

YRPC Weekly News

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The Crappies Are Biting on Watershed Lakes



By: Phil Sylla, President YRPC

Arnie, nice crappies are being caught on watershed lakes. Water temperature is the most important key. A couple weeks ago the fish bit well on my lake until the temperature dropped and almost completely shut them off. Don't despair! They started biting again as soon as the water warmed.

Crappies are the first "pan fish" to spawn, Once the water warms to 55-60 °F, they move from deep winter holes into shallow brush or reed beds. As happened a couple weeks ago, a sudden cold front dropped the water temp and pushed them back into deep water overnight.

Hang a thermometer off the end of your dock. Crappie peak activity is often around 60°F, bass around 65°F, and bluegills around 72°F. Temperature tells the fish when the environment is stable enough for their eggs to survive and for food sources (like zooplankton) to be available for the hatchlings.

Crappie minnows, little spinners, leftover ice fishing mealies, everything is likely to work this time of year. My favorite is a pink plastic "tube" bait on a small jig head fished on a slip bobber rig.

Research assistance provided by Google Gemini.

Heads-Up Arnie, Jun 7th is the last day to register for the 2026 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference in Hayward held on June 12th. You can register by going to the [YRPC Events Page](#).

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