

# Fishing Report



## The best angling information from area experts

■ **Lake Erie/Ohio:** With the walleye gorging themselves on the robust mayfly hatch, the fishing has been spotty in most areas, with the best walleye fishing found north of West Sister Island, between Niagara Reef and "C" can, and around the Gull Island and Kelleys Island shoals. The approach has not changed — spoons and worm harnesses for the trollers, with the casters using mayfly rigs or weight forward spinners. Anglers in pursuit of yellow perch have found fish between Rattlesnake and South Bass islands, near Ballast Island, and off the Marblehead Lighthouse, while fishing just off the bottom with spreaders dressed with emerald shiners. The smallmouth bass fishermen have had the most success around North Bass Island, using drop-shot rigs, tube jigs and crankbaits.

■ **Lake Erie/Michigan:** The Michigan DNR reports that finding actively feeding schools of walleye has been tough during this period of frequent insect hatches, but anglers have been able to connect with some fish in 25 to 28 feet of water off Stony Point and Fermi, and in 18 to 22 feet of water in Brest Bay. Bottom-bouncing crawler harnesses and trolling spoons have been the most effective lures, with fire tiger and purple being the more productive colors. The best yellow perch fishing on the Michigan end of the lake has been found on occasion in 16 to 20 feet of water in Brest Bay.

■ **Tip of the week:** Don't hesitate to experiment with different offerings when fishing for Lake Erie walleye during the mayfly hatch. The luremakers at Thundermist suggest trying their Bucktail Flexi Jigs, which closely mimic the movements of a mayfly struggling to get to the surface. Their in-line drop-shot Teaser-T also resembles an insect in the water, spins 360 degrees, and its dual swivels prevent line twist and allow for a more natural presentation.

■ **Maumee River:** A recent survey of the river's primary fishing zones found very little angler presence, according to Joe Roecklein, who has made patrolling the riverbanks his daily route since retiring in the

area. With so few fishermen, there is little to report other than the diligent work by our river watcher, and the religious catfish anglers who are still at it. They will catch a few in the traditional target areas, using heavy gear and the standard array of baits, but even the cats don't come easy these days. You have to believe a good rain and an injection of fresh water would bring about a change in the pattern.

■ **Sandusky River:** Catfish are the target of choice for many river anglers in the dog days of summer, and those fishermen working the deeper holes in the waterway, especially the holes located below a run of moving water, have had success in the evening and after-dark hours. Cats are biting on worms, minnows fished just off the bottom, and stink baits.

■ **Ohio Strip Mine Lakes:** Guide Cornelius Harris from Guru Outfitters reports the largemouth bass bite is strong in the AEP complex of more than 300 lakes and ponds in southeastern Ohio. The big bass are falling for top-water presentations in the early morning and late evening hours, and for a variety of soft baits fished along the breaks and near the submerged timber.

■ **Lake St. Clair:** The Michigan DNR reports that muskies are being taken in the area around the Selfridge launch by anglers trolling crankbaits and bucktail spinners, while in the Anchor Bay region of the lake casters were catching muskies with jerk baits and in-line spinners. The best smallmouth fishing has been found along the shoreline between the Selfridge launch and the Brandenburg launch by anglers tossing crankbaits.

■ **Irish Hills:** The summer transition appears to be under way in the lakes in this picturesque region as the bluegills have moved off of their beds and are staging in 4-7 feet of water. It takes some persistence to locate the fish, but a good chunk of a limit is possible, using worms or live crickets. The trickier deep-water phase of summer bluegill fishing is likely a week or so off, according to the most veteran observers.