

## **HOT weather means HOT walleye action on open water!**

*By: Captain Lance Valentine, Walleye 101*



With summer in full swing, there have been lots of questions about where and how to start a day of walleye fishing. Summer fishing has unique challenges, presentations and patterns. Here are a few thoughts to hopefully get you started in the right direction for more summer walleye success on open water!

### **Stay off the bottom**

For whatever reason we have been brain washed to think that walleye always live on the bottom, on hard bottom and sunlight hurts their eyes! All of these statements are FALSE and actually if you follow these rules your summer success will probably be much worse than it should be. As the water gets warmer and warmer, walleye must feed more often since high water temps speed up their metabolism. In most open water environments the walleyes main food source is baitfish that live in open water and feed on plankton (think shiners, alewives and shad). Since these bait fish are plankton eaters they spent their life in the upper part of the water column following the plankton. Walleye will follow their food wherever it goes and stay in the upper part of the water column, close to dinner. The best thing about suspended walleye in open water is that they are easy to spot on a good sonar unit. If I could give you any piece of advice to increase your summer success, it would be to NOT fish until you see fish on your sonar!!! If you need help setting up and understanding your sonar, check out the Walleye 101 seminar DVD at [www.walleyekid.com/inc/sdetail/3443](http://www.walleyekid.com/inc/sdetail/3443)

### **Speed kills**

Again we have been misled to think that warmer temps mean we need to slow down when in fact just the opposite is true. Remember, walleye are in the top of the water column chasing open water bait fish that can swim quite well. A lure zipping through the water at 2 or more mph actually looks real to a walleye! Not only does a fast presentation swim with the same speed as the bait fish that the walleye are feeding on, it may also create a “reaction” strike from fish that are not feeding but want to know what just went by.

### **Leave the bait at home**

I would never say that you can't catch some fish on crawlers in the summer, and sometime it is the best way to get bigger fish, but most summer days you will catch many more fish trolling with spoons and crankbaits than with crawlers. Spoons and cranks can be run at any speed, and they excel at higher speeds used in the summer. Aggressive swimming lures will work much better this time of year than subtle action, long, thin stickbaits. Spoons with a quick “snap” action also catch a ton of fish in the summer. Our favorite spoons are the Little Warrior and the Flutter Spoon made by Warrior Lures. Check out our favorite spoons and colors at [www.walleyekid.com/trolling\\_spoons](http://www.walleyekid.com/trolling_spoons)

**Put your baits where the fish can see them**

One of the biggest mistakes I see anglers make is they do not put their lures far enough above the walleye. Remember, walleye are chasing bait that lives near the surface and the walleye are ALWAYS looking up for their meal. Find fish on your sonar, determine what depth they are at, then put your baits 4-10 feet above them and let the fish tell you how far they will come to eat. It is much better to have a lure too high than too low!!

Obviously this is just a small part of the fish catching puzzle in the summer, but I believe these four tips are the most important you can pay attention to for summer walleye action. Try them the next time you are out and see if your catch improves!!

***Tight Lines,  
Captain Lance Valentine***

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