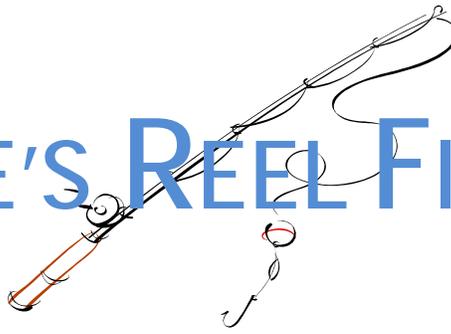


BIG MIKE'S REEL FISHIN'



The objective of our fishing report is to provide our lake users with up-to-date information and to help our anglers on what's working where and when. It is important for everyone to remember that fish have minds of their own and everyday is not going to be the same as the last, but being flexible is vital to consistently catching not just consistently fishing. It is also important to remember that the person providing this information is a fisherman himself and sizes and weights vary slightly from the truth depending on how many times the story has been told.

January 31, 2013

I started to write a report on numerous occasions, however the lake would ice over before I could get the report written. I will make another attempt right now! I get calls asking how much of the Lake is frozen and the answer has been 100% until now, RIGHT NOW!!! Tomorrow may be different but we have most of the Lake's edge open water as we speak and fishing for rainbows is pretty darn good. I always love to hear the stories that "I came up to ski for the day and caught a limit of trout". It happens for those who time it just right. Now is that time but as you heard, it can change quickly this time of the year. At one point the ice was over 9 inches thick which makes for some tough fishing unless you use a heated bobber or something I don't know about. Remember; don't walk on the ice EVER!!! or you will fall through the ice and die or even worse, get a ticket for walking on the ice (at least the people that get a ticket complain more). In all seriousness - stay off lake ice. It is never stable enough to support ice travel and is extremely dangerous.

The east end will produce in late winter and early spring as the water warms more quickly where it is shallow and the fish make a move to take off that winter coat and bask for a bit. The folks fishing by the covert pipes at Stanfield Cutoff are catching a lot of nice trout on the sunny days. The trout seem to turn on a little later in the day so you don't necessarily need to beat the sun. I love the light color dough baits, especially white in the winter and spring, along with Mother Nature's filet minion (night crawler) - all produce at first ice out. Bottom slider rig is a great way to go this time of year with leaders varying between 1 and 3 feet long. Remember to use very light line because clarity is at its finest and these spring hold-overs will be line shy. Rainbow trout are the only fish that react to this slight warming trend and will be sporadic in there feeding pattern but are there for the taking if your timing is good.

FISHING TIP OF THE WEEK

Bring a big jacket