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From The Helm
September, 2011

Pikes Bay Marina Labor Day & Wisconsin Clean Marina Party

On Sunday, September 4th PBM will host its annual Labor Day Party at the Clubhouse. In conjunction with September being Wisconsin Coastal Awareness month, we will also present a program on the WI Clean Marina Program and what it means to you the boater. Activities start at 5 p.m. Pikes Bay will provide the main course of wings / ribs and scallop potatoes. Please bring a salad or a dessert to share.



What's with the "Tuna Tower" at Pikes?

If you were at the marina this week, you may have noticed all the brand new 2012 Striper and Triumph boats in the slips and parked in the upper parking lot. Pikes Bay Marina was selected as the "Base of Operations" for the Photo Shoot of the 2012 catalog and advertising campaign for Striker and Triumph. When the final product is released, you will have to look closely as you might recognize some of the "Models" (who also happen to be PBM staffers and maybe even a few of our boaters as well). [Follow us on Face Book as we post videos of the process.](#) The "Tuna Tower" is for the cameraman on the photo boat (a great place to ride on a calm day). Lights - Camera - Action!





"The Best Address in the Apostles"

715-779-3900

www.pikesbaymarina.com



fishchequamegonbay.com

715 209-6431

THE Fishing Report

September Edition

Welcome to our totally new and fun monthly fishing report for our marina guests and friends!! We know that a lot our guests do take to the lake for fishing excursions, so we decided to collaborate with local professional fisherman and fishing guide, Jim Hudson, from Hudson's On The Spot Guide Service, to have him author this new adventure here at Pikes Bay Marina. We hope you learn a bit from what is written and are able to catch a few more fishes on your next outing(s) because of it. Oh, and if you do have specific questions, do feel free to e-mail Jim, as he is willing to help in any way he can - from the most novice to the most advanced questions that can be thought of (see Jim's contact info toward the bottom of his home page).



So, a **BIG** thank you to Pikes Bay for letting me write this monthly newsletter - as its stated above, I do love helping folks catch more fish here in our beautiful piece of heaven, Lake Superior. Lots of water to fish and lots of different fish to fish for - so we will definitely have a lot to talk about!! But, first, before we delve into fishing itself, I first want to introduce myself and give everyone a bit of a background about my fishing experience. Here it goes:



I am a Bayfield native, living here pretty much all my life, where I have always been a huge outdoors participant, which included fishing out here since a youngster. Being so captivated with the outdoors, after graduating here in Bayfield, I took my passion to my college days and studied Natural Resource Management, in both Ely, MN and then down in Stevens Point, WI. College was great for learning and experiencing new outdoor adventures, but in turn, it was bittersweet at the same time, as I would continually miss the big lake. So, when a local job back here at home opened up, I marched back and took on the role as one of Bavfield local police officers. But.

from both my course work and other fishing experiences to fishing out here, on multiple different species we have to fish for, both during the open water and through the ice. This then led me into a path of wanting to help others catch more fish, where I began my guide service 6 years ago, starting first with ice fishing clientele. Having a boat load (I guess, ice load is the right word) of fun doing this, I then expanded into open water guiding. And the rest is history! So, now I guide full-time and am very rewarded by this experience!! Also, I work for a myriad of fishing related companies, as a product specialist and product consultant along with being associated with multiple television and media avenues, such as; The Next Bite, Bass Pro Shops, John Gillespie Waters and Woods, Butch Furtmans Outdoor Notebook and Northland Adventures. So, that's me in a nutshell - but, now, onto the real deal, FISHING.

Fall Is Coming - Gear-Up For Fantastic Fishing

September is here and summer is coming to a close very rapidly, and to some, this means the thought that fishing is also coming to an end. But, in reality, this is the time that fishing will start to get better for our area. Better as in - more and more fish to pursue and catch!! Along with more fish types to catch, the fall period of fishing also situates these different fish species into places they can be readily caught by a variety of methods and also finds them swimming in more and more spots throughout the lake. Yup, that's right, those cold mornings of early fall along with that dreaded shortening of daylight is actually good for something!! So let's take a peek at what's good.



Lake Trout - September is our last ditch effort to catch some of these great eating fish. October until December equals the closed fishing season, as we leave 'em alone for awhile, letting them spawn. And if the end of August was any clue, September should be a great month to catch a few. And, even though the water temps will start to drop, typical of Lake Trout fashion here in the Apostles, they will still be hugging the bottom, especially on flats areas. Look for areas on your charts that show an area that is relatively flat, in depths of 80 to 150FOW and you should find these fish. Run Flasher and or Dodger with Spin & Glo's tight to the bottom for the best bite. Second are 3.5 to 4.5

inch spoons, usually in orange, green, purple, gold, or a mixture of colors listed. Mainly, downriggers are going to be your best friend. Other spots to look are tight up to structure on islands. secondary drop offs that have a flat

along a breakline, but stay relatively flat at these depths on that break, creating a shelf for fish to feed on. Find these = JACKPOT. Oak - Basswood - Hermit - Stockton - Cat all have them. Just have to bob and weave as you troll amongst the island to find those “spot on spot” areas. It is well worth the effort!! Here, you can employ a variety of techniques. Downriggers - dipsy divers - and leadcore all have their place here, as you want to cover the water column, both vertically and horizontal from your boat.

SmallMouth Bass - Am not sure how many members know this, but Chequamegon Bay has one of the BEST SmallMouth Bass fisheries in the nation, ranked as one of the top ten to catch huge ones, actually. The average fish caught is between 16 to 18 inches and there are many fish in the 20 to 21 inch range caught on a daily basis, throughout every season we have available. Big fish and lots of them, #1 reason folks drive from all over the country to fish here for SmallMouth. With that said, September is a month of transition for these fish, where a lot of them are moving to areas they will associate with come winter. So, this spreads a lot of fish out, namely in the first portion of the month, but then “stacks” them in areas in big groups for the later portion of the month and throughout the fall. Typically we use a run and gun approach the first part, hitting many different spots until we find a big pod of fish. What is nice though, is that when you do find them most are very aggressive and you can catch quite a few off one area, as they know the light is fading too and winter is not too far off. With the run and gun approach we use search baits on spots like the Ashland Breakwall - Pamida Hump - Power Plant - Long Island Point - Oak Point - the countless timber structures throughout the Ashland shoreline - the countless weed beds throughout the bay - and any deep running breaklines near the Ashland shoreline. Search baits meaning something that we can cover water fast, spinner-baits - crank baits - rattle traps - jig and grub combos - and the alike. We can then find active fish on these spots and then slow down after catching the active ones with more finesse techniques. By finesse I mean, dragging tube jigs - drop shotting - carolina rigging - and using livebait. Now, these fish will be using a variety of depths, from as little as 4 feet of water out to 30 feet of water, but ninety percent of the time the most active fish are the shallow ones, say under 15FOW, and associated with the remaining green weed patches. And again, ninety percent of the time, spinner-baits and crank baits are your best bet to catch them (Booyah makes a great double willow blade in $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce that is deadly out here and Rapala DT series cranks smoke ‘em day in and day out - DT 4 through 14 is usually what I carry - natural colors). The only time these fish are usually not as active is when dealing with a cold front condition, then it is almost imperative to go deeper for other fish.



can put together a pattern together. But once a pattern is developed, look out, you will be taking multiple pictures!!

Near Shore Trolling - This is where it gets fun!! First, with the diminishing daylight that September brings us, we get greeted by our ol' Salmon pals once again. First, usually is the bigger of the two, the King Salmon. Now, we do not see huge amounts of these fish around, but the ones we do can be found right out the backdoor of Pikes Bay, up against Pikes



Creek. From the end of August until about mid-September these fish will stage off the river mouth, turning into their spawning stage. Then about mid-September into mid-October is when their smaller cousin arrives, the Coho. Pikes is a great spot for these fish too, but the majority will be found in and around the Onion, Sioux and Whittlesey river areas. And during these time frames these fish only have one thing on their minds - spawn. As I

mentioned, they “change” while they are staging in front of the rivers before actually making their trek in to spawn. With this, their whole bodies undergo a metamorphic change, where during this phase most of the time feeding is the least of their worry, but strike instinctually at baits that move past them. So the name of the game? Fast and Flashy.

For this staging period we want to run baits that stand out in the water, bright colors. Pinks, Chartreuse, Glows, Flame Oranges, and the alike colors for spoons, crank baits, and flasher/fly combos. Run these types of baits on leadcore, dipsy and or slide divers, and downriggers at varying depths at the river areas you will be fishing. Typically, 60 FOW and under is where you want to target near Pikes and 40 feet and under at the other areas. Also, you want to run fast with your boat, 2.5 to 3.5MPH on your GPS, is what you want to be turning to get these fish to bite. Keep the drags a bit loose, as they will rip the baits pretty darn good!! Oh, and another tip for these fish, low light is usually best, so get out early and or late for the best action.

And don't be surprised if you catch a few steelhead, browns and splake too. They will be coming around at the same time, but that bite is usually a lot better in later October - stay tuned.

Cool thing about these fish too, is that you can cast for them from your boat or even from shore in these same areas. Outfit with casting spoons, darter head jigs and Gulp! Minnows along with some crank baits and you are sure to catch a few if you put in your time. Pretty fun to catch one or two on a medium action spinning reel, as they can make the drag SCREAM. Then from the lake, you can then follow them into the streams and catch them there too.

Tons going on out here for September

We hope that this does help in getting you a few more fish during your outings. And, as was stated before, if you want to get in touch with me for any questions, do so at [http://onthespot@fishchequamegonbay.com](mailto:onthespot@fishchequamegonbay.com). Also, for those looking for a personal trip dedicated to learning more about the fishery out here on Superior, on my boat or yours, check my website for details, <http://www.fishchequamegonbay.com> and or use the same address or the number listed above. So, until next time - GOOD FISHING

PIKES BAY MARINA SPECIALS

Looking to save a bit on fuel? Well come find us at our fuel dock - we are offering a **TEN CENT OFF** special for purchase over 100 gallons or more - a great savings for your next fuel up!! Also, be on the look-out for our winterizing/storage specials coming soon!!



marina activities.

We invite you to become a FAN on the Pikes Bay Facebook page. John Cory has been doing a great job with our page and regularly post photos and videos on



You may also want to check out Pikes Bay Marina on YouTube.

Pikes Bay Marina
www.pikesbaymarina.com
(715) 779-3900