

NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA FISHING REPORT

Published by Blackwolfe Communications LLC

Issue: April 6, 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.

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Pennsylvania' Great Lakes Region (www.PaGreatLakes.com)

Black Knight Industries, Oil City (www.GammaFishing.com)

Wiegel Brothers Marine, Franklin (www.wiegelbrothersmarine.com)

The Landing Net

by Darl Black

As of Monday, April 6th, most lakes in NW PA are ice free! Time to fish! Pymatuning Lake will see the most action for crappies and walleyes. The Allegheny River small-mouth bite will be on once the river clears up a tad. Presque Isle Bay will be the hotspot for yellow perch, especially down around Head of Bay. The Wilhelm "Stumps" will see anglers lining the causeway for bluegills. And trout season is just around the corner. Go fish!



NW PA FISHING REPORT FOR APRIL 6, 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, stream and rivers of Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Venango counties?”*

SPRING NEWS

FROM **Pymatuning Lake Association**: 2015 PLA Crappie Tournament on May 2; 2015 PLA Walleye Tournament on May 16. Visit www.PymatuningLake.com or email PymaLakeAssoc@windstream.net for more information.

FROM **Bassmasters of Crawford County**: BMCC Spring Bass Classic Team Tournament on May 9 on Pymatuning out of Snodgrass Ramp. Also Father’s Day Open Team Tourney on PIB on June 14. For applications go to: www.bassmastersofcrawfordcounty.org.

FROM **PA Fish & Boat Commission**: Mentored Youth Fishing Day in NW PA is April 11. Go to www.GoneFishingPa.com for more information.

FROM **Clarion County Bassmasters**: Cabin Fever Buddy Tournament at Pymatuning on April 22. Call Tom Ruth 814-657-4428 for information.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Pymatuning Lake

Dave @ Richter’s Tackle & Bait; filed 4/6: “As of this morning there is very little ice left on Pymatuning. There are still a few sheets being blown around but they should be gone with the rain coming in later today and Tuesday. My son and I caught 50 crappies fishing from shore at the North end of the Lake on Friday, but only kept about a dozen. The shallow crappie bite will be full on this week. Guys have been catching walleyes at the Linesville Spillway and at the PA Bridge on the Espyville Causeway. Wading anglers will be out any time now, fishing the evening hours near inflowing creeks.”

Sydney @ Robinson’s Bait; filed 4/6: “The remaining ice on the lake has shifted to the eastern part of the lake due to the winds. There is no ice visible north or south from the Espyville Causeway. There is ice build-up on the rocks at the Linesville Spillway. We had customer reports from yesterday about crappies and perch were hitting at Bridge 20 down from the Linesville Spillway. Sporadic reports of perch along the northern shoreline,

and anglers are working hard to catch walleyes at the Spillway, Causeway and Red Cross. Pictures submitted by our customers include a perch catch by Dan Druschel and sunset at the Spillway by Lisa Duda Runser. Take a kid fishing!”



Photo by Lisa Duda Runser

RJ Graham (Tionesta); 4/6: “Had a fun day at Pymatuning. There is spotty ice in front of Stewart Bay. Most bays are running 42 degrees. Red Cross is 51 degrees. But the water is very low. I caught 6 crappies and 15 perch on minnows, and 5 largemouth bass on a spinnerbait and one of my homemade jigs.”

Hooker @ Hills Country Store; filed 4/5: “There are walleyes hitting at the Spillway. Ice is gone and Hooker’s Fishing Taxi is targeting crappies in 2 feet of water, focusing on large dark rocks that break the surface and pull warmth from the sun. We are using 1/32-oz. Hooker Bugs tipped with a maggot or small piece of red worm under a small float and two pound test line. Wool coats and a sharp eye for the slightest movement of the float required. Put five good ones in the boat today. Hills Country Store is serving fresh hot food daily and we have all Bobby Garland Baits on sale – buy one get one.”



Jim McClave (Andover); filed 4/5: “I fished from the shore for a few hours today at the north end in one of the bays. I caught a few small perch but no sign of crappies. There were several other fishermen in the bays, too, but I only saw them catch perch. I was using a jig tipped with a wax worm. I observed walleyes being caught on Sonars at the Combat Zone on the Spillway. Nice to get out. Crappie action should start anytime.”

Located on Rt. 27 in the eastern part of Crawford County, Harvey’s Hook Line “n” Sinker Bait Shop is ready for its Grand Reopening according to Dave and Donna Harvey. “We have been closed during the winter for remodeling. The new shop is across the driveway from the Big Yellow Barn Building. We will carry live bait and fishing tackle. And for as long as they last, we have a surprise gift for customers with a purchase. It has been a long winter and we are looking forward to seeing you. Grand Opening on April 18th; store hours Saturday 9 AM to 1 PM, and Monday thru Friday 4 PM to 6 PM.”

ERIE COUNTY

Erie Tributaries

Jeff @ Poor Richards; filed 4/6: "Streams are okay right now, Monday, but more rain expected. Hopefully some fresh fish pushed into the streams from the heavy rain last Thursday and Friday. However the temperature of the rain is warmer than steelhead like, so we are likely at the end of the steelhead season."

Ric @ Trout Run Bait; filed 4/4: "Steelhead bite had been good last week before the rains came. Streams are currently blown out. Streams may come down for a day before rains start again this coming week. Anglers have been catching brown trout along the lake shore. Today a school of browns chased bait into the boat ramp at East Ave and anglers were catching them left and right. See photos sent to me by customers."

Presque Isle Bay

Jim @ Lake Erie Bait and Tackle (formerly B.A.C. Bait); filed 4/6: "The ice is pretty much gone from the bay as of today. Anglers are catching some crappies from the State Park Marina docks and perch from the South and North Pier. A few browns have been caught at the water taxi pier. Things are picking up for warmwater species."

Chris @ Leclair Point, Inc.; filed 4/4: "We are a relatively new shop at 12 East Dobbins Landing. We have lots of emerald shiners, but nothing to report this week."

MERCER COUNTY

Lake Wilhelm

John @ Fergie's Bait; filed 4/6: "We still have ice on Lake Wilhelm as of Monday morning. The "Stumps" are open and some other areas along the shoreline and in bays, but you cannot launch a boat to move around the lake yet; probably in a day or two. Nothing happening here yet, but our customers report catching crappies at Woodcock and wall-eyes at Pymatuning on blade baits."

Dave Lehman (Espyville); filed 4/6: "I drove to Wilhelm on the 6th but could not launch due to ice sheets on the north side ramps, and docks blocking the ramp at the Marina. Went to Conneaut Lake, launched at Fish Commission Ramp and fished several hours – but did not catch anything."

VENANGO COUNTY

Allegheny River

Bill @ Griffins Bait & Tackle; filed 4/4: "We have been selling a lot of maggots, shiners, fathead, Heddon Lures and crawler harnesses. With the ice slow coming off, few anglers have been out. Some of our fishermen have been heading to the Allegheny River or French Creek. We are gearing up for trout season with everything you need – a complete line-up of live and prepared bait for trout. Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook @ Griffins Bait & Tackle Shop. And we have an ad in the internet Yellow Pages, too."

Frank Malek (Oil City); filed 4/4: "Smallmouths are biting on the Allegheny River. See several of my photos in the livewell."

RJ Graham (Tionesta); filed 4/3: "I fished the Allegheny at Oil City pool today and hit it right. I caught 8 to 10 smallmouth bass on a chartreuse spinnerbait and 2 more on a tube. Water temp was 43 degrees and fish were in less than 5 feet of water."

Dave Lehman (Espyville); filed 4/1: "Scott and I fished Oil City pool this afternoon. Scott managed 2 walleyes in the 17 inch range and two suckers – all on tubes in 5 to 10 feet of water. The water temp was 38.5 degrees when we left at 6 PM."

The Livewell

Brought to you by:

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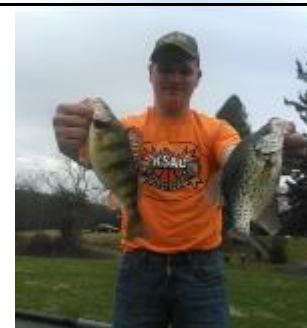


Pymatuning is turning on

Brown Trout Success at Erie



Dan Druschel's catch



RJ Graham 1st day

PROCESSED FOR PERFORMANCE



Black Knight Industries

Oil City, PA 16301

www.gammafishing.com

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

Jim McClave 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.

Gamma Tip of the Week

Crappie fishing is heating up this week. No boat? No worry! Here are seven places you should be able to catch crappies from shore this coming week. But the bite will not last long in these sites. Spool up with Gamma's New Panfish Line in four-pound test and to fish!

- Almost any bay on the North End of Pymatuning Lake
- The canals on the north end of Conneaut Lake
- The canals on the north end of Edinboro Lake
- The flooded mouth of Conneautee Creek where it meets French Creek
- Specific ponds in the Presque Isle Lagoons
- The shallow protected bays on Wilhelm – specifically Launch 4, and across lake from Launch 1
- Deadfalls along slack water portions of the Shenango River