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Woods-N-Water News

Michigan's Premier Outdoor Publication

Black Bear Hunting:

No Dogs, No Baiting?

Fishing:

**Walleye, Muskie, Brown Trout,
Bass and Trophy Carp?**

■ Free Fishing Weekend: Take a Friend Fishing June 10-11

■ Slobs Trashing Forests

■ Infant Antlers

Fast trolling for big muskie . . .

By George Richey

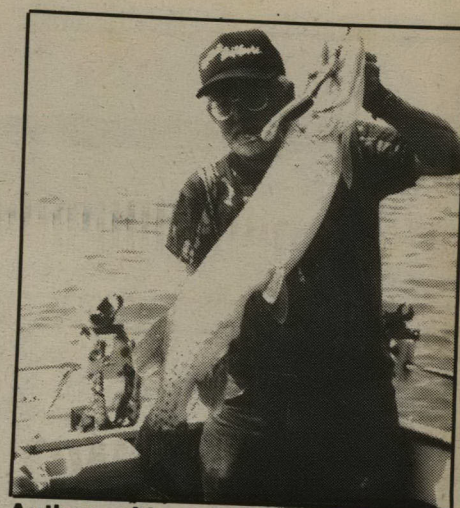
We began setting lures and it seemed like we were flying across the water. "How fast are we trolling," I asked Captain Don Miller as we sliced through the water. "I normally troll about 5.5 miles per hour. I may slow down a bit if the water is churned and dirty, and kick up the speed some when the water is clear. This way, a muskie has just enough time to react to the lure coming over the top of him and grab it," he said. Besides, this speed allows Miller to show lures to more

chartered Don landed 163 muskie out of 211 opportunities. That's excellent fishing for these big fish. He won't let fishermen keep muskies shorter than 45 inches (minimum size is 42") and prefer that fish near the 30 pound mark be kept if someone wants one for a wall mount. In 1994, he had 15 Michigan DNR Master Angler fish landed last year with a minimum of 45" or 20 pound

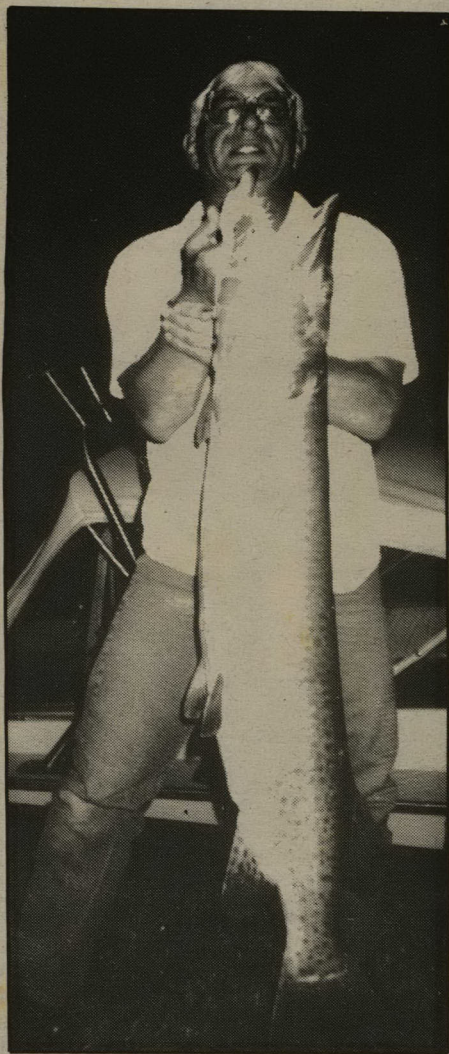
fish. Many of these fish were released. His largest muskie landed in 1994 was a trophy sized 30 pound 2 ounce fish.

I asked Don why the speed was so fast. He responded, "you can present a lure to a muskie slowly, and it gives them too much time to follow or reject the lure. With the

Continued page 22



Author with a 44 inch, 22 pound muskie taken on a rainbow colored Believer Plug.



Captain Don Miller of Saline, with a 36 pound trophy muskie. Photo by George Richey

fish during the day by covering more water.

It has long been thought that a muskie is a once in a lifetime fish, but Captain Miller's records show that he is able to consistently put anglers into good numbers of fish. "I learned much of my muskie fishing techniques from the late and great Captain Homer LeBlanc. He was a stern instructor, but he wanted me to learn to fish muskie the proper way," Don said.

A year ago, the anglers that