

# Steelhead and walleye make up east Erie creel

By STEVE POLLICK  
BLADE OUTDOORS EDITOR

**FAIRPORT HARBOR, Ohio** — Some hefty walleye, the likes of which haven't been seen in any numbers on western Lake Erie since late spring, and a sprinkling of chrome-plated steelhead make it worth trolling on Down East.

East of Cleveland, that is. Well east.

From the mouth of the Grand River here, 40 miles from the downtown skyscrapers and pro sports stadiums, fishing guide Ron Johnson pointed his 31-foot Tiara, Thumper, north-northeast. And he didn't stop for 25 miles.

Johnson was looking for fish — walleye and steelhead, a mix of which have been the story Down East this summer. Enough steelies are showing up in the catch to make it interesting, but the numbers are not high enough to call it a "steelhead summer" like last year.

The reason is weather. Every fisherman knows about walleye, but the impact of this long hot 90-plus-degree summer on the lake and fish activity has been dramatic. Johnson demonstrated that in spades when he dropped down an electronic temperature probe on one of his downriggers:

Surface temperature — 80.2 degrees. Temperature at 60 feet — 78 degrees. Amazing. Think about it — that is a gargantuan gulp of water to heat that warm, that deep. It is a testament to the power of the summer sun.

At 63 feet the water temperature was a chilly 58, so the transition layer or comfort zone for fish was just three feet thick. Not much to work with.

But Johnson is an Erie veteran and had a few tricks up his sleeve. Like running mini-Dipsy Divers with two-ounce, in-line lead weights off his big double-ski planer boards. The lead weight, he explained, will deepen a spoon trolled off a mini-Dipsy by five feet for each ounce.

"They have been hammering steelhead off Wheatley on the Canadian side," noted Johnson after a long spell of trolling with little steelhead action. "There must be a pocket of colder water up there." Not that the local waters were without these strong, silver-sided trout. An eight-pounder that had just come aboard was part of the day's proof.

The trip offshore had a few more fish tales to spin, as well.

For instance, we made one long downwind troll and almost never were out of baitfish. Cloud after cloud of bait cluttered and colored the screen on the depth electronics. "It's been a good year for bait," noted Johnson. Indeed.

Some years trollers would beg to see just a few such clouds of baitfish — likely smelt or emerald shiners in this case. "Look at that," said Johnson, pointing to a 25-inch walleye that the party had just landed. It had slammed a Michigan Stinger spoon, but had a gullet full of baitfish to boot.

Last and not least on the day's lesson list: How often do you hear that fish get real active ahead of a storm front? Bingo.

The marine weather channel at midday was jabbering about a strong line of thunderstorms down the west end of the lake — gusts to 40 knots, small craft seek safe harbor, the whole nine yards of admittedly prudent warnings and precautions.

Off Fairport Harbor the storm-line still was a couple hours away, but the wind was picking up. Likely the barometer was falling.

The one-to-threes for waves in early morning had grown to solid three-to-fives with an occasional rogue eight-footer thrown in, just to put some "Cedar Point" into attempts to stand, braced, at the transom. In turn, the fish action cranked up from a slow but steady sorting of smaller

walleye and various sizes of sheephead to some serious walleye and a smattering of steelhead.

But finally the freshening breeze said it was time to pick up and rock and roll back to safe harbor, which turned out to be about a 90-minute trip. A cooler of photogenic fish helped smooth out the ride.

Contact Johnson at [www.thumpercharter.com](http://www.thumpercharter.com) or 440-639-0185.

The recent cooling trend and northerly breezes have helped cool Lake Erie water temperatures somewhat — last week's 80-degree surface temperature was down to 77 at midweek — and yellow perch at least are starting to respond.

At Fairport Harbor, the perching was excellent just three miles off the Grand River mouth in 47 feet of water at midweek.

In western Lake Erie, Kelleys Island has been the focal point for perching, with fish being taken off the island's southwest, northwest, and northeast corners. The Toledo Ship Channel also has been productive, especially around the Toledo Harbor Light and Turning Buoy near the channel's outer end.

Walleye fishing in the western basin has been slow, with little angler activity for them, though a growing number of the super-abundant 2003 class are reaching the magic 15-inch minimum keeper length.

Inland, fishing action also has been slowed by the heat. One bright spot has been muskellunge action at Clear Fork Reservoir near Mansfield. "Most of the [muskie] fishing has been in the mornings and evenings," said Larry Goedde, fish management supervisor for Ohio Wildlife District 2. "I suspect it has been too hot during the day for anglers."

Contact Steve Pollick at [spollick@theblade.com](mailto:spollick@theblade.com) or 419-724-6068.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

**Division changes**  
Schools that have changed OHSAA divisions for the 2005-06 football season.

**MOVED FROM DIVISION I TO II**  
Ashtabula Lakeside  
Lorain Southview  
St. Francis de Sales  
Delaware Hayes  
Dublin Scioto  
Cincinnati NW  
Cincinnati Winton Woods

**MOVED FROM DIVISION II TO I**  
Berea  
Cleveland East  
Garfield Heights  
Columbus Centennial  
Columbus Steeles  
Columbus Walnut Ridge  
Groves City Cent. Crossing  
Marysville  
Westerville Central  
Cincinnati Glen Este  
Cincinnati Withrow  
Readingus Centennial  
Dublin Jerome  
Youngstown Rayen

**MOVED FROM DIVISION III TO II**  
Akron Belmont  
Chesterland W. Geauga  
Ravenna  
Warrensville Hts.  
Dayton Belmont  
Ashville Teays Valley  
Columbus Beechcroft  
Columbus Watterson  
Readingus Centennial  
Dublin Jerome  
Youngstown Rayen

**MOVED FROM DIVISION II TO III**  
Akron East  
Mantua Crestwood  
Richfield Revere  
Defiance  
Springfield Shawnee  
Alliance Marlington  
Canton  
Carrollton  
Dresden Tri-Valley  
Whitehall-Young  
Campbell Memorial  
Cincinnati McNicholas  
Jackson  
Morrow Little Miami  
Norwood  
Akron Cent.-Howar

**MOVED FROM DIVISION III TO IV**  
Fairview Park Fairview  
Galion  
Oak Harbor  
Port Clinton  
Byesville Meadowbrook  
Canton Cent. Cath.  
Sheffield  
Cincinnati Purcell Marian  
Cincinnati Timken  
Cincinnati Wyoming  
Germantown Valley View  
Orwell Grand Valley  
Spring, Greenon  
Washington C.H. Washington

**MOVED FROM DIVISION IV TO III**  
Eastwood  
Eastwood Eastmoor  
Chagrin Falls  
Youngstown Liberty  
Avon  
Sheffield Brookside  
Urbana  
Granville  
Cincinnati Taft  
New Albany  
Cincinnati  
Spring, Kenton Ridge  
Troy  
Apple Creek Waynedale  
Atwater Waterloo  
Campbell Memorial  
Cleveland VASJ  
East Palestine  
Magnolia Sandy Valley  
Orwell Grand Valley  
West. Salem NW  
Castalia Margaretta  
Delta  
Mt. Gilead  
Stewart Federal Hocking  
Cincinnati Miami East  
Cincinnati Harmony Community  
Versailles  
Vandalia  
Waynesville  
Archbold  
Lorain Clearview  
Chillicothe Zane Trace  
Columbus Harmon  
Pataksala Licking Hts.  
Pikeston  
Middletown Fenwick  
Columbus Harmon-Monroe

**MOVED FROM DIVISION V TO VI**  
Columbiana  
Dalton  
Mineral Ridge



Ohio fisheries biologist Phil Hillman with an eight-pound steelhead.



A selection of multi-patterned steelhead trolling spoons.



Fishing guide Ron Johnson displays a 25-inch Lake Erie walleye taken off Fairport Harbor.

## GOLF

**NEC Invitational**  
WGC/PGA  
Akron; par 70

Tiger Woods	32-34-66
Vijay Singh	31-35-66
Henrik Stenson	32-32-66
Chris DiMarco	33-34-67
Davis Love III	32-35-67
Nick Dougherty	35-32-67
Stuart Appleby	35-33-68
Sergio Garcia	32-36-68
Nick O'Hern	33-35-68
Phil Mickelson	34-35-69
Chris Riley	36-33-69
Luke Donald	34-35-69
Mark Hensby	35-35-70
Zach Johnson	36-34-70
Colin Montgomerie	36-34-70
Kenny Perry	35-35-70
David Howell	35-35-70
Adam Scott	34-36-70
Thomas Bjorn	36-34-70
Kazuhiko Hosokawa	36-34-70
Sean O'Hair	34-36-70
Brent Geiberger	33-37-70
Marc Cayeux	34-37-71
John Daly	37-34-71
Rod Pampling	35-36-71
K.J. Choi	32-39-71
Fred Couples	34-37-71
Kenneth Ferrie	34-37-71
David Toms	36-35-71
Mike Weir	36-35-71
Paul McInley	36-37-71
Tim Clark	37-35-72
Niclas Fasth	37-35-72
Ted Purdy	37-35-72
Jose Maria Olazabal	36-37-72
Stewart Cink	35-37-72
Chad Campbell	38-34-72
Ryan Palmer	36-36-72
Steven King	35-37-72
Thomas Levet	35-37-72
Michael Campbell	35-37-72
Jim Furyk	36-37-72
Justin Leonard	36-37-72
Woody Austin	33-40-73
Ian Poulter	37-36-73
Thongchai Jaidee	39-34-73
Scott Verplank	36-37-73
Rory Sabbatini	37-36-73
Tom Lehman	37-36-73
Trevor Immelman	37-36-73
Lee Westwood	38-35-73
Stephen Ames	37-37-74
Stephen Gallacher	36-38-74
Stephen Dodd	36-38-74
Peter Lonard	37-37-74
Fred Funk	36-38-74
Geoff Ogilvy	37-37-74
Bart Bryant	36-38-74
Ben Crane	36-38-74
Shihei Maruyama	40-35-75
Paul Casey	40-35-75
Angel Cabrera	37-38-75
Padraig Harrington	36-35-75
Michael A. Jimenez	37-39-76
Darren Clarke	36-40-76
Richard Green	37-39-76
Jay Haas	36-38-76
Petef Goosen	43-36-77
Craig Parry	39-37-77
Jyoti Randhawa	40-39-79
Tim Petrovic	38-42-80

## Reno-Tahoe Open

**PGA**  
Reno, Nev.; par 72

Vaughn Taylor	32-32-64
Todd Fischer	34-31-65
Fredrick Jacobson	34-31-65
Guy Boros	33-33-66
Aaron Baddeley	35-32-67
Jesper Parnevik	31-36-67
Duffy Waldorf	34-33-67
Todd Hamilton	34-34-68
Craig Barlow	33-35-68
Paul Azinger	33-36-69
Kevin Na	34-35-69
Tag Ridings	36-33-69
Ben Curtis	35-34-69
Danny Briggs	35-34-69
Brendan Pappas	34-35-69
Matt Kuchar	33-36-69
Spike McRoy	34-35-69
Jonathan Kaye	35-34-69
Hidemichi Tanaka	35-35-70
Chameron Beckman	34-36-70
Carl Patterson	34-36-70
Ian Leggatt	34-36-70
John Huston	34-36-70
Frank Lickliter II	36-36-70
J.J. Henry	36-36-70
Andrew Magee	34-36-70
Spencer Levin	34-36-70
Kevin Letherland	35-35-70
Brian Gay	34-36-70
Steve Allan	37-37-70
Scott Hend	32-38-70
Grant Waite	36-35-71
Steve Jones	37-34-71
Dean Wilson	36-35-71
Skip Kendall	36-35-71
Richard S. Johnson	35-36-71
Chris Anderson	32-39-71
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## TENNIS

**Rogers Cup**  
WTA  
Toronto  
Singles, third round

Giisela Dulko (d. Svetlana Kuznetsova (3))	7-6 (3), 7-6 (8); Amelie Mauresmo (2) d. Conchita Martinez 6-0, 6-2; Anastasia Myskina (9) d. Shobuo Asagoe 7-6 (5), 7-5; Kim Clijsters (7) d. Ana Ivanovic (12) walkover; Nadia Petrova (6) d. Li Na 6-2, 3-0, retired; Justine Vaidisova d. Hana Sromova 6-2, 6-2; Nicole Pietrangeli (4) d. Zheng Jie 6-2, 6-4.
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**Hardinnequi Masters**  
ATP  
Mason, Ohio  
Singles, third round

Roger Federer (1) d. Olivier Rochus 6-3, 6-4; Lleyton Hewitt (3) d. Mario Ancic 6-1, 6-4; Marat Safin (4) d. Dominik Hrbaty 6-0, 6-2; Andy Roddick (5) d. Juan Ignacio Chela 7-6 (4), 6-2; Nikolay Davydenko (6) d. Fernando Gonzalez 6-3, 6-4; Mikhail Youzhny d. Gael Monfils 4-6, 6-1, 6-1; Robby Ginepri d. Carlos Moya 6-3, 6-4.
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## TRANSACTIONS

**BASEBALL**  
Major League Baseball

**MLB-Suspended** Texas RHP Kevin Grysinski three games and fined him an undisclosed amount for inappropriate actions after an Aug. 9 game.

**American League**  
**TEXAS RANGERS**-Recalled 1B Adrian Gonzalez from Oklahoma of the PCL. Optioned RHP Scott Feldman to Frisco of the Texas League.

**National League**  
**WASHINGTON NATIONALS**-Optioned OF Brandon Watson to New Orleans of the PCL. Purchased the contract of LHP John Halama from New Orleans.

**Midwest League**  
**FORT WAYNE WIZARDS**-Announced OF Matt Thayer has been assigned to the team from Lake Erie of the California League. Traded OF Brian Cavanaugh to Eugene of the Northwest League for RHP Neil Jamison.

**BASKETBALL**  
**National Basketball Association**  
**BOSTON CELTICS**-Signed F Ryan Gomes.  
**DEWIER NUGGETS**-Signed C Luke Schenscher.  
**MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES**-Signed G Anthony Roberson.  
**PHILADELPHIA 76ERS**-Signed G Charlie Bell to a multiyear contract.  
**PHILADELPHIA 76ERS**-Signed G Louis Williams to a multiyear contract.

**American Basketball Association**  
**BELLINGHAM SLAM**-Signed G Caleb Gervin.

**FOOTBALL**  
**National Football League**  
**CLEVELAND BROWNS**-Signed DB Ray Mickens to a one-year contract. Waived DL Kevin Barber.  
**JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS**-Waived S Ray Johnson.  
**PHILADELPHIA EAGLES**-Signed DE Darrell Lee. Released WR Grant Adams.  
**WASHINGTON REDSKINS**-Signed DB Charles Brumley.

**Canadian Football League**  
**HAMILTON TIGER-CATS**-Added DE Tim Cheatwood to the roster.  
**Arena Football League**  
**ARIZONA RATTLES**-Named Blake Edwards chief operating officer, Antoine Ibrahim director of communications and Scott Podleski director of ticket sales and services.

**HOCKEY**  
**National Hockey League**  
**CAROLINA HURRICANES**-Agreed to terms with F Josef Vasicek on a two-year contract.  
**INDIANA**-Announced information director and Scott Podleski director of ticket sales and services.  
**COLORADO AVALANCHE**-Re-signed D John-Michael Liles.  
**TOLEDO STORM**-Signed D Sino Pulkin.  
**NEW YORK RANGERS**-Signed F Garth Murray, F Chad Wiseman and F Jamie Lundmark.  
**PITTSBURGH PENGUINS**-Signed RW Michel Ouellet.  
**TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING**-Signed RW Jim Campbell, C Jason Jaspers and RW Norm Maclean. Re-signed G Brian Eklund.  
**WASHINGTON CAPITALS**-Re-signed F Darius Zubrus to a two-year contract and D Jean-Francois Fortin. Signed F Matt Bradley.

**ECHL**  
**CHARLOTTE CHECKERS**-Agreed to terms with F Nathan Gillies.  
**COLUMBIA INFERNOS**-Signed F Mike Meach.  
**IDaho STEELHEADS**-Signed D Sean Regan.  
**TOLEDO STORM**-Signed D Sino Pulkin.  
**WHEELING NAILERS**-Named Glenn Patrick coach.

**United Hockey League**  
**FORT WAYNE KOMETS**-Signed F Lance Galbraith, F David Carpenter, D Jeff White and D Damar Brucic.  
**COLLEGE**  
**CCNY**-Announced the resignation of Robert Pichardo, men's volleyball coach.  
**DARTMOUTH**-Named Wendy Levash women's rowing coach.  
**WAGNER**-Named Sean Raffille women's swimming coach and aquatic director.  
**C** Lucas Stejnig will transfer.  
**MAINE**-Named Steve Trimper baseball coach.

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN**-Named Matt Fenley associate athletic director for compliance and student services, Rob Meyers assistant athletic director for business affairs and James Dixon sports information director.  
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