

Fishing Report



The best angling information from area experts

■ **Maumee River:** After last weekend's cold, wind and nasty weather, coupled with fast and muddy water, things could only improve as we moved into the past week. As the weather got better, the fishing did as well, according to river watcher Joe Roecklein. He said there were full stringers and buckets of fish coming out of the river in the past few days, with minnows fished near the bottom working best since the muddy water made it tough for the white bass to see twister tails or spinners. As the weather warms and the water continues to clear, look for the action to only intensify. Roecklein expects another week or two of good fishing before the white bass retreat to the lake.

■ **Sandusky River:** The waterway is settling down after last weekend's cold snap and rain seemed to turn most of the fish off, and send the anglers scurrying for cover. The river is still a bit stained from all of the recent runoff, and the white bass fishing has been spotty the past few days with a few white perch and channel catfish mixed in the catch, according to Bernie Whitt at Anglers Supply bait shop in downtown Fremont. The warming temperatures and stable weather pattern should set up a weekend of productive fishing as the white bass run here moves into its final phase.

■ **Lake Erie:** The Ohio DNR reports that the best walleye fishing in recent days has taken place off the Crane Creek area, around the "A" and "B" cans of the Camp Perry firing range, near Niagara Reef, and around Green and Rattlesnake islands. Most anglers are trolling crankbaits or worm harnesses, while others are taking fish with the traditional casting approach with weight-forward spinners and mayfly rigs.

■ **Ohio Muskie Fishing:** The Fourth Annual Ohio Minnow Fund Muskie Outing was held on West Branch Reservoir near Ravenna last weekend, and Fred Lederer of Perrysburg finished second in the tournament with a 44-inch fish and a 31-inch fish. The anglers faced very harsh conditions with wind, rain, and cold, but managed to land muskies by trolling large crank baits over the top of the weed beds in shallow water. Jeff Clark's 44.75-inch fish was the top muskie in the tournament. The event, hosted by the Ohio

Husky Muskie Club, raised about \$1,500 that will be used to supply feeder fish for the state's muskie stocking program.

■ **Ohio Strip Mine Lakes:** Guide Corneilus Harris from Guru Outfitters knows the many lakes and ponds in the AEP area in southeastern Ohio better than anyone else on the planet and he reports an upward trend in largemouth bass fishing after a tough stretch last weekend. Harris said Wacky Rigged Senkos, which is simply a plastic worm hooked through the middle of its body, have been taking fish along the outside of the weed beds in 8-10 feet of water.

■ **Detroit River:** The Michigan DNR reports that anglers are continuing to take walleyes from this waterway, but the transition to the white bass run is in full swing. Anglers are having a tougher time getting their presentations in front of a walleye with thousands of white bass marauding through this river.

■ **Lake St. Clair:** The smallmouth bass have not yet pushed into the shallows in huge numbers but are present in enough concentrations to keep the action busy, according to guide Spencer Berman, who makes this lake his home for much of the year. Berman said his guides are seeing a lot of big fish, which is typical for this point in the season. He said the best action has been in 9-12 feet of water and tubes are producing more fish than other lures. Anglers are reminded that the bass season on the waters of Lake St. Clair is closed through June 18, meaning all bass must be immediately released.

■ **Irish Hills:** The blast of cold air this past weekend appeared to drive the bass that were in spawning mode off the beds, while also putting the brakes on the panfish action, according to reports from anglers who worked the lakes in this region early this week. With our improving weather should come an uptick in angler activity, and success rates. Bass anglers should work the shallow flats and traditional spawning areas, with a reminder that everything they catch goes back in the lake. In Michigan, the bass season is closed on all waters through May 28, meaning all bass must be immediately released.