

ICE FISHING REPORT NUMBER 5

1/27/2011



SAFETY REMINDER: DEP reminds winter anglers that **SAFETY COMES FIRST!** Be aware that ice thickness varies on all water bodies due to a number of environmental factors including in-lake water circulatory patterns, snow cover and the type and amounts of recent precipitation. Please check the ice carefully before venturing out and check repeatedly to make sure that ice thickness is sufficient. Local bait and tackle shops are often excellent resources for the most current information on ice conditions. Always let someone know where you are going and when you'll return.

ICE FISHING REPORT

This winter has been great for ice formation, so anglers are finding generally abundant ice cover. However, anglers should be aware that this month's record snows have impacted access to some lakes and ponds throughout the state, with a number of access and parking areas currently buried in several feet of snow.

Check out the new feature on the last page - "TUCKER® GOES FISHING"

TROUT – For trout fishing try East Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Bigelow Pond, Black Pond (Woodstock), West Hill Pond, Mohawk Pond and West Side Pond.

ATLANTIC SALMON – A 9 pound salmon was caught at Crystal Lake this past weekend. Places to try for these excellent fighters at Crystal Lake (Ellington), Mount Tom Pond and Mashapaug Lake.

YELLOW PERCH – Good reports for these tasty fish from West Thompson Reservoir, Wethersfield Cove, Candlewood Lake, Coventry Lake, Highland Lake, Long Pond (Salisbury), Gardner Lake, Nod Brook WMA, French's Cove (Lake Zoar -Oxford), Lake Waramaug, Kenosia Lake, Bishop Pond, Silver Lake, Beach Pond and Park Pond. Jumbo yellow perch are starting to show up!

NORTHERN PIKE – Best reports are from Quaddick Reservoir where catches include four 13-17 lb pike (36.5 to 38 inchfish) for one angler, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Bantam Lake, Pachaug Pond, Hamilton Reservoir and the coves along the Connecticut River.

WALLEYE – These are some of the best tasting freshwater fish going! Catches reported last week from Gardner Lake, Coventry Lake and Mashapaug Lake. With a number of big fish caught in the last year, one group of anglers is certain that a new state record fish will be caught this season.

LARGEMOUTH/SMALLMOUTH BASS – Good bass action was reported at Silver Lake, Candlewood Lake, Pachaug Pond, Highland Lake, Hamilton Reservoir, Black Pond (Meriden), Halls Pond, Ball Pond, coves along the Connecticut River, Mudge Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Bigelow Pond, Kenosia Lake and Black Pond (Woodstock).

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE



DEP'S ANNUAL FAMILY ICE FISHING DERBY IS SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW, SATURDAY, JANUARY, 29TH, 8 am to 11 am at the Lodge & Senior Center at Patriot's Park on Coventry Lake (Lake Wangumbaug), Lake Street, Coventry. Warm up lodge w/coffee, donuts, and hot chocolate. Children and adults are invited to join the fun. Prizes for children 15 years old and under. Dress for cold weather: winter coat, hat, gloves, warm socks, and waterproof boots. Sneakers are not recommended. Bring your sleds, footballs, family and friends for a fun filled morning of ice fishing.

PANFISH - Early mornings are the best for these winter favorites, jigging with corn or grubs on your favorite lure while moving from place to place is the way to go for these delicious fish. Locations to try include Silver Lake, Bantam Lake, Highland Lake, Lake Waramaug, Bashan Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), Crystal Lake (Ellington), Ball Pond, the Connecticut River coves, Silver Lake (Meriden), Kenosia Lake and Red Cedar Lake.

CHAIN PICKEREL – Areas to try for this traditional winter favorite include Highland Lake, Silver Lake, Halls Pond, West Twin Lake, Mudge Pond, Hayward Lake and Dog Pond. Fish up to 24 inches caught last week.

TIPS & TRICKS FOR WINTER WALLEYE

- ❖ Walleye are light sensitive, best bite is in low light conditions/deep water.
- ❖ They will often move into the shallows in low light to feed.
- ❖ Active walleye will run 3' off the bottom, set tipup/jig 4' off the bottom at lease.
- ❖ Start in deeper water (25') and then move shallow as it gets darker.
- ❖ After sunset fish in 12-15 feet of water.
- ❖ Study the lake map and fish near structure.
- ❖ Fish near structure or weed lines.
- ❖ Work edges in different depths until fish are found.
- ❖ Be very quite on the ice around the holes.
- ❖ If a walleye feels any pressure it will drop the bait.
- ❖ Be pro-active clean holes, check bait, jig & hooks.
- ❖ The old standby is the Swedish Pimple tipped with a minnow.
- ❖ Use a swivel 8-10# mono leader, small hook & split shot so the line will just sink.
- ❖ For large walleye try a big minnow (3-5").
- ❖ Use a dead stick in a hole nearby.
- ❖ Place a few beads on the line just above a hook tipped with a small shiner.
- ❖ Use a combination of two pinks and a chartreuse bead.
- ❖ Instead of using a bead on a line try using it on the hook.
- ❖ Use a rubber beads so you can slip it on the hook. Vary your rigs

COOKING WALLEYE BY GRANDMA 'G'

(submitted by 'KenDOdoubleG')

INGREDIENTS

A sleeve of Keebler Club Cracker
One cup of milk
1 Tablespoon butter
1 Teaspoon Extra Virgin Olive Oil
1 teaspoon flour
1 teaspoon paprika
1-2 lbs Walleye fillets

Mix together

1 teaspoon flour
1 teaspoon paprika
Add a little garlic powder (not garlic salt, the crackers make the mix salty enough)


In a food processor coarse grind the crackers, add the mix from above and put all of it into a zip lock bag.

Coat the fish in the milk and then into the bag & shake well. Put the fish into a pan over med/high heat with butter and a splash of olive oil and pan fry until it is golden brown.

Enjoy.

TUCKER® GOES FISHING



Fishing! Fishing! We're going fishing! O'Boy. O'Boy. I can't wait. We're going fishing! We're going to catch some walleye. What's a walleye? I don't care. We're going fishing! It's going to be fun running around in the snow and meeting people. I love people, especially the kids. They all want to scratch me behind the ears. Oh, that's the spot. Then I get to see them have fun catching fish with their families. There should be "No Child Left Inside"  when you can have fun like this.

Put something on the ice and cook it with Grandma 'G's' instructions.



Make a kid smile. 'T'

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