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MAY 2023

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LAKE ERIE CISCO FOUND LIVING IN AN INLAND LAKE

According to PFBC's Lake Erie Unit Manager there is a remnant of Lake Erie Cisco living in Crystal Lake in Susquehenna County. In 2021 PFBC biologists harvested cisco from Crystal Lake and compared their DNA with known Lake Erie cisco samples and found a match. There is a program in place that the US Fish and Wildlife Services has in place to restore native fish populations into the waters of Lake Erie like their work with lake trout which has been ongoing. There is a positive match and the USFWS is planning to attempt to restore cisco populations.



The Cisco (Lake Herring) is a sub species of the Trout and Salmon family
PFBC Illustration

The very tasty Cisco (aka Lake Herring) was at one time a highly sought after Lake Erie fish with over 85 million pounds harvested from Lake Erie waters between 1918 and 1927. As they started to become scarce due to overfishing the focus of commercial fishing then shifted to blue pike, Records indicate that cisco eggs were transferred from the Erie hatchery to the Pleasant Mount hatchery in the 1920's, The Pleasant Mount hatchery is located in proximity to Crystal Lake. This is exciting news!

NORTH EAST MARINA STAYS AFLOAT FOR THE 2023 SEASON

A few months ago published reports stated that the operation of the North East this year was in doubt. There are two issues plaguing this PFBC owned marina. The marina channel and basin needs dredging like it needs every year. Up to now the dredge material has been removed and dumped back into the lake. This is now prohibited but there has been a solution proposed. The dredging can continue, but the material must be dewatered and removed to a landfill which is very expensive. Since the lake water levels of Lake Erie are slightly elevated boat operation should be ok. The other problem is that the electric lines to the docks needs replaced, this too is expensive but also facing scarce material availability, so replacement this year is not possible. The public courtesy docks and privately leased docks into the marina have been put in place in order to get the marina in operation. The future of the facility however is in question. Continued dredging problems and infrastructure improvements will be necessary and hopefully the necessary support for the marina will be available for future operation.

WEB CAM COMING TO WALNUT CREEK ACCESS AREA

Soon you will be able to see real time Lake Erie condition and fishing activity taking place at the PFBC's Walnut Creek Access area thanks to a grant from the PFBC's Lake Erie Access Program (Lake Erie stamp) which was awarded by the Fish and Boat Commissioners at their quarterly meeting on April 24th. The grant was awarded to the SONS of Lake Erie for the purchase and installation of a web cam similar to the one installed at the mouth of Trout Run. That project was so successful that we have again partnered with FishUSA and the PA Steelhead Association to install one at Walnut Creek. We have agreed to share the operating costs with our partners. It will be accessible 24/7 and available for all to visit the camera on line and see the Lake and activity at this site. We hope to have installation complete by the end of June. We also see this camera as a way to promote our Lake Erie fishery to the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Note: if you would like to volunteer
There will be sign up sheets
at our May 22nd meeting.

Wednesday May 19th 10-12
Waterworks pond PISP Wild & Free
Homeschool Group Volunteers needed

Thursday May 25th at 9:30 AM.
Waterworks pond PISP General
McLane 3rd grade Volunteers needed

Saturday May 27th at 830-? EPSFA
kids fishing contest Perry Monument.
Volunteers needed

Monday June 5th from 10:00-1:00 at
Rolling Ridge 6th Grade Harborcreek
Community Park.

Thursday June 15th 10-11AM & 12-1PM
Liberty Pier Fishing Volunteers needed

Friday June 16th 10:30-12:30
Waterworks Pond North East Summer
Rec Program. Volunteers needed

**Tuesday & Wednesday June 20th
& 21st** 5:00-7:00PM JEH Garden
Apts. Admin Bldg Tacoma Rd. Safety
talk and casting class JEH garden
apartments on Tacoma road

Thursday June 22nd Waterworks
Pond 11-1 PAL fishing program
Waterworks Pond Volunteers needed

Tuesday June 27th Waterford YMCA
10:00-12:00 We would have 54
children divided into two groups one
hour each. Waterworks Pond

Wednesday June 28th 11-1
Waterworks Pond Sr. Gus' Kids Cafe
Volunteers needed

Wednesday July 12th 6-8PM Bay
View Park promotional table and
casting class volunteers needed

Saturday July 29th 8-12 Waterworks
Pond Discover PI Family fishing
Volunteers needed

Saturday July 29th & 30th EPSFA
Walleye Slam tournament volunteers
needed

Tuesday August 22 5-8PM Liberty
Pier 8 Great Tuesdays Family Fishing
volunteers needed



SONS 2023 MEMBERSHIP BUTTON

You can get one at any of our meetings. If you would like one mailed to you, send \$3.00 to the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie PO Box 3605 Erie, PA to cover mailing costs.

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SONS ACTIVITIES AND FISHING EVENTS GO INTO HIGH GEAR



Shown here are some of the photos taken on May 6th at the Harborcreek Municipal Park, where there were over 100 participants in the family fishing program. It was an absolutely great and a lot of fish were caught including trout, bullheads and blue gills. The Wesleyville Conservation Club stocked over 1000 brown trout into the pond prior to May 6th.



The first day of trout season marked the kickoff of our Spring and Summer activities. This day was followed by an outing for Girard High School life Skills class, a group of military veterans from the Vets Center, a scouting group, a group of over 100 moms, dads and kids who gathered at the pond at Harborcreek Municipal park and a group of girls scouts, We also participated in a STEM program sponsored by Mercyhurst University at Gibson Park in North East and we also co-sponsored the annual Spring clean-up of Presque Isle State Park. These recent

activities were very successful thanks to dedicated participation by our cadre of volunteers. We have included a list of scheduled club activities for the rest of the season; We will have signup sheets available at our May 22nd meeting if you would like to help out. We also encourage you to bring one of your children or grandchildren along to help out or join in. Check out our newsletter for the addition of more opportunities to volunteer as they are scheduled. You can also check out our web page sonsoflakeerie.org for our schedule. You can contact us at sonslakeri@aol.com



Fishing Report

OUR DEEPEST APOLOGIES

go out to Kirk Rydzenski proprietor of East End Angler bait and tackle shop, Gem City Outdoorsmens, Champion Ford and Kathy Capion for our failure to include them in the list of generous donors who gave us a door prize for our Ice Out Party that was published in our April 19th Bucket

THE EPSFA TO HOST TOURNAMENT

The Erie Pennsylvania Sport Fishing Association have scheduled their annual Pro Am Summer Slam fishing tournament for July 29 & 30. Registration to enter must be in by June 1. For more information go to their website at epsfa.com.

Lake Erie walleye season opened on May 6th and according to some posts on the Presque Isle Bay Anglers page on Facebook anglers are boasting early success as shown in the photos below.



Jamie Worth posted this picture photo of a 31 inch, 10.1 lb. monster walleye he caught off of Shade's Beach on May 6th.



Mike Williams posted this pic of a two man limit he and his buddy caught near Walnut Creek on the first day of walleye season.

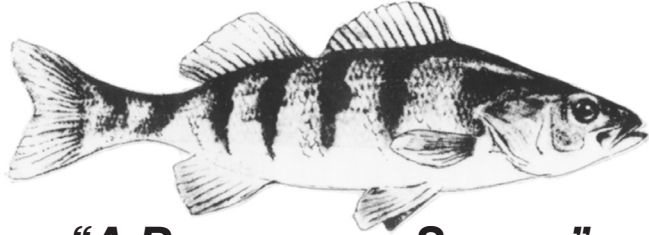


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MAY 2023



"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 22 - 7:00 PM

POLISH FALCONS CLUB

431 E. 3rd Street, Erie

**NOTE: THIS IS THE LAST MEETING
UNTIL NEXT SEPTEMBER.
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PROGRAM:

Nolan Ryan, FishUSA pro staff member,
will talk about Bass fishing

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LAKE ERIE RESEARCH UNIT MANAGER MARK HAFFLEY



was the speaker at our April 24th membership meeting where there were 100 people in attendance. He began with an update of the lake wide walleye telemetry project. He reiterated that acoustic transmitters and tags were implanted into 68 walleye on spawning shoals in PA waters over a 3 year period with the goal to look at spawning fidelity to answer the questions. Do local

spawning congregations add to a local fishery? and Are these tagged fish truly "residents" or migrants?

He displayed a map of Lake Erie showing the location of receivers placed on the Lake bottom to record data from the transmitters. These receivers were pulled on October 25, 2022 and the data from them revealed that there were 659,014 detections of the 68 walleye. There were 16 Fish of them caught to date, 5 fish had lost their external tag, Fish #21 traveled 45 miles in 8 days at harvest and Fish #5 was caught in Presque Isle Bay on July 3rd. Preliminary conclusion of the study indicate that we do in fact have a local resident walleye population.

In regards to yellow perch, the Lake Erie perch population estimate of 155.25 million at age 2+. The population in MU 3, which is our portion of the Lake, is estimated at 56.9 million. The total Allowable Catch last year was 530,000 pounds.

Percentage of perch caught last year was 15% of the TAC for PA and 39% for all jurisdictions. The 2023 TAC for MU 3 is 472,000 pounds. The western basin (MU-1) of the lake has had a better hatching rate than the MU-3 and the Perch population there is improving. In spite of this the harvest limit of perch will remain the same in PA waters this 2023

The walleye population on the other hand is estimated at 70.98 million in 2022. 9.269 million Walleye were harvested from Lake Erie in 2022. The 2023 population estimate: 93.663 million Walleye. Based on these facts there will be no changes to the walleye limits and Capt. Haffley predicted a phenomenal walleye season.

LAMPE MARINA FISH CLEANING STATION PROJECT STALLED

On April 11, 2023 the Port Authority opened the bids for the Lampe Marina Fish Waste Holding Building and cleaning station. The total combined low bid for the project was \$378,935. The total project costs, including engineering, are \$399,835. The grant from the Lake Erie Access Program was for \$250,000 leaving a shortfall of \$150,000. The EWPPA has submitted grant application for the balance of \$150,000 which is needed to complete the building. The next Fish Commission is scheduled for July 24-25, 2023. Hopefully they will review the grant request at that meeting and add the necessary to get this project moving along