

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

# Early-Season Walleye On The 'Mo

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

Howling wind, rain and heavy wet snow, that's how this spring started out, making it tough to find a decent few days which would work for a fishing trip to Lake Sharpe and Lake Oahe with good friend Kent Hutcheson, Hutch's Guide Service.

Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Larry Myhre and I decided to just pick a date and go for it and as the date approached, it looked as if we might catch a break, which we did, three magnificent days on the water in the Pierre area.

We'd be fishing during the Pre-spawn as the water temps hadn't reached the magical spawning temperatures which can be from the low 40's to mid 50's.

Pre-spawn can be some of your slowest bites as water temps are still cold, with the fish moving around much less, using very little energy, not needing to eat much.

During the Pre-spawn walleyes will move up into and onto their spawning areas, which are generally near rip-rap, along the face of a dam or channel structure, shoreline revetments, natural stone reefs, gravel bars and rubble piles.

Those fish to move up first will be the smaller more aggressive males, who will have moved upstream into areas near where they'll spawn, when the larger females arrive.

Our guide, best known as "Hutch" has been a guide in the area for many years and knows both of the lakes like the back of his hand, and each time we shared a boat with him, had been a great time.

The first morning, we decided to launch at Big Bend on Lake Sharpe south of Pierre, as we'd heard there wasn't much going on the Cheyenne River arm because of the snowmelt coming into the river, which stirred up the river and had caused water temps to drop.

As we pulled away from the boat dock, Hutch headed the boat in the general direction of the gravel beds we'd fish on previous trips where the walleyes would be stacked up waiting for the spawn to begin.

With the cooler water temps, the bite can be slow, but it didn't seem to bother the smaller more aggressive males from



PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE

Pierre's Kent Hutcheson Hutch's Guide Service with a couple of the walleyes taken while fishing in the Pierre area.

inhaling our offerings, our light jigs tipped with either minnows or Berkley Gulp.

Hutch maneuvered the boat above the gravel beds from 9 foot out to 16 foot of water, and when his locator indicated there were fish present, he'd work the depth over, until the bite quit, then moving on until he located the next pod of fish.

Hutch loves to use light jigs bit is always using a dead rod, dragging a bottom bouncer and minnow along the bottom.

As I said previously, the aggressive males are the first to arrive and on this day, they were super aggressive, as they didn't want to miss out on the spawn, following a female anywhere, as our boat and several others found out.

When a female was on the line, the males would follow the female all the way to the surface all the way into the landing net.

As the sun rose higher and the wind left us, the shallower water became less productive as the light sensitive walleyes had slid out into deeper water.

Larry is always experimenting, throwing some really ugly baits, just to see if they'd work, some did, some didn't, but that didn't stop him from changing from one bait to another after several casts.

On final fish for our limit came around 1:30, a three man limit of 16-17" males, perfect eaters which won't harm the population as it would if we'd taken a big female.

With the appearance of the sun over the eastern horizon, we loaded up, heading for Minneconju boat launch on the Cheyenne River. Upon arriving at the boat dock, it was obvious that we weren't the only ones to have the idea as there were a dozen boat trailers parked there and two more pulling in behind us.

The boat quickly came up onto plane, and it appeared to be a perfect walleye fishing day, as temperatures were bearable, with a slight breeze rippling the water.

Hutch strategically place the boat off of one of the many points jutting out into the Cheyenne and in short order, a tap was

felt on my rod tip, indicating a fish had detected my Gulp tipped jig. Letting back on the rod, I gave it a three count, setting the hook hard, interrupting what the 16" walleye thought would be his morning snack.

Larry slipped the net under the fish just as Hutch set the hook on another, Man this looked to be another great fishing day on Oahe, one of the Great Lakes of South Dakota.

Fishing continued as it had started, except when the slight breeze from the northwest decided to become no wind, which is not good if you're a walleye angler as the ripple on the water caused by the wind, allows the light sensitive walleyes to move up shallow to feed.

The walleye gods must have heard our pleas as quickly as the breeze had ended, it was back again, only to die several times while we were on the water. When this happens, you have two chose (1) to beat the shallows to a froth, hoping to find a straggler or (2) move deep, off the points and breaks to intercept those fish that had moved deep.

Hutch, skillfully slid the boat out into the deeper water and as we dropped off, his dead rod with the bottom bouncer and minnow took a dive. Hutch grabbed the rod, set the hook and fought another 17" walleye to the boat.

Before long, we had our twelve fish limit, where we'd then switch our attention to our limits of the 15" or shorter, the bonus fish, allowed on Oahe.

As the day wore on, we caught numerous 15" plus fish, but only managed to boat one of the 15" and under bonus fish, which didn't bother us as we'd had two unbelievably beautiful days on one of South Dakota's Great Lakes where we spent quality time with friends, filmed a great show segment and caught some dandy fish.

I know you've heard it before, But it just doesn't get ant better than this!

*Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. Howey is the Producer/Host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series which can be seen on Fox affiliates throughout the upper Midwest. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the Outdoor Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3 and ESPN Sports Radio 1570. If you're looking for more outdoor information, check out [www.outdoorsmenadventures.com](http://www.outdoorsmenadventures.com) and like Outdoorsmen Adventures on Facebook.*

## OUTDOORS DIGEST

### License Raffle Nets Funds

#### For S.D. Elk

PIERRE — The annual raffle for a South Dakota elk hunting license has once again raised funds for elk management. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation raffled a 2013 Custer State Park elk hunting license which generated over \$30,000.

"All funds raised through this raffle are used for on the ground management of elk in South Dakota," said Larry Gehrke, coordinator for the South Dakota raffle for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Donald Latham of Renner won the 2013 license. Additional prizes were also awarded as part of the raffle. Robert Amor of Sioux Falls won second prize, a 7mm Remington Mag; Jim Rose of Sioux Falls won third prize, a .22 caliber pistol; and Craig Hunnel of Gettysburg won fourth prize, a .50 caliber muzzleloader.

### Gov. Janklow To Be Honored At Annual Fort Sisseton Festival

FORT SISSETON — A plaque honoring Gov. Bill Janklow will be dedicated at the annual Fort Sisseton Historical Festival in a ceremony on June 8 at 3 p.m. CDT.

The plaque will be on display next to one honoring the late State Senator Curt Jones.

"Gov. Janklow's efforts to secure funding for early restoration efforts at Fort Sisseton coupled with local support from state Senator Curt Jones, made restoration of the state park possible," said Paul Symens, Fort Sisseton Commissioner.

This plaque will serve as a living legacy of Janklow's commitment to the restoration of historic Fort Sisseton.

The Fort Sisseton Festival will be held June 7-9. Fort Sisseton Historic State Park is located 10 miles southwest of Lake City off SD Highway 10.

### Tips For Boaters To Avoid Introducing Invasive Species To Waterways

COLUMBUS, Neb. — Picking up a hitchhiker is a choice for any driver of a vehicle. But boaters may inadvertently pick up an "aquatic hitchhiker" that can cause serious problems for rivers, lakes, power companies, water utilities, and recreation users of those bodies of water.

With the Memorial Day weekend approaching, Nebraska Public Power District is asking boaters using Lake Maloney, Sutherland Reservoir, the Missouri River, or any Nebraska body of water to be aware of the potential for invasive species hitchhiking their way from one body of water to another.

NPPD is asking boaters to take certain actions this summer regarding zebra mussels which could be introduced into Nebraska's waterways, if a boat has been used in another state. Zebra mussels multiply at a rapid rate and will attach themselves to pipes or other structures, clogging the ability to intake water into a facility, such as water treatment plants or a power plant that utilizes water from reservoirs or rivers to generate electricity.

Invasive species introduced into local waters could have a negative impact on the operation of NPPD's Gerald Gentleman Station at Sutherland Reservoir, the North Platte Hydroelectric Facility, and Cooper Nuclear Station along the Missouri River.

Aquatic invasive species are non-native organisms that cause significant harm to intake structures and the ecosystem when introduced. Aquatic invasive species, such as zebra mussels, are small organisms that could have huge impacts for Nebraska's waters, boaters, and anglers. They can ruin fisheries, clog cooling systems in motor-boats, foul hulls, and damage aquatic equipment.

Once a boat has been in infested waters, it can carry zebra mussels and spread them to new habitats on boats trailed by commercial haulers or boat owners. These aquatic hitchhikers attach to boats, plants stuck on boats, bait buckets, and other aquatic recreational equipment. An adult female zebra mussel can release up to a million eggs in a year.

Boaters should clean, drain, and dry all equipment that comes into contact with the water, including trailers. If there is a place for water to collect, there is a chance that zebra mussels or other similar invasive species may be transported. Boaters should drain the bilges and live wells in their boats, and if unable to be drained, use a cup of bleach to kill any live mussels.

These tips for prevention and more are available through the Nebraska Invasive Species Project at <http://snr.unl.edu/invasives/boater.htm>.

## TROPHY SPOTLIGHT



PHOTO: CAPTAIN NORM'S

Jake Sudbeck caught this 5-pound, 10-ounce walleye and 5-pound, 8-ounce smallmouth bass.



PHOTOS: CAPTAIN NORM'S

ABOVE: Sam Marquarte caught these two walleye, weighing in at 4 pounds and 3 pounds, and this 5-pound catfish.

RIGHT: Tayler Miller caught this 43-pound, 11-ounce bighead carp while bowfishing.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Roger Bader caught this 10-pound, 1-ounce fish, which measured 30.25 inches long.

## DO YOU HAVE A PHOTO?

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To The Press & Dakotan At  
[jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net](mailto:jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net)

# Fishing Trip Good Therapy For Florida Teen With Cystic Fibrosis

BY STEVE WATERS

(c) 2013 Sun Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)

MIAMI — The first fish that Yan Andrade ever caught was a 17-pound jack crevalle that would have tested a much more experienced angler.

But the 16-year-old has never been one to back away from a fight.

Slightly built and weighing only 87 pounds, but incredibly determined, Andrade has cystic fibrosis, a disease that clogs his lungs with a thick mucus, making it difficult to breathe.

He had fished in the freshwater canals near his home, but never caught anything. So when Rob Hoopes arranged an offshore fishing trip recently on Reward Won, a 56-foot charter party boat owned by Capt. Wayne Conn, Andrade was up to the challenge.

Trolling deep-diving lures off Government Cut, Andrade was fighting his first fish, with a little help from mate

Chris Temmel, less than five minutes after Temmel had put out the lines.

The junior at Monarch High School in Coconut Creek, Fla., was a little out of breath after catching the big jack, which was released, but his big smile rivaled those of everyone else on the boat.

"I'd like to say I'm as happy as the boy right now," Conn said, "but that's impossible."

Asked about his thoughts during the fight, Andrade said: "I was thinking this fish better come up soon."

"I started reeling it in when he got tired. A few more minutes and I would have been aaaaauugggh!"

For Andrade, the fishing trip was a type of therapy, both physical and mental, and not just because he was accompanied by two massage and two respiratory therapists.

Hoopes is a nurse who specializes in massage therapy for the Pediatric Pal-

liative Care team at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, Fla. Helping critically ill patients to better manage their pain and improve their health through physical, psychological and spiritual care is a new way of thinking.

"We're hoping it can lead to better outcomes and earlier discharges," said Beth Fletcher, an integrative nurse therapist who works with Hoopes. "We've really been able to break a lot of ground with healing energy."

She said that massage helps Andrade by "opening up his muscles and his chest so he can breathe deeper."

While working with young patients, Hoopes talks to them about things they like to do and often tells them and their parents how much he enjoys fishing and how he likes to build his own fishing rods. Every Friday, he fishes on Conn's Reward drift boat at Miami Beach Marina.

"We were massaging Yan one day and he said he'd like to go fishing in the ocean," Hoopes said. "I said, 'We've got to make that happen.' First he had to gain 10 pounds to be able to come out."

When Hoopes asked Conn about taking Andrade fishing, the answer was immediate.

"I said, 'Let's make it happen,' " Conn said. "Get your support group and whatever you need, pick a nice day and we'll go fishing."

"Wayne's all about kids," Hoopes said. "It's all about making a kid's wish come true. You can't get any better than that."

"My feeling is when you do something like this in that window of energy, anything is possible."

The experience was exhilarating, if a little exhausting. When Temmel yelled "Fish on!" for the third time, Andrade's response was "Again?"

This time, it was a beauty, a 26-inch

gag grouper that Temmel estimated to be 10 pounds. Andrade, whose improved fishing form allowed him to land the fish fairly quickly, was breathing hard, but he was happy. So was everybody else.

"I love seeing kids catch their first fish," said Conn, who eight years ago organized a program where he takes kids and their parents fishing on Reward on Fridays during the summer.

The families, many of whom have never fished before, learn about tackle, conservation and how to properly handle fish. All of the fish are released.

Studies have shown that a high percentage of kids who are exposed to fishing by the age of 12 become lifelong anglers.

Count Andrade among them.

"I want to gain more weight," Andrade told Fletcher after he caught and released a fourth grouper, "so I can catch bigger fish."

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