

August 26, 2009

Hello Everybody:

Cool weather has been a bonus for us fishermen. I've heard from some of you that our walleye have continued to bite throughout the summer. The catfish always seem to be hungry. It is still a mystery as to where our white bass have gone, although I did catch a 15 incher in June. If you catch a white bass, please let us know. The 2009 biologist report is attached for your review. Some of you are new to the lake, so please review the rules regarding **catch-and-release!**

Ever wonder what lies beneath the waves at Big Sandy? Now you can find out. We purchased a topographical lake map showing depths and the underwater terrain. It can be found on our website, www.bigsandylake.net.

To Summarize....

Our biologist estimates that 30-40% of the fish flesh in Big Sandy is tied up in white perch. This is a huge percentage! The white perch decimate the nests, small fry and fingerlings of all species. This results in reduced size, quantity and quality of sport fish in the lake.

The walleye and largemouth bass that were stocked over the last few years have survived and are filling a void caused by the white perch.

Our biologist recommends continuing to stock predator sport fish and installing habitat. We will do both.

Big Sandy Fishing Rules.....

We ask everyone's help enforcing the rules in order to make Big Sandy a fantastic fishing lake.

1) **All White bass, largemouth bass, walleye, wiper and catfish must be released after being caught.** However, catfish under 18" can be kept. According to our lake biologist, catfish under 18" have little if any effect in combating white perch, therefore we are allowing some catfish under 18" to be harvested. Limit on catfish under 18" is 5 per day per household.

2) A combination limit of 20 crappie/bluegill per household per day may be taken from the lake. My personal preference is to release crappie or bluegill over 14 inches.

3) Please remove from the lake and dispose of all gar, carp, buffalo (looks like a carp), carpsucker (looks like a carp) and white perch.

4) Live bait is permitted. Do not dispose of unused live bait in the lake.

5) Do not dispose of fish carcasses in the lake.

6) As you know, only boats that are owned by lot owners or homeowners are allowed on the lake! Make sure your watercraft display the Big Sandy decal and lot numbers. **We continually run-off trespassers.** Some trespassers have the nerve to launch their boat and fish our lake. I personally have called the Saunders County Sheriff twice. Feel free to call our state conservation officer to report trespassing or any other crime. State conservation officers have authority to prosecute all crimes.

**State Conservation Officer for Big Sandy – Mike Leuben 443-4278 or 658-7055
Saunders County Sheriff Department – 24 hr. dispatch # 443-1000**

A recommendation from our biologist..... If a fish swallows your hook, its only chance of survival is to cut the hook from the line or lure and leave the hook in the fish and release it.

White Perch and Sport Fish Identification

A way to tell the difference between a white bass and a white perch is to look at the dorsal and anal fin(s) of the fish. A white bass will have 3 spines on the anal fin that "stair step" down.

<http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/fishing/guides/identification/printfish.asp?FishID=42>

The white perch has 3 spines as well, but the 2 largest spines are roughly the same size.

Also, the white bass has 2 distinct dorsal fins that are not connected. The dorsal fin is on top and is largest fin(s) on the fish. White perch will have a thin membrane that connects the 2 dorsal fins.

<http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/fishing/guides/identification/printfish.asp?FishID=45> White perch rarely get over 10 inches long. White bass can reach 20 inches or more.

Largemouth

Bass. <http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/fishing/guides/identification/printfish.asp?FishID=46>

Walleye.

<http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/fishing/guides/identification/printfish.asp?FishID=58>

Wiper. <http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/fishing/guides/identification/printfish.asp?FishID=44>

Catfish.

<http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/fishing/guides/identification/printfish.asp?FishID=36>