

# NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA FISHING REPORT

Published by Blackwolfe Communications LLC

Issue: June 22, 2022

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



On the left is Emily Prihode with very nice Presque Isle Bay northern pike.

LANDING NET by Darl Black

June fishing this year required anglers to avoid severe lightning storms, dodge hail, seek shelter from heavy rain, and hide from strong winds. Anglers who successfully negotiated Mother Nature's worst, likely caught fish. There have been many nice catches from inland lakes. In particular, this seems to have been an excellent month for oversized large-mouth bass at Lake Wilhelm, Shenango Lake, Pymatuning Lake and Lake Arthur. Of course, the Erie walleye bite was outstanding...until the big blow came in on last Friday – but it will recover in a few days. June has been a very good month. Now summer is here.

On the right is "Captain Hook" with good size walleye from Shenango River tailrace.



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 22, 2022

Published by Blackwolfe Communications, LLC

County by county reports for Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Venango

### FRENCH CREEK – flowing through all four counties.

Editor's Note: The mid and lower section of French Creek have come down some from its highwater stage of last week, but water still somewhat discolored.

**Aaron @ French Creek Fishing Company;** filed 6/19: Smallmouth fishing continues to be great in French Creek. Small crankbaits and Ned Rigs have been the hot baits. (photo on right)



### CRAWFORD COUNTY

#### Pymatuning Lake

**Casey @ Jamestown Boat Rental;** filed 6/20: Customers have been reporting good catches of perch, catfish, bass and walleye. I've seen several walleyes in the 20 to 22-inch range this past week.

**Bean @ Richter's Bait;** filed 6/20: Bluegill bite is still strong. Lots of walleyes being caught during daylight hours on the deeper weedline out to about 15 feet – some by trolling shad-like crankbaits but mostly on jig-n-worm or worm harness. There are legal

ones being taken during day, but you will catch a more suble-gal ones before getting a keeper. The best chance for a limit of walleyes is night fishing over weedbeds by wading the surface with a long minnow plug such as a Bomber Model A. Of course, catfish are being caught all the time all over the lake. Not many crappies showing up; a handful of anglers are getting a few on deeper brush.

**Patty @ Poff's Place**; filed 6/20: Anglers are still picking away at perch and walleye in the north end. Also, some real nice bass are being caught and released. If you are into bass fishing, now is the time to be at Pymatuning.



Mark Megela



Stan Teitelbaum

Growing interest in catching and consuming Pymatuning catfish as more and more anglers are buying catfish tackle, bait and tools for cleaning catfish.

**Stan Teitelbaum**; filed 6/20: Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>, was a good day on the south end of Pymatuning for bass. The bass are getting bigger. This one was a little over 16 inches. (photo left)

### Crystal Lake

**Adam Horne**; filed 6/19: Happy Father's Day! I fished Crystal Lake yesterday near Hartstown. This is a small no-motor lake that is often overlooked because there are numerous larger bodies of water in the area. I fished for bass with an unweighted plastic worm near lily pads and above submerged weeds. There are some nice bass in the lake, but the bite was off. Likely due to the dramatic change in temperature from the previous days. (photo right)



### Canadohta Lake

**Jerry at Timberland Bait**; filed 6-20: Does not appear to be many people fishing so far this year. We held a Father's Day Fishing Tournament on the 19<sup>th</sup>, but only had 20 entries. No one caught a pike or crappie. One guy lost a big musky. Best fish of the day was an 18-inch largemouth bass.

## ERIE COUNTY

### Lake Erie & Presque Isle Bay

Editor's Note: Lake Erie walleye fishing was sailing along nicely last week until three days of hard north winds which made boating on the lake nearly impossible from Friday through Sunday. The following reports are based on what was happening before the 17<sup>th</sup>.



Randy Adams of Oil City

**Capt. Bob @ Perch Pirate head boat;** filed 6/20: On our trips prior to the recent blow, we had been catching walleyes and perch in 30 to 40 feet of water off the Point. On the 18<sup>th</sup> we got out for a morning trip, catching a few walleyes in close, but then cancelled the Saturday afternoon and both Sunday trips. My best guess is the winds have disrupted the lake temperature in water depths less than 40 feet and fish are likely scattered. It will take a couple days for everything to settle down and fish to be located.

**Kirk @ East End Angler;** filed 6/20: On Friday, anglers were catching walleye in 35 to 40 feet of water on the east side and perch were at 52 feet off the Point. None of my contacts were out Saturday or Sunday. I suspect the walleye and bait have relocated, and it may be two days or so before anglers are back on them. On a positive note, anglers in kayaks and electric motor-powered boats are catching walleye, pike, crappie and bluegills at Eaton Reservoir.

**Jeff @ Poor Richards;** filed 6/20: On Thursday, anglers were catching walleye in 35 to 40 feet off Trout Run and the Clay Banks using plugs and worm harnesses, plus some decent size perch in 25 to 30 feet – but no reports since then. Looks like things will settle down this week in time for the big **2022 Walleye Tournament Bash** on June 25. Late registrations are being accepted without late penalty up until the captain's meeting at Poor Richard's bait and tackle at 5 p.m. on Friday; cash or check accepted. For more info, go to Poor Richard's Facebook Page.

**Becky @ Elk Creek Sports;** filed 6/20: Before the blow, walleyes were being caught in 32 to 37 feet out of Elk Creek, along with a few perch. Now waiting for updates on the bite. Catfish are in Elk Creek's lower end to spawn, but they are not biting.



Capt. Brown cleans the catch at Walnut





**Chad Prihode**; filed 6/20: Lake Erie was way too rough to even fish this weekend so we hit Presque Isle Bay instead. Emily and I caught a mixed bag – including walleye, perch, rock bass, sheepshead, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and a nice pike! (photos left & right, and cover)



Emily Prihode

**Eric Marsh @ Bassmasters of Crawford County**; filed 6/20: The BMCC Father's Day Buddy Tournament on Presque Isle Bay was won by Brandon Fresch and Dan McNally with 6 smallmouth bass for a total weight of 24.43 pounds.



**Keith @ Dutch Fork Custom Lures**; filed 6/17 (pre-the big blow): The Erie walleye fishing out of Lampe Marina, Walnut and Conneaut (OH) has been exceptional. Leave the dipsy divers at home. Simply drift crawler harnesses or slow troll worm harnesses 35 to 45 feet deep – there are suspended walleye and bottom hugging walleye everywhere. The Dutch Fork Butterfly

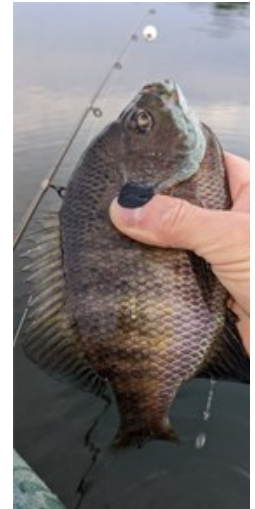


blades have been our top producer. Nothing fancy – 3 beads, one blade, and a 6-foot leader to the bottom bouncer. You cannot go wrong. 1.5 mph has been really good. Jet divers and spoons are working too. Size 30 and 40 jets at 100 feet back with small spoons; 1.7 to 2 mph. We are catching 20 to 40 walleye per day with quality fish coming on harnesses and crankbaits trolled slowly. Tight lines, Capt. Keith. (Photo left and right, and on Livewell Page)

**Jake @ FishUSA**; filed 6/15: Walleye fishing is really heating up. There are large amounts of fish in 40 to 50 feet range. There are a lot of 15.5 to 16-inch fish to weed through, but there are really good-sized fish in the mix. Jet diver 40s with a Prihoda little spoon, and deep diving plugs 120 to 150 feet back with no weight or just an ounce of weight has been working for me. Flicker minnows and Bomber 24As are crushing fish this year, along with small spoons like the Dreamweaver WD and Silver Streak Mini spoon. All these baits are available at FishUSA. (photo on Livewell Page)

## Lake Pleasant

**Aaron @ French Creek Fishing Company;** filed 6/19: June can be a great time to target giant bluegills, sunfish and pumpkinseeds at Lake Pleasant. Jigging soft plastics on slip bobbers is an excellent way to cover water and find hungry panfish schools. Crappies and largemouth bass provide an added bonus. (photo right)



## MERCER COUNTY

### Lake Wilhelm

**Brad B;** filed 6/17: The last couple weeks on Wilhelm have been fantastic. Last year was a rough one for me, but this season is a complete 180 degree turn around. Bass have been biting everything – topwater, cranking, jigs, and Texas rig plastic. My best bass was 5.6 lb., 21.25 inch largemouth and a 2.8 lb., 16.5-inch crappie. Oh, and I don't want to forget the 43-inch musky taken on a crankbait with 10 lb. line while fishing for bass! (See photos below and on Livewell Page)



**Angler Al @ Buttermilk Hill;** filed 6-20: Steve Bell of Franklin caught several 2-pound largemouth bass at Wilhelm Sunday evening. He was only able to fish the last hour of daylight. All ere hooked using a red shad plastic worm.

### Shenango Lake

**Ken Smith (Sharon):** filed 6/20: I went to Shenango Lake this morning and got a limit of good-sized crappies from 14 feet of water with Bobby Garland Baby Shads and Nibbler. I was by myself, so no pictures.

**Brock "Captain Hook" Morocco** (Hermitage); filed 6/20: A nice Father's Day catch and release walleye from Shenango Dam tailrace while accompanied by my two children. (see cover photo)



**Randy @ Fish West PA;** filed 6/19: Shenango is fishing great right now, although a transition to deep water looms ahead soon. Bass, hybrids, crappie, white bass and catfish seem especially hungry. Good reports on all the mentioned species – and hopefully more to



come before the transition begins. (see photos left & right, and on Livewell Page)

## VENANGO COUNTY

### Sugar Creek



**Angler Al @ Buttermilk Hill;** filed 6/19: The only moments I spent fishing since the last report were for trout on Sugar Creek. The stream was running a little high but clearing up after a heavy rain. I like targeting big browns during these conditions. I was fortunate to



hook up on two big ones – but unfortunately lost both battles. I did however, catch a lot of trout. There were hitting two-inch pieces of nightcrawler on a single hook. If they didn't hit on the dead drift, many times they would hit during the retrieve. Rod tip low to the water, twitching and jigging the worm up the current – basically simulating a wounded minnow. Warmer conditions and lower water levels have since shut them down. (photos left & right)



## Allegheny River

**Jeff @ Keystone Connection Guide Service**; filed 6/19: Following a three-week hiatus to allow river smallmouth bass to conclude spawning without harassment, I returned to the Allegheny. Last week's trips produced smallmouth bass up to 20 inches, along with a wide assortment of smaller sizes indicating a variety of year classes being present. We were catching them in the classic summer spots: heads and tail-outs of pools, within mild riffles, in pocket water adjacent to heavy riffles. Productive lures have been spinnerbaits, Storm Largo Shad swimbaits, Rapala X Raps, Zoom Super

Flukes and lipless crankbaits. I have a few openings in July, and as of right now, lots of openings in August. (photos left & right)



James Scott Sunset on Pymatuing

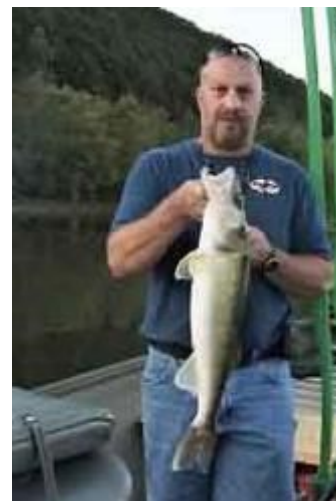
---



## Local Business Highlight: Mike's Custom Tackle

If you are not paying close attention as you drive north out of Oil City on Route 8, you will likely miss the sign for Mike's Custom Tackle. After all, Mike Fadden's tackle shop is not geared for daily walk-in traffic. This is his work space, where he molds lead and plastic for a variety of specialty baits, ties skirt jigs of his own design, and produces some unique lure designs.

Orders come in by phone, text and email. When everything is ready, the customer may choose to pick it up, or have it mailed. Friends and acquaintances drop by from time to time to 'jaw' a bit about fishing success or lack thereof, or when someone has a special color or jig pattern to discuss. Remember, the shop is called "Custom Tackle."



Mike's specialties—walleye and bass



Years ago, Mike started out tying trout flies and small panfish baits for the multitude of small local tackle shops in the region. But as tackle shops gradually disappeared, Mike started receiving requests for specific lures. He began accumulating a variety of molds and apparatus to produce a line of soft plastic baits and leadhead jigs aimed primarily at bass, walleye and other large gamefish.

Several of his most popular products are: two-inch tube; three-inch Ned worm; Ned head jig; soft jerkbaits; soft swimbaits; hellgrammite; custom color skirted jigs; and custom painted blade baits. Visit his Facebook Page and website to view more products. Contact info: email [mikescustomtackle@yahoo.com](mailto:mikescustomtackle@yahoo.com); phone 814-671-6210.





Well, if a photo of the pending new **New York State Record Smallmouth** of 8 pounds, 5/8 ounces from Cayuga Lake doesn't get your attention, I don't know what will. The fish was caught on June 15, 2022. Outdoor writer George Fiorille photographed the fish and posted the photo and info on his Facebook page.

You may not catch a state record Smallmouth Bass, but you can come out a winner by attending our every third year Fishing Tackle Garage Sale. This is the first sale since I quite crappie guiding in 2019, so there will be a good number of rods and reels in the sale. Furthermore, I am downsizing my fishing

and boating stash as I am no longer chasing fishing assignments around the country, so you don't want to miss this final Fishing Tackle Yard Sale. Time, place and additional info

### **FISHING TACKLE YARD SALE**

Lots of rods, reels, lures, terminal tackle, soft plastics, outerwear, sleeping bags, petite roll-top desk, craft supplies, kitchen items, household goods, cleaning supplies, garden/yard gear, 'cat corner', costume jewelry, new fishing ballcaps, and more! Friday, July 1 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, July 2 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cash and carry. 190 Ridgeway Hill Road, Cochranton. From blinker light on Route 322 and Ridgeway Hill Road, go uphill to third driveway on the right, see big tent. (814) 671-2058.

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

Looking for a trip on a Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Venango county water?

**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; [keystoneconnectionguideservice@gmail.com](mailto:keystoneconnectionguideservice@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/).

**Fishing with Bo Guide Service:** Specializing in panfish in area lakes and kayak swamp trips for bowfin. Bo Bartholomew at [bcbaitshadley@gmail.com](mailto:bcbaitshadley@gmail.com); 724-704-1723

**Solitude Steelhead Guide Service:** Fly-fishing the tributaries of Pennsylvania. Bob Packey; 724-972-8813; [solitudesteelheadguide@yahoo.com](mailto:solitudesteelheadguide@yahoo.com); [www.solitudesteelheadguideservice.com](http://www.solitudesteelheadguideservice.com)

Names drawn for prizes—**to claim prize, must email your shipping address to me at [darlblack@windstream.net](mailto:darlblack@windstream.net).**

Cover shot: Brock Morocco—pack of Mike's Custom Tubes

Cover Shot: Emily Prihode—pack of Galida's Grubz

Gamma Line (your choice): Lucas Stevenson

Bass Lure pack: Stan Teitelbaum

Walleye lure pack: Brad B



# 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)

Summer is here, and Lake Erie walleye fishing is heating up!



Jake at FishUSA provides instructions

---



Dutch Fork Charters is on target for clients

---



Butterfly blades have been hot

---

Inland fishing more your cup—see next page of big bass caught recently

## The Livewell—Page Two

### Sponsored by Wiegel Brothers Marine, Franklin, PA

Must be something in the water creating growth spurts. I've been doing the NW PA Fishing Report for a decade. I've never received photos of as many BIG largemouth as in such a short period of time. It started in late April with some exceptional largemouths from Pymatuning caught by David and RJ Graham. Then about the first of June, photos of the big greenies were coming in from Lake Wilhelm, Shenango Lake and Lake Arthur; if you were following the reports, you would have seen a 7 pounder I caught and two 6 to 7 pounders taken by Brandon Hanna among other nice largemouths. Not just big bass, but it seems the overall numbers of largemouth caught at Pymatuning, Wilhelm and Shenango. Here are some very recent catches, including three heavyweights taken by Randy and Ace when I fished with them on Shenango last week.



Tyler at Lake Arthur

---



Lucas at Pymatuning

---



Brad at Wilhelm

---



Trio of Shenango Lake big largemouth bass caught during a four hour trip.



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, Harborcreek, PA; 814-898-3474

#### Gamma Tip

Jeff Knapp: Here is an update concerning this season's fishing activities. The 2022 fishing season started off with some challenges. An iced-over river didn't open up until mid-March. An issue with my river boat kept it off the water for a month. And then periods of high water left the river unfishable at times. Despite these obstacles I've been able to run around 50 guide trips this year so far, mostly on the middle Allegheny but also on Keystone Lake (aka Keystone Power Dam) and have been blessed with some great action. The attached collage depicts some of these outings. Gamma Edge on my baitcasters contribute to successful fishing trips.



As of now the river smallmouth bass spawn is behind us, and the fishing action is picking up. This year I've decided to cut back on my work load, guiding only three or four days a week. Regarding open dates for trips, June is fully booked. But I have a few openings in July. Plus – as of right now – lots of openings in August.

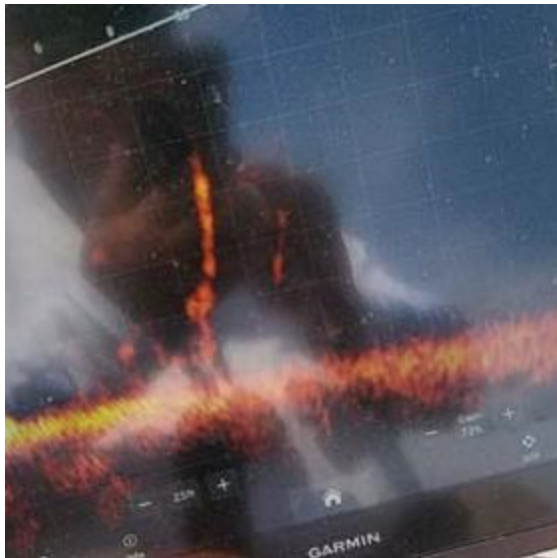


## GARMIN INFORMATION PAGE



- Real anglers share actual fishing experiences with Garmin units
- For professional local installation of Garmin units, contact G&G Marine Electronics at 724-290-9045

You can always count on Dan Dannenmueller, crappie tournament angler and publisher of CRAPPIE NOW online magazine, to come up with a LiveScope picture for the Garmin Page. On the LiveScope screen, Dan sees a large crappie suspended on the right side of a standing tree. He drops the jig on his sniping pole to the fish, hooks and lands it.



## **DIRECTORY OF FISHING REPORT SUPPORT**

The following agencies and business may be found on Facebook pages.

**PENNSYLVANIA GREAT LAKES REGION** (Regional tourism association is prime sponsor of the NW PA Fishing Report)– County organization listing provides information on Activities, Shopping, Lodging, Restaurants and Special Events

- Crawford County Convention & Visitors Bureau

- VisitErie

- Visit Mercer County PA

- Oil Region Alliance

**AREA TACKLE SHOPS** – Regularly provide information to NW PA Fishing Report on status of the public waters fished by their customers. Support these shops.

- Erie County

  - East End Angler

  - Elk Creek Sports

  - FishUSA

  - Poor Richards Bait & Tackle

  - Tudor Hook-N-Nook

- Crawford County – Pymatuning

  - Duck-N-Drake

  - Poff's Place

  - Richter's Bait

- Crawford County East

  - Timberland Bait

- Mercer County

  - Consumer Direct Sports Supplies (CDS)

- Venango County

  - Maurer's Trading Post

**LOCAL TACKLE MANUFACTURERS** – They supply the prizes for giveaways on the NW PA Fishing Report.

- B.C. Baits Custom Tackle

- Dutch Fork Tackle

- French Creek Fishing Company

- Galida's Grubz

- Luckis4rabbits

- Mike's Custom Tackle