



TOP TACKLE FOR BIG FALL WALLEYE

1 **Deep-Vee Jig paired with a big minnow over deep rocks.**

Let's start with the basics. The classic jig and minnow is a fall staple for walleye fishing. As a rule of thumb, anything can still go in the fall as far as bait selection. Leeches can be hard to find but can be deadly. The classic half crawler on a jig can be good especially early in the fall. There is a definite shift towards minnows as fall progresses. Soft plastics can also come into play, especially to bulk up the profile. Often, we start using bigger minnows in the fall. Big shiners, rainbows or even fatheads can all work but bigger is often better. With fatheads, we will often double up two minnows on the jig to bulk up the profile. There are also times when we will use a small sucker, creek chub or a red tail on a jig and cast at fish.

On many fisheries, we often catch a lot of walleye by simply vertically jigging below the boat with a jig and minnow. I am a big fan of the Deep-Vee Jig for fishing vertically as the larger pill head shape seems to work through rock better and I like the long shank hook for double hooking larger minnows. The hook on this jig in particular takes a file well which is a deal maker in rock. I would argue that a jig and minnow has probably caught more walleye on most fisheries in the fall than any other presentation.



2

Stand Up Tungsten and minnow for casting at fish.

With the popularity of forward-facing sonar for walleye fishing, we also have to bring up the popularity of tungsten jigs. I am personally a big fan of the Northland Short Shank Stand Up Tungsten as I like how this jig pivots and twitches when you shake it in the water column. Really any time of year spring through fall, jigs have to be in the arsenal and that is even more emphasized with the trend of casting at fish you see on a screen.



3

Big cranks and snap weights.



Staying with the big profile theme, that generality can also be applied to crankbaits. Lake Oahe has had an incredible fall trolling bite off flooded trees along the old river channel where anglers are using snap weights and sometimes lead core to get baits down to 20-40 feet of water. The Walleye Nations Creations Reaper has been the lure everyone is talking about the last couple of falls.

Other top fall cranks for big reservoir walleyes include Rumble Sticks, Deep Diving Husky Jerks, Bomber Long A's, Deep Tail Dancers and Bandits.



4 Big stick baits and the full moon.

One of the most coveted big walleye bite windows during the fall for me is trolling or long lining big stick baits after dark. Full moon periods with clear skies are often best but it seems like each full moon period just keeps getting better as you progress through fall. Pretty simple fishing, get the lures behind the boat and run the baits up about halfway in the water column or above the weeds and drive around with big lazy “S” curves across big prominent shallow flats that have some sand or rock mixed with some weeds. Classics would have to be the tried-and-true Husky Jerk but there are many bass jerk baits like the Megabass Vision One that a lot of walleye anglers are starting to use with success. A bait I like that doesn’t get a lot of attention is the larger Rumble Shiner. This balsa bait has a nice roll that seems to work well after dark, and I like the larger hooks on this bait for big fish.



5

Big thumpers over weeds.

Green weeds become harder to find in the fall. That is the bad news if you love to fish weeds. The good news is that whatever weeds you can find that are still standing and green often hold a lot of fish. Especially early in the fall when there are some major transitions happening and a lot of change starting to happen, I value the consistency of weed patterns. A lot of presentations work around weeds, but my favorite would have to be a jig and plastic. In particular I like bigger paddle tails. Something like a 4-inch Eye Candy Paddle Shad threaded on a wide gap jig like the MVP jig is perfect.





Fall Walleye Fishing Gear List

Jigs & Rigs

- Deep-Vee Jigs (great for vertical jigging rocks)
- Northland Short Shank Stand Up Tungsten Jigs
- MVP Jigs (wide gap, perfect for plastics)

Soft Plastics

- Eye Candy Paddle Shad (4-inch, for weed fishing)

Crankbaits & Stickbaits

- Walleye Nations Creations Reaper
- Rumble Sticks
- Deep Diving Husky Jerks
- Bomber Long A's
- Deep Tail Dancers
- Bandits
- Rapala Husky Jerk
- Megabass Vision One (bass jerkbait, works for walleye)
- Rumble Shiner

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