

CAPTAIN RALPH STEIGER



April Summary 2010

Fishing in April depends greatly upon good weather and this year was no exception. When the weather pattern was consistent fishing was excellent. Smallmouth bass were on fire, perch were bigger and more numerous than anywhere else in the whole world, and salmon action was hot. The start of April was unseasonably warm and fishing got off to a great start. I spent the first few days in April targeting salmon and trout by trolling body baits. Planer boards were the best with Brad's Rattlin' thinfin (red/black). Another hot bait was a 00 Luhr Jensen dodger (clown) with a Poseidon Rapture fly or a Rapture Riptide fly. Trolling speed played a big part of my early success. Trolling faster (2.6-2.7 mph) seemed to be more productive, which is strange for cold water. Limiting out was not an issue on both morning and afternoon trips.



After the first week of April my focus turned to Smallmouth Bass. The first few weeks of April were excellent. The weather was cooperative and everything was going smooth. Water temperatures were stable and the fish were going crazy. We focused on 10-15 ft of water and targeted the fish using a variety of baits. When the water was cold we did very well on grubs as well as Poorboy Eire Darter Jrs. Poorboy's were the best by far. Early on the best colors were Mango Magic and Globy. In a four day stretch we landed over 80!! The biggest smallmouth this April weighed in 5lbs 3 oz. We had an average weight of 3lbs per fish with quite a few 4 pound plus fish. Here's a few picture from the first and second week of April.



Since the end of the 2nd week of April fishing has been up and down. The weather has been hot one day cold the next. Big waves and strong winds have made fishing much tougher. We still have been catching fish but our numbers have been down and along with the average size, but that's fishing and sometimes it's out of our control. On a positive note we still have caught some nice fish every day. The best baits have still been Poorboy's but the color choice has changed mostly due to dirty water. Plenzer Melon and "Steiger's Ice" (a custom color Poorboy lures has been making for me and now is selling) have been the best. The darker colors seem to show up better in the milky water. Hopefully the last few days will be better with all the south winds in the forecast. Here's a few picture from this week. The best thing about fishing warm water is not knowing what will be on your hook.



Also mixed in with the Smallmouth trips we have had some excellent Perch and Salmon fishing. The perch were on fire for about 2 weeks during mid April. We were fishing between 48 and 54 ft of water. The bait of choice was minnows with a perch fly rig. A perch fly rig is just like a crappy rig but it is tied on lighter line and has colored hair on the shank of the hook. Best colors were orange and white. These perch were super-sized up to 15.5 inch and 2 lbs! Some of the best perch fishing in the world! Salmon fishing also got hot again for about a week. It was almost too good. It felt like work trying to keep up with the rods. We were catching mostly coho salmon, but there were a few big browns mixed in too. Same baits as earlier in the year. Below are some pictures...





All and all I guess I can't complain too much. When I have been able to get out it's been good. Hopefully it will be a great May. I just want decent weather and I will be happy! I will keep in touch with everyone through updates on my website. There are still open dates for both summer salmon and perch. If you want to smallmouth fish in the fall don't wait to call me I am half way filled up as of now. November Lake Trout trips are also filling up already.

Good Luck, Ralph
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