

# August dog days: Time to think like a fish

*Vukelich, George*  
"The trouble with fishing," The Captain was saying, "is that it's just too damn hot to do it." **AUG 23 1978**

Steady Eddy looked like he had swallowed a gob of tobacco.

"I know one guy," The Captain continued, "he likes it 73 degrees. If it's up or down too much he heads back for shore. Especially Up. I fish with him all the time."

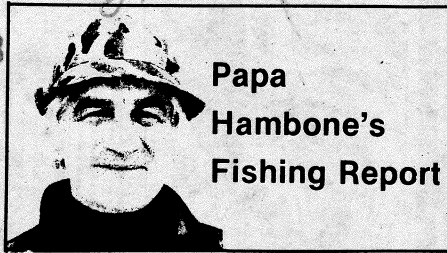
"A guy like that," Steady declared, "you should stick on your hook and fish with."

"It happens every August," The Captain said. "We are in the Dog Days of Fishing."

"That," Steady snapped, "is an Old Wives' tale."

"Fish Wives?"

"Listen," Steady said. "In the Springtime any yahoo can throw in off the weedline and catch fish. In the Summertime, you have to interpret the conditions. You gotta change your act. Go lighter on the



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tackle. Go deeper on the depth. Hell, fish gotta feed."

"No," The Captain said solemnly, "fish gotta swin. Birds gotta feed."

Steady looked baleful as a musky. "I would try the deeper water," he said. "Bluegills ought to be hanging in about 20 feet right now. I'd use worms on a light line, one or two pound test. First, I'd try Monona off Murphy's Crick. Then I'd try Mendota off The Hatch Cover."

"And what happens," The Captain asked, "when, at the end of a long, mind-frying day, you wind up out-

side The Hatch Cover hot and sweaty and still comin' up empty?"

"In that unlikely event," Steady Eddy near-whispered, "I would go inside The Hatch Cover and re-interpret the conditions."

Here's your Friday reading from The Gypsy:

● **LAKE MENDOTA:** The big lake is getting very little pressure these days. Most of the fishing being done by bank-and-shore fisherfolk with live bait.

Some boats doing well on good-sized perch off Second Point in about 26 feet of water. There are a lot of little ones in with the biggies but they're worth the finding. Try between 26 and 18 feet first. With hellgrammites and worms. Watch the winds here. Any anchors you lose on the bottom will be spoonplugged by Jim Thrun.

Tenney Park is heavy on the crappies and the sheephead.

Steady says he has not seen a bass or a northern pike all week. Or for that matter, a Stenlund.

● **LAKE MONONA:** Some walleyes off the Yahara outlet on leeches. Fish averaging around 18 inches. A lot of stripers also being taken here on minnows. Stripers, mixed in with some perch, off The Gas Outlet, too.

One Old Pro trolling and taking walleyes at the mouth of Squaw Bay. Working water 12 to 16 feet deep with slip bobber and leeches. Walleyes here 16 to 18 inches.

On the North Side, three legal muskies in one day on Tandem Spinners. Also, The Indian reports raising something that "swirled around the bait like a heavy fish" but keep in mind that The Indian is a heavy dude.

In the Olin Park area, nothing but small perch. Some bass in the heavy weed growth. Another Old Pro, nameless but likewise unimpeachable, had a stringer of eight fish here. The bass ran two to four pounds.

On the South Shore, east of Esther Beach, some decent bluegills on red and garden worms.

On The Rock Pile, mixed bags of perch, crappies and bluegills but all on the small side.

The better fishing is from the Yahara River right on down through Squaw Bay down to Mud Lake. Bass, walleye and panfish particularly productive on Interlake.

● **LAKE WAUBESA:** Still getting bass south of Hog Island. Bluegills, and these include some nicesized, also south of Hog in about 4 feet of water. On red worms. They're also taking bluegills off Tower Road.

Getting small walleyes off Rockford Heights on leeches and crawlers. Eating size, but some, The Captain says, are simply too small to eat. Steady Eddy, however, says all walleyes are big enough to eat when they're born. Just "harder to fillet" is all.

● **LAKE KEGONSA:** Some nice perch hitting off Colliday Point. On hellgrammites. In 10 to 12 feet of water.

Bluegills off the Country Club area.

The perch fishing has been Zip City. Super Slow. And that goes double for the walleye fishing all over the lake.

Overall, the fishing pressure has been extremely light.

Nobody's fishing in the heat, but they should be, because the fish are still there. Somewhere.

"You have to start thinking like a fish," Steady emphasized, "And before you can do that, you have to stop thinking like a turkey."