

## 2017 Northeast Glacial Lakes Fishing Forecast – Week 3

Presented by Fishermens Net Guide Service LLC

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A few of the shallow lakes south of HWY 12 froze over again but with the warming weather and high winds it won't take those long to open up. Some of the larger bodies of water didn't refreeze.

What I plan to do here for the next few weeks is not to give a fishing report (because we're entering a transition period, ice to open water) but to highlight a lake or two every week and a lake survey history along with my 2017 fishing forecast. Not only will we visit the more popular lakes, I'll hit some of the lakes that are more off the beaten path.

**Lake Alice (Deuel County)** – Simply put, you'll be hard pressed to catch many walleyes under 20" long in Lake Alice. The lake was sampled in 2016 but published information isn't available at this time. But if the Game Fish & Parks used the same amount of nets like in 2013 the number of walleyes captured was down a little. And there could be special circumstances involved to cause that.

In 2013 the GF & P used 24 nets in their sampling and averaged 12 to 13 fish per net with the majority of fish falling in the 15" to 20" range. In 2016 the average was 5 fish but the vast majority fell between 20" to 25" long. A few were between 25" to 30" long. I don't know why the sampling per net was less in 2016. It could have been an algae bloom or some other event. But nice fish wherever you go!

Data collected during the 2013 sampling suggest 4 year classes (2004, 2005, 2009 & 2011) of walleyes were captured. The 2009 year class dominated the gill net catch at 90% plus.

I need to note that Curlyleaf pond weed and European Rudd are present in Lake Alice. Both are an invasive species and anglers need to take care so not to transport these species to other bodies of water. Clean, drain and dry your boats after fishing the lake. Around the early part of July Curlyleaf pond weed dies and falls to the bottom of the lake.

One other note, Lake Alice is a clear water fishery. Low light periods such as sunrise or sunset may increase your fishing success. Cloudy days and wind will also help.

Didn't see your favorite lake? Check in next week as we'll highlight other lakes in Northeast South Dakota. Also, check out our Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/fishermensnetsd/>