



2025

YEARBOOK



2025 SUNSET BAY WALLEYE SHOOT OUT - "The Premier Walleye Tournament of The Great Lakes"



Hello Tournament Anglers,

We would like to thank you for participating in the 2025 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out.

This years tournament was our 15th Anniversary tournament and we were very pleased with the growth and value our anglers experienced throughout all phases of the tournament.

The weather had a signifancet impact, not so much on the fishing but certainly on the venue; my hats of to all of our volunteers that worked 'double-duty' in preparation and in the rebuilding of our venue from the Thursday wind storm.

This publication is a new addition that we are going to provide annually as our "Tournament Yearbook" to provide a summary of highlights of this years event.

Thank you to all of our partnering sponsors as they are the key to our success and allow us to grow every year; and provide a world class tournament for all of our anglers. We are already building out an even bigger and better 2026 Sunset Bay Walleye Shootout with some incredible advancements already underway. Our first of 5 tournament publications for the 2026 Tournament will be sent out November 1st. Stay tuned for continuous updates and advancements throughout the year.

Registration for the 2026 tournament is currently open; along with the Big Wave Calcutta. Entry forms are included in this year book for your convenience; get registered today and take advantage of the expanded early bird prize opportunities.

Should you have any questions or comments on any of the enclosed information, please feel free to contact me directly at anytime. I look forward to hearing from you.

Tight Lines!

Capt. Don Ruppert

Capt. Don Ruppert - Direct – 716.435.4137 / Email – donaldjruppert1970@outlook.com

2025 Tournament Champions



Knee Deep Sportfishing – Don Skellie and his team with back to back championships



The 2025 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out – The Premier Walleye Tournament of the Great Lakes!

2025 Official Results – Top 15 Main Event

Division: SSBWS

| | Total | Big Fish | Team | Team# |
|----|-------|----------|--|-------|
| 1 | 36.80 | 6.31 | DON SKELLIE-* KNEE DEEP | 168 |
| 2 | 36.46 | | ASHTON LAIRD-* LIME LAKE MARINA | 198 |
| 3 | 35.73 | 6.69 | DAN HANLEY-* DRAG'N'LURES | 35 |
| 4 | 35.73 | 6.59 | COLTON KNEER-* LIMIT TAKERS | 134 |
| 5 | 35.18 | 6.52 | CRAIG KAWSKI-* REEL PARADISE | 161 |
| 6 | 35.09 | 6.64 | FRANK SIMONICK-* PRINCE OTTO | 81 |
| 7 | 35.00 | 8.58 | GARRY OLSEN JR.-* REEL HARD SPORTFISHI | 129 |
| 8 | 34.99 | 6.22 | COLIN GAWRONSKI-* SWEET LIFE | 4 |
| 9 | 34.49 | | JESSE NUSSBAUM-* 5 ALIVE | 42 |
| 10 | 34.43 | 9.62 | ADAM DIANTE-* VALLEY OUTDOORS | 193 |
| 11 | 34.37 | 8.02 | CHUCK POHLMAN-* CATCH THE BEST | 85 |
| 12 | 34.31 | 6.47 | JOE PAPALIA-* CRS | 92 |
| 13 | 34.13 | 8.84 | WAYNE FORSTER-* TEAM SHIP FACED | 114 |
| 14 | 33.96 | 6.34 | PETE SZKLANKA-* TRIPLE THREAT | 12 |
| 15 | 33.91 | 6.75 | NICK SCHMIDT-* UNDERDOG | 87 |

Congratulations to Don Skellie and Knee Deep Sportfishing on their back to back Championship victories. As we have had teams win the event more than once; this was the first time to have a team win it consecutively.

Great job to 2nd Place (Ashton Laird – Lime Lake Marine) and 3rd Place (Dan Hanley – Dragin Lures) on their respectable finishes.

Another honorable mention was the tie for 3rd and 4th place in the main event; the biggest fish of the teams box was utilized to determine the winner. It was only 0.10 lbs between them. Nice work to Colton Kneer and his team for their 4th place finish

Complete fleet standing are available on our website at www.walleyeshootout.com

Largest Walleye – Main Event



Adam Diante – Valley Outdoors (Center) with John Studley (right) and Brad Sischo (left)

TOP TEN LARGEST WALLEYES OF MAIN EVENT

| Big Fish | Team | Boat# |
|----------|--|-------|
| 9.62 | ADAM DIANTE-* VALLEY OUTDOORS | 193 |
| 8.84 | WAYNE FORSTER-* TEAM SHIP FACED | 114 |
| 8.58 | GARRY OLSEN JR.-* REEL HARD SPORTFISHI | 129 |
| 8.40 | TYLER HALE-* WALLEYE REAPERS 1 | 99 |
| 8.34 | TODD DOTY-* HER EYE DIA | 108 |
| 8.17 | NATE GERNATT-* CRANK YANKERS | 32 |
| 8.02 | CHUCK POHLMAN-* CATCH THE BEST | 85 |
| 7.67 | JUAN DELAROSA-* MAGIC JAUN | 61 |
| 7.66 | BRIAN RANKEN-* PEARL JACK | 8 |
| 7.59 | DAVID PETERS-* HEAVY HOOKERS | 13 |

Big Fish Friday Winners



1st Place – Rob Oram / Eye-Con Fishing Team (Kevin Holobicky & Matt Moscicki)

TOP TEN WALLEYES OF BIG FISH FRIDAY

| | Total | Big Fish | Team | Team# |
|----|-------|----------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | 9.31 | 9.31 | ROB ORAM-* EYE-CON | 80 |
| 2 | 8.30 | 8.30 | RALPH EADES-* ROCK N REEL | 27 |
| 3 | 8.04 | 8.04 | THOMAS MIRANDA-* POLE DANCER | 58 |
| 4 | 7.97 | 7.97 | RICHARD BALIVA-* CRAZY IVAN | 191 |
| 4 | 7.97 | 7.97 | RON MORCIO-* WHO'S YOUR UNCLE | 127 |
| 6 | 7.94 | 7.94 | CHUCK SABATOSE-* MUDDY CREEK TACKLE | 28 |
| 7 | 7.91 | 7.91 | CRAIG SLEEMAN-* MIDNIGHT EXPRESS | 50 |
| 8 | 7.51 | 7.51 | WYATT SHAFFER-* PREQ ISLE FISH & FAR | 14 |
| 9 | 7.47 | 7.47 | VINCENT MANCUSO-* ANDIAMO OUTDOORS | 173 |
| 10 | 7.40 | 7.40 | DAVID LEWANDOWSKI-* BOTTOM BOUNCERS | 68 |



YAMAHA

Pre Fish Pot Thursday (Fish Donkey)



The Thursday pre fish pot was the second year we offered this and we seen significant interest and growth with this addition. We had over 25% growth, going from 30 teams last year to 38 boats the 2025 tournanament. Registration is now open for the 2026 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out (Fish Donkey) and is capped at 100 boats for 2026.

Largest Walleye

| 1. | Chris Logan | VERIFIED |
|----|-------------|----------|
| 2. | Jon Jones | VERIFIED |
| 3. | Michael Fox | VERIFIED |

Download the Fish Donkey App, its free and register today !





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The 2025 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out – The Premier Walleye Tournament of the Great Lakes!

Calcutta Highlights

| Calcutta Option | 1 st Place | 2 nd Place | 3 rd Place |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Captains Calcutta | Don Skellie Knee Deep Sportfishing | Ashton Laird Lime Lake Marine | Dan Hanley Dragin Lures |
| Main Calcutta | Don Skellie Knee Deep Sportfishing | Ashton Laird Lime Lake Marine | Dan Hanley Dragin Lures |
| Rookie Calcutta | Don Skellie Knee Deep Sportfishing | Ashton Laird Lime Lake Marine | Dan Hanley Dragin Lures |
| Big Eye Calcutta | Adam Diate Valley Outdoors | Wayne Forster Ship Faced | Gary Olsen Reel Hard Fishing |

Veterans Calcutta

We were extremely proud to offer our new veterans calacutta for the 2025; and it will be a standard for the Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out. The 1st year for this clacutta was won by William Sam and Team Fishin' Crew.



Ella Monaco performing the National Anthem on stage Thank you to all those who have served!



The 2025 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out – The Premier Walleye Tournament of the Great Lakes!

The Big Wave Calcutta Highlights



The Big Wave Calcutta has grown to be an extremely popular part of the tournament. Congratulations to this years Big Wave winners.

| 2025 | Green Fleet | Main Event | Blue Fleet | Main Event |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 st Place (\$10,000.00) | Dan Hanley (Draggin Lures) | 3 rd Place | Don Skellie (Knee Deep) | 1 st Place |
| 2 nd Place (\$6,000.00) | Colin Gawronski (Sweet Life) | 8 th Place | Jesse Nussbaum (5 Alive) | 9 th Place |
| 3 rd Place (\$4,000.00) | Joe Kramer (Team Kra-Mar) | 16 th Place | Ron Morcio (Whos Ur Uncle) | 18 th Place |

We have opened the 2026 Big Wave Calcutta registration. This is open to the 1st 40 boats registered for this segment. Please find the registration form at the back of this yearbook. Register today and secure your spot for the 2026 tournament.

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Partnering Sponsorship / Excellence Award

Thank you to Mark McQuown and everyone at Garmin for their continuous support of our tournament. Their involvement and partnership is greatly appreciated by our staff and tournament anglers alike. Their commitment to our event is truly second to none.



GARMIN®

Partnering Sponsorship / Excellence Award

Thank you to Eliska and the entire team Runnings. The advancement of our partnership has truly excelerated the growth of our tournament. Their contirbutions every year are tremendous and very much appreciated.



Partnering Sponsorship / Excellence Award

Last but certianly not least; another incredible partnership that has evolved from our beginning is Mr. Sal Lima and our friends at Camping Wolrd. Their generosity, support and innovative ideas have truly help us provide unmatched value to our fleet.



CAMPING WORLD | **good sam**



Irving Location



1-800-421-2464



11099 Route 5 Irving, NY 14081



Motor Madness Winners

Thank you to all our local marinas and their tremendous support and contributions



Mark Dixon & Gary Pudlewski of Olson Marine



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Mr. John Zimdahl of Collins Marine &
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Community Appreciation

We take great pride in supporting the local communities within the Western New York region. I would like to thank all the anglers who's generosity this summer made for such a positive impact for those less fortunate. Raising over \$6,000.00 in contributions to several great organizations.

Your efforts generated \$2,420.00 in cash doantion and a modest amount of non perishable food donations for the Silver Creek Food Pantry. We were proud to present this at the Sunday morning Breakfast of Champions.



The 50/50 drawing generated \$2,100.00 in cash donations for the Sunset Bay Volunteer Fire Company. Other donations collected, organized and provided to



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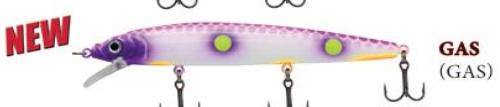
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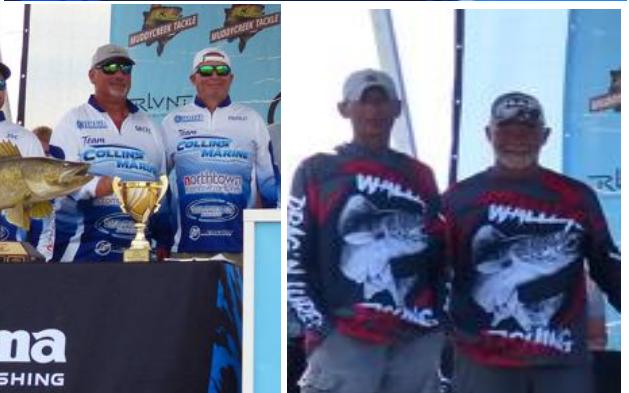
Tournament Photos



Thank you to all our teams/anglers



The 2025 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out – The Premier Walleye Tournament of the Great Lakes!



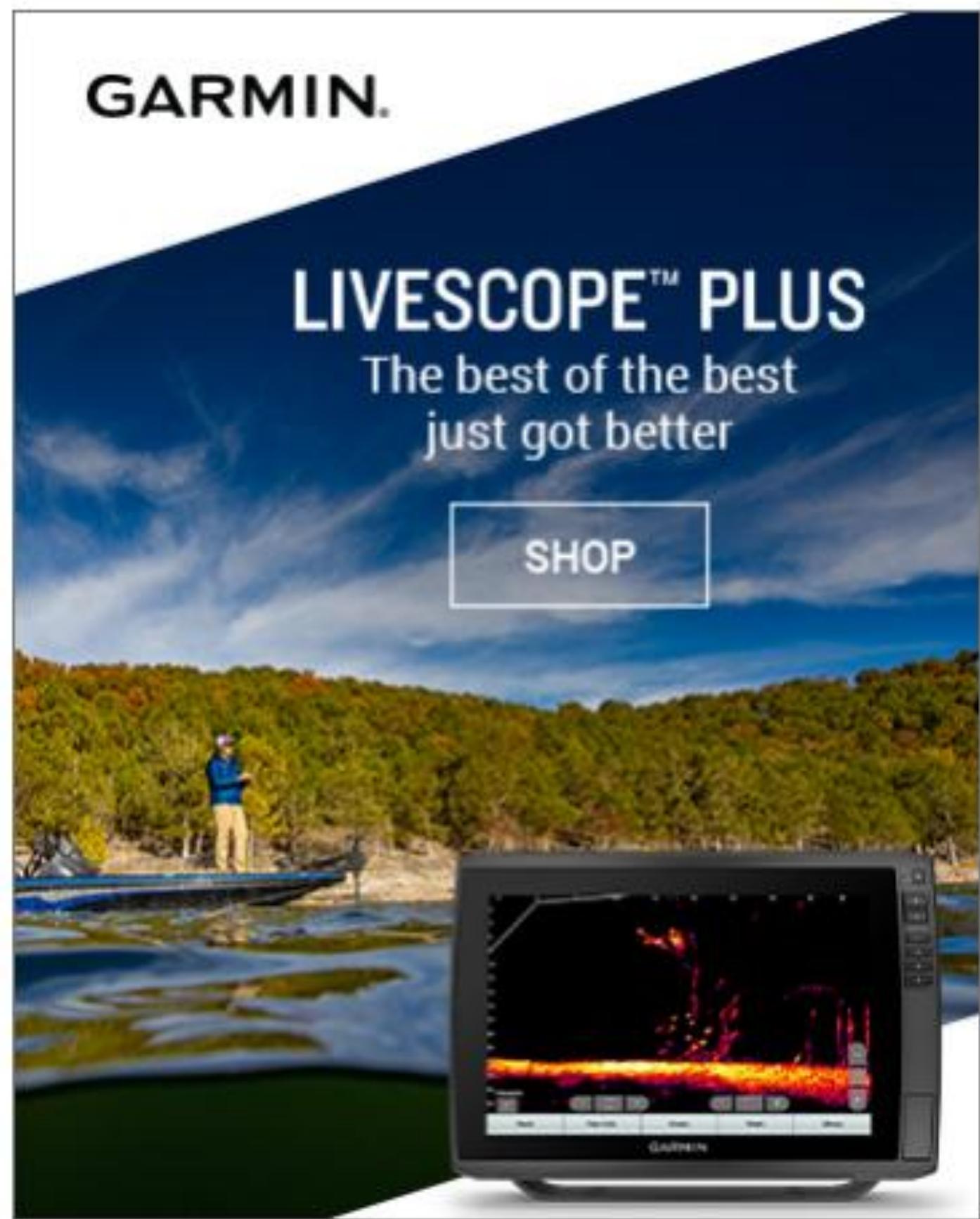
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The 2025 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out – The Premier Walleye Tournament of the Great Lakes!



FEBRUARY 2026

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Fri. 20: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sat. 21: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sun. 22: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



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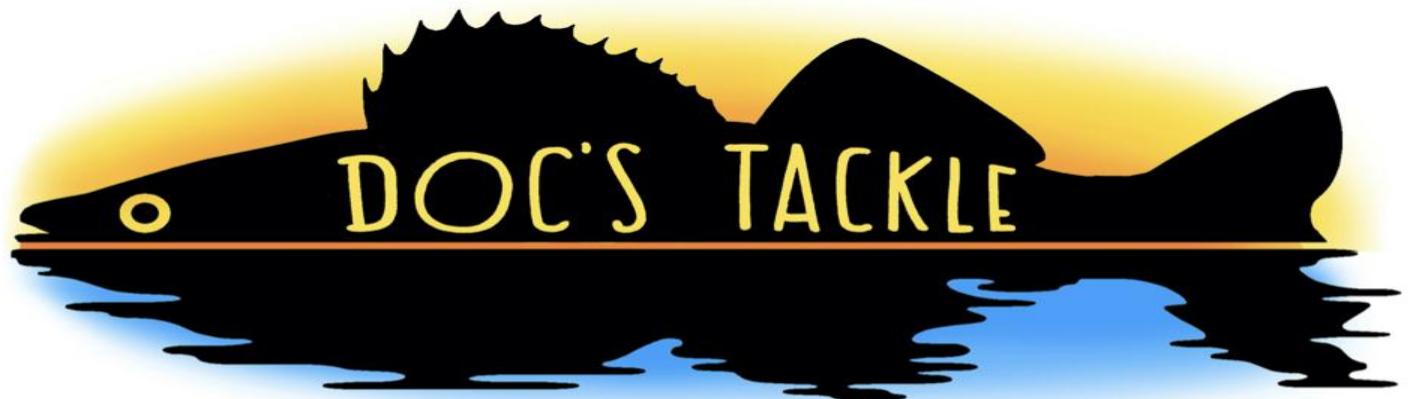
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Craig Sleeman-(585) 305-0746

Ethan Sleeman-(585) 703-4832

The advertisement features a close-up image of a boat's deck with the "AQUATRACTION" logo and "ADVANCED MARINE FLOORING" text. Below the image, there are four small diagrams of different deck panel types, each with a blue line indicating a fold or feature. The contact information for Craig and Ethan Sleeman is provided at the bottom.



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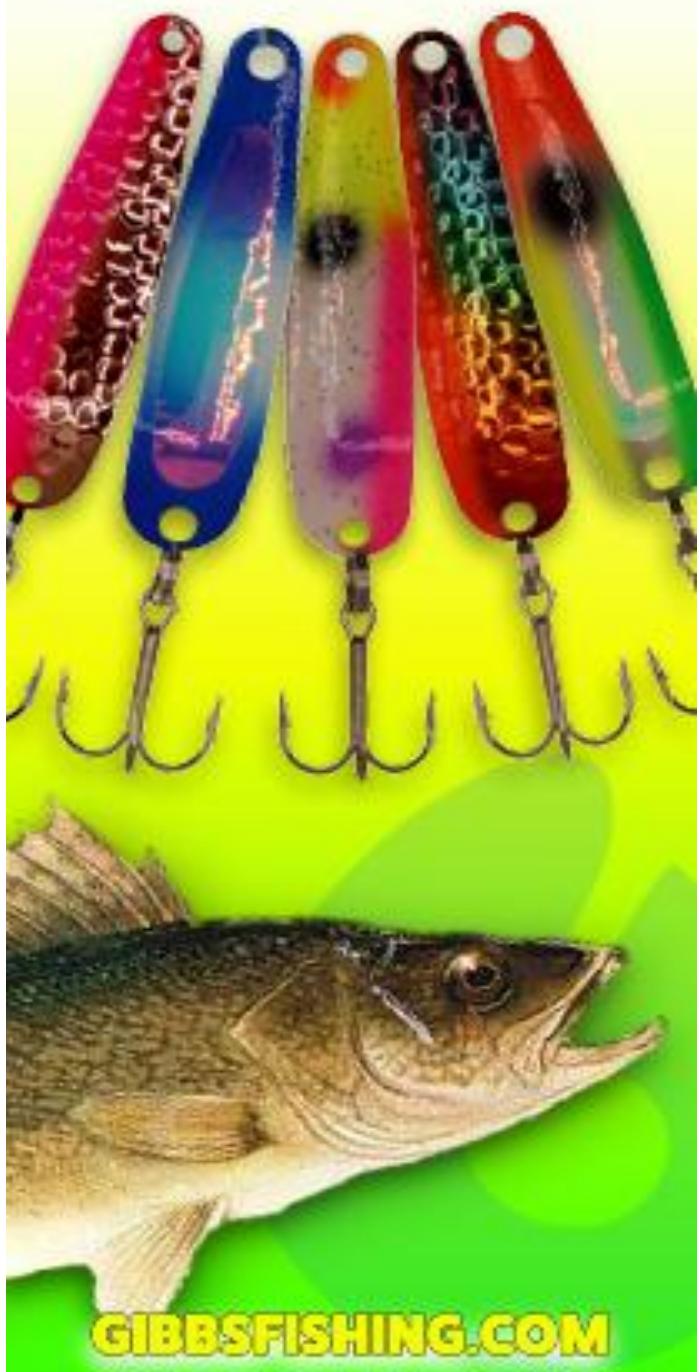
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| WEDNESDAY | 9:00am-6:00pm |
| THURSDAY | 9:00am-6:00pm |
| FRIDAY | 9:00am-6:00pm |
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Fax: **716-773-5647**

eMail: **Service@ftcu.net**

Our Home Town Team

My team and I cant thank our Sunset Bay volunteers enough, they are simply amazing. Over 40 great friends stepped up on so many levels to assist our visiting anglers to ensure that our tournament is the most successful event possible. We couldn't do it wothout them.



Early Bird Prize Winner

It pays to secure your spot within the Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out early. On behalf of LakeShore Hardware, we would like to congratulate Mr. Ken Rodland of Northeast, PA who won the 2025 Early Bird Prize package.

Lakeshore Hardware generously donated a complete turn-key Ariens Snowblower package. The efforts and generosity of Randy and his staff are truly something special.

Please visit them often for all your equipment needs !



16th

2026

Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out - Professional Walleye Tournament

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Team Name : | |
| Boat Information: | (Make/Model/Length/Zip) - |

ANGLER INFORMATION: (2-6 anglers per team)

Please fill each angler's information completely and clearly

Team Captain: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Cell: _____

Teammate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Cell: _____

Teammate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Cell: _____

Teammate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Cell: _____

Teammate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Cell: _____

Teammate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Cell: _____

| Tournament Entry Fees | Amount | X Selected |
|---|----------|------------|
| Main Event Saturday | \$500.00 | |
| The following are all optional parts of the tournament. | | |
| Big Fish Friday | \$100.00 | |
| BBF - Must be paid at time of main entry to fish this portion. | | |
| Calcutta's | | |
| The following four (4) Calcutta options can be paid at the time of main registration, or they can be paid at the captain meeting. | | |
| 1.) Captains Choice | \$250.00 | |
| 2.) Main | \$100.00 | |
| 3.) Rookie | \$50.00 | |
| 4.) Big Eye | \$100.00 | |
| Total Enclosed | " | |

Due Date is May 1st, 2026

2026 Expansion/New Teams

Position secured on first registration received

Registrations are to be paid in US Funds to:

Donald J. Ruppert

P.O. Box 359

Hamburg, New York 14075

Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out – The premier walleye tournament of the Great Lakes!

2026 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out - Professional Walleye Tournament



16th Year

TEAM WAIVER

| | | | |
|--------------|--|-------------|--|
| Team Name : | | Address: | |
| Team Master: | | Cell Phone: | |

In consideration of acceptance of this entry to participate in the 2026 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out.

I, (print) _____ for myself, as well as for my participating team members, my heirs, my executors, sponsors, administrators, support groups, fans and any other associates waive, and release absolutely and unconditionally any and all claims that we, we as defined but not limited to the above, may become entitled to for injury or damage, and release the Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out (SBWSO) it's ownership, officers, directors, all organizing groups, and any other organizers, sponsors, and their active members, servants, agents or employees, from any claims, demands, damages, suits, obligations, actions or causes of actions arising out of any loss, injury or damage to my property incurred while attending at or participating in this tournament, notwithstanding any such loss, injury, or damages which may arise by reason of negligence of any other organizers, sponsors and their respective members, servants, agents, or employees.

In addition, I, individually and for my participating team members also declare that all are aware of the 2026 rules and regulations of the forthcoming tournament. This also includes that I, individually and all participating teammates receiving payments, winnings, prizes from the Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out are responsible for any/all required state and federal taxes. The Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out is not accountable for any taxes of any kind paid to recipients.

In addition, by signing this waiver, I also declare that I, individually, have made aware and explained in detail and confirmed with my participating teammates, and with their approval, that they understand the waiver, its contents and the ability of the Team Master (myself) to sign on their behalf applicable to the forthcoming 2026 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out.

Myself and my teammates also fully release and approve, for the Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out to utilize any/all video, photography and/or audio collected by the SBWSO, as we see fit.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I further release any recourse which I and my participating team may now or hereafter have resulting from any decisions of the Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out and/or organizers, sponsors, and their respective members, servants, agents, or employees.

I confirm I have read this waiver and release and understand its contents, intentions and effect on my legal & equitable rights. I am signing it voluntarily for myself, individually as well as for all members of my participating team; fully releasing the Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out from any claims.

Team Master Name (Please Print)

Team Number (if assigned)

Team Master Signature

Date Of Signature



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16th

2026

Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out - Professional Walleye Tournament

BIG WAVE CALCUTTA REGISTRATION FORM

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Team Name : | |
| Boat Information: | (Make/Model/Length/Hp) - |

ANGLER/TEAM INFORMATION:

Please fill each angler's information completely and clearly

Team Captain: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Cell: _____

| Tournament Option | Amount | Paid |
|------------------------|------------|------|
| 2026 Big Wave Calcutta | \$1,000.00 | |
| Total Enclosed | * | |

Mail Form/Payment To:

Donald J. Ruppert
P.O. Box 359
Hamburg, New York 14075

We are excited to again offer the very popular Big Wave Calcutta for the 2026 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out. This High-Value Calcutta is open to the first forty (40) teams registered. Two (2) Fleets of 20 boats will be drawn randomly to determine the Green and the Blue Fleets. Each fleet will have 100% payout and pay the top three (3) positions for each fleet.

\$1,000.00 PER BOAT

| Position | GREEN FLEET | BLUE FLEET |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 st Place | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| 2 nd Place | \$6,000.00 | \$6,000.00 |
| 3 rd Place | \$4,000.00 | \$4,000.00 |
| | \$20,000.00 | \$20,000.00 |

Bonus: Highest weight between the two fleets will win an entry into the 2027 Tournament (\$500.00)

This will sell out fast, don't miss out, get registered today!

Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out – The premier walleye tournament of the Great Lakes!



- ROD HOLDERS
- TRACK SYSTEMS
- PLANER MASTS
- DOWN RIGGERS
- TROLLING GEAR



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Congratulations to all of winners and thank you to all of our anglers, sponsors and volunteers for an incredible 2025 – 15th annual Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out. Thank you for being here and we look forward to 2026. Stay tuned for some incredible announcements.

GARMIN®

The 2025 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out – The Premier Walleye Tournament of the Great Lakes!



SAVE THE DATE

The 2026 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out is proud to again return on our annual 3rd Saturday of July for next year. The success of this year's 15th anniversary was tremendous, and we are already building out an even bigger event for 2026.

OFFICIAL 2026 DATES (Main Event – Saturday, July 18th – 2026)

Captains Meeting 7-16 / Big Fish Friday 7-17 / Breakfast of Champions 7-19

- The 2026 tournament registration is now open, the team registration form and waiver is available online @ www.walleyeshootout.com. Take advantage of the enormous early bird prizes
- The registration for the Big Wave Calcutta is also open. This form is also available online and open to the first 40 teams registered. For more information/details text 716.435.4137 or 716.912.5180



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