

Lac Du Bonnet poised for Walleye Tournament innovation!

Did you ever think that you would see a Manitoba professional walleye tournament in July, or even better, with no slot limit? Well here it is! The Lac Du Bonnet Invitational Walleye Classic 2008.

They are looking for a 50-boat field, with \$8,000 for 1st place! The Pros will be able to weigh in their top 5 walleye each day with no slot limit! Those 5 and 6 pounders will be gold. Here is how it's done.

Each boat will be assigned a Spotter who will accompany the 2 person Pro team. When a walleye is caught, the fish is put into a special weigh sack by the Spotter, weighed and recorded. At the end of the day, the team confirms their top 5 heaviest fish and turns the weigh sheet in to the tournament officials. The Spotters will be transferred to another team the next day and the weigh-in continues with their new Pros.

When fish are handled with such care as they are in this venue, it is easy to see why the Tournament Organizers and the Fisheries Branch are so pleased with the whole concept.

Organizers say, Lac Du Bonnet was the 1st choice for several reasons.

- 1) The lake is predominately shallow so the fish are not coming out of the deeper colder water and the temperatures are fairly consistent which puts less stress on the fish.
- 2) Also because of the depth, the fish don't have to blow the excess air from their bladders. In lakes with deeper water, this puts pressure on their internal organs and the mortality rate goes up.
- 3) This is a large body of water and offers the Pros so many different areas where they can fish. With no slot limit, it's unlikely that the Pros will bunch up in the "Big Fish" only areas. They will spread out looking for those tournament winning 4 to 6 lb. Fish.
- 4) LDB is only 1 hour out of Winnipeg and offers visitors, hotels, restaurants, gas stations, tackle store, boat rentals, a wonderful beach and shopping.
- 5) They have good and convenient boat launches.
- 6) And the people are great too!

Organizers say this tournament is timed perfectly for big walleyes, warm weather and family fun. They even have prizes for the 5 days of pre-fish. Just stop into Watertown Marine or The LaVerendrye Trading Co. during those 5 days of pre-fish (from Monday June 30th to Friday July 4th) and you can sign up every day for chances to win one of two prizes worth over \$1,000.

On Friday July 4th at 5:30 pm. the Pros will line up on hwy. #317 (by Home Hardware) for the boat parade! This is where the Pros show off some of the finest fishing machines available! This is also a chance for the kids to stalk up on the candies thrown out by the anglers.

To top it off, organizers say that the proceeds will be put towards "Reel Solutions for Youth", where the Pros will share their fishing knowledge with local youths. They will be invited to a day at the Lac Du Bonnet town dock where they will experience a mini-tournament and at the end of the day they get to keep the rod and reel that they are using!

In just two weeks, more than half the Spotters are already signed up and more call every day! The Spotters who attend both days are in a separate draw for a Lund A-14 boat, 9.9 Merc 4-stroke outboard and trailer, which is being supplied by our major sponsor Lund Boats!

Tournament entry fee per team is \$400 and only the first 50 will be accepted. If you would like to enter the tournament or be a Spotter, forms and rules are available at:

www.lacdubonnetwalleyeclassic.com

You can also call Brian at 345-8096 or Bob at 345-8222.