

NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA FISHING REPORT

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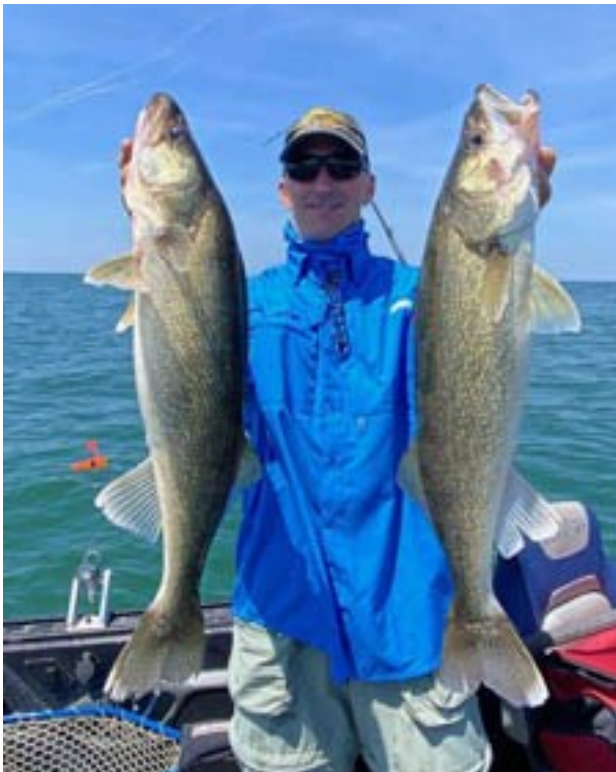
The NW PA Fishing Report is brought to you by:



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



Fishing with Darl Black
Information Service



THE LANDING NET by Darl Black

NW PA fishing is full steam ahead. Plenty of fish species remain active in the shallows at this point in early June – bass, crappies, bluegills, walleyes, catfish, muskies, white bass and catfish. Bluegills are in full spawn right now. Next heat wave likely will warm water temperatures in the shallows enough to push some gamefish to deeper, offshore waters. Walleyes in Erie are moving deeper already. Get out and fish now!

Keith Eshbaugh of Dutch Fork Charters says walleyes are eating custom butterfly blade worm harnesses in 40 to 50 feet of water.

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 8, 2022

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

FRENCH CREEK – flowing through all four counties

Aaron @ French Creek Fishing Company; filed 6/5: “No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it’s not the same river and he’s not the same man.” -- Heraclitus

This has been especially true for the French Creek watershed lately. With several total washouts the last few weeks, anglers have found French Creek to be feast or famine for anglers. Those floating the creek in canoes or kayaks should always have their personal flotation device on, and have an emergency plan in place if something were to go wrong. Now that creek levels have declined and fishing improvements have improved, both smallmouth bass and trout can be caught using in-line spinners, small crankbaits and a variety of soft plastics from French Creek Fishing Company – open rigged under floats.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Pymatuning Lake

Bean @ Richter’s Bait; filed 6/6: Lots of action on Pymatuning right now. Anglers have been catching numbers of walleyes during the day, mainly with worm harnesses along weed edges or with jig-n-crawler in weedbeds. Other anglers are getting ‘eyes trolling Flicker Shads and Hot-n-Tots in a little deeper water. Still a high percentage of shorts vs.

keepers during day. The bigger walleyes are coming at night with Bomber Long A's cast over weedbeds. Bluegills are spawning – seeing lots of big ones caught. Of course, the infamous Whiskered Walleyes of Pymatuning are being caught everywhere around the lake – spawning time for channels, too. Black crappies are done spawning but still hanging in shallow water.



Laurie @ Duck-N-Drake; filed 6/6: Everything is in the weeds! Bluegills, bass, walleyes and jumbo perch. Crawlers are catching everything. If you are not adept with a presentation to fish in the weeds, then stick to the weedlines. And don't forget the crappies! (See photos left and right)



Angler Al @ Buttermilk Hill; filed 6/6: My good friend Dave Feltenberger of Cochran, fished with me at Pymatuning over the weekend. There was a good wind for drifting. Using either a chartreuse or orange floating jig head tipped with half a nightcrawler set approximately 18 inches below a 1/4-ounce barrel sinker is how we caught most of our fish that day. Our tally with floating jigheads was 14 sublegal walleyes, 17 perch each about a foot long, several hand-sized bluegills, and a few above-average crappies. Trolling with crawler harnesses, we picked up two catfish, a 3-pound bass and a white bass. (See photo)



Angler Al photo



Marilyn @ Blackwolfe Communications; filed 5/30: A brief evening trip to Pymatuning to figure out post-spawn smallmouth yielded some info. I landed a couple smallmouth in the 15-inch range, and Darl lost a much larger one but landed a much smaller one. All fish came on Ned Rigs. (See photo left)

Woodcock Lake

Darl @ Blackwolfe Communications; filed 5/31: As most area anglers are aware, Woodcock Creek Lake was accidentally drained in March 2021 due to malfunction in dam gates. Only a very, very small pool of water remained behind the dam gates. Many gamefish were swept downstream into Woodcock Creek. Survey by PFBC later in spring

indicated stocking of both walleye and musky were needed; however, the biologist said it was not necessary to stock smallmouth because the few that remained would spawn on their own. But the question in my mind was whether remaining bass were adults of catchable size or were the remaining bass only small juveniles. On Memorial Day 2022, Marilyn and I set out to find out. It was our first time on Woodcock since the dewatering. The lake was unusually dirty and somewhat high from many storms. Visibility was only inches. And, as usual, the wind was not in our favor. However, in less than two hours, we set the hook on four smallmouths, landing two. These fish were feisty! Two landed were about 15 inches each. The two larger ones (each about 2-3/4 to 3 pounds) blew out of the water like a missile from a sub – and both got off. Yes, there are some catchable smallmouths in Woodcock...but certainly not as many as before and it will likely be years before the brown bass population blossoms again. (See photo)



Woodcock Lake SMB

Conneaut Lake



Spawned out 19" Conneaut LMB

Marilyn @ Blackwolfe Communications; filed 6/1: We had planned to make our annual late spring trip to Conneaut Lake for great shallow water fishing – before the lake association kills the weeds with herbicide the first week of June. But weather interfered. But we made it over on June 1 for a couple hours in the evening. Water level was high and the lake was as dirty as I've ever seen it – combination of rain runoff and Memorial weekend boat traffic. Fish were either not

feeding, or they simply were not in the shallows. I landed one 19-inch post spawn largemouth and Darl got one very small smallmouth. We search for bedding bluegills, but could not find any. I did manage several nice bluegills apparently from a group waiting to move onto beds; they were stacked around dock posts in 7 to 8 feet of water. Not the day we had hoped for. (See photos)



Conneaut's big 'gills

ERIE COUNTY

Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay



Bill @ Tudor's; filed 6/6: It's GO time!! Daytime walleye fishing is picking up considerably. Good numbers of fish are being caught during the day in 40 feet of water out of Walnut. Bay Rat deep runners and

worm harnesses on Dipsey divers (medium size, 140 feet back) have been working great. Some fish are still being taken at night in shallow water from 12 to 20 feet. (See photo left and right)



Jeff @ Poor Richards; filed 6/6: The walleye night bite is slowing down as the daylight bite gets better. Day time trolling in 30 to 40 feet with worm harnesses in purple/black or copper. Some perch are reported in 27 to 37 feet of water off the clay banks – not a lot, but nice size. We have a lot of new stock arriving for walleye fishing – check it out! We also have golden shiners, fathead minnows, salted emerald shiners, nightcrawlers, red worms, mealworms and maggots.

Doug @ Elk Creek Sports; filed 6/6: We have reports of some anglers still catching smallmouth up Elk Creek around the Legion. Walleye bite improving in the lake. Anglers are searching for perch.

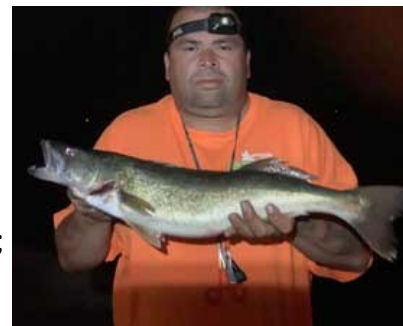
Capt. Bob @ Perch Pirate; filed 6/6: Perch Pirate made its first run of the 2022 season over the weekend. Fishing from Cribs down to Shorewood, our customers boated a variety of fish including walleye, bass and perch. Regular trips are now running.



Chad Prihode: Fun day on Erie. Fishing 39 feet of water west of Walnut Creek pulling worm harnesses on 3-ounce bottom bouncers. (Photos left and right)



Tim @ Presque Isle Bay Anglers; filed 6/6: Presque Isle Bay crappies are biting along the city-side piers and marinas with the occasional perch or walleye caught as well. Smallmouth and largemouth bass in the shallows with some still on beds. Walleyes in the main lake are being caught all hours of the day now that surface has reached the upper 60-degree mark; Daytime in 25 to 40 feet; nighttime bite in 10 to 20 feet. Photo included is PIBA member Randy Deickhoff with nice walleye from the bayfront. (See photo)



Randy Deickhoff

Jake @ Fish USA; filed 6/6: A lot of smallmouth bass are still in the bay, but the ones up shallow are being super pressured. However, if you go deeper, there are plenty of fish. A dropshot with wacky rigged worm has been my hot bait. Walleye fishing has been steadily heating up. Many anglers are running shallow baits wither with leadcore or with snap weights. Shallow Bandits, Bagley's and Bomber Long As are a staple this time of year. Target 30 to 50 feet of water.

Capt. George Mro Guide Service; filed 6/6: This past week brought stable weather and post-spawn smallmouth. The fish are scattered and on the move. When we ran into them, they were of quality size. Most smallmouth bass came from 18 to 20 feet of water. (See photos below and on Livewell Page)

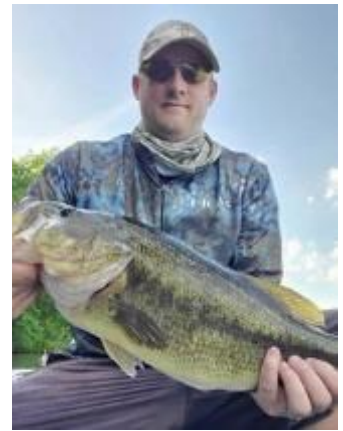


MERCER COUNTY

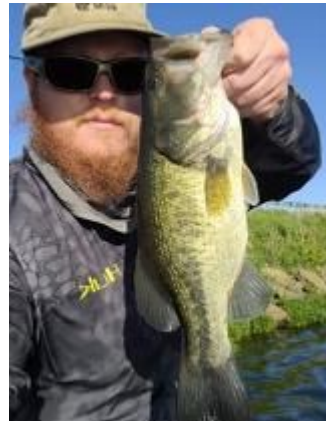
Lake Wilhelm

Editor's note: Some lakes peak earlier than others in the spring. Wilhelm is a late bloomer! It has only been the last couple weeks that Wilhelm really turned on with active big crappies, assorted sunfish species, walleyes, largemouth bass and musky. Check out recent catches. **BREAKING NEWS** – PFBC released list of largest fish caught and recorded for 2021. Two of those fish came from Lake Wilhelm – including 40-pound, 50 inch musky caught by Douglas Pavick on September 6, 2021.

Brandon Hanna @ Consumer Discount Sports; filed 6/6. When it comes to bass fishing, I'll take quality over quantity. Two weeks ago, I caught a 6.5 pound largemouth at Wilhelm. This past week, I caught a 6.22 pound largemouth. There were still some lingering females buried in trees on the south end of the lake before they moved offshore. I was flipping a creature bait into cover when she struck. Having Gamma 17-pound Polyflex line spooled on the reel enabled me to haul the fish out of deep cover. (See photo)



Brad B; filed 6/5: It's been a stellar week of fishing at Lake Wilhelm, particularly for bass and crappie. On June 2nd, a friend and I fished wood cover and weedlines with crappie jigs and Texas-rigged plastic to catch crappies and largemouth bass. On Saturday, June 4th, bass were eating my crankbaits. Always a good time on Wilhelm. (See photos below and on Livewell Page)



Isaac Baker; filed 6/6: When my nephew Stevie Abel accompanied me on a fishing outing to Wilhelm recently, we both enjoyed the day catching walleyes and panfish. (See photo here & Livewell Page)

Stevie Abel

Bob Lanshcak; filed 6/6: very excited to land a musky while fishing for walleye at Lake Wilhelm. (See photo right)



Bob Lanshcak

Dan Wielobob (Conneaut Lake); filed 6/6: Dan caught a 4 pound crappie from Lake Wilhelm in 2021 & had it mounted. He also caught a 15" and an 18" Wilhelm crappies in 2021. (See photo of mounts on Gamma Page)

PFBC News Release on 6/6: Dan's 4 lb. 5 oz crappie from Wilhelm was the largest crappie in the state in 2021. Wilhelm is a BIG CRAPPIE lake, no doubt about it.

Shenango Lake

Randy @ Fish West PA; filed 6/5: Shenango Lake is fishing great right now with plenty of species to choose from. Good reports of slab crappie being caught in the shallows along with post-spawn largemouth bass. Hybrid stripers are feeding off drop-offs, along with some nice walleyes. White bass are plentiful as well. Now is the time to be out! (Photo below & on Livewell Page)

Scott Selle; filed 6/6: This past weekend, we had a nice day on Shenango, catching crappies white bass and catfish. Also, my son Rob caught a rainbow trout! Here is a picture of Shenango crappie. (See Photo below)

Brock "Captain Hook" Morocco; filed 6/4: A nice Shenango Lake largemouth taken while fishing from shore. (See Photo below)

Ken Smith (Sharon); filed 6/6: The bluegill fishing at Shenango Lake is awesome right now! (See Photo below)



Randy with SL Largemouth



Randy with SL White Bass



Scott Selle with SL Crappie



Capt. Hook with SL



Ken Smith's 2nd favorite fish

VENANGO COUNTY

Justus Lake



Angler Al @ Buttermilk Hill; filed 6/5: Dave Feltenberger and I fished Justus Lake this past weekend. We were casting live, large creek baits along the shoreline. Baits were on #2 hooks with light weight approximately feet above the hook. We boated five largemouth bass and three smallmouth bass. All were released. (See photos left and right)



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Sugar Creek

Angler Al; filed 6/5: early morning of Memorial Day, I headed to a favorite location on Sugar Creek with live bait and my fly rod. I started with the biggest minnow in my bucket. Lost a big fish that hit it! Smaller minnows, wax worms and pieces of nightcrawler produced 9 brown trout and 13 rainbow trout. I switched to the fly rod. With a brown beadhead nymph tied on as a bottom dropper and cream-colored wet fly 16 inches above, I caught nine more trout. Mid-week a thunderstorm blew up the stream. But by Saturday, it became fishable again. My friend Bill joined me on the stream below Cooperstown. I caught several trout plus 2 nice smallmouth bass; Bill caught 10 trout.

Allegheny River

Editor's note:

Pete Cartwright and Jeff Knapp, the two river smallmouth guides who regularly contribute to this Report, have suspended guide operations on the Allegheny River during the smallmouth bass spawn. They anticipate resuming guide trips on the river in about a week.

Mike @ Mike's Custom Baits; filed 6/6: It was a slow bite week on the river. Went back out today. Another slow day – maybe a dozen or so smallmouths and a single 10-inch walleye. No bass over 2.5 pounds. Everything we are catching is on a 3-inch swimbait I created; it seems to be winner. Hoping for bigger bass shortly. (See photo right)



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

Keystone Connection Guide Service: Allegheny River Smallmouth, Walleye and Musky plus Pymatuning Walleye. Jeff Knapp; 724-902-6082; keystone-connectionguideservice@gmail.com; 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; 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; 724-704-1723

Solitude Steelhead Guide Service: Fly-fishing the tributaries of Pennsylvania. Bob Packey; 724-972-8813; solitudesteelheadguide@yahoo.com; www.solitudesteelheadguideservice.com

Names drawn for prizes:

Gamma Line: Bob Lanshcak

Walleye Lure pack: Isaac Baker/Stevie Abel

Pack of Glaida's Grubz: Brock Morocco

Pack of Mike's Tubes: Scott Selle

To claim your prize, you must email darlblack@windstream.net with your shipping address. Even you won before, you must send email with address in order to claim prize.

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



Capt. .Mro photo—Erie SMB



Capt. Mro photo—Erie SMB



Dave Parisi—4.9 lb.
LMB



Brad B with Wilhelm LMB



Stevie Abel - Wilhelm 'gill



Randy with Shenango Hybrid Striper



Black Knight Industries
Oil City, PA 16301
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

Darl Black: I’ve always been a light-line angler. Introduction to Gamma Line made me a “lighter” line angle. Gamma is a very strong line for its diameter. I’ll let Dale Black, president of Gamma Line, describe the why and how. But for me, Gamma Polyflex and Edge simple mean strong-yet-manageable. Here is a break down on the lines I use.

Spinning for trout:

2-lb. Polyflex

Spinning with crappie jigs:

4-lb. hi-vis Gamma Panfish Line

Spinning for bass/walleye 1/16 to 3/8 oz. jigs

6-lb. Edge

Blade baits, jig spoons, 3/8 –oz plus bottom bump baits, worms, etc.

8-lb Edge

Topwater, suspend jerkbaits with casting outfit:

10-lb Polyflex leader/Torque main

Crankbaits:

10 lb. Polyflex

Swim jigs, swimbaits, soft jerkbaits:

10 lb. Edge

Frog Rod:

20 lb. Torque braid

Buzzbait Rod:

10 lb. Torque braid

Dan Wielobob’s 15” and 18” crappies from Lake Wilhelm in 2021. He also had a 20” from Wilhelm.



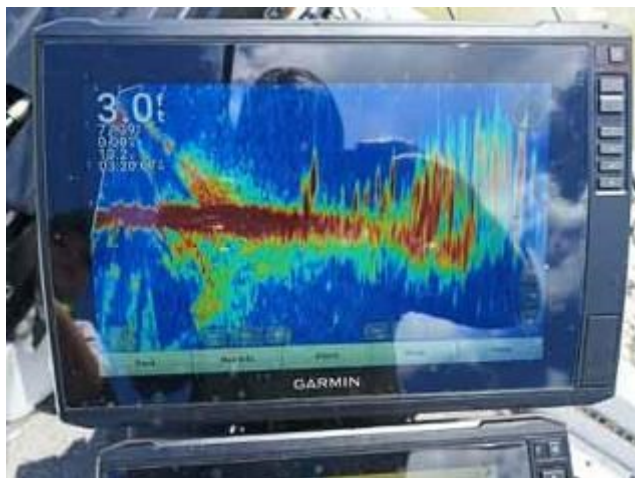
GARMIN INFORMATION PAGE



- 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

Garmin Tip from Gus Glasgow:

Most people don't realize how effective LiveScope can be in shallow water. With simple adjustments to your depth-setting, you are able to continue to see long distances. I have my depth set 7 feet in the picture, giving me an excellent image. As you can see in the attached screen picture, I located a ditch in the back of a popular spawning cove. You can see the drop in the ditch around the 30' mark, then raise back up quickly. Fish were moving out of the cove fast and using the ditch as a migration path. These types of features are commonly overlooked, or fished at wrong time of year. I found this spot last summer, but no fish in it. However, I knew at the right time it would be loaded. We pulled 50 plus fish from this ditch in just a few hours this spring.



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