

Underwater exposed

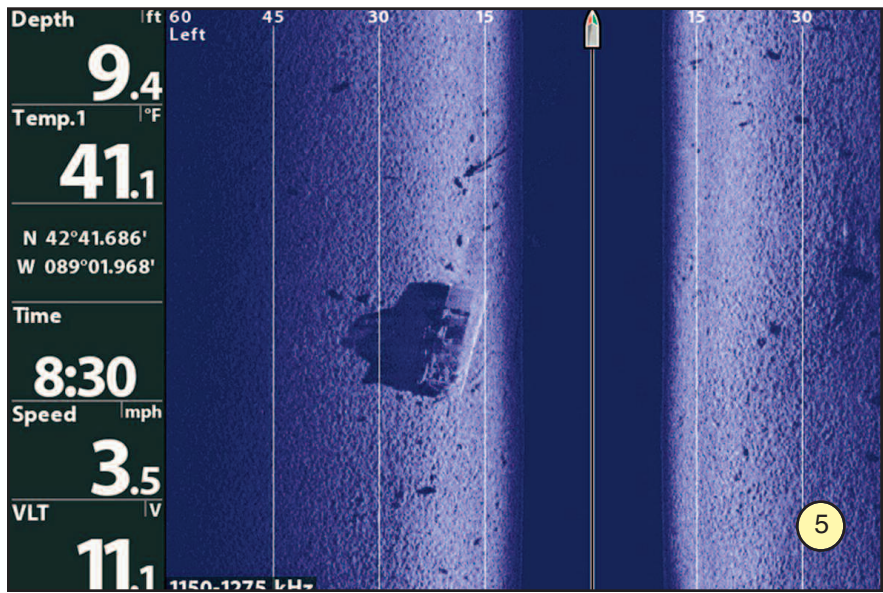
By Adam Walton of Pike Pole Fishing Guide Services

Technology has come a long way when it comes to fishing, but none more so than underwater sonar. Black and white units that printed out readings on a small roll of paper were the best things on the market back in the day. Current sonar units, however, now have the capability of showing incredible detail to the point anglers can identify objects as if the water wasn't even there.

In addition to showing traditional sonar readings directly below the boat (photo #1), many new units can also show higher detailed readings below the boat and off to each side. These highly detailed images gathered directly below the boat are called "down imaging" (photo #2) and images gathered off each side of the boat are called "side imaging" (photo #3). These are more commonly seen abbreviated as DI (down imaging) and SI (side imaging).

Many brands of sonar units are on the market, but Humminbird models have taken the industry by storm due to their impressive picture quality and multi-function options. Not only can users see underwater images better with traditional sonar and down/side imaging, other built-in options include GPS navigation, waypoint mapping, electronic networking and many customizable settings to fit a variety of conditions. Users can also make their own maps, take pictures and share/save information to their computer via SD cards. Another great feature is the split screen option, which allows pictures to be seen in a side by side comparison. With this, objects located in traditional sonar can be viewed at the same time in down or side imaging, giving users a complete understanding of what is under them (photo #4).

Over the last year of operating Humminbird units, the amount of objects and structures we've clearly identified has been remarkable. Areas



known to hold fish were seen in much more detail and fish themselves were many times identified as desirable game fish or non-desirable rough fish. The shadow a fish creates in some of the advanced side imaging units can show its exact shape and outline, making it fairly easy to note the difference between a round carp and slender pike or walleye. This certainly helped with better time management and allowed for a more productive time on the water.

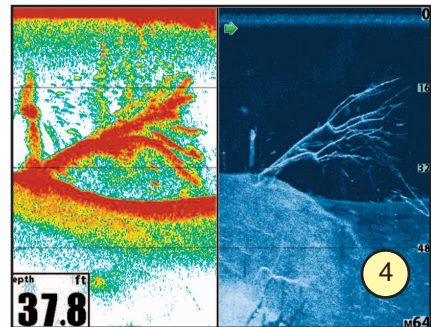
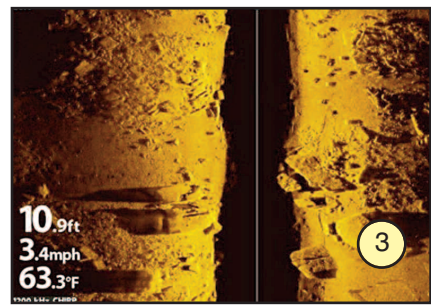
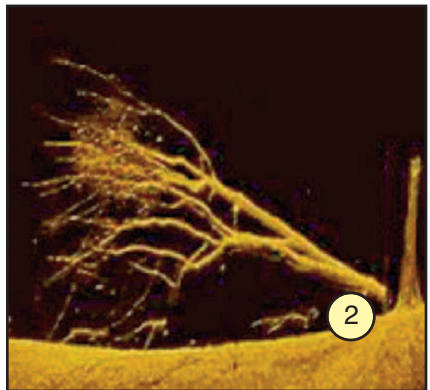
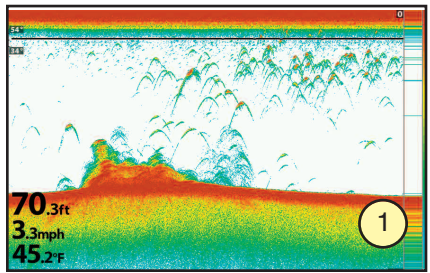
Although we've located sunken piers, undocumented rock piles, sunken boats and numerous other objects, one of the more notable finds I encountered happened last fall while searching for Rock River walleyes in Janesville. We had been fishing an area holding a lot of bait fish and returned to find the fish had moved. While slowly moving up river to relocate them, I noticed a large object on the sonar view and down imaging view. It appeared to be a car and after quickly turning around, it was confirmed with the side imaging view. Not only was the object a vehicle, the image showed such great detail that the engine compartment could be seen because the hood was obviously missing. A hole in the roof could also be seen (photo #5).

After local first responder dive teams removed the car, it was esti-

mated to be a mid-1960s Cadillac, which had obviously been in the river for quite some time (Photo #6). Other than a couple of catfish who made the car their home, nothing else was found inside it.

The underwater world has met its match with this new technology, making it pretty hard for it to hold secrets any longer. With more and more of these side imaging units hitting the water, it will be interesting to see what else is uncovered over the next few years.

Adam Walton is the owner of Pike Pole Fishing Guide Service, which is located in Edgerton, Wis. He is also a certified firefighter paramedic and an American Heart Association CPR/First Aid instructor. For more information, visit www.pikepolefishing.com or Facebook @ pikepolefishingguideservice.



Welcome Summer

Residents and Visitors

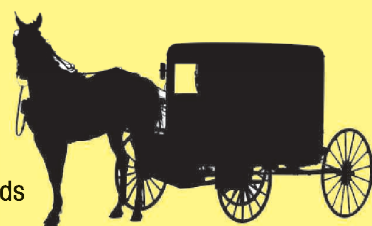
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- \$2 BUSCH PRODUCTS (4PM - CLOSE)
- \$3 CAPT. MORGAN MIXERS (4PM - CLOSE)

FRIDAY

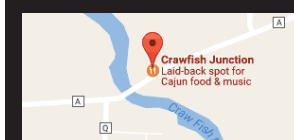
- AWARD WINNING FISH FRY
- 20 OZ. FAT TIRE TAPS \$4.25

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