

Now Through Summer, Troll up Suspended Crappies



Crappies produced using tube jigs and crankbaits.

by John Andrew

Trolling for suspended crappies before they spawn has been working for decades down in the South, in southern Illinois, Missouri and many other locations. Many have also been drift-fishing or long-line drifting for years in Wisconsin.

Pre-spawn crappies like to stage close to the areas they spawn in, and being a large panfish, they readily feed this time of year. They are hungry, just as any fish is before and during the spawn. Spring's warmer waters affect the metabolism of

crappies, and they become more aggressive. They are looking for prey, as are many species.

During this staging period they have slowly migrated toward their traditional locations. These areas within a state can vary widely, depending on the temperatures and how large a state is. Southern Wisconsin, for instance, can warm up much faster than northern Wisconsin.

Once you know the spawning location, you are in the early-of-the-year crappie bite. These fish are suspended 90 percent of the time before they move into



A happy couple caught these jumbo crappies with guide John Andrew.

the shoreline to spawn. Study the area carefully, because they are normally only a few feet below the surface. Suspended crappies can encompass over 200 acres or just 3, depending on the size of the lake.

Summertime suspended crappies are less complicated to catch. During the summer, when the surface water temperatures are up to 73 degrees and higher, crappies will begin to suspend out away from the shoreline. Some will always stay close to man-made structures or certain weed lines, but most of the population will move offshore. Water temperatures play an important role. If a portion of the water you are fishing warms rapidly, and that section has a depth of 12 to 20 feet, this section will be the first to see suspended crappies.

We use a 1/16-ounce jig head tipped with a small crappie minnow. This is the same bait we use during the springtime, when fishing suspended crappies away from the spawning areas. Our lures will now vary, depending on water



Using the proper methods can produce enough crappies for a meal.

temperature. We like small crankbaits trolled between .4 and 1.00 mph when the surface water is above 75 degrees. There are many people who do troll faster than this, but for us, this works best.

Many tube jigs in different colors can be used from 70 to 75 degrees, but once with a jig head at 1/16 ounce, we simply add a split shot up the line if we wish to take it deeper. Below 70 degrees for surface water temps, we stay with a 1/16-ounce jig head with a minnow. This is the most popular during the pre-spawn.

The color of your jig head, tube jig and crankbait can and usually does make a difference, and you will need to experiment based on the water clarity you are currently fishing in. **MWO**

John Andrew is the owner/operator of The Anglers Choice Guide Service located in northern Wisconsin and he can be reached at 715-892-3020, 715-686-2012 or johnandrew@centurytel.net or theanglerschoiceguideservice.com.

Wisconsin Meetings

2nd Wednesday of each month
Greendale American Legion
6351 W. Grange Avenue.
Greendale, WI 53129
414-421-3371

Illinois Meetings

Last Wednesday of each month
Gurnee American Legion
749 Milwaukee Ave.
Gurnee, IL 60031
847-244-9282

Guests are always welcomed at our meetings
Guest Fee is only \$5.00
Meetings begin at 7:00 PM

Visit our web site at:
walleyesunlimitedusa.org

Contact us if you have questions at:
info@walleyesunlimitedusa.org

2016 Club Officers

President - John Ansell
Vice President - Steve Everetts
Treasurer - John Zegar
Secretary - Bob Clark

WALLEYES UNLIMITED USA

FRESHWATER FISHING HALL OF FAME 2007



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Wisconsin Meeting | Wednesday, May 11th 7:00 PM

Speaker: Mark Krmpotich from Mark K Guide Service

Topic: Largemouth, Smallmouth & Musky Tactics on High Pressured Lakes

Mark Krmpotich specializes in Largemouth, Smallmouth and Musky fishing in Southeast Wisconsin. One of his unique specialties is his successful techniques on local pressured lakes. A tournament angler for 25+ years for bass and musky Mark approaches fishing scientifically and looks for unique solutions.



Mark is a member of *Walleyes Unlimited USA, Okauchee Fishing Club, Walleyes For Tomorrow, Wisconsin Fishing Club, Muskies Inc., Muskellunge Club of Wisconsin and the Waukesha County Conservation Alliance. He is contributes as a member of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress for Waukesha county working on Warm Water and The Rules and Resolutions committees along with CDAC.*

Krmpotich really enjoys teaching people, including children, the joys of fishing, reading electronics, conservation, and handling fish safely. Mark owns Mark K Guide Service and BIG fish are his specialty! For more information contact Mark at 262 751-6255 or email him mkrmpotich@wi.rr.com

Illinois Meeting | Wednesday, May 25th 7:00 PM

Speaker: John "Rocky" Mannerino from "Rocky's Angling Pursuits"

Topic: Walleyes and Sauger on Heideke Lake

John is fully licensed and insured guide through the State of Illinois. He specializes in walleye and sauger fishing on Heideke Lake.

After spending 15 years as a tournament walleye fisherman on all types of water, Rocky decided to switch gears and start teaching the art of walleye and sauger fishing in the Chicago-land area. he realized that there is good fishing close to home without having to make long trips out of town. He also found personal enjoyment teaching others how to fish walleye and sauger in rivers all year long!

John is also a seminar speaker that has made numerous presentations to clubs and organization throughout Illinois. Sounds like an angler that has some of the same goals & ideals as Walleyes Unlimited. Be ready for another interesting presentation on waters that are close to home and overlooked by some.

