

Fall Fishing Opportunities Abound

We are now officially well into the fall season and all of the anticipated fun that goes with it. 'Tis the season for all of the hunting opportunities that most of us as sportsmen and women like to participate in. These activities generally take precedence and most, if not all, of our time outdoors. I fall squarely into this category and although fishing does firmly remain on my mind, not nearly enough of it is actually done. As with most of you, I need to remedy this unfortunate situation.

This can be easy to explain as it can be hard to shift gears from land to sea, so to speak. In reality, this just doesn't need to be so. The biggest thing we can forget-and leave behind-is the boat. No need for the gas thirsty things at this time of year anyway. Keeping things simple and straightforward is generally the most enjoyable anyway. Why hassle with something when you can achieve as good or often better results without any of the added expense and stress? What I am referring to here of course, is fishing from shore...and in particular, for walleye's.

Fall is the great equalizer as it puts the largest walleye's most natural lakes have to offer within easy reach of anyone. Nothing big and fancy is needed here as they are literally just a cast away. A spinning rod, a few shallow diving lures, some jigs with plastic bodies, and perhaps a spoon or two is all that is needed. If you feel you just have to have something extra, you can be extravagant and don a pair of hip or even chest waders for you adventurous types. Thus allowing yourself to work a couple extra feet of water. Really not necessary though and I personally don't care to stand in cool to cold water, even in the better insulated neoprene models now available. Besides the darn things aren't exactly flattering for middle aged figures, as they amount to a form fitting body sock with boots and seemingly every beer and cheeseburger ever consumed is now being prominently highlighted. No matter the unlikelihood anyone will see you; a self conscious person just does not need to be reminded of their excesses.

Now that we have ruled out and rid ourselves of the encumbrances of the boat and bait, we just need to pick a spot in which to fling our offerings to the waiting walleyes. I have found that the north ends of lakes are a good point in which to start as they receive the most amount of direct sunlight during the ever shortening days. The presence of flowing water in the form of feeder creeks or necked down areas ups your odds as does the presence of sparse, but quickly dying weeds. The slumping vegetation begins to expose young of the year panfish, making them very vulnerable and you can bet that opportunistic walleye's will be there to clean up.

Arrive shortly before sunset and plan on staying for an hour or so after dark or until the fish quit biting. Simply toss out your shallow running cranks or plastic adorned jigs and retrieve with a moderate and steady pace. It really is just that easy. A little variation you may want to experiment with this year is to throw a three quarter ounce ReefRunner Cicada and dress the rear hook with a very short section of white PowerBait grub body. The real beauty of this is you can even get a good hunt in and still have time for some evening fun.

