

My 2020 master season was definitely one too remember. Being that everything was so turned upside down due to covid, it was a blessing to be able to pursue fishing as much as I did. I learned so much just by fishing for different species, and by surrounding myself with people who have experience and are willing to help grow me as an angler. A huge thank you too my parents for supporting me throughout the year and helping me with the ups and downs. As well a huge thank you the Papesh's, definitely couldn't have gotten as far as I did without them. As well as my fishing coach. My most memorable fish catch of my year would have to be my great lakes brown trout. Fishing for them in years past, they've always stumped me and i've never been able to figure them out. In early December, me and my dad were fishing a harbor and I made the call to give trolling a go, being that I was seeing so many fish on side imaging. First pass and bang, the board drops. 10 minutes later a mega 35.5" inch brown trout was in the net, truly a fish of a lifetime. Another very memorable experience during my master season was going to Brendan's secret lake for bluegill. He was definitely talking it up so I assumed it must be a pretty good spot so I asked if we could go for them. He agreed too it only if I was blindfolded and I left my phone at the cabin. Super easy decision and later on that day I caught my master bluegill. Regardless if it looked like I was getting kidnapped. Brendan is definitely a major contributor to my success in 2020, I probably caught about half of my master with him. He's my best friend and definitely my #1 fishing partner. We put in a lot of work behind the scenes being research, watching videos, looking up stocking surveys, rigging up rods, organizing, etc, that ultimately helps us put more masters top side. Although I didn't achieve my goal, I had great experience's that will set me up for a great opportunity to make a run at 1st place in 2021. Of course, a huge thank you too WIFA for putting on master anglers and giving me this opportunity. Going into my last year, i'm giving it all I got!

Thank you,

Riley Hemme