

Group baits hook to cast new light on river fishing

A COUPLE of weeks ago, my son and I took a bicycle ride down to the Assiniboine River by our house in the west end of Winnipeg.

As we looked out over the swiftly flowing water, a boy of 10 came down the bank near us. In his hand, he proudly displayed his brand-new fishing rod and reel that he had received for his birthday.

My son, who is four, loves to fish and instantly went over to check things out. This youngster was only too glad to inform us that a couple of days earlier, he had been out fishing from the exact same spot and had caught, landed and released 13 fish in a half day of angling.

Seven of those fish had been silver bass, five goldeye, and the last, but not least, had been large-sized channel catfish. He had been using jigs tipped with either worms or minnows.

His success has not been an isolated incident. More and more anglers, young and old, are taking advantage of the great fishing that exists within the boundaries of our fair city.

Recent trophy fish landed in the Red and Assiniboine rivers have included walleye, sauger, catfish, goldeye and silver bass, not to mention sturgeon.

Yes, that's right, lake sturgeon. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recently released 170 tagged fish and six already have been caught in Manitoba; three within the city limits.

If you do catch one of these tagged fish, and before you release it, note the number on the disk tag and phone it in to the Manitoba Fisheries Department.

In order to create a higher public profile for the Red and Assiniboine fishery within city limits, the Urban Angling Partnership, composed of government and non-government organi-



The Complete Angler

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zations, decided to hold a special one-day event on the rivers in Winnipeg. Called Fish Winnipeg, this event will feature 18 pro/celebrity guides taking out 33 members of Winnipeg's media the morning of July 8.

They will fish between 6 and 8 a.m. in this total-catch, measure-and-release event. The boat crew that measures the most fish will win the Fish Winnipeg Media Challenge Cup for one year.

In the afternoon, the guides will take out corporate anglers from 2 to 5 p.m. in a similar event.

The real beneficiaries in all of this are the young people of this city. That's because the funds raised will go into the lease of a van, purchase of fishing equipment and salaries to take out members of the Inner City Youth at Risk Program during July and August.

If your company is interested in participating, please contact Rob Cann at 945-7816.

Angler notes:

On a similar note, this Saturday, the annual ONSIDE fish derby will take place in Selkirk. This year, members of the RCMP, in association with Jay-Cee's Rod & Reel, and many other community partners will bring 125 young people together to interact and enjoy the sport of fishing. Organizers are still looking for volunteers who will to donate their time or boats. If you can be of assistance, please call Jim Steinke in Selkirk at 1-204-482-7477.