

# Anglers avoiding Mendota

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You could tell Steady Eddy was unhappy the moment he looked up from the cribbage board.

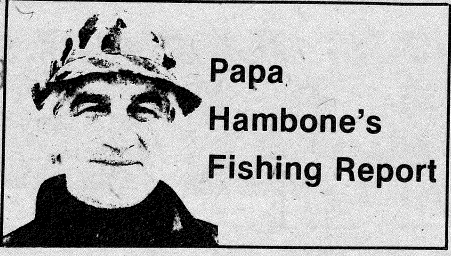
"Mendota's almost completely bereft of fishermen," he lamented, making certain that I understood he was speaking of The Waters and not The Buildings, "there are more folks gathered around the pool table at Hermann's Inn."

Across the board, The Biker was watching Eddy with a beady eye. There could be a whole new Honda in that crib, if he played his cards right.

"I haven't been fishing for three weeks," Eddy sighed. "I should be fishing right now and what am I doing? Just trying to stay afloat here on dry land."

The Biker stared out over his hand at Eddy, trying to sense, I felt, if Eddy sensed what was in the crib. It was like Marlon playing cards in Street Car.

"Actually," Eddy said, "it's the weather, of course. We've had a lot of cold fronts come through here in the past week and they'll shut down things every time. That's why Mendota's not getting a lot of pressure."



Papa  
Hambone's  
Fishing Report

He smiled and looked up at his opponent.

"But how about you?"  
The Biker excused himself and went outside and hung the "For Sale" sign on his chopper.

"It's a good thing," Eddie said watching him, "that we don't play for money."

Here's your market report for this week:

● **LAKE MENDOTA** — Eddy is right. Very little activity on the big lake. Nobody doing very much on anything anywhere.

The bass fishing is Zip City. Likewise the walleye and northern pike fishing.

The most productive area was between Second Point and Picnic

Point; for perch. In about 16-feet of water. On hellgrammites. They're coming in mixed sizes. Small smallies, but some biggies too.

Big bluegills off Picnic Point on leaf worms. In the evening. Some big walleyes seen in this same area, but not hitting.

Stick it out, says Eddy. There'll be a lot of points in this crib. And vice versa.

● **LAKE MONONA** — Walleyes at the mouth of the Yahara, running about 15-inches long, hitting on just about anything.

Crappies at The Triangle, best in the early morning hours. On Pinkys. One legal muskie, just over 30-inches, taken off the Gas Outlet on an ABU Reflex.

Perch: about 25-million little ones at Turville Point. The bigger ones are right out in front of the Medical Society Building in about 20 to 25 feet of water. They about 10-11 inches long and hitting chunks of nightcrawler. Bigger fish seem to be deeper. Crappies also in same area, medium size. On crawlers and little minnows.

At The Rock Pile, nice bluegills

and a few big perch. Lots of small fish around. The Captain says Squaw Bay is a bummer, very s-l-o-w.

● **UPPER MUD LAKE** — Still getting walleyes in the river clear down to Mud. On crawlers mostly. Some nice bluegills from Interlake.

Northerns are fair 26, 27-inches — but no real tacklebusters. Pretty weedy here. Use Johnson Silver Minnows. You got somethin' works better, use it. Steady says, "The Honda."

● **LAKE WAUBESA** — Finally, some decent perch coming out of Goodland Park area. Off the buoys. On spider mites and crawlers.

At Brickston Park, bluegills good off the Tower Road area. And quite a few northern pike at The Springs.

At the Bible Camp, nice bluegills in the bay on red worms. And walleyes, right at the Yahara River outlet — at Rockford Heights — one-pound to two-pound fish. On crawlers and leeches.

They're taking nice perch, 8 to 10 inches long in the Edwards Park area on hellgrammites and crawlers. Perch are in 12 to 14 feet.

The Springs here also producing northern pike mostly on spoons and Tandem spinners. Again lots of weeds. You have to use whatever runs over them or through them.

● **LAKE KEGONSA** — Still doing quite well on walleyes at The Outlet, fish are in the one to two-pound class. The Captain says you gotta get there early in the morning or late in the evening to do any good. And Eddy says it's like that all over. Jigs seem to work best on the walleyes, but crawlers are next.

There are lots of perch off the Country Club and Colliday Point, but the fish are running small. For bigger perch, try Williamson Point off Sunnyside.

For northern pike, they're throwing spoons over The Springs off the Lincoln Park resort area.

Overall, the panfishing is fair to good. The northern pike pretty good, on Waubesa in particular. And the walleyes, good, but they're mostly the smaller, sweet eatin' fish, except for a 6 lb. 15 oz. biggie taken out of Monona, by Joe Aldworth of Madison. On a crawler.

The bass fishing is less than spectacular as you must have suspected by the absence of Jim Thrun's name.

There may not be a Hambone Report next week because I promised to go fishing with Ned and Vince and they dug up 100 dozen leaf worms for the trip. We'll see how it goes, but bear with us. If it doesn't go well that's a lot of worms to eat.

Not too crunchy.  
But a lot.