

Summer is near, whether it feels like it or not. And while the weather has been cool nothing could be further from the truth in describing how hot the fishing action has been. I don't mean to sound redundant but walleyes have definitely been the main name of the game so far this spring fishing and I can't think of a better place than Clear Lake. I know a lot of people who have very little experience in walleye fishing that are having no trouble limiting out this year. Some fish are starting to move deeper but there are still a lot of fish up shallow. You just can't go wrong it seems. Small minnows have really been the hot bait lately whether fishing them on a lindy rig, jig, or below a slip bobber. I would encourage people to try the jig and minnow option more for no other reason than to improve the survival rate of the short fish and other fish you choose to put back. Also make sure you are obeying all daily and possession limits. No need to overstock your freezer, besides it's more fun to make more trips out and the fresh fish always taste better anyway. Along with the walleye, there is quite a yellow bass bite going on over at Clear Lake, concentrate on the east end of the lake and the north shore of the main lake on days with a south wind. Very small jigs with a small piece of cut bait are the ticket here. A few catfish are being caught at Ventura Grade along with some nice bullheads in the 14 inch range. With the rains we have had recently the rivers have risen but those willing to work at it a little will still find some decent smallmouths and northern pike in the Winnebago and Cedar rivers. Jigs tipped with small minnows are the best bait going right now. A few walleye are also being picked up in the Cedar. The trout fishing is still phenomenal in almost all of the trouts streams I have visited. Along with the put and take rainbows, there have been a decent amount of put and grow browns that are starting to get up there in size. It is always a bonus to catch these wild trout. Catfish have been biting well in the Winnebago river from reports I have heard on chubs or nightcrawlers. I have been pretty busy walleye fishing but will get out soon and give this a try. I also expect the bluegill fishing to start picking up with the summer heat as summer progresses. They should be up on there spawning beds by the end of June, a good target for fly or spin fisherman alike. As always, good luck, Mike.