

Hook, Line and Sinker

by Nathan Hartle

Fishing a new body of water can often be confusing and downright frustrating. To aid all the fisherman and women at Big Hook I have compiled several crucial fishing pointers to help everyone experience a productive time on the water:

-Spring Fishing (opening week to mid June): walleyes will hold in shallow water (4 to 8ft). They will often congregate where a current is found such as a rapids or narrows. One degree warmer water temperature will often make the difference. Northern will be found in very shallow muddy bays and flat rock surfaces. Once again water temperature is CRUCIAL for the larger fish. Find a bay where the sun shines in all day and you won't be disappointed. Try tossing top water baits such as Zara Spooks and Buzz Baits for best results (remember to slow your retrieve down due to colder water temps).

- Summer Fishing (July-August- September): walleye generally can be located in twenty feet of water and sometimes deeper. Jigs and worm harnesses are great baits since they can easily reach the bottom. Trolling rock shelves is another productive way to cover ground and find larger schools of fish. Northern will often be found in weed beds. Your larger fish however will be along the edges of weed beds or on the rock reefs feeding on walleyes and whitefish.

-New lures. Every year I try dozens of new lures at Big Hook and find most fail but several surprise me and find permanent placements in my tackle box. This past year the new lures of choice for walleye were the Rapala Shad RS Suspending Blue and Silver and the Bass Assassin Electric Chicken (funny name but it works!). For northern try the small/medium Bull Dawg (black, orange, white). Believe it or not but this spring I experienced some amazing fly fishing for pike with a blue and white streamer with silver tinsel.

For a better fishing future please remember to practice Catch and Release.

