

Oct 16th, 2009

Late fall fishing report and open water season wrap up. What a year it's been, was able to have another very successful year fishing and guiding while meeting some great people and making friends along the way. Had quite an array of clients from a fellow fishing guide in Texas to an African native Gilbert Sambalyegula who had never been fishing before. Another great trip was being able to take part of the 50/50 event, fishing 50 states in 50 days with the Turners. Jeff and Taylor are great people and I think the trip with them was probably one of the funnest times I've had fishing on what really wasn't that good of a fishing day. But enough of that, I'm putting out this report to help you catch some fish, so here are my best bets right now.

Northern Pike-If these are in your wheelhouse, get out there now! They have been going wild in our interior rivers for the past month and should continue until ice up. The Cedar has been hot, with the Winnebago and Shellrock a close second and third. The best thing about them is they have been real quality fish, we are talking fish in the 30-34 inch range! If Pike aren't your thing, how about heading a little north and getting in on some perch action on Rice and Silver Lake. If the fall action is any indication, This years ice fishing action should be red hot! Walleye-the fishing has been slow as it has most of the year except for about a month in June. But if you are willing to put in the time some quality fish are still caught every fall, I did catch more fish in the 8-10 lb range than any other this year so I would advice using some big baits and trying for a lunker, the numbers aren't there to try for a lot of fish anyway so might as well go big and get a trophy! Trout-They are biting fast as always, went to the Waterloo last week and probably counted 300 hungry fish in about a half a mile, you just gotta get out there and give them a shot, black hair jig in the 16th oz was the hot ticket!

One more tip, with the weather getting colder, time to get that ice fishing gear ready. Change your line, sharpen those hooks and ice blades, and be ready for the fish to bite, the ice fishing season is coming soon! Good luck and good fishing everybody! Mike.