

NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA FISHING REPORT

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The NW PA Fishing Report is brought to you by:



Pennsylvania's Great Lakes Region
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Fishing with Darl
Black Guide Service



The Landing Net *by Darl Black*

Weather has been up and down for ice fishing this winter. Repeated freezing and thawing temperatures plus rain have left ice cover a riddled pattern of "safe" and unsafe areas. Still the hardcore ice anglers have persisted in finding areas to fish. While these diehards are looking for another good freeze, most anglers I have talked to have had enough of this on again/off again ice and are hoping for a warm up to blow all the ice out so they can launch boats. Based the late start to the fall run, some Erie bait shops are predicting (or hoping?) for a good spring run of steelhead once the creeks are free of ice. All we can do is wait to see what Mother Nature has in store. In the meantime, check out the Conneaut Lake Ice House Festival this weekend.

Dean Kuna on Latonka Lake, Mercer County

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 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 for clarity and brevity, and posted to websites and distributed electronically.

NEWS ITEMS



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February 23: Conneaut Lake Ice House Festival



Starts with a 7 AM walk on Mammoth Trail. Things really get going around 10 AM with craft and food vendors, ice carving show, ice fishing instruction by Western PA Hardwater tournament organization, and the famous Chili Cook-Off now at Silver Shores. Check Ice House Festival Facebook page for details.

February 23: 13th Annual Canadohta Lake Ice Fishing Tournament

7 AM to 5 PM. Must register at Timberland Bait Shop at 36320 Dutch Hill Road. Call 814-882-8369 for more info.

March 1, 2, 3: Hunting and Fishing Super Show

At Metroplex Expo Center, Belmont Avenue, off I-80 and Rt. 193 (Youngstown area). Friday noon to 8 PM, Saturday 10 AM to 7 PM, Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM. For more information call 330-544-8951.

March 2: Western PA Hardwater tournament series

Pymatuning Lake – ice conditions permitting. Weigh-in at Linesville Marina. For more information visit their Facebook Page.

2019 Allegheny River Bass Tournaments (in association with Western PA Team Bass Series) will hold four tournaments starting in March. For more information go to Western PA Team Bass Series on Facebook or website www.wptbs.net.

County by County Reports

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Pymatuning Lake

Dave @ Richter's Bait; filed 2/19: During the last thaw and rain, the level of Pymatuning lake came up, creating unsafe edges and some ice piling up. There is open water from the Linesville Spillway out to the islands. I'm surprised no one is fishing the spillway since walleyes are likely moving into the current flow. Only a few people were out ice fishing over the weekend. I checked the ice at South end but found it too porous for my liking – I would not be out on it. If we get the projected warm weather and rain this weekend, I would not be surprised to see a lot of ice disappear on this lake. On the positive note, anglers are catching some walleyes in the Shenango River below the dam.



Fishing Jamestown Docks in comfort.

Brook @ Gateway Bait; filed 2/19: Some guys have been fishing off of Tuttle Point, Snodgrass and Ohio Campground, but catches have not been impressive. Mainly small perch.

Sam @ Robinson's Tackle; filed 2/19: A few guys out, but not a lot of success. Edges are rough. Most are fishing off Tuttle and Wilson.

Conneaut Lake

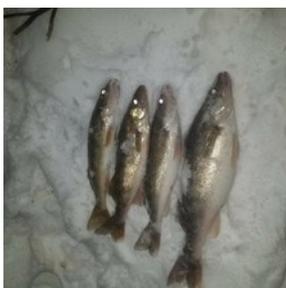
Conneaut Lake Ice House Festival will be held this Saturday, Feb 23. Check out activities between 10 AM and 3 PM – ice carving, chili cook-off, ice fishing instruction, crafts, etc. Check Facebook page for more information.

Dale Clemmer (Cochranton); filed over a week ago: I have been having success on Conneaut Lake, catching pike, bluegill and perch.



Dale Clemmer

Woodcock Creek Lake



Outflow eyes (J. Joy)

Joshua @ Myer's Sportsman Connection; filed 2/19: French Creek and Woodcock Creek are pretty high right now. When the water flow has been less, guys have been catching walleyes at the outflow below the dam. Ice cover on the lake has been disrupted by rain and thaw – no one ice fishing. Earlier in February, a few guys were getting walleyes in the lake, but no sign of crappies.

Canadohta Lake

Jerry @ Timberland Bait; filed 2/19: Had to postpone the ice fishing tournament from earlier this month due to bad edge ice. Holding it on Saturday, Feb 23. Five fish categories – winner is longest fish of each species: Walleye, Pike, Musky, Crappie and Perch. Sign up ahead of time at the shop or visit Facebook Page for more information.

ERIE COUNTY

Presque Isle Bay

Gus Glasgow @ Western PA Hardwater Series; filed 2/19: The 2-day WPA Hardwater tournament at PIB this past weekend was a big success. However, we found it necessary to change location for the second day due to poor ice conditions in Marina Bay; instead we set boundaries at the Head of Bay. We had 60 teams on the ice. The two-day winning team was Ken Tomlin and Doug Androla – both of Erie area. Next scheduled event is March 2 at Pymatuning Lake, Linesville area. (see photos)



PIB winners Ken and Doug—big perch catch

Bo @ BC Baits; filed 2/19: We fished the WPA Hardwater series on Misery Bay on Saturday and pulled in a bunch of small perch. On Sunday, we fished by the Yacht Club. Many large perch were caught by all anglers. And a few teams had 12 to 15-inch crappies. Purple Pickworms performed very well.

Dom @ Lake Erie Bait & Tackle; filed 2/19: Best areas have been off Parking Lot #1 and #2 (lots of perch); Marina Lake (perch); Misery Bay (crappies); Horseshoe Pond (occasional pike).

Kirk @ East End Angler; filed 2/19: The hotspots on the ice in the Bay are: Liberty Park for numbers of perch (but bite has been hot and cold); Head of Bay for perch; Misery Bay for panfish species (but edge ice is “iffy”) and Horseshoe Pond has good ice, but not good catches. There is open water in the Channel, and I would think some guys should be fishing the open water from the walls as perch should be moving through the channel. East side creeks are locked up now but may open with warmer temps this weekend. Right now, only 16 Mile is open and they are catching fish. When the lower end of 20 Mile Creek a short while ago, guys were catching two steelhead at a time on droppers.

At Lake Pleasant, they are getting trout and some slab bluegills & crappies. At Eaton, there is great crappie bite in the evening from about 4 PM to 7:30 PM.

Erie Tributaries

Jeff @ Poor Richards; filed 2/19: West side creeks have some ice. Hopefully the warmer temps and some rain this weekend will open them up. If a lot of rain, creeks may not be fishable until Monday or Tuesday. Looking for a good spring run with fingers crossed.

Dan @ Elk Creek Sports; filed 2/19: There has been edge ice and slush in the morning making for problems on creeks, but streams are not totally locked up. I have reports of steelhead, browns and suckers being caught in Elk, but you got to fish what I call Winter Rules: Forget sunrise; instead start late morning on a sunny day after slush ice is gone. The warm up later this week should help a lot. If not a lot of rain, then fishing should be good through the weekend. Not a lot of snow on ground to melt and dirty up the water.

MERCER COUNTY

Lake Wilhelm

Bo @ BC Baits; filed 2/19: I talked with three guys on Wilhelm on Monday. Angler were catching good numbers of perch and bluegill down by the dam.

Chuck Sari (Franklin); filed 2/6: My son Kevin Sari, grandsons Reece and Kelan and myself fished Lake Wilhelm on both Feb 2nd and 3rd with good results. We brought home over 130 fish, mostly crappies, in two days. We were using Vexilar sonar units and small jigs tipped with maggots. The biggest crappie was 14 inches but we had quite a few over 12 inches. We released as many as we kept. A friend of mine fished Shenango Lake on Feb 3rd and had similar results; he had his limit of 20 crappies at least 9 inches in less than an hour, and released about 30 that there were less than 9 inches. Hope the weather lets us get back out again. (See photo)



Kelan and Reece Sari

Shenango River

Randy @ Fish West PA; filed 2/19: Winter river walleye fishing can pay off. Fishing the right days are important. Look for warming trends now that Spring is getting closer. Fish on! (See photos to the right)



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Picture caption Kingfisher Falcon SJ



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Dale Clemmer—you are the winner of Someday Isle Shimmerling jigheads and BC Bait Pickworms

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Gamma Fishing is a sponsor of the Western PA Hardwater Series. Congratulations to Gus Glasgow and his crew for a successful and safe Presque Isle Tournament this past weekend.

