

This was in
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**'Fishing Adventures'
Mo' Town Muskies
by Field Editor Spence Petros**

Located a stones throw from Detroit is Lake St. Clair, is one of the premium musky lakes in North America, where boating 5 or more muskies a day is not uncommon. The musky season opens the first Saturday in June in both U.S. and Canadian waters, and fishing keeps getting better as waters warm through August. Since the lake is big and shallow, trolling with multiple rods, with some lures dancing in the prop wash produce most muskies. Edges such as weedlines, temperature breaks, slightly faster tapers, and water color changes are usually the keys to success.

Captain Don Miller, who has been guiding for 25-years out of St. Clair Shores and boats over 300 muskies per year, says "bigger muskies turn on in mid to late June. The faster the lake heats, the quicker they start to bite. Smaller lures are more productive early on and in clearer waters, but later in summer and in stained waters, bigger lures work best".

Under sunny or clearer water conditions Miller uses silver, chrome or white lures. On cloudy days or in stained waters, perch or firetiger are hot. Miller trolls about 5-mph in stained water and earlier in the year, while 5 1/2 to 6-mph speeds are best once the waters warm or when fishing clearer sections. Favorite lures are 8-inch jointed Believers and T-3 Terminators.

Water color changes generally occur at river mouths, and may go for 1 to 3-miles. Miller fishes color changes a lot, especially when it goes from muddy to stained. From stained to clear is another edge to check. Water of a degree or two can also form a fish holding edge. Troll any edge in a long "lazy S" pattern, and keep all lures in the upper half of water column.

Non-resident licenses-Michigan 1 day \$7, annual \$30; Ontario 1 day \$16 Canadian (\$12 US), 7 day \$39 Can., seasonal \$61 Can., conservation \$28 Can.

Capt. Miller 734-429-9551

Info on rooms, launches, marinas, restaurants, lodging, charters, "Nautical Mile
Hot Line 1-586-773-3624

Sidebar-Areas to Fish

“The dumping grounds” and off Grosse Point turn on in mid to late June and produce into mid July. Excellent summer areas are off the Belle and Ruscom rivers, south channel, and the mouth of the St. Clair river. Late summer and into fall, the ship canal at the mouth of the Detroit river, around Peche Island and the Delphine area are some of Miller’s favorite spots.