

Fishing Report



The best angling information from area experts

■ **Maumee River:** The big cats are being seduced from the depths of the river by Martin and Bob Modrowski, who on a recent evening outing landed a half dozen flatheads. The biggest of the bunch went 30 pounds, and four others were 15 pounds or heavier. Team Modrowski keeps its favorite fishing holes a secret, for good reason, but all of the cats were released to be wrestled with another day.

■ **Maumee Fly Fishing:** Guide Hunter Hayes reports that the fishing got tougher when the water started to rise as a result of heavier rains further up the watershed. Hayes expects the river to be ideal by the weekend, and he recommends throwing red or white poppers, clouser minnows, or any crawfish imitation to hook up with smallmouth throughout the Maumee River system. Hayes says fishing the slack water near rapids or faster moving water will produce more fish and bigger fish. If carp are the target, he suggests crawfish and sculpin patterns, because the fish are done spawning and are in full feeding mode.

■ **Sandusky River:** The waterway pretty much belongs to the catfish anglers, with shrimp, night crawlers, or minnows locating cats in the holes in the evening and after-dark hours. Small spinners and jigs with twister tails are working for those anglers chasing the river's smallmouth bass and crappies.

■ **Lake Erie:** The pros at Netcraft report that walleye anglers have been picking up fish trolling and casting harnesses in the areas both north and west of West Sister Island. They also relay news of decent success off the humps along the shipping channel on the Michigan side of the line, and near the turnaround buoy. They suggest using two smaller blades on a harness to mimic an emerging mayfly when casting or drifting, while trollers will do best with #5 blades or Stinger style trolling spoons.

■ **Tip of the week:** When considering the right colors for the beads and blades on your wall-

eye harnesses, the experts at Netcraft suggest using orange, chartreuse, and green. In low light conditions, they recommend going to darker colors, such as blue or purple.

■ **Lake Erie Webcam:** Anglers can now get a live feed on both the weather conditions and the fishing prospects out on the lake since Captain Dave Gwin of Hawg'n Charters has installed a live Internet camera on his boat. Gwin joined with Dave Cremer and the Lake Erie informational website www.ilakeerie.com to put the rig in place, so when the boat is working, the camera will be on and anyone can tune in for a live report.

■ **Ohio Muskies:** Perrysburg's Fred Lederer worked as a volunteer at the recent Wounded Warrior Project muskie fishing outing at Alum Creek Reservoir in Delaware, sponsored by the Central Ohio Chapter of Muskies Inc. Lederer got to guide two vets, and one of his anglers got the thrill of landing a muskie.

■ **Lake St. Clair:** The Michigan DNR reports that muskies are being caught around the Selfridge launch by anglers trolling hard-body baits and bucktail spinners. Muskie fishermen are also picking up a lot of northern pike. The shoreline between the Selfridge and Branderburg launches has been producing smallmouth bass for anglers casting crankbaits, and fly fishermen using clouser minnows.

■ **St. Clair River:** The north and middle channels have been productive for walleye anglers trolling the areas with crawler harnesses, according to the Michigan DNR.

■ **Walleye Tournament:** The West Sister Charter Boat Association will hold its 26th Annual Walleye Tournament on August 7 out of Meinke Marina, located off Corduroy Road. The event will have both casting and trolling divisions this year, with five-man teams in the casting division, and four-man teams in the trolling division. For information and registration, contact Rick Ferguson at 419-836-5264.