

# Fall Turnover is Time to Fish Basin Walleye



A jig and minnow produced a nice deep-water walleye.



Fishing in 59 feet of water from a long extending ledge at the shoreline with a jig and minnow produced this prize.

BY JOHN ANDREW

As the fall lake basin walleye migration begins all across walleye country—including Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York, several other Midwest northern states, and southern Canada—the midday bite now heats up very quickly.

This is truly big fish time, with large numbers of "eater-sized" fish being caught during midday. Currently, many natural and manmade lakes, including the deep sections of the reservoirs and flowages, go through the turnover period. The oxygen now becomes more prevalent

from the top to the bottom of the water column. We as fishermen will be able to simply use our electronics to locate these tasty table fare fish and enjoy the bounty; keeping some for dinner is not going to hurt the resource.

Today's electronics are very accurate and precise. Please obtain a contour map or buy a mapping chip of your area lakes and look carefully at the contours of the lake bottom you desire to fish. Focus on the tightly grouped contour lines that extend out away from the shoreline and drop into the lake basin (deepest section of the lake) or the deepest area of that water.



These eater-sized walleye were all caught in 39 feet of water on a warm October Wisconsin day with a jig and minnow and, yes, the color of the jig helped.



Caught on a rock ledge at 44 feet of water on a jig and a 'crawler'.



Going deep, this group of walleye fishermen had success from 64 feet of water in late October using jig and minnow combos.

We need to understand that these are the areas that will produce the most fish. There will always be fish caught in the weeds and other locations during this time of the year. However, in this article I will be focusing on basin walleye and their migration locations, and I will mention how long they will be there. As stated above, the turnover of the water column is why these fish move towards and/or go into the basin of certain water environments.

When using your electronics, look for the ledges that drop off into deep water and study the readings you are looking at. Try to understand where the rocks

stop and the smooth bottom contour of the lake bottom begins. Then, we are looking for what may look like a group of rocks or single rocks that show up on the bottom. Remember, and this is very, very important: first you must study and understand where the rocks stop showing up on your ledges and drop offs. This can only be discovered if you make several passes up and down the ledges and drop offs. All other lumps and bumps on your sonar past the rock line may very well be fish.

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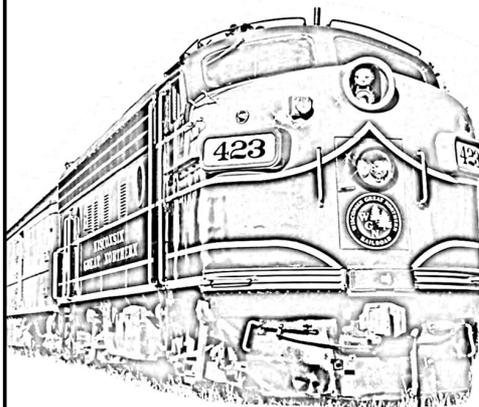
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Using a jig, bottom bouncer, deep-diving crankbaits, floating baits, spoons with downriggers, or even steel line for trolling is very productive. Some tournament walleye pros will verify this information.

When focusing on specific locations for repetitive strikes, a jig and live bait may be the best solution.

Walleye will remain on these main lake ledges and drop offs for most of the fall and including the early winter. I know what you're going to say, "We catch walleye very shallow at early ice," and you always will. However, not all walleye are shallow this time of year, just as all walleye are not relating to the main lake basin during the turnover period, but a lot of them are. As many Great Lakes fishermen catch walleye on humps and ledges, they too will verify how the walleye move deeper in the fall on these drop offs.

I hope this article helps all walleye fishermen. I understand, certain people do not want us to catch deep walleye during the fall period as they feel it will hurt released fish. Well, we might not want to catch any more deep muskie, since 98% of all muskie caught are released—just a thought. What about ocean fishing? A lot of fish caught are from deep water.

Now let's go get 'em.

God bless!

*The author, John Andrew, owner/operator of "The Anglers Choice Guide Service.com" is a two-time World Record Holder, a two-time Outstanding Angler Achievement Award Winner, a full-time, year 'round tour guide for fishing and hunting in the state of Wisconsin of which John is a full time resident and a current and active member of four local Chambers of Commerce, specializing in Vilas, Oneida and Iron counties. He can be reached at 715-892-3020 or 715-686-2012.*

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**SPORTSMEN CLUBS**

**The Lake Geneva Fishing Club** will be meeting at Dick's in Schaumburg, Ill., for the month of May; we will then meet at Gander Mountain in Kenosha (Rts 50 & I-94). Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. If you have question you may contact Mark O'Neill @ 847-458-7559. We have a speaker; from members to top name pros at the monthly meetings. Russ Warye on May 14 at Cabelas in Hoffman Estates, Ill. The cost for an annual membership is \$40; there is also a family membership (husband, wife & children under 16) available for \$65. Tournament entry fees are nominal and set by the chairman, we fish for fun and learning.

**Wisconsin Fishing Club, Ltd.**—meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in the months of Jan., Feb., March, May, Sept., Oct., and on the 2nd Monday the remainder of the Months, starting at 7 PM with Speakers at 8 PM, Location is at "Yester Years Pub & Grill", 9427 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI. Contact: Cliff Schulz, President, (414) 453-9913, LindaESchulz@WI.RR.com.

**Mishicot Sportsmen's Club**—Meetings are held the first

Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 13804 Jamb Creek Rd., Mishicot, WI 54228, west of Mishicot off of Hwy. 145. Public is welcome, contact David Gohr 920-901-9229 or Dave Koller (920) 323-0127.

**Walleyes Unlimited USA**—One of the top multi-species fishing clubs in the country. We fish for pike, muskie, large and smallmouth bass and of course walleye. We have two meetings per month which begin promptly at 7 p.m. In Wisconsin, we meet on the second Wednesday of each month. The location is the Greendale American Legion Post 416, 6351 W Grange Ave., Greendale, WI 53129. The facility is located close to downtown Greendale and the Southridge Shopping Mall. In Illinois we meet on the last Wednesday of each month. The location is the Gurnee American Legion Hall Post 771, at 749 Milwaukee Ave., Gurnee, IL 60031. The facility is located on the corner of Grand Ave. (Rt.132) and Milwaukee Ave. (Rt. 21), approximately two miles east of I-94. Our contact person for both locations is Steve Kappel and he can be reached at 847-946-7286. Everyone is welcome.

**Non-profit conservation organizations, women in the outdoors, fishing, and shooting clubs, share the word about your upcoming events and tournament information in MidWest Outdoors.**

*The* **WISCONSIN Sportsman's Calendar**

**SPORTS SHOWS**

**October 3-4**

Pine River Sports Gun Show at Richland Center Community Center, 1050 Orange St, Richland Center. Adm. \$5, kids 12 and under free when accompanied by adult. Times: Friday 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; 70 eight-foot tables, \$20ea. Contact Don Stanke, 608-604-9595, dmstanke@gmail.com.

**October 4-5**

Janesville Gun Show at Rock County Fair Grounds, Craig Center, 1301 Craig Ave. Show hours: Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission \$5, under 12 free w/adult. For more information visit www.rcrpc.com., Mark Johnson RCRPC Gun Show Director, Rock County Rifle & Pistol Club's Fall Gun Show.

**October 17-19**

Tomah Gun Show at the Fair Park, Monroe County Fairgrounds. Show hours: Friday 5 p.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Marv Krauss Promotions, PO Box 293, Strawberry Point, IA 52076; 563-608-4401; marvkrausspromotions.com.

**October 24-25**

Menomonee Gun Show at Stout Ale House, Off Broadway Banquet Center, 1501 N. Broadway. Adm. \$5. Show hours: Friday 3 p.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tables \$25 ea. Call Gary Thompson at 715-308-8772. BearingArmsGS@gmail.com or www.bearingarmsgs.com.

**October 31 - November 2**

Three-Day Gun Show at Jansen Hall, 1245

Whitewater Ave., Fort Atkinson, Wis. Show hours: Friday 3 - 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission \$6, tables \$40/eight-foot. Kids 12 and under and all Wisconsin National Guards free. C R Promotions, info: Russ 920-285-6908/Chad 262-443-2278.

**November 7-8**

Slinger Gun Show at Kettle Moraine Bowl, Hwy 60 & Hwy 175. Adm: \$3. Show hours: Friday 4 p.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tables: \$18 or \$25 ea. Wisconsin Gun Collectors Assn, Inc. All show info: Jim, 920-447-2224. General club questions: takeitaway99@yahoo.com.

**November 7-8**

Eau Claire Gun Show at Best Western Trail Lodge. Adm. \$5. Show hours: Friday 3 p.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tables \$25 ea. Call Gary Thompson at 715-308-8772. BearingArmsGS@gmail.com or www.bearingarmsgs.com.

**November 7-8**

Clear Lake Fire Dept. Gun, Military and Knife Show at the Clear Lake community Center, former High School, 560-5th Street. Adm: \$5. Show time: Friday 4-9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. -5 p.m. All proceeds to go towards purchase of firefighting equipment, Dealer/vendor info: 90+ tables available \$20/8-foot table, Dealer set up starts at 9 a.m. Friday. For info contact: Chris Jackson, 715-491-9959, visit our website at www.clearlakewifire.com, clww@cltcomm.net

**EVENTS**

**October 2**

34th Annual Ruffed Grouse Society Sportsmen's Banquet at Northwoods Supper Club, N14066 Flambeau Ave., Hwy. 13, Fifield - 715-762-4447, 715-332-5121, email: blattler56@gmail.com. Cocktail reception and raffles at 5:30 p.m., prime rib dinner at 7:30 p.m. Limited tickets. Sponsored by the Flambeau Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society.

**October 3**

Hayward Lakes Chapter of Muskies 35th Annual Fall Fishing Tourney, www.muskiesinc-hayward.org. Catch and release musky tournament with \$30,000 in prizes. Event location at 17 lakes in the Hayward area; 715-634-2921.

**October 3-5**

34th Midwest Musky Classic, headquartered at the Phelps Chamber with three days of musky fishing on North & South Twin, Big Sand Lake and Lac Vieux Desert. One of the longest running tournaments in northern Wisconsin; 715-545-3800 or www.phelpswi.us.

**October 4-5**

Musky Tale Resort's Crappie Quest at Musky Tale Resort, 8747 W County Road B, Hayward, WI 54843; 715-462-3838; bigfish@muskytale.com.

**October 4-5**

26th Annual Greater Wisconsin Muskie Tournament—Saturday 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sunday

7 a.m. - noon. Headquartered at the St. Germain Community Center, this catch and release tournament includes ten area lakes. Cash drawings and many fantastic door prizes awarded to entrants; \$60 per angler (minimum two per boat). St. Germain Community Center, 545 State Highway 155, St. Germain, Vilas County. Call 715-477-2205.

**October 17-18**

Muskie Madness Challenge—Mercer Muskie Madness Challenge on 10 designated Lakes on the Turtle River Chain. Prizes, banquet, raffles and more. For more information contact the Mercer Chamber at 715-476-2389. Mercer Chamber of Commerce, 5150N Hwy 51, Mercer, Iron County. Call 715-476-2389.

**November 8**

Sight-in Day from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. All are invited to come and sight in their firearms for the upcoming deer season. The use of the shooting range, shooting rests, spotting scopes, safety glasses, ear plugs and targets are all free, as are bore sighting, snacks and a hot lunch! Just bring your firearms and ammunition and your appetite. The church is located 2 miles north of Elkhorn (1/2 mile north of Abell's Corners) on US Hwy 12. Free. Southern Lakes Evangelical Free Church, N6686 US Hwy 12, Elkhorn, Walworth County. Call 262-742-2366.

**Free Listing For Your Upcoming Event!**

Send To: MidWest Outdoors, Attn: Larry Ladowski, Wisconsin Section Outdoor Calendar, 111 Shore Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, Fax: (630) 887-1958, e-mail: info@midwestoutdoors.com (Please Allow 6 Weeks).