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# NORTH AMERICAN FISHERMAN®

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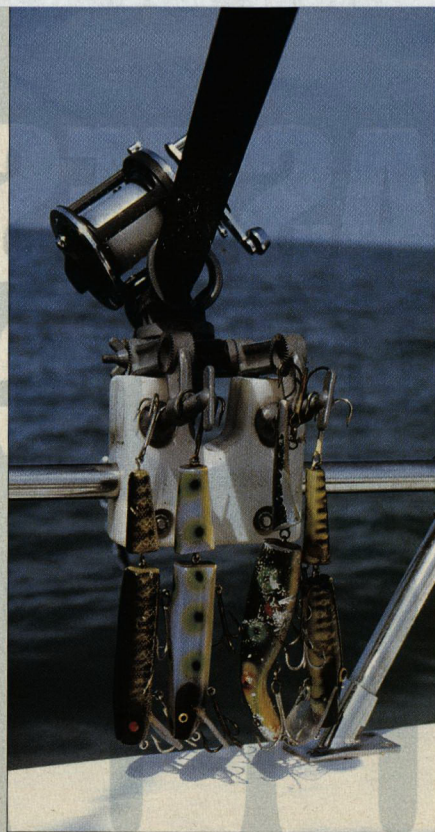
## Motown Muskies Michigan

**A** long cast from Detroit, Lake St. Clair ranks among the continent's premium muskie lakes—boating five or more fish a day is not uncommon.

Muskie season opens the first Saturday in June in U.S. and Canadian waters; fishing improves as waters warm through August. Capt. Don Miller boats more than 300 muskies per year. He says, "Bigger muskies turn on in mid- to late June. The faster the lake heats, the quicker they start to bite."

Troll multiple rods on the big, shallow lake. Seek out edges like weedlines, temperature breaks, fast tapers and water color changes. Smaller lures are more productive early on and in clearer waters, but later in summer and in stained waters, bigger baits work best.

The "Dumping Grounds" and Grosse Point turn on in mid- to late June. 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. Nonresident fees start at \$7 in Michigan and \$12 (U.S.) in Ontario. Contact Capt. Don Miller, (734) 429-9551.—Spence Petros



## Colossal 'Crackers South Carolina



**F**ew waters rival Santee-Cooper for bull bluegills and redears. Its 170,000 fertile acres routinely yield jumbo members of the sunfish clan, some so outlandishly obese they border on grotesque. Witness the world-record redear Santee-Cooper yielded in 1998, which weighed a whopping 5 pounds, 7.5 ounces.

The best-known spot for bull 'gills and shellcrackers is the Diversion Canal, which links the two lakes,

Marion and Moultrie, that make up Santee-Cooper. The canal produced two world-record redears and a state record before that. Other prime areas include humps in Moultrie's main body, shallow, swampy areas in upper Marion and the "Bar Pit" or Borrow Pit, from which earth was excavated to build Santee Dam.

Nonresident fees start at \$11. Call the Department of Natural Resources, (803) 734-3886.—Jeff Samsel

**Santee-Cooper is famous for monster 'crackers, including the current world record, this 5-pound, 7.5-ounce brute.**

## Wild Waters Ontario

**B**orn at Winisk Lake, 140 miles north of Pickle Lake, Ontario, the Winisk River runs 300 miles north to Hudson Bay. The wild, fish-rich river's journey is marked by powerful rapids, chutes and falls.

Angling is incredible on Winisk Lake and the river. Walleye fishing is spectacular throughout the system, with staggering numbers and trophy fish topping 10 pounds. Gorgeous brook trout up to 6 pounds live in swift reaches of the river. Pike grow big here, too, and 20 pounders are not uncommon.

Tackle needs are simple: yellow or white jigs and curly-tails for 'eyes; a handful of thick-bodied cranks, spoons and spinners for brookies; and muskie-sized bucktails for pike. Medium spinning gear and casting rods with 17-pound test will cover most situations.

Most anglers visiting the Winisk system fly from Thunder Bay to the native community of Webequie. Spruce Shore Lodge offers lodging and can arrange guided canoe trips down the Winisk. For license and booking info, call Spruce Shore at: (807) 353-1196.—Gord Ellis