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# THE Bucket

VOLUME 19 • ISSUE # 8  
AUGUST 2022

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## PFBC QUARTERLY MEETING

*The PFBC held a quarterly meeting on July 26th in Harrisburg and here are some bits and pieces of interest from the meeting:*

From July 2-4, PFBC Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs) joined other conservation law enforcement agencies across the country to participate in Operation Dry Water, a nationally coordinated effort aimed at preventing boating accidents and fatalities through education and enhanced Boating Under the Influence (BUI) enforcement. This operation resulted in 12 BUI arrests across the Commonwealth.

There have been seven recreational boating fatalities in Pennsylvania so far in 2022. Five victims were not wearing a life jacket.

The PFBC Board elected Robert B.J. Small from District 6 of Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, as President replacing Richard (Rick) Kauffman, District 8 Commissioner from Leesport, Berks County.

William Gibney of Honesdale, Wayne County, was elected as Vice President. Gibney, who serves as District 7 Commissioner, representing Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming counties, replaces Small as Vice President. Both Small and Gibney will serve one-year terms through July 2023.

The Board voted to amend regulations pertaining to snatch fishing, foul hooking, and snag fishing (58 Pa. Code § 63.9Opens In A New Window). Over the last several years, anglers have asked the PFBC whether devices such as trout beads are a legal device for use in Commonwealth waters. These devices consist of a small bead that sits several inches above the hook and generally hook a fish on the outside of the mouth. Under the current regulations, any fish not hooked inside the mouth must be released. Under this change, regulations would be amended to include language that clarifies that devices such as trout beads are permitted so long as the eye of the hook is no more than two inches below the device. The amendment will go into effect upon publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Commissioners voted to amend regulations pertaining to the unlawful taking of fish using nets. In recent years, WCOs have noticed an increase in individuals using nets to attempt to take fish. Under this change, the Pennsylvania Code (58 Pa. Code

§ 63.5Opens In A New Window) will be amended to include new language prohibiting the “attempt to take fish” using unauthorized fishing methods. This change is in response to issues during the steelhead run in the Lake Erie tributaries but would have application in other areas of the state. For consistency, similar language exists in 58 Pa. Code § 63.9Opens In A New Window which regulates snatch fishing, foul hooking, and snag fishing. The amendment will go into effect upon publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Commissioners voted to amend regulations pertaining to officially recognized fish cleaning stations (58 Pa. Code § 63.15aOpens In A New Window). To assist in properly identifying fish species that have already been processed at a non-commercial fish cleaning station, under this amendment, anglers will be required to keep a two-inch-by-two-inch piece of skin on fish fillets and prohibit the chunking of the fillets into pieces. This amendment will go into effect upon publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Commissioners voted to approve changes to fire extinguisher regulations for recreational motorboats. This change, which will bring PFBC regulations in line with updated U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) rules, will not change which motorboats are required to have fire extinguishers on board, but relieves these recreational vessels from certain inspection, maintenance, and recordkeeping requirements that are more suited for commercial vessels. The change would also establish that portable fire extinguishers, when required to be carried on recreational motorboats, shall be maintained in “good and serviceable” condition, which is consistent with language in the USCG rules. These changes will go into effect January 1, 2023.

The Board voted to approve additional funding for an Erie Access Improvement Grant to the Erie-Western PA Port Authority for the construction of the Lampe Marina Fish Cleaning Station along Lake Erie, Erie County. While the PFBC originally awarded the grantee \$150,000 in April 2021, it was determined that an additional \$100,000 was required to complete the project and planned improvements to the design. The revised grant amount includes costs for a larger concrete pad for a second fish cleaning table, water service, wastewater drains, adding a building roof and enclosure with sidewalls to the refrigeration building, and a

chain link fence to secure the facility. Board approval of grant funding is required under the Erie Access Improvement Program when funding exceeds \$100,000 per year.

**(Note: According to EWPPA staff the fish cleaning station at Lampe Marina will not be completed until next spring)**

The Board voted to approve additional funding for an Erie Access Improvement Grant to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy for stabilization of the streambank and construction of habitat improvements on their property along Elk Creek. The PFBC originally awarded the grantee funding in the amount of \$200,000 in October 2018. Due to increased materials and fuel costs, the Conservancy is requesting an additional \$150,000 for the project to take advantage of the current lowest bid for the project. The Conservancy must proceed with construction in 2022 to retain other key grants they have secured for the project. Board approval of grant funding is required under the Erie Access Improvement Program when funding exceeds \$100,000 per year.

### **Public Access and Real Estate**

The Board voted to authorize the acquisition of a property easement along Crooked Creek located in Springfield Township, Erie County. Utilizing funds from the PFBC's Erie Access Improvement Program, and pending due diligence, the PFBC will pay \$85,000 to the Young Men's Christian Association of Youngstown to obtain public fishing and boating access and riparian and fishery management rights on 4,990 linear feet along Crooked Creek. Crooked Creek provides significant steelhead fishing opportunities in the area.

Commissioners voted to authorize the acquisition of a property easement along Elk Creek, Erie County. Utilizing funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation

Service (NRCS) Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP), and pending due diligence, the PFBC will pay \$14,000 to the property owner to obtain public fishing and boating access and riparian and fishery management rights on 860 linear feet along Elk Creek. Elk Creek provides significant steelhead fishing opportunities in the area.

To see the more details from the meeting go to the PFBC web site at <https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/fish-and-boat-commission-details.aspx?newsid=461>

## **THE HOLDING TANKS AT THE SONS HATCHERY**

were recently resurfaced with a special epoxy paint by Beals Paint Co. at a cost of \$6400.



## **SCIENTISTS WORK TO UNDERSTAND THE CAUSE OF EARTHQUAKES IN LAKE ERIE**

*By Capri S. Cafaro Great Lakes Now -- July 29, 2022*

In the first six weeks of 2022, seven earthquakes were recorded in the eastern basin of Lake Erie. Over 200 earthquakes have been recorded since 1776 in Ohio, mostly around Lake Erie.

Seismic activity rarely exceeds 3.5 magnitude, but there have been a few earthquakes that have eclipsed 4.0. In 2019, for example, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources detected a 4.2 magnitude earthquake off Lake Erie. It was the 5th earthquake to break 4.0 in Ohio since 1986.

Scientists are working on figuring out why.

Our Commentary – At this time there is a movement to put wind turbine towers into Lake Erie. These earthquakes cause us to question these plans. There are several reasons for our concern:

1. There are miles and miles of salt mines under Lake Erie's bottom between Cleveland and Mentor Ohio.
2. For decades the Hammermill Paper Co. which was located in Erie pumped millions of gallons of toxic waste into the shale under the Lake
3. The floor of Lake Erie is coated with toxic sediment which resulted from over a hundred years of pollution which entered our Lake

These wind turbine towers are typically several hundred feet tall requiring deep foundations which will be accomplished by drilling deep into the Lake bottom.

Could this construction disturb the sediment? Could low frequency vibrations from the turbines cause more and severe tremors breaking open the salt mines or causing the toxic waste from Hammermill to contaminate our waters? All these questions need to be answered before the plans to place them in Lake Erie go any further. Is it worth the risk?

# 2022 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Our 2022 Volunteer Appreciation picnic was held on Monday August 1, 2022 at Shade's Beach. There were 115 volunteers in attendance (this include 10 former officers or directors) who had volunteered in our club activities more than 3 times. All of the guests were given updated SONS of Lake Erie T-shirts. Below are a few of the many photos taken by Tom Pruzenski at the picnic. To see the rest of them visit our web site at [sonsoflakeerie.org](http://sonsoflakeerie.org).



## TEAM LUBAK DID IT AGAIN

Ron Lubak, our former club president and longtime director who recently passed away, enlisted his family members to put on a volunteers picnic every year for 25 years. Ron had an outstanding ability to organize and plan, and he put that ability to use to provide enjoyable experiences for our volunteers.

In spite of Ron's death the Lubak family volunteered to continue with the tradition. Ron's son, Kevin Lubak, was appointed by our board of directors to finish out his dad's term. Following in his footsteps, Kevin again enlisted the help of his family and produced a great picnic.

This year our food was provided by Teresa's Deli located at West 32nd and Greengarden Blvd.

We offer our sincere appreciation to Kevin and the Lubak family. Your dad would be so proud!



*Kevin Lubak and his family hard at work in the kitchen at the picnic pavilion at Shade's beach at our August 1st Volunteer Appreciation picnic.*

## OUR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

If you like to help up out with our activities you know that we ask that you sign in. We take these sign in sheets and add up total amount of times that each of you have come to help out. Since August of 2021 to August 1, 2022 our volunteers have signed in more than 600 times. If you take 4 hours as the average amount of time each person spends per sign in, it adds up to more than 2400 hours. There was a total of 34 separate sign in days.

There were 150 individuals who gave generously of their time and efforts to make our club the success that it has been. We keep a total for each volunteer and we can see who gave the most of their time.

When the tally was completed we found that there were 38 volunteers that came to work 8 times or more. Of that group the volunteer that spent the most time at work for the club was Joe Springer who signed in 94 times. The next in line was Jack Bock followed by Don Tombaugh, John Krupinski, Ron Morrow and Bob Zawadzki. Coincidentally these prior five

dedicated individuals are members of our hatchery committee which is our longest and most time consuming project lasting for about 7 months each year.

The following volunteers responded to our calls for workers more than 8 times in order of most to least: Mary Runser, Rich Brine, Larry Lipinski, Ralph Friend, Bert Camp, Jim Christensen, Herb Kightlinger, Rich Cass, Jack Klaphor, Mildred Kightlinger, Tom Nichols, Tom Pruzenski, Jack Hartman, Dave Miller, Chuck Miller, Keith Cauvel, Bill Joslin, Doug Smith, Katie Krupinski, Doug Vest, Buddy Yurcak, Mike Felege, Bill Henderson, Paul Holtz, Mike Kabasinski, Ed Kissell, John Kovach, Kevin Lubak, Ken Minns, Rich Smith, and Bill Stewart.

In appreciation for their work these volunteers were given a special SONS windbreaker jacket.



*SONS Pres. Jerry Skrypzak thanking Volunteer Director Joe Springer at our picnic for his hundreds of hours of dedicated service this year*

was Jack Bock followed by Don Tombaugh, John Krupinski, Ron Morrow and Bob Zawadzki. Coincidentally these prior five



## Thank You to all the Members and Volunteers!

**Bringing the love of fishing to new generations wouldn't happen without every one of you!**

## NY LAKE ERIE OPEN LAKE ANGLER SURVEY – JULY 2022

Angler effort in July 2022 was just below the 20-year average (88,534 angler-hours) but more than 20,000 angler hours over the effort seen last July. A large majority of July anglers (83%) targeted walleye.

### Walleye:

Daytime walleye angling effort was the 6th highest in the last 20 years, with 70,669 angler hours spent (average = 59,570 angler hours). July angling effort was distributed more evenly than in recent months, with Buffalo (27%), Barcelona (24%), and Cattaraugus Creek (21%) all accounting for at least twenty percent of the effort. Anglers targeting walleye harvested 4.4 fish per boat trip on average, with a catch rate of 0.47 fish per hour, the 3rd highest July catch rate for walleye in the last 20 years, behind only 2018 and 2019. About 10% of daytime walleye anglers achieved a 6-fish limit with an average size of 20.5 inches.

### Smallmouth Bass:

Effort in July (8,050 angler hours) was well below the 20-year average (13,490 angler hours), but higher than each of the past four years. Most (82%) of the bass fishing effort in July occurred out of Buffalo. The July bass fishing quality was well above average in 2022, with anglers targeting bass catching an average of 10 bass per boat trip with a catch rate of 1.01 fish per hour, the 2nd best catch rate for smallmouth bass in the last 20 years (July average = 0.64 fish per hour).

### Yellow Perch:

Yellow perch fishing effort was very low in July 2022, with only 2 perch angler interviews for the entire month

## EWPPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESIGNS

In an August 9th news release by the Erie Western Pennsylvania Authority it was announced that its Executive Director Brenda Sandberg had submitted her resignation from her duties effective September 2, 2022. The news release expressed the authority's gratitude for her 8 years of leadership in guiding the Port Authority in achieving many accomplishments in the development and enhancements of the Bayfront community, including the completion of 26.5 million dollars of capital improvements with an additional 12 million dollars of projects underway, a forty-one percent (41%) increase in domestic and international tonnage through the Port from 2014 thru 2021 and the diversification of revenue streams to eliminate dependence on grant funding for operational purposes.

From our point of view Mrs. Sandberg is a dynamic and capable person who has gained the respect of all who have worked with. She has been a great supporter of the SONS and our projects including the improvements to the Holland St. Pier all Dobbins Landing Area making them more accessible to the fishermen and others seeking waterfront enjoyment. It was an pleasure to work with her and her team on these projects. We would like to wish her success in all of her future endeavors.

The Port Authority will secure the help of a professional firm in a search for a new Executive Director. That individual will have a tough act to follow.

## eDNA FROM INVASIVE SILVER CARP FOUND IN PRESQUE ISLE BAY

*HARRISBURG, Pa. (July 21)* – The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) today announced that it has conducted targeted invasive carp sampling in Presque Isle Bay, Erie County, after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) detected the presence of Silver Carp environmental DNA (eDNA).

On July 11, 2022, the PFBC was informed by the USFWS that laboratory results from routine eDNA sampling conducted by the USFWS in May 2022 detected Silver Carp eDNA at one of the 100 sample locations in Presque Isle Bay. In response to this detection, the PFBC conducted targeted boat electrofishing sampling near the detection location on July 14, 2022. No Silver Carp were collected or observed. In addition, boat electrofishing sampling operations conducted by the PFBC in the same area of Presque Isle Bay on May 18, 2022, for another purpose prior to the positive eDNA findings, did not capture any invasive carp.

While no physical invasive carp specimens have been detected, the PFBC has requested that the USFWS collect additional water samples from Presque Isle Bay in the fall when more favorable environmental conditions are present for eDNA sampling.

The detection of eDNA is simply that, a determination of the presence of eDNA. It cannot determine whether the presence was from a live fish or from another source, such as bird feces,

water transported in the live well of a recreational boat recently in waters infested with Silver Carp, or from melted ice used to store Silver Carp at fish markets that flowed into storm sewers. However, repeated detections of eDNA over time increases the concern that the genetic material may have come from fish living in the area where the sample was collected, which is why future eDNA sampling is recommended.

Invasive carp, including Bighead Carp and Silver Carp, pose a significant threat to the Great Lakes ecosystem, the \$7 billion-dollar fishery, and other economic interests dependent on the Great Lakes and its tributaries. Bighead and Silver Carp compete with native and recreational fish species and are known to quickly reproduce. Anglers are urged to become familiar with the identification of invasive carp, including both adults and juveniles, as the spread of juvenile invasive carp using live bait buckets has been identified as a potential point of entry into Great Lakes waters.

*To learn more about invasive Silver Carp and other aquatic invasive species, visit the PFBC website (Fishandboat.com) or [www.invasivecarp.us](http://www.invasivecarp.us). Members of the public can report sightings of aquatic invasive species to the PFBC using an online form: <https://pfbc.pa.gov/forms/reportAIS.htm>.*

## 2022 MEMBERSHIP PIN

There's a new design. We hope you like it. You can get one at any of our meetings. If you would like one mailed to you, send \$3.00 to the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie PO Box 3605 Erie, PA to cover mailing costs.



## JOIN A FRIEND TODAY!

MAIL TO: S.O.N.S., PO BOX 3605, ERIE, PA 16508

**S.O.N.S. RECORD OF MEMBERSHIP 2022**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Renew  New  \$5.00 ADULT  \$4.00 SENIOR CITIZEN (over 65)  \$4.00 JUNIOR (under 16)

## THE EPSFA SUMMER SLAM TOURNAMENT

was held on July 30 and 31. This tournament has been an annual event for the Erie Pennsylvania Sport Fishing Association for several years now. We have help this club out by working at the weigh-ins by measuring, counting and identifying the fish caught by the contestants. Many of the participating teams have donated fish for us to use at our fish fries.

The First Place winners in the Amateur Division was won by "Team Reel Nutz" and the Pro Division First Place was taken by "Team Bayle Out".



Team Reel Nutz



Team Bayle Out

## BOATER IMAGINATION

can result in some unique ways to modify their boats to suit their needs as shown in the photo of a modified pontoon boat taken by Fred Ralph at Walnut Creek recently.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sat. August 20th 9-1** Gem City Outdoorsmen's Club Youth field Days Volunteers needed

**Sat. September 2nd 11-1** East slip area behind the Public Library Kids Fishing volunteers needed

**Sat. September 24th**, the PA Steelhead Association is hosting the 2022 Fall Run Picnic at Pleasant Ridge Pavilion outside of Fairview. Tickets can be purchased on line at. <https://secure.affinipay.com/pages/pasteelhead/fall-run-picnic>

**Wed. October 12th** Fish habitat building at PISP – More details to follow in September Bucket



**S.O.N.S. of LAKE ERIE,  
SAVE OUR NATIVE SPECIES, INC.**

PO BOX 3605 ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16508

A not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization

"The Bucket" published monthly  
by the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie

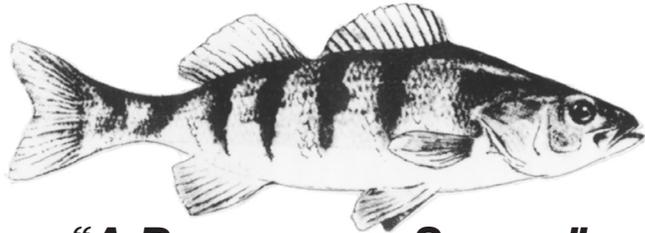
VOLUME 19 • ISSUE 8  
AUGUST 2022

## Fishing Report

The Dog Days of Summer have arrived along with the usual thunderstorms and related weather but walleye fishing has been outstanding.



**PLEASE  
DON'T LITTER.**



**"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"**

**NO MEETINGS PLANNED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 26TH  
AT THE  
POLISH FALCONS CLUB**

**NOTE: WE WILL NOW BE  
STARTING OUR MEETINGS  
AT 7:00 PM**



**TIME DATED MATERIAL**

NONPROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
ERIE PA  
PERMIT NO. 480

## IMPROVEMENTS TO HALLEY ST. BOAT RAMP NOW COMPLETED

Not too many boaters are aware that there has been another East side boat launch location in place for many years. The ramp was built by Lawrence Park Township and the PA Fish and Boat Commission and just recently rebuilt and upgraded. It is located at the foot of Halley St. which intersects with East Lake Rd. There is no fee for using the ramp. It is open to the public from sunrise to sunset.



## LAKE BUOYS

Lake buoys are back on-line. The Regional Science Consortium's buoys in Lake Erie are back on line. The buoy off of Walnut Creek is fully functional at this time; however the Near Shore Buoy off of the PI Lighthouse is running however the wave height sensor is not. A new unit is on order. This is the older of the two Lake buoys and had to be upgraded and adapted to the new 5G cellular technology and required extensive software revisions. You can see the buoys at:

<https://www.regsciconsort.com/research/current-projects/nearshore-buoy-system/>



**SEND US  
YOUR FISH PHOTOS**

sonslakeri@aol.com