

Lake Fish Forecast September 2014

We are on the doorway of fall. Summer was short as always. Fish production fell short in almost all categories.

Yellow Lake Perch

My advice is grab what you can, when you can. There is not a lot of product in processor's freezer. Lake Erie has less than 1 million pounds of quota left. That may sound like a lot, however, a large portion will be absorbed in the fresh market. The availability of medium size fish has been touch and go. Contact your supplier to see how much inventory they have available. It would not hurt to have several weeks of inventory in your freezer.

Walleye

2/4 through 4/6 are readily available. 6/8 walleye has been available, but there is a lot of pressure on this size. 8/10, 10/12, & 12/14 are being rationed week to week. My advice is to build inventory on these sizes if you can. The season is open in Manitoba until 10/31/2014. Saskatchewan and Alberta banned commercial fishing effective 9/1/2014. The total impact of this action is not yet known.

Canadian Pike/ Sauger

Sauger production is doing well and Riverside has a strong inventory. With other species facing shortages, this would be a great item to add to any menu.

Bluegill/Sunfish

We have product of China readily available. This product is down in price from previous years. The inventory and price of Canadian product is still holding strong.

European Product

Euro perch 20/40 gram & 40/60 gram supplies are good. 20/40gram Zander is still limited. The 40/60 gram, 2/4 ounce, and 4/6 ounce Zander supplies are strong. 6/8 & 8/10 ounce are steady and in good supply also. Prices are up and may climb higher due to pressure on native supplies, changes in value of the euro, and increased shipping expenses due to Bio-terrorism prevention costs.

Northern

Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation once again has 11# 4-6 ounce skinless, boneless portions of this Canadian caught, China processed product. This is an excellent, less expensive lake fin fish for the menu!

Captain Paul Becker

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