



*Innovative Appetizers, Legendary Seafood*

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**Subject:** Lake Fish Forecast- February 21, 2022

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Greetings! I hope you're all having a happy, safe winter. It appears the Pandemic is starting to be something in our rearview mirror. We can only hope. Lent starts in March and will soon be upon us. One thing is certain, you can expect to pay one, two, or three dollars more per pound for your favorite lake fish species.

**Smelt-** Good news here. IQF 11# headless, dressed smelt are readily available. However, they're running small. It's still good product and tastes great. With the harbors froze in at this time, we don't know when fresh product will be available, but it's likely some will surface from time to time. My advice is, if you need smelt, take it frozen so you know you have it!

**Yellow Lake Perch-** This is probably my biggest disappointment. In my 35 years, I have never seen such limited availability of this delicious fish, and it is very expensive. Please look at other cost-effective options, or be prepared to pay the price. Much of the available product is primarily large (Ohio) size. We can only hope that 2022 brings larger and more diverse catches!!

**Walleye-** We are doing well with walleye, and supplies look strong. Manitoba is producing decent amounts of 6/8, 8/10, and 10/12. Lake Erie is producing some 2/4 and 4/6, along with all the other sizes.

**Product from Europe-** Euro Perch in 20/40 and 40/60 sizes has been available. Zander, in the 20/40 & 40/60 sizes, is hard to find or nonexistent. Zander in the 2/4 size is in stock and the supply is strong for Lent! Zander in the 4/6, 6/8, 8/10, & 10/12 sizes can also be found!

**Canadian Bluegill-** IQF Bluegill is available, but supply is limited. I expect this to be hit and miss for the rest of the year.

**Chinese Bluegill/Farm Raised-** Another bright spot! There is plenty of this fish available! It has gone up in price however, primarily due to the significant increases to ship the containers here from overseas.

**Northern Pike-** This product was a victim of COVID and is not available. The supplier had to shut down and was unable to recover. We have been actively searching for other suppliers. To date, the only product we can locate is Skin On/Pin Bone In.

**Whitefish-** The availability of this fish has been spotty, to say the least! It is extremely limited. The most recent information I have indicates only 20% of the usual catch was caught.

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

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