

Hi fellow fishermen, hope you have all been able to get out this winter and get in on the hot ice fishing. Trout, pike, walleye, panfish, and even a few muskies have been pulled through the ice in north Iowa recently. It just seems to be a great winter if you know where to locate the fish. I was taught another lesson about location in a 1-12-08 fishing tournament on Clear Lake. On 1-11 I went over and pre-fished and had a great day catching walleyes and yellow bass on a variety of offerings. Then for the tournament we were limited to a very small area to fish, about 50 yds by 50 yds and this was for 95 contestants. The area was basically a mud flat in about 8 ft of water. Not at all where the fish wanted to be. Outside of two undersized walleye, nothing was caught. Shows the importance of knowing where to fish. Can mean the difference between a great day and going home empty handed. For Clear Lake right now concentrate around the aerators, farmers beach, and the reef line out from the Island to Dodges point. A small jig or spoon with a whole small minnow seemed to work best for me. Make sure you are plenty deep, I was catching fish in 15 ft of water. Big Blue is still hot as ever on the trout, I've had no trouble pulling out limits, and am still seeing some real bruisers! For crappie and bluegill, Fin and Feather Lake and Bluebill wildlife area have been good. I haven't heard of a lot of perch activity on Rice Lake but do know of at least on 6 lb walleye about a week ago. So get out, make sure you are on the fish, and pull em in! Enjoy yourself, most of all!