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Innovative Appetizers, Legendary Seafood

From: Captain Paul Becker
Subject: Lake Fish Forecast September 2021

It looks like we are going on Round 2 of COVID and it is a different world. Lake fish will be in short supply once again. Expect shortages and some items will not even be available.

Smelt- I am going to start with good news and it is- We Have Smelt! IQF 11# headless/dressed. In addition, it is looking like we will continue to have fresh smelt available, depending on the week.

Yellow Lake Perch- There are small amounts coming in weekly. This is being absorbed by the fresh market and very little is being frozen. Prices will be going up. Looking ahead, I would suggest buying this item as you can and stock pile it. If we are lucky, they will be able to fish through winter. On a side note, the population of perch is on the rise in Lake Manitoba and we can only hope for some to come from there.

Walleye- The season opens September 1 in Manitoba and I am optimistic for bountiful catches as fisheries return to the waters, yet COVID still hovers over us. With the increased mesh size restriction, 4/6 and up will be the target and catch. Your guess is as good as mine is on how it shakes out for size until catches come in. It will be the middle of September before we know sizing. That said, Lake Erie is producing and has been all along. The catch has been on the larger size, with limited 2/4 and 4/6.

Product from Europe- Euro Perch and Zander in the 20/40, 40/60, & 2/4 are gone. There are a few 6/8, 8/10 and 10/12 to be had. Containers are tentatively scheduled to ship in late October and November.

Canadian Bluegill- Bluegill has been coming in IQF with limited supply. I expect this to be hit and miss for the rest of the year.

Chinese Bluegill/Farm Raised- One bright spot- there is plenty of this fish available! This has gone up in price due to increased costs for containers to get product here.

Northern Pike- We lost the supplier of this product as a victim of COVID. The supplier had to shut down and was not able to continue. FFMC has found another processor to work with and we are hoping for product by late October.

Whitefish- This currently "out of stock" item will be coming in shortly. Let us hope, that as the season opens, the nets are full!

Sauger- Sadly, this great tasting fish will all but disappear, unless the Canadian Fisheries change the 3.75" minimum net mesh rule. We see very little of this delicious fish any more.

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