

Good afternoon everyone!

 One quick schedule update before we get into Week 11:

With daylight continuing to disappear on us, we're making **another adjustment to the Wednesday night schedule. Starting next week, weigh-in will move up to 8:00 PM.** Launch will remain at 5:00 PM. Make sure you take note of the change—**8:00 PM is the new weigh-in time beginning with Week 12.**

Week 11 is officially in the books, and this one marks an important point in the Wednesday Night Series season.

For the first ten weeks, every fish you weighed counted toward your season total. **Beginning with Week 11, the drops officially start and the Best of 10 comes into play.** That means what you see under Season Weight is no longer necessarily where you'll find yourself in the Championship Ranking. We'll get much deeper into that later in the recap because **Week 11 has already changed the top of the standings.** We are all dedicated anglers but with families and work life, committing to 13 weeks during the summer could be nearly impossible for some. This format is used to allow for a sick day, or two, a family vacation or two, and not totally take teams out of contention in the TOY standings.

On the river, it was a fairly normal Wednesday night. **42 anglers** competed, with **18 bass** crossing the scales for a combined **24.73 pounds** and a **1.37-pound average.** There weren't any monsters threatening last week's new Lunker, but the overall quality remained strong, with **17 of the 18 fish measuring over 13 inches.**

And while Week 11 may not have produced a ton of craziness, there were still a few stories worth talking about.

Team John Centak kept rolling. Team Gillott finally found the payout table. Team Orloski still hasn't completed the cycle. And somebody we haven't seen much of this season finally made his way back to the Susquehanna after taking one heck of a long walk.

We'll get to all of it. 

 WELCOME BACK, HUNTER!

If you've been following these recaps since the beginning of the season, you may remember us talking about **Hunter Lacomis**, Jimmy Lacomis' son, and the pretty good excuse he had for missing some Wednesday nights.

He was walking from Georgia to Maine.

On March 4, Hunter left Springer Mountain, Georgia, and began a northbound thru-hike of the **Appalachian Trail.** The complete trail stretches approximately **2,200 miles through 14 states,** and Hunter set out to tackle the entire thing from beginning to end. Along the way, he was averaging roughly **15 to 20 miles per day,** carrying everything he needed on his back and documenting portions of his adventure for DiscoverNEPA.

He even picked up a trail name along the way.

Other hikers started calling him **“Mountain Goat”** because of how quickly he climbed, which eventually got shortened to simply **“Goat.”** Seems appropriate for somebody who decided walking nearly 2,200 miles over mountains sounded like a good way to spend the summer. 😊

But there's another part of Hunter's trip that makes the story especially cool for Suskie Bassmasters.

He wore his Suskie Bassmasters hat for the entire journey.

The hat was there when he left Georgia, traveled with him through all 14 states and was still with him when he completed the trail. Published coverage from the middle of his journey even showed Hunter hiking in his **Suskie Bassmasters hat** as he made his way through Pennsylvania.

So while Hunter was putting thousands of miles on his shoes this summer, **the Suskie Bassmasters logo was making the trip from Georgia to Maine right along with him.** That's pretty cool.

And now, after completing an accomplishment that very few people will ever experience, **Hunter is back home and back fishing with Team Lacomis.**

Apparently walking the entire Appalachian Trail wasn't enough outdoor activity for one summer.

Even better, he didn't waste much time making an impact. **Team Lacomis brought a 14-inch, 1.39-pound smallmouth to the scales Wednesday night**, finishing 9th and in the wildcard spot.

Congratulations to **Hunter “Goat” Lacomis** on completing an incredible journey. Hiking the Appalachian Trail from start to finish is a tremendous accomplishment, and we're glad to have him—and that well-traveled Suskie Bassmasters hat—back home and back on the river.

From Springer Mountain to Maine...and finally back to the Susquehanna.

Welcome back, Hunter! 🧡 🏠 🐟

🏆 WEEK 11 TOURNAMENT SPONSOR

This week's Wednesday Night Series was proudly sponsored by **AxelRad Screen Printing & Embroidery** of Wilkes-Barre!

AxelRad has been serving Northeastern Pennsylvania since **2003**, specializing in **custom screen printing, embroidery, graphic design and branded apparel**. From shirts and apparel for businesses, organizations, teams and events to larger custom orders, they handle the design and production process right here in the Wilkes-Barre area.

AxelRad has built a strong reputation as a longtime local business while also supporting the community around them.

A big **thank-you to AxelRad Screen Printing & Embroidery for sponsoring Week 11 and supporting Suskie Bassmasters!** 🐟 🙌

📍 **1019 N. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701**

☎ **570-270-3924**

🏆 WEEK 11 TOURNAMENT STATS

👥 42 Anglers

🐟 18 Fish Weighed

⚖️ 24.73 lbs Total Weight

📊 1.37 lb Average Fish Weight

🐟 17 of 18 fish were over 13 inches – 94%

📏 13 of 18 fish were over 14 inches – 72%

👉 6 of 18 fish were over 15 inches – 33%

Week 11 didn't produce the huge weights we saw at the very top of Week 10, but the consistency was impressive. Only **one of the 18 fish** measured under 13 inches, nearly three-quarters were over 14 inches, and a third of the entire field of fish measured better than 15 inches.

At the top, things were **extremely tight**. Team John Centak led the way at **1.96**, followed by Team Gillott at **1.70**, Team Malloy at **1.68** and Team Miller at **1.67**. Just **0.03 pounds separated 2nd through 4th**, so there wasn't much room for error anywhere near the payout table.

And yes...

After ten weeks of watching everybody else do it, **Team Gillott finally figured out where the payout table is located.** 😁

More on that in Part 2.

🌊 RIVER & WEATHER CONDITIONS

🌊 Wilkes-Barre River Gauge: Approximately 0.7 ft

🌡️ Water Temperature: 77°F

👁️ Water Clarity: Stained

🌡️ Air Temperature near 5:30 PM: 77°F

☀️ Conditions: Sunny

💨 Wind: North at 3 mph

💧 Humidity: 52%

📊 Barometric Pressure: 30.02 inHg

Visibility: 10 miles

Low water, stained conditions and a 77-degree river didn't stop the field from putting together another solid group of fish.

And with that out of the way, it's time to get into the Week 11 results.

We've got a **returning winner**, an incredibly tight race for the remaining payout positions, **Team Gillott finally making an appearance**, and a Wildcard winner who apparently didn't think walking nearly 2,200 miles was enough excitement for one season.

NOW FOR THE RESULTS...

Week 11 didn't have the giant fish we saw the week before, but what it lacked in huge weights it made up for with an incredibly tight leaderboard.

Team John Centak gave themselves a little breathing room at the top, but after that, things got ridiculous. **Second through fourth were separated by just 0.03 pounds**, and only **0.08 pounds separated 2nd through 5th**. One tiny difference on the scale was enough to move a team several positions Wednesday night.

We also had Team Gillott finally find the payout table, another strong finish from Team Malloy, Team Miller make a return toward the top, and our newly returned Appalachian Trail hiker apparently waste no time helping Team Lacomis find the Wildcard.

Let's get into it...

Wildcard Winner – 9th Place

Sometimes you walk nearly **2,200 miles from Georgia to Maine**.

Sometimes you come home, get back in a boat with your dad, catch a fish and win the Wildcard.

Apparently **Hunter Lacomis** decided to knock both off the list in the same summer.

Team Lacomis brought a **14-inch, 1.39-pound** smallmouth to the scales Wednesday night, finishing in **9th place**.

After everything Hunter accomplished this summer, it's pretty cool to see him back on the Susquehanna fishing alongside Jimmy—and already helping Team Lacomis make an appearance in the recap.

From the Appalachian Trail straight to the Wildcard.

On the Bubble – 5th Place

Oh, this one was close.

Team Matty Centak brought a **15¼-inch, 1.62-pound** smallmouth to the scales and landed directly in the **5th-place Bubble spot**.

Normally 1.62 gives you a pretty good shot at getting somewhere on a Wednesday night. This week, it left Team Matty Centak just **0.05 pounds** behind fourth place.

That's less than an ounce.

Unfortunately, the Bubble Club doesn't round up.

Close enough only counts in horseshoes, hand grenades...and apparently not bass tournaments. 😂

🏆 4th Place

Congratulations to **Team Miller**, who brought a **15¾-inch, 1.67-pound** smallmouth to the scales to grab the final payout position Wednesday night.

And they needed every bit of that 1.67.

Team Matty Centak was sitting immediately behind them at 1.62, while the two teams ahead of Miller weighed 1.68 and 1.70. That put Team Miller right in the middle of one of the tightest sections of the leaderboard we've had this season.

Team Miller has also been quietly putting together a nice stretch since returning. They weighed **1.57 last week** and followed it up with **1.67 and a fourth-place finish** this week.

Not a bad way to remind everybody you're back.

Congratulations to **Team Miller** on 4th! 🎣 🏆

🏆 3rd Place

If Team Miller thought things were close, **Team Malloy** had even less room to work with.

A **15⅞-inch, 1.68-pound** smallmouth put Team Malloy into **3rd place**—just **0.01 pounds** ahead of Team Miller.

One hundredth.

That's it.

Team Malloy has now put together back-to-back Top 3 finishes after finishing **3rd in Week 10 with 1.69** and coming right back with another 3rd-place fish at **1.68** this week. Their last two fish differed by only **0.01 pounds**, and apparently 1.68–1.69 is becoming their preferred neighborhood.

Consistency isn't a bad thing when it keeps putting you near the top.

Congratulations to **Team Malloy** on another strong night and another 3rd-place finish! 🏆 🎣

2nd Place

They finally did it.

After ten weeks of watching other teams walk up to the payout table, **Team Gillott** finally decided it might be worth seeing what all the excitement was about.

A **15½-inch, 1.70-pound** smallmouth put Team Gillott into **2nd place Wednesday night**, narrowly beating Team Malloy by just **0.02 pounds**.

It was easily their best finish of the season and also their best fish of the year, improving on the **1.42** they weighed in Week 10. The 1.70 brought their season total to **9.76 pounds** and finally put Team Gillott on the payout side of one of these recaps.

It only took **11 weeks**.

Nobody panic.

Team Gillott officially been located. 🤪

Unfortunately, they picked the same Wednesday night that one particular team decided it wasn't finished winning yet.

Still, congratulations to Mike and Curt on a long-awaited and well-earned 2nd-place finish! 🏆 🏆 🏆

1st PLACE – WEEK 11 WINNERS

They're back.

Although, technically, he never really left.

One week after bringing a **2.65-pound monster** to the scales to win Week 10 and take over the Lunker of the Year lead, **Team John Centak went out and won again.**

This time, a **16½-inch, 1.96-pound** smallmouth was enough to take the Week 11 victory.

No 2.65-pound giant was required this week.

Just another quality Susquehanna smallmouth and another trip to the top of the leaderboard.

And this one turned out to be especially important.

The 1.96 brought Team John Centak's season weight to **16.41 pounds**, but Week 11 is also the first week that the **Best of 10** starts determining the Championship Ranking. With the drops now factored in, Team John Centak sits at **16.41 pounds for Best of 10 and has officially taken over the #1 Championship Ranking.**

We'll explain exactly what happened with the drops—and why having the highest overall Season Weight no longer necessarily means you're leading the championship—in Part 3.

For now, this one belongs to Team John Centak.

Back-to-back Wednesday Night Series victories.

The current Lunker of the Year.

And now...

The new Championship leader. 🏆

That's a pretty good two-week stretch.

Congratulations to **John and Chet** on another outstanding night and the **Week 11 victory!** 🍀 🎣 🏆

TRENDING

Week 11 marks the point in the season where the standings start getting a little more interesting—and where simply looking at **Season Weight** no longer tells the whole story.

For the first ten weeks, everything counted. Beginning this week, the championship standings are based on each team's **Best 10 weights**. Once a team has more than ten qualifying weights, its lowest weight begins to drop out. That means a team can actually have a **higher overall Season Weight** than another team and still sit behind them in the Championship Ranking after the drops are applied. This format was put in place years ago to allow teams to enjoy their families and vacations without having to worry about 13 hard weeks of nothing but fishing. We all love fishing but family time and enjoying life comes first.

And we already have our first example.

🏆 **Team John Centak Takes Over #1:** Team Hamm actually has the highest overall Season Weight at **17.59 pounds**, compared with Team John Centak's **16.41**. But Hamm has 11 recorded weights, so their lowest—**1.33 pounds**—drops out, leaving a **Best of 10 total of 16.26**. Team John Centak currently has ten recorded weights, so all **16.41 pounds** count. That moves **Team John Centak into the #1 Championship Ranking**, with Team Hamm now 2nd.

📊 **The New Top 5:** After the first drops are factored in, Team John Centak leads at **16.41**, followed by Team Hamm at **16.26**, Team Matty Centak at **15.62**, Team Kane at **15.19**, and Team Ciravalo at **14.52**.

📉 **Drops Are Going to Matter:** Team Ciravalo has **15.54 pounds** of total season weight but drops a **1.02**, leaving 14.52. Team Orloski has **15.26** overall but drops a **0.97**, leaving 14.29 and placing them 6th. As more teams reach more than ten recorded weights, we're going to see more of this.

👁️ **Watch Those Season Averages:** The Season Average can give you a pretty good idea of which direction a team may be heading as the drops continue. If you're consistently weighing fish above some of your earlier results, those lower weights will begin disappearing from your Best of 10. On the other hand, once you've built ten strong weights, improving your total becomes harder because a new fish has to beat something that's already in your Best 10.

In other words...

From here on out, catching a fish isn't enough. Eventually, you need to catch one bigger than something you've already caught.

That's when this gets interesting. 🤖

🏆 LUNKER OF THE YEAR UPDATE

No change at the top this week.

After setting the new mark with his monster in Week 10, **Team John Centak** remains the Lunker of the Year leader with a **2.65-pound smallmouth**.

John's winning fish this week came in at a very respectable **1.96 pounds**, but even he couldn't come close to the fish he brought us last Wednesday.

For now, **2.65 remains the number to beat**.

And we're starting to run out of Wednesdays to do it. 🤖 🏆

🐟 SMALL FISH OF THE YEAR UPDATE

No movement on the other end of the leaderboard either.

Team Saypack remains our Small Fish of the Year leader.

Chuck actually brought a **14⁷/₈-inch, 1.36-pound** smallmouth to the scales this week, so apparently after taking over the Small Fish lead last Wednesday, he decided he'd made his point and went back to catching normal-sized fish.

The title remains his for another week. 🐟 🤖

🇺🇸 50/50 UPDATE

Well, this is interesting.

After what was beginning to look like a permanent residency in this section by the Lori's.....

Team Aufiero won the Week 11 50/50! 🇺🇸 🙌

So congratulations to Team Aufiero!

As for the Lori's?

Maybe they finally decided to let somebody else win one **just to take some of the suspicion off of them**.

Nice try, Lori's.

We're still watching. 🙄 😊

RUNNING LIGHT REMINDER

We're going to keep mentioning this because the days are getting noticeably shorter now.

Please make sure your **navigation/running lights are working and being used when required**. Don't wait until you're several miles from the launch and it's getting dark to discover that a bulb doesn't work or a light isn't functioning properly.

Check them **before you leave the launch**.

As we get later into the season, more of the ride back is going to happen in fading light or darkness. Being able to see the other boats—and having them able to see you—is important.

Check your lights, use them when required, and let's keep everyone safe on the river.  💡

SUSKIE BASSMASTERS OPEN TOURNAMENT – THIS SATURDAY!

Don't forget, our Suskie Bassmasters Open Tournament is coming up this Saturday, August 29!

 **Registration:** Approximately 6 AM

 **Launch:** 7AM or first safe light

 **Weigh-In:** 1 PM

\$60 per team

3 fish bag, all current rules apply.

Whether you're one of our Wednesday night regulars or just looking to come out and fish the Susquehanna with us, we'd love to see a good turnout.

More information to follow!  🏆

SUSKIE BASSMASTERS WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES – WEEK 12

We'll do it all again next Wednesday!

Please note the new weigh-in time beginning with Week 12.

 **Registration:** Approximately 4:00 PM

 **Launch:** 5:00 PM

 **Weigh-In:** 8:00 PM

With the days getting shorter, we've moved weigh-in up another 30 minutes. All boats must be between the bridges by 8:00 PM.

And just like before, the rule doesn't change simply because the clock does:

8:00 PM means 8:00 PM.

Don't let one last cast turn into a fish you don't get to weigh.

Set those alarms, watch the clock, and make sure you're between the bridges by 8:00 PM! 🕒 🎣

We're officially into the final portion of the season now, and the Best of 10 has changed the game. From here forward, we'll be watching two numbers closely: the overall Season Weight and, more importantly, the Best of 10 that determines the Championship Ranking.

Team John Centak now has the lead. Team Hamm is only 0.15 pounds behind. Team Matty Centak and Team Kane aren't far behind them, and every Wednesday gives somebody another opportunity to replace one of those lower weights with something better.

Things should get pretty interesting from here.

Tournament results, season standings, and weekly recaps are also posted on our website at SuskieBass.org. If you notice any mistakes, omissions, or discrepancies in this week's results or recap, please don't hesitate to let us know. We do our best to ensure everything is accurate and appreciate your help in keeping our records correct.

Week 11 is in the books. Hunter is back home. Team Gillott finally found the payout table. Team John Centak has taken over the championship lead. Team Orloski still can't find 4th place.

Let's do it all again next Wednesday.

Good luck, tight lines, and heavy bags! 🎣