

Northwestern Ontario

FREE

Outdoors



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE



Inside this issue...

- **Slammin' Superior Salmon**
See page 1
- **NOSA News**
See page 4-5
- **Archery & Bowhunter News**
See page 6

Slammin' Salmon on Lake Superior

By JP Neureuther



Jenn Neureuther with a Lake Superior Coho Salmon

I have a vivid memory of my dad reaching into a culvert near St Mary's River locks at the outflow of Lake Superior, producing a gigantic rotting salmon with his bare hands. He released it, reached back down, and fished out another tired, spawned out, beaten up salmon. I couldn't have been older than eight years old. My dad took it as a teachable moment, to explain how salmon head upstream as part of their reproductive cycle.

Even as a kid, I realized that there is something powerful and poetic about salmon returning to their geographical area to spawn in the fall. They have a natural instinct and drive to migrate hundreds of kilometres against all kinds of obstacles. They release thousands of eggs and fertilize them. Both male and females, work together to protect their nest. After all the effort, the mature salmon dies, leaving behind their genes for the next generation of fish to thrive. If you're lucky, you may just land one.

Usually, the spawn happens late August to October depending on water temperatures (so bring a thermometer and logbook to keep track). If you're looking to get hooked up with one of these coveted fish, you'll find them staging in the many Lake Superior tributaries this time of year. Trolling is a very productive way to produce some trophy fish. Try trolling near shore over that 20-30-foot range since these fish won't need to be as far down as they do in those hot summer months. Mix it up with a planer board line and down-riggers, set at different depths, and have a variety of spinners and spoon colours out as well. You can even use a frozen smelt mounted on a harness to entice that bite.

Don't forget to have the net ready and coach your newbie friend on proper netting techniques beforehand: get the net ready (fast), anticipate, and communicate. It hurts for a long time afterwards for both parties when a prize fish is lost during netting. Make sure to come in headfirst, don't panic!

Coho salmon, love shiny objects, so use flashers or dodgers to catch their eye. When you get it right, they hit with great force and battle tirelessly. You best be getting in those bicep curls to anchor that stiff downrigging rod. This species often grows near the 10 lb mark by 3-5 years old.

There are days when you feel like you're endlessly burning gas, driving in patterns until your GPS looks like spaghetti on the screen. The weather is sometimes wet or cold as mother nature is switching seasons preparing for the long winter ahead. All it takes is a second of daydreaming or fixating on the fall colours of the Lake Superior coastline, when you look up and see your rod going bananas. Nothing beats the rush and chaos that ensues. You grab your set up with two hands, reel until you pop that clip, then immediately, you're connected to this incredible being. Feeling how that fish is fighting, how big it seems, anticipating its next move.... (Cue the epic instrumental music)! A bag of chips flying across the dash, your friend laughing at you, some minor practising of the French language, blood, and hopefully the smack of a slimy high-five after slammin' some salmon!

Mustard Glazed Salmon



Ingredients

- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 2 TBS stone ground Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp brown sugar

- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp dill
- Ground pepper
- 2 salmon fillets

Directions

1. Combine glaze ingredients in a bowl.
2. Cut fillets into serving-sized portions and place skin side down on a piece of sprayed aluminium foil.
3. Spread glaze on top of each fillet.
4. Grill fillets at 300° on the barbecue for 10-12 minutes until the fish flakes easily with a fork.

Bon appétit!

MID-SUMMER BLOW OUT SALE

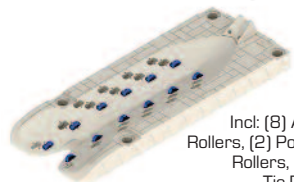
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Fall Walleye

By Sam Neureuther



**Samantha Neureuther
with a fat fall
river Walleye**

lip hook a 4 or 5 inch chub or sucker minnow. I will often put a single coloured bead on front of the hook, like a chartreuse or red bead. Plastic beads are best as they float. This is trolled slowly at the base of deep humps or drop off where I've marked walleye. Strikes are often sharp and I'll drop the rod tip to the water before setting the hook. A bait caster and long rod with a soft tip is perfect for this technique. "

In the fall the walleye will school up in the rivers as they follow the bait fish up into it. A good spring or summer river hole will also most likely hold fall Walleye. This time of year is a great opportunity for shore river fishing, one of my favourite and most successful ways to fish for them in the fall.

Follow the Baitfish - Where there is bait fish, there will almost always be Walleye holding or cruising by. Your sonar will come in handy for marking baitfish and nearby walleye, so make sure to use it.

Fish rocky structures- Walleye love to hang out on rocky structures . Deep humps will also hold baitfish and those fall walleye.

Whether you choose to JIG or troll keep your presentation slow and not aggressive in the fall. Due to the colder water temps they will more likely go for first for the slow approach.

Dont put away your rod just yet and be sure to give these simple techniques a try this fall and you may be rewarded with some nice walleye, and an even better autumn view.

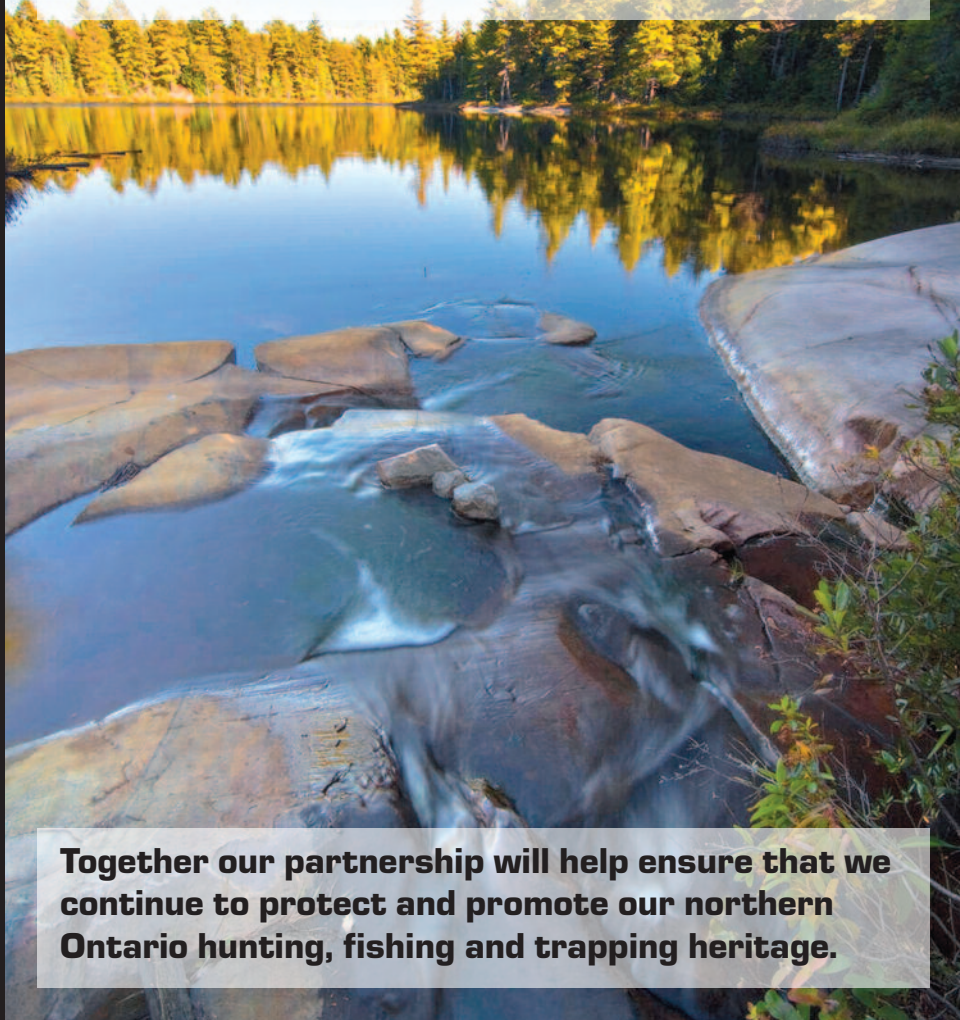
The most beautiful and scenic time of year for fishing, the Fall. Less bugs, boat traffic, milder temperatures, and a beautiful view. Walleye fishing can be just as good in the fall if it is timed right. We still have many anglers make their way through the doors of our bait shop The Falls Bait & Tackle in Kakabeka Falls, during September and October in search for walleye.

As the water starts to cool down, the walleye will be bulking up on baitfish to prepare for the upcoming winter. A simple JIG in 1/4 Oz and 3/4 Oz tipped with a bigger sized minnow from medium large to large is the most popular and best choice this time of year. Worm harnesses trolled work just as well in the fall when fish are suspended and spread out, tip the harness with a big juicy night crawler.

Check out our wide variety of JIG and spinners hand made by local trapper Jason LeClair of "Grumpas Baits" in the shop.

I had a chance to ask local legend and professional fisherman Gord Ellis on his go to fall walleye fishing setup. He runs a 3 ounce bottom bouncer with a 3 feet leader of 12 pound test and a #2 octopus hook. He says "On the hook I will

The Northwestern Ontario Sportsmen's Alliance wishes to thank Newmont Musselwhite Mine for their generous support and sponsorship of NOSA's conservation objectives in 2022.



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Berries and Bears!

By Rich Brochu, NOSA Member

This year is turning out to be a banner year for berries, and all of Mother Nature’s recipients will enjoy what she has to offer. Unfortunately, the past two summers have been poor berry picking years both locally and within the district. Despite these facts some areas were still able to produce a modest crop but for the most part, many areas were vacant of berries. The reason that the berries were poor for the last two years was related to a late frost in June. Last year’s late frost had a devastating effect across the region, pretty much killing plants exposed to minus 3 temperatures in mid -June. Fortunately, this year, we didn’t experience frost in June and the land benefited with a bumper crop of berries to please all critters waiting for a win-fall in easily accessible food.

Berries are a staple for many of the forest dwelling animals. All animals benefit from this nutritious fruit and the last few years they were surely missed. Last year was by far the worst year I’ve witnessed in my stomping grounds. Many complained that bears would have nothing to eat as berries and bears are synonymous when thinking of fall food for these omnivores. However, despite this thinking, bears fortunately have many other items on their menu when it comes to food. Raspberries, mountain ash and high bush cranberries were in abundance last year and the bears benefited from those food sources. Another staple in their diet includes ant larva and wasp larva as well as an abundance of mushrooms. Bears are survivors in the wild and will take any opportunity to eat their fill.

This year, the bears must be rejoicing for the simple fact that easily accessible food will be attainable until the end of summer. Berries will continue to ripen as August progresses and in my travels; I have noticed some berries ripen late July into early August. As those peter-out, other plants take over and ripen. It is truly a wonder to see how Mother Nature works by ensuring that there is a limitless supply of fresh berries for all creatures until the first frost of fall has the last say. Bears are patterned in a way to continuously re-visit the berry patches throughout the month of August.

Last year, my wife and I traveled to find berries as none were to be found in our preferred areas. We camped out in the area and witnessed an interesting pattern the bears displayed. As we sat at our campsite, we could hear at least four bears at each corner of our encampment communicating with one another. This occurred at dusk, and it was as if they were telling each other where they were and not to come their way. We both where surprized at the groans we would hear but our analysis of the situation could only determine they were telling each other... this is my spot, don’t come here.

As a hunter and gatherer, I never stop learning and this experience has been added to my future hunting bear, “spot and stalk” repertoire. We never did check to see if we could spot one of the bears making noise during this trip as we got the hint.... “Don’t bother me!” The next day we did see the tracks in the sand which confirmed our suspicions. Ironically, the behaviour appeared to take place in the evening but not in the morning. We look forward to similar berry trips this season and hope to avoid the bears as they do their thing, and we try to do ours. Enjoy the outdoors this August. The winter harvest time is nearly upon us, and I for one love spending fall-time in the wild as much as I can. Cheers!



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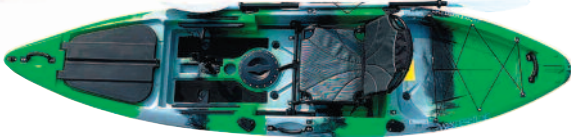


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We're Back!

By John Kaplanis, Executive Director

Actually, we didn't go anywhere at all! But while the pandemic played havoc with everything over the past two years, like many organizations and businesses NOSA was forced to scale back on our normal activities. Meetings, events and yes, even publishing this newsletter was a challenge. Our Board of Directors met online to discuss various issues over the last two years, however. Throughout the pandemic, I advised the board of directors to simply scale back on all activities and spending. Basically just "ride-out" the pandemic restrictions until they were lifted so that we could resume activities.

This "moth-balling" approach allowed us to miss two years of fundraising opportunities while holding the line pretty much with our financials. It was a great relief to return in 2022 with a full house at our annual membership gala fundraiser event held in April at the Victoria Inn. While we lost some key advertising support over the last two years, we also used this time as an opportunity to explore partnerships with new sponsors. Enter Newmont Musselwhite Mine!! With a generous sponsorship donation to support our 2022 fundraising dinner in April, we are proud and thankful to have them supporting the organization's goals and objectives.

On goals and objectives; NOSA aims to return to our supportive role of working alongside regional organizations and partners to continue to advocate and celebrate our rich northern outdoor hunting, fishing and trapping heritage. The funny thing is, despite the pandemic era, hunting/trapping and fishing didn't stop! They prevailed. But not without political interference and at times, overly restrictive bureaucratic hurdles.

For example, outdoor tourism has perhaps taken the greatest hit in terms of our hunting and fishing industry being impacted by the whole COVID shutdown. Many of these businesses folded up and will not be able to recover. Outdoor industry retailers suffered as supply chains



THIS MONTH'S NEWS

dried up. All this affected NOSA's ability to work with these groups to secure advertising support for events or communications. Hence the decision to "moth-ball" organizational operations.

Furthermore, conservation initiatives and events were also scuttled throughout this period. So COVID impacted a lot of worthwhile work by agencies and partnering groups. For instance, the Ontario annual Moose Aerial Inventory (MAI) took a hit as the OMNRF staff health and safety policies resulted in a scaling back of the MAI program over the past two years. While the agency was not unlike many others faced with various workplace health restrictions, they cannot entirely be blamed for the lack of field work and wildlife population inventory and monitoring that would have normally occurred. But the lack of data that could and should have been obtained over that period, should demand a re-doubling of these efforts in the coming next few years. And NOSA will be pushing this agenda hard.

On the federal front, the Liberal Government under the leadership of Justin Trudeau, is working hard to make lawful ownership of firearms ever more difficult. The Liberal Government continues its onslaught of legal firearms ownership by targeting semi-auto firearms (the ones that look like military arms) and by also making it more difficult to acquire hand-guns. None of this will impact criminals of course as statistics show. Any why would it!? Criminals don't care if their guns are owned or acquired legally – why would they!? So law abiding hunters, farmers and trappers continue to have more laws, more red tape and more bureaucracy applied to an already overly long list of restrictions and requirements that do nothing to keep communities safe from gang/drug related gun crime.

On October 11th NOSA is hosting our Annual General Meeting for Members and we look forward to electing/acclaiming our Board of Directors for the coming year, as well as listening to the concerns of our members. If you are a paid in full member, we look forward to seeing you Oct. 11th at 7pm at the Westfort Prosvita on Gore St.

EVENTS CALENDAR

• SEPTEMBER 9TH –

Northwestern Fur Trappers Assoc. membership meeting 630pm at Oliver Road Rec Center

SEPTEMBER 17TH-18TH –

NOSA/D&R Sporting Goods Hunter 3D Round at Lakehead Archery Club/Vibert Road

OCTOBER 11TH –

NOSA Annual General Membership Meeting/ Elections @ 7pm start time – at the Westfort Prosvita society (721 Gore St. W.) for members only



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Fish Management Zone 6 and Zone 9 Update

By John Hay, NOSA Director and FMZ 6/FMZ 9 Co-Chair



THIS MONTH'S NEWS

Greetings anglers and NOSA members. As society begins to emerge from the long Covid winter, it is time to update the membership on NOSA's activities on your behalf on FMZ6 and FMZ9.

To briefly recap FMZ6 is a committee that is broadly represented by members of interested organizations, fish clubs and individuals with support staff from the OMNRF.

The consensus building group has representation from Indigenous organizations, tourism, and resource user groups, OFAH and of course a strong NOSA presence. NOSA has been part of FMZ6, Co-Chairing the council since its inception.

As the FMZ6 begins its new round of work it has been decided that Walleye will be the first species to be tackled. The first set of committee recommendations to the government did not recommend any changes to existing regulations. Since walleye are so important to northwestern Ontario, the consensus was the committee wanted better and more current data to make informed recommendations on sustainability, angling opportunity and socio-economic stability or improvements.

We now have greater quality data that is current thanks to broad scale monitoring that was also a recommendation of FMZ6. We will be working on establishing a schedule of meeting dates with appropriate frequency as soon as the ministry exits caretaker mode (from the recent provincial election) which will include the minister and deputy ministers being briefed.

One topic for FMZ9 turned out to be a very troubling issue for NOSA and anglers. In fact, I do not believe any members were even remotely satisfied

with events regarding how the recommendation for the removal of the Camp 43 dam on the Black Sturgeon River was ultimately handled by OMNRF.

The provincial government initially agreed to a well-crafted and strongly supported recommendation from FMZ9. That being; the removal of the man-made dam would have created significant additional spawning habitat for walleye within the Black Sturgeon River system. The additional spawning grounds were widely recognized as vital to Black Bay walleye rehabilitation efforts.

The removal of the Camp 43 dam came about after years of consultation by the broad membership of the previous FMZ9 committee. FMZ9 was similarly populated to FMZ6 and additionally included membership and input that reflected the international nature of Lake Superior.

Led by Dave Nuttal, who Co-Chaired FMZ 9 for many years, a consensus recommendation was made to the government to remove the Camp 43 dam and add an additional lamprey barrier into the system closer to Lake Nipigon.

The provincial government appeared to adopt the recommendation, by starting the next step with a required Environmental Assessment (EA). It was as the EA was progressing that the wheels fell off. Short story - the Environmental Assessment was abruptly cancelled before it could conclude. A decision was made by the province, to reinforce the dam structure based on a consultants report. The province concluded the report identified conditions that constituted an emergency that deemed dam failure was imminent.

FMZ 9 was not made aware of the dam inspection, the resulting report, the dam rehabilitation work being tendered and dam reinforcement being undertaken.

Being done totally absent of consultation with FMZ9 was extremely disappointing and frustrating, prompting committee resignations and a complaint being filed with the Provincial Ombudsman with respect to the actions of the provincial government.

The final report from the Ombudsman identified the failings of the province to consult and inform stakeholders. It also identified existing provincial policies may not have been followed. The lack of transparency has caused damage. It is expected formal apologies to stakeholders and FMZ9 will follow. The Ombudsman's office has requested to be kept current on the work of FMZ9 going forward.

As FMZ 9 moves forward it has been recommended and accepted by the government that two sub-committees to be established to resume the work of FMZ9. Since FMZ9 encompasses all the Canadian waters of Lake Superior a FMZ9 East and FMZ9 West. The two Sub-Committees will be able to meet separately and still be coordinated and share information in a transparent and efficient manner.

NOSA is also proud to note that our organization is again taking leadership roles in both FMZ6 and FMZ9, as we continue to co-chair FMZ6 and now co-chair FMZ9 West.

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NWO Archery and Bowhunter News:

By Shane Baker, NOSA President



Shane and Karen Baker with game medals.



Shane hit the Sasquatch 3D target.

It's been all about archery this year. My wife and I were regularly practicing this winter to compete in the 2022 Police and Fire Games in Windsor in July. By June, I was committed as a Manager/Coach for the Ontario Summer Games. All the qualifiers and practices culminated in a great couple weeks of archery adventures!

Ontario Summer Games

In February, I was contacted by Northwestern Ontario Zone Archery Coach Lana Perry of Sault Ste. Marie to ask if there were any archers interested in competing at the Summer Games July 21 to 24 in Mississauga. The Ontario Summer Games happen every two years and are for athletes aged twelve to twenty.

I canvassed interest through our local club, Lakehead Archers, and received positive responses from four archers: Cole McParland, Anastasia Harmatiuk, Haydin Dupuis and Rylan Berlinquette. The archers practiced inside the range before spring to build up their shooting endurance. Once the snow melted and field (sort of) dried we were able to move outside to practice with the mosquitos and black flies.

The archers received rules, equipment and shooting support to qualify. This was the first Ontario Summer Games for three of the four archers. The youth were expected to qualify for a potential spot on the team by shooting two rounds in one day. Each round consisted of twelve ends with six arrows each end. That is one hundred and forty-four arrows, and the target is set at fifty meters distance!

All four of the local youth that completed their qualifiers were selected to attend the games with eight additional youth from the Sault Ste. Marie area to represent Northwestern Ontario. Cole McParland, at the age of twenty, was the veteran of the team and had previous experience competing in the games. The other three archers had varied experience at archery. I was recruited to assist Lana Perry and the kids practiced regularly leading up to our departure for the games.

We were provided accommodation at a hotel in Mississauga and us northerners tried the best we could to adjust to the excruciating heat and humidity. The opening ceremonies and camaraderie were real highlights for everyone. The team was given a chance to practice on Friday July 22 and then the excitement began!

The large team of twelve from Northwestern Ontario won a bronze medal in the team event on day one. Day two started with an extreme heat warning which challenged both the northerners and their equipment. The archers were separated by two age categories: Junior for over seventeen and Cadet for under seventeen. The archers were further divided by gender. Junior archer Cole McParland won gold and had the tournament high score. Cadet archer Rylan Berlinquette won silver in his category.

Day three was a thrilling elimination round where all archers in the compound division shot against one another. Cole McParland was one of the last two shooters. Initially, it was a close competition until Cole started to inch ahead and he finished with a commanding lead. His goal was to win gold in his final year of competition at the Ontario Summer Games and he did just that!

The kids and the adults all had a grand adventure, and the younger archers say they are going to attend the next games in two years in London, Ontario!

Can-Am Police and Fire Games

Shortly after Cole's exciting victory I was off to Pearson Airport in Toronto to pick up my wife and we headed to Windsor. Windsor did a great job with their opening ceremonies which included demonstrations by local fire and police, multicultural food event, outdoor concert, and fireworks.

We competed in two events on two different days. I am a traditional archer, and my wife was in the female hunter category with a compound bow. We each won medals in our respective categories. The indoor target competition was held at their armory's gymnasium and their 3D competition in a local park. Shooting in a public park on a hot and humid day uphill was foreign to us but we really enjoyed the different targets we hadn't seen previously. We understand the local 911 operators received calls from park visitors about the bison, wolf, bear, and lynx but were surprised no one called 911 about the sasquatch!

Editor's note: Shane Baker is also an avid archer, bow hunter, traditional bow hunter and director of the Lakehead Archers club in Thunder Bay. Shane is also a NOSA representative on FMZ 6 and he recently accepted a director position with Archery Ontario as he seeks to expand his archery coaching influence

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Members In The Field



Nodin Campbell with a couple huge Smallmouths



Emerson Clark (4yrs old) with a big bronzeback



Erik Ulvang lands a chunky summertime Smallmouth



Alex Dzuba with a chunky LDML walleye



Emerson Hagar shows off his Dog Lake walleye



Adrian Hagar puts the slam on massive Lake Ontario Salmon



David Beaudry and a fat summertime walleye

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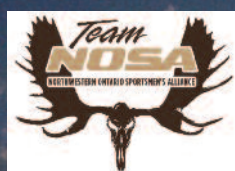
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