

Aggressive perch acting up

SEP 1 - 1978 Jukelich, George

"I don't believe this," The Indian was saying. "I've never seen anything like that in my life."

"Me neither," said Steady Eddy. "But that's been going on for an hour before you walked in with the zucchini and tomatoes."

In the gin-clear water of the bait tank, the foot-long perch had just made another dash across the bottom and cracked the foot-long crappie amidships.

The little walleye crouched in one corner. The Indian's pet bluegill sat motionless in the other. The Indian glared.

"He chase my bluegill?"

"Hasn't made a pass," Steady reassured him. "Nipped the walleye once."

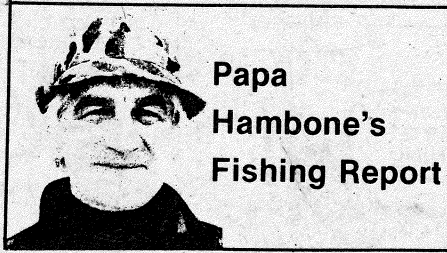
The perch made a tank-wide rush and belted the crappie near the eye.

"Right in the chops," Steady said.

Another turn, another rush, this one near the crappie's left ventral fin.

"Oh, that fish is sick," The Indian said.

"Which one?" Steady asked.



Papa
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"The crappie, unless you gave the perch some snoose or a chemical or something."

Another rush in the tank by the perch almost tipped the crappie. The perch had been open-mouthed, biting at the crappie.

"The perch wants him out of there," The Indian said. "The crappie's sick and dying for sure."

"Hambone," Steady said clinically. "You know a good fish biologist?"

I told him the only ones I knew would fillet first and ask questions later.

"The crappie live a week," The Indian said. "Sick chickens, sick nightcrawlers, Nature throws them right out of there. That perch

knows."

"A buck says he lives," Steady said. "One week." "You're on," The Indian said, staring into the corner. "The crappie won't live a week. And if the perch monkies with my bluegill, the perch is gone too."

Here's the balance of your humane society report for this week:

● LAKE MENDOTA: They're getting small perch off Second Point and Picnic Point, but nothing like Steady Eddy's pugnacious tanker.

The Maple Bluff area is producing bluegills on worms in about 15 feet of water. The walleyes at Dunn's Bar are hitting leeches.

Crappie fishing at Tenney Park sprightly on small minnows. Unfortunately, the crappies are likewise.

Smallmouth bass along the South Shore on worms.

The northern pike fishing is Zipperville. Likewise the largemouth bass. Steady figures they're on the bottom somewhere, just buttoned-up against all those aggressive perch.

● LAKE MONONA: Panfishing

off Law Park is mixed bag. Everything is biting and everything is small. The Indian says the crayfish are hitting hotdogs in this area but only at midnight. That, says Steady, is the story of all humankind. Strippers good off The Outlet on minnows.

Trolling for walleyes effective from Law Park to The River in about 35 feet. With minnows and crawlers. Also north of Squaw Bay with leeches.

Small perch off Olin Park in 10 to 20 feet on crawlers, red worms and mites. Bass fishing good in the heavy cover — 2 to 6 feet of water — but be Texas-rigged to preserve your cool.

South Shore and the Esther Beach area: Some decent-sized perch in the weeds on crawlers and mites. Also nice bluegills here on red worms.

At The Rock Pile, bluegills/perch and walleyes, but not a lot of big fish. "I don't fish for the wall," Steady says. "I fish for the freezer."

Walleye fishing is good from the Yahara River outlet at Squaw Bay down to the railroad bridge at Mud Lake. Crawlers and minnows are best baits.

● LAKE WAUBESA: Good largemouth bass fishing in the Hog Island area with plastic worms. Nice bluegills off Libby Road south of Hog Island. Red worms Number One choice.

Goodland Park area producing a mixed bag of bluegills and perch, some decent, but the majority indecent. Fillet first, ask questions later.

The Captain verifies that there's a whole lot of northern pike fishing going on in the Brickston Park area. Most of the fish being caught are in the 4 to 6 pound class and suckers are working better than anything.

● LAKE KEGONSA: Country Club area is providing good perch fishing, with some nice-size ones turning up. They're in 10 to 15 feet of water, hitting hellgrammites and wax worms the best. To find them, look for the rubble beds off the weedline. Also some lively bluegill action around here, especially in the weed. Not to mention, on.

The walleye fishing is fair at The Locks in the late evenings. Fish are mostly in the 1½ to 2½ pound class. Best baits are crawlers and minnows.

The Sunnyside area is also fair on walleyes, with a few perch thrown in.

Overall, the fishing is fair to good, but the pressure is as light as a safecracker's forefinger.

To change that, Steady Eddy, The Captain and I have a tentative date to fish this Tuesday. It's tentative because The Indian begged off, claiming that he had to stay tankside in case that perch tried to do a number on his pet bluegill.

In that event, he promises, we can kiss all the grenades goodbye.

Not to mention the perch.