

# NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA FISHING REPORT

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The NW PA Fishing Report is brought to you by:



**Pennsylvania's Great Lakes Region**  
crawford • erie • mercer • venango



Fishing with Darl Black

Information Service

It's shaping up as a Smallmouth Summer!



RJ Graham on Lake Erie



Stacy on the Allegheny/ Jeff Knapp

## Landing Net by *Darl Black*

As we move into July, the vast majority of fish species have spawned and are re-locating for summer feeding. The emphasis shifts to deeper, offshore spots. That's not to say certain species cannot be caught in shallow water near the bank in particular environments or under certain weather conditions. But now is the time of year to have a good sonar fish-finding unit on your boat – and know how to use it. Don't miss Jeff Knapp's sonar tip on the **Garmin Page**. However, if you don't have a boat, there are plenty of summer opportunities in the rivers and creeks. Check out the smallmouth wading tips from wade guide Pete Cartwright on the **Gamma Page**.

The NW PA Fishing Report provides timely angling information for Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Venango counties. Fishing comments and photos are offered by regional tackle shops and area anglers. The NWPAFR is based on experiences, observations and opinions of individual contributors; information is considered reliable but comments are not independently verified. In providing information or pictures, you are agreeing to your comments being edited for clarity and brevity, and posted to websites and distributed electronically.

## NW PA FISHING REPORT for June 30, 2021

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### COUNTY BY COUNTY REPORTS

#### CRAWFORD COUNTY

##### Pymatuning Lake

**Dave @ Richter's Bait & Tackle**; filed 6/27: I am still hearing about a lot of walleye catches – at least on the South End of the lake. Drifting and pulling worm harnesses along deep weed edges to depths of 16 feet or so; also trolling shad-shape crankbaits. Channel catfish (aka silver cats) are being caught everywhere. Lots of perch – but you got to go through a many small ones to get some keepers. The crappies have been quiet; even the guys who fish only crappies are spending the entire day to catch a few to take home. Anglers are still catching those worn-out muskies left in the tailrace of the dam; these fish are being caught over and over. (See photo)



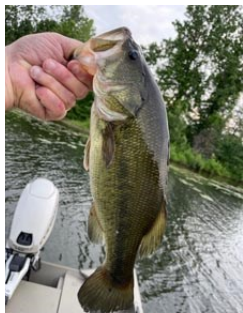
Richter photo

**Duck-N-Drake**; filed 6/27: The reports coming into the shop have been few; only hearing of the occasional walleye catch. Anglers continue to bring in big crappies to have them entered in the Crappie Madness – which runs until the last day of July. (See photo)



Duck-N-Drake phoo

**Russ @ Gateway Tackle;** filed 6/27: Fish catches seem to have slowed down. I'm hearing of crappies being caught from the Andover Causeway at night. Also, walleyes are being taken on worm harnesses and Flicker Shads off Tuttle Point. And the same muskies are being caught and re-caught below the dam.



**Stan Teitelbaum;** filed 6/27: It was humid yesterday early morning but thanks to the wind, temperature became more comfortable as noon approached. Numbers of bass were down (maybe 5 before noon) on the South End – but length and weight were higher than weeks past. I tried a new spot and returned to one I had given up on. I love Pymatuning South End but will probably venture towards the middle section of lake for new experience next time. (See photos left & right)



**Darl @ Blackwolfe Communications;** filed 6/27: Late in the afternoon on Friday, Marilyn and I headed to Pymatuning. I was hoping to make a comeback on the smallmouth bass after the whooping Marilyn put on me two weeks ago. With the heavy cloud cover, advancing rain front and full Strawberry Moon, I visualized this could be a banner evening on smallmouth. Started with topwater, but the chop was too much. Went to swimbaits and spinnerbaits. Nope. Broke out the cranking rods. Of course, Marilyn wanted the 12-foot diving Timber Tiger in Emerald Green color she had used previously to catch those big Pymie smallmouth. Working it through the sparse deep weeds, she received a few pecks but she felt they were only perch. I decided to go deeper, with an old tri-lobe bill with near-vertical dive (can't recall the name) designed by Tom Seward – same individual who later designed the Timber Tiger Depth Control series. I fired



it to open water and cranked it slowly (no way to crank this baby fast) back to boat. As it hit the 14-foot breakline beside the boat, I paused it. A rod jolting smack! At first, I imagined it was a smallmouth until I saw a long body at about 10 feet in the clear water – at which point I thought it was a small musky. A few feet closer, I realized it was a walleye. Once in the net, we measured it at 23 inches. A few more C&R walleyes on crankbaits by casting to open water and working them back to the deep weed edge – but no smallmouth. However, with darkness approaching and rain starting ahead of schedule, our last stop was a gravel hump where Marilyn managed to crank in an 11-inch smallmouth – once again besting me in our smallmouth quest on Pymatuning! (See photos)



## Canadohta Lake

**Jerry @ Timberland Bait Shop**; filed 6/27: Our first annual Father's Day Bass Tournament was a success. Todd Young took first place with a 17-1/2-inch largemouth bass. I recently bought out the stock of another tackle shop. We will be having a huge Tackle Rummage and Clearance Sale under the picnic shelter at Timberland Bait over the weekend. Saturday, July 3: 7 am to 4 pm; Sunday, July 4: 7 am to 2 pm. Hope to see you there. (See photo at right)



## **ERIE COUNTY**

### Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay



South Pier

**Lynn @ East End Angler**; filed 6/27: There are walleyes straight off Shades Beach in 40 to 50 feet of water. Crawler harnesses are reportedly the best thing to pull; no plugs or spoons are producing right now. Best blade colors are purple, pink and green – watermelon pattern is the hot ticket. Up at Northeast Marina, they are catching some perch and bass in the marina. In PIB, the bayfront docks are giving up panfish and bass. On the North Pier, anglers are catching a few walleyes in the evening but the South Pier is silent.



**Tim @ Presque Isle Bay Anglers**; filed 6/27: Reports I am receiving from anglers on the North and South Piers state sheepshead are dominating their catches. However, catches off the city side dock areas are better. PIBA member Randy Deickhoff has found a good shore bite for walleye inside Presque Isle Bay; he has been using small deep-diving crankbaits and BC Bait Co LX Terry Bugs. It seems the walleye bite in the main lake is still extremely inconsistent. A few walleyes are being caught off The Point and around the Dump, but it's hit and miss. The better opportunity for walleyes is west of Elk Creek to the Ohio line. Seems the first arrivals from the Western migration have finally moved into that territory. (See photos

of Randy' Bay 'eyes on left)



Buckets Charters



**Keith @ Dutch Fork Fishing Charters;** filed 6/27: Going out of Walnut Creek, I've found the fishing good – but you have to be on fish that want to bite! We move constantly to find the right pod of fish that will cooperate. From Walnut Creek to Trout Run, walleyes can be caught from 30 feet all the way out to 70 feet. Our go-to baits include worm harnesses on inline weights, deep crankbaits (Bandits, Bay Rats, Bagley's) and bottom bouncers with harnesses. Three colors of leadcore and a deep diver also works well, as do weighted crankbaits 30 feet behind a 2-ounce snap weight, then 100 to 150 feet of line out. If you get into short walleyes or sheepshead, MOVE! Those little buggers will keep you busy, preventing you from getting to keepers! (See photos left & right)



**RJ Graham** (Tionesta); filed 6/20: Blaine Bartley and I took 4<sup>th</sup> place in an Erie bass tournament before Father's Day with four fish going a total of 17 lbs. (See photos to right)

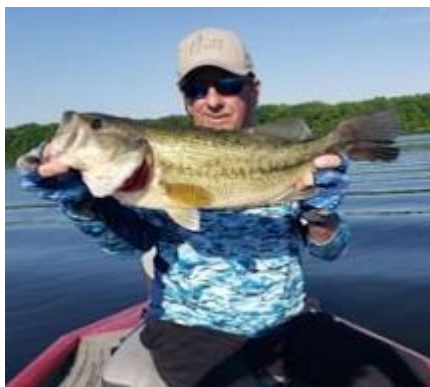


**Poor Richards** is having a Line Counter Combo Sale. If you don't have a line counter for Erie walleye, or need a couple more—Now is the time to stop by Poor Richards.

## MERCER COUNTY

**Kevin Austin @ Luckis4rabbits**; filed 6/27: Luckis4rabbits had its first free fishing program today, June 26, at Farrell Fire Department. We had two guest speakers, Kenneth Smith and Bo Bartholomew of B.C. Baits. The water safety portion of the class was given by the fire department personnel. The kids received free fishing poles and new fishing line. This only the first class. I will be holding an actual fishing outing to show them how to apply what we taught in the classroom, to further advance their skills and knowledge of fishing.

### Shenango Lake



Randy with Largemouth

**Randy @ Fish West PA**; filed 6/27: With warmer weather returning, fish are transitioning into summer patterns. Understanding fish movement during this time is key on Shenango. Good reports of bass, catfish, panfish (including nice -size crappies) and white bass along with my personal favorite – hybrid stripers. Walleyes



Jenna with hybrid striper

are feeding good on the right days but not like last year during the post spawn. Tight lines! (See photos left & right))

**Ken Smith** (Sharon); filed 6/22: I am catching crappies which are suspended about 12 feet down over 20 feet of water near deep wood cover. All are good size, with very few bluegills in the mix. (See Ken Smith photos below)





### Lake Wilhelm

The second Lake Wilhelm Panfish Tournament will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Visit the Lake Wilhelm Fisherpersons Facebook Page to learn more.

***Bo Bartholomew of B.C. Bait Company:*** Having received his Guide License from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission and commercial use permit for Goddard State Park, Bo is now booking guide trips for panfish and bowfin. Bowfin trips are by kayak into the Geneva Marsh. He may be reached by email at [bcbaitadley@gmail.com](mailto:bcbaitadley@gmail.com).

## VENANGO COUNTY

### Justus Lake

***Marilyn @ Blackwolfe Communications;*** filed 6/19: As part of our Smallmouth Quest 2021, Darl and I fished Justus Lake in Two Mile County Park. We were aware that Justus does not have a large smallmouth population, but it gives up the occasional monster smallie. It was our first time on Justus fishing from a boat in a number of years. We were anxious to try out our new Garmin Echomap Ultra 126SV on this two story-lake. From past experience, we figured the best chance for smallmouth was the deeper lower end of the lake, which is basically a big bowl. From the ramp we cut straight across the lake to the other shore and worked the entire shoreline out to 18 feet from there down to the dam, across the dam and back to the ramp. We were disappointed to only catch several very small largemouth bass – all less than 10 inches. Watching the readings on the sonar indicated there were very few fish or baitfish below about 12 feet – although we noted two large arches about 22 feet while cutting across the lake which we assumed were musky. Puzzled by what we observed and what we didn't catch, we have decided not to return to the lake unless we have the Justus Lake Guru, Angler Al, with us in the boat to give us guidance.

### Oil Creek

***Angler Al @ Buttermilk Hill;*** filed 6/26: My brother-in-law and I spent back-to-back days fishing on Oil Creek. Most of our success came from the Artificial Only Section using a fly rod. However, we did catch some trout some below that section using worms and smaller minnows. I caught the nicest fish – a colorful 17.5-inch brown trout. It hit a #10 Gridle Bug. Other trout were taken on San Juan worms, Purple Squirmies and Royal Price Nymphs. (See photo at right)



## VENANGO COUNTY (continued)

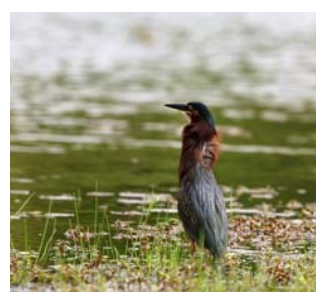
### Allegheny River

**Jeff @ Keystone Connection Guide Service**; filed 6/25: Following a brief hiatus to allow river smallmouth bass to recover from their spawning period, my clients and I returned to the Allegheny in full force this past week. During low light conditions, with decent water clarity, the topwater bite was on. When the day brightened, Rapala X-Raps and flukes got hot. As the river picked up color from heavy NW PA rain, the bite changed to spinnerbaits. Multiple guide trips produced smallmouth bass up to 20.25 inches. (See photos below)



### NATIVE ANGLER

Photo sequence by Ed Atts of Venango County of a Green Heron, who is successful day after day in getting a fish dinner with a boat load of tackle...





## **Area Guide Services contribute to the NW PA Fishing Report**

Looking for a trip on a Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Venango county water?  
Check them out!

**Dutch Fork Guide Service:** Lake Erie Walleye trolling, casting and jigging. Keith Eshbaugh; 724-884-3977; [www.dutchforkcustomlures.com](http://www.dutchforkcustomlures.com)

**Keystone Connection Guide Service:** Allegheny River Smallmouth, Walleye and Musky plus Pymatuning Walleye. Jeff Knapp; 724-902-6082; [keystone-connectionguideservice@gmail.com](mailto:keystone-connectionguideservice@gmail.com); [www.facebook.com/keystoneconnectionguideservice](http://www.facebook.com/keystoneconnectionguideservice).

**Smallies on the Yough LLC:** wading for Smallmouth Bass on the Yough River, Allegheny River and other streams. Pete Cartwright; 412-215-6254; [pete@smalliesontheyough.com](mailto:pete@smalliesontheyough.com); [www.facebook.com/smalliesontheyough/](http://www.facebook.com/smalliesontheyough/).

**Wildwood Outfitters:** Fly fishing for Trout, Steelhead and other species. Nick DelVecchio; [www.wildwoodoutfitterspa.com/](http://www.wildwoodoutfitterspa.com/); [www.facebook.com/wildwoodoutfitters](http://www.facebook.com/wildwoodoutfitters).

**Bo's Guide Service:** Panfish by boat and kayak; special bowfin trips into the marsh. Email [bcbaithadley@gmail.com](mailto:bcbaithadley@gmail.com)

**Prizes**—Names drawn from among contributors for prizes. If your name appears below, you must contact Darl at [darlblack@windstream.net](mailto:darlblack@windstream.net) with your shipping address to claim your prizes.

Angler Al—Spool of Gamma Line

Stan Teitelbaum—package of baits

Cover pictures—RJ Graham and Stacy (via guide Jeff Knapp) each will receive a pack of either Galida's Grubz or Mike's Custom Tackle Tubes. Contact me.

# The Livewell

Brought to you by:  
Wiegel Brothers Marine  
704 1/2 Elk Street  
Franklin, PA 16323  
Phone 814-437-2077



Email: [Debbie@riverjetpro.com](mailto:Debbie@riverjetpro.com)

Father and son angling team travel from downstate to fish for musky and crappie on Tionesta Lake, and enjoy success...



Rob Selle



Rob Selle



Scott Selle

Group of Tionsta residents travel to Erie to fish walley with Buckets Charters, and enjoy success...





Black Knight Industries

Oil City, PA 16301

[www.gammafishing.com](http://www.gammafishing.com)

Gamma Line may be found locally at the following tackle shops:

- Consumer Direct Sports (CDS) near Grove City Outlet Mall
- Maurer's Trading Post, Franklin, PA
- East End Angler, Erie (Harborcreek), PA

## Wade Fishing for Summer Smallies

By Pete Cartwright, river wade guide

One of my favorite times of the year is in the middle of summer. Water temperatures are at the highest of the year, the river flow is low, and the water is clear. I like to finesse fish in these conditions, using light line like 6-pound Gamma Edge on a GLoomis E6X 7'1 rod with a Shimano Stradic 2500 reel. Small baits like a Scared Fishless 2.5-inch Rude Tube. Smallmouth hunt best in clear water they can see far in the water and a big loud lure can spook them when they are not on a big bite. I'll have my clients use small baits to fish very shallow – at times only ankle deep – along banks and at the



head and tail of pools. They use 2 to 4-inch tubes or stick worms, and let them drift in the current to the bottom and then pop them up and let them drift again. Sometimes I have then open the bail to feed more line to the drift. This is a great tactic for wade fishing in rivers and streams for smallmouth in the heat of summer. (Pete may be reached at 412-215-6254 to book a guide trip.)

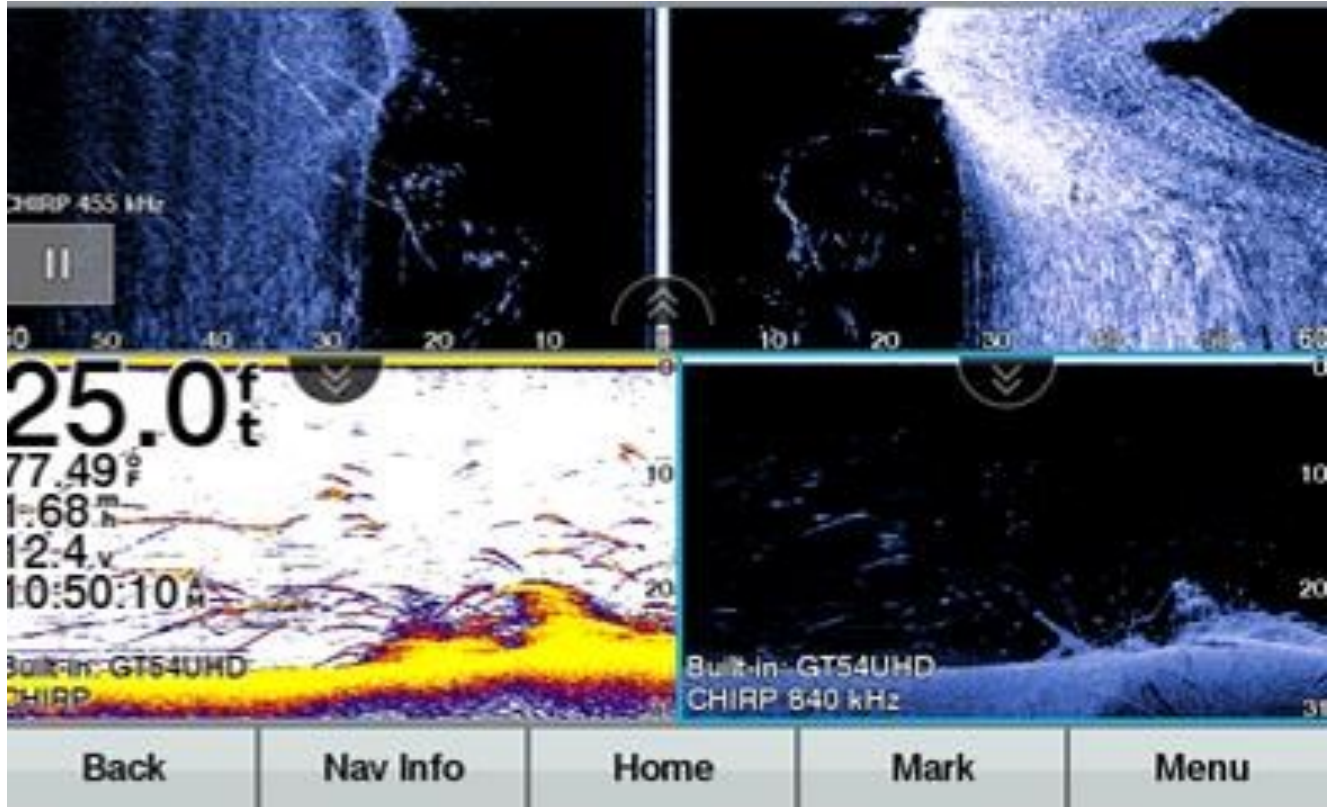


# GARMIN INFORMATION PAGE

- Real anglers share actual fishing experiences with Garmin units



## GARMIN TIP by Jeff Knapp



Garmin chartplotters such as the Echomap UHD 93sv, which provide three sonar views, unlock subsurface features, particularly when you use them to their full potential. I combine traditional sonar, Clear Vu (down imaging) and Side Vu (side imaging) on a single screen. Side Vu is set in the upper half of the screen so it spans the width of the unit, which gives superior display of targets, rather than squeezing them into a portion (width-wise) of the screen. Traditional and Clear Vu share the bottom half. Seeing both traditional and Clear Vu at the same time gives one a much better interpretation of targets. Objects such as submerged trees on traditional sonar, can blend fish in with branches. Seeing target separation on Clear Vu confirms fish swimming amongst the wood. The associated screenshot shows crappies in and above deep wood cove; the tree and fish are visible on all three sonar views. (Jeff may be reached at 724-902-6082 to book a guide trip.)

