

Wind and Mud = Walleyes

There are a wide variety of patterns that will enable you put walleyes in your live-well. Arguably, the one that I enjoy the most and over the years has been extremely consistent is the pattern created by the wind. Most experts will tell you that the wind blowing in the same direction for several days is the key to a successful bite. Although this circumstance may be optimal, on many of the impoundments we fish it may take as little as 30 minutes to get things kicked into gear. With the wind comes the creation of mud-lines. Wind and mud-lines can be an absolutely deadly combination for putting large numbers of walleyes in your live-well....and in a hurry! As the wind continues to blow, the waves begin to build. As the waves roll onto the shoreline, the bottom becomes "stirred up" in the shallows. Over a period of time (dependent on the velocity of the wind), the shallows eventually become cloudy. This cloud of suspended silt gradually creates a line of demarcation separating it from clearer water. Sometimes the line of demarcation may only extend a short distance from the shoreline. At other times it might extend into 40+ feet of water. With few exceptions, nearly all of the bodies of water we fish will produce wind generated mud-lines. Banks, Potholes, Moses and Roosevelt all have enough mud, silt and chalky bluffs to create great mud-lines when the waves roll into the shallows. Mud-lines are key walleye haunts for a number of reasons. Here are a few of them. Mudlines provide less light penetration and as you know, walleyes are superior predators under low light conditions. The wind also concentrates plankton. What feeds on plankton? Correct you are...minnows! What feeds on minnows? Correct again.....walleyes! During the spring and summer periods, jigs, spinners and cranks are all good presentation options. Most of the time I prefer cranks as they allow me to cover ground and the option of using planer boards to fish all aspects of the mudline. At the end of the day, it's more a matter of what presentation you're comfortable with and have confidence in.