

On the Water

Fall Fishing

It seems like only yesterday we were discussing the “Lazy Hazy Days of Summer” Now the fall is almost upon us. I am always amazed at the number of anglers who put their boat to bed after Labour day when some of the best fall fishing is yet to come, especially for Musky!.

Almost every species of fish start bulking up in early fall for the winter lay over. You can now fish from shore where just a few weeks earlier it was very difficult. A lot of public docks have substantially less boat traffic and many bridges and points are not being constantly bombarded with boat wake.

If you do have a boat, many of the channels and narrows are now very fish-able, whereas during the summer, they were just too busy. Bare in mind, even late into the season, you CAN NOT impede navigation or tie off to navigation buoys. There are also many boat rental establishments that rent boats late into the season.

There are a few things to consider while fishing late into fall. It gets dark a lot sooner and cools down a lot faster. A balmy fall day will turn very cold, very quickly once the clouds roll in or the north wind picks up. If you dress in layers, you can always peel something off but you can't put on what you don't bring. And, don't let the fall weather fool you: Polaroid sunglasses and a hat are a must, just as important as a scarf and gloves.

... with Rick Daniels

I've mentioned this before. As the lake turns over and the weeds die off, the dead weeds emit carbon dioxide as they decompose. The weeds that are still green emit oxygen. If you have a favourite summer spot but the weeds keep turning up brown, it's best to move on and hang around a bit longer in some green weeds.

Your presentation needs consideration also. Fishing in early fall is pretty much the same as the summer but the fish should be biting more frequently, but remember – its fishing. I have gone out on the most theoretically perfect fall day and got skunked. I have also gone out on the most theoretically imperfect summer day and have done extremely well. You won't catch anything with a dry line!

As we move more and more into late fall, just simply down-size your lure or bait and slow down your retrieve.

If you can plan ahead and want to add a little statistical science to your trip: fish seem to be more active during periods of low pressure with low clouds rather than periods of high pressure with high or no clouds. Also, the fish don't seem to like sudden barometric change. Some anglers go as far as tracking the lunar cycles to better their odds.

Happy Fishing!

Rick Daniels is the owner / operator of Chemong Lake Fishing Charters

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