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

# THE Bucket

VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 5  
MAY 2026

S.O.N.S. PHONE NUMBER 814-453-2270 (ALSO FAX NUMBER)  
sonslakeri@aol.com • www.sonsoflakeerie.org

## FISHING REPORT:

As the winter fades away more anglers are getting out trying their luck. A mixed bag of catches are being reported. Photos of perch, crappies, blue gills are being bragged about on Face Book. Large numbers of bass boats are seen running up and down Presque Isle Bay.

There has been a lot of wind around in late April an early May, still boats were venturing out onto the Lake as weather permits. May 2nd walleye season opened up and already many are being caught. We gathered some photos to illustrate the "mixed bag" mentioned.



Above are photos sent to us by SONS member Tom Pruzenski, He took these pictures while fishing in the Presque Isle Marina lake from April 18th-27th . The fish shown here included an 8 in blue gill, a 13 in. crappie, a 15 in gold fish, a cat fish and some 8-10 in yellow perch. There were some other fish pictures on Face Book, including the photos on the right, all evidence of the diverse fishery we have available to us.



Jake Romanek and a huge musky



Rick Zamiroski with a bowfin



Kirk Rudzinski and another huge 29.6 lb Lake trout

## A NEW FISHING AREA OPENS AT PUBLIC DOCK

The sea wall on the South face of the East arm of the Public Dock (East Dobbins Landing) has been replaced. A 12 ft wide public accessible sidewalk has been installed as well as new lighting. This opens up about 300 ft of new fishing areas in the waters of the East Canal Basin. Enjoy it and keep it clean!



New fishing opportunity



SONS Past Pres. Ralph Corvaglia & Ed Kissell pose with Present Pres. Jerry Skrypzak

# Send us your Fish Pictures!

## SONS 2026 MEMBERSHIP BUTTON

is a smallmouth bass this year. This is in keeping with featuring a native species fish on the button. You can pick up the 2026 pin at anyone of our events or meetings or you can get one by sending \$3.00 to SONS of Lake Erie, 3411 Peach St Box 233 Erie, PA 16508



## JOIN A FRIEND TODAY!

MAIL TO: S.O.N.S., 3411 Peach St Box 233 Erie, PA 16508

**SONS RECORD OF MEMBERSHIP 2026**

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Renew  New  \$5.00 ADULT  \$4.00 SENIOR CITIZEN (over 65)  \$4.00 JUNIOR (under 16)

## FISH USA TO HAVE SOME FUN EVENTS:

### Friday June 5th

Fish USA is holding a **Hogs & Dogs** event from 2-7 At their Pro Shop at 6960 West Ridge Rd., Fairview, PA. Free pig roast and hotdogs and a special Berkley BOGO sale. Food Fun & Savings! Bring the kids.

### Thursday July 3rd

Fish USA will host a **Tackle Swap** at their Pro Shop at 6960 West Ridge Rd. Fairview, PA There will be 30 tables available on a first come first served basis. Free hot dogs and beverages will be served. In case of severe weather the event could be cancelled.

## PRESQUE ISLE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Our beloved and most important regional asset needs your help. The Federal Government has withdrawn funds from its budget to pay for its share of the ongoing beach sand replenishment necessary to protect the beautiful park. We would ask that you express your support of the park by signing an online petition on the Presque Isle Partnership web page asking that funds be restored.

Go to

<https://www.discoverpi.com/>  
to sign on.

The petition will be forwarded to our legislators in hope that they can take measures to restore the funds for sand replenishment.



## WALLEYE TOURNAMENTS

Poor Richard's and East End Angler bait and tackle shops will again be sponsoring their Walleye Bash fishing tournaments again this Summer.

The tournaments will be held on  
June 27 and August 15.



## SAIL DRONES DEPLOYED ONTO LAKE ERIE



Two saildrones being prepared for deployment



Boat from Lake Shore Towing Co. moving one of the vessels onto the bay. Photo by Dan Brown

Motorists traveling along the western end of the Bayfront Parkway in late April observed two strange looking vessels being assembled in the parking lot of the yacht dealer which is located there. These vessels are built by a company called Saildrone. According to their website this model is called "The Surveyor". It is a 20-meter unmanned surface vehicle that can be used for underwater mapping, water currents and even possibly military applications. Designed for months at sea, Surveyor uses radar, EO/IR, ML-based detection, passive acoustics, AIS, and high-power oceanographic payloads to operate independently across the world's harshest environments. These two drones were deployed onto Lake Erie for the United States Coast Guard and will be out there on the lake for some time.

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# MORE WIND TURBINE BLADES ARRIVE

Another ship arrived at the Port Authority's terminal in late April with another load of wind turbine blades manufactured in India. These blades will be moved into a location in NY State for deployment to a wind farm. When I see these shipments, I fear that it might be a load to build a wind farm in Lake Erie.

We cannot let that happen. A wind farm construction could cause irreparable harm to Lake Erie, its fishery and our water supply. There are hundreds of years of contaminants sealed under the floor of the lake and I fear building these 500 foot towers will disturb these layers causing an environmental disaster.



Ship load of 275 long turbine blades were unloaded and set aside for moving to their final destination as show in photo of truck hauling one on the Barkway. Drone photo of ship by Lance Aerial Media posted on Facebook.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

We have a full schedule of fishing events booked for the Summer. We will need your help as a volunteer. If you volunteer for over 3 events, you will be invited to attend our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on August 3rd.

**Note: SIGN UP SHEETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT OUR MAY 18th MEETING OR YOU CAN SIGN UP VIA EMAIL AT [sonslakeri@aol.com](mailto:sonslakeri@aol.com)**

**Sat. May 16th** 10-12 East Water Works pond Fairview Girl Scouts Vol. needed

**Tues. May 19th** 10-12 East Water Works pond Neuro Restorative services group. Vol. needed

**Sat. May 23rd** 9-12 Perry Monument area of Presque Isle State Park EPSFA's annual Kids Fishing Day Volunteers need.

**Wed. May 27th** 5-7 PM Harding Elementary School East Water Works Pond Vol. needed

**Fri. May. 29th** 10-NOON McKean 3rd grade East Water Works Pond Vol. needed

**Sat. June 6th** TBD East Waterworks pond The Bird Festival Vol. needed

**Thurs. June 11th** 11:30-2 East Water Works pond Elks Club Veterans Picnic Vol. needed

**Mon. June 15th** 6-8PM East Waterworks pond Cub Scout pack 59 Vol. needed

**Wed. June 17th** 10-12 East Waterworks pond Barb's Day Care kids Vol. needed

**Tues. June 23rd** 10-12 East Water Works pond Neuro Restorative services group. Vol. needed

**Thurs. June 25th** 10-noon East Water Works pond Downtown YMCA Vol. needed

**Wed. July 8th** 11-12 Millcreek Mall Kids casting and fishing education class Vol. needed

**Mon. July 13th** 11-1 East Water Works pond HALAL event No hot dogs or bacon for bait

**Sat. July 18th** TBD Possibly Fish USA Clean Fish for Fishin For A wish

**Wed. July 22** 10-12 1012 W. Bayfront Pkwy.(Cascade Dock) Residence at Presque Isle Assisted Living Vol. needed

**Sat July 24th** 9-12 East Waterworks Pond PISP Discover Presque Isle Volunteers needed

**Fri. July 31st** 1-3 East Waterworks Pond Pleasant Ridge Manor seniors Vol. needed

**Mon. Aug. 3rd** 5-? Shade's Beach Volunteers Appreciation picnic

**Sat. Aug. 22nd** 8-1 Gem City Outdoorsmen's Club Youth Field Days Vol. needed

**Tues. Aug. 25th** 5-8 Liberty Pier 8 Great Tuesdays family fishing Vol. needed



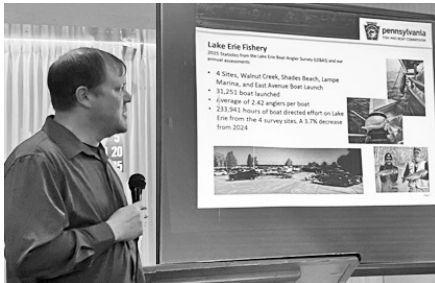
## EIGHTEEN YEARS AND STILL OPERATING

In 2008 thanks to a donation from businessman Peter Kaschak, the SONS of Lake Erie partnered with Harborcreek Township and installed a Wind Warning light on the east end of the Shade's Beach boat launch. The light is designed to turn on flashing lights when the wind exceeds 15 mph warning boaters to head back to shore. The light has survived and remained operating thanks to the township's great maintenance department. There was a similar light installed at the Walnut Creek Access area but it eventually broke down and was removed.

## At Our April General Membership

we had the opportunity to hear presentations by two individuals who are probably the most knowledgeable about the health of Lake Erie and its fishery.

The first was Dr. Jeanette Schnarrs, Executive Director of the Regional Science Consortium (RSC), whose members are actively studying the conditions of Lake Erie and implementing methods to improve water quality. At our meeting she gave us an update of the shrink wrap recycling program that was instituted last year and continued this year. It was an outstanding success and shrink wrap was collection points were set up at all the local marinas from more than 200 boats. She also announced that the RSC has partnered with the PFBC's Lake Erie Unit to study the migratory patterns of yellow perch in and out of Presque Isle Bay. She also stated



that the Lake Erie weather buoys would be deployed into Lake Erie in early May.

Our second speaker that night was PFBC's Lake Erie Unit Chief Biologist, Mark Haffley, shown on left.

He provide us with an overview of our fish stocks and statistics from last year surveys starting with walleye.

Four sites were surveyed; Walnut Creek, Shades Beach, Lampe Marina, and East Avenue. There were an estimated 31,251 boats launched, there were an average of 2.42 anglers per boat who spent 233,941 hours of boat directed effort on Lake Erie from the 4 survey sites. A 3.7% decrease from 2024. They caught an estimated 578,370 walleye of which 415,448 were harvested. 91% of the trips were directed at walleye which resulted in an average catch of 1.28 fish/hour, a 51% creel success. The average length was 20.1 in. There's an estimated 57.6 million walleye out there. He also talked about fish diet differences in certain parts of the lake.

Yellow perch received less angler effort only 1% of the anglers interviewed concentrated on perch. These anglers averaged about 1.23 fish per hour. The lack of angler pressure may be helpful towards an increase in abundance of perch.

**Coincidentally the PFBC announced on April 21 that the catch limit will remain at 30 perch and 6 walleye. The same as last year.**

We always appreciate these annual updates form Dr. Schnarrs and Capt. Mark Haffley.

## A PERCH TELEMETRY STUDY IS UNDERWAY

At our April General Membership meeting, Dr. Jeanette Schnarrs announced that the Regional Science Consortium has teamed up with the PFBC Lake Erie unit to study the migration of yellow perch in and out of Presque Isle Bay using



*Dr. Jeanette Schnarrs holds her fingers to illustrate the approximate size of the perch study transmitter. Notice the enlarged view placed into the picture. The location of the incision on the perch is shown in the slide on the screen.*

telemetry. The study was made possible by grants from the Coastal Zone Management program and the SONS of Lake Erie. They were able to implant 30 yellow perch with transmitters which will be monitored by sensors on the lake bottom. There has been a similar study going on for

the last few years to study the migration patterns of walleye as well as other species in Lake Erie. Hopefully, the study will tell whether we have a resident population of perch, or whether they come in from the lake to spawn.

The perch that were implanted were large, 9-10 in. in length. The transmitter which is a cylinder which is about an 1.75 in long and 3/8 in diameter. They were placed in the study fish by PFBC biologists opening the abdomen cavity surgically and placing the cylinder inside followed by suturing it up.



*Telemetry Transmitter Call phone number on cylinder if you catch a yellow perch with it.*

Dr. Schnarrs ask that if you catch a large yellow perch and notice sutures in the belly that you release the fish so it can continue to be monitored. If you harvest a fish please watch for the transmitter and call the number on the cylinder so it can be reused.



(L) PFBC Biologist Mark Haffley makes an incision in the belly of the subject yellow perch (M) Then the transmitter is inserted (R) The incision is sutured up. Photos by Chuck Miller.



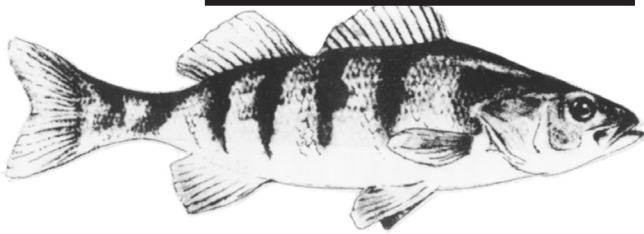
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**"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"**

## WOULD YOU RATHER GET YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

If you would like to get your newsletter by email rather than regular mail please 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. In 2026 there were 928 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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## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026 7:00 PM

### POLISH FALCONS CLUB

431 E. 3rd Street, Erie

**NOTE: OUR MAY MEETING WILL BE MAY 18, ONE WEEK EARLY DUE TO THE MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY**

**PROGRAM:** Capt. George Kuhns will talk about some walleye catching tactics he uses with great success.

## PRESQUE ISLE CLEAN UP APRIL 2

Presque Isle Partnership, DCNR, and the SONS of Lake Erie again joined together to sponsor the 70th Annual Spring cleanup at Presque State Park on April 25, 2026. We have been part of the clean up for over 30 years now.

Twenty five SONS volunteer joined with PISP state park staff members to prepare and serve lunch for all of the cleanup volunteers. The weather was cold and damp but that didn't

seem to temper the enthusiasm of the over 300 volunteers. Only about 230 took advantage of the lunch. We served hot dogs, coffee, soda an orange drink, chips, water and some snacks. There was a cheerful atmosphere amongst all of the participants that include a lot of children. One thing sure is that the volunteers love Presque Isle State Park. Below are some photos from that day.

