

# NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA FISHING REPORT

Published by Blackwolfe Communications LLC

Issue: August 10, 2015



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

The NW PA Fishing Report provides timely angling information for Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Venango Counties – covering all species and all waters open to the public. The fishing comments and photos are offered by regional tackle shops and area anglers, compiled and published twice a month. The NW PA Fishing Report is based on experiences, observations and opinions of individual contributors; information sources are considered reliable but comments are not independently verified. In providing information or pictures, you are agreeing to your comments being edited, and posted to websites and distributed electronically.

The NW PA Fishing Report is brought to you by:

**Pennsylvania' Great Lakes Region ([www.PaGreatLakes.com](http://www.PaGreatLakes.com))**

**Black Knight Industries, Oil City ([www.GammaFishing.com](http://www.GammaFishing.com))**

**Wiegel Brothers Marine, Franklin ([www.wiegelbrothersmarine.com](http://www.wiegelbrothersmarine.com))**

## The Landing Net

*by Darl Black*

It's August. Although some are thinking about children returning to school, there's still a lot of fishing to be done before the bell rings. Right now, both French Creek and the Allegheny River are low and clear (except when we get a rain storm), so smallmouth bass fishing it on fire. Wading and kayaking are excellent ways to fish flowing water in August. Decent walleye catches are still being made at Pymatuning, and of course Lake Erie. Ken Smith says Shenango crappie fishing is hot. The big bluegills are biting at Conneaut. And don't forget catfish! Yes, we still have lots of summer fishing left...then the awesome fall bite arrives! Go Fish!



## NW PA FISHING REPORT FOR AUGUST 10, 2015

This Report is brought to you by PA Great Lakes Region tourism with additional sponsorship from Wiegel Brothers Marine and Gamma Fishing.

We answer the question *“What’s biting in the lakes, streams and rivers of Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Venango counties?”*

### FRENCH CREEK – flowing through all four counties



Floating the Creek/db photo



Matt Watson



Angler Al



Ed Lawrence

Dustin Shay (Meadville): In a phone call this week, Dustin reports he has been chasing flathead cats, big walleye and smallmouth bass on French Creek. “There seems to be a greater number of big walleye in French Creek this summer – likely due to the high water earlier in the summer. Now with the Creek low and clear, these fish are being spotted by anglers; live creek bait is the best. I floated French Creek a few days ago with friends. We caught a bunch of smallmouth bass – all on artificial lures. I’ve lost a couple really big fish of unknown species while fishing live bait during dusk to dark for flatheads – catfish, big sheephead, musky – I’m uncertain.”

Angler Al (Franklin); filed 8/8: “I hit the creek on Saturday, August 8 at first light. The smallies bit hard at first but slowed by 9 am. Numerous 1 to 2 pound bass, but nothing exceptional. Live creek bait drifted weightless just below fast shoots of current seemed to be where the bass were lurking.

“Back on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July, I accompanied a friend of mine, Matt Watson, from Oil City for an evening of walleye fishing on French Creek. I GoPro’ed him catching one walleye on a **Rebel Cricket Lure** and three other ‘eyes on a **Rebel Frog**. Impressive fish caught by an impressive fisherman. The night prior, Matt caught 11 walleye and the biggest was 30 inches! On July 31<sup>st</sup>, Matt landed his 24<sup>th</sup> walleye in a week from French Creek, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one that measured over 20 inches. A great fisherman with rod in hand with a little Rebel Frog in tow. Way to go Matt!” (See Livewell photos)

Ed Lawrence (Corry); filed 7/28: "I've been catching a lot of northern pike this year. Most have been 26 to 30 inches, but a few have been larger. I'm getting them all over NW PA, including the Allegheny River, PIB and French Creek. These fish are usually aggressive and will hit anything from spinner to stick baits. When fishing gets tough, live creek chubs and shiners do the trick. Smallmouth bass have been hitting well, too. I lost a huge smallmouth a week ago. I set the hook hard thinking it was a pike. When I wrestled the fish out of a log jam, it finally jumped out of the water and threw the hook. The big bass hit a big **Mepps Aglia**. Trout are still biting, and I've been catching beautiful wild fish in the hills of NWPA."

## **CRAWFORD COUNTY**

### Pymatuning Lake

*Dave @ Richter's Bait & Tackle*; filed 8/10: "It was a good weekend for walleyes. Anglers were catching them by drifting crawlers in 8 to 15 feet of water, and by trolling **Hot-N-Tots** and **Flicker Shads** in deeper water. Catfish are hitting all over the lake. Recent weeks have seen a better musky bite on the lake than I've seen in years. And I'm getting reports from anglers who are catching crappies in weedbeds on minnows!

*Shawn @ Espyville Marina*; filed 8/10: "The reports that I'm getting from anglers indicate trolling **Shad Raps** in the South End of the lake is the best thing going for walleye right now.

*Laurie @ Duck N Drake*; filed 8/8: "I am happy to report the walleye bite is still on at Pymatuning Lake. Just today I received reports from customers that they were catching walleye between 15 and 21 feet using **Shad Raps** trolled at 2.1 to 2.3 mph. Also they have been catching crappies in 10 to 12 feet of water this past week – especially on the east side of lake near Snodgrass Ramp."

Jim McClave (Andover); filed 8/8: "I've been out on Pymatuning a few times this past week – some really nice evenings to be out fishing. I'm catching catfish and small perch. I've heard that some anglers are catching muskies up by the causeway."

*Celene @ Pymatuning Lake Association*; filed 8/3: "PLA held their Kids Fishing Derby on August 1. We had 402 kids registered for the event, which included a fishing contest, casting contest and kayak instruction." (See photos below)





Tabetha Krantz; filed 8/1: "On the last day of July, my husband Scott and I caught a number of channel cats by drifting chicken livers on the southern half of Pymatuning Lake."



How Hooker Brakeman fishes chicken liver for catfish: He opens a container of store-bought chicken liver, impales a #2 hook through a piece of liver two or three times making sure to catch the sinew (white fiber tissue) so the liver does not tear off. Next Hooker free-spools the bait to the bottom with enough weight pinched on the line to keep it down while drifting. Then he sits back to munch on alligator meatballs while waiting for a bite!

### Woodcock Lake

Darl Black (Cochrannton); filed 8/7: "Marilyn and I headed to Woodcock Creek Lake the evening of the full moon with anticipation of a good smallmouth bite. The lake was stained and high. With these conditions, I tied on my dependable **Terminator Swim Jig** on one rod and chartreuse **Chatterbait** on the other. We started working the bank cover. Marilyn tired quickly of the Chatterbait and picked up a panfish rod with a **Bobby Garland Swimming Minnow** in silver/blue. By fishing the small profile bait in a pale color, she violated the rules for high, dirty water presentation...and caught all the fish. While I went fishless for the next two hours, Marilyn caught five walleyes and one very chunk 14-inch smallmouth bass on her tiny panfish jig." (See Livewell photos)

## ERIE COUNTY

### Lake Erie

*Ric @ Trout Run Bait*; filed 8/8: "Fishing success has been hit and miss based on the weather. We've had some heavy blows up here this past week, kicking the lake up. Perch fishing has fallen off; still getting some in 50' off Walnut and 47'/48' off Godfrey Run. Walleyes are out in 60 to 70 feet near the bottom; little deeper over by the Mountain. On calm mornings, we have observed and caught some brown trout from the shore during first light and during last light at dusk; fly fishermen are getting them on generic black and brown nymph patters. Over the weekend, one charter group came in with a mixed

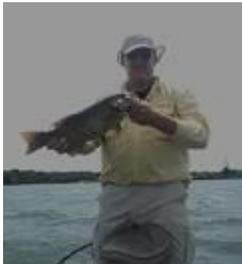
bag...they started out deep and worked their way back in, catching lake trout way out deep, steelhead and Coho (yes Coho) in moderate depths and walleyes in close. Needless to say that group was excited with their catch!”

Jeff @ Poor Richards; filed 8/8: “Perch are being caught in 45 to 55 feet, and walleye in 55 to 65 feet near the bottom from the Ohio Line to the Point. Worm harnesses are proving the best lure.”

Ken Anderson (Tionesta); filed 8/7: “My son Russ is home on leave from the Air Force stationed in Japan. On August 6<sup>th</sup>, Lake Erie was not kind to my son – several hookups came unbuttoned on the way to the boat and we both should have put on sunscreen earlier in the day. I got three smallmouth bass and a walleye on plastic. My best fish is attached in a photo.” (See photo below)

Thomas Watral (Erie); filed 8/1: “Walleye are biting off Shades Beach in 30 to 60 feet of water. Best baits have been crawler harnesses in purple & black. Perch fishing has been good early in the morning for a short time and again in evening towards dusk. Best bait has been Subiki Rigs tipped with minnows.”

Ed Lawrence (Corry); filed 7/28: “I am enclosing a couple photos that Craig Jaquith shared with me of his Lake Erie walleye trip. His group of five anglers hauled in a boat limit of walleye last weekend. They fished with Captain Anthony Campanella of Eyecrosser Sportfishing Charters. See photos below.”



Ken Anderson



### Erie Inland Waters

Ken Anderson; filed 8/8: “On August 8<sup>th</sup> my son Russ and I fished Edinboro Lake. We caught three largemouths on **Trigger X Tubes** in the grass during a high wind. The best hookup was a big bass taken with an audience at the Sunset Grill – but I lost the fish!”

Thomas Watral; filed 8/7: “I fished Lake LeBoeuf last night and slammed bass on both live frogs and lures. Trick was to cast by the pads and work the bait. Hits came one right after another. Elsewhere, Bull Dam has been a hot spot for crappies and bass; minnows for crappies and buzzbaits for bass. Over at Lake Pleasant, bluegills and trout are being caught on crawlers and green Power Bait.”

## MERCER COUNTY

### Lake Wilhelm

Corey @ Lake Wilhelm Marina; filed 8/10: "This has been a slow week at Lake Wilhelm. No customer reports of walleye catches. However, we got a new shipment of **Hot-N-Tots** in, so anglers have been shopping through the great new selection of colors."

Mike @ CDS; filed 8/10: "Not much chatter about successful fishing this week in the shop. A few guys mentioned the walleye bite was better at Wilhelm than Pymatuning – but did not elaborate. This past week we sold a lot of **Eco Pro Tungsten Drop-shot Weights** to tournament anglers heading to some big Lake Erie tournament."

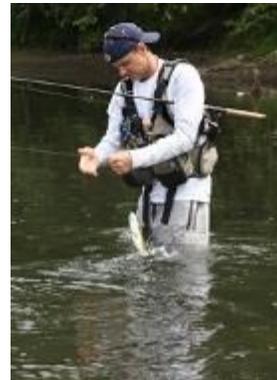
### Shenango Lake

Ken Smith (Sharon); filed 8/5: "Just started fishing Shenango last week. The fish are biting very well. If you like eating crappies that are 9 to 11 inches, this is the place to be. The black crappies have thick fillets that fry up real nice. I've caught them from depths ranging from 8 feet to 16 feet, both over brush and near brush, and on the outer edges of new blow downs. All fish were caught using **Bobby Garland Baby Shads** in various colors – both casting and tight-lining."

## VENANGO COUNTY

Bill @ Griffins Bait & Tackle; filed 8/10: "Here at Griffins Bait, we have been selling some topwater lures such as **Jitterbug, Rapalas**, buzzbaits and rubber frogs. Cody Cochran caught a 15" walleye at Woodcock Lake by floating a crawler under a bobber set at 3 to 4 feet. Cody and Rick Tafoya also caught some catfish and smaller walleyes at Woodcock. Mark Ringwelski caught a smallmouth bass on the Allegheny River. Dan Swab caught a 10 pound walleye on the Allegheny River. (See Livewell photos)

Allegheny River — Don't have a jet boat? Go wade the river now.



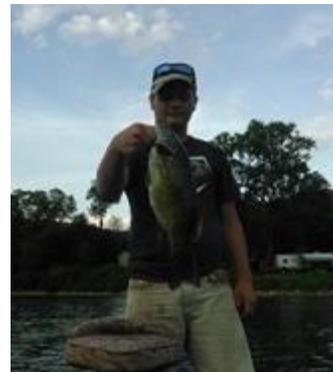
*Pete Cartwright @ Smallies on the Yough*

- 8/4: "I fished the Allegheny River between Tionesta and Oil City for three days. There were tons of boaters and floater out on the river all three days. The bite was slow for the most part but I did land a few nice fish by dead-drifting 412ubes and other soft plastic. The walleye was in the main channel of the river and smallies were around cover due to bluebird sky. Great summer days on the Allegheny!"
- 8/10: "We fished the Allegheny in the Tionesta area on August 7-9 using dead-drift techniques with soft plastic including **412ubes from 412 Bait Co.** The bite was soft, but we managed some nice fish."

Steve Udick (Oil City); filed 8/9: "My brother Will from Texas and other friends joined in a float trip last weekend on the river. Chris Marczak, age 13, of Waterford landed this 27-1/2" walleye below Hunter Bridge. He used a White **Mepps Spinner** to catch the beauty. Also included is a photo of my brother Will with a 16" smallmouth taken on a green pumpkin **Right Bite Tube** near President. I caught a 19-3/4" smallmouth caught near Eagle Rock on a **Zoom Super Fluke** in watermelon magic color." (See Livewell)

Chris Wolfgang (Oil City); filed 8/7: "I made it out on the river to wade fish a couple hours on August 1. The water was pretty low and clear. My normal summer wading spots didn't produce. Went home empty handed after three hours of working on my casting skills. "Today I received the following from a gentleman I know through work – Ken Stocker of Cabot, PA. He and his son Ed spent the day kayaking and fishing from Franklin to Fisherman's Cover on Wednesday, August 5. The bait of the day was a scented pumpkin tube. Ken said he was out-fished 3 to 1, with his son catching around 20 fish. Most of the smallmouths were small except for a couple 14 to 15 inch fish. Ed also caught a nice walleye. But the big catch of the day was a huge drum – picture included. Ken said the river was really low and warm, with several of his usual spots not having enough water to fish."

RJ Graham (Tionesta); filed 7/28: "Dad and I fished the river tonight, catching 24 smallmouths in four hours – all on homemade Graham jigs. River has been high but now falling. I probably will not be able to run my prop boat on the river within days." Photos below.



# The Livewell

## Brought to you by:

Wiegel Brothers Marine  
704 ½ Elk Street  
Franklin, PA 16323  
814-437-2077

[www.wiegelbrothersmarine.com](http://www.wiegelbrothersmarine.com)  
[Debbie@wiegelbrothersmarine.com](mailto:Debbie@wiegelbrothersmarine.com)



Boat of the Month: Fully rigged and ready to fish Express Jet.  
See the river action you have been missing without a jet!



Will Udick



Steve Udick



Chris Marczak—27.5 inch 'eye



Ed's big sheephead



Dan Swab—10-pound 'eye



Mark Ringwelski

PROCESSED FOR PERFORMANCE



Black Knight Industries

Oil City, PA 16301

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

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



## Gamma Fishing Tip

You can find GAMMA line locally at the following tackle shops:

Consumer Direct Sports – Grove City, PA

Griffins Bait & Tackle – Cooperstown, PA

Hill's County Store – Williamsfield, OH

Maurer's Trading Post—Franklin, PA

Robinson's Bait & Tackle — Espyville, PA

**Tabetha Krantz** is the winner of a spool of GAMMA Line for this issue of the Fishing Report. Please email your shipping address to Darl Black to claim your prize.

### Trolling Crankbaits for Crappies—Tips from Crappie Pro Dan Dannenmueller

Dan Dannenmueller, publisher of CRAPPIE NOW online magazine, has been fishing the pro crappie circuit for six years, and has included trolling crankbaits as one of his many fish-catching techniques.

“Up until this season, we have always pushed crankbaits. Pushing refers to weighting the line to take the crankbait down to an exact depth and putting the rods off the bow of the boat. The advantage of this technique is exact depth control of the crankbait. But this year we are experimenting with pulling crankbaits with inline planer boards from Yellow Bird; this gives up a wider spread of baits behind the boat – up to 150 foot area.

“The crankbaits we use are Shad Cranks from Johnson Fishing. These baits were designed specifically for trolling for crappies. They were designed to mimic shad in both shape and action – these cranks roll side to side rather than vibrate left to right on vertical axis like most other crankbaits on the market. Shad Cranks hold their depth and action even when you slow down or speed up, performing as intended from as slow as .6 mph to as fast as 2.5 mph.

“I've always used 10-pound Gamma Polyflex on my reels for pushing crankbaits. You cannot beat the strength vs. diameter of this line. However, in using inline boards, I'm thinking we may change up to Gamma Torque Braid with 10 or 15-pound test Gamma Polyflex leader. The board clip will attach to the braid, with the leader to the crankbait.” Go Gamma!