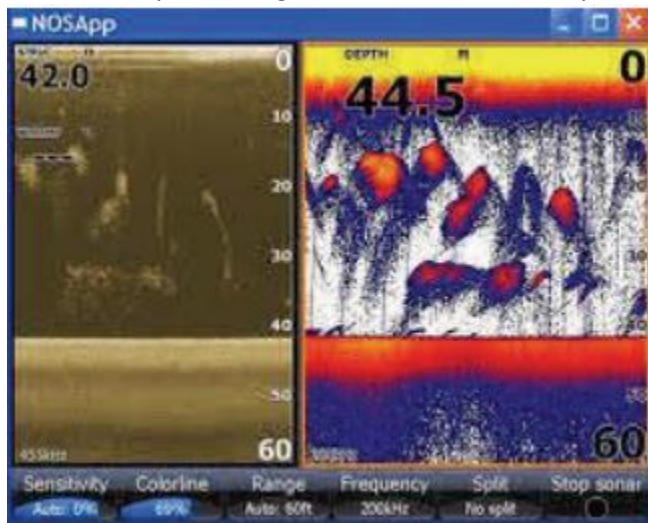


# Fall Fishing-Locations and Electronics

During the fall, two of the quickest methods for locating a bunch of walleyes is the selection of appropriate seasonal locations and the effective use of your electronics. During this period, search for structural elements that offer walleyes quick access to deep water. Often times these locations will be points, flats or off-shore humps with steep break lines or edges. Water depth can vary greatly and is frequently dictated by seasonal movements and environmental conditions. During the fall and into the winter, depth can range from less than 10 feet to over 50 feet, depending on the circumstances, time of day (or night) and the structure. Conditions permitting, the typical scenario includes walleyes moving into shallow water late in the evening until early morning then, heading toward deeper water for the remainder of the day. Another consideration is the weeds. As the weeds begin to die, oxygen levels decrease in the shallows. As a result, walleyes foraging in these locations spend less time in the skinny water as fall progresses and oxygen levels diminish even further. One of the biggest mistakes fisherman make is keeping their sonar unit in the fish ID mode. I'd recommend using the manual mode and increasing the sensitivity until you begin to receive a fair amount of "clutter" on your screen. How and/or where you look for walleyes with your sonar will depend on several factors including the type of structural element you're looking at and the depth of the water. Regardless, walleyes are often found laying belly to the bottom and could be easily missed without having your sonar unit adjusted correctly. The shallowest walleyes can be extremely difficult to locate with your electronics because the range you scan is greatly reduced. Additionally, this time of year the water is normally very clear and shallow fish can be very spooky. If you're in the shallows your sonar unit is more likely to be used to remain on structure or a depth line than to locate fish. Shallow to me means anything inside of ten to approximately fifteen feet depending on the conditions. As you get outside of the really shallow stuff and venture into deeper water, the "fish finding" capabilities of a good depth finder really come into play. At depths beyond fifteen feet you can more often "find fish" with your electronics and I really begin to keep my eyes glued to my sonar. Finding and fishing for walleyes located on deep structure can be a slow process. As an example, if you're fishing an off-shore hump you'd be remiss if you didn't thoroughly search the entire structural element. Look on the top, on the sides/breaks and at the base for marble eyes holding close to the bottom. As you scan these locations it may take several passes over



the same area before you're certain there aren't any fish present. It's hard to explain but a fish holding tight to a quick break can be easily missed. One of the many pointers fellow club member John Carruth gave me years ago is to pay attention to the overall activity level of the area your fishing. Here's the point. Not marking fish is common for many of the bodies of water we fish, particularly Lake Roosevelt. Just because you're not marking fish doesn't mean they're not there. One example of an "Activity Indicator" might be marking on your sonar unit what appears to be a cloud or series of clouds. What you're probably looking at is either

emerging insects or schools of tiny baitfish. If there's food, the likelihood of having at least a few fish in

the immediate area greatly increases. If you are marking what appears to be bait, try looking a little deeper for fish that are holding just below the "cloud".