

Aquatic growth holds key to good walleye action

The oppressive warm spell that's finally found its way to this neck of the woods probably has you thinking that it's too hot to go fishing on an inland lake for walleyes, and they won't be enticed to strike a bait.

On the contrary.

Some of the best days to catch these delicious delights are those when the Celsius readings hover in the high 20s.

Under sunny and hot conditions, fish are no different than humans in that they seek some form of protective cover.

One such refuge that many inexperienced anglers consider a nuisance or try to avoid are areas cluttered with aquatic vegetation.

Not only do these places provide shelter, but just as important they hold forage in the form of smaller fish.

In working areas dominated by weed growth, search for places where aquatic vegetation growth is still taking place. At this juncture, most weeds are still or have just found their way to the surface, thus

making it easy for anglers to distinguish those places.

As well, consider areas adjacent to drop offs or rocky transition locales.

These places can be tough to fish, considering that weeds can get caught up on your hook and in your motor propeller. So concentrate on the outside or inside edges as well as inside or outside turns. Employing an electric trolling motor on your boat can enable you to cover as much of a weedline as possible.

Areas infested with weed growth right up to the surface might also have little pockets or openings in them.

Don't be scared to flip your offering in these openings. In this environment, walleyes are like a stage coach bandit waiting for some prey to come their way.

Wetting a line in these locales will require medium-to-heavy action gear.

Employ monofilament line that's at least 12 pounds or more in



Mike Hayakawa

strength as a big walleye could easily wrap your line around some weed cover.

Some suggested artificial baits for walleyes under these conditions include three-to-four-inch grubs, four-inch finesse worms, bucktail jigs or spinner baits with a back stinger hook. Crank baits, such as Frenzy's, Fat Raps, Shad Raps or Rattlin Raps can be tossed along the weedline edge.

When employing artificial offerings, carry imitation colours of forage fish that might be dominant in the area.

The next time you run across a

weedy area in your pursuit of walleyes on a sunny day, don't curse them.

They might hold the key to a successful outing.

Early private bass fishing

While the Ontario bass season doesn't open until June 30, the Woodland Ponds Fish Farm in Sandford will open its two ponds this weekend for those wishing to get an early taste.

Owner Jack Morrison notes largemouth bass fishing on his premises is legal as he possesses a fishing preserve licence, which is required by law. As well, those who come to wet a line do not require a residential angling licence.

The fishing on his quarter-acre and three-quarter acre ponds is live release only.

On his premises, he also has a 1.5-acre pond that's stocked with rainbow trout. Fishing on this pond, he said, is catch and keep. For further information, call (905) 852-5487.

Antlerless deadline July 31

The Ministry of Natural Resources reminds deer hunters that the deadline for applying for the antlerless validation tag draw is July 31.

The fastest way to purchase a deer hunting licence and apply for the draw is calling 1-800-288-1155.

The licensing line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week until 11:55 p.m. on July 31.

Hunters should have their Outdoors Card, choices of Wildlife Management Unit and credit card handy when calling. The cost is \$35, which includes a resident deer licence.

Hunters may also obtain a draw application, when purchasing a resident deer licence at more than 1,400 hunting licence issuers across the province.

Cost of the licence and draw application is \$32.

The deadline for paper applications at ministry offices is 5 p.m. on July 31.

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Registrations will be accepted at
The Hockey Office in the
Recreation Centre on

Tuesday, June 19, 2001 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 20, 2001 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

New registrants who have not played in Stouffville must provide a copy of a birth certificate. Both parent and player are required to sign the registration cards. Any registrations received after September 1, 2001 will be subject to a \$100.00 late fee (no exceptions).

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