

NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA FISHING REPORT

Published by Blackwolfe Communications LLC

Issue: August 17, 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



Brady Welsh; Pymie; 45.5 inches

The Landing Net by Darl Black

Skipping the Landing Net comments this issue to make room for big fish photos!



Pete Cartwright; Allegheny; 22" SMB



Jenna Bower; Shenango ; with huge flathead

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 August 17, 2022

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Editor's note: It's the middle of August, following a very, very hot July. Many area waters have higher than normal water temperatures with readings around 80 degrees. The exceptionally warm water has impacted some fish – either positively or negatively depending on species. If you are having difficulty catching fish, perhaps it's time to change target species or change waterways. The smallmouth bass fishing in flowing water has been exceptional in recent weeks, with many large-size smallies coming from the Allegheny and French Creek. White bass is one species that continues to feed on suspended baitfish in Pymatuning Lake and Shenango Lake, busting bait schools on the surface in morning and evening. Catfish are going crazy in the Shenango River, Pymatuning Lake, Shenango Lake, and Allegheny River. Of course, Lake Erie temps are cooler than inland lakes – just perfect temperatures for walleyes to feed heavily on baitfish; some charters are saying this is an absolute banner year for Erie walleyes.

FRENCH CREEK – Flowing through all four counties

Aaron @ French Creek Fishing Company; filed 8/15: Low water conditions have made floating the creek difficult if not impossible on the upper portions of the creek. You will likely end up dragging your boat over many shallow areas. However, checking the USGS water table chart online, you can plan a trip accordingly. Fishing the



Photo by Aaron

creek for smallmouth and walleye remains good, with lure choice including FCFC 2-inch Ned Worm and Nemesis Ned soft plastic. (See photo right)



Angler Al @ Buttermilk Hill; filed 8/14: Whenever my busy schedule allows, I wet a line. Although water levels on area creeks were low and temperatures high, fish seemed willing enough to take live minnows. I caught several thumpers 3 to 4-pound on French Creek. (See photo left)



Aaron on French Creek



Pete @ smalliesontheYough.com; filed 7/21: Started out with a slow bite for smallies on lower section of French Creek, but it picked up big time. We landed some nice smallmouth including my clients each catching their biggest smb ever. Current was the spot. (See photos left and right)



CRAWFORD COUNTY

Pymatuning Lake

Bean @ Richter's Tackle; filed 8/15: Still catching fish if you work at it. Anglers are getting walleyes on stickbaits over the weedbeds at night, as well as working a jig-n-crawler in weeds during the day. The handful of musky fishermen continue to score some nice fish by trolling. I had one report from anglers about catching a good mess of crappies in five feet of water...no other crappie reports.

Casey @ Jamestown Marina; filed 8/15; Our customers are catching a little bit of everything, especially catfish and walleyes. Largest walleye this week was a 25 incher. Also, another customer caught a 20-inch largemouth bass.

Kayla @ Poff's Place; filed 8/15: I'm hearing mostly about catfish catches; getting them both the at causeway and from boats.

Marilyn Black @ Blackwolfe Communications; filed 8/5: We headed to Pymatuning for white bass. But arrived too late for any morning activity. We could see white bass on the sonar holding about mid-depth down by the dam, but could not get them to bite. I only



caught one on a blade before we had to leave.

Brian Luffey; filed 8/3: I am not a guide. Just a guy who loves to help friends to catch big muskies. Here's a couple that Brady



Welsh caught while fishing with me at Pymatuning. On July, Brady got a 44.5 incher. On July 29, he got a 45.5 incher. Both taken on a Leo Mojoe. (See photos left and right)

Conneaut Lake



Ronen Horne

Ronen Horne (Hartstown); filed 8/13: I fished with my Dan on Conneaut Lake on August 12th. We fished for bluegills and perch. We fished the South end of the lake using a jig-head, worm and bobber to catch most of the fish. Fish were biting and it was a lot fun. Dad was using a jig-head and plastic trailer to catch some fish, too. See photos of my catch.



My catch of good-eating fish!

ERIE COUNTY

Lake Erie

Bob @ Perch Pirate; filed 8/15: It has been a slow bite on our most recent trips. A strong NE blow changed the water profile where we had been fishing; plus, it was a full moon. A full moon seems to shut walleyes down. The blow scattered the shallower fish and moved them out. The guys pulling hardware in deeper water were still on fish because deep fish were not impacted as much. With stable weather, the bite should improve for our trips this week.

Jeff @ Poor Richards; filed 8/15: Anglers are doing best on walleye in 50 to 60 feet, although some fish are being caught deeper and other shallower. Worm harnesses, worm burners and spoons are productive baits with watermelon, purple/black and copper the hot colors. A few steelhead are showing up out deeper, working the same baitfish schools as walleyes; we had a 15-pound steelhead brought in this week. More steelhead will surely show up now. Walleye bite should be strong until at least mid- September – unless the water starts to cool quickly. (See photo)



Early steelhead out deep

Chris @ Elk Creek Sports; filed 8/15: Here on the west side of Erie, all the action is focused on walleye. No one is catching perch; it's as if perch schools don't exist. Anglers are getting limits of walleyes when the lake allows them to get out. Crawler harnesses and Erie Dearies are our top sellers. Purple and gold are reportedly the most productive colors. Steelhead action is starting to pick up out in deep water as some steelhead are running with walleye schools to follow bait.



Dan @ Bucket Charters; filed 8/15: It was a fantastic weekend, confronting both big rollers and flat calm seas. Still caught fish. This has been an exceptional summer season for us. We will be fishing until early October. (See photo)

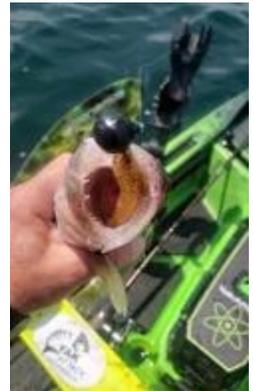


Ken Smith (Sharon); filed 8/13: I and some of my best friends went on a walleye charter this morning with Jeff and Carpet-bagger Charters. Late start due to weather. Headed out in two-footers with occasional bigger one. Bumpy ride out for 45 to 55 minutes into the waves, but it

paid off pretty darn good. Put the biggest box of fish together for the year. Thanks to Jeff Linz for taking us out. We had a great time. See you next month. (See photo)



Dave Ohmer (Erie); filed 8/5: On Friday August 5th, I launched my kayak just west of Beach #1 on Presque Isle State Park and motored due north 4 miles to reach 60 feet of water. I jugged a 4-inch Case Italo's Minnow in the Gold Digger color on a 1-ounce Rod Knockerz jig head with Gamma 10-pound Polyflex line. I caught 14 walleyes with 3 of them being keepers – before the wind shifted from the North and things started to get rough. (See photos left & right)



Presque Isle Bay

Lynne @ East End Angler; filed 8/15: I've had reports of good crappie, bluegill and catfish catches from the South Pier and several other fishing dock sites on the city side of Bay. Only the occasional perch is being caught. Walleye action is centered in the lake at 55 to 60 feet.



Chad Prihode; filed 8/10: Largemouth are still eating in Presque Isle Bay. Bigger bass are being caught in deeper water of the bay away from the shoreline. (See photos left & right)



Eaton Reservoir

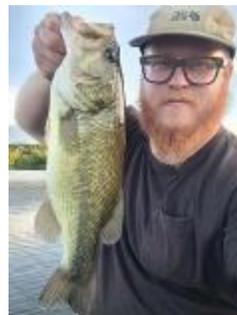
Aaron @ French Creek Fishing Company (FCFC); filed 8/15: I've been having success with northern pike, walleye and largemouth bass at Eaton. I've been using weightless wacky rigged 5-inch FCFC Eel, and a crankbait that runs 6 to 8 feet. (See photos



MERCER COUNTY

Lake Wilhelm

Brad B @ Wilhelm Campground; filed 8/14: Bass fishing at Lake Wilhelm was much better this season than last. Even though July was a bit tough, I still caught a good number of nice bass. So far August is shaping up to be a better month for me. I've caught a number of 3 to 5.5-pound largemouth bass this summer – here are a few pictures. People ask how I do it. I tell them that I'm a power fisherman. I just keep moving and casting. I don't sit still. I catch fish from shallow weeds and deep water, using a variety of lures which permits me to cover water. (See photos below & Livewell Page)



Shenango Lake and Shenango River

Randy @ Fish West PA; filed 8/14: While warm lake temperatures are keeping a lot of species at bay, the river is a better bet for action. Some of our members switch to kitty kat mode and came up with a few good ones. Largemouth bass, hybrid striped bass, white bass and catfish are still active in the lake, but the action is spotty; fish catches in the lake will pick up as the temperature drops a bit. Of course, fall is right around the corner, so that's when fishing action will really pick up. (See photos next page)

Nijya Justice (Shenango Valley); filed 8/14: Yesterday I had a decent day on Shenango Lake. I caught this 30-inch hybrid striper while fishing for crappies. Got a nice mess of crappies, too. (See photos below)

Chris at Fish West PA; filed 8/12: Yesterday morning after being up for 26 hours straight, I landed my largest freshwater fish since 2015...a flathead catfish weighing in at 36 pounds! (See photo below)

Captain Hook (Hermitage); filed 8/12: Hot summer – time for catfishing. We caught a mixture of flathead and channel cats from Shenango River and Shenango Lake, plus a few other species. The one flathead was a hog! We are fishing at night with large minnows. All fish were released. (See photos below)



Nijya with hybrid striper



Chris with 36 lb. flathead



Jeremiah with big flathead



Nijya's crappie catch from Shenango



Captain Hook with big flathead



Captain Hook's first mate



Hook hooks carp!

VENANGO COUNTY

Angler Al @ Buttermilk Hill; filed 8/14 – fishing when I have the opportunity...

Sugar Creek: Using small live minnows, I've caught rainbow trout and the occasional brown trout.

Justus Lake: Slow trolling big shiners and creek chubs with my buddy Tom Hays, we

caught a fair number of largemouth bass. Also, Tom boated a 4-pound smallmouth bass. (See photos)



Angler Al



Tom Hays

Allegheny River

Jeff @ Keystone Connection Guide Service; filed 8/14: Smallmouth bass action on the middle Allegheny continues to be exceptional. Our four to six-hour trips are averaging 40 to 60 fish per trip. As is common during warm water of summer there are a lot of little ones in the mix (which bodes well for the future), but all trips are producing quality fish as large as 20 inches. Fish are eating both soft jerkbaits and Rapala X-Raps. Mid-river areas with moderate current and depth are putting out most of the fish. (See photos below)

Pete @ SmalliesoftheYough.com – Wade guide Pete Cartwright has provided numerous reports and photos since late July to clearly show the outstanding bronzeback opportunities on the Allegheny River. (See photos below and on the Livewell Page)

7-23-22: We went out early today. The bite was great all day. Smallies were active and eating soft plastics like 412 Tubes. We landed fish up to 19 inches.

7-30-22: We fished the Allegheny today. Conditions were great – not too hot. We used soft plastics from 412 Bait Company to land a number of smallmouths up to 19 inches. I have some openings until October.

8-1-22: It started slow today, but picked up mid-afternoon. We used Keitech Swimbait from Fishing Online to catch them. Lots of smallies in the 13 to 16-inch range. The biggest was 19 inches.

8-6-22: We fished all day today, landing a bunch of decent fish and losing a few bigger ones. Soft plastic jigs worked great. Smallies were scattered throughout summer areas.

8-10-22: Today was a day for Biggins. I landed an incredible 22-inch smallmouth. Monster! I also landed two others that were 20 inches each, plus many smaller ones. It is that time of year!

8-11-22: August is one of my favorite times to fish. The smallies are fat, the water is warm and skies are mostly blue. Today went even better than yesterday. The bite was great. I landed a bunch of smallmouths between 17 and 21 inches. They were crushing anything I threw at them. (See photos below)



Jeff Knapp photo of guide trip



Jeff Knapp photo



Jeff Knapp clients on Allegheny



Pete Cartwright photo



Pete Cartwright clients on Allegheny



Pete Cartwright photo

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

TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE BELOW, Email Your shipping address to darlblack@windstream.net

Spool of Gamma Line: Brian Luffey

Cover photo pack of Galida's Grubz: Jenna Bower

Lure Pack: Ken Smith

Special panfish lure pack: Ronen Horne

The Livewell

Brought to you by:
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704 1/2 Elk Street
Franklin, PA 16323
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Email: Debbie@riverjetpro.com



Lake Wilhelm—Brad B photo



Captain Hook on
Shenango Lake



Brad B on Lake Wilhelm



Brad B on Lake Wilhelm



Pete Cartwright with his PB smallmouth
wading the Allegheny River—22 inches



Brad B with French Creek pike



Crappie fishing on Lake Wilhelm



Shenango River at night



Pete on the Allegheny River



Erie Skyline from Dave Ohmer's Kayak



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



Since the beginning of the NW PA Fishing Report, Gamma Line has been a supporter, providing a giveaway spool of line to a contributor in each Fishing Report. Almost anyone who has tried Gamma Lines realizes it is awesome line whether you tried the traditional copolymer line or the fluorocarbon line. But Gamma also offers

several other products you may not be familiar with. I was discussing this with Dale Black, the president of company. With so many local anglers using the line, we wanted to see more big fish being caught on Gamma. So here's the deal: before the end of they year, email to me your Personal Best fish of any species taken on Gamma Line in the past three years. I'll post them on the Gamma Page. Then in January, I'll draw a name from those who sent a PB to the Gamma Page. This individual will win a very nice sampling of Gamma products—including samples of several lines and the various line/fishing related products Gamma offers. To enter, you must including the following information with you submitted photo: Your name and address; species of fish and either weight or inches which makes this your Personal Best; the Gamma Line you caught it on plus lure or bait; and waterway & date where you caught it.



GARMIN INFORMATION PAGE

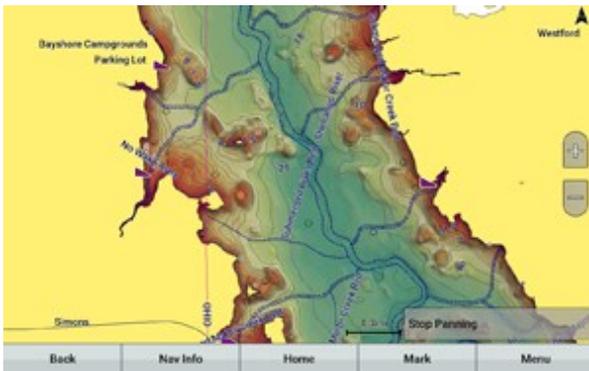


- Real anglers share actual fishing experiences with Garmin units
- For professional local installation of Garmin units, contact G&G Marine Electronics at 724-290-9045

GARMIN TIP

From Jeff Knapp, licensed fishing guide

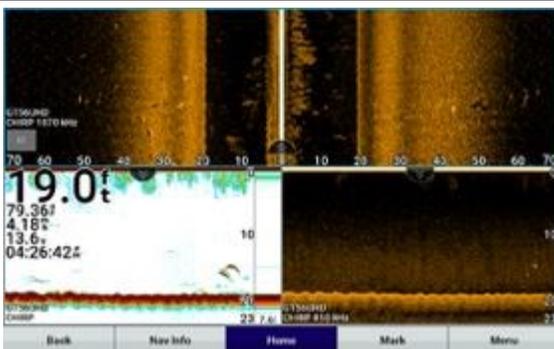
Garmin Marine's new Vision Plus mapping combines Navionics and Garmin cartography. It includes many incredible features, including relief shading on select lakes; Pymatuning is one of these. The relief shading layer provides a 3D feel to the chart, similar to a topographic map with this feature. During a late July trip my friend Sid Brown and I had a banner day on Pymatuning, aided greatly by spot-on contours of the Vision Plus map displayed on my Echomap UHD, and the outstanding fish detecting of my Echomap Ultra. By day's end we'd caught a dozen walleyes, 18 to 20 nice white bass, along with an assortment of yellow perch, bluegills, pumpkinseeds and channel cats.



Garmin Vision Plus mapping



Sid Brown on Pymatuning



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