

Has the 21st Century left Walleye tournaments behind.

During the early 1990's Walleye angling was enjoying a fast growth in Walleye angling and Walleye Tournaments on the whole. New clubs were popping up as states were aggressively stocking Walleyes and Saugeyes throughout their systems of lakes. New baits, new techniques were being added to arsenals every year. Professional Circuits flourished and fields were full before the start of the season. We finally made it on TV regularly and became mainstream. Then came the 21ST Century...

Let's face it Walleye Tournaments will never exceed Bass Events but should be 2nd. But the Redfish and Off-Shore events are setting us back. NASCAR has taken a chunk of the Public, many of those who used to show up at weigh-ins. Now their in front of the TV looking for their drivers to win and the weekly crashes. NASCAR is exciting and lets face it, from a spectators view Walleye tournaments or I should say all tournaments are boring by those standards.

OWWW some of you are saying Marc you've never been in a Walleye Tournament if you can say that. Remember I'm saying that Fishing tournaments are boring to many anglers that should be spectators at events from the local event to the PWT. We know how exciting Walleye angling is. All you need is to fish an event on Lake Erie when the waves are 9 feet in order to feel the adrenaline. I've yet to see a Bass tournament have 4 fish on at one time.

But to succeed now we have to move on and capture the home crowd. By that I mean those who are more likely to sit at home and play on the computer while recording shows on their DVR's. Let's face it the computer is mainstream in the 21st Century and we need to capture that audience before another species event beats us to it. I'm not here to knock any existing circuit, but hoping someone with the finances will invest in what may become the new wave in tournament angling spectator sports.

Web cams have come a long way and would be the perfect way to bring in the computer generation. 2-3 cams mounted in each boat. One in the rear and one up front that can look forward and backwards. Finally one mounted on the windshield so the angler can talk to their viewers while driving. These cams are linked to the individual's webpage within the circuit site. Viewers can go between anglers, views, stats and other related pages. Anglers will be able to promote their sponsor's products while on the water and the Circuit will be able to promote their sponsors products on banners within the site.

People need a connection with their favorite anglers and need to watch them fight waves and set the hook, look them in the eyes and talk. They need to see how techniques are being used in order to get the concept. This allows eight hours to watch and grasp the small nuances that go with use of different baits and techniques. This allows access to the anglers that aren't available now. Real personalities come out. Pro's will build their own fan base and be able to answer questions from e-mails to their pages.

You can also add the amateur page to each of the Pro's page that they are currently fishing with. This adds the hometown crowds and gives them a chance to be seen nationally. One of the reason amateurs compete as amateurs in major Professional Circuits is the chance to see themselves on TV. And what more could you ask then being visible for 8 hours a day..

And speaking of TV what better for putting clips together for a show, than the availability of what everyone was doing all day. Sure you'll want to send out camera

crews with the top anglers but now you'll have the fill in from hundreds of hours of film each day. Funny moments, never missing the big fish of the event on film, See the aggravation when someone loses that big one and breaks a rod. Walleye angling may never be NASCAR but it could definitely go a lot further. Marc Colwell