

Thunder Bay Walleye Club

Newsletter

December, 2009

P.O. Box 812 Alpena, MI 49707

Officers		Board of Directors
President	Jim Leeseberg	Bill O'Neil
Vice President	Dave Birmingham	Richard Hubert
Finance/Recording Secretary	Dennis Burns	Eric MacKenzie
		Kevin Cosbitt

Club Activities

Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament

Last year, we got involved and helped to run Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament to benefit the River Center. It was a huge success. This year the event will be held on Grand Lake on Saturday, February 13th. Given our strong involvement in 2009, the club has been given the OK to conduct our own prize raffle during this year's event, which should turn into a great fundraiser for us. Once again we can use all the club volunteers we can get to help set up for this event. On the Friday prior to the event we will be spacing out and drilling 1000 holes. The morning of the event we will be setting up tables, perimeter rope/string/stakes, and moving prizes on to the ice from the parking lot, etc...

Let's all work together on this and make this a successful fundraiser!!!!

As was discussed and approved in October, the club has purchased various prizes for our raffle which include:

1. FL18 Vexilar Ultra Pak
2. 9 inch 2 hp Jiffy power auger
3. Clam 2-man flip up portable shanty
4. A sled full of ice fishing gear, sets of tip-ups, scoop, bucket, etc...
5. Shoot through the ice hand held vexilar unit.

➤ **Tickets will be sold in advance, and at the event.**

➤ **We did get our raffle license (so we're legal)**

Tickets may be available for members to take and sell at the meeting, so please take some and sell as many as you can!

******Fall Fishing******

The fishing did not stop with our last tournament! Many of our members had absolutely fantastic days of fishing in late October through early November fishing many of the same areas we target in the summer. North Point, South Point, Scarecrow, Black River, and Sulphur Island Reef, all locations have their days and times which they produce not only walleyes, but lots of them. Cranks seem to be the key ingredient here. The ticket to these big catches is keep moving until you find bait and fish. Several moves may be required in order to hit the jackpot, but the fish are out there, and seem to be more concentrated than in the summer. Personally, I usually switch into deer mode after October 1st, but I may be changing my ways, after some of these limit catches.

Club News

- ***Walleye Club jacket orders***
- If you are interested in getting a Walleye Club jacket, please give Steve Hubert a call @ 379-4614, so he can make it worthwhile to put orders together. It is really not a cost saver to order one jacket at a time. If you plan on getting one, call ahead, so he can plan for orders. Steve will have hats, t-shirts etc. at the monthly meetings for you to purchase.

****Custom Painted Baits****

If you didn't get to see the samples Bob Baughman brought to the October meeting you would have been impressed. Jim at Downriver Tackle will custom paint any of your crank baits, spoons, or blades with any color scheme you can conjure up. If you have an idea, they can make it happen. Prices will vary on the complexity of your idea, and the type of bait. You supply the bait, they'll do the paint. With an excellent finish, paint jobs are guaranteed for the life of the lure. For more information check out the website at downrivertackle.com or contact jim@downrivertackle.com.

"Lake Invaders: The Fight for Lake Huron"

Lake Huron is the third largest freshwater lake and has been invaded by over 180 exotic species over the last century. A new documentary film produced by Grand Valley State University faculty and students explores the threat to the ecosystem and some innovative solutions.

A screening of "Lake Invaders: The Fight for Lake Huron," will be shown Saturday, December 12th, at 7 p.m. at the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center Theater in Alpena. A question and answer session with film makers and scientists will follow the screening. This is free and open to the public.

****Mullet Lake****

There are currently some ongoing issues with the Tribes and the MDNR and sportsman over Walleye populations and sustainable harvest in Mullet Lake that will have a direct effect on us whether we choose to fish tournaments there or just recreationally. This is not just a Mullet Lake issue!

In October the tribes decided to invoke their right to allocation based harvest which allows the tribes 17.5% harvest of the estimated population of a body of water, while allowing 17.5% to recreational sport fishing. With the DNR estimating the walleye population at between 2,001 and 3,577 adult walleyes this only allows for the harvest of approximately 350 to 626 adult Walleye per year for recreational fisherman. With the low population estimates the DNR's Fisheries Chief Kelley Smith's initial reaction was to close walleye fishing for the 2010 season to recreational fishing. His position has since been modified because of a move by the tribes. Due to their concern with the population estimates, the Tribes have agreed to withdraw their request to invoke allocation-based procedures on the lake for 2010. The resolution creates flexibility for the State to set appropriate harvest regulations (?) for walleye on the lake in 2010. Stay tuned.

- It's sure interesting that our club caught somewhere in the neighborhood of 100 walleyes in one day of fishing, according to DNR numbers that would be somewhere close 1/3 and 1/6 of the entire allowable harvest for the year.
- The real scary issue here is that this can happen on any of the waters located within the consent decree, including Long Lake, Grand Lake, etc....

Questions, comments, or concerns contact:

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****Club Tournaments****

**Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament- Grand Lake- February 13th
Hubbard Lake (Date???)**

BROWN TROUT

Things are moving forward reorganizing and having a brown trout festival next year. Currently there are two people interested in the President position along with one for each of the VP's for Festival, Grounds Tournament, Treasurer and Secretary. Committees are being formed to take responsibility for a particular area of the festival. This will help take some of the work off the backs of the entire slate of officers.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 7:00 pm

- **Besser Tech Room - Room 112** in the BTC

Meetings are the second Wednesday of every month

AGENDA:

- Old Business
 - Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament
 - Broken Tournament Scale
- New Business
 - Brown Trout update, (Denny)
 - Club Web Page- Try and use it.
 - Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament (Update)
 - Hubbard Lake Ice Fishing Tournament
 - Club Banquet