Written by Jim Metcalfe Friday, June 21, 2013 11:50 PM -



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Weekly Fish Ohio Fishing Report

CENTRAL OHIO

Big Darby Creek (Franklin/Madison counties) - A float trip on or wading a creek on summer days is a great way to stream fish in central Ohio. Smallmouth bass can be caught in stream pools using crankbaits that simulate crawfish or on plastic tubes and creature baits; target any cover you see, including wood, water-current changes, eddies and shady areas. Rock bass are fun to catch and plentiful in Ohio streams; this aggressive fish is often caught while fishing for smallmouth bass. Others species to catch include crappie, carp, saugeye and catfish.

Indian Lake (Logan County) - This 5,040-acre lake located 1 hour NW of Columbus is one of the best saugeye lakes in central Ohio; these are being taken by trolling crankbaits and worm harnesses close to Moundwood, Dream Bridge and the South Bank areas. Largemouth bass are being caught using spinner baits, tubes and crankbaits around shoreline cover and in the channels. Bluegill can still be found in shallow water using wax worms under a bobber.

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NORTHWEST OHIO

Fostoria Reservoir #6 (Hancock County) - Veterans Memorial Reservoir is situated 2 miles SW of Fostoria, right off SR 12 on Washington Township Road 218; it has a surface area of 157 acres and was built with structural modifications to increase the production and harvest of fish, including fishing reefs, spawning shelves and a stump area. Right now, bluegill are biting in the early afternoons; try near the dock using wax worms under a bobber. Boats are allowed on the reservoir but with a 9.9-HP motor restriction.

Huron River (Huron County) - Smallmouth and rock bass are being caught below the dam on SR 20 in Monroeville using minnows and a bobber. The black bass season in the Lake Erie Sport Fishing District applies below the dam. — May 1 to June 28, these are illegal to possess.

Defiance City Reservoir (Defiance County) - This site is located at the intersection of Canal and Kibble roads, on the west side of Defiance. A boat ramp is located on the northwest corner; only electric motors are allowed. This reservoir was constructed in 2007 and stocked in 2008 with yellow perch, walleye, saugeye, bluegill, largemouth bass and channel catfish. Right now, nice stringers of 7- to 9-inch bluegill are being caught. Saugeye are also biting well, although their size has been on the small side of 9-12 inches.

NORTHEAST OHIO

Pymatuning Lake (Ashtabula County) - Who loves themselves some perchin? Pymatuning Lake has excellent opportunity to put some perch on ice; anglers are not only catching numbers but they are also catching good-sized perch. Most are being caught in less than 10 feet of water; anglers are doing really well casting small jigs with a piece of nightcrawler.

Portage Lakes (Summit County) - Channel catfish continue to be caught on the bottom here; anglers are doing best around dusk and chicken liver has been the bait of choice. A few anglers have found a successful pattern for catching bass but it has been a tough spring overall for them. Anglers that are looking to put some sunfish in coolers should continue to have success; these are still being caught in very shallow water on pin-mins tipped with a wax worm fished under a bobber.

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SOUTHEAST OHIO

Dillon Reservoir (Muskingum County) - Channel catfish have been biting well over the last couple of weeks; try live bait and chicken liver on the bottom. The sunfish bite will continue to slow with the warming temperatures but they can still be caught; try worms or small crappie jigs in 1-5 feet of water. Largemouth bass may be harder to catch this time of year but they can still be caught if you know where to look; try soft plastics fished around structure anywhere from the boat ramp on SR 146 to the dam.

Lake Rupert [Wellston Reservoir] (Vinton County) - Nice catches of bluegill can be found in this 327-acre lake; wax worms are generally the most successful but minnows seem to target larger fish. The channel catfish bite should be in full swing right now and night-fishing can be a fun alternative to the bright and hot sun of daytime fishing; try chicken livers, nightcrawlers, or cut bait fished on the bottom..

SOUTHWEST OHIO

Paint Creek Lake (Highland County) - Crappie can be caught using curly tails, small spinner baits or live minnows; white or chartreuse are good color choices for artificial lures under a slip bobber about 5-6 feet deep. Cast into areas with submerged trees and brush; you may also be successful with minnows under a bobber. Bluegill and sunfish can be taken using red/wax worms under a slip bobber about 3-4 feet deep; look for good fishing in areas with woody debris, such as fallen trees or over-hanging brush. For channel catfis, try chicken livers, crayfish, stink bait, or night crawlers 5-6 feet deep in the area beneath the dam; fish along the rocky bottom areas. If you're after largemouth bass, try jigs with plastic bodies, spinner baits, small top-water lures, or plastic worms colored black or pumpkinseed about 4-5 feet deep; cast into area with woody debris and fish slowly along the bottom.

East Fork Lake (Clermont County) - Crappie are being taken by using live minnows under a slip bobber between 12-15 feet deep; cast into areas with submerged trees and brush, as well as around the island, Saddle Dam, and near the beaches. For largemouth bass, try plastic chartreuse-, black-, or green-colored worms on a Texas rig, or plastic lizards about 4-5 feet deep; cast into areas with submerged trees or brush. Channel catfish are being caught using chicken livers, cut bait or soft crayfish under a bobber and off of the bottom; a good location is

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off of Tunnel Mill. Hybrid-striped bass are being caught in shallow water 1-3 feet deep by fishing with chicken liver or nightcrawlers just off of the bottom.

OHIO RIVER

Pike Island Lock/Dam - Early mornings may be the best time to get out and take advantage of the cooler temperatures. For sauger, try 1/8- to 3/8-oz. jugs and minnows fished plain or jigs and twister tails with white, chartreuse, or pearl servings. Fishing for channel and flathead catfish always starts picking up about mid-June; try cut skipjack or mooneyes. In the past, anglers have had success catching smallmouth/white bass and sauger by wading off the gravel bar below the fishing pier and using live baits.

Western Ohio River and Cincinnati (Clermont/Hamilton counties) - Channel catfish are being taken in good numbers all along the river; try chicken livers, shrimp, or nightcrawlers fished on the bottom. Frozen skipjack are the choice for blue cat fishing.

LAKE ERIE

Regulations to Remember: The daily bag limit for walleye on Ohio waters of Lake Erie is 6 fish per angler; the minimum size limit is 15 inches. ... The daily bag limit for yellow perch is 30 fish per angler on all Ohio waters of Lake Erie. ... The trout and salmon daily bag limit is 5 through August 31; minimum size limit is 12 inches. ... Black bass (largemouth/smallmouth) fishing is closed to possession (no harvest) through Friday; June 29, the daily bag limit returns to 5 fish per angler with a 14" minimum size limit.

Western Basin: Walleye fishing was excellent over the past week (as of Tuesday). The best areas were West Sister Island, West Reef and Northwest Reef (W of North Bass Island), E of Gull Island Shoal and Kelleys Island. Trollers have been catching fish on worm harnesses or with divers and spoons; drifters are using worm harnesses with bottom-bouncers or are casting mayfly rigs. ... Yellow perch fishing was good over the past week (as of Tuesday). The best

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areas have been around the Toledo water intake, the northern cans (A, B and C) of the Camp Perry firing range, SW of Green Island, 4 miles off of East Harbor, around Kelleys Island Shoal and 2 miles E of the Kelleys Island airport; perch-spreaders with shiners fished near the bottom produce the most fish. ... Smallmouth Bass fishing has been very good around South Bass Island; anglers are using soft-craws, tube jigs and crankbaits.

Central Basin: Walleye fishing has been good on Ruggles Reef, at the weather buoy, on the sandbar, nearshore from Sheffield to Avon Point, in 65' of water N of Rocky River and in 60-62' of water N of Edgewater Park. Fishing has been excellent in 35-55' of water NW of Fairport Harbor, in 68-70' of water N of the Geneva and in 65' of water NW of Ashtabula; anglers are trolling dipsy/jet divers and inline weights, with worm harnesses and spoons. ... Yellow perch fishing has been good off of Beaver Creek and Lorain in 25-30' of water, in 38-40' of water N of Gordon Park, in 32' of water NE of Wildwood State Park and in 50-53' of water NW of Fairport Harbor. Fishing has been excellent in 48' of water NE of the Ashtabula and in 30-45' of water NE of Conneaut; spreaders with shiners fished near the bottom produce the most fish. ... Smallmouth bass fishing has been very good in 15-25' of water around harbor areas in Cleveland, Fairport Harbor, Geneva, Ashtabula and Conneaut. Largemouth bass are also being caught in the same areas; anglers are using soft-craws, leeches, tube jigs and crankbaits. ... Channel catfish have been very good along the Grand River using chicken livers and large chubs. ... The water temperature is 68 degrees off of Toledo and 61 degrees off of Cleveland, according to the nearshore marine forecast. ... Anglers are encouraged to always wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device while boating.

4-H hosting shooting program

GIBSONBURG — The 4-H Shooting Sports Program has been set for July 8 at Sandusky County Sportsman's Club, 3950 St. Rt. 600, Gibsonburg.

This half-hour program will start at 6:30 p.m. and is open to registered 4-H members only. It involves Archery, Shotgun, Rifle, Pistol, Muzzleloader and Living History Projects.

It is not wheelchair-accessible.

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Contact Mary Ann Miller at 419-547-6033 or via e-mail at mamiller@woh.rr.com.

SAFE sign-up continues

COLUMBUS — Sign-up continues for landowners and operators in designated geographical areas throughout Ohio to have the opportunity to offer cropland for enrollment in a Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) pheasant practice entitled State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), also known as CP38E-4D, operated by the Ohio Farm Service Agency (FSA).

This is for all or portions of the following counties: Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Clinton, Darke, Defiance, Fayette, Fulton (partial), Hardin, Highland (partial), Huron, Knox, Logan, Madison, Marion (partial), Morrow, Paulding, Pickaway, Ross (partial), Seneca, Shelby, Union and Wyandot (partial).

Pheasant SAFE utilizes a wildlife management practice specifically developed by conservation organizations and agencies located within Ohio to establish and restore habitats to support declining populations of game bird species. The program specifically targets declining pheasant and quail populations in areas of greatest impact.

Offers for enrollment in Pheasant SAFE practices may be made at any of the above FSA county offices in which the land is located. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers under this practice are not subject to competitive bidding; however, Ohio is limited to enrollment up to 28,700 acres on a first-come, first-served basis. The applicant may elect a contract period between 10-15 years. Pheasant SAFE allows for enrollment of whole fields.

Typically, CP38E-4D practices receive a Signing Incentive Payment equal to \$100 per acre,

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50% cost share assistance for eligible practice establishment costs, a Practice Incentive Payment equal to about 40% of eligible establishment costs and annual rental payments. Annual rental payments are calculated using soil rental rates, which are similar to cash rent rates.

Technical assistance will be provided by federal, state and private professionals to help participants select proper seed species, locate practice areas and establish and manage the practice cover. Seed mixes for the practice cover will be specifically designed to attract and benefit pheasants and other grassland species.

For more information on Ohio's Pheasant SAFE project, visit your local FSA county office or go online to read the factsheet at: www.fsa.usda.gov/oh.