

Lake Fish Forecast Lenten 2018

Good Day To All

Winter started out with a vengeance in some areas with subzero temps and vicious snows, which have left almost all of the harbors on the Great Lakes with fishing vessels frozen in. Some ice fisheries are still operating despite the weather. As history has shown us, it is touch and go at best right now. For the first time in my 29 years of fish mongering, due to the abundance of yellow lake perch and walleye, Lenten prices are falling to levels we have not seen in years.

European perch and zander are in good supply with no shortages, or price increases, in sight through May.

Frog legs, farm raised in China, will not be a bright spot for Lent as there are issues with production and passing inspection at this time. Consequently, there will be none available. We may see product come mid-March, at the earliest, with about a 35% increase in costs.

FFMC has great PBO vacuum packed whitefish fillets which are wild caught in Canada. Recently this has seen an increase in cost, however, it is still less than the USA competitors, with 6/8, 8/10, & 10/12 available.

Looking for a unique item that is less expensive? Skinless boneless northern pike fillets in 4oz.-5oz. portions are a great option. This value product is wild caught in Canada and can be grilled, broiled, or fried, leading to extremely attractive food cost percentages.

Bluegill from Canada and China are still in good supplies and I expect the prices to hold solid for the season.

Last, but not least, is lake smelt. We carry it in headless dressed, boneless butterfly (great plate coverage), and pre-battered and they are all readily available through Lent for 2018.

Please call with questions,

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