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THE Fishing Report –October Edition

Yikes, who turned on the outside fan? Boy, the end of September sure was a windy one!! But, we are hoping October stays nice and calm throughout, giving us a great Indian Summer so that we all get another great month to enjoy our boats, our favorite stream or our favorite shoreline to catch a few more fish before the ice gets here. Pretty sure that will happen – and am sure the fish will be willing to bite, as October is pretty *fishy* around these parts.

So, what is there to fish for and how do we go about it? Well, actually, quite a few fishes we can fish for and quite a few different spots to go look for them – let's take a peek.

Trout and Salmon

Continuing on from the end of September, we will still have salmon around, mainly Coho. These fish will be concentrated around the Sioux, Onion, Whittlesey, and Fish Creek rivers, where you can catch them trolling from the boat, wading and casting near the mouths and also fishing the rivers themselves. Mixed in you will find a few browns, splake and steelhead as well. These salmon should stick around for another week or two, then browns – splake – steelhead will be more predominant, especially when the water temps drop before 50 degrees.

To catch fish trolling, right now, push up shallow along the river mouths 10 to 20 feet of water in low light periods. Put out stick baits and crank baits on planer boards cover the top of the water column. Also, run spoons on shallow dipsy divers and downriggers. Leadcore is also a good option, but only one to three colors for this shallow water. Then during the day, you can push out in deeper water, over 20 FOW, and start moving your lures down into the water column – but remember, cover the top half of the water column the most.

By mid-October, the temps should drop below 50 and you can also concentrate around the rivers for the other species, but, your best bet will be to troll the shoreline(s) from Washburn all

the way to Cornucopia, including interior islands. Spoons will be your best lures from 50 to 40 degree water temps, especially orange colored spoons, used on downriggers, dippy divers and leadcore. Once the water dips below 40, stick baits will be your best friend, used mainly on planer boards.

For casting – wading off the river mouths is a cool and rewarding experience to catch these fish. Casting in-line spinners such as Mepps or Blue Fox, spoons like Cleo's or Krocodiles, and crank baits like Rapalas or Berkley Flicker Shads. Also, using spawn under a bobber works well too. Low light periods are your best times to catch fish. This goes for the same in the rivers, where you want to find pools that the fish will concentrate in. Spawn sacs or night crawlers are a great way to catch fish, but do not overlook a small crank bait casted into the pool and reeled back.

So, keep those boats in the water and your waders out of storage – pull out the cold weather gear and catch some fishes. Fishing can be fast and furious for these trout and salmon and there is no better fish to eat out of Lake Superior. Oh, but one mention here – do practice selective harvest on the fish you catch, making sure we have fish to catch in the future. Especially the browns. 25 inches or larger, these are the good ones to return back to the wild for future generations to prosper.



SmallMouth

October for these critters is absolutely one of the best months to catch big numbers of big fish. The fish start to find their homes they will spend for the winter and school up in huge numbers. So, once found, you can really catch a lot of fish and usually, they are the biggest fish of the year. On average, the fish will be 3 to 3.5lbs with a lot of fish pushing that 5lb range and some over 6lbs. The 1 over 22" size limit Chequamegon Bay has for its SmallMouth is a great thing!!

But, what is cool, at the beginning of the month, there is a push of fish that go shallow, where this will usually last until about the third week of October. Not all of them, but quite a few. Where they are along the Ashland shoreline, from 5 to 10FOW, and you can have exciting action with shallow crank baits, lipless crank baits, spinnerbaits, and other shallow water

presentations. Basic premise is to cover water quickly to find the fish and once found you probably will have quite a few more in that area, so slow down and work it good.

The deeper fish will be using flats off structure that we found them in the summer. So, just move off a bit deeper and the fish should be around. A good sounder will show these fish on the bottom, as most will be in 15FOW or deeper. Once spotted or caught, stay around those areas as I can pretty much guarantee there will be quite a few more around. To catch them, I like to use slow moving bottom orientated baits like tube jigs, jigging spoons, football head jigs, shaky heads and drop shots. Natural colors like watermelon, pumpkin, coffee, silvers, golds and craw colors are best. Also, sucker minnows on a lindy rig are a good bet, too. The Rock Pile, Long Island, Pamida Hump and the Ashland Breakwall all have fish that use spots like this around them.



Well, I do hope everyone is able to get out onto the water a few more times before putting the gear away – it definitely is a great time to enjoy the water. Beautiful fall colors, hardly any other boats, and big fish that want to bite readily. It doesn't get any better than that!!

If anyone has any questions or want to book a trip for the fall season, be sure to give me a call or send an e-mail.

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Until next month, GOOD FISHING!!

JIM HUDSON