Fish Ohio

Written by Nancy Spencer Saturday, May 11, 2013 12:31 AM - Last Updated Saturday, May 11, 2013 12:31 AM

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DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Weekly Fish Ohio Fishing Report!

CENTRAL OHIO

Alum Creek Lake (Delaware County) - This 3,192-acre lake north of Columbus is now a good bet for crappie, white bass and channel catfish. Fishing jigs and minnows suspended by a float around woody cover in the upper end of the lake and in coves is a good way to catch crappie; these must be 9 inches-plus to keep. Use minnows, jigs and small spinners in the upper end of the lake north of Howard Road when seeking white bass, which are also available in the creek itself (at Kilbourne). The area above Howard Road has good numbers of channel catfish; use cut shad for best results.

Rush Creek Lake (Fairfield County) - Fish this small, secluded lake northeast of Lancaster for crappie, largemouth bass and channel catfish. Crappies are located around woody structure; try minnows or crappie jigs suspended under a bobber for the best success. As water temperatures warm, fish will move into shallower water. Largemouth bass can be caught using creature and tube baits around woody stickups. For catfish, fish the east end of the lake around woody cover using nightcrawlers and cut bait for the best results Outboard motors are limited to 10 HP or less.

NORTHWEST OHIO

Blanchard River (Hardin County) - Smallmouth bass are biting throughout the day; try below the Township Road 183 bridge. Anglers have been having the best success on light-colored rooster tails. As with most river fishing this time of year, success is highly influenced by levels.

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Ferguson Reservoir (Allen County) - Crappie have been biting at this 305-acre site located on Reservoir Road on the east side of Lima. Anglers have been having the best success in the mornings and evenings; try along the east/north bank near the boat ramp with jigs or slip bobbers with minnows or wax worms underneath. The reservoir has a primitive boat ramp and boats are restricted to electric motors. Norwalk Reservoir #2 (Huron County) - Located southeast of the city of Norwalk on Old State Road and SR 18, 2 miles north of SR 250, crappie, yellow perch and bluegill should be biting now; try the structure located along the south bank using slip bobbers tipped with wax worms and minnows. There is a boat ramp located on the south bank; however, boats must be registered with the city and owners must pay an annual fee. Boats are limited to electric motors only.

Maumee River — Water temperature is 63 degrees; the water level is at normal levels and clarity is average. Bluegrass Island is accessible at this time. Fishing effort is medium, with anglers still catching a few limits of walleye at this time, though the run is winding down. The white bass fishing is still picking up and good numbers are being caught; anglers use jigs, spinners or worms fished under a bobber all over the river. Sandusky River: Water temperature is 63 degrees; water level is normal and clarity is average to good. Fishing effort is high. Walleye fishing is slow; anglers may still find some in the river for the next week or so but the run is over. White bass fishing is excellent — the run is near its peak — with large numbers being caught; anglers use jigs, spinners or worms fished under a bobber, with all areas of the river producing good numbers of large fish.

For both rivers: Do NOT keep any walleye shorter than 15 inches and the bag limit is now 6 fish; please take a ruler with you. Black bass cannot be possessed until June 28th.

For local information for the Maumee River, call the Perrysburg Chamber of Commerce (419-874-9147); for the Sandusky River, call the Sandusky County Visitors Bureau (419-332-4470).

For fishing report info, check the Ohio DOW web page at www.wildohio.com or call: 800-WILDLIFE, 800-BUCKEYE, 888-HOOKFISH or Wildlife District Two at 419-424-5000.

NORTHEAST OHIO

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Portage Lakes (Summit County) - Bass are in various stages of spawning at this popular chain. Pre-spawn fish are moving into near-shore weedbeds, where they can be caught on soft plastics such as tube jigs and lizards; these can be located visually on their beds, while post-spawn fish will move to drop-offs near spawning habitat to recover. Don't be afraid to try bigger baits at this time of year to tempt larger fish.

LaDue Reservoir (Geauga County) - The bite has been hot for a variety of species at this picturesque, electric-motors-only lake. Crappie have been biting well near the causeways, taking minnows under a bobber or on perch rigs fished off the bottom. Walleye are turning on as well, taking trolled crankbaits. The walleye population has one of the best size-structures in the area, so look for them to run larger than average. Northern Pike are also occasionally being caught; try large spinner/crank baits, or minnow baits for these toothy predators. Finally, sunfish are moving near to the shoreline; the classic bobber and worm rig is producing good catches near fallen trees and other cover.

Highlandtown Lake (Columbiana County) - Anglers are encountering good numbers of spawning bass at this wildlife-area lake; try spinnerbaits and bass jigs (brown/black and blue) at the western end, near lilly pads and flooded timber. Consider using braided line to horse bass out of this heavy cover. Downstream, probing structure such as points and the submerged road bed can also pay off. Channel catfish have also been active here, often surprising crappie or sunfish anglers fishing minnows and worms.

SOUTHEAST OHIO

Lake White (Pike County) - As the temperatures warm, anglers can expect good catches of bluegill in the 333-acre lake; try trolling a small spinner bait, which can help you cover a larger area in a shorter time and hopefully lead you to where the fish are congregated, then set up in that location. However, a simple worm fished under a bobber in about 2 feet of water in the cove area should be successful. Channel cats can also be found by fishing worms and cut bait on the bottom; the area near the park office has been a hotspot in recent years.

Dow Lake (Athens County) - Anglers are still reeling in rainbow trout by the dam and near the beach area on artificial baits. Don't limit yourself; there are lots of options that can prove successful for these trout: corn, cheese, small spinners and prepared baits. Crappie have also

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been biting; these active fish have a varied diet, so don't limit yourself to one type of bait presentation. A popular rig is a small grub or minnow below a slip bobber which can be vertically jigged. Crappie have a thin mouth, so use a light rod and a light line so you can set the hook properly without pulling it out.

SOUTHWEST OHIO

East Fork Lake (Clermont County) - Anglers are reporting success on crappie using minnows and jigs with tubes; try chartreuse and white color patterns. They are generally being taken in 18-24 inches of water around structure, fallen trees and in the coves. Rocky Fork Lake (Highland County) - Anglers are reporting decent saugeye fishing; try crankbaits or troll with a Shad-Rap. Crappies are hitting between 3-4 feet; use black or chartreuse jigs and minnows. Bass are being taken with crankbaits in water 2-6 feet in depth.

OHIO RIVER

Racine Dam Area - Sauger, white bass and hybrid-striped bass can all be caught this time of year. Spinners and jigs can both be successful; white, pearl, chartreuse, orange and yellow twister tails have all been popular in recent years. Brown and Clermont counties - Fishing activity has been picking up. Sauger, white bass and hybrid-striped bass are all being caught. Spinners and jigs have both been successful; white, pearl, chartreuse, orange and yellow twister tails all seem to be popular.

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 2 fish per angler through Wednesday and increases to 5 through August 31; the minimum size limit is 12 inches. ... Black bass (largemouth and smallmouth bass) fishing is closed to possession (no harvest) through June 28; on June 29, the daily bag limit returns to 5 fish per angler with a 14" minimum size limit.

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Western Basin

Walleye fishing was excellent at times over the past week (as of Tuesday). The best areas were W of South Bass Island, between Middle Bass and North Bass islands, N of North Bass Island and N of Kelleys Island. Trollers have been catching fish on crankbaits and worm harnesses; jigging has slowed down on the reefs and W of the reefs as the spawning season is ending. ... Yellow perch have been caught N of Kelleys Island; perch-spreaders with shiners fished near the bottom produce the most fish.

Central Basin

Walleye have been caught nearshore off Cleveland after 6 p.m. and at night in 10-15' of water using rapalas, husky jerks and reef runners. ... Yellow perch fishing has been fair to average in 36-50' of water N of Gordon Park in Cleveland, in 36' of water N of the Fairport Harbor lighthouse, in 38' of water N of the Ashtabula lighthouse and also NW of Ashtabula in 60' of water; perch-spreaders with shiners fished near the bottom produce the most fish. Shore fishing has been spotty in the Cleveland area and off the Fairport Harbor Pier; anglers are using spreaders with shiners and the mornings have been best. ... Smallmouth bass is picking up in 15-25' of water around harbor areas in Cleveland, Fairport Harbor, Geneva, Ashtabula and Conneaut; anglers are using drop-shot rigs with rubber worms, soft-craws, leeches, tube jigs and crank baits. ... The water temperature is 56 degrees off of Toledo and 45 degrees off of Cleveland, according to the nearshore marine forecast.