

Fall Turnover can Trigger Great Daytime Walleye Bite

by John Andrew

As the water temps begin cooling down quickly over the northern states, some of our lakes will begin the turnover process. As the thermocline disappears from our lakes and the oxygen levels become more uniform in these bodies of water, the daytime walleye bite goes into full swing.

This means that the slow walleye bite during the day on many northern lakes in July and August will now improve.

The shallower lakes will turnover first (if "deep enough" for a thermocline) and the larger, deeper lakes will turnover in the first week or so of October. Using a jig and minnow will be first and foremost, our lure and bait of choice. But at early turnover, a jig and crawler are still very productive. Some lakes we can actually see the thermocline on our electronics as it proceeds deeper and deeper into the water. This happens over a period of several days until actual turnover happens.

When the occurrence happens, some lakes are not good walleye fishing for a few days until everything settles down and water clarity is better. Other lakes that are larger and deeper, such as very clear-water lakes, turnover is not as detrimental. Remember, I am referring to the walleye bite for daytime anglers.



Mike, Larry and Bill Hartman show off their fall walleyes that were taken using minnows fishing deep water with guide, John Andrew.



Larry Ladowski of MidWest Outdoors caught these walleyes while fishing with Andrew last fall.

As the walleyes begin to leave the wood and weedlines, and begin moving deeper, we focus on the drop-offs and deep rock humps. Eventually our fish will

relate to the deepest ledges of the lake. Although during recent years, we have discovered certain lakes that have a population of lake trout in them, the walleye's behavior is a little different in fall. The walleyes still go deeper than the rest of the year, but not as deep as lakes that have no lake trout.

You will always find walleyes that are going deep in the fall and eventually on the surrounding edges of the main lake basin. Some will be in the deep weeds, some will relate to the shallow current areas in the twilight or dark, yet others will stay in the creek or small river channels of the lake. Make no mistake about it: catching walleyes during the daytime now is the easiest since the month of May. It will get even better right up until the freeze-up.

October and early November are always the best times for your daytime fall bite, but the early bite does start now in September. As mentioned, a simple jig and minnow works best in fall. Working the deep water of your lake is best. When fishing a shallow, weedy lake in fall it has been our experience that the deep bite takes place early in the season. Deep water in a shallow, weedy lake may only be 14 to 20 feet (and may never have a thermocline), whereas in a deep, clear lake good fishing



Andrew pictured above with two nice, October walleyes caught on a jig and minnow in 50 feet of water.

in fall may be 50 to 80 feet deep. Still, with certain lakes the deep bite may be 35 to 50 feet. This all depends on the maximum depth of the lake you wish to fish. **MWO**



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