

# Woods and Waters & BOB BECKER

## THE "GLASSY EYED" WALL EYE IS A NIGHT PROWLER.

Although the trout, bass and muskies may occupy the center of the fishing stage for the majority of anglers, the walleye (or walleyed pike, as it is commonly called) is not without its boosters, as this member of the perch family is quite gamy and affords plenty of sport for the lake or stream fisherman.

The walleye is widely distributed, so anglers in both Canada and the United States have had a chance to get acquainted with it. The fish has many names, including yellow pike, blue pike, walleyed pike, salmon and jack salmon. In Canada it is known as dore or "pickerel." The color of the walleye varies in different localities, which in some cases is responsible for its different names.

The walleye is the submarine of the fish tribes, as this fellow likes to cruise around in water of good depth, only coming in the shallower parts of a lake or stream during the spawning period or at night when it is eating time. Along toward dusk is one fine time to fish for them, as they are on the move for food, and then a live minnow dangled in front of a hungry walleye is sure to bring action. Some of the best walleye fishing we have ever seen came last summer when we were on the French river, in Canada. We didn't leave camp until 6 o'clock, and by the time we reached the pool where the big ones were known to loiter our fishing place was in the shadows cast by the setting sun. In 15 feet of water we worked our live minnows, which soon stirred up things a-plenty. Within a few minutes we had a dozen good sized wall eyes, the twelfth fish weighing an even five pounds. On another occasion (a cloudy, foggy day), when we were fishing the Manitowish waters, our guide, the "Chief," led us to a sandy bar in one of the lakes in the Manitowish string for some fun with the walleyes. Again conditions were just right, as the fish sure did grab our lures in fine style.

Look for the walleye in deep pools at the edge of riffles or at the entrance of a stream, on rocky and sandy bars, or under shelving rocks and banks but always in fairly deep water. Some of the deep pools in the Nipigon were just filled with walleyes and just before sunset one could catch 'em on a variety of artificial lures. A trimly built fish, with a rather slender body and a mouth full of sharp teeth, the walleye puts up a pretty good fight when hooked, although its scrapping is all under water. It takes live bait eagerly and can also be caught with artificial flies on a fly rod. There isn't much snap and dash to the antics of the walleye when he is hooked, but at the same time he keeps up a constant tugging and pulling so that with light tackle a fisherman can have a pretty good time with large sized specimens.

In Canada we saw very little casting done for this fish, as trolling was the method commonly used in the Lake of the Woods country or on the French. Artificial bass lures were put down deep and were usually successful. One moonlight night we saw a troller come in from his favorite stretch of water in the French river with a six-pound walleye. No need to worry about this fish being able to see after dark. That big, prominent glassy eye enables it to find its prey (mostly small fishes) without much difficulty, and it certainly does make way with a bunch of 'em in the course of a season.