

Boom! Fish on! Can't tell you how many times I've uttered that phrase lately. This has possibly been the best spring I can remember for walleye fishing in North Iowa. I'm writing this after catching a limit in about 20 minutes. Limits of fish seem to be a pretty consistent thing this spring regardless where in you have been fishing. I would say Clear Lake has been the easiest as far as numbers with the biggest trophy fish coming from our rivers.

Limits of 18 to 23 fish, thrown in with occasional trophies up to 9-11 lbs and I really think it would be hard to rival the fishing this spring anywhere. For the rivers, they are still quite high with the rains and this is continuing to make the walleye fishing predictable. I have only had time to fish the Winnebago, but I hear the same reports from other fishermen on the Shellrock and Cedar. Continue to concentrate below the dams and especially at the tributary streams, even fishing up in them if you can. A lot of nice fish head up these streams during high water conditions.

As for Clear Lake, where aren't there walleyes? The west end around the grade has been great as has Dodges Point, around the Island, and almost any of the reefs. So far it has just been a great year for Clear Lake walleyes. The walleyes are getting more aggressive now after the spawn so start switching to bigger baits. ¼ oz jigs with 3? twister tails tipped with a minnow, crankbaits, or a whole nightcrawler or even a chub bait fishing right now will all produce results. For all you pan fisherman, the yellow bass are in full force now at the lake as well. Try Dodges Point, the Island, the outlet reef, or any docks that the wind is blowing into on the big lake. 30-40 fish an hour should be the norm rather than the exception right now. For these go with very small 1/16 oz jigs and twisters, or very small spinners. Another option is a small piece of nightcrawler or minnow on a bare hook. Right now the key is finding them, if you find them you will catch them, so if you have no action in 10-15 minutes move on. Catfish are starting to heat up in the rivers as well. With the high water, nightcrawlers are a great choice for bait. So you have a lot of options on what to go catch, the only mistake can be staying home. So, get out and catch some fish, Best of luck!