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"Kentucky Silver Morning," by wildlife artist Rodd Umlauf, 7881 Rainbow Road, Lake Tomahawk, WI 54539, telephone (715) 277-4474. Contact the artist for print availability.

# PRINCIPLES OF TROLLING & MUSKY LOCATION

Musky Hunter SPRING BLITZ



*Understanding the habits of muskies as well as the movements of their forage are key elements to consistent trolling success*

By CAPTAINS LARRY JONES AND DON MILLER

For years, the trolling brethren of the musky fishing community have been chastised by some diehard casters as being lazy and lacking in knowledge. This assumption couldn't be further from the truth. While trolling can be as simple as throwing a lure behind the boat and putting the motor in gear, to be truly effective and consistently successful there are dozens of things that need to be considered.

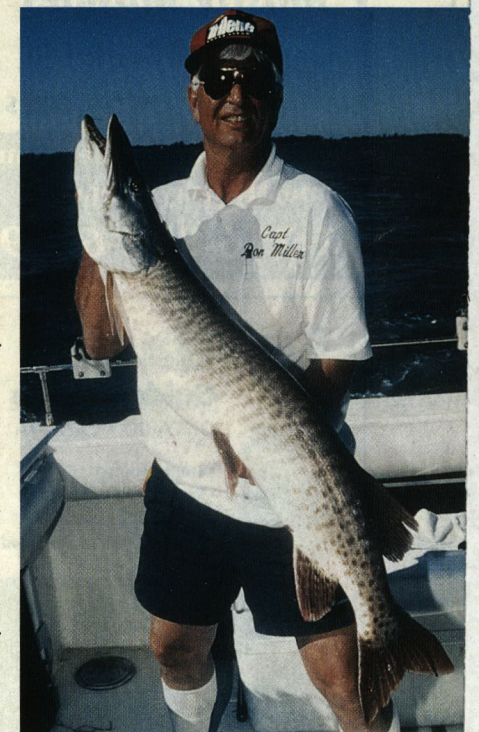
In this article we will discuss a wide range of conditions and challenges presented to the trolling musky angler, and tactics to make the time spent on the water more productive.

Understanding the habits of muskies as well as the movements of their forage is a key element to consistent trolling success. This is not simply a game of covering as much open water as possible, though increased water coverage is certainly one of the more appealing benefits of trolling.

Knowing where to troll at a given time and under given conditions will increase your catch rates significantly. Eliminating "dead" water is the name of the game, so let's get started.

## WIND

On big water it's important to understand near-shore and far-shore weather forecasts. For example, fishing the south shore of



*Captain Don Miller is one of St. Clair's best known charter captains.*

*At left, another expert troller, Musky Hunter Editor Jim Saric, works a breakline.*

STEVE HEITING