

Arlington Anglers

Temps. Make the Difference



Bob Diebold
Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

Ice out, shallow bays, incoming creeks, summer doldrums, thermo-clines, turn-over . . .

What do these terms have to do with fishing? There are obvious two answers: a) water temperature, and b) everything!

The Arlington Anglers heard that clear and accurate message at their April meeting from Nick Cammarata. Nick is one of the most accomplished and respected muskie guides on the Fox Chain and operates the Muskie Sucker Guide Services (www.muskysucker.com).

Nick drove home the important concept modifying your muskie fishing techniques based on water temperature. There are a lot of other variables, but being cognizant of the water temperature is critical to one's muskie success.

Early in the spring, the water temp is cold, so guess what? Troll slow! Don't be afraid to troll some of smaller favorite lures like a J11 Rapala or your old bassing Rattletrap. Start small in the spring up until the water reached 70 degrees. Troll slowly down in the 2.7 to 3.0 range. Also think about that water temp not at the surface, but down where the fish are.

Think about some other factors too. Commotion and vibrations cause strikes from muskies. That's why those large bladed lures like the Cow-Girls and DC10s are so successful. Do those "Figure 8s" religiously. Maybe those fish get used to the straight retrieves.

In the early summer when temps get above 65 degrees, a high percentage of the muskies are taken in the top 8 feet of water, even though the thermo-cline is setting up at 15-20 feet down. Try trolling Lip Slammers, Believers, Super Shad Raps, Little Ernies, or even Spoon Plugs. Spread some of those lines away from the boat using trolling boards.

Thinks about replacing those metal leaders with a heavy (80-120#) fluorocarbon leader. During the month of July, the water temps

get up in the 72-74 degree range. The muskies start feeding on bigger fish like drum, so move up to a little bigger lure: 10" Believers, Stalkers, Grandmas, etc. In the heat of the summer, get out your top water lures. They work better in cloudy conditions, but don't be afraid to use top water all day long. Try: Top Raiders, Pace Makers, Top Walkers,, Jack pots, etc. If you are trolling, don't be afraid to step it up to the 5.5 to 7 mph range.

As the temps start to drop in the fall, try some lures that dart back and forth like the Suick, Phantom, or Hell Hound. The Chain muskies for what ever reason won't eat straight returns at this time. Does that mean I have to put my buck tail back in the Tackle box When the water gets cold, live suckers for bait become the big ticket. Use a quick release rig to protect the fish from serious injury. When the water gets really cold with the freezing temps over night, the lake turns over, the thermo-cline is gone, and the fish can be anywhere: top, bottom, shallow, trolling, who knows?

Besides temperature, Nick says "Confidence is King" in muskie fishing. Study the current lake conditions, maps, electronics, and reports, but then go with the techniques and lure selection in which you have confidence. It makes a big difference!

May is a great time for getting together with some new fishing buddies, learning some new techniques, as you get ready to hit

the open water. You have a no-risk opportunity to see first hand what a club can do for you.

Attend our Arlington Angler's meeting on May 18th. There will be a \$50 gift certificate door prize. Reps from the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the US Power Squadron will provide safety tips for the upcoming boating season plus free safety checks for your boats in the parking lot. Safety stickers will be issued to boats that pass the safety check.

Dates to remember: April 29-May 2 - Outing at Clinton Lake and Camp Quest; May 8 - Outing on Lake Michigan out of Waukegan for Perch; May 18 - Meeting Program by Coast Guard Auxiliary and US Power Squadron; June 12 - Outing on Lake Delavan (County Park Launch); June 15 - Meeting and Speaker—Bruce Marabella on Walleye Techniques; June 26 - Outing on Lake Michigan and Navy Pier for Perch (launch at Diversey); July



Junior Angler Tommy Maloney holds an armful of 35" muskie caught in April on Lake Marie.
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS

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20 -Meeting with Manufacturer's Reps.

Come to one of our meetings to find out more about our club, activities and outings.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. We meet at Dick's Sports Store (Flr.1-NW) near Woodfield Shopping Center in Schaumburg, IL, .5 miles north of Higgins, on Martingale Road. Door prizes, speaker, raffles, fishing reports: Give it a try!

For further information call our President Tom Curtin at 847-639-7858 or visit our website at <http://arlingtonanglers.com>



Arlington Angler Gerry Lopez holds a beautiful LM perch caught out of Waukegan. He likes to call them: "walleyes with stripes". PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS