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Official Publication of the S.O.N.S.

# THE Bucket

VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 6  
JUNE 2025

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## THE SPEAKER AT OUR MAY MEETING

PFBC Biologist Capt. Mark Haffley was our speaker at our May meeting. Mark presented the latest status and condition of the Lake Erie fishery. Using a Power Point slide show he reported that the PFBC sponsored a survey that was taken at four sites along our lake shore- Walnut Creek, Northeast Marina, Lampe Marina, and East Avenue Boat Launch. There were 31,251 boat launches, with an average of 2.42 anglers per boat who spent 242,828 hours of boat directed effort on Lake Erie from the 4 survey sites. A 6% increase from 2023. With 87% of all trips directed at Walleye. The Catch Per Effort of 1.69 fish/hour (average 0.67). The harvest per Effort of 1.05 fish/hour resulted in a 43% creel success.

He also reported on the Perch fishery results from the same survey. Currently poor recreational fishery is not necessarily representative of the population. According to 2024 estimates there are 168.393 million age 2+ aged Yellow Perch in Lake Erie with 56.343 million in Management Unit 3. Only 2% of those interviewed directed their effort to catch Perch. The results of the survey indicated that the catch per effort resulted in 0.83 fish/hour and a harvest per effort of 0.66 fish/hour.

Capt. Haffley also reported on the ongoing Walleye migration study which was started a few years ago. Using an animated diagram to illustrate the movement of walleye which have been implanted with transmitters that were tracked by a

system of receivers that were placed in the lake bottom that showed their movement around the lake and the return to their spawning area off of Walnut Creek. The results confirm that we have resident population of Walleye.

He also talked about the Lake Erie Unit's research boat that is being built and due to be finished next year.



PFBC Biologist Mark Haffley

We always look forward to Mark's presentations. He gives us a true and informed picture of the status of our Lake Erie fishery.

## FISHING REPORT:

Rain and wind early in May slowed down the start of the fishing season. In spite of the weather walleye fishing is heating up. Pictures like the one below are being displayed on the internet. It tells the story.



Posted on poorrichardsfishing.com , Congratulations on your limits this morning, Bill and Sabrina Taylor came all the way from Texas! They got their limits quick today with XTR Charters.

## VOLUNTEER PICNIC SET FOR 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.

**Check out our July Bucket because we will publish a list of all those who have volunteered two or more times throughout the last year. They will be invited to the picnic. If you have not met the frequency criteria, the June events calendar listed here will give you an opportunity to volunteer at any of these events and qualify for in invitation to the picnic!**

## Other May Meeting Highlights

We also had brief presentations from Dr. Jeanette Schnarrs from the Regional Science Consortium which is spearheading a campaign to recycle boat shrink wrap and another presentation about the Trout in the Classroom project by Emma Mader and Matt Kerr. As customary as at prior May meetings we provided free hot dogs, beverages, and cupcakes to those in attendance.



## 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

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### RECORD OF MEMBERSHIP

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Wed. June 25th** 9:30-12 East Waterworks Pond Erie School District ESY Program

**Fri. June 27th** 9:30-12 Harborcreek Pond STEM program

**Tues. July 1st** 10:30-12:30 East Waterworks Pond Waterford YMCA 40 Kids.

**Wed, July 9th** 10-12 East Waterworks Pond Early Connections

**Fri. July 11th** 10-12 East Waterworks Pond East Side YMCA 70 Kids

**\*Tues. July 15th** 9:30-11:15 East Waterworks Pond Jo Anna Conell school kids.

**Tues. July 15th** 5-7 Housing Auth Admin Bldg 730 Tacoma Rd. COPPS kids fishing

**Thurs July 17th** 11-1 East Waterworks Pond Housing Authority COPPS kids fishing

**\*Thurs. July 24th** East Waterworks pond Downtown YMCA

**Sat. July 26th** 9-12 East Waterworks Pond Discover Presque Isle

**Mon. August 4th** 5-? Shade's Beach SONS of Lake Erie Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

**These are all of the events we have scheduled for now. Please check your newsletter for more as they are added or check our web page at [sonsoflakeerie.com/schedule](http://sonsoflakeerie.com/schedule).**

## OUTDOOR FISH ART EXHIBIT

When I stopped at the Presque Isle Fish and Farm Store at 2769 West 8th St., (the Old Arby's Restaurant) to get a perch sandwich for lunch, I noticed an artist at work painting these beautiful fish images on the side of the building. Raeann the Artist was working on a portrait of a brown trout having already completed a perch, walleye and an ocean scene. I wish you could see them in color. Drive by and look at them and maybe get a perch sandwich or some other seafood. They also will clean your fish.



## NEWS RELEASE FROM REP PAT HARKINS

### Celebrating Erie's Environmental Excellence

Thursday May 29, 2025, our community came together at the Erie Port Authority office in Erie to celebrate two incredible champions of our environment – Eric and Teresa Gurrien! We proudly honored their longstanding dedication to water conservation, safety, and quality – a commitment that not only protects our precious water resources but also inspires us all.

Their tireless work and enduring passion light the way toward a cleaner, safer future for every Pennsylvanian. Let's carry forward the spark they've ignited in our community and work together to ensure our commonwealth remains a beacon of environmental stewardship and excellence.



Left to Right: Theresa Guerrein, Eric Guerrein, Rep. Harkins, Don Benczkowski representing Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful



**PLEASE  
DON'T LITTER.**



## NEWS SHORTS

**Tariffs Affect Fishing Tackle Prices** – Approximately 60 percent of U.S. fishing gear is imported and two-thirds of it comes from China, according to 2019 figures from the American Sportfishing Association. The organization also notes that since recreational fishing gear is already subject to a unique 10 percent excise tax, adding additional tariffs of up to 25 percent.

Reciprocal tariffs that are being proposed by our government will drive up the cost of these goods. There are other countries like South Korea, another huge supplier for U.S. anglers and gear makers, U.S.-bought fly rods are manufactured in South Korea. Also affected are worms and night crawlers which come from Canada. Tackle distributors like FishUSA have filed suit to dispute these tariffs. We'll see where it goes from here.

**SLOW DOWN TROLLING and catch more walleye.** For more information about trolling speed check this out – **Walleye Speed Control: How to Tweak Your Trolling Speed for More Fish**  
By: FishUSA Staff <https://www.fishusa.com/learn/walleye-speed-control/>

**Are boat buyers aging across the U.S.?** Boaters in the U.S. are getting old – a recent study indicates median age is now over 60 years old. There are more boaters who are 70 than there are younger.

**North East Marina Update** – The wall that collapsed at the NE Marina is still not repaired and the facility is shut down for launching and mooring boats. The bait shop and restaurant that are located there, however are open. Give them your support go in and have a meal or buy something.



*Sad times at the barricaded NE Marina and boat launch.*

## THE IMPORTANCE OF TUNING CRANKBAITS

*By: FishUSA Staff June 5, 2025*

Fishing with an untuned crankbait is a lot like trying to eat soup with a fork – you might get a little, but it's messy, inefficient, and frustrating. Just as the right tool makes a big difference at the dinner table, having a properly tuned crankbait can make or break your day on the water.

**What Does It Mean to Tune a Crankbait?** A tuned crankbait runs straight when pulled through the water. It dives consistently in the intended direction and mimics the natural swimming action of prey. An untuned crankbait, on the other hand, may veer off to one side, wobble erratically, or fail to reach its target depth. This makes it less effective at attracting fish and can even cause tangles in your fishing line or with other lures.

**How Crankbaits Get Out of Tune** Several common factors can throw a crankbait out of tune:

**Rough water:** Waves and chop can jerk the lure in unexpected directions, bending the eye-tie slightly.

**High-speed retrieves or trolling:** Pulling the bait too quickly can twist or shift the hardware, especially on more delicate or lightweight lures.

**Snagging and unhooking:** Forcibly pulling a crankbait out of cover or a snag can misalign the eye-tie or bill.

**Why Tuning Matters** A crankbait that doesn't run straight won't perform correctly. Instead of imitating a wounded baitfish, it might look unnatural to predators – causing nearby fish to spook rather than strike. Even worse, an erratic crankbait can interfere with other lines, especially when trolling multiple rods.

**Properly tuned crankbaits allow you to:**

- A. Maintain control over lure depth and path
- B. Maximize the effectiveness of your retrieve or trolling pattern
- C. Keep multiple rods or lures from tangling
- D. Increase hook-up rates with realistic presentations

Tuning a crankbait is quick and easy using either needle nose pliers or a purpose-built tool like the Off Shore Tackle EZ Crankbait Tuner tool. The process involves making small adjustments to the metal eyelet (eye-tie) where your line connects to the bait.

**Steps to Tune a Crankbait:** Retrieve the crankbait and observe its path. Does it pull left, right, or track straight?

If the bait veers to the left, gently bend the eye-tie to the right.

If it veers to the right, bend the eye-tie slightly to the left.

Make tiny adjustments and re-test after each one. Over-correcting can cause the bait to veer in the opposite direction.

Always test your crankbait in the water before fishing to confirm it's running true.

**How Often Should You Check Crankbait Tuning?** Many anglers assume tuning is a one-time task, but lures can fall out of alignment over time. It's good practice to check your crankbaits: After catching multiple fish. After hitting rocks, timber, or other structure. After heavy trolling sessions, Before every trip to ensure peak performance

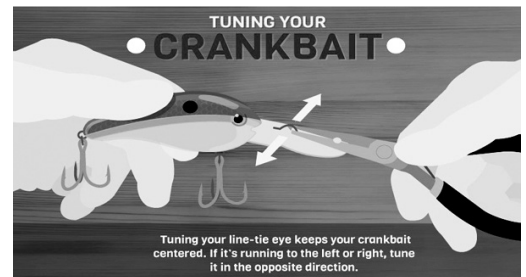
**Final Thoughts** Adding a crankbait tuning tool to your tackle box is one of the easiest ways to improve your efficiency and success on the water. Whether you're trolling for walleye or casting for bass, a properly tuned lure is essential for consistent performance.

Don't leave bites behind due to a simple mistake. Check your gear regularly, tune your crankbaits often, and fish with confidence knowing your lures are doing exactly what they're supposed to do.

Happy fishing—and tight lines!

<https://www.fishusa.com/learn/the-importance-of-tuning-crankbaits>

Check out YOU TUBE there's lots of How To videos.



# WE SCREWED UP LAST MONTH

There was a mistake in our May newsletter. One of the pictures was used twice, once in this article. This is the correct photo and a repeat of the story.

## HARBORCREEK TOWNSHIP FISHING OUTING

The next wet day was on Saturday May 3, 2025. As for the last 12 years, the SONS of Lake Erie has partnered with the Harborcreek Township Recreation Department and the Wesleyville Conservation Club to put together a fishing opportunity for kids. It took place at MacQuarie's pond at the Harborcreek Community Park. It rained continuously. But,

thanks to the picnic pavilion that was built adjacent to the pond with funds donated by our club in 2021, we were able to get out of the rain. In spite of the weather, about 20 kids and their parents came to try their luck. Twenty-three SONS volunteers were on hand to help them fish. A pair of Osprey birds were flying around to provide an airborne fishing exhibition.



### Lake Erie is the Walleye Capital of the World

*By Lainey Novak*

There is no fish in Lake Erie more sought after than walleye. Whether served fried or seared, walleye is not only a fish fry favorite, but enjoyed year round. The native Lake Erie fish, named for its pearlescent eyes that help it see in dark and muddy water, is part of the perch family and spawns in the spring and early summer. The Ohio Division of Wildlife estimated the walleye population to be 89 million in 2023.

### FLYING ANGLERS

On Sat. May 3rd, while at MacQuarie's pond at the Harborcreek Community Park Kid's Fishing Day a pair of ospreys flew around trying their own skills at catching fish. The rain on the camera lens blurred things up





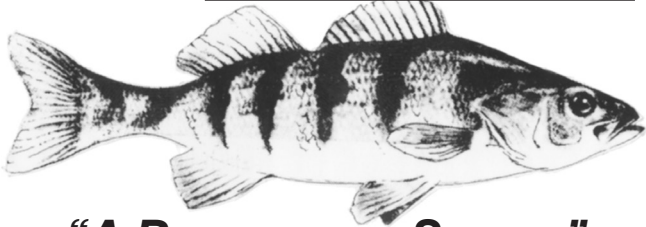


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"The Bucket" published monthly  
by the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie

VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 6  
JUNE 2025



**"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"**

**NO MEETINGS IN THE SUMMER.**

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



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

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## CASTING FOR WALLEYE FROM SHORE AT NIGHT

By: *FishUSA Staff April 23, 2025* <https://www.fishusa.com/learn>

Fishing for walleye at night from shore is one of the most underrated and accessible ways to connect with these elusive predators. Whether you're wading a rocky point, casting from a pier, or working a river bank, nighttime presents a prime opportunity—especially in spring and fall—when walleye push shallow to feed. This guide expands on essential strategies and gear for success after dark, and will help you confidently target walleye without the need for a boat.

Fishing for walleye at night from shore is one of the most underrated and accessible ways to connect with these elusive predators.

### Why Walleye Feed at Night

Walleye are low-light predators. Their eyes are built to detect contrast and movement in low-visibility environments, giving them a feeding advantage after sunset. As the sun sets and boat traffic dies down, baitfish move into shallow water to feed on algae and microorganisms, and the walleye are not far behind. This behavior is especially prevalent during the spring and fall, when water temperatures range from 45–65°F.

### When to Fish

The ideal water temperature for nighttime shore casting is typically between 50°F and 60°F. However, walleye can still be caught in cooler or slightly warmer water. In spring, pre-spawn walleye move shallow as early as ice-out. In fall,

dropping temps push baitfish back into shoreline areas, triggering another feeding frenzy. Prime bite windows often occur in the first 2–3 hours after sunset and again before sunrise.

### Where to Cast for Shore Walleye

Walleye don't roam randomly. They move along predictable structure and current breaks that funnel baitfish. Focus your casting efforts on:

**Points and Sandbars:** Walleye cruise these shallow edges looking for easy meals.

**Creek Mouths and Inlets:** Natural gathering points for baitfish and feeding zones for walleye.

**Drop-Offs:** Walleye often stage along the first major depth change from shore.

**Riprap and Rock Walls:** Hold heat and attract both forage and predatory fish.

**Flowing Water:** River mouths and current seams concentrate oxygen and food, especially in spring. Also try the North and South Piers, Shore along Presque Isle (After Swimmers Leave) look for beaches with old breakwater structures.

For the complete article read it at:

<https://www.fishusa.com/learn/casting-for-walleye-from-shore-at-night/>