



► **EVERY fall, anglers around the towns of Lockport and Selkirk just north of Winnipeg get obsessed with greenbacks.** Not the almighty U.S. dollar, mind you, but the Red River's big walleye, which earned the nickname because of their unique, iridescent-green colouring. While Lake Winnipeg is home to these massive fish for most of the year, the walleye head for the cooling waters of the Red River every fall in search of food, making for one of North America's most famous trophy walleye runs. November is as good a time as any to target these giant 'eyes, though prime fishing can be had from late September through to freeze up; anglers even enjoy good catches for a month or two after ice envelopes the river. Particularly popular is the section of river that stretches downstream from the Lockport dam to the boat launch at Selkirk Park, where thousands of anglers dream of catching one of the river's legendary 40-inch walleye. Although the landing of a 40-incher has never been officially verified, rumours abound that such fish exist. Regardless, there are enough 'eyes in the 10- to 16-pound range to more than compensate as a consolation prize.

Beyond walleye

The Red is internationally renowned for its monster channel catfish, which can top 30 pounds. June, July and August are prime times for cats, while the summer also offers great angling for carp, white bass, goldeye, freshwater drum, sauger and bullhead.

TACKLE AND TECHNIQUE

Trolling big, brightly coloured crankbaits on the large river flats is one of the most popular methods for fall greenbacks. For the deep sections, vertically fishing a 1/8- to 1/4-ounce white, chartreuse or orange jig tipped with a large minnow is also very productive. Also for the deeper sections, a lesser-known yet effective technique is to drift with the current and vertically jig spoons, such as the Fergie Special Jigging Spoon, Hopkins Prism and Northland Buck-Shot Rattle Spoon. Keep in mind that November on the Red can be cold; floater suits, winter boots, neoprene gloves and a toque are essential.

Getting there

Boats can be launched at both Lockport and Selkirk, and getting to either town is simple: both are just a short drive north of Winnipeg on Highway 9.

Beyond the Red

Looking for more local walleye hot spots? Also try:

- Winnipeg River (at Pine Falls) ■ Assiniboine River

Local experts

- Kimm Blaquiére, The Greenback Hunter, 1-888-508-3474; www.greenbackfishing.com
- Dan Kiazzyk, Cat Eye Outfitter, (204) 867-3550; www.geocities.com/dkiazzyk2000
- Stu McKay Outfitters, (204) 757-9876; www.catsonthered.com

For more info

Travel Manitoba, 1-800-665-0040; www.travelmanitoba.com

