

Lake Fish Forecast Lenten 2019

Good Day To All!!

Well, I thought the 2017-2018 winter was really something. However, this 2018-2019 winter has proven to be nothing short of hell for some. Cold and snow have brought fish supply to a halt. Hopefully though, businesses that rely on winter sports can capitalize on this weather. There are some bright spots!

Walleye- Prices are the lowest in years on 2/4, 4/8, & 6/8. 8/10, 10/12, & 12/14 are also available. This will be a continuing trend with the quota increases on Lake Erie.

Yellow Lake Perch- Production has stopped, and with that being said, prices are creeping up due to short supply. I have to say, I am surprised with how much product was out there. I guess it shows we are selling a lot more, seeing it is down \$3.00+/lb. from 1.5 years ago. I suggest locking in with your vendor if you are reliant on this resource. If winter keeps its' grasp, the supply will dry up, driving up prices. Medium-sized perch will be depleted first.

Bluegill- Let's start with the Canada/Wild Caught. This source has been almost nonexistent, and is very much a rationed item. China/ Farm Raised is available, but expect the price to jump, and for one reason- the 10% tariff. If you use this product, grab some soon. Prices are going up, but supply is solid.

European Perch and Zander- These are in good supply and pricing is holding firm. I expect the reason for this is to combat the less expensive walleye currently being offered.

Whitefish Fillets- FFMC has a great PBO Vac Pac! This product has seen an increase in cost, however, it is still less than the USA competitors, with 8/10 & 10/12 available. This is Canada/Wild Caught product.

Northern Pike- Looking for that unique, less expensive item? Try skinless, boneless Northern Pike in 4 -5 oz. portions. This Canada/ Wild Caught portion, which can be grilled, broiled, fried at a value cost, is a very good option. This is probably the best protein out there for the buck.

Lake Smelt- Last but not least, this item has some supply, but don't expect it to last all season. My advice is, if you have an event, stock up now. I believe there will be shortages in April and May. We have it in headless/dressed, as well as battered, and it will be readily available through Lent.

Respectfully,

Captain Paul Becker

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