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THE Bucket

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Fishing Report: Perch are being caught out in the Lake off the Point at depths of 25 to 50 ft., off the cribs at 39ft. off Walnut Creek 30 to 35 ft. Walleye are being caught off the beaches near the mouths of the creeks. Smallmouth bass are being caught at depths of 20-25 ft. large lake trout are being taken in 90 ft..

RECORD LAKE TROUT CAUGHT



Captain Scott Snyder (Lt) poses with lucky angler, Todd Young (Rt) of Nazareth, PA. The fish was caught on Sunday May 6th. It weighed 29.28 pounds and was 26" long.

I had just put the second downrigger in and picked up another rod when the first rigger to a monster hit. The rod tip hit the water and the drag screamed out 240 ft of line. Todd Young was immediately on it. We knew it was big. He worked it patiently into the boat and after about 15 minutes it surfaced and despite looking into the rising blinding sunlight I was able to get the beast into the net and into the boat. I found my scales and it said 30lbs.

I explained to Todd and his crew that this was the state record laker and we should go immediately to a certified scales. They agreed, we pulled the only other line in and ran back to North East marina, then drove to East End Angler to have it weighed 29.28lbs, 30inches, 26in girth. Then we went back out fishing for more. Later we met with WCO Tolbert who inspected the fish and provided documentation forms for a state record fish. Fish was caught on a green NK mag spoon, 20 lb test. It was a great day for Todd, his father and friends on their first fishing charter on Lake Erie. – Captain Scott Snyder

The following story was sent to me by Captain Scott Snyder of Eyecon 2 Charters describing the catch of a record breaking lake trout on Sunday May 6, 2012.

Hi Jerry,
here is the story.

My charter boat the Eyecon 2 departed the North East Marina at 0630 with 4 men from Nazareth, PA for a day of laker fishing. We headed NW to 68 foot of water out from Shorewood and started setting our spread. I

USDA TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO INHIBIT ALGAE (News release)

DUNDEE, Mich., March 16, 2012 -- Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced \$2 million in financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to help farmers in designated parts of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana prevent phosphorus from entering Western Lake Erie Basin waterways. The announcement is part of an effort to improve water quality and support jobs in the region that are generated through the hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation industry.

Run off from farms is the major cause of phosphate intrusion into the waters of the western end of Lake Erie. Phosphate supports the growth of algae.

WHITE BASS OR WHITE PERCH?

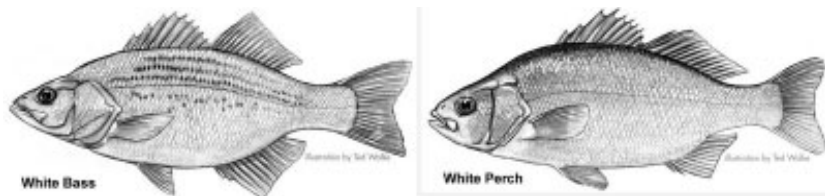
How to tell the white bass from the white perch (and why it matters).

Don't let the name fool you – the white perch is not a member of the perch family. Actually, it's in the same family as the white bass (the temperate basses). These two fish can be very hard to tell apart.

While the white bass is native to the Great Lakes, the white perch is an invader that may reduce populations of native fish such as walleye and white bass. Additionally, white bass can interbreed with white perch, which could dilute the gene pools of both species. (See the white perch profile for more information.)

There are several ways to tell the fish apart. First, the white bass has 6-10 dark horizontal lines on its back and sides; the white perch does not. Second, gently pull the spiny dorsal erect. If the soft dorsal fin also becomes erect, you've got a white perch. If not, it's a white bass.

To confuse the issue further, the freshwater drum (or sheepshead) is sometimes (incorrectly) called a white perch. The freshwater drum can be distinguished by a lateral line that extends all the way to the end of its bluntly pointed caudal (tail) fin.



Sources: "Is It a White Bass or a White Perch," written by Fred L. Snyder, Ohio Sea Grant, 1999.

Fish Illustrations from PFBC Web Site

WANTED!

Volunteers to keep Four Mile Creek fish ladder and by-pass open by removing debris.
Call 814-453-2270 to sign up.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MONDAY, MAY 21, 2012 7:30 P.M.

THE POLISH FALCON'S CLUB
431 East 3rd Street, Erie, PA

Senior Lake Erie Unit PFBC Biologist Chuck Murray
will talk about Lake Erie Fishery outlook for 2012.

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S.O.N.S. SPONSOR PRESQUE ISLE CLEAN-UP



The S.O.N.S. were asked to partner with the Presque Isle Partnership to sponsor the annual clean-up of Presque Isle State Park. The event took place on April 21. Our volunteers prepared 960 hotdogs for the 825 people who took part in the event. Our crew did a great job preparing and distributing the food. I think that they had fun too!

Some of the unusual things that were found by the clean-up crew include an electronic keyboard, several propane lanterns and tanks, an animal skull, a dryer vent hose, a basketball and a cup from an environmental group in Ohio

WHAT SIGN ARE YOU?

If you are interested in sharing your marine radio call sign with other S.O.N.S. members, email it in to sonslakeri@aol.com and we will post them on our web site. It may be helpful to contact each other for fishing information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday May 21 7:30 General Membership meeting (one week early) Last meeting until September.

Saturday May 26 9 am-? Perry Monument on PISP EPSFA Kid's fishing event volunteers needed

Thursday June 14 10-2 Cabin #3 PISP Millcreek Summer Rec. Day 1 Volunteers needed

Thursday June 21 10-2 Cabin #3 PISP Millcreek Summer Rec. Day 2 Volunteers needed

Wednesday July 4th 11-2 Liberty Pier Family Fishing event to dedicate new fishing pier

Thursday July 12 10-2 Cabin #3 PISP Millcreek Summer Rec. Day 3 Volunteers needed

Wednesday July 25 9:30-1:00 PISP Mt. Carmel School Outing Volunteers needed.

Saturday July 28 10-2 Waterworks Pond Discover PI Family Fishing Event Volunteers needed

Tuesday July 31 10-1 Waterworks Pond Villa Day Camp fishing clinic Volunteers needed

Thursday August 9 10-2 Cabin #3 PISP Millcreek Summer Rec. Day 4 Volunteers needed

PFBC BIOLOGISTS SURVEY PRESQUE ISLE BAY

PFBC Biologists Tim Wilson and Freeman Jones set up a demonstration of fish sampling techniques for the public on Wednesday April 25th. On display were nets and equipment used for sampling fish. Trap nets were set in Misery Bay and fish were taken for study. Every three years a survey is conducted by the PFBC to study the health of the fish and the fishery in Presque Isle Bay. There were northern pike, bowfins, crappies, bass, shiners taken. One species of concern, two rudd were taken. Rudd is an invasive species and judging by the size of the samples, they are thriving quite well. In all over 27 different species had been sampled by April 25th. The Survey will continue as the water warms up.



Tim Wilson, PFBC Fisheries Biologist, shows a rudd that was taken in the survey nets

MAY MEETING TO BE HELD ONE WEEK EARLY

The S.O.N.S. General Membership meeting will be held one week early on May 21 due to the Memorial Day holiday.

WARM WEATHER AFFECTS S.O.N.S. HATCHERY

Due to warm weather conditions on Pymatuning Lake walleye and perch egg harvesting was way down so consequently we did not receive any eggs for hatching.

WANTED: Old photographs of Erie's Waterfront-Ships, Boats, Buildings, Fishing and Fishermen, Railroads, etc. Call Jerry at 814-452-6291. I would like to borrow and scan them for my slide presentations.

S.O.N.S. TO PARTICIPATE IN PERRY 200 CELEBRATIONS

On Monday April 30th a kick off ceremony was held at Perry School in Erie for a two year celebration of the winning of the Battle of Lake Erie by Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry during the War of 1812.

The two year festival will include events such as parades, concerts, picnics, fireworks, a tall ships festival visiting navy ships etc. The S.O.N.S. will participate by hosting fishing events including a summer long fishing tournament in 2013.

Fifteen of our members carried state flags from the 15 states that were in the union in 1812. The flags were presented by our members at the kick off ceremony.

Perry 200 Celebration Kickoff Ceremony



ASIAN CARP SUBJECT OF TALK

Karla Kaczmarek, Coastal Outreach Specialist, with Pennsylvania Sea Grant spoke at our April General Membership Meeting. Her presentation about invasive species and in particular, Asian Carp, kept our members interest. We learned that the term "Asian carp" actually refers to four different species of carp, bighead carp, silver carp, black carp and grass carp. Asian carp can grow to be extremely large ex. bighead – 100+ pounds, and 60 inches, silver – 60 pounds and 39 inches. They grow very fast compared to native species (12 pounds in one year)

These carp have voracious appetites and feed year round. They feed primarily on zooplankton, phytoplankton and detritus which is the base of the food chain, and is an important food source for other organisms.

The problem is that since they wipe out the food chain, and out-compete a lot of other fish. High densities of Asian carp would likely result in the decline of many native fish, including those important to the Great Lakes sports fishery.

Asian carp were introduced into aquaculture and sewage ponds in the 1970s to control algae but they escaped into the Mississippi River during floods in the early 1980s and have become the most abundant fish in some regions of the Mississippi, Ohio, and Illinois Rivers.



Karla Kaczmarek, Coastal Outreach Specialist with Pennsylvania Sea Grant spoke at our April General Membership Meeting on the subject of invasive species.

Asian carp are currently in the Illinois River which is connected to the Great Lakes via the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal which was built in 1900 to carry Chicago's treated sewage into the Des Plaines River. The canal provides a connection between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River Basin an avenue into the Great Lakes.

The carp are also posing a threat to Pennsylvania via the Ohio River. USGS confirmed bighead carp in the Ohio River near a town in West Virginia which is only about 60 miles from the PA border. The Ohio River would make an ideal environment for Asian carp with flowing water, and could end up in tributaries all around the state.

In order to stop the carp migration, an electronic dispersal barrier was designed by the Army Corps of Engineers. They have constructed three such barriers on the Chicago Sanitary and ship canal. The barriers emit an electrical charge which discourages the fish from passing through.

A second strategy to manage the carp is to harvest them for food. In Illinois, they have developed the carp-for-food campaign, and have more than 10 commercial fisheries contracted to harvest Asian carp. Last year, they harvested more than 350 tons of carp.

Ms. Kaczmarek presentation, although sobering, left us all with an insight into the problem.

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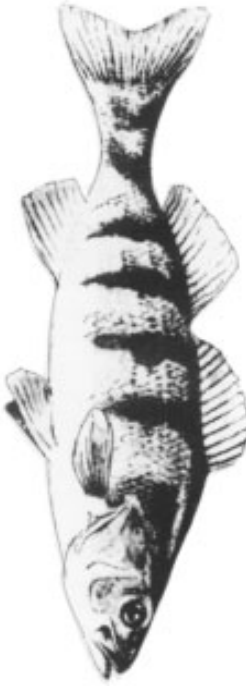
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CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN ON LIBERTY PIER FISHING ACCESS AREA



Top photo L-R CZM Chairman, Don Benczkowski, PFBC Commissioner Ed Mascharka, Mayor Joe Sinnott, Port Authority Secretary Dan Harmon, President, Jeff Johnson, Board Members Ed Mead, and Dave Dicarlo, Director of Erie County administration, Jerry Mifsud and SONS Pres. Jerry Skrypzak. Middle Left Jeff Johnson turns first shovel of dirt, Middle Right Ed Kissell and Jerry Skrypzak pose with ceremonial shovel, Lower Left PFBC Commissioner Ed Mascharka addresses gathering, Lower right Ed Kissell is interviewed by the news.

On April 19th a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the Liberty Pier on Presque Isle Bay to kick off the construction of the Liberty Pier Fishing Access Area. The ceremony was presided over by the President of the Erie Western Pennsylvania Port Authority President, Jeff Johnson. District One, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commissioner, Ed Mascharka addressed the crowd as well as Erie's Mayor Joe Sinnott, S.O.N.S. President Jerry Skrypzak and CZM Chairman Don Benczkowski also made a few remarks. The crowd consisted of Port Authority members and staff, County and State Officials, S.O.N.S. directors members and officers, as well many other interested parties.

The speeches were followed by the ceremonial turning of shovelfuls of earth.

This event marked the completion of over 25 years of effort by our Vice President, Ed Kissell. The idea of the fishing access opportunity grew out of waterfront development plans in the 1980's when Ed was our President. The construction of a fishing pier was mandated in a deed restriction placed on the property when it was acquired by the developers at the time. The mandate was part of an acquisition agreement with the developer and the State of Pennsylvania, the property owner. Ed Kissell successfully persuaded our State Representative at that time, Italo Cappabianca to include the building of a fishing pier and public park in the deed in order to mitigate the loss of State property to private interests.

When the Port Authority acquired the property it complied with one restriction and built Liberty Park and the amphitheater. There however was never enough money to complete the fishing pier.

Ed Kissell never gave up and continued efforts to make the fishing access area a reality. Two years ago we were able to create an interest with the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the Port Authority. The PFBC came through with the lion's portion of the funds for the construction, totaling \$378,000. The PFBC grant came from our Lake Erie stamp money. The balance of the funding came from the Port Authority (\$150,000), and grants from the SONS of Lake Erie (\$43,500), the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (\$100,000), and the Department of Environmental Protection and the Coastal Zone Management Program (\$75,000). Ed must be commended for his years of work. Without him there would be no fishing access pier.

Chivers Construction of Erie will be doing the work with a completion date set for July 4th.

OHIO ANGLERS CAN AVOID MISSING THE BOAT

COLUMBUS, OH – With spring fishing heating up, anglers can now purchase one-day and three-day fishing licenses over the telephone according the Ohio DNR.

Customers have two telephone options to purchase a "last-minute" fishing license by using a credit card:

The customer is issued a 10-digit license number and instructed to carry it along with a picture ID as proof that the angler is properly licensed. A printed copy of the license is not included. Convenience fees in either option can be avoided by purchasing licenses early at license agent outlets or online at www.wildohio.com. Customers should

note \$10 of the one-day fishing license can be exchanged for credit toward the purchase of an annual fishing license at any time within the license year. All license purchases include a \$1 writing fee.

Also new this year, anglers have the option of buying in advance an \$11 "Lake Erie Charter 1-Day Fishing License" allowing them to wait and validate the license at the dock the day of the trip. Waiting to sign and date the license allows for its future use in case the original fishing trip is cancelled due to weather or other circumstances. This license is not available for purchase over the telephone.

Will Pennsylvania follow Ohio's lead?

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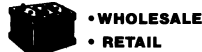
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