

Anglers love the 'mighty muskie'



MIGHTY MUSKIE

A SAMPLE OF THE MIGHTY MUSKIE, CAUGHT IN GEORGIAN BAY, ONTARIO.

By R.C. (BOB) OLLIVIER

The PHOTO that accompanies this column shows what is available to anglers in Ontario. The heavy rod is often recommended for the mighty MASKINONGE or better known as MUSKIE, but my feelings are that this fisherman was over-gunned. Heavy, yes, but not this heavy, unless you don't want any sport out of fishing. This fish was taken in Georgian Bay where most of the world's giant muskies are taken.

The St. Lawrence river turns up a lot I know, but I still feel if Georgian Bay is properly protected it will continue to produce for many years to come. My group will be up on Georgian Bay this weekend and will report on the area, but the deadline for this column is June 29 so it will be written before we go.

Honest man

The following story is credited to JOHN POWER so I cannot vouch for its authenticity; The epitaph on a weathered tombstone in an Ontario cemetery reads: "Here lies an honest man and a Muskie angler". Two men reading the statement asked "I wonder why they buried two men in the same grave?"

So it seems to be when fishing muskie.

Noting the possible size and ferocity of your quarry, strange things happen to your imagination, so a fish grows with the telling and so does the battle.

Really when fishing for the mighty muskellunge, you do not need to embellish the story. Fish have names such as "IRON JAW" in lake Nosbonsing near North Bay, which regularly straightens hooks and clamps down on plugs and spits back toothpicks.

There is "Ole Croc" near Kenora at Lake of the woods, "Mossback" in the thousand islands, "The Hulk" in Georgian Bay. How many other kinds of fish have been given names??

Respect anglers

This will show the respect that anglers have for the Muskie, and here in Ontario the usual limit is two per day. A handy booklet is provided by Ontario Travel, Dept. G.K. Queens Park, Toronto M7A 2E5 and is titled Fishing and Hunting in Ontario-Canada and while you are at it order Camping Ontario-Canada, both no charge.

If you intend to fish for bass or other fish at night, I would suggest you use a good quality Spin Cast reel. One such is by Shakespeare and goes a long way in illuminating line tangles, in fact virtually ending the problem for ever.

The Shakespeare 1810 and the smaller model 1750 give a wide range of drag settings and almost indestructible parts.

The model SP 508 SL Spinning rod with sliding reek seat is a straight handle spinning rod that makes for a sensitive feel and great night fishing. A super night fishing lure is a Johnson's Silver Minnow painted black on the convex (top) side and left silver on the other side.

This spoon is baited with an Uncle Josh pork rind in either a frog shape or a leech shape and fished right in among the weeds and lily pads. My favourite method is to fish it up against and among logs and stumps, with a twitching retrieve.

Uncle Josh

Check the weed guard after every cast to make sure that it is set, and the pork rind is in position. This lure is fished mainly on windy nights or when a ripple is on the water.

For a dead calm night the HULA POPPER is excellent along with HEDDON TORPEDO which has propeller blades mounted at the rear.

For all those who venture out in the woods and along

the side roads up north, DO NOT HANDLE WILD ANIMALS.

This must be mentioned every year as people have a habit of "rescuing" the young deer and other young they see along the road sides. These animals are very rarely left stranded and the mother is usually very close.

If handled by humans it often causes the parent to abandon the offspring, and if you take the "orphan" home it will invariably die. PLEASE - leave them alone to live or die as nature intended. You are not God and cannot make these decisions.

Stop and look if your curiosity will not leave you alone, but then pass on and leave the wild as they area, that is the essence of ONTARIO OUTDOORS.

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