

Moose Lake News by

Jim Onarheim

Our summer is slipping away from us. Memorial Day Weekend July 4th and now Labor Day Weekend will be gone very soon. I have talked to many Moose Lake residents about their fishing luck this summer. Some people were incredibly happy with the results they had this summer on Moose Lake. Then there are those that have struggled.

The question that has been asked a thousand times. When you cannot catch any fish, you may ask yourself, "What is wrong why can't I catch any fish? This Is the Proverbial Question. Here Are Some Answers. I have been fishing all my life & fishing at Moose Lake for the past 24 years. I try to get out on the water about 2 to 3 times a week during the open water season. There have been days when I caught up to fifty fish in a five-hour period on Moose. Yes, several of these fish ran on the small size but I had action and I had fun. (Keep in mind that I release 99% of all my fish.)

Then there have been days when I cannot get a fish in the boat no matter what I try or do. Even very experienced anglers have days when they do not catch fish or do very poorly. It happens to me a few times every month and when it does, I can always produce a bunch of reasons to explain what is wrong. These answers will resonate with you wherever you fish.

Fish must eat just like us to survive. They may not eat three meals a day in the morning at noon and dinner with a snack in-between, but they do eat. It may be in the darkness of night, during the early morning hours, right at sun rise, in the middle of day or evening prior to sunset. Remember when fish are feeding heavy, they can get filled up in less than 15 minutes. Then it may be all over for the day. Keep in mind though, all fish do not feed at the same time.

We must look at the lure or bait we may be using. Is it too big or too small for the fish we are targeting or the wrong color? Do we need to use something that gives out some type of noise or not or even just a little vibration going through the water? How deep do we run the lure? How fast or slow do we retrieve it or should we be using live bait? These are all important questions we must ask ourselves. Sometimes fish will be startled and just charge out after bait. They may not be going after it because they are hungry. There are always lot of variables.

Location is especially important because only a small portion of the lake holds fish. The fish may be around some type of structure, rocks, weeds, or wood like we have in Moose Lake. The biggest thing to look for is food, which may be bait fish, a bug hatch that may be going on or a variety of other things that are in our lakes. If you can find their food, you will normally find the fish.

Tackle is something you must look at. How heavy is the line are you using for the type of fish you want to catch? For walleyes I use six & 8 lb. test monofilament. I may use 3 or 4 feet of fluorocarbon at the end of my monofilament line. This line is a lot harder for the fish to see and has been said to be invisible to the fish. If I am fishing some deeper lakes in the fall. I will use 8 lb. test fire line with a barrel swivel and a 4-foot piece of 8 lb. test fluorocarbon tied to normally a ¼ oz. jig. With the fire line there is no stretch so in twenty feet of water you can feel the slightest little bite.

I have seen many people fishing Moose Lake using 12 or 14 lb. test monofilament with steel leaders and a 3/8 oz. jig. I try to help these people understand the reason they should change to lighter line and no steel leaders. Steel leaders are for the muskies and northern pike that have sharp teeth and could cut you off if you did not have the steel leader. The lightest line weight normally the better depending on what you are fishing for. If I decide to jig fish on Moose, I normally use a 16th oz. or 8th oz. jig, most of the time. It was with some luck but last summer I caught three muskies using a 1/16 oz. jig with half of a night-crawler. I must have dropped it right in front of their nose.

If I am Jig fishing, I use half of a Crawler, Minnow, leech or artificial, like gulp. This can be a deciding factor whether you are going to catch fish or not. Live bait always increases your odds vs. artificial depending on how active your fish are. Sometimes it does not make too much difference and sometimes fish just like to chase things like a crank bait or something that is moving through the water.

Other things to consider is, do I anchor, drift or troll? I like to move and go to the fish. I am not going to anchor unless I am fishing some cribs or a spot that is holding fish. I want to go to the fish. I am not going to wait for the fish to come to me. That may never happen.

Wind or no wind. I like a little wind. Let the wind be your friend. Use it to your advantage. Many times, the windy side of a shoreline can hold fish. Storms and cold fronts can cause problems also or they can help you catch fish. Just prior to a front moving in may turn the fish on. Fish do not understand the weather like we do. But they are extremely sensitive to barometric pressure, and water temperature changes. The first week in June of this year a storm front was moving in at one of Mikes Fly-In camps. Mike and I caught and released eighty-one walleyes in two hours. The smallest being fifteen inches. The majority of them being over eighteen inches. My largest being twenty-eight inches.

When you fish hard and do not catch anything, it is easy to say the fish are simply not biting, or not active. That may be true, but the results of some fishing tournaments prove that this is not a valid reason. There are some occasions in tournaments when no one catches fish, but that is usually under extreme weather conditions. Frequently, at the end of the day, when there are

many participants in an event, someone has caught a fish or two or even many. So, there were some fish biting on something, somewhere. One thing You just did not find them or figure them out. (END)

Birthdays greetings this week go to Gary Hostetler, Jane Bidwell, and Amanda Berg on the 3rd of September. Tom Rudolph on the fourth, Lise Holguin on the fifth, Lynn Egge on the sixth, Bob Zaborsky and Ethel Richter both on the eighth of Sept. Laura Berlage and Fred Taylor on the ninth. Tom Thiergartner. Happy Birthday to all of you.

There are two anniversaries this week. Doug and Brianne Sanders on the 8th and Tom and Mary Steinmetz on the 9th of September. Happy Anniversary to both couples.

Stay safe everyone and enjoy our beautiful weather. Please send your items of interest to my e-mail address at emta984@gmail.com or call my landline at 715-462-4448 or my cell at 715-577-8880. Moose Lake Improvement association website is <http://mliahaywardwi.org> The Town of Round Lake Web site is <https://www.townofroundlakewi.org> and the Round Lake Fire Department website is <https://townofroundlakefire-rescue.org>. JO