

**FALL
FISHING!**

SIMPLE STEPS TO FINE FISHING

the In-Fisherman®

THE JOURNAL OF FRESHWATER FISHING

Book #102 ⇄ September/October
NOVEMBER '91

**WIN!
FISHING PRIZES!**

SUMMER STRATEGIES

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THE JOURNAL OF FRESHWATER FISHING

Book #108 ⇄ June/July
AUGUST

**FISHING
CONTROVERSY! See p. 44!**

EARLY SEASON TACTICS

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Book #112 ⇄ MARCH '93

**FISHING
RIP-OFF! See p. 46!**

RECORD FISH 1992

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THE JOURNAL OF FRESHWATER FISHING

Book #113 ⇄ APRIL '93

ADVENTURES

FEATURE TRAVEL TIPS FROM IN-FISHERMAN STAFF AND FRIENDS

FRENCH RIVER COUNTRY WALLEYES . . . AND MORE

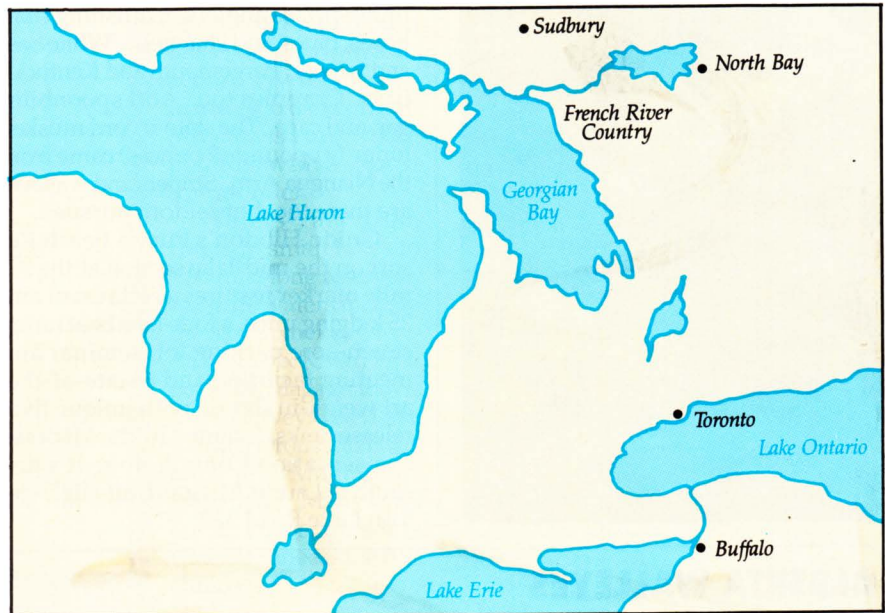
"The Delta" of French River Country, 220 miles north of Toronto, Ontario, rests at the confluence of the largest tributaries and fish nurseries of Georgian Bay. The rivers form swift-flowing pools.

By July, walleyes follow alewives from Georgian Bay. Troll crankbaits to trigger fish. Look for 20-pound-class pike along "the Bay" and in the rivers and backwaters.

In July and August, weeds and rocks attract muskies built like overstuffed sausages. In these stained waters, topwaters and black bucktails with fluorescent blades are my favorite lures.

Five lodges service this government-protected area. Bear's Den Lodge has the best of everything. Contact Art Barefoot, 705/857-2757 (summer) and 814/839-2443 (winter).

John Field



LAKE ONTARIO STEELIES

The news on Lake Ontario is the population of 16- to 21-pound steelhead. Spawned-out fish migrate offshore from the Niagara River and smaller lake tributaries. Steelies seek food accumulating at temperature breaks that can form from late May to early July.

Breaks develop early a few miles out and in midlake in summer. During early season, try stickbaits like fluorescent J13 Rapalas and hot pink or orange Steelie Warts behind planer boards. Use downriggers, sliders, and Dipseys with small spoons like the Pirate 44 and NK-C5. Later, when steelies are on down breaks, use diving planers to present spoons.

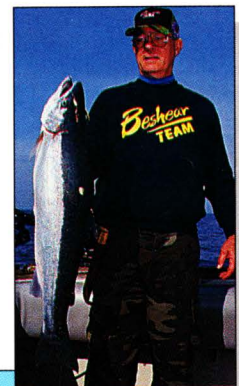
The west end of Ontario offers favorable prevailing breezes during these periods. The ports—Wilson, Olcott, and Point Breeze—have good public launches and top charters.

For accommodations and information call Niagara County Tourism and Sportfishing at 800/338-7890, or Fishing Hotline, 716/433-5606. For the Orleans County Tourism Board call 716/589-7004. Their Fishing Hotline is

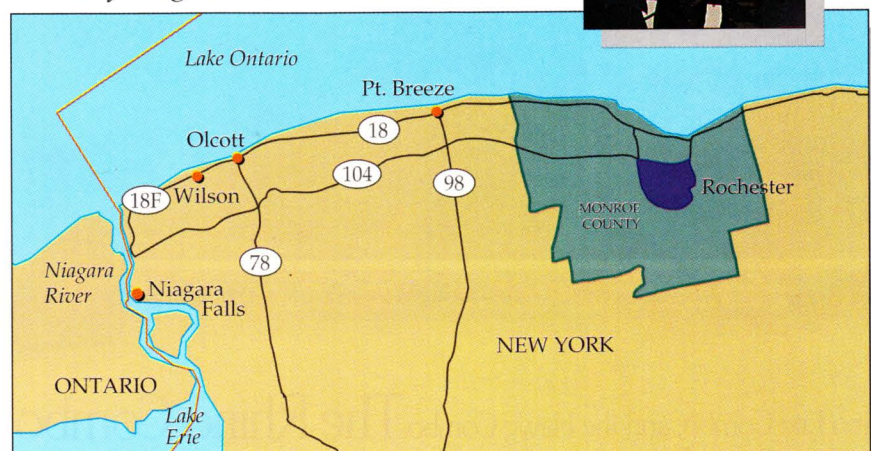
716/682-4223.

Charters: Captain John Oravec, Tight Lines Charters, 716/682-5537; and Vincent Pierleoni, Thrillseeker Charters, 716/682-3287. Near Point Breeze, Ward's Bed and Breakfast, 716/682-3037, is comfortable and priced right.

John Field



Miles of Magnum Lake Ontario Steelhead!



EASTERN LAKE ONTARIO WALLEYES

Another big discovery of Great Lakes walleyes. Shoals and islands in eastern Lake Ontario host fish averaging 5 to 7 pounds, and 10- to 13-pounders were caught last season.

At the season opener, the first Saturday in May, walleyes usually are moving from estuary spawning sites such as Bay of Quinte, bays in the St. Lawrence, Mud Bay, Chaumont Bay, and the Black River into open bays like Guffin Bay near Chaumont, New York. In June, they move to shore points like those on the west end of Wolfe Island, Ontario, or Grenadier Island.

Later, look for walleyes on almost

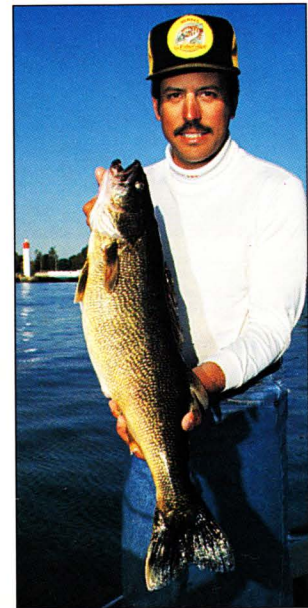
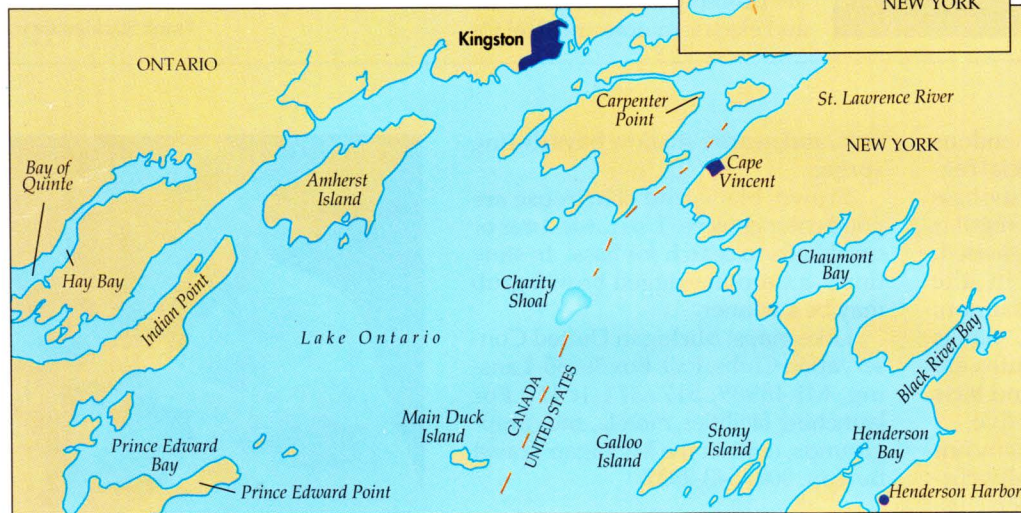
every shoal. Key spots have been Charity Shoal and South Charity Shoal, reaching from Cape Vincent and Mud Bay, New York, and Galloo Island and Stony Island from Henderson Harbor, Chaumont, and Sacketts Harbor, New York.

Lake Ontario boasts crystal-clear water. Early in the season when the fish are shallow, fish mainly during low light. During summer, try planer boards, downriggers, or crankbaits that dive into the 20- to 40-foot levels

during the day; troll or cast the shallows at night.

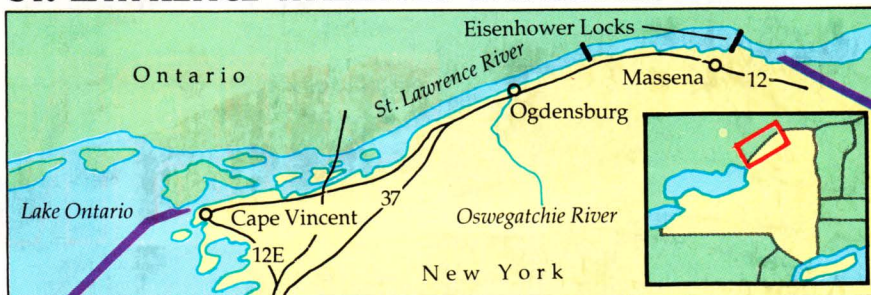
For charters, launches, and accommodations, contact the Lake Ontario Thousand Islands Association, Watertown, New York, 315/788-4400.

John Field



Another Booming Great Lakes Walleye Fishery?

ST. LAWRENCE WALLEYES & MUSKIES



Habitat studies, stocking, and regulations on the St. Lawrence River have apparently led to a rebound in the number of 10-pound walleyes and giant muskies. Fall is the best time for these lunker walleyes and bruiser muskies. Fishing for small-mouth and largemouth bass is also top then.

On the big open water at Cape

Vincent, New York, hire an experienced captain if you're unfamiliar with the area or don't own a large boat. Phone Captain John Oravec at Tight Lines Charters, 716/659-2510. For accommodations, contact the Cape Vincent Chamber of Commerce at 315/654-2481.

The fertile Oswegatchie River and major sand bar at Ogdensburg pro-

duce lots of walleyes and muskies despite fishing pressure. For fishing information and guides, phone Hank Bouchard at St. Lawrence Sports, 315/393-1032. Contact the Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce at 315/393-3620 for accommodations.

Each year, big walleyes and big muskies are taken from the area downriver from the Iroquois Dam to the Eisenhower Lock. At Waddington, the river is swift and winding. At Massena, it's wide and island studded. For accommodations at Waddington, contact The Riverview, 315/388-5912. In Massena, call the Greater Massena Chamber of Commerce, 315/769-3525.

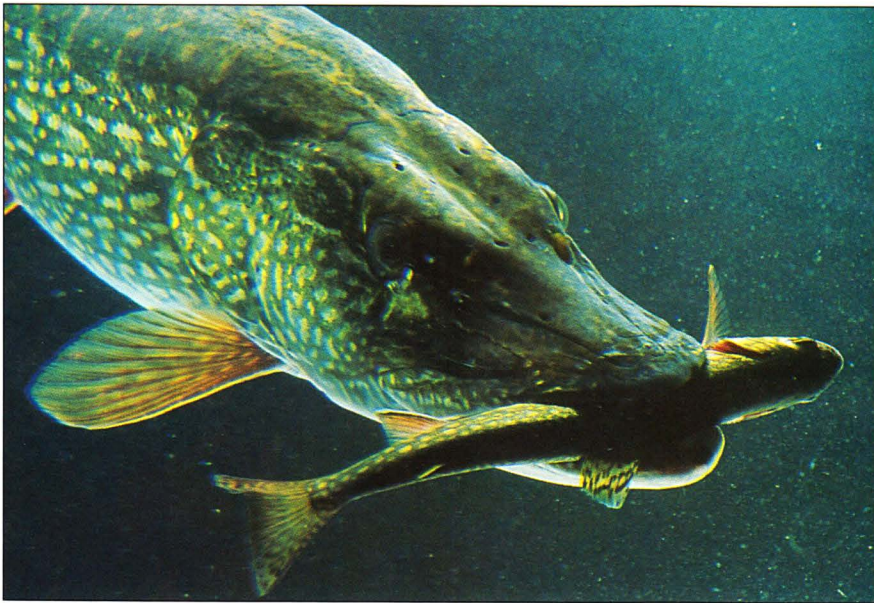
John L. Field

BITS & PIECES

BLENDING FISHERY SCIENCE WITH EVERYDAY FISHING

by Ralph Manns and Steve Quinn

PREDATORY ALARMS



Many species of fish emit powerful chemical signals—alarm substances—from their skin when they're attacked. The signals warn schoolmates of danger. Several recent studies have shown that when predators eat fish that are giving off alarm substances, they become chemically labeled with

the alarm substance, which warns other preyfish to beware.

Alicia Mathis and R. Jan Smith of the University of Saskatchewan* fed fathead minnows to pike and then collected water from the tanks containing the pike. When they added a small amount of this water to a tank containing

other fathead minnows that had never encountered pike, the minnows exhibited fright reactions after smelling the alarm substance. But fatheads didn't react to water in which pike had eaten minnows that did not produce the alarm substance.

In another study**, brook trout avoided water from Atlantic salmon that had eaten goldfish, but not water from salmon that had eaten mealworms. Apparently, when a predator eats a minnow, it issues an immediate warning as the damaged skin of the minnow emits an alarm substance. When the predator digests the minnow, more alarm substance is given off in the predator's feces for several days, marking it as something other minnows should avoid.

Bruce Carlson

* Mathis, A. and F. J. F. Smith. 1993. Chemical labeling of northern pike by the alarm pheromone of fathead minnows. *J. Chem. Ecol.* 19: 1967-1977.

** Keefe, M. 1992. Chemically mediated avoidance behavior in wild brook trout: the response to familiar and unfamiliar predatory fishes and the influence of fish diet. *Can. J. Zool.* 70:288-292.

COOPERATIVE SALMON STOCKING STUDY

Stocking fish that are large enough to survive and begin eating natural prey means a successful plant and good fishing in the future. But each day in a hatchery drains dollars and adds to mortality.

To determine the optimum size to release chinook salmon fingerlings in Lake Ontario, the Professional Captains United, Niagara County Promotion, and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) began a cooperative study in 1992. During the first year of a three-year program, they stocked 60,000 chinook fingerlings of different sizes and marked them by clipping a pectoral fin.

Professional Captains United members and workers at the Salmon River Hatchery in Altmar, New York, the most productive facility on the Great Lakes,



released young salmon in Eighteen Mile Creek in Niagara County, where they should imprint and return to spawn between 1994 and 1997. DEC personnel will collect data on survival during their Lake Ontario creel surveys, by recording location, number, and size of caught marked and unmarked fish.

Professional Captains United members will check chinook catches at fish cleaning stations at Eighteen Mile Creek, the Niagara River, and Oak Orchard Creek during the salmon runs in the falls of 1994 through 1997. Professional Captains United and DEC also will monitor lake and tributary temperature to determine alternative stocking sites for future releases.

John Field