

# BACK IN THE DAY

Underwood

COMPILED BY SHELLY WALLACE  
from the Files of the Central McLean News Journal



## OUR OUTDOORS

BY NICK SIMONSON

### MN DNR Seeks Angler Input on Lower Walleye Limit

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is revisiting a proposal to reduce the daily limit on walleyes for inland lakes in the state from six fish down to four, with one over 20 inches allowed in the daily creel. The agency is seeking angler input on the suggestion through March 5. While the DNR and the state's legislature have often reviewed this arrangement, or similar reductions since the current six-fish limit was put into effect in 1956, increasing pressure put on walleye fisheries in the land of 10,000 lakes from a variety of factors has renewed the focus on the proposal which would take effect in 2027, according to Nathan Olson, Area Fisheries Supervisor at the DNR's Detroit Lakes office. "This has been discussed for years. I've been with the DNR for going on over 20 years now, and it seems like it's always come up in the legislature, or in one form or another. Most years we've been neutral on those proposals, but this year we've gone to support of going from a six-bag to a four-bag," Olson details of the reduced walleye limit's history, adding, "we're just seeing some changes in how technology has come along, we've seen some climate change issues, and ultimately this is something we just want to ask anglers to see what their positions are. It's something that's trying to be a little bit proactive on some challenges that may come up with walleye fishing in the future." The agency points to three primary factors which already have or likely will in the near future contribute to reduced walleye populations or altered fisheries. These include a changing climate in the upper Midwest resulting in warmer waters which are less favorable to walleyes; invasive species introductions, such as zebra mussels, which have impacted walleye recruitment and fingerling health on lakes where the mussels are present; and improved fish finding technol-

ogy, such as front-facing sonar, which makes walleyes generally easier to find, especially as units drop in price and the advanced electronics become more widely used. While none of the factors alone suggest a linear impact on walleye populations in the state, together they pose a likely possibility of declining and higher-pressured walleye populations which may justify the lower daily possession limit. "A lot of people can talk about all sorts of different technologies nowadays, besides side scan or forward-facing sonar, even just the advent of the trolling motor and spot lock, to be able to be spot-locking on fish," Olson adds, advising that the new technology does not have a lot of research behind it, but the other factors do, "I can't say that I've seen specifically any [climate change issues] happening, at least here in the Detroit Lakes area, but Wisconsin has documented some changes in their fisheries that have evolved into more bass-panfish type fisheries, and having a struggle with keeping their walleye populations where they're at." In recent surveys conducted by the DNR, angler reception to the proposed decrease in the walleye limit has generally been positive by a wide margin. The agency also notes that each state that it shares a border with - and the border waters managed between them - already have lower daily walleye limits than the current six-fish maximum in Minnesota. More information on the proposal, and a link to public comment can be found at: [dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries/management/walleye-limit.html](http://dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries/management/walleye-limit.html)

Simonson is the lead writer and editor of *Dakota Edge Outdoors*.

Featured Photo: Going Down. The Minnesota DNR is proposing a reduced walleye limit on its inland lakes in 2027 and is seeking angler input on those suggestions to drop the daily possession from six fish to four. Simonson Photo.

**20 years ago, March 2006**  
Fly ash sales at Great River Energy's Coal Creek Power Plant near Underwood continue to soar, now reaching an all-time high of 417,000 tons.

Completion of the fly ash storage dome dedicated on April 23, 2003, gave GRE the ability to store 100,00 tons of fly ash. Dome storage, coupled with terminal load-out facilities in the Denver and Minneapolis metro areas have been a recipe for success for fly ash sales.

Great River Energy and Headwaters Inc. will be building a FlexCrete plant in North Dakota. Just where that plant will be built, Coal Creek Station or the Stanton Station, has yet to be decided.

GRE's Business Development Consultant Al Christianson announced the building of the plant during a ceremony at Coal Creek Station, highlighting the record 417,00 tons of fly ash sales at Coal Creek Station during 2005.

Mining efforts are expanding. Representatives from the Falkirk Mine were at the Feb. 22 meeting of the Underwood City Commission to inform the city of plans for mining operations north of Highway 200.

Underwood School Board members rejected a request for an early retirement package from instructor Joyce Ellwein at its Feb. 22 meeting. A resignation was accepted by the board. Joni Britton submitted her letter of resignation effective at the end of the school year.

Positions up for re-election are John Fransen's rural seat and Doyle Johannes' at-large seat.

Contractors had to pay for the late finish of the Underwood School's building project, but the school board agreed to cut the fine in half at its Feb. 22 meeting.

Jake Hultberg, Coleharbor, and Eric Trautman, Riverdale, both seniors at Underwood High School, have been selected to participate in the 2006 Shrine Bowl in the Fargodome July 15.

Torin Kolke and Eric Trautman, Underwood High School, were selected to the All-District 10 Boys Basketball Team. Trautman was also selected for the All-Tournament team.

**30 years ago, March 1996**  
First grade teacher Pat Kranz was presented with a school bell, and award for being named employee of the winter quarter by superintendent Dean Koppelman.

Three sisters, Bonnie Landenberger, Hazen, Brenda Hultberg and Becki Wilson, Underwood, were winners of a trip to Los Angeles sponsored by the Leeza Show. The three are daughters of Lester and Lenore Zietz, Underwood. The sisters made a video tape for the contest, which won them the trip and the opportunity to go behind the scenes of their favorite soap opera, "Days of Our Lives".

Heather Larson, Underwood, qualified for state competition in gymnastics.

Heather was a member of the Washburn Kinetics Gymnastics Club and competed in the 8-11 age group at Level 6.

Comet volleyball sophomore, Jessica Kerzman, was a head above her teammates in sets this past season. She tallied 259 sets for the season. Her nearest teammate in that category was Shayla Strasser with 82.

**40 years ago, March 1986**  
Underwood High School held its annual science fair with Roger and Joni Britton as coordinators. The two best project exhibitors in the junior and senior divisions, Sarah Larson and Stephanie Garceau, each received a plaque. Ten winners in the junior and senior divisions advance to regional competition.

The Underwood teachers were honored on National Teacher Day with a breakfast and purple-tinted carnations. The breakfast was co-sponsored by the Underwood School District and the civic club.

The Underwood Comets over-powered the Velva Aggies 74-57 to bring home third place honors in the Region 6 basketball tournament in Minot.

Stella Ash, Rowena Johannes, Char Anderson and Wylma Matheny represented McLean County at the North Dakota Farm Bureau Annual State Women's Conference in late February.

**55 years ago, March 1976**

Postmaster Winton M. Blount announced the appointment of Mrs. Harry Pochant Jr. as postmaster in Coleharbor.

Spring must have sprung. Mrs. Fred Eman reports robins in their apple tree and eating on the apples that were left from last fall.

The Underwood School was entered Saturday night or Sunday morning, and the thieves broke into the pop machines to get what little change was in them, then forced their way into the superintendent's office and attempted to open the safe. The thieves are probably the same local hoodlums who have been stealing batteries, air cleaners, gas, etc., out of the cars at Schaefer Ford all winter.

Underwood students receiving a superior rating at the State Federation of Music Clubs contest were Peggy Walther, DeAnn Miller, Bonnie Eslinger, Grace Seamon, Michelle Wilke and Lynda Wenger. Kim and Michelle also received a superior rating on a duet.

**60 years ago, March 1966**  
The Underwood Grade School spelling contest was held March 1 to choose the contestants to represent the school at the McLean County Spelling Bee at Washburn on March 26. Three students tied for first place, Marilyn Boger, Robert Hepper and Rebecca Weber. In a tie-breaking spell-off, Robert was first.

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