

On the Water with Rick Daniels

A Cheat Sheet for Fishing.

A quick summary for interested anglers.

Over the fishing season we will go into more detail on presentation and different techniques for various fish species, but for now we'll give the beginner and novice anglers the "Cheat Sheet" (Cole's Notes for us old timers) for the more popular game fish in our area.

I have caught Musky on a jig and a worm while fishing for walleye and caught walleye almost the same size as the lure, while fishing for Musky. Point being; sometimes you are pleasantly surprised and sometimes you are unpleasantly surprised.

I especially like to use an ultralight rod and reel when fishing for Panfish: sunfish, perch and crappie. This set up is also the perfect size for your young children or your grandchildren. All you need is a small hook, a box of worms or pail of small minnows and a few split shot sinkers, if need be. Just make sure the fish takes the bait first prior to setting the hook. Remember with live bait, the fish are not going to swim away once they hit. Small jigs with rubber worms and small lures of any kind seem to work well. I would advise against using any kind of terminal tackle like leaders or big snaps for this presentation as they take away from the action.

Walleye are traditionally cold water, low light feeders. The fishing action is usually better during dusk or dawn hours while trolling very slowly with a 4" bluish Rapala type lure. You can get around this by drifting with a worm harness during the day if it is heavily overcast or when the lake is very choppy. If it is a sunny calm day try finding a deep thick

weed bed, put on a minnow tipped, banana shaped jig and drive it right to the bottom.

Bass are predominantly an ambush type predator and can be caught almost any time of day or night under almost any conditions. Spinner baits, in line spinners, crank baits, artificial worms, real worms all work well. I have caught a number of giant bass recently with just a plain hook and free swimming minnow with just enough weight to take it down when needed. Smallmouth bass tend to hang on or near rock shoals, points, islands, bridges, docks etc. Largemouth bass seem to prefer large stumpy back bays, deep lily pads and bull rushes close to deep drop offs.

If you have ever researched fishing for Musky, you have probably read that these beasts are "a fish of a thousand casts". That's why I simply do not cast for them, I'm too old and my arm gets too sore. I troll. You will need a good quality bait caster or trolling combo with heavy duty line and high test terminal tackle. A six inch to ten inch solid, not jointed, lure is the order of the day. The secret is fast trolling: approximately 6 km per hour along the outside edges of deep weed beds.

Good Luck and Happy Fishing!

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Editor's Note: According to the Ministry of Natural Resources website, most lakes in this area are designated as "Fish Sanctuaries" - which simply means that no fishing is allowed between from December 1 until May 18 (the Friday before Victoria Day weekend). Also, during fishing season, there are catch limits based on the type of Tag on your Fishing License.



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