



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

June 2011

The Up North report

From Bill Sherer's [We Tie It Fly Shop](#)

Finally we have gotten a break from the cold dreary weather we had at the beginning of fishing season. Temperatures and conditions are much better than last week, and with the recent rainfall all our rivers and most lakes are a bit high, but not more than a few inches. We still have many seepage lakes that are still a little low, but the ground water tables are slowly and steadily getting back to where they should be.

Ticks, Black Flies and Mosquitos are out in force the slightly higher water levels in our area creeks, lakes and swamps from this past weeks rain are perfect breeding areas for them and they are definitely taking advantage of the better breeding conditions! Dragon Flies are still not yet out, pray for warmer temperatures so soon they will have an effect on the Mosquito populations!

We have already put a World Record fish in the boat this year, my good friend and client Lou caught a 33" Bowfin. Now this is not exactly your typical "glamor" fish, but anything that approaches World Record status and is over 10 pounds is something to talk about. I did a little checking and so far this year, Lou's Bowfin is the largest in the new IGFA Catch & Release Record Division - congratulations Lou!

Some male Largemouth Bass are in the shallow stumps and bays looking for areas to make their beds.

Some male Smallmouth Bass are grouping up in shallow gravel bottomed bays with the larger females still in deeper water feeding fairly well, they are not yet ready to spawn, we need more water temp. I have had good success on White Sand, Palette and Nebish Lakes fishing with Olive/White or Yellow/Natural Double Bunnies for these males, long accurate casts

near submerged logs and pencil weeds will get you the strike better than casting at cruising fish which have probably already seen you. The top-water action is still quite a few days from getting started in earnest. The smaller Bog Type lakes throughout the area which have excellent bass and panfish fisheries are still much farther along

in the spawning process than the larger more popular lakes, most of these fisheries are beginning to settle down into a more typical spawning pattern. The action on these types of lakes remains very good to excellent for the past week - this is where some surface flies are beginning to work now, but sub-surface flies are still best.

As the daytime temperatures slowly increase the topwater fishing activity will begin to pick up, consistent shallow water fishing is still several days away.

Michigan:

U.P. fishing conditions remain about the same as Northern Wisconsin's... Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass are milling around in shallow bays and



Photo courtesy [freefoto.com](#)

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many fish are holding in the log jams along deeper banks. Smallmouth bass are moving up the Slate and Merriweather creeks in search of spawning areas, it's a great time to meet those big females on their last foraging sessions before they spawn!

Sylvania

Activity in the shallows is picking up, many fish are in the shallow water and the Bass are still a week or so from beginning their spawning activities. Bluegills and Largemouth Bass have not yet made their beds in Long, Helen, Cory and West Bear Lakes among others. The fish are in the shallows, especially in the afternoon and evening, they are taking a variety of flies, especially small bead heads, nymphs, Tongue Depressors and some small poppers. Clark Lake has

the largest Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass of the tract - most of these fish are just beginning to pod up in anticipation of spawning, the afternoons are still your best bet for feeding activity! Tongue Depressors are still taking most of the fish. Walleye fishing in Whitefish Lake has been excellent for the past several weeks and continues to be, especially in the morning and evening hours, a Black or Olive Tongue Depressor has been best in recent days!

The water is warmer this week, the fish are responding to it with increased activity and angling opportunities are increasing every day. Warmer air and water temperatures will bring the fish into shallow water, the late spring has set back Bass and Bluegill spawning, (along with everything else), by a week or two.

Poets talk about "spots of time", but it is really the fishermen who experience eternity compressed into a moment.

No one can tell what a spot of time is until suddenly the whole world is a fish and the fish is gone.

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Articles, photos, information, and calendar events for the newsletter are encouraged and should be submitted by the 1st day of the month to: Dan Johnson, 426 Glenway St. Madison, WI 53711. Word files sent to: johnson7@tds.net are most appreciated.

Our Next Meeting:

Regular monthly meetings resume in September.

Upcoming Events:

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance meetings are normally held on the third Tuesday of each month. The Badger Fly Fishers meet on the fourth Monday.

Both groups meet at the Mapletree Restaurant on Highway 51, in McFarland, Wisconsin. Programs begin at 7:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Visitors and guests are always welcome.