

SUSKIE BASSMASTERS WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES — WEEK 12

Week 12 is in the books, and Wednesday night brought one of the better groups of fish we've seen come across the scales lately. We had 42 anglers on the river, with 20 fish weighing a combined 28.76 pounds and averaging 1.44 pounds each. The overall number of fish may not jump off the page, but the quality certainly did. Nine of the 20 fish weighed were over 15 inches, and by the time weigh-in was finished, it took a 1.90-pound fish just to make the Top 4.

There were big fish coming in throughout the weigh-in, a couple of extremely close finishes, and even a tie near the top that had to be settled by length. With only one regular-season tournament remaining, the timing couldn't be much better. The fight for tournament wins is still going strong, the Best of 10 standings are getting more interesting by the week, and several teams still have some work to do if they want to be among the 15 headed to the Championship.

Basically, there is still plenty left to settle.

WEEK 12 TOURNAMENT SPONSOR

This week's Wednesday Night Series was proudly sponsored by Langan Engineering & Environmental Services!

Langan is an engineering and environmental consulting firm that has been in business since 1970. The company provides a pretty impressive range of services, including site and civil engineering, geotechnical engineering, environmental consulting, traffic and transportation, surveying and geospatial services, natural resources and permitting, waterfront and marine engineering, and energy and infrastructure work.

Their work covers everything from commercial and residential development to airports, infrastructure, hospitals and healthcare facilities, colleges and universities, stadiums and arenas, waterfront projects, energy facilities and environmental remediation. Langan also has experience right here in Pennsylvania, including engineering and environmental work associated with redevelopment of former Bethlehem Steel property in the Lehigh Valley.

Langan has several Pennsylvania locations, including a Bethlehem office at One West Broad Street, Suite 200, Bethlehem, PA 18018, which can be reached at 610-984-8500. They also maintain Pennsylvania offices in Philadelphia, Warrington and Pittsburgh.

A company involved in everything from what's under the ground to what's being built on top of it seems like a pretty fitting sponsor for a bunch of us who spend Wednesday nights worrying about what's underneath the Susquehanna.

A big thank-you to Langan Engineering & Environmental Services for sponsoring Week 12 and supporting Suskie Bassmasters!  

WEEK 12 TOURNAMENT STATS

Wednesday night wasn't necessarily about the number of fish caught. It was the size of the fish that made this weigh-in interesting.

-  Anglers: 42
-  Fish Weighed: 20
-  Total Weight: 28.76 lbs
-  Average Fish: 1.44 lbs
-  Paid Places: 4
-  Wildcard: 10th Place

The size breakdown tells the story:

-  12½–13": 3 fish — 15%
-  13–14": 5 fish — 25%
-  14–15": 3 fish — 15%
-  15–16": 6 fish — 30%
-  16–17": 3 fish — 15%

That means 9 of the 20 fish weighed were over 15 inches, accounting for 45% of everything that crossed the scale. Overall, 17 fish were over 13 inches and 12 were over 14 inches.

And it showed at the top. The first six positions came in at 1.97, 1.93, 1.93, 1.90, 1.89 and 1.84 pounds. That's a pretty stout top end for a Wednesday night weigh-in.

RIVER & WEATHER CONDITIONS

-  Wilkes-Barre River Gauge: 1.2 ft
-  Water Temperature: 77°F
-  Water Clarity: Clear
-  Air Temperature: Low 70s
-  Conditions: Mostly cloudy
-  Wind: Light

The river was low, clear and warm, sitting at 1.2 feet on the Wilkes-Barre gauge with a water temperature of 77°F. Overall, it was a pretty comfortable evening on the river, and judging by the quality of fish that made it to the scales, at least a few teams figured out what they wanted.

🏴‍☠️ ONE REGULAR-SEASON WEEK REMAINS

And now we've reached it. Next Wednesday is Week 13 — the final tournament of the 2026 Wednesday Night Series regular season. It's not the end of the season, but it is the last opportunity to add weight and secure a spot in the Top 15 before the Championship field is set.

This is also where the Best of 10 format really starts to make things interesting. Only each team's 10 best tournament weights count toward the Championship Standings, so with 12 weeks now completed, everybody has two drops in play. For some teams, those drops include zeroes, which means putting a fish on the scale next week can immediately help their total. Other teams don't have that luxury anymore. They've caught fish often enough that they now need to beat one of their smaller bags before they actually add anything to their Best of 10 weight.

So next Wednesday isn't as simple as catching a fish and adding that weight to your season. You have to know what you're trying to replace. A 1.20-pound fish might be a huge help to one team and do absolutely nothing for another. That's what should make the final regular-season weigh-in pretty interesting from the top of the standings all the way down to that 15th-place cutoff.

Right now, Team John Centak leads the Championship Standings with a Best of 10 weight of 17.21 pounds, followed by Team Hamm at 16.26, Team Matty Centak at 16.10, Team Kane at 15.54 and Team Orloski at 15.11. But next week isn't only about the teams at the top. For anyone sitting around that Top-15 line, it's the last chance to gain the weight needed to get into the show — or make sure somebody else doesn't knock you out of it.

And then there's Team Orloski. Jerry has exactly one regular-season tournament remaining to complete the cycle we've been following all year. No need to explain it again just yet. He knows what he needs to do. We know what he needs to do.

At this point, we're just going to see if he can actually do it. 🙄😬

One regular-season Wednesday remains. One last chance to improve your Best of 10. One last chance to make the Top 15.

But before we start worrying about Week 13, we've still got some Week 12 business to take care of. Wednesday's weigh-in gave us a 0.01-pound battle for the final payout spot, two 1.93-pound fish that needed a tiebreaker, a Wildcard winner who wasn't actually around to collect it, and plenty of good fish at the top of the board.

🏆 WEEK 12 — NOW FOR THE RESULTS...

With 42 anglers, Week 12 paid four places, putting Team Nealon squarely on the Bubble in 5th. The Wildcard landed on 10th place, which belonged to Team Russo.

And, as usual, neither of those positions came without a story.

WILDCARD — TEAM RUSSO

10th Place — 1.36 lbs

Team Russo landed in 10th place with a 14 $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch fish weighing 1.36 pounds, which put them directly on the Week 12 Wildcard.

There was only one small problem.

They had already left.

Team Russo headed home before the Wildcard was drawn and wasn't there to collect it, so the money will roll over to the final regular-season tournament next Wednesday. That means Week 13's Wildcard will be doubled to \$60.

So next week, even if the fishing doesn't go exactly according to plan, you may want to stick around until everything is finished.

Apparently leaving early can now cost you \$30. 🤔

THE BUBBLE — TEAM NEALON

5th Place — 1.89 lbs

There are Bubble finishes, and then there are Bubble finishes that make you stare at the scale for a few seconds hoping another decimal place might magically appear.

Unfortunately for Team Nealon, this was the second kind.

Team Nealon brought a really good fish to the scales Wednesday night, measuring 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches and weighing 1.89 pounds. On a lot of Wednesday nights this season, that fish would have been comfortably in the money. This week, with the quality coming across the scales, it landed them in 5th place — exactly one spot outside the payout.

And just how close were they?

0.01 pounds.

That's all that separated Team Nealon from Team McGovern and the final payout position. There really isn't much you can do with that one except shake your head.

A 1.89-pound fish and still the Bubble.

That's a rough Wednesday. 🤔

4TH PLACE — TEAM MCGOVERN

15 $\frac{3}{4}$ " — 1.90 lbs

Now we can finally talk about Team McGovern.

Team McGovern has apparently decided that simply weighing a good fish isn't stressful enough. For the second time recently, they got their fish on the scale early and then had the pleasure of standing around while everybody else slowly tried to knock them down the leaderboard.

Team McGovern put up a 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch fish weighing 1.90 pounds, and early on, that looked pretty darn good. Then the bigger fish started arriving. One came in at 1.93. Then another 1.93. Eventually a 1.97 showed up. Every time another good fish hit the scale, Team McGovern's name moved down another line.

First became second. Second became third. Third became fourth.

And then came Team Nealon at 1.89.

At that point, Team McGovern's evening went from watching themselves slide down the podium to simply hoping the next fish wasn't 0.02 pounds heavier.

Fortunately, the parade finally stopped. Team McGovern's 1.90 held onto 4th place by exactly 0.01 pounds, giving them the final payout position and ending what had to feel like the longest weigh-in of their summer.

Sometimes the scale only needs to love you by a hundredth. 😊

Congratulations to Team McGovern on 4th place! 🏆👏

3RD PLACE — TEAM MROCHKO

15 $\frac{5}{8}$ " — 1.93 lbs

The weights kept climbing with Team Mrochko, who brought a 15 $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch fish weighing 1.93 pounds to the scales. That was enough to jump ahead of Team McGovern and put Team Mrochko into the Top 3.

Normally, 1.93 is a number you'd feel pretty comfortable seeing next to your name.

Wednesday wasn't normal.

Another fish hit the scale at exactly 1.93 pounds, which meant weight alone wasn't going to settle 2nd and 3rd. The tape measure had to get involved.

Team Mrochko's fish measured $15\frac{5}{8}$ inches. The other one?

$16\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

That moved Team Mrochko into 3rd place, but there's certainly nothing wrong with a 1.93-pound fish and a podium finish on a night when the top of the board was this heavy.

Congratulations to Team Mrochko on 3rd place! 🏆 🐟

🥈 2ND PLACE — TEAM KRESGE

$16\frac{3}{4}$ " — 1.93 lbs

Team Kresge supplied the other half of Wednesday night's 1.93-pound tie, bringing a beautiful $16\frac{3}{4}$ -inch fish to the scales. With Team Kresge and Team Mrochko both sitting at exactly 1.93 pounds, length became the tiebreaker.

And this one wasn't particularly close once the tape came out.

Team Kresge's fish measured $16\frac{3}{4}$ inches, compared with Team Mrochko's $15\frac{5}{8}$, giving Team Kresge the 2nd-place finish.

It was also another strong showing for a team that's been putting some good fish on the board lately. Their recent results include a 1.98, 1.93 and now another 1.93, and Week 12 moved Team Kresge up to 8th in the Championship Standings with a Best of 10 weight of 14.51 pounds.

A $16\frac{3}{4}$ -inch fish, 1.93 pounds and a second-place finish.

Not a bad Wednesday night at all.

Congratulations to Team Kresge! 🏆 🐟

🥇 1ST PLACE — TEAM JOHN CENTAK

16" — 1.97 lbs

And at the top of the board...

Team John Centak. Again.

Team John Centak brought a 16-inch fish weighing 1.97 pounds to the scales Wednesday night, edging out both Team Kresge and Team Mrochko by just 0.04 pounds and taking the Week 12 win.

If that name seems like it's been showing up at the top quite a bit lately, there's a reason.

This was Team John Centak's third consecutive Wednesday Night Series victory. They won Week 10 with the 2.65-pound fish that still leads Lunker of the Year, followed it with a 1.96-pound winner in Week 11, and came right back Wednesday with 1.97 pounds to make it three straight.

That's 6.58 pounds of winning fish over the last three Wednesdays.

More importantly for the bigger picture, those fish are coming at exactly the right time. Team John Centak now sits atop the Championship Standings with 18.38 pounds of total season weight and a Best of 10 Championship weight of 17.21 pounds, giving them a 0.95-pound lead over Team Hamm's 16.26 heading into the final regular-season tournament.

With the Best of 10 format, though, even that doesn't make Week 13 automatic. Every team has its own drop situation to deal with, and we'll take a closer look at what the standings actually mean heading into the final regular-season night in Part 3.

For now, Team John Centak can enjoy another one.

Three Wednesdays. Three wins.

At this point, somebody may want to check their boat for a horseshoe. 🤪

Congratulations to Team John Centak on the Week 12 victory! 🏆 🧑🏻

WEEK 12 — TRENDING

With only one regular-season tournament remaining, the Championship Standings are starting to look a lot more important than they did a few weeks ago. And now that we're dealing with the Best of 10, simply looking at total Season Weight doesn't necessarily tell you who's actually ahead.

At the top, Team John Centak continues to lead with a 17.21-pound Best of 10, followed by Team Hamm at 16.26, Team Matty Centak at 16.10, Team Kane at 15.54 and Team Orloski at 15.11. That gives Team John Centak a 0.95-pound advantage heading into the final regular-season Wednesday.

🚀 **Biggest Mover:** The biggest climb of Week 12 belongs to Team Mrochko, who jumped three positions from 9th to 6th in the Championship Standings. Their 1.93-pound, 3rd-place fish Wednesday night certainly helped the cause, and they now sit at 14.79 pounds in the Best of 10.

Team Kresge also made a nice move, climbing two spots from 10th to 8th, while Team Nealon gained two positions as well, moving 15th to 13th. Team Orloski moved up one to 5th, Team McGovern climbed one to 11th, and Team Malloy gained one position to 17th.

Of course, when somebody moves up, somebody else has to move the other direction. The biggest drop this week belonged to Team Lacomis, who went from 8th to 12th after not putting weight on the board Wednesday. The movement is a good example of why the final regular-season tournament could shake things up again — especially once everyone's drops are factored in.

And then there's the cutoff. Team Miller currently occupies that all-important 15th position with 12.38 pounds, with Team Gillott sitting 16th at 10.84 and Team Malloy 17th at 10.20.

Next week is the last chance to change it.

LUNKER OF THE YEAR UPDATE

Despite all the quality fish that crossed the scales Wednesday night, nobody came close to changing the top of the Lunker board.

Team John Centak remains the Lunker of the Year leader with the 2.65-pound fish from Week 10. The Week 12 winner at 1.97 was certainly another good one, but that 2.65 continues to stand comfortably above the field.

There's one regular-season Wednesday left for somebody to find a giant.

SMALL FISH OF THE YEAR UPDATE

At the other end of our highly prestigious size spectrum, Team Saypack continues to hold onto Small Fish of the Year with their 0.85-pound fish.

Team Bevilaqua made an attempt Wednesday with a 12½-inch, 0.86-pound fish, but missed taking over the lead by just 0.01 pounds.

Imagine weighing a fish, seeing 0.86, and finding out it was too big.

Tournament fishing is weird.

50/50 — BRIAN OPPELT

Congratulations to Brian Oppelt, our Week 12 50/50 winner!

More importantly, we have now gone two consecutive weeks without Lori winning the 50/50.

We're not saying the Shaffers noticed the growing public scrutiny and decided it might be wise to lay low for a couple weeks...

We're just saying the timing is interesting. 🙄😂

Two weeks without a Lori victory. The investigation remains open.

Congratulations, Brian!

\$60 WILDCARD NEXT WEEK

As we mentioned earlier, Team Russo finished 10th and landed the Week 12 Wildcard with a 1.36-pound fish. Unfortunately for Team Russo, they had already left before the Wildcard was drawn and weren't there to collect it.

That money will roll over, making the Week 13 Wildcard worth \$60.

Consider this your friendly reminder that next Wednesday might not be the night to load the boat and disappear immediately after weigh-in.

NEXT WEEK — THE REGULAR-SEASON FINALE

Next Wednesday brings us Week 13 and the final tournament of the 2026 Wednesday Night Series regular season. Registration will begin at approximately 4:00 PM, with launch at 5:00 PM and weigh-in at 8:00 PM. Remember that all boats must be between the bridges by 8:00 PM.

There will be plenty riding on this one. It's the final chance to improve your Best of 10, the final chance to fight your way into or protect a spot in the Top 15, and now there's a \$60 Wildcard waiting at the end of the night.

After 12 Wednesdays, it all comes down to one final regular-season weigh-in.

 Registration: Approx. 4:00 PM

 Launch: 5:00 PM

 Weigh-In: 8:00 PM

KEEP UP WITH SUSKIE BASSMASTERS

Tournament results, season standings, and weekly recaps are also posted on our website at www.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.

THAT'S A WRAP ON WEEK 12

Week 12 gave us some of the better fish we've seen lately, an incredibly tight fight around the payout line, another shake-up in the Championship Standings, and yet another Team John Centak victory.

Now there's only one regular-season Wednesday left.

For some teams, next week will be about replacing a drop. For others, it'll be about hanging onto a Championship spot or trying to break into the Top 15. And for everyone else, there's still one more regular-season Wednesday night to go fishing, talk a little trash, and see what the Susquehanna decides to give us.

We'll see everyone next Wednesday for the regular-season finale.

Before we go, with the holiday weekend coming up, the Board of Suskie Bassmasters would like to wish all of our members, families, friends and supporters a safe and fun Labor Day weekend! Whether you're spending it on the water, at camp, around the grill, or just enjoying the long weekend, have a great time and stay safe.

Let's do it all again next Wednesday.

Good luck, tight lines, and heavy bags! 🎣