

Sucker Run

Spawning Ceremonies Begin

Right about now, the annual sucker run in Southern Ontario will be in full swing. This course is moved from large waters into lakes and rivers for the yearly spawning ceremonies when the waters warm up to about 50 degrees.

The lowly sucker is considered a delicate morsel by many people this time of year, and fishermen from all walks of life make an attempt to have at least one sucker fishing trip each spring.

Regulations are strictly enforced in the Huron District (which includes Halton) not to protect the lowly sucker, but the spawning game fish such as rainbow trout, lake and pickerel, which occupy the same waters as the sucker at this time of year.

In daylight hours, during the months of April and May, when it is legal to take coarse fish with a spear or net, suckers may be found lying in schools on the bottom of the deeper holes. As the water warms and the season advances, they may move upstream even during daylight.

Suckers are also often caught on hook and line at this time of year. The most effective method is usually by fishing a worm bait right on the bottom of the deep holes in streams and rivers, once a bite is felt, the fish should be allowed to have plenty of time to swallow the bait before the hook is set.

Where there's a will, there's a way and laws restricting the

taking of fish by means of a light should not prevent fishermen from enjoying a "Sucker Fishing Trip".

Tips on Trout To Help Anglers

In order to assist fishermen out looking for big ones this week-end, the following tips on trout fishing have been gathered together to help ardent anglers in pursuit of their catches.

(1) Know the legal limits on your fish. All trout caught in this area must be seven inches in length. A pocket rule will come in handy, or measure off seven inches on the butt of your pole.

(2) If you hook onto a trout smaller than seven inches, and if the hook is imbedded too deeply for easy removal, cut the line and return it to the water. The acid in the fish will dissolve the hook within 48 hours. Return the fish as fast as possible.

(3) Don't throw undersize fish back in the water. Slip them in—they are easily injured.

(4) Handle your trout by the lower jaw—don't touch the body of a fish.

(5) Don't scare your game away before you even wet your line. Keep as quiet as possible, as a broken stick or pebble splash will frighten your fish away.

(6) Your shadow on the water will scare fish—stay well back from the bank.

(7) Bright clothes make the man but they also scare away the fish. Try dull clothes that blend in with your surroundings. Red caps are for hunters only.

(8) If you're setting up a camp or picnic spot, stay well away from the stream. Joke-telling sessions amuse your friends but scare away the fish.

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Second Section

Brown and Speckled

Stock 25,000 Trout Into Halton Waters

Good news for Halton fishermen was announced last week by County Game Warden Bob Reed of Milton, when he explained that 25,000 speckled and brown trout will be transported from the hatcheries to the Halton streams.

Not in This Contest
Anglers will be disappointed to learn, however, that the fish will not be of any value in this year's opening week-end trout contest. The two-year-old fish are only about five inches in length and will not reach legal size (seven

inches) until this fall. However, there'll be some beauties swimming around next spring.

The stocking ceremonies of 5,000 at a time took a very few minutes. The fish were brought in large water tanks by truck from the hatcheries, then Department officer Karl Persaw scooped them out hundreds at a time and loaded them into buckets carried by the Game Warden and assistants Art Charlton, Bill Turnbull and Bert Hanney.

biologists have frequently filleted and quick-frozen them in an effort to find markets. More than one taste-conscious fish-eater has dined off "Mantoulin Mullet" and never realized it wasn't game fish.

Licensees for Nets
The smelt runs couldn't become more popular than they are. Thousands of Ontario residents take them in dip-nets six by six feet, for which no licence is required, for which no licence is required by residents. For \$1, residents can use a seine net of 30 by six feet. Non-residents pay \$5 for such licences.

No one has ever explained, satisfactorily, why the smelt became so numerous. Originally they were planted in a Michigan lake and, it is claimed, a nearby farmer first discovered they had multiplied at a fantastic rate when he "beat them" in the stream, tried to do a painful of water and got a bucketful of fish.

The smelt spread through Lakes Michigan and Huron, and communities in those areas hold smelt carnivals, complete with queen and trappings. They moved into Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and can be taken by the millions. Some years ago, a mysterious disease almost wiped them out, more recently they are back in astronomical numbers.

They are bony, but are excellent fare, when taken from cold water. Department of Lands and Forests

Fishermen Practise Up On Sucker, Smelt, Perch

While thousands of Ontario anglers, men and women, will flock to the streams for trout this week-end, many have been "practising up" this past few weeks on three other types of fish that aren't regarded as of the game species but are welcomed on any table when properly cooked.

It would be hard to rate the three in popularity. Usually the first to appear is the smallest or sucker. Next, and certainly most numerous, is the smelt, the "little fish that smells like a cucumber" and tastes like ambrosia when fried in butter. Then comes the perch, a striped fish seldom more than 12 inches long, a hungry little fellow who strikes freely at worms and minnows and some artificial baits, and may be taken so easily that "doubles" are as frequent as single catches.

Practising Up
All of these are, of course, merely a preparatory workout for the opening of the season for speckled trout, pickerel, bass and other game species later in the year.

The sucker is common almost

throughout the province, from streams flowing into Lake Ontario to those flowing into Hudson Bay.

The fish has an oval, underslung mouth by which he feeds on water insects, infusoria. But he'll also hit a fly in a fast-running stream.

Fishing with hook and line, however, is regarded as "too good" for suckers. It's also too uncertain. Actually, on their spawning runs into the streams in the spring, they are so numerous that they can be taken with dip nets and even with bare hands.

Like the trout or salmon, they work their way up streams as far as they can go, through rushing water, shallow rapids. Many of them become stranded in the less deep spots, and are prey to small boys or adults who have no equipment other than a pair of rubber boots and a firm hand. Many of them are kept alive in tanks in city stores and sold to the customer who wants to make sure his fish are fresh.

They are bony, but are excellent fare, when taken from cold water. Department of Lands and Forests



THE ACTON FREE PRESS annual fishing contest will be held this year from May 1 to May 5, for local residents catching trout within a radius of 25 miles of Acton. Proof of the catch must be brought to the Free Press Office no later than Monday, May 5th by 5 p.m. Pictured are last year's winners, who received a year's subscription to the Free Press and an enlarged photo of themselves with their fish. On the top is Reno Braida and bottom Brian Barbeau.

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NOW AS ACTON GROWS — SO GROWS LEDGER'S I.G.A.

Answer Popular Question About What Bait is Best for Trout

Now comes an important question—what bait will I use this week-end when I go searching for trout? And another—where will I find the big ones?

Brown Beauties
According to informed sources, the brown trout likes the lower end of deep pools and lies either behind or just ahead of big rocks. The brown is a wary fish and sometimes lets your bait sit for a while before he decides to strike. Mid-day fishing is no good if you're after the delicious browns—they're easier caught in the evening or early morning. Spoons, spinners, bucktails, minnows and wabblers are your best bet in brown bait.

Take Minnows
As for speckled or brook trout, look for secluded shady place—beneath undercut banks, in the depths of shaded pools, and among roots of big trees projecting into the water. Right now the speckled will hit at the worms or minnows, but later in the season you'll catch him easier with bright colored flies. Either live or dead minnows can be used.

Hold Ones
Rainbow trout are the fighters of the family and like swift water. The rainbow, which gobbles both dry and wet flies, also likes streamers, bucktails, smaller plugs, fly-spinners combinations and spoons. We'll be found in swift currents under overhanging banks or willow clumps, or out in the centre of the stream in a fast ripple. You can also look rainbows with worms.

Look at the Record
Just for the record, the largest speckled ever caught in Canada was one pulled from the Niagara River in July of 1916. He weighed in at 14 pounds, eight ounces. The record holding brown was 17 pounds, eight ounces, and came from the Sudbury district, Kikingsipi Lake in August of 1946. The largest rainbow on record was a 40-pounder caught in 1932 out in B.C.

Game Warden Reed Says Trout Must Be 7 Inches

Halton county game warden Bob Reed of Milton issued a courteous warning to fishermen entering this year's big trout contest—that only fish over seven inches in length may be taken from Halton's waters.

Mr. Reed told the Free Press that Department regulations stated that speckled, rainbow and brown trout must be the required length and fines are in the offing for offenders. "Actually, I don't believe we're going to have any trouble with restrictions," the game warden said Wednesday.

Signs Urge Call
Mr. Reed noted that he and the Halton Sportmen's Association have distributed many signs to area farms for use during the fishing season. The signs urge "be a true sportsman—call at the house for permission to trespass." He said the farmers will take names and addresses of the trespassing fishermen and may even charge outsiders a small fee for the privilege of using their farm for fishing.

As well, if litter or property damage is found by the land-owner after the fishermen leave, the names and address will help the farmer. "A little bit of co-operation with the farmers will help us out a lot," he said.

Stock in Streams
About 20,000 young trout were stocked into the area streams last

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Every Wed. Afternoon
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Contest Open
Don't forget the Free Press fishing contest, beginning today (Thursday).
The contest is open to local residents catching the largest trout within a 25 mile radius of Acton. Entries will be accepted up until Monday noon, May 5.
Don't forget to give us a call at 646 or 429 when you land home with that big one. We want a picture of it to back up the story.
This year again there is a public school class open to all public school students with the largest trout caught within the 25 mile radius.
The prizes are a year's subscription to the Free Press and a \$2 x 18 glossy print of the winner with his catch.