

Warm water may mean nice conditions for being on the water - but it also means bad muskie fishing conditions for many fishermen. Many of these muskie anglers claim spring but mostly fall are muskie "prime-time", but summer is a quieter time for muskie. However, there are a number of muskie hunters who do just fine in summer by using a few techniques that you might want to try.

Get off the shoreline:

Morning and night fishing can find muskie in the shorelines, but not always, and even rarer during the day. Muskie will often move out and suspend over open water - away from the shorelines. When fishing these areas our typical "hot spot" ideals such as weeds, structure, and humps aren't always available. So we'll look for the only "structure" that is available and attractive to muskie... their food. Using a fish finder try to locate schools of feeder fish and fish the edges. During this time of the year muskie generally will be above 30 feet in depth. Tie on a diving crankbait about the same color as the baitfish and start casting or trolling the edges of these feeder fish schools.

Fish after dark or before sun-up:

Summer means heavy fishing pressure, heavy traffic, and higher temperatures. Muskie respond to this by staying away from what we might consider good muskie spots during the day. Next time you have a chance to go out after dark when the temperatures are down and the pressure is lighter - it's worth a shot. Try the same muskie spots that are good during the days and use the same lure techniques. Many muskie anglers will insist that you need to use loud topwaters or giant, bright baits. But most are convinced that any lure can work at this time and some will even troll at normal speeds.

Use the wind:

When the waters are warmer and the muskie don't bite another advantage you can look for is using the wind. Although many anglers will avoid wind and scramble to find nice protected bays to get out of it, using the wind's effect on the water can be a great advantage for the muskie fisherman. When you have sustained winds blowing in the same direction for a chunk of time, the waves tend to push the feeder fish and other life to the battered shoreline. Muskie know this - and are more likely to be there. Additionally, waves cut down on visibility and give you a little additional hiding power, not to mention the believability of your lures. Topwaters and shallow lures can work well here as muskie seem to be more willing to climb higher and feed near the surface during these times. It might be that big waves tend to knock the feeder fish around more, causing disorientation and thereby making them easier to catch.