

From The Helm...

2011 Newsletter – Javafish Charters

Wow! Time flies! We are on the verge of another fishing season. If you are like me, winter cannot be over fast enough. While my passion is to fish Walleye and Salmon from a boat, I try to keep my fishing skills honed by chasing winter Steelhead. This is not a sport for everyone.

What is new since last season? There are several new and exciting developments since last year. Probably the most significant are the upgrades currently occurring on the “Kingfisher”. I commissioned a glass shop to update 40% of the boat’s core to a synthetic material called Seacast. In essence, they removed the wood and replaced it with a substitute that is stronger and will not rot. I am also upgrading the autopilot. While there are more updates ahead, these projects were substantive and certainly needed.



This picture (left) shows the project in full swing. It is difficult to tell this is the boat minus a back deck. Although not clearly visible, all that you see is no longer wood. Since this picture was taken, the back deck of the boat has been reinstalled.

After fishing on many different charter boats since 1989, I am still a believer that there is no finer boat for chartering in the Great Lakes than the 32' Coastal. With such repairs, this boat has a long life ahead of it.

What to expect this year?

Our Walleye season will kick off April 16th this year and run through August 1 at Toledo Beach Marina. While June and July have historically been the most popular months to fish, I have not been chartering during the best times for trophy Walleye – Spring and Fall.

During April and early May, I will be offering jig fishing trips. It is a deadly method to employ this time of year. Trolling is also another option if your group is not interested in being hands-on.

If you are like most of my clients, you probably fish with me in June or early July. These two months remain the most consistent time of year to produce great, if not limit, Walleye catches. As you plan your trip, also consider making your trip a Perch/Walleye combo. In 2009, the Perch fishing went from good to stellar and continues to date. On most days we can accommodate combo trips. In the past, I did not encourage these trips because of inconsistent perch fishing. After seeing the results from 2010, I am confident this is a good value for your dollar.

As in years past, we will see good fishing with a mix of several sizes of fish. We are currently at a low point in fish populations, which could result in either Michigan and/or Ohio reducing the daily species limit of Walleye. This is a very political subject, and one that could turn out to have an impact on how many fish you can take home. Limits will be set until the end of March. If there are limit reductions, I would advise you consider a Walleye/Perch combo trip if you want to maximize your value.

In early August, I plan to move the boat to Huron, OH (just east of Cedar Point) to begin targeting trophy Walleye and Perch. This port offers outstanding fishing through ice-up. Huron is best described as a quantity and trophy Walleye fishery all in one. Ten-pound Walleye are not uncommon, and Perch run larger as well. While limit catches occur, it is more typical to land 10-20 large Walleye in a trip. We will fish one trip a day for 8 hours, departing at 7:30 – 8:00 am, and would structure the trip based upon your preference. From the south end of Detroit, it is a two-hour drive to the dock.

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I am planning to hold the same rates as in the past, though it may not be possible if gas becomes too expensive. If you are unable to pull together a group of four or more to go fishing, I am planning to run a trip or two this year where I will combine groups. Please contact me for more information.

Scheduling for me is always a balancing act. For the most part, I fish weekends and then take a week or more off in June. There are many exceptions to this rule, too.

Bryce Reckling is planning to return for another summer of fishing. He is now in his senior year at Dakota High School and is planning to attend Michigan State University in the fall. He is an outstanding first mate and a son his late father would be proud of. If Bryce is unavailable, Ryan Schley and Dale Guenther are my two top picks for a first mate.

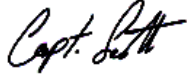


Here is a great picture of Ryan Schley holding up nice Perch, which were caught near Turtle Island in Michigan waters.

On a sad note, we are losing another longtime Captain at our dock. Bernie Shellman has officially retired from chartering. In the past few years, he and Captain Wayne Smith had combined their businesses. Captain Wayne primarily fishes on Lake Michigan, and comes to Toledo Beach usually 1-2 weeks a year to fish with long-time Walleye customers. Due to this change with Bernie, Wayne will be working with us during the last week in June. While saddened to see Bernie retire, this does offer you more options to go fishing with us.

Lastly, we appreciate your business and your referrals.

Thank you,



Captain Scott
Javafish Charters