

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Locating & Catching Fall Walleye

BY GARY HOWEY
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It may not seem like it right now, but its fall and soon the fall colors will appear with cold weather is right around the corner.

When the weather is like this, it makes late season fishing a joy, when you do not have to hit the water with three layers of heavy clothing.

Of course, if you fish in the early morning or late afternoon, it would be smart move to bring along an extra sweatshirt or jacket.

It is this time of the year when many anglers will have put their fishing gear away, pulled out their shotgun or bow and is pursuing waterfowl, grouse, archery deer and antelope.

If you are one of those, you may have made a big mistake, as



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this is the time of the year when you find the larger concentrations of walleye and sauger feeding heavily on the remaining baitfish and prey fish.

Generally, these larger concentrations move into the deeper water where the baitfish have stacked up to spend the winter.

It is during this time of the year when game fish want larger baits and when larger live baits really produce.

Finding the schools of walleye and sauger really is not very difficult this time of the year! You will need to look for them in some of the deepest water located on the lake or river.

Once you have located them, you should be able to come back year after year and find them in about these same areas. As long as the baitfish are in the general area and the structure does not change, the

predator fish like the walleye and sauger won't be far behind.

Bait presentations during this time of the year will generally be a live bait rig depending on the depth of water that the fish are using.

If you find the fish in the 20-foot range, you can still take them on a live bait rig such as a Roach rig with a large minnow.

When fishing in the fall, you will want to use a heavier slip sinker to get your bait down to the fish quickly. The fall bite might last only a short period of time, so you will not want to waste any time getting to the depth the fish are using.

You will find most of the active walleye and sauger adjacent to or a short distance off the bottom.

If your walleye are located in deeper water, the 30 to 40 or 50 feet depth, you will probably want to use a heavy jig and minnow combination.

As I mentioned before, you will want to get down quickly, this is when a three eights ounce jig can be the ticket. If you are using lighter line and have fished a jig a lot, you can get by with a one-quarter ounce jig.

Color really does not make a whole lot of difference, especially in the deep water the fish will be using as once the jig goes below where the sunlight can penetrate, everything pretty much turns black.

I still go by the old rule of thumb that any florescent color is good because florescent colors do not fade out quickly as standard colors. As far as I am concerned, any florescent color is good, with chartreuse being my favorite!

There are times when it seems like color does make a difference, I like to tip the odds in my favor; I will use a jig with a body with several colors. I like jig heads with a combination of colors that are florescent chartreuse, orange and green and I prefer a chartreuse or multi colored grub body.

If color does make a difference, I am going to have a bunch of them down there because you never know



PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE

Columnist Gary Howey is pictured with a walleye taken during the fall after he and his Team located the baitfish in the deeper holes the fish were feeding on.

what color might trip the fish's trigger on any given day.

Scent and vibration can be important when fishing deeper water; I like to use some sort of a scented body or a couple of minnows.

I have had excellent results using

the Gulp minnow grub by Berkley.

They are tough, staying on the hook longer and they release their scent so much faster than any other plastic bait, which means they really throw off a scent trail for the fish to follow in.

I have also used a couple of minnows in deep-water presentations. Hooking the first one on in the conventional way and then I will hook the second through the tail.

The minnow hooked conventionally will give off scent and the one hooked through the tail will jump all over the place giving off a vibration that draws attention to my bait.

This time of the year is when I use larger minnows because fish feeding now have eaten all of the smaller baitfish and looking for larger baits, trying to build up for the winter.

Since the water temperature this time of year has cooled down considerably, you will want to work your baits slowly, keeping them in contact with the bottom as much as possible.

When you do come off the bottom, keep your line tight, allowing you to detect those subtle bites, when a walleye is not gulping down your bait but is simply sucking it in.

If you are looking for big fish, this is the time of the year you will find them. If the weather stays, the way it is you will not have to fight the weather and will be able to concentrate on finding and fighting those larger late season fish.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb. is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. He is the Producer/Host of the award winning *Outdoorsmen Adventures* television series, seen locally in Channels 2 and 98 at Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:00 am. It airs on Saturdays at 6:30 am and on the MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. The show can be seen in nine states in the upper Midwest He and Simon Fuller Co-Host the *Outdoor Adventures* radio program on Classic Hits 106.3, ESPN Sports Radio 1570 in South-eastern South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska. In Northwest Iowa, it airs on KCHE 92.1 FM. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Brian Nielsen Fishing Tournament Oct. 24

The eighth annual Brian Nielsen Fishing Tournament will be held Saturday, Oct. 24 at Lewis & Clark Lake. All proceeds raised will be donated to local charities.

Meeting and registration will be held at 7:30 a.m. at the Weigand Boat Docks. The tournament will begin at 8 a.m. and a weigh-in will be held at 4 p.m.

An entry fee includes one free buffet for each fisherman at C.J.'s at the Lake, and cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place (with a prize awarded in the big fish contest).

For more information, contact Julie and Mark Nielsen at 664-1072 or 665-9522.

Salmon Station Open For Egg Collection

PIERRE - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) fisheries staff have opened the Whitlock Bay Salmon Spawning Station for the 2015 season.

"We are still in the rebuilding stages of the salmon population following the 2011 flood," stated Robert Hanten, GFP fisheries biologist. "Juvenile salmon stocked in the years following the flood likely experienced low survival due to high predator numbers and low prey abundance. The below-average number of adult female salmon will make collection efforts challenging this fall."

Hanten continued to state that the majority of the salmon caught this summer were 10- to 20-pound fish that were in great condition. Larger females contain more eggs meaning the egg-take goal could be met with fewer fish.

Fisheries crews will be electrofishing on Lake Oahe in an attempt to capture additional adult salmon for spawning.

Chinook salmon do not naturally reproduce in Lake Oahe and would not exist there without the efforts of GFP staff collecting eggs, rearing and stocking them back into the lake for anglers to enjoy. Each year juvenile Chinook salmon are stocked in middle and lower Lake Oahe. They then disperse throughout the reservoir until they become sexually mature. The water flowing down the fish ladder attracts mature salmon to the station where GFP staff collect, sort and spawn the fish.

Whitlock Bay Salmon Station is located 18 miles northwest of Gettysburg by West Whitlock Recreation Area. Group tours can also be arranged by calling 605.223.7681.

50th Buffalo Roundup Shatters Attendance Record

CUSTER - Over 21,000 people were on hand Friday to witness the 50th annual Buffalo Roundup in Custer State Park. Last year, the park hosted just over 14,000 spectators.

The American Bus Association listed the Buffalo Roundup as their top event this year, and motor coaches in attendance increased from 29 in 2014 to 35 in 2015.

Custer State Park also hosted its three-day arts festival in conjunction with the Buffalo Roundup. Picture perfect weather brought good crowds to view collections from 115 exhibitors. Non-stop entertainment and on-going educational programs provided a great line up for guests.

The annual Roundup serves as a tool to help manage the park's buffalo herd. About 200 buffalo will be sold at the park's annual auction on Saturday, Nov. 21.

For additional information on the auction, contact the park at 605.255.4515 or email CusterStatePark@state.sd.us.

S.D. Develops Drought Mitigation Plain

The State of South Dakota has developed a Drought Mitigation Plan under the guidance of the State Drought Task Force. The plan is the first of its kind in the State to specifically address drought mitigation. The draft plan is currently available for public review and comment prior to finalizing the document this fall. The plan was developed to provide a strategy for the State of South Dakota to reduce the impacts of drought over the short and long term.

There are two major components of the plan: the mitigation strategy and vulnerability assessment.

The drought vulnerability assessment discusses the past and potential impacts to six sectors that include agriculture, health and socioeconomic, tourism, water resources, wildland fire, and wildlife.

The mitigation strategy outlines the goals of the plan and specific action items intended to meet those goals. The mitigation actions are intended to be implemented in the future by various state agencies and can occur during drought and non-drought times.



PHOTO: T.J.'S MINIMART

Andrew Schieffer caught this 7-pound, 8-ounce fish at the Missouri River on Sept. 26.

FOUR-DIMENSIONAL BREAST CARE

Digital Mammography + Targeted Chemotherapy = Karin's Avera Story



avera | Karin's Story

"I had no family history. I had no reason to think that I would have cancer. I'm in perfect health. But cancer doesn't discriminate."

Avera

See Karin's story at
Avera.org/mammo

With 3-D mammogram technology, Avera has added a new dimension to its services. **Our innovative fourth dimension of care encompasses a mind, body, spirit approach** to working with you. This is in line with our health ministry and the entire breast care program, which uses breast care technology only available in our region at Avera. We tackle breast cancer diagnosis, treatment and support with the belief that every woman is unique. Avera — breast care that's as multidimensional as you. Talk to your primary care provider to see if a 3-D mammogram is right for you.