a little understanding and by putting a few tools to work to help us catch more fish.

The Neutral Strike...

This strike occurs when a fish comes in and commits to checking out your bait but does not fully commit to eating it. I have hundreds of hours of underwater fish videos and regularly study every aspect of how a fish addresses a bait. Neutral fish will come in and hold a bait, bump a bait, blow at a bait and nip a bait. Fish many times will try to figure out what something is putting it in their mouth. They do not have other tools to check stuff out and this inquisitive nature is the demise of many of them. During times when they are full they will come in and check out a bait for taste, texture and out of anger.



The Hold...

I have seen all species do this from time to time. They come in and grab 20-30% of the bait and just hold it. They don't move, shake or pull, they just hold. I believe they are checking for texture, taste or feel to see if what they are seeing makes sense to them, if all systems are go with taste, texture and feel there will be a second commit and they will take the bait

in again. If you are not hooking up after seeing a strike try waiting for the second hit, sometimes the hit you don't pull on is more important than the one you do.

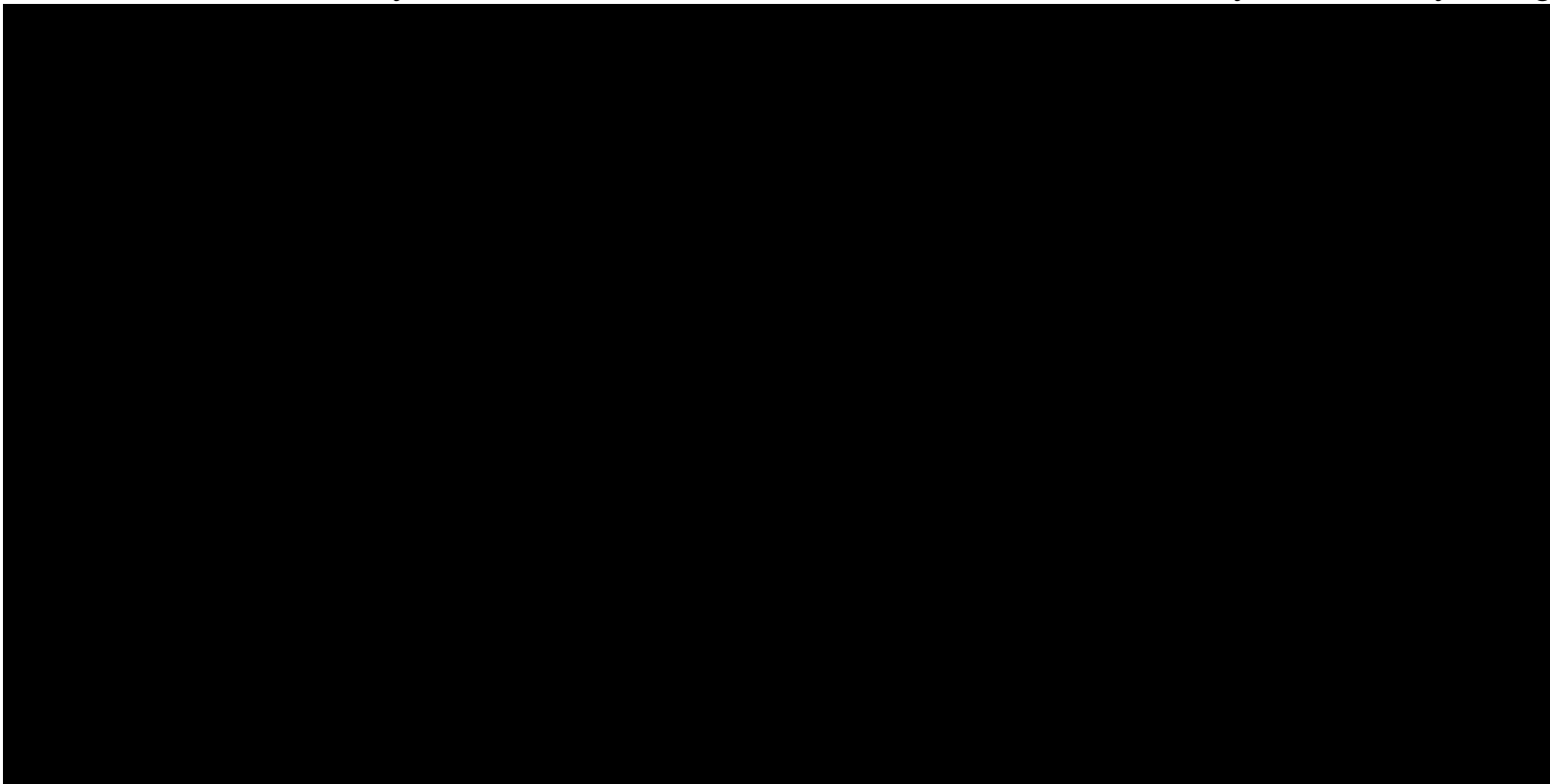
The Bump...

Panfish and game fish will also come in and bump a bait by swimming into it with their mouths completely closed. I have witnessed this thousands of times and have caught the same fish by making a change to my set up: jig, bait, color or action. The bump and run looks like a strike from up above, but you never have a real shot at catching that fish. I believe that the bump is how big fish sense if a bait is tethered. As they bump a bait they will back up 3-5 inches and watch how the bait reacted. If it does not react or overreacts, it is not natural and they will just swim away. One way to combat this action by the fish is to drop shot. Tie a 12-14 scud hook up the line to the depth they fish are coming through at and twitch instead of jiggling. This is a deadly tool anyways that should be tried throughout the day; I always have at least 1 rigged at all times.



The Blow...

Big Gills, Sunnies, Perch and Crappies will expel water at a bait to see how it reacts. I know that "blow" sounds funny because fish don't store air like that, but what they are actually doing



is rushing water through their gills out of their mouth at a bait to see how the bait's hydrodynamics work. If the bait swings away and back they turn and run, if the bait floats away naturally they will chase and eat. I am not fully sold on the new tungsten craze but this may be one of the times where a little extra weight may help. A heavier bait will stay more stable in the water and this may account for a few more hook ups. And conversely you may also want to try the dropper rig from above tied on a loop to let the bait float a little more freely. The key here is to be flexible and try different things, if what you're doing is not working that day.

The Nip...

This is perhaps a combination of the three strikes above. It is when a fish is not ready to fully commit to a bite. This strike can be combated at times with a drop of the rod. This bite seems to occur when fish are feeding up they just barely take the bait, opening a little but not quite enough to get the jig and bait all the way in. I can hook a few of these fish by dropping the bait into their mouth with a slight well timed 1 inch rod tip drop and then I will slow lift the rod tip and set the hook at the first sign of weight on the end of my line.

The Negative Strike...

This strike is actually just the way some fish feed; they grab a bait and swim up with it. So the negative connotation here is really the absence weight altogether. We don't feel this strike unless we feel the weight gone from our rod tip. A slow lift will show if the weight is being held up by the fish or if the jig just got caught in the weeds or on something else. Another way to see this strike is to use Hi-Vis line and watch the line from your rod tip to the ice. If there is slack in your line between the tip and the ice at any time set the hook. Also watch the line as you are letting your bait down any subtle change in fall rate may also be a fish...set the hook. Last but not least don't underestimate the power of spring bobbers to help you indicate strikes of all shapes and sizes.

If any of this makes sense to you, that means you have been witness to the many varied strikes that can occur during our "favorite season". I will be shooting video all winter to try to capture all of this from above and below the ice follow my "YouTube Channel - Scott Brauer" for updates and more "Lessons from Fish"

See you out there

Scott



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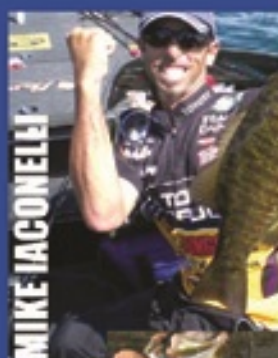
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Why Leech Lake

By Jason Freed

Ice fishing in Minnesota is a hobby that has been around for decades and has opened up opportunities for anglers throughout the Midwest to venture to many of the nearly 10,000 lakes Minnesota has to offer. When anglers think of winter hot spots for hard water angling, the first lakes that often come to mind are Mille Lacs, Lake of the Woods, Upper Red Lake, Leech Lake, and Winnibigoshish. One of the best ice fishing lakes in the state happens to be Leech Lake. The lake offers a bounty of species to chase from jumbo perch, dandy walleyes, tullibees, pan fish, and big northern pike. With this potential, anglers across the Midwest are starting to stop and investigate the third largest lake in Minnesota.

Leech Lake is 111,527 acres of lake that has numerous options to explore when it comes to fishing and other outdoor activities. The lake has numerous resorts that are spread around the shoreline of the lake. With the lake being so big, being able to narrow down your fishable area is something to consider when finding a place to stay. You must also consider your modes of transportation as well. If you have snowmobiles, four wheelers, and other ways to get around



on the ice, then you have a lot more freedom to pick your resort location. Some of the many resorts that cater to ice anglers are Chase on the Lake, Acorn Hill Resort, Trappers Landing, Big Rock Resort, and Brindley's Harbor to name a few. All have different amenities for the different anglers and group sizes. Furthermore, these places make sure to accommodate snowmobiles and can give you up to date information on trails and conditions, as well as ice thickness and problematic areas.

Often times small resort towns in Minnesota can become rather quiet and desolate in the winter. Walker, Minnesota, located on Leech Lake, is home to one of the many great winter events in the Midwest, the Eel Pout Festival. The festival literally is centered on what some people call a burbot or the "poor man's lobster". The festival causes the population of Walker to grow to ten times its normal size and has a variety of events such as the eelpout fishing tournament ran by Leisure Outdoor Adventures, social events, fundraisers, and much more.

Leech is a unique lake that gives anglers a variety of structures to chase these fish. The large bays that make up the lakes are Walker, Kabekona, Agency, Steamboat, Portage, Sucker, and Shingobee. Each of these bays is unique in size and structure. Anglers who wish to fish steep shoreline breaks and mid lake humps or rock piles will find themselves honing in on Walker, Agency, or even Kabekona Bays. Steamboat, Portage, Shingobee, and Sucker offer anglers well defined weedlines and good cabbage beds that will attract fish all winter long. The main lake, which makes the large majority of the lakes acres, consists of large expansive sand flats with patches of sand grass through them. Some of the more defined main lake points are Duck, Pine, Ottetail, and Star. Throw in main lake rock piles and reefs, and you have a plethora of structure to choose from when creating your game plan. All of these structures will hold fish throughout the winter.



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When chasing walleyes in this system one doesn't need to buy every ice-fishing lure. Come prepared with a variety of 1/8th to 1/4th oz jigging spoons, #5 jiggin raps, and a dead stick set up with a bobber/hook or jig/minnow, and you will have a good start. Shiners, rainbows, and fatheads are all good places to start when buying bait, but also don't over look getting some euro larvae as well. Perch color patterns, gold, and various glow colors have all been good producers. Focus on mid lake structures such as rock humps or large points and you will find walleyes nearby. Other areas to consider are bottlenecks in contours where walleyes can ambush perch and other baitfish. Typically, the best action for walleyes is the early morning, and

late evening bites. These are the peak periods of the day, but with some good scouting, walleyes can be caught all day long. The great benefit to chasing walleyes during the day is often times you will come across schools of jumbo perch or even the occasional tullibee.

When chasing perch, you will find they are all over the lake, and if you are willing to go through some gas for your auger and to punch a few holes, it is not out of the ordinary to catch a limit of pig perch on the lake on any given day. Many ice anglers look to the main lake areas such as Grand View Flats, Goose Flats and the Snake Pits when chasing perch. These are all good places to start, but look forward to getting away from the crowds and begin fishing! Don't over looked Sucker, Walker, or Kabekona Bays either. Focus on weed lines, patches of cabbage, or points and you can find a bounty of jumbos. A 1/16th oz. jigging spoon tipped with a minnow head or euro larvae is a great search weapon. Once you get on the school, set up the portable or wheel house and start jigging, drop down the rattle wheels or slip bobbbers, and you have the

makings for some fast action. Some of the best jumbo action will come during late ice during March.

With perch and walleyes getting a majority of the attention, don't be afraid to step outside the box and chase panfish and crappies. Giant crappies exist in the lake, and anglers who put in their time can be rewarded with slabs. Much like perch fishing, be aggressive and use small jigging spoons to bring in the fish. Once you find them, you may have to switch to more of a finesse approach such as a tungsten jig and euro larvae. With tullibees being, a fish people love to smoke; many anglers are beginning to realize the lake's potential for size and numbers. February and March are ideal times to target these fish. Pay close attention to your flasher and when a fish comes in half-way down the water column, reel up and be ready for a fight! With both crappies and tullibees in the winter, look forward to focusing on fish that are suspending over deep water basins, but don't over look the weeds as well for those slab crappies.

Leech Lake offers a variety of opportunities and amenities to enjoy this winter the season. Whether you are into staying at a resort, or you want to set up your wheel house, you have a variety of places to choose from. Throw in the opportunities to catch a variety of species of fish throughout the lake, and you have an ice fishing gem.



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Lake Simcoe's Premier One Day Ice Fishing Event

By Wil Wegman

On the morning of March 12th 2011, Doug Poirier of Keswick Ontario Canada was faced with a dilemma. Should he allow the 78 teams that showed up to compete in his inaugural fishing for a Cure ... Perchin for MS event to actually go onto the ice and fish? The weather



was nasty ... pouring rain and slippery ice conditions that could put a real damper on 'the enjoyment-factor'. This was after all supposed to be just a fun ice fishing competition that would serve as a fundraiser to heighten awareness around Multiple Sclerosis.



Jump ahead almost a year later and once again, Doug is left scratching his head just wondering what the heck to do. Here he was about to hold his 2nd annual Perchin For MS event, and his bad luck with weather plagued him once again. This time it wasn't rain, but wind ... howling hurricane-force wind pushing 70 MPH. Add to that, 2012, was a winter when over half of Lake Simcoe

did not freeze and despite over 1 ½ feet of ice in his fishing zone ... Doug knew there was open water to the north. To complicate the predicament not only had most of those 78 teams from the previous year returned but they all must have encouraged their friends to come out too. Two hundred teams were milling about that morning wondering if Doug would allow them to fish or not. Although all would understand if safety concerns kept them shore bound that day ... but they were there to fish!

So ... lo and behold both tournaments did go off without a hitch and hundreds of nice Lake Simcoe yellow perch were brought in. Upon retrospect, making the decision to let the teams go out that first-year wasn't nearly as difficult as 2012, Doug told us. "It was just a miserable day, but the entire lake was frozen with plenty of ice," said Doug. "Last year though we had that wind and open water far off to the north that really complicated things. Upon consulting with my team. However, we determined that the onshore wind played in our favor, and our downsized fishing zone had lots of ice and was plenty safe. The result was a very windy yet safe day of fishing for our competitors", said Doug.

Doug went on to tell us, "Yes for two years now weather has been our nemesis but in some respects it has helped put our event on the ice fishing radar screen for anglers right across Ontario, some nearby border states and beyond." Although the weather has made the events interesting enough ... the success of this ice tournament is no doubt due to Doug's hard work ethic and determination to make it stand out as a 'must fish' event for so many. Sponsors and the fishing industry have responded with tremendous support offering some of the best prizes found in any Canadian Fishing competition.

Of course, anglers love all the prizes and the simple payback system on their \$50 per team



entry fee ... Half goes towards the payback to anglers, half for the MS Society. An optional \$20 per team is collected for those who wish to enter special contests such as the Slab Award, Mystery Weights, etc.

As an avid angler and Conservation Officer who lives with MS daily, Doug knows firsthand about its limitations, but says that unless you have a friend or relative with it,



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people seldom have a good understanding of the disease. Doug wanted to get behind an event that allowed him to pursue his passion for ice fishing - in part because he recognizes this is a wonderful form of outdoor recreation that can be enjoyed by people of all ages who are living with or without physical disabilities. "The goal of the event is also to raise a bit of money for MS. In 2011 we raised about \$4,000 and last year we more than doubled that to \$10,000, which went directly to the MS Society," said Doug.

Fishing The Perchin For MS Event: March 2, 2013, 8am-1pm

Although several areas around Lake Simcoe were tempting locations to hold the Perchin' For MS tournament, Doug wanted one that offered good fishing without having to travel too far out onto Lake Simcoe. Situated within walking distance from the shores of Sibbald Point Provincial Park near Sutton, anglers all fish within a zone just over one square mile in size. The heaviest ten perch per team wins, and all perch must be kept alive covered in water while out on the ice. To encourage families to participate – two adults constitute a team, or you can fish with up to two kids aged 14 or under. All teams need to be on shore and beginning to line up for the weigh-in by 1pm. This is always an exciting time as anglers talk about their catch and the experiences of the day.

Last year, that talk focused on one thing- wind! One competitor told me it was so windy he actually watched a Christmas tree rolling along on bottom! These trees are placed by ice hut



operators as identification markers for their ice roads out onto the lake. One of the biggest challenges, my partner Jay Downey and I had was to get our baits down near the bottom because the current was so strong. We did manage to catch some good ones early in the day though ... which was enough for 3rd place overall and a nice \$500 paycheck.

Waters in the zone range from 10-30 feet and yellow perch of all sizes can be found in the zone. The bottom



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<http://www.perchinforms.com/>



content is a mix of sand, hard clay and some rock ... with moderate to light aquatic plant growth in some sections. Some teams have success by staying in one spot and waiting for the perch to come to them ... however, my preference is to move around and drill a lot of holes to find the bigger perch. In 2011, my son and tournament partner Izaak and I did

this with our Cross Sleds on the glare ice – allowing us to quickly and effectively glide all over a very productive part of the zone. We had a limit early and kept punching new holes whenever the action slowed (or the fish were too small) throughout the day to look for bigger fish.

Live bait is permitted and last year's winners did use minnows to catch their perch. The year before though, Izaak and I used HT's Marmooska jigs in the morning and HT spoons in the afternoon to claim the first place prize. These were rigged onto very sensitive HT Polar Lite Rods to maximize our chances of feeling the light biting perch. We're hoping that in 2013, the current will be moderate enough to allow us to once again use these lighter baits ... and we're counting on Doug to order a little nicer weather for the Third Annual Perchin for MS event.

Wil Wegman is an award winning outdoor writer from Ontario whose ice fishing articles have appeared in most Canadian and many US based fishing/outdoor's magazines. Wil was part of Team Canada at the World Ice Fishing Championships in 1991 and has had several top ten finishes in the Canadian Ice Fishing Championships. He taught ice fishing courses at local colleges for many years and now offers ice fishing seminars across Ontario. He can be reached thru his Focus on Fishing website at www.wilwegman.com



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Developing a Touch for Bite Detection

Dave Genz



You can become good at detecting light bites, but it requires the right kind of rod, fresh line that hangs straight, and tuning yourself in to the feel of your bait as it bounces up and down. When the weight of the bait changes, or goes away completely, something good probably happened! Here, the master ices another bluegill – not a monster, but they all bring a feeling of satisfaction. (Photo: www.davegenz.com)

After all the map study, after all the hole drilling, once you drop the line down the hole and start presenting a bait, that's when the most elusive skill of all comes into play. Even with the finest graphite rods and fresh line, it can look like a magic act when good anglers just 'know' a fish has taken the bait and it's time to set the hook.

Solid, thunking bites are easy. Everybody can feel those, even with gloves on. However, knowing a light bite when you feel it – or sense it – separates the best anglers from the rest.

For so many, this becomes a lifetime quest full of frustration. How do you know a soft bite when you

feel it? What does it feel like? Is there a way to develop a better touch for detecting bites? The answer is a resounding yes, but you have to pay attention to detail and tidy up several tricky variables.

At the conclusion of days spent retracing every step of the modern ice fishing revolution, Dave Genz was asked about where the sport can still go, in terms of significant developments. This was done to gather up his memories while writing the book, "Ice Revolution," and though he was visibly spent from the process, he knew right away what he wanted to say.

"There's probably always room for more things in bite indication," he said. "Something that helps you know when the fish bites." He went on to theorize that we can probably build electronic gadgets that detect irregularities in the jigging motion, telling us something changed and a fish might have sucked the bait into its mouth.

This kind of technology could come, but each of us has the ability to detect light bites right now, using the right combination of current equipment and technique. There are ways to become

instantly better at this frustrating piece of the puzzle, then work on refining your abilities to the point that people will come up to you and ask for your secrets.

Bite Detection System

This is not going to be a commercial for specific models of rods and reels, but rather a description of what Genz uses and what he believes to be the keys to better bite detection. He's said this before, but you must begin with the right gear.

"Your equipment has to be balanced," Dave begins. "If it isn't, you're not going to feel the bite. The line has to hang straight (meaning fresh and free of coils). Your jig has to be heavy enough to take all the kinks out of the line. Even with a new line, if the line is too thick for the weight of the jig, there will be all these coils in it, and you can't feel bites, then.

"And you have to have a fairly stiff rod. It's so hard to get people to understand that stiffness equals sensitivity, but that doesn't mean I'm using a pool cue. People say they want a 'more sensitive' tip, but after I talk to them, I find out they want to watch the rod tip and see the rod bend to see the bite. That's how they want to detect the bite, by seeing it rather than feeling it, because they don't think they can learn to feel it. However, if you have such a soft tip on your rod that it bends when you get a light bite, it's going to be harder to feel any bite."

Genz urges us to get away from trying to see bites by watching the rod bend. "It's the little bites, being able to feel them, that you should be trying for," he says, then goes on to describe how to pull it off.

"You have to be able to feel that lure down there as you're jigging it," he says. "Even with tiny baits, if your rod and line are in balance, you can feel the cycles of the jigging motion as you go up and down. It's crisp and noticeable once you get used to it, and you just know it. We talk

about pounding the lure, and now we talk more about the cadence, which is how fast you are pounding it.

“With a good rod, you can feel the bottom of every cycle, right in the rod blank. That’s why it has to be stiff enough to let you feel that. If the rod is too soft, everything mushes around and you can’t feel anything. (But with a good rod) you’re jigging away and feeling the bottom of every jiggle, and then all of a sudden something changes.”

In other words, the distinct ‘thunk’ (or whatever you want to call it) at the bottom of every jiggle suddenly goes away. It might just deaden, or there might be a sensation that everything got lighter, or heavier. The changes can be, and are, subtle a lot of times. It isn’t like a big jolt most of the time – just enough of a difference to tell you something interrupted things.

Close Your Eyes

Genz hasn’t talked much about this next idea, but credits it for helping him refine the ability to detect light bites without the aid of spring bobbers or other visual cues.

“What I do, which helped tremendously,” he says, “is when a fish is coming in and I know it’s going to bite, I close my eyes and fish like I’m blind. Blind people have tremendous senses, and doing this will truly help you sense when the lure gets a little heavier. You can really tell when

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the bounce goes away at the bottom of your jigging cycles. When you can't feel it bounce anymore, you know the fish has it.

"Sometimes there's this big jerk on the end of the line, but sometimes the fish comes in and grabs the lure and swims across the hole with it and

everything just gets a little bit heavier."

He does this close-the-eyes trick occasionally, to this day, to keep his senses honed and refine his instincts. "You start to feel, or almost sense, that the fish is on there," Genz says. "I do this when the fishing is pretty good, not on the first fish of the day. It probably works best when you're sight fishing or using a camera – you've already caught some fish and can picture what they're doing as they bite it. Then, close your eyes on some fish and go for that feeling."

There is more to this story, as there always is, including what to do when the fish are just coming up and kissing the bait with their mouths closed. That will interrupt the jigging cycle, and you can feel it, but setting the hook right away on those bites results in wondering what the heck happened. In those instances, Genz has taught us to drop the rod tip rather than setting the hook, giving the fish a chance to have a second go at it and hopefully suck it in.

"When I drop the rod tip," he says, "my eyes are wide open and I'm watching the line. If the line sits in the hole with coils, that means the fish has it and I can set the hook and get him." Sometimes by sight, always by feel, using good-quality rods and reels, almost anybody can learn to sink the hook into far more biters.

Note: Dave Genz, known as Mr. Ice Fishing, was the primary driver of the modern ice fishing revolution. He has been enshrined in the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame and Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame for his contributions to the sport. For more fishing tips and information on the new book, Ice Revolution, go to www.davegenz.com.

Ice Fishing River Systems 101

By Robert Booth

Through the years, we have put together a formula for success while fishing river systems. Countless trips were taken with limited success before we started taking note of the external factors that either makes a trip picture worthy or just a long ride home.

Like any usual body of water, fishing low light conditions at sunrise and sunset offer a decent bite but not always the best. The movement of water in any direction gets baitfish and aquatic insects moving causing a feeding frenzy. When the water is rising or just starting to fall you will find your best bites. At these times of the day the fish will come out of their dense weed mats to feed in more open water.

Hydro dams produce power for when their demand is predicted to be up. With that being said think about the busiest times of day for most residences. Week days tend to be a little more consistent since dam openings and closings are more frequent and scheduled, making it easier to predict good bites.

Understanding how to read the channel and weed structure is vital to not only catching fish but being able to stay on them throughout their daily migration. Each area that we fish seems to have a completely different channel layout or in some cases no channel at all. In most large river setbacks, the channel will often time run adjacent to a shoreline. Knowing this will save you time when searching for the channel and the fish it may be holding. Once the channel is located it is useful to find the closest weed line or flat. This will give you a starting point for your search when the water is low or the sun is high. Fish will often tuck into the thickest weeds along the channel's edge. Channel features to key in on are inside turns, sharp breaks in depth contours, and like we said before, weed edges.

Timing is everything when fishing a larger river system with hydro dams. Knowing how to read external factors such as blue skies, cloud cover, and pressure systems can make or break a day. First and last light, high water, and cloudy days you will mainly find us set up over short weeds and in the channel. As the sky gives way to an abundance of light, the panfish that we are after slide from feeding mode in open water to their daytime retreats in dense weeds. One interesting factor that is huge in most bodies of water doesn't seem to impact river fishing is





atmospheric pressure. These fish are regulated mainly by water flows and sunlight more than anything else.

Anyone who fishes regularly has had a day where anything seems to go. The fish were biting on large or small, any presentation worked. Well, that happens for us on the river but not that often. Most times we are downsizing our presentation to a size 10-12 hook in order to finesse even the most finicky biters. The only time that this method really hurts is when fishing deep water and it takes a long time to reach the fish. One great way to combat deep water,

or any water for that matter, is to use tungsten. Sure it is a bit more expensive but being able to punch through dense weeds and speed up drop time of a jig far outweighs the cost. The next addition to our presentation is plastics. We fish plastics 95% of the time because they work that well. The main plastic we use on the river was designed specifically for that application. It is called the Jamei by Maki Plastics. It started as a split tail bait but to combat line twist, five protrusions were added to each side.

The quality of fishing on river systems changes drastically throughout the ice season. Early to mid winter will offer the best bite as the fish are seeking better sheltered areas and easier forage. As winter progresses the bite for bluegill and crappie seems to diminish as the numbers of perch and other larger predators move in preparing to spawn. Along with the first major warm up, there is noticeable decrease in the overall flat fish population. Our theory is that these fish move out of the setback to search for warmer water as the main river thaws because of flowing water and warmer snow melt run-off. These fish will stage in this warmer water until their spawn occurs.

With all this being said, it would sound like we won't fish the river if the conditions are not in our favor. There is some truth to that but in reality, the fish will be there it just depends how hard you want to work for them.





Want to improve your walleye catch?

Here are 5 ways to make that happen.

By Nathaniel Myson

From spring through late fall, Jeff Sundin puts in long days on and off the water, guiding on a host of northern Minnesota lakes and maintaining daily fishing reports and other content on his website. Sundin doesn't guide on the ice, but that sure doesn't mean he quits fishing. In fact, because he's not guiding, Sundin spends a lot more time with a rod in his hand, thinking about exactly what he needs to do to get fish to bite.

Whether he's guiding during the summer or just fishing during the winter, Sundin is a multi-species fisherman. Walleyes are a major attraction in his part of the world, though, and he spends a lot of time targeting 'eyes. We talked to Sundin about his approach to ice fishing for walleyes and gleaned these five tips.

1) Try Perch Scouting

The best walleye action occurs during the final hour of the day in the lakes Sundin, mostly ice fishes. He catches an occasional walleye during the day, but the dependable bite only occurs late, so that's when he targets them.

Fortunately, yellow perch uses the same of areas in the afternoon where many walleyes feed in the evening, so Sundin's normal approach is to spend his afternoons fishing for yellow perch with smaller baits while watching for signs of walleyes on his electronics.



"When you see a good fish right on the bottom and it comes up and looks but doesn't bite, it's probably a walleye," Sundin said. "We'll pay attention to those as we perch fish and will pick out a few holes where we've seen walleye activity. Then we'll fish those spots for walleyes in the evening. Both species use shallow weedbeds, feeding mostly in holes in the weeds."

2) Start Looking Really Early

Sundin's scouting actually begins way before he gets on the ice any given day. In fact, it begins before the ice ever forms. While he may not make targeted scouting trips in his boat, he scouts all summer long and on into fall as he fishes many of the same lakes where he'll be ice fishing during the winter.

Walleyes move a lot, so Sundin doesn't make any special effort to look for fish with winter in mind. Instead, he looks for little patches of gravel that create openings in shallow weedbeds, especially when those openings are atop points or along turns at the edge of the vegetation. Those are the spots where perch feed in the afternoon and the walleyes feed during winter evenings, so Sundin creates waypoints for as many such spots as possible.



3) Double Up on 'Em

When Sundin drills his holes over gaps in shallow grass, he almost always sets up with two rods. He actively jigs with one rod, normally with a big Frostee Spoon or Rattl'N Flyer Spoon tipped with a minnow head. The other rod stays put and is fished in a nearby hole, with a bobber set to suspend Sundin's offering just off the bottom.

Sundin commonly rigs his second rod with a Slick Jig and then hooks a live minnow near its tail. The minnow will fight against the weight of the Slick Jig, swimming in circles just off the bottom.

Some evenings the spoon is the main attraction, and the walleyes ignore the live offering. Other days, it's the other way around. Sundin will pound the Frostee Spoon on the bottom and then fish it up off the bottom, and he believes the commotion made by the spoon commonly gets the attention of a walleye, which comes to investigate, sees a live minnow and eats it.

4) Climb Humps

If holes in weedbeds aren't producing, Sundin looks for deeper offshore humps that walleyes will move onto in the evening. This approach works especially well on larger lakes during the first part of the ice season.



He starts late in the afternoon drilling holes around the edges of the structure. He catches some fish early, but mostly he's watching to figures out where they are staging. Then he drills lines of holes from where he sees the most activity to the top of the hump and works from hole to hole with a single rod in hand for the final hour or so of the evening. He generally starts in the deepest water and fishes shallower as the evening progresses, and by the time he's done, he's right on top in the shallowest water because that's where the walleyes like to feed right before dark.

When Sundin works from hole to hole atop a structure with a single rod in hand, his absolute go-to offering is the biggest size of Frostee jig in a glow color such as Blue/Glow. He'll bait the Frostee with a whole minnow hooked beneath the lateral line so that the jig hangs vertically, but the minnow is perpendicular and hanging naturally in the water.

5) Turn Lookers into Takers

Sundin starts a game of cat-and-mouse when a fish gives the bait a good look but refuses to commit. He lifts his bait 6 or 8 inches, and the jiggles it in place, and often that's all it takes to trigger a strike. If the fish follows the bait up but still doesn't bite, he'll bring the bait up another 6 or 8 inches and return to jiggling.

"Usually if a fish doesn't grab it after I do that about three times, it's not going to bite, so I pull it all the way out of the strike zone, and drop it back down to where I had been fishing to start over," Sundin said.

If a fish charges aggressively but doesn't hit, Sundin takes a different tact. He quickly brings his



bait up several feet and stops it dead in its tracks. Often such a fish will follow the bait straight up and hit it immediately when it stops.

For More Information: Jeff Sundin posts daily fishing reports on his website, www.jeffsundin.com, that include input from a bunch of different fishermen in his area. He also regularly contributes to the National Audio Fishing Reports at www.lindyfishingtackle.com.

Two Best Ice Fishing Presentations

– Bottom Pounding and Bottom Scrounging

By Steven Johnson

When fish are low in the water column, smart ice anglers know that bottom pounding and bottom scrounging are “go-to” presentations. Truly successful ice fishermen, however, know when to pound, when to scrounge, and when to combine the two to catch more walleyes, perch, bluegills and other gamefish. Here’s how to determine the best presentation every time.

The flasher is beginning to show fish, but they’re just not committing. Jon Thelen brings his bait up out of the hole, shifts the knot position on the jig eye and drops his it back to the bottom, but employs a decidedly different presentation than he used to draw in the fish. It doesn’t take long for him to convince one of the walleyes to bite.

Like most veteran ice anglers, Thelen spends quite a bit of time with an ice jig or spoon close to the bottom. Much of the fish’s food lives on the bottom, so fish of various sorts spend much of their time in the same neighborhood. Thelen is quick to point out; however, that not all bottom presentations are created equal, and it’s always important to consider what you’re trying to accomplish.

“The two bottom presentations I use the most often are ‘bottom pounding’ and ‘bottom





scrounging,” he said.

The names perfectly describe the techniques. Pounding refers to lifting a fast-sinking jig or spoon and letting it free fall to the bottom so it “pounds” when it hits. Scrounging typically involves a different type of ice jig presented with shorter lifts and controlled drops, sometimes with the bait stopped an inch off the bottom. Given the right jig and the right technique, the effect is that lure scrounges around on the bottom like a minnow or other critter scrounging for

food.

Thelen uses the two techniques for different reasons. Some situations lend themselves best to one or the other, as do some lures. Pounding and scrounging are often complementary, though, and certainly can be combined to greater success on the ice.

Neither technique is species-specific. As long as Thelen expects fish to be on or near the bottom, he’s likely to use one or both techniques. He simply varies the size of his offerings and the specific spots he fishes depending on whether he is targeting walleyes, bluegills, perch or other fish.

Thelen says that pounding is all about attracting fish. The combination of the sound made by an ice lure banging on the bottom and the visual element of a cloud of sediment kicked up from the bottom draws in fish -- it gets their attention and often draws strikes.

Scrounging, on the other hand, is all about being natural. Baitfish, aquatic insect nymphs and other invertebrates all “scrounge” around on the bottom, so scrounging most often comes into play when fish are already nearby or are in a feeding mode and keying on these little tidbits.

Pounding

Thelen most often pounds the bottom when the flasher shows there are no fish nearby. He's trying to attract nearby fish. He also pounds bottom when the fish are in a negative-feeding mode due to time of day, or because they are holding in more of a resting area than a feeding area. Pounding attracts



fish to investigate the commotion, and sometimes draws strikes from fish that won't respond to a more-natural presentation.

"Often I'm trying to draw a reaction strike from a fish that doesn't really want to eat," Thelen said.

Pounding comes increasingly into play as winter progresses because the fish tend to move deeper. Furthermore, as more snow settles on ever-thickening ice, visibility goes downhill quickly and fish need more help finding the bait. Through mid-winter Thelen commonly pounds to bring in fish, and then either switches to a scrounging presentation or eases the offering up off the bottom to coax the fish into biting.

Pounding involves a series of lifts and drops. Lifts can be short or long and sharp or gentle, and the frequency can vary quite a bit. The common denominator is that drops are on a slack line, and the bait falls all the way and pounds the bottom each time.

The best ice lures for pounding are heavy and compact, so they drop quickly through the water column. For panfish, that can be something small-but-compact like a Lindy Toad or Fat Boy fished on very light line and with only a waxworm or spike on the hook. Good choices for walleyes include Frostee Jigs and Rattl'N Flyer Spoons. Although the spoons aren't quite as compact as the Frostees, they still drop quickly and make a good thump, plus they offer the added fish-attracting virtue of rattles.

Scrounging

If Thelen drills a hole and the flasher shows fish, he often begins with a scrounging technique. Another time he thinks scrounging first is when fishing shallow water where fish are spooky, or

when he knows he's positioned over a feeding structure at prime time. If he is confident in the area and expects fish to be in a feed mode, he's not worried about attracting them.

"If the fish are already there; my first concern is making my bait look natural," Thelen said.

Specific scrounging presentations vary a bit and are dictated by the mood of the fish, and unusual baits call for slightly different rod movements. Generally speaking, though, Thelen says that less is more – just quick little upward twitches or jiggles. He keeps the line somewhat taut with the bait just shy of making bottom contact. Ideally, the bait scurries side-to-side instead of only moving vertically.

The Lindy Techni-Glo Flyer and Foo Flyer are designed for bottom scrounging. These baits plane sideways on the lift and drop, and dart around with the tiniest of twitches. The Techni-Glo Flyer spirals when it falls while the Foo Flyer darts again, often in a new direction. Adding a whole minnow to a jig also slows the drop and causes it to plane even more, making it extra effective for scrounging up an area larger than the circumference. of the hole.

Double Duty

Thelen commonly combines bottom pounding and scrounging strategies, most often by drawing the fish within range by pounding and then switching to a natural scrounging presentation to convince the fish to bite. Thelen has found, however, that on occasion it works the other way around.

Thelen says that a few lures allow him to apply both presentations. The Lindy Slick Jig is his favorite for serving double duty because its heavy head and narrow profile allow it to drop



quickly and pound hard into the bottom, but its shape allows it to plane and makes it a good scrounger if it's presented correctly. Keys to scrounging with a Slick Jig are sliding the knot toward the hook and cinching it tight on the eye to keep it horizontal, then controlling its fall with a tight line.



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Japan Ice Team Competes in World Championship

Written by Mike McNet, Captain of US Ice Team
and Munenori Kajiwara, Captain of Japan Ice Team

Wausau, WI, the host city of 2013 World Ice Fishing Championship (WIFC) is getting really busy welcoming 11 nations for the week of Feb 10th. Between 11 competing nations that are coming to US soil, two nations are first timers; Japan and Mongolia. Japan Ice Team had to overcome so many hurdles after 2011 Tsunami and Nuclear Power Plant disaster. I would like to tell you a little bit about their story.

At 14:46pm (Japan Standard Time), March 11, 2011, an earthquake with magnitude of 9.0 (the most powerful earthquake in the world) occurred at the northeast region of Japan. The earthquake triggered powerful tsunami waves that reached heights of up to 40 meters (133 ft). The tsunami hit Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant. The first time in human history, a Nuclear

Power Plant was destroyed by natural disaster. Radiation poisoning was spread across a northern region of Japan. Soon, most of Japanese northern fisheries (include many ice fisheries) were destroyed. Having considered the long decay cycle of radiation, Japanese northern (ice) fisheries will not be recovered for many years.

20,896 people's lives were taken. Millions of people lost their homes and workplaces. Many of Japanese northern lakes and rivers are now restricted access by Japanese Federal Government for radiation poisoning. Countless number of anglers stopped fishing. Many love and passion for fishing have been lost. Local economy was completely damaged by this incident. After this tragic event, one of the ice fishermen in Japan has contacted US Ice Team for help. He wanted a hope. He needed a tangible goal that Japanese people can see and hang on.

USF3 (US Freshwater Fishing Federation) has decided to send Japan Ice Team an Invitation Letter for WIFC; knowing that this might not be the best time. But, they replied. "Japan Ice Team will be there". Two Samurais (brave men), Munenori Kajiwara Hideyuki Igarashi stood up and decided to make it happen. No one in Japan knew about WIFC. People's mind sets were down; no company was willing to sponsor Japan Ice Team. However, two Samurais did not want to give up.

They kept telling people about a story of Japan needed a hope "Japan Ice Team can be one." One by one; they found sponsors. First corporate sponsor was Marukyu, the Japanese Fishing Industry icon that



manufactures superior fishing ground baits with 100 plus years of history. Marukyu agreed to support Japan Ice Team. At the same time, Marukyu agreed to support US Ice Team. Marukyu and US Ice Team are now working together to design effective ground baits for US water.

It was on December 28th, 2012, the latest workday for

many of us, which was also the latest day of WIFC entry. Japan Ice Team has sent entry form and entry fees. It was successfully accepted on last minute. It became an official. Japan Ice Team is coming to Wausau, WI for WIFC 2013 in February.

There was a surprise. According to Japan's entry form, Japan Ice Team has five anglers only. They have no coach, no delegate and more importantly they have no back up anglers. US Ice Team has 10 anglers (5 back up anglers), plus a coach, a captain and delegates. Japan Ice Team has never competed in WIFC before. Most of them never visited the US before. No coach and no back up anglers for world competition ? US Ice Team decided to help Japan Ice team. US Ice Team talked to sponsors. St.Croix, Frabil, Strikemaster, Sunline and Kahtoola agreed to help Japan Ice Team. Now, Japan Ice Team has necessary equipments to compete in the tournament. US Ice Team will coach Japan Ice Team upon their arrival.



On January 5 6, 2013, US Ice Team invited Munenori Kajiwara; Captain of Japan Ice Team for first official US Ice Team practiced fishing in Wausau, WI., Although fishing condition was really tough, US Ice Team and Japan Ice Team have shared same passion and motivation. "We have learned that most of Japan Ice Team anglers do not understand English. US Ice Team and USF3 agreed to provide translators on site during competition. After hurricane, Sandy hit US East Coast, we can see the magnitude of struggle Japan is in. This is our difficult time in the USA, but it does not mean we can overlook people in greater needs. "

Please watch how US Ice Team and Japan Ice Team will do during WIFC. We will make sure we will overcome any hurdles (injury, sickness, natural disaster and etc) and deliver the best possible result to each nation.

<http://www.usaiceteam.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/USA-Ice-Team/318429564835351>

What's Hot on the Ice for 2013

Anthony Larson

The Wisconsin Ice Fishing Show was the wrap up for the ice-fishing show season, with it came the last chance for the opportunity to see the newest gadgets of the New Year.

It seems that tip ups and tip downs are the most popular of

new gadgets. It seemed that anglers are getting more innovative to use their existing pole as a tip down every year.

To determine a reasonable score, I looked at five qualifiers: Affordability- one has to be able to afford the unit before breaking the cost to just go out and buy a new rod; portability- the ability to transport the unit without it consuming too much sled or bucket space; accessibility- the ability to get to your rod for a quick hook set without going ripping the unit apart; simplicity- the simpler the better; and durability- how well will it withstand abuse from the elements, transportation, or user abuse.

First Strike Tip Up: Made in Wisconsin, the First Strike Tip Up is an attachable unit that goes on the base of the rod. The user simply pulls the line from the eyelets and wraps it around the trigger of the strike indicator. When the fish bites, the line goes tight and engages the trigger, freeing the flag indicating a strike. With a turn of a knob, the unit detaches, where it then can be placed in its tube. The First Strike Tip Up hits all five qualifiers. (www.firststrikefishing.com)

Sullivan Tip Down: Made in Wisconsin, the Sullivan Tip Down is a standing tip down that the user attaches their rod too. Mad from piping and equipped with a plastic RAM style rod holder; the user slides





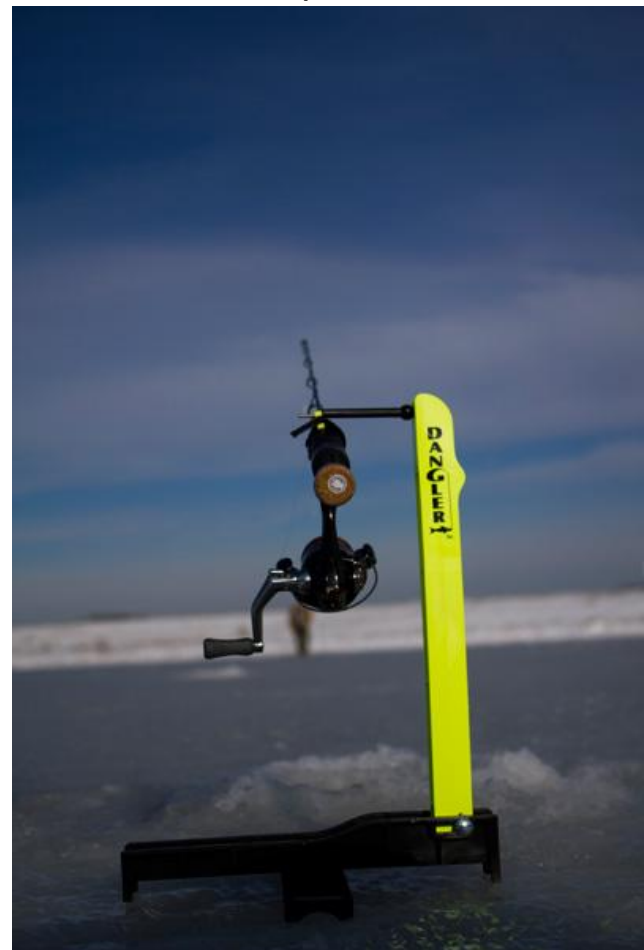
the rod into the rod holder, adjust the sensitivity and balance point by adjusting the rod holder. The Sullivan Tip Down comes in two styles: electric, where the unit does a motorized jig; and non-electric where the unit sits on the ice without animation. The Sullivan Tip Down is very durable, affordable (\$20.00 non motorized, and 80.00 for motorized) but is moderately difficult to get the rod out of the ram rod holder. (<http://www.sullivantipdown.com>)

I Fish Pro Tip-UP: Made in Minnesota, the, I Fish Pro Tip Up is a plastic disk that sits on the ice. The user places their rod into

the rod holder, then sets depth, and with a slip bobber, knot attaches a clip to the line, which engages the flag. When the fish bites, the clip pulls away from the unit, engaging the flag indicator. However, the issue comes into the portability factor as it is designed for 10-inch holes and has difficulty with fitting in buckets for transport. (<http://www.ifishpro.com>)

Dangler Tip Down: the Dangler system is one of two of the simplest tip downs that use your existing rod on the market. Simply put, the Dangler has a clip that attaches to your rod. The main unit is a stand with a pivoting rod that flips up when the user goes to set the hook. When the fish bites, the rod tip drops; the user then grabs their rod and lifts up to set the hook; simultaneously, the pivoting rod lifts up, freeing the fishing rod from the dangler unit. The Dangler collapses down and fits in the sled or bucket for easy storage. (www.fishdangler.com)

Tight Line Tip Down: Tight Line Tipdown is being celebrated for simplicity and portability. TLT is a modified 1X2 that has grooves that makes the unit fit on a bucket; the unit also has two attachments on the end



that allows the fishing pole to be easily accessed and deployed when a fish bite occurs by attaching key rings to your rod and reel. (www.Tightlinetipdown.com)



Cobra Fishing Pole: Made in Indiana, The Cobra is a rod that is built into its stand. The Cobra is light,



and the rod is detachable for easy modification for species-specific fishing. With an extra-wide base, and a curved handle, this rod is a great fit for children or people with disabilities and is easy to use with gloves/ mittens on; should a fish attempt to pull the rod, or the user drops the rod on

the ice, the rod will not go into the hole (up to 8 inches). The rod is mildly bulky and difficult to transport in buckets. (<http://www.cobraicerods.com>)

Anthony is a professional ice-fishing guide in Wisconsin. To learn more about ice fishing in the Coulee Region, visit his website www.coulee-region-adventures.com



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Punching Bluegills

By Jason Mitchell

If there is a general rule of thumb, water with decent to excellent visibility often has good weed growth that can remain through the course of a winter. Granted, snow cover can eliminate light penetration which in turn can knock down vegetation but if there are weeds, typically there are bluegills.



Punch heavy tungsten jigs or modified spoons through heavy vegetation to catch hunkered bluegills.

Most lakes have a variety of weed types, and we have found bluegills around just about anything that resembles the cover, especially at first and late ice. Some weeds like the cabbage variety typically die and break down fast during the winter but at times will still hold fish. Other plants like Chara or even bulrushes can hold fish. My favorite winter weed, however, is coontail. Coontail grows to deeper depths and will often remain green much longer through the ice. Any type of weed is better than no weed providing that the fish are holding in the depth of the weed, but green weeds are almost always best if they are available.

An underwater camera like the Vexilar Scout can be invaluable for weed recon work. The crisp picture and lack of refraction can give you great information on what condition, what species and what color the weeds are.



Light penetration and predators probably influence how bluegills position and move around weeds more than anything else. Typically, on a lot of water, lower light penetration creates windows where fish cruise and drift from the cover. What this means is that you can sit over a good trough, break or gap in the weeds, and the spot



will recharge with fish. This often occurs at sunrise and sunset. High sun or predators like northern pike can push bluegills into the weeds. When fish hunker into weeds, the angler often

has to fish more through more holes to contact fish. When fish stop moving, you have to move to be successful. The other key to being successful when targeting panfish buried in weeds is to use tackle and equipment that will punch through the weeds to reach the fish. Think like a bass angler using a heavy jig to punch through pads or slop to get down to fish.

While a camera can give you a tremendous education, hole-hopping through salad is where the Vexilar FL-22 shines. We live in a world where almost everything has moved to the digital age but when it comes to ice fishing, the information you get from the raw analog signal on a Vexilar is a game changer. Why does the analog signal give you an edge? When fishing weeds, you have to turn down your power so that you can barely see any signal indicating the vegetation. The analog signal picks up movement better than anything so it becomes easier to see the jig working within the weeds and also easier to see fish moving through the weeds as they approach. The next step is to adjust the cone angle by either using the Tri-Beam or Pro View transducer so you can tune out even more weed clutter to clean up the screen. For shallow weeds less than fifteen feet, the ten-foot scale on the FL-22 really blows the picture up, making everything easier to see.

When trying to reach bluegills that are buried in the weeds, use presentations or jigs that drop hard enough to fall through the leaves and stalks. This usually isn't a finesse game because too light or too slow of falling jigs get hung up near the top of the canopy. The weight of tungsten is ideal. Jigs like the Northland Tackle Mooska punch through the weeds and reach the fish.

Another really good option that is often overlooked is to take a small Buckshot Rattle Spoon or Forage Minnow and attach a short-chain dropper. We recently filmed and aired a television program where we discussed this presentation. The advantage of this combination is that the weight of the spoon cuts through the weeds, but the chain on the bottom is very flexible giving the hook a very delicate action, and the chain is easy for fish to suck in.

On fisheries with good weed growth, extracting bluegills from the jungle is part of the game at some point each winter. By approaching the weeds with the right mentality and the right tools, this extraction process is made much more effective.

Cold Out There. . Warm In Here!!!

By Jay Warren

When I talk to people who have never been ice fishing, a lot of times I get that “Are you serious” look. Usually, the first thing out of their mouth is something like “Its freezing out there – are you kidding me. . .” Then when I tell them that I really DO go ice fishing, it is a great time and that they should try it



sometime, the response usually goes something like “let me know how everything turns out – I’ll take my chances from my warm easy chair at home!” Two clichés immediately come to mind for those of you who have never given ice fishing a try: 1. You will never catch any fish from your easy chair. 2. Don’t knock it until you try it.

Let’s face it: It is cold in the state of Iowa during the winter months. According to currentresults.com, the average temperature for the state of Iowa in December is 23 degrees; January is 18 degrees, and February is 24 degrees. The facts don’t lie: that truly is cold. The good thing about cold weather is that it can be counteracted! Dressing properly and the use of modern “ice fishing technology” will turn even the coldest day into one that will lead to many good days spent on the ice!

Dressing Properly

In the past, many people thought dressing warmly for winter weather meant bundling up so much that you could barely move. Visions of the movie “The Christmas Story”, Ralphie’s little brother having so much winter stuff on, falling down in the snow and being unable to get up immediately come to mind. . . ? (If you haven’t seen this movie, I’m sure one of the cable networks will run it on a 24-hour loop in the upcoming holiday season – Everyone should watch it at least once in their lifetime!!!)

Today, with the many advances in winter weather gear, outside winter activities have become much more “practical” and people should not be deterred by winter’s chills! If you remember nothing else in regard to dressing properly for winter, remember these three words: LAYERS, LAYERS, LAYERS!!! Layering clothing in the winter is done to retain your body heat, staying

both warm and dry. Proper dressing for outdoor winter activities should include the use of four layers: base, inner, mid and outer.

Base Layer

The base layer is the layer next to your skin. It is arguably the most important layer because it establishes the foundation for body warmth and moisture control. This layer should transport (or wick) moisture away from the body. If your clothes get wet or damp, you will get cold that much quicker, resulting in a shorter stay in the field and most likely a bad experience. Cotton fabrics should be avoided in the layering process if possible. Cotton absorbs moisture, which leads to loss of body heat! Preferred fabrics for the base layer include polyester (and other synthetics), wool and silk. Nearly every outdoor retail store has their own line of base layering and different weights (lightweight, middleweight and heavyweight) of base layering are available depending on what winter activity you are involved in. The more active you are the lighter base layer you would want to use. . . Ice fishermen would almost certainly use heavyweight layers, while a cross-country skier would probably use a lightweight. . .

Inner Layer

The inner layer is used mainly in very cold winter conditions. Especially when faced with longer exposure to the elements. This layer is meant for retaining body heat and absorption/dispersal of the moisture that is being wicked away from your body. Garments made of synthetic fibers are a good choice for this layer. There are a number of synthetic fabrics out there that have been developed especially for their wicking and breathable properties. Wool is another good option for this level. Historically, many people have viewed wool as being “scratchy” and heavy. New weaving processes and technology have reduced wool’s negative stereotyping. Wool does keep its wearer warm even if the fabric gets damp (to a certain extent. . .), but obviously becomes heavier when wet. This layer should be a snug fit while not being too constricting.

"It's not what is on the other side. It's the climb."

Marianne Huskey

Professional Walleye Angler

**Guiding In The Great
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Mid Layer

The mid layer is, in essence, another layer of clothing to retain body heat and transfer moisture outward. As with the inner layer, garments made of either synthetic, fibers or wool will work for this layer. Fleece fabrics work well for this layer. They are lighter (in weight) than wool and easier to pack in and out if necessary. Venting is something to be taken into consideration for



this layer. Something like a fleece pullover is a great choice. Ideally, the sleeves are, so they can be pushed up if you get too hot and in most cases, pullovers have a zipper that can be opened if you start to get too hot. Try to layer your clothing to provide for a layer of air between each garment, but not so much to become bulky and hamper your mobility.

Outer Layer

The purpose of the outer layer is meant to protect you from the wind, rain and snow. The million-dollar problem is that you need to keep the elements from coming in, while still "breathing" or letting your body heat out. Gore Tex has been the universal fabric that has worked for me in this

area. It is totally waterproof, keeps the wind out, while “breathing” at the same time. You are going to have to spend a little more money for Gore Tex fibers, but being dry and warm is well worth the trade off!

In addition to the clothes worn on the core of the body, insulated and weatherproof gloves, boots and hat are also an important part of your winter outdoor wardrobe. 30% of your body heat escapes through your head, and no one is ever happy when they have been wet and / or cold hands and feet. Make sure that your hands and feet stay warm and dry. Layering is very effective, but every effort needs to be taken to, if possible, NOT sweat. This might mean carrying some layers with you to and from where you are going. For example: If you have to pull your ice-fishing gear out onto the ice, you might want to carry a layer or two of your clothes and put them on when you get set up on the ice.



Modern Ice Fishing “Technology”



The two technological advances that keep the “cold out there” and the “warm in here” for me are portable ice shelters and portable propane heaters. Shelters literally get you in out of the elements. You can get any size – ranging from the one man flip sled to the hub types where 6-8 people can fish out of. They range from the pop-up type (similar to a dome tent) to a flip over shelter attached to a sled. You can spend anywhere from the \$300 range to over \$1000- BUT - fishing inside a shelter is like drilling a hole in the ice in front of your Lazy boy chair, when it comes to warmth!!!

Heaters I have been associated with



in ice fishing are small in nature, making them very portable. I have a Buddy heater. It uses a 2-pound propane cylinder and has always been more than to heat my 6'x6' Cabela's pop up shelter. The other type of heater I have been around is the type that attaches to the top of a 15# propane tank (I think the specific brand name is "Mr. Heater"). This type is also very effective in heating up a shelter and use of either type are basically up to your personal preference.

I always try to introduce and least one or two people to ice fishing every winter. The main obstacle that I have to overcome is the pre-conceived notion that it is too cold to be fishing. Last winter, I introduced my Wife's Uncle Scott to the sport. He likes to fish, but had never been ICE fishing. Scott is - like most people in the Midwest - not a huge fan of winter. It took all of my salesmanship to get him talked into

the notion of, in his mind, "freezing my butt off for a couple of fish". I decided to take him with me to a pond near my house that I was familiar with. It ended up working out perfectly! The day we went was sunny with little to no wind. I drilled 10-12 holes in several locations across the pond. After drilling the holes, I got my shelter set up and fired up the heater. In no time at all, both Scott and I were peeling off our coats and turning off the heater. He could not believe how quickly the shelter had warmed up and comfortable he felt. Right on schedule, the fish started to bite on the #12 Hexi Fly jig tipped with a wax worm. In about an hour, let's just say we got tired of throwing back the small ones and decided that the fish we had caught would take up long enough to clean. . . ? Don't get me wrong like with any kind of fishing, it doesn't always "work according to plan" like it did for us on this trip, but don't ever let the cold keep you from a great day of fishing!



Save Bristol Bay

By Ben Leal



No place in the United States offers anglers from all over the world such a variety of opportunities to catch trophy fish as Alaska. Aficionados of both hard and open water frequent this great state where angling opportunities abound. World-class, abundant, an angler's paradise; these are just a few ways to describe the recreational

opportunities that the rivers and streams in the Bristol Bay watershed provide for anglers of all types. Bristol Bay supports the world's largest runs of wild salmon. There are trophy rainbow trout, arctic char and grayling, and under-sung species like northern pike and lake trout. Those vibrant fisheries support a thriving ecosystem that includes grizzly bears, moose, caribou and bald eagles. Not to mention a strong commercial and sport-fishing economy, and a way of life for native Alaskans that stretches back for centuries.

Pebble Mine threatens this amazing place. The Pebble deposit is a storehouse of gold, copper and molybdenum located in the headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak Rivers, the two most prolific of Bristol Bay's river systems. If Pebble Mine were to be built, this gargantuan open-pit mine, the largest ever built in North America, would pose a near-certain risk of polluting Bristol Bay.

We could lose the world's last great wild salmon stronghold, which supports 14,000 jobs and an annual \$500 million commercial and sport fishery. This is not just an Alaska issue; Pebble Mine would devastate the tourism-driven economy, created by sportsmen from around the world who travels there to fish and hunt. Alaska needs the help and support of anglers in the lower 48.

As part of the Recycled Fish "On Ice" Tour, we are raising awareness for Bristol Bay and the risks posed by Pebble Mine. Please raise your voice to support Bristol Bay right now. Learn more and sign on against Pebble Mine at www.savebristolbay.org.



Multi-Species Boat For Ice Fishing?

By Marty Glorvigen

More than just about any other question, fellow anglers often ask me “How do I become a better angler?”

Second only to spending more hours on the water or ice, one of the best ways to become a better angler is to get organized.

In recent years, anglers have come around to the idea that a well-organized multi-species fishing boat makes fishing more productive and a whole lot more fun. Once a luxury of fishing pros, fishable boats with ample storage are now within easy reach of all levels of anglers, what with boat builders like Lund offering smart designs like the Rebel and Predator at reasonable prices.

Let's face it, easy access to rods, tackle, bait and other essentials takes a lot of the guess work and stress out of fishing. And that means when you need to find the right bait or rod combo



Author Marty Glorvigen raises many a beastly bluegill each winter. No longer a secret to his success, is that Marty meticulously organizes his gear inside a Frabill Shuttle. That way, pre-rigged rods, bait, and other items are instantly accessible when the 'gills go green light. Photo by Bill Lindner Photography



Organization is tantamount to success for the mobile angler. One needs quick access to primary pieces of equipment. That, and to know those precious tools travel safe and sound across the ice. Photo courtesy of Frabill.

to make the most of a hot bite, you're not sorting through a rat's nest of junk at the bottom of your boat...or worse, left wondering where it is in your garage.

However, ice anglers are still a little behind the curve. Sure, most now understand what rods, reels, tackle, shelters (even apparel) can help improve time spent on the ice—but the whole organization concept is only beginning to take hold.

So, when Frabill introduced the Shuttle Hard-Top Series—a first in the ice fishing industry—a lot of us exclaimed “about time.” Like a premium multi-species fishing boat, the Shuttle features customized storage compartments—a rod locker, center console and bulk storage—for all your essential gear. Both models, the Trekker Shuttle and Recon Shuttle offer anglers the freedom to run-and-gun and still house all the gear serious ice anglers demand.

My brother Scott and I nodded in agreement. Finally, a multi-species boat for the ice.

More Than A Sled: Tops For Tip-Ups

The challenge we have as mobile ice anglers—even with flip-over shelters—is that we have to move stuff to get to stuff, which can make a lot of anglers lazy, myself included. To be honest, that's why Scott and I got so excited when Frabill introduced the Shuttle



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Hard-Top. We knew it was a lot more than a sled to pull extra gear out on the ice...it was exactly the tool we'd been looking for.

You see, I'd been looking for a better system for tip-up fishing for years and knew immediately that the Shuttle represented a great opportunity to really work at tip-up fishing when I'm also out fishing

walleyes or panfish.

So, when I got my first Frabill Trekker Shuttle, I went over it with a fine-toothed comb. Yep, it had all the space, I needed to mobilize the tools of tip-up fishing: search rods, tip-ups, bait and bait container, electronics, etc. With nearly 14 cubic feet of storage, I was impressed.

Right out of the gate, it comes ready with a built-in locker that holds 10 rod combos (and even more tip-ups), a spacious center console, a front hatch for quick access to electronics, a bulk storage hatch and main compartment for bulk gear storage. Plus, it features a fully-enclosed hard top for maximum gear protection. Metal hinges and latches to provide increased strength and durability.

The entire design lends itself to more efficient tip-up fishing. It's removed the hassle of carrying bait and water in my flip-over shelter, unzipping, taking the cover off, digging into my stuff to tip-up fish, walking to set up my tip-ups, baiting in the shack and having bait (or hands) frozen before you reach holes, etc.

Join The Wolf Pack

There was only one thing missing from the design. An integrated auger mount. And that was a quick fix with a phone call to Sheboygan, Wisconsin-based pro guide's Wolf Pack Adventures, who now sell the same auger mount they install on all of their ATVs and snowmobiles. With a little or no retro-fitting the mount installed seamlessly on the Trekker Shuttle and allowed auger orientation in a number of different directions to stay out-of-the-way for easy access to gear

below all shuttle hatches. For more information on Wolf Pack Adventures' auger mounts, visit www.wolfpackadventures.com.

Get Hitched

To make the entire shuttle system even more mobile, I installed an eye-bolt on the front and back of the Trekker Shuttle, which easily attaches to my four-wheeler or snowmobile via the Frabill Universal Shelter Tow Bar. The rear eye-bolt joins to my Frabill flip-over shelter via another tow bar. This allows quick and easy setup without a lot of hassles.

Via this customization, I can transport everything I need out on the ice, stop where I think I want to fish, drill holes, and unhook the flip-over shelter for set up. Then, rather than stepping outside the flip-over and arbitrarily setting up tip-ups (typically only as far out as I'm willing to walk), I simply jump on a machine and pull the Shuttle out to drill more holes, search for fish and setup tip-ups in primo locations. My bait's right there in the shuttle, so that's no longer a hassle, and if a flag doesn't go up in a 15 or 20 minutes, it's up with the bait, which goes right back in the bucket, hook, line and all. Kind of like how we conserve our red tail chubs in open-water by tossing our line in the live well when we move from spot-to-spot. We simply drive to our next tip-up location and drop the line. Easy and fun...definitely what tip-up fishing should be.

Further Flexibility

Nevertheless, Shuttles aren't just for fishing tip-ups. They also make ideal mobile multi-species command centers. Let's face it, with flip-overs there's just not enough room to carry all the stuff you need to be truly multi-species oriented. Shuttles, on the other hand, are built for it. Want to fish panfish, walleyes, trout, or tip-ups on the same trip? No problem, there's enough room. Unlike the scenario with flip-overs, you don't have to take stuff out or put stuff in depending on what you're fishing that day.

Of course, the other big advantage of the Shuttle is the flexibility and mobility it provides for early- and late-season ice conditions when shelters are unnecessary. In those cases, the Shuttle is another great tool for organization and mobility!

A super mobile strategy – incorporating the Frabill Shuttle – makes you nimble and flexible to follow bites, and be prepared to settle into a sundown flurry. Photo by Bill Lindner Photography



Searching for Early Ice Gold

By Jason Freed



This has to be one of the toughest times of the year for an avid fisherman throughout the Midwest. Rifle season is coming to a close, and the boats have all been winterized. During this in between time, one can find themselves staring out the window or at the thermometer wondering when that first ice is going to firm up on your favorite lake? The anticipation of first ice and some of the best fishing the winter has to offer is tantalizingly close yet, not here. Until then, ice anglers have to be content with visions of red lines coming up on the Vexilar and awaiting the thump of that first walleye. The anticipation of seeing its rich gold color coming up your ice hole is enough to keep a guy up at night. However, before you can see these things, you have to put your homework in and find that ideal early ice location. In doing so, you up your odds that your spot will help you strike it rich!

Early Season Scouting

Pre-season scouting can begin when you are chasing late-season fall walleyes. Paying close attention to your successful late fall haunts will pay big dividends for early ice success. Often times right near your favorite fall fishing spots, will be that same school of walleyes setting up on their first ice structure. Typical structure or bottom content to focus on when chasing early ice walleyes are areas that contain rocks and gravel or areas still holding green weeds. Rocks and gravel area will draw both predator and prey alike. Remaining crawfish or other small insects can tuck into the gravel areas for cover. Likewise, walleyes can set up behind rocks, utilizing natural lake currents and ambush unsuspecting prey. Green weeds mean oxygen, which in turn will draw a forage base with predators following them. You might need a camera to discriminate between good and bad weeds or pop a hole and look for yourself. These bottom contents will vary from lake to lake each winter. On lakes in the Brainerd Lakes Area, finding a well defined green weedline is a key. Now not all weedlines are created equal; when looking for a good early-season spot, focus on the steepest break on the weedline as well as inside turns. All of which serve as ambush locations for walleyes to feed on the perch. Now if you can find a green weedline that also has rocks or gravel scattered through it, you will potentially have a

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gold mine on your hands.

Not All Structure is Created Equal

There has been a technological explosion within the ice-fishing industry over the last decade. As a result, more and more anglers are able to identify key pieces of structure on lake's thanks to mapping chips and GPS. As you walk out to that piece of structure it won't be uncommon to see other anglers and shacks being set up nearby areas, you previously had to yourself. The cardinal rule of fishing as we all know is to get away from the crowd and find other spots to fish. With structure being so vast, it would be easy to assume that weedlines or flats may look relatively the same throughout the whole piece of structure, when, in reality, it is not. Take note where the crowd is fishing, get out your GPS and start looking for those intricate turns, points, fingers, or ledges that will serve as holding grounds for hungry walleyes. It will be your ability to identify the spot within a spot that will likely separate you from the crowd. One key thing to remember when fishing, is larger pieces of structure will often outproduce small areas of structure. On these larger structures more bait fish will be present throughout as well as providing you with more ambush locations to fish. When setting up on these pieces of structure get there a good 30-45 minutes early to pre drill your holes. Often times during early ice you are fishing on ice with not much snow on it, therefore, being stealth and limiting your noise is the key. Silence during peak periods of the bite is a small thing that can mean a big difference in your success. Drill your line of holes along the break line and changing up your depths from 15-40 feet at times. In order to catch numbers of walleyes, being able to hole hop is the key. Consider setting up a tip up on an inside turn or point with a shiner, and you spend the rest of your time hole hopping. Utilizing this technique maximizes your use of lines in the water and also your ability to stay mobile.

Importance of Good Electronics

Some might argue that the boom of electronics within the ice-fishing world is bad. However, I would argue that anything that helps grow the sport is good for fishing. GPS units, such as Lowrance H20c, or for some anglers taking their HDS 5 off of their boat has completely changed the way anglers go about pinpointing specific early ice locations. As you are walking to

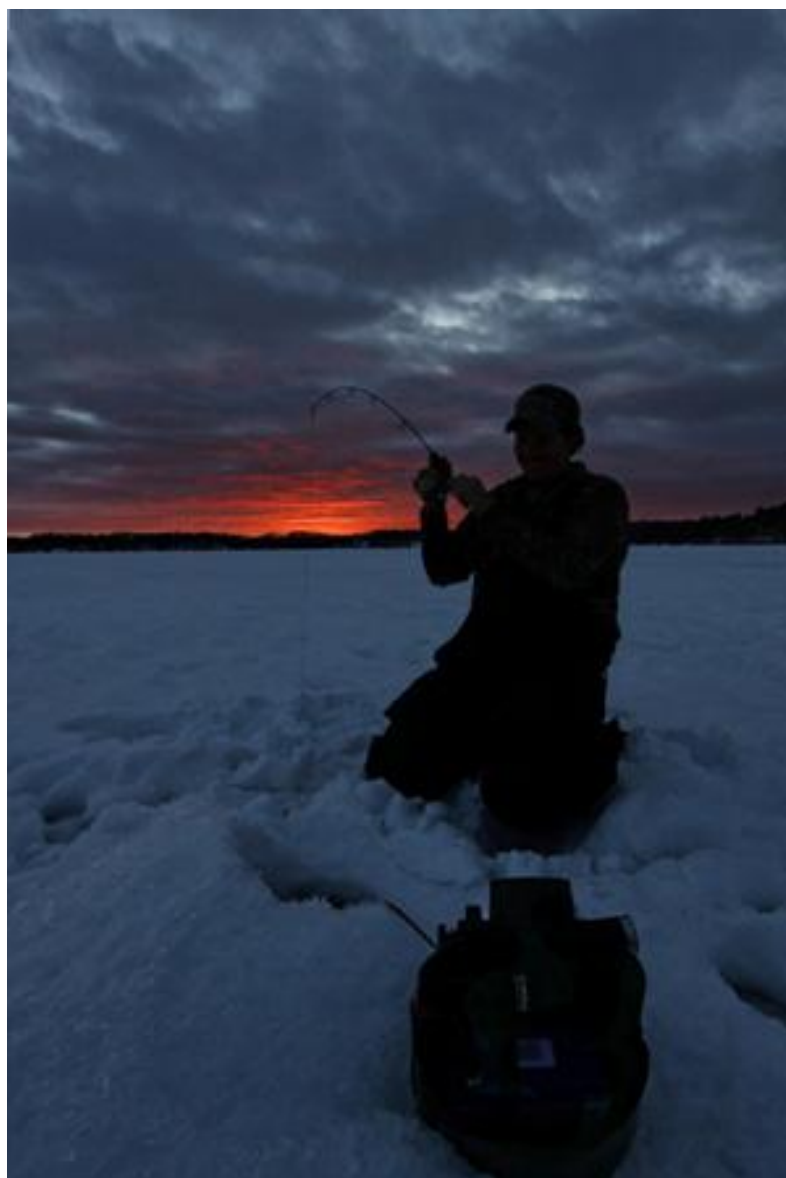
your location, utilize your Vexilar transducer by putting a little water on the ice and shooting the transducer through the ice to identify depths. Doing this will eliminate the amount of holes you need to drill just to check for depth. With the use of your GPS and transducer, you can accurately drill your holes on the structure and depth you are wanting to set up on. Having a unit such as a Vexilar FL-22 gives you the ability to utilize a zoom feature which allows you to have a more precise view of the fish and its relation to your lure. This helps you read the mood of the fish allowing you to better tailor your presentation.

Presentation

Putting this walleye gold on the ice can be a pretty simple game plan. All you really need is a handful of rods rigged up, and you are ready to go. I like to have three rods rigged with different jigging spoons that range from 1/4oz to 1/2 oz at times. Spoons such as the Northland Buck Shot, Lindy Flyer Spoon, or a Slendor Spoon by Custom Jigs and Spins are great places to start. When working the spoon, be sure to start at the bottom by pounding it into the bottom stirring it up and drawing interest to the walleyes. As fish begin to show up on your flasher begin to slowly work it up above the fish. Enticing the fish to chase the lure, sometimes a cat and mouse affair can trigger bites. Often when working these spoons, you will find the fish grab it when it is falling, or you will see a tick in your line. Another set up to have that is worth using is a Chubby Darter or Lindy Darter. These lures make a lot of commotion below the ice and can sometimes pick off the aggressive fish right away. Tip them with the head of a fathead or crappie minnow and be ready! Another rod to have ready, once you have set up your ice shack, is a dead stick or slip bobber set up. With the fish being drawn into the rattle of your spoon or darter, they may at times go for the struggling minnow next to your hole you are fishing. Tie these on to a rod such as a Jason Mitchell medium action walleye combo with 6-8lb Fireline Ice and you are ready to roll.

Ultimately, it is about putting in your homework and having a plan for that first time you set foot on the ice. Instead of staring out the window and counting the down the days until you can drill those first holes, get out the maps, look at your GPS, and start charting out your strategy for striking walleye gold!

Editor's note: Leisure Outdoor Adventures is a premier guide service, and promotional group partnered with Chase on the Lake resort in Walker, Mn and other businesses in central Minnesota.





The Best Ice Anglers in the World

By Brian Gaber – Coach USA Ice Team

The middle of February is a time in the winter that usually marks a slight decline in the ice fishing bite. The hot and heavy action of early ice are just memories slipping away in the cold clear winter nights, and the thoughts of the spring thaw bite are a ways off. This is the perfect time to assemble all who would claim to be the best ice fishers in the planet to a frozen expanse to see who will take home the title of world champion. Ice fishing can be very easy when the seasonal peaks are here and the fish are plentiful. It can be a challenge in the depths of the winter, and far from community hot spots.

International ice fishing competitions are a perfect mix of fishing and competition. The bite doesn't matter, the fish type doesn't matter, and the fishing in the other zones does not matter. It is each angler against his grid. If the bite in that grid is hot and heavy the competition will be a speed catch shoot out. If the bite in your grid is tough, the winners will find a bite. They will be able to get small enough to detect the whisper of a bite that might represent first place in that

grid. With 5 separate grids competing at one time, there will be 5 separate dynamic events happening at once. If you love to compete, and you love to fish, this event will intrigue both.

February 16th and 17th in Wausau, Wisconsin, 13 Countries will assemble to compete in the 10th World Ice Fishing Championships. Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, Finland, Sweden, Japan, Mongolia, the Czech Republic, and the United States of America will all field teams. The competition consists of 2 three hour heats, one each day from 9am to 12 pm. The competition will be held at the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir. The weigh-in will be conducted each day at the Plaza Hotel in Wausau, starting at 3:00pm. Weigh-ins will be broadcast live on the USA Ice Team USTREAM TV site and can be seen at www.ustream.tv/channel/usa-ice-team.

This year's Team USA is a strong one. We have a mix of returning veterans and strong new competitors. Team USA's is comprised of anglers from Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Illinois. This team has what it takes to compete for a medal. The assumed "home field" advantage is a factor, but not as large a factor as most would think. We will still need to be on our game to put ourselves in contention to medal. We have the horsepower to do it.

We will need all of our anglers to come together and fulfill a team role to pull it off. We were able to do that in a gold winning 2010 event, in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. We are looking forward to that opportunity again this year.

Team members include: Brian Gaber (Head Coach - Wisconsin), Jason Gruett (Coach – Wisconsin), Mike McNett (Captain – Illinois), Mike Boedeker (Michigan), Myron Gilbert (Michigan), Chad Schaub (Michigan), Bill Whiteside (Wisconsin), Doug Bussian (Wisconsin), Jeff Kelm (Wisconsin), Glen Delorme Jr. (North Dakota), Shawn Hennings (North

Dakota), Juan Arellano (Minnesota), Michael Thompson (Minnesota), Christian Ward (Technical Director – Minnesota), Sean Warner (International Delegate – Minnesota), and Joel McDearmon (United States Freshwater Fishing Federation – Wisconsin).

For more information about the event and the schedule, visit

www.usaiceteam.com , or visit our [Facebook Fan Page](#).



Perch on Ice

By Ted Takasaki and Scott Richardson

Walleyes are great fun to catch in open water, but when the water turns to ice, it's hard to keep from looking for yellow perch. They can be found in abundance and are awesome in a fryin' pan.

Try to focus your search in deeper water. You may catch lots of smaller fish shallower. However, the biggest fish are typically deeper in iced-over environments.

One of our favorite spots for jumbo perch is Devils Lake, North Dakota. But no matter where you're fishing, your approach should be the same – find perch in deep water in lakes with a good forage base of insects or freshwater shrimp. That's the formula for the biggest and baddest perch.

How Deep is Deep?

Deep is relative. At Mille Lacs Lake in Minnesota, 25 to 30 feet is deep. At Devils Lake, the biggest perch swim in 30 to 40 feet of water.

Start your perch outing the same way a professional angler approaches a lake before a tournament. Visit several bait shops, buy lake maps and gather what data are available before heading to the ice. Anywhere you fish, be ready to drill a bunch of holes over mud (or other soft-bottom) flats just outside the mouths of bays. That's where perch can find the mayflies and wigglers they love.

Some flats are expansive. It's best to have three or four vehicles to divide up the area and search. It's a simple matter to alert buddies with cell phones and radios when fish are found. Drill and drill and drill. The key to winter fishing is to keep moving. Some days the surface of the



Veteran tournament pro and hardcore ice fisherman Ted Takasaki has a big reason to smile: a jumbo perch, caught on a Frostee spoon. Put Ted's tips into action this winter and you'll be tangling with one of ice fishing's favorite fish yourself.



Humminbird ICE-55 flasher. Its zoom feature identifies a fish just inches off the bottom, where perch often are.

* The third is an Aqua-Vu underwater camera that lets you identify the marks to see if they are actually perch you're seeing.

Your perch rig starts with an ultra-sensitive 24-inch St. Croix Legend LIR24UL ice rod. It has a built-in strike indicator to detect light bites. When you fish deep water, you can't feel the bite, so you have to see it by watching the strike indicator and your line.

Spool up 6-pound-test (equivalent to 2-pound monofilament) TUF Line Ice line and tie on a Lindy Rattl'n Flyer spoon, for a flashy, noisy attractor. This set up will get your offering down to productive depths fast.

Try to add a 3- to the 4-inch mono dropper, which ends in a small #10 plain hook. Change up colors to see what works best.

Wax worms can work well. However, also try to pack on three or four spikes (often called Eurolarvae or maggots, see next page). When fish move away from the holes, split up the group, each

ice may look like the moon. It might take a long time, but when you find them, the fishing can be incredible.

Tools for Tracking Perch

* Keep track of known fish-holding coordinates. The same places seem to produce year after year.

* The second tool is a





moving 50 feet in different directions until the school is re-located. After a couple of moves, you'll be able to predict which direction the school is likely to go as it continues to move. Perch in such places are often on the move as they follow moving food sources. It's not always you spooking them, but you have to stay with them to stay with the action.

Presentation Details

Technique and presentation are tricky. Start by banging your lures on the bottom. Bounce, bounce, bounce action will stir the mud and insect larvae. Then, try the other extreme: a barely perceptible shaking motion. It's more of a jiggle than jigging.

The exception is when a fish comes closer to your lure and then starts to move away. You can tell if the fish is close by watching the mark get redder and thicker as it comes into the center of the flasher cone and then starts to disappear. Shake it hard. You've got nothing to lose. An Aqua Vu camera can also tell you what kind of action turns them on or off. Perch often bite all day, with mid-morning seeming to be the best.



Work hard, work fast and catch fish. It's as easy as that.

Note: Takasaki is teaming up with Anderson Trucking Service to offer fishing tips to the company's drivers, along with the chance to win all-expenses-paid fishing trips with the Hall of Fame angler. Ted's tips are found at www.drive4ats.com, along with information on joining this industry leader, founded in 1955. Interested drivers can also call 1-855-JOIN-ATS.

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**SATURDAY
JANUARY 26, 2013**

Crystal Lake Gray, ME

6AM - 2PM (any age) \$10.00

7AM - 2PM (15 & under) \$5.00

Parking \$5 (all proceeds go to charities)

for more information go to www.CrystalLakeDerby.com



LL Bean, Freeport
Kitty Trading Post, Kitty
Gray Tree House, Gray
Diet's Bar & Sport Goods, Auburn
Pete's Pizzeria, Windham
Top Kick, Augusta

A FAMILY
FUN EVENT

Stocking **HUGE**
Tagged Trout

Maine's Richest
Kid's Derby

www.8news.com

NEWS 8

Crystal Lake Derby

LL Bean

All-Ages



Derby Prizes

1st \$1,000 L.L. Bean Gift Card
2nd \$750 L.L. Bean Gift Card
3rd \$500 L.L. Bean Gift Card
4th \$250 L.L. Bean Gift Card

KITTY TRADING POST

Kid's Derby

Free Equipment Use and Lessons
for all derby participants

Kid's Prizes

1st \$1,000 KTP Gift Card
2nd \$750 KTP Gift Card
3rd \$500 KTP Gift Card
4th \$250 KTP Gift Card

Thousands of Dollars in Door Prizes!

(including Lifetime Fishing Licenses!)

23" - 24" Brookies



The 3rd Annual GRANITE CITY ICE FISHING DERBY

Open to Everyone (16+ must have current MN fishing license).
Proceeds from this event will help support local youth outdoor activities.
Saturday, February 9, 2013 on Pleasant Lake in St. Cloud.

Parking at The 400 Supper Club

Check-in: 10 AM - 12 PM Fishing: 12 PM - 3 PM

- Over \$10,000 in Prizes
- Top 50 Qualify for Prizes
- 50+ "Door" Prizes
- Top Prizes include Portable Fish Houses, Ice Augers, Fish Locators, and more!
- Bring Your Own Bait and Equipment
- Warming Locations Provided
- Concessions, Bait, and Jig Sticks Will Be Available For Purchase On-Site



Register thru www.bsacmc.org

Registration Fees:

\$20 per person - 16 & over (\$25 after 2/1/12)
\$10 per person - 15 & under (\$15 after 2/1/12)

- Walk-Ups Welcome
 - Spectators Welcome Outside Fishing Area
 - Minnesota Fishing Rules Apply
 - No Portables or Electronics
 - One Fishing Hole Per Person
 - No Alcohol Allowed On-Site
- Please contact Event Coordinator Wade Bastian with questions at (320) 251-3930 or wade@bsacmc.org

Thank You, Granite City Ice Fishing Derby Sponsors:

- The 400 Supper Club
- Clam Corporation
- Jonathan Bengt
- Leighton Broadcasting
- Rockville Sportsmans Club Inc.
- Scheels
- Simply Outdoor Experiences
- West Central Sanitation



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
CENTRAL MINNESOTA COUNCIL

1191 Scout Drive, Sartell 56377 • www.bsacmc.org
(320) 251-3930 local • 1-866-515-3930 toll-free

LaPorte WinterFEST Ice Fishing Derby

Saturday January 26, 2013

Costs: \$10/adult/\$5/youth if pre-registered by Jan. 25th.
Pre-registration at the LaPorte City Parks Dept Office
250 Pine Lake Ave, LaPorte by Jan. 27, 2012.
Offices are open 8am-4pm M-F 219-328-9900
Make Checks payable to "LaPorte Rotary"



LaPorte Hospital



LaPorte Hospital

Day of Event Cost: \$15/adult/\$7/youth
Day of Event Registration starts at 6am CST at Cummings Lodge.
Fishing Starts at 7am CST and Weigh In at 4pm CST.
All Profits go to support Local Rotary Charities!

Grand Prize is a
Vexilar FL-12 Pro-
Pack II. Prizes to
top 3 in 5 fish
categories for
Adult and Youth
Division



Co-sponsored by: Rotary LaPorte, LaPorte City Parks,
Blakemore/Toadrunner Fishing, Vicious Fishing, Herald Argus News, IU
Health-LaPorte Hospital, Vexilar Marine Electronics, Real Magic, Lake Park
Trophy Lures and Friends of Fishing

For information call 219-510-3193



Benefit for The Lake Nipmuc Association Saturday, February 2, 2013

No ice date: February 16, 2013

Lake Nipmuc in Mendon MA (01756)

Registration: Pre- Register or at the derby from 5AM-9AM

Time: 6:00AM- 2:00PM

Holes may be drilled NO EARLIER than 6:00AM

Pre-Registration Entry Fee: \$20.00 Adult \$15.00 Child (under 15)

Add \$5.00 if registering day of derby

For More information or to register contact:

Mark Reil at 774-571-2079 or email

mwr009@hotmail.com

Or Visit www.lakenipmuc.org

Please have preregistration in by January 31st



NEW YORK STATE ICE PRO-AM TOURNAMENT SERIES

3 levels of competition from the Novice to the Professional!

Huge door prizes including 2 Polaris Sportsman 500 ATV's per event!

\$25,000+ in Cash & Prizes* to be awarded at each event!

*with minimum attendance

For more information, visit:

www.NYSICEPROAM.com



FISHING DERBY

February 25, 2013 - 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sportsman's Lodge Lake of the Woods

Entry Fee \$75.00 - Includes banquet dinner, drinks, derby fee and raffle.
Open to law enforcement, fire, EMS and associates to law enforcement

PRIZES

Walleye	Northern	Burbot	Sauger	Perch
Ice House Package	Ice Flasher	Handheld GPS	Ice Auger	Underwater Camera

To Enter, Send: name, address, phone number, e-mail, FOP Lodge #, agency information, and entry fee to: NW MN FOP Lodge 8 PO Box 901, Moorhead, MN 56561 or Online at www.mnfop8.com

VERMONT SPORTSMAN



HARDWATER TOURNAMENT SERIES

2013 Schedule

January 12th ~ Dillenbeck Bay, Lake Champlain (Season Opener)

February 2nd ~ Lamphams Bay, Lake Champlain (Qualifier)

February 23rd ~ T.B.A, Lake Champlain (Qualifier)

March 2nd ~ Larrabees Point, Lake Champlain (Championship)

WWW.VTSPORTSMAN.COM



Date: February 24, 2013
Location: Candlewood Lake
Squantz Boat Launch
City: Danbury, CT
Start Time: 8:00 AM
End Time: 2:00 PM
Entry Fee: \$30 (Kids Under 16 Fish Free)
Prizes: Cash and Prizes



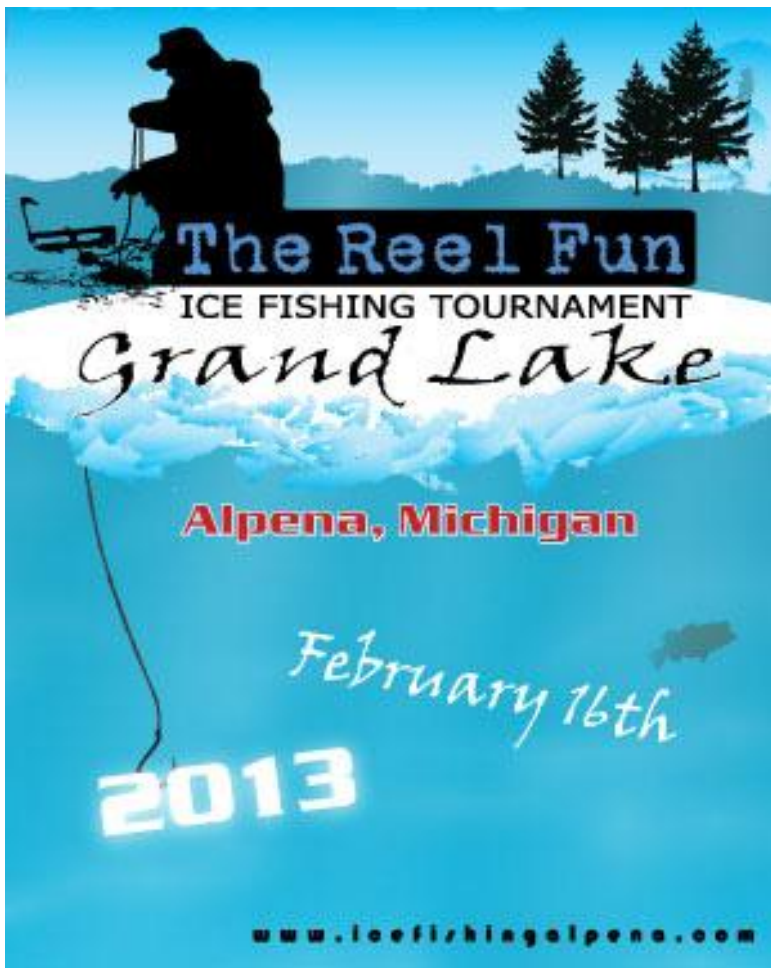
We wish to thank HT Enterprises
for their gracious prize donations!

<http://www.strikemate.com/tournament.html>



Presented By...






P C C C



Ice Fishing Derby

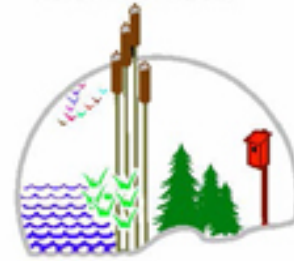
Porter County Conservation Club

Saturday January 26, 2013

Make-up Date Saturday February 2, 2013

6:00 AM – 1:00 PM

FOOD
BREAKFAST
BON FIRE



OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC

5th annual ice fishing contest
Sign-up starts at 5:30 AM in the club house

\$10 per Adult and \$5 per child under 12

CASH prizes will be awarded for largest Bass, Crappie, Bluegill, Redear, Catfish and Perch
Ongoing raffles and prizes

320 N. 150 W Valparaiso, IN 46385

Located just west of Valpo on route 130, north of Creekside golf course

For more information and directions contact us at:

www.conservationclub.com

219-779-PCCC (7222)

info@pccc.org

info@pccc.org



FEBRUARY 2, 2013

2ND ANNUAL LITTLE CANADA REC ASSOCIATION ICE FISHING CONTEST LAKE GERVAIS

OVER \$4,000.00 IN PRIZES!!

Open to all ages
Great Prizes, Raffles & Concessions

- Gates open at 10:30 am
- Ticket Prices - \$15 in advance or \$20 at the gate
- 1 hole per ticket - 2 hole max per person
- Limited tickets will be sold

*New: Kids bracket - Top 5 (ages 13 & under)

- Concessions will be done by Little Canada Fire Department

Tickets on sale now at Little Canada City Center
and Hardware Hank (Rice St.)

For more information, contact
lcraicefishing@yahoo.com or visit the
Little Canada Recreation Association website:
lcraonline.org



TALON'S CHRISTMAS WISH
EVERY FAMILY DESERVES A WISH

First Annual TMW Ice Fishing Derby

to benefit

Talon's Christmas Wish Fund

DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2013

TIME: 9am-3pm

Buffumville Boat Ramp
229 Oxford Rd Charlton MA

TICKETS: \$20 Adult \$10 Child
Includes Lunch

To Purchase Tickets and find out more details please go to
Talonchristmaswish.org or send check to
Po Box 187 Charlton Ma 01827

Raffles & Turkey Bowl
Prizes for Biggest Fish
Food & Sweets for Sale
ALL Proceeds go to Talon's Christmas Wish Fund

Valparaiso Ice Fishing Derby

Rogers- Lakewood Park

Saturday January 19, 2013

Make up date February 9, 2013

6:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 5:00 a.m.

Proceeds to benefit new boat ramp at Loomis Lake. Donations accepted for walleye stocking in the Valparaiso Chain of Lakes.

Adults: \$10 if pre-registered by January 18, 2012

\$15 day of

Child: (under 17) \$5 if pre-registered by January 18, 2012

\$7 day of

Pre-Registration available through any Friends of Fishing Member or through the Valparaiso Parks Department Office

3210 Campbell Street
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385

www.valpoparks.org

219-462-5144

**Friends of
Fishing**

Prizes! Food!
Fun! Friends!

DOUBLE YOUR FUN, TWO DERBIES IN ONE!



Sebago Lake Region
**ICE FISHING
DERBY 2013**

Saturday & Sunday
FEBRUARY 16 & 17
(Free Fishing Weekend)

\$100,000 (SEBAGO LAKE ONLY)
FOR STATE RECORD TCGUE!



KIDS DERBY
on Range Road
MON, 2/18/13

EVENTS LISTING:

Feb. 16 & 17 • 7am - 5pm:

Sebago Lake Region Derby:

"Free Fishing Weekend"

Check website for expected Lakes
and Ponds that qualify to participate.
Closely and for weigh station location.

Feb. 16 • Noon:

Maine Children's Cancer Program

Polar Day, Raymond Beach

Feb. 16 • Noon - 3pm:

Kittery Trading Post

Ice Shack contest

Feb. 18 • 8am - Noon:

Kids Fishing Derby at Range Road

sponsored by Kittery Trading Post

Check website for details

www.sebagolake.com

Derby Entry Fees: **\$30 Individual • \$50 Family** | See website for online registration and rules.

Please visit these sponsors who make this Derby possible:



SebagoLake.com

Cabela's

FORTIS

Bluebonnet

THE FISHING STORE

Local Sponsors: Sebago Savings Bank, Sebago Intermediate, Norway Savings Bank, Shell's Custom Coastertops, Windham Weapery, Windham's Savings Bank, Batten Mill, Town of Raymond

Windham
Maine
Sponsor for the
Sebago Lake Region

30 DAYS OF DERBY

SPONSORED BY WINDHAM MARKETPLACE

Register early & be entered into our daily drawing Jan. 17 - Feb. 15

DERBY PRIZES TO EXCEED \$25,000





JOIN THE TEAM.

