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## FISHING REPORT:

**"YOU CAN'T KEEP  
A LINE IN THE  
WATER!"**

This was the comment I overheard from one of the anglers cleaning his catch at the Walnut Creek Access Area at 9:30AM on June 20th. There were 8 fishermen busy cleaning their catches with more waiting. The parking lot had at least 150 trucks with trailers who were on the lake fishing.

*Below, parking lot at the Walnut Creek Access area 6/30/25*



*Above, fish cleaning station at Walnut Creek*



## FIN & FUR CHARTER WINNER

As part of our March 30th Ice Out Party the names of the winners of our Annual Fin & Fur were drawn. The 4th Prize was a fishing trip donated by Waterbok Fishing Charters, which was won by Mark Salsbury of Union City, PA. Mark and three of his buddies went out with Captains Tom Mascharka and Steve Skrypszak, pictured on the left, on their boat the Waterbok. They left Lampe Marina at 6:30 AM and returned with 24 walleyes 8:30 AM.



## SONS 2025 MEMBERSHIP BUTTON

is a depiction of a crappie this year. This is in keeping with featuring a native species fish on the button. You can pick up the 2025 pin at anyone of our events or meetings or you can get one by sending \$3.00 to SONS of Lake Erie, PO Box 3605, Erie, PA 16508

## JOIN A FRIEND TODAY!

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### RECORD OF MEMBERSHIP

2025

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## SHALLOW WATER CISCOE, GONE FOR DECADES, MAY COME BACK

*from northeastern Pa. This is the title of an article published on Go Erie.Com on June 20, 2025 by Outdoor writer Brian Whipkey. Here are a few excerpts-*

Shallow-water ciscoes, a native fish species extirpated from Lake Erie in the mid-20th century, have been rediscovered in Crystal Lake in Eastern Pennsylvania. Ciscoes, a member of the trout family, were extirpated from Lake Erie in the 1950s or early 1960s and stocked into this private lake. Biologists are investigating the possibility of reintroducing the ciscoes to Lake Erie from this surviving population. Now the PFBC is evaluating whether or not the eggs and milt from Ciscoes in Crystal Lake can be used to create an aquaculture operation to then use to repopulate Lake Erie.

The U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, both federal agencies, a number of universities, the state of New York, the state of Pennsylvania, and the Fish and Boat Commission have all been discussing this and talking about next steps and figuring out how this population may feed into this management plan for Lake Erie, according to the article.

The Ciscoe, or Lake Herring, was a highly sought after fish because of their excellent table quality. Millions of pounds were harvested in the 1920's. They were a big part of Erie's commercial fishing industry. Pollution, over fishing, and invasive species contributed to their vanishing from the lake. It would be great to see them return. I hope it works.

## TAKING YOUR BOAT TO LAUNCH IN NEW YORK

New boating regulation in New York As of January 1, 2025. New York State requires all motorized boaters to carry a Safe Boating Certificate from their home state or New York while operating. For those who do not already have a Safe Boating Certificate from their home state, boaters can earn their certificate by taking a classroom course with certified New York State instructors or through several other approved online courses. Visitors may rent and operate a boat without obtaining a boating safety certificate. Visitors who possess a valid state driver's license may rent power and pontoon boats, as well as certain non-motorized boats, at half day, full-day, or multi-day rates.

## Fish Picture!



## NICE CATCH, YOUNG LADY!

Poor Richard's Bait & Tackle Shop posted this picture on July 4th of Kaley Haffley proudly holding the 3.2 lb. walleye she caught.

## A NEW SIGN WAS INSTALLED

on the outside of the SONS hatchery building located at the foot of Chestnut St. We have been a member of the co-operative nursery program since 1985. For 40 years we proudly displayed the sign originally provided by the PFBC. Sadly, it became weathered and faded. We were given a new one and have replaced the original.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

These are all of the events we have scheduled from now to August 26th.

Please check your newsletter for more as they are added or check our web page at [sonsoflakeerie.com/schedule](http://sonsoflakeerie.com/schedule).

**Thurs. July 24th** East Waterworks pond Downtown YMCA (Added)

**Sat. July 26th** 9-12 East Waterworks Pond Discover Presque Isle Free Family Fishing no license required

**Thurs. July 31st** 5-7 Waterworks Pond Kaleidoscope Autistic Individuals

**Mon Aug 4th** Volunteer Picnic

**Wed. Aug 6th** 9-12 East Waterworks Pond Glenwood YMCA (Added)

**Tues. Aug 12th** 10-12 East Waterworks Pond Barb's Care a Lot 8 kids (Added)

**Wed Aug 20th** 10-1 Liberty Pier Our West Bayfront Kids (Added)

**Sat. Aug 23rd** 8:30 -1 Gem City Outdoorsmen Club 6701 Van Camp Rd Youth Field Days

**Tues. Aug 26th 5-8** Liberty Pier 8 Great Tuesdays Free Family Fishing no license required.

## PFBC RESEARCH VESSEL PERCA LAUNCHED

The PFBC research vessel was launched in late June, maybe for the last time as a research vessel. A new vessel is being built to replace it. The Perca was designed and built as a law enforcement

vessel by Paasch Boatyard, Erie, Pennsylvania in 1959. It was acquired by PFBC Division of Fisheries in 1969 and refitted by Paasch in 1969 and again in 1975. The PERCA's dimensions are

50 x 12 x 4 ft. and it displaces 20 tons. The hull is constructed of steel with aluminum topsides. It has served well and needs to be upgraded. The replacement vessel should be ready next year.



*The Perca in the slings of the travel lift ready for launching*



*The Perca configured as a patrol boat.*

*Lake Erie supports over 107 fish species, including walleye, yellow perch, trout, bass, and salmon.*

## THANK YOU SIX PACK HOUSE OF BEER AND STRAUB'S BREWERY

On June 18th 2025 the Six Pack House of Beer 847 Pittsburgh Ave, hosted a fund raiser to benefit the SONS of Lake Erie. Straub Brewery offered to donate \$2.00 for every pint of beer raised at the event to the SONS. There was live music and good food.



*Shown above are SONS Officers and Directors Jerry Skrypzak, Chuck Miller, Tom Nichols John Krupinski and Ed Kissell accepting a generous check with proceeds from the event from Six Pack of Beer owners, Alice and Dave DeGeorge and Straub Brewer/ Penn Beer y Rep. Branden Bertelo*

## WALLEYE BASH TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The annual Walleye Bash fishing tournament sponsored by Poor Richards Bait and Tackle, East End Angler Bait and Tackle, and Sportsman's Warehouse was held on June 21 & 22. Forty Six teams participated. The Big Fish segment was held on Friday 6/21 with Bushwacker taking first place with a 7.08 pound walleye. The weigh-in of the major segment was held on 6/22. First place was won by team Eye Crazy, shown below, who weighed in 36.4 pounds, 2nd place was team Pacific Time with 34.02 lbs., 3rd place was team Kra-Mar with 32.54 ponds. Team Eye Crazy was awarded first place with a prize of \$3,200.



## DCNR INSTALLS HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE KAYAK LAUNCH AT PISP



The above photos show the kayak boat launch recently installed by DCNR in the lagoon area of Presque Isle State Park just north of the bridge over the lagoon channel, south of the turtle viewing platform. The kayak launch is designed to make it easy to launch kayaks especially for the handicapped. You simply place your kayak on to the rollers. This steadies the kayak making it easy to get in to the craft and you simply push yourself into the water and you can reverse the process to land your kayak.

## NEWS SHORTS

### North East Marina Update –

According to reports the PFBC and the North East Marina Authority recently reached the terms of agreement turning the marina over to the Authority. Hopefully it will reach full operation soon.

### Shrink Wrap Recycling Project was an outstanding success –

Dr. Jeanette Schnarrs from the Regional Science Consortium spoke at our May general meeting about the Clean Marinas Program. The recycling of plastic boat shrink wrap material is one part of the program The Erie Western PA Port Authority joined into the program offering collection bins for collecting. The RSC Team processed 100 plastic boat shrink wraps this season to divert over 2,500 pounds of plastic from the landfill. This is equivalent to 206,200 plastic bags! This plastic will be recycled into guardrail offset blocks, protecting



*Some of the many shrink wrap recycling bins located at EWPPA marinas.  
Over 2500 pounds of shrink wrap material was collected.*

thousands of miles of highway across the country. This project supports the RSC's new PA Clean Marinas Program, in collaboration with the Erie-Western PA Port Authority and

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, which was made possible through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection – Coastal Resources Management Program.

## MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

**IF YOU AND A FAMILY MEMBER RESIDE AT THE SAME ADDRESS  
we will only mail one copy of our newsletter "The Bucket"**

# VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC TO BE HELD AUGUST 4th

The volunteer appreciation picnic will be held at Shade's Beach on Monday August 4th, 2025 starting at 5 pm.

This annual picnic is our way of thanking our hard working volunteers who responded to nearly 50 requests for help at our various events and projects.

Listed below is over 120 SONS of Lake Erie members who tirelessly and generously donated their time and resources working towards furthering our organization's primary mission to "the restoration and protection of the Lake Erie fishery". These individuals participated an aggregate time of over volunteer 8000 hours working at our hatchery stocking fish, working on community events, and teaching over 1000 kids and their families the art and joys of fishing on over 40 separate occasions since July 1, 2024. This was only accomplished with the help of those listed below.

If you find your name on the list below, you are invited to attend our volunteers' picnic, which will be held on Monday, August 4, 2025 at 5:00 at Shade's Beach near the intersection of Route 5 and Bartlett Road. Come and join in on the fun. Please call or text 814-882-7296 or email [sonslakeri@aol.com](mailto:sonslakeri@aol.com) and leave your name **if you cannot attend**. Please do so by July 31. If your name does not appear below and you have volunteered 3 times or more, call or text phone at 814-882-7296 and leave your name and phone number.

ALEX	PETE	GRABINSKI	CASEY	LUND	LARRY	RULA	MIKE
ANDERSON	WENDY	HALT	RAY	MAC DONALD	SCOTT	RUNSER	MARY
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BRINE	NANCY	HOLTZ	PAUL	MIKESKA	DAVE	SERVIDIO	GERALD
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CHANDLEY	DON	KLAPTHOR	JACK	MUSE	RICH	TAYLOR	NICK
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## ATTENTION SONS PAST OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

We have included your names on our picnic guest list. It would be an honor to have you join us on August 4th. After all, every one of you worked hard to bring our club this far and we will be forever grateful. I hope I didn't leave any one of you off the list.

## LAKE LeBOEUF BOAT LAUNCH UPGRADED



The courtesy dock at the boat launch on Lake LeBoeuf was recently replaced by a recycled dock from Lampe Marina which was donated by Lake Shore towing company. New boards and hardware was installed and it was placed in position. There are other issues at the ramp such as high water but solutions are being studied.

## YAY! MAY FLIES ARE BACK!

In late June and early July made appearance along Erie's waterfront reminding me of the scenes I observed living on Lighthouse St. as a child. We called them "Sailor Bugs". The presence of May flies indicates healthy lake waters where they hatch after the larvae mature on the lake bottom. The picture shown here was submitted by Charter Captain Tom Mascharka.



*May Fly July 2025*

He repeated stories he has heard from other charter captains that many of the stomachs of the walleye they are catching are full of May fly carcasses. Their appearance is a welcome event because the insect is a major food source for our fishery. They were nearly absent from our section of Lake Erie for quite a while, High pollution levels in the lake were believed to be the cause. There were some who attribute the demise of the blue pike to the decline in the May fly hatch.

## LAKE WHITEFISH ON VERGE OF A COLLAPSE

*from the GLFSC newsletter*

Iconic whitefish on edge of collapse, struggle to survive Whitefish populations in the Great Lakes are facing a severe decline, primarily due to invasive species and ecological changes, putting them on the brink of collapse. Current Status of Whitefish, a beloved species in the Great Lakes region, are experiencing a dramatic decline in their populations, particularly in Lakes Michigan and Huron. After decades of slow decrease, the situation has escalated to a critical point where many scientists believe whitefish are now on the verge of collapse. The commercial harvest of whitefish has plummeted from 6.9 million pounds in 2009 to less than 2 million pounds in 2024, indicating a significant drop in their numbers.

The primary culprit behind this decline is the invasion of quagga mussels, which have drastically altered the ecosystem. These mussels filter out essential microorganisms and nutrients from the water, leading to a lack of food for young whitefish. As a result, many baby whitefish are a daily staple to a nostalgic memory for many residents. Efforts are underway to address the crisis, including controlling the research into invasive mussel populations and exploring methods to support whitefish starving shortly after birth, unable to find the phytoplankton they rely on for survival. Additionally, the aging population of whitefish, with many individuals in their mid-20s, is struggling to reproduce effectively, further exacerbating the decline.

Whitefish hold significant cultural and economic importance in Michigan, being a staple of local cuisine and a symbol of the region's identity. The decline of whitefish not only threatens the fishing industry but also impacts local traditions and community ties to the Great Lakes. As the fish become increasingly rare, they transform a daily staple to a nostalgic memory for many residents.

Efforts are underway to address the crisis, including controlling the research into invasive mussel populations and exploring methods to support whitefish reproduction.

However, experts warn that significant changes may take years or even decades to implement effectively. The situation remains dire, with many scientists expressing concern that without immediate and effective action, whitefish may disappear entirely from their historic waters.

In summary, the iconic whitefish of the Great Lakes are facing a critical situation, with their populations dwindling due to ecological changes and invasive species. The implications of this decline extend beyond the fish themselves, affecting local culture, economy, and the broader ecosystem.

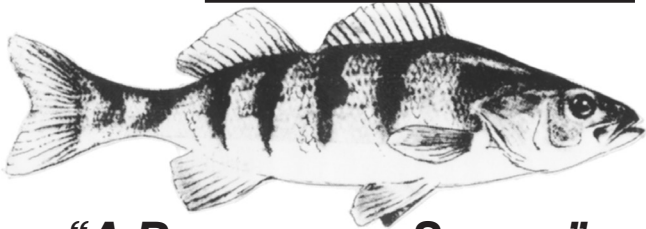


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**"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"**

**NO MEETINGS IN THE SUMMER.**

**GO FISHING, HAVE  
FUN, BE SAFE, AND  
AS THE SONG GOES  
"SEE YOU  
IN SEPTEMBER".**



## FISH PHOTOGRAPHY 101

Tips for the perfect fish photo

### 1. Have a Good Grip

Photographing fish can be tricky, and it all starts with a good grip. If you're not comfortable handling your catch, it'll show in the photo. Tools like lip grips can make it easier and safer—for both you and the fish. A great photo should highlight the fish, not your fingers. Try supporting the fish from underneath or behind with your hands mostly out of view.

### 2. Focus on the Fish

Rods, people, consoles and other gear can clutter the frame and be distracting. Frame your catch with just open water behind you for a distraction-free background. Make sure your lens is clear: Water spots, fog, or smudges on your lens can ruin an otherwise great shot.

### 3. Move Quickly

Timing is everything. Fish lose their vibrant color fast once they're out of the water, especially once they're on ice. A lot of anglers throw fish in the box then take pictures later, but you should take them before you throw them in the cooler. To capture that natural, lit-up look, have a

buddy ready with the camera and take the shot as soon as the fish comes out of the water. Keeping it wet will also help those colors pop.

### 4. Use Natural Light

Lighting can make or break a fish photo! One of the most important tips: Face the sun while the photographer keeps the sun at their back.

### 5. Make the Most of Your Smartphone

Smartphones can capture images that look great for social media, websites, and even print. You'll want to take photos in portrait but landscape is great for capturing the full scene. page Burst mode: Takes a bunch of pictures quickly and grabs the best shot—this gives you more options and helps catch that split second where everything looks just right Portrait mode: Adds depth and a soft background blur (especially great for highlighting the fish)

### 6. Handle Fish Safely

Prioritize taking pictures of the fish you are going to keep. If you want a picture with a fish you are going to release, keep the fish wet before lifting it out of the water. Speed matters.

### 7. Size Matters

If you hold the fish out and away from from your body and closer to the camera it will make the fish appear larger.

After your done photographing your catch, you can submit it to us to be printed in our newsletter. Simply email it to us to us at [sonslakeri@aol.com](mailto:sonslakeri@aol.com) include the following details who, when, fish measurements etc. We are always looking for fishing related material for our ACHWnewsletter.

## BILL BROWN'S BEER BATTER RECIPE

- 1 cup flour
  - 1 egg
  - 1 16 oz can of beer
  - 1 tsp baking powder
  - 1 tsp baking soda
  - 1 tsp paprika
  - 2 tsp Mrs. Dash garlic & herb seasoning
  - 2 tsp Tony Chachere's Creole seasoning
- Mix then dip fish into the batter and deep fry in oil at 350 degrees

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR SONS NEWS LETTER BY EMAIL?

If so, send us an email to [sonslakeri@aol.com](mailto:sonslakeri@aol.com) list your name, address and note that you would like to change to the electronic version. So far we have about 740 members who have requested the change so far. You can always read the current and past issues of the Bucket at our web site, [sonsoflakeerie.org](http://sonsoflakeerie.org).at any time.

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