



# THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN STEELHEAD & SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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## Dr. Dan O'Keefe Receives Tanner Award

HOLLAND, MICH – The Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen's Association has awarded Dr. Daniel O'Keefe with the Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award for his contributions to Michigan's sport fishery.

Dan O'Keefe, Grand Haven, MI, is the Southwest District Extension Educator for Sea Grant MSU Extension Service, located in Ottawa County and serves eight counties along the coast of Lake Michigan. Dan graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's of science degree in Fisheries and Wildlife. He received his master's in biology at Central Michigan University and his doctorate in Wildlife and Fisheries from Mississippi State University.

"Dan O'Keefe believes education is a critical component of natural resource management and the importance of knowledge in making sound decisions has been the corner stone of his contribution to our anadromous sport fishery", said

Dennis Eade, Executive Director of the Michigan Steelheaders.

O'Keefe is responsible for citizen science programs like Salmon Ambassadors and Great Lakes Angler Diary. He published a study of charter and tournament fishing economic impacts and post-study evaluation that indicated results that led to greater appreciation for the value of a healthy Great Lakes ecosystem. He compiled public input on controversial issues using TurningPoint and online surveys; coordinated with Michigan DNR regarding fisheries issues in preparation for basin wide management plans. He also served on a Michigan House of Representatives' committee regarding Asian carp and other invasive species.

As a facilitator for the Ludington Fisheries Workshops each year, he has brought together fisheries managers, biologists, scientists, state and federal agency personnel, charter

"Award"  
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Dr. Howard A. Tanner, (left) and Dan O'Keefe (right), Sea Grant Educator, recognized for making education a critical component of natural resource management of the Great lakes.

## Secret Plans to Allow Commercial Netters to Keep Walleye and Lake Trout

**Capt. Terry R. Walsh**

A few years ago, a Michigan State University fisheries student spent an entire summer on commercial fishing boats in Saginaw Bay. His objective was to determine the amount of walleye caught as "by-catch" (non-targeted species) in commercial small mesh trap nets. The results estimated that between 23,500 and 102,000 walleye are easily killed in commercial nets during the course of a given season.

So why is the DNR even thinking of allowing commercial netters to keep five pounds of walleye "by-catch" per net each time nets are pulled when annually such a large number of walleye are killed each season? Under the proposed new law a netter with 20 or more nets listed on his license would be allowed up to 100 pounds per license whether or not he actually had that many nets set. If all the current licenses in Saginaw Bay were active and fished,

### Proposed Bycatch Allowance

- The two main bycaught species in Michigan's commercial fishery are: lake trout & walleye.



up to 680 pounds of walleye can be kept each day the nets are lifted. Instead, the emphasis should be placed on compensating the commercial netters and removing as many small mesh trap nets as possible from the bay.

For the last three years the DNR has been telling the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee (LHCFAC) its "goal is to get all the commercial nets out of Saginaw Bay to speed the recovery of yellow perch". Allowing the commercial fishers to keep

walleye will merely increase the value of the licenses and encourage the continued use of the nets instead.

Walleyes are currently classified as a sport fish and are not approved for commercial harvest. This was decided in the State courts several years ago when commercial netters were trying to take advantage of a growing walleye population in Saginaw Bay. Over the last six years, however, negotiations without public input have been occurring to

"Secret Plans"  
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## Sex-Shifting Fish: Growth Rate Could Determine Sea Lamprey Sex

Unlike most animals, sea lampreys, an invasive, parasitic species of fish damaging the Great Lakes, could become male or female depending on how quickly they grow, according to a U.S. Geological Survey study published today. Scientists with the USGS and Michigan State University, funded by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, found that slower sea lamprey growth rates

"Lamprey"  
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This image shows sea lampreys in their larvae phase. Sea lampreys are an invasive, parasitic species of fish damaging the Great Lakes. (Credit: R. McDaniels, Great Lakes Fishery Commission)

## Atta Buoy! Famed West Michigan buoy returns with local support

Port Sheldon Township, MI - Boaters and fishermen around West Michigan quietly celebrated the return of the Port Sheldon weather buoy last week as it was towed out to its seasonal mooring spot on Lake Michigan. The weather buoy's return came amid growing support from local businesses, organizations, and individuals that fund annual operation and maintenance costs to keep the buoy

running. When federal grant dollars ended in 2015, it was unclear if the highly utilized buoy would return. In 2016, the buoy launch was delayed until several key donors came

"Bouy"  
Cont'd on page 3



**The Quality of Fishing Reflects the Quality of Living!**

# Early Season Fishing Memories

**By Bob Jensen**

It's that time of year: The boat is being rigged, I'm putting fresh line on my reels, I'm calling friends to see if they have any good fishing reports, in short, I'm preparing for the open water fishing

season. As I prepare, I have lots of memories, mostly good, about past early season fishing adventures. My recollection of the exact dates isn't so good, but my memories of the events are fairly cloud-free. Here we go.

Clear Lake in north central Iowa doesn't have a closed season for walleyes anymore. Anglers from other states like to visit Clear Lake to chase walleyes before the season in their home state opens. I think it was in the

early 90's that Clear Lake was full of smallish walleyes, lots of them in the twelve to fourteen inch range. They weren't big, but they were plentiful and fun to catch. I hosted an annual gathering for friends in the media to get together on Clear Lake on a Saturday in mid-April. We usually had three boats with three anglers in each. We always caught fish, and we always had a good time. One year Jim McDonnell, Marty Papke, and Rick James shared a boat. Mac was a fishing guide and school teacher who lived in the Iowa Great Lakes area of northwest Iowa. Mac isn't with us anymore.

Rick was one of the pioneers in the fishing education industry. He hosted an outdoor radio show and wrote fishing articles. He lived in Willmar Minnesota.

Marty lived in northern Wisconsin at the time. He guided and wrote fishing articles. Marty now lives in Michigan. All during the day, you could hear these guys laughing and landing fish. They were having a good time, and that's what fishing is supposed to be about. At the end of the day we compared notes regarding how we caught the fish and how many we caught. We all had a lot, but they said they had caught 137 walleyes, and we believed them. Rick returned home and wrote an article about the trip. In the article, he reported catching "about 40" walleyes. I called him right away, this was before emails or texting, and asked him why he only reported 40 walleyes being caught. Rick

said that he had written 137 were caught, but his editor told him that "no one would believe that three anglers could catch that many walleyes in Iowa in one day". By the way, Clear Lake is now an outstanding fishery that still has lots of walleyes, and they're much bigger now.

I remember fishing on Opening Day of Walleye Season with the annual Governor's Fishing Party in a snowstorm in Ely Minnesota.

I remember another Governor's Opener in Bemidji Minnesota. We hit the water at midnight, fished until four o'clock the next afternoon without a break, then loaded

the boat, got in the truck and drove the eight hours home for a business function. I did that a lot "back in the day".

This is something else I remember about "back in the day". We didn't catch as many fish, or as many big fish, as we do right now. For the most part, we're catching more and bigger fish, walleyes, muskies, bass, than at any time in my memory. Management of the fisheries has changed, anglers skills have improved, and our equipment is far superior. The current era is a great time for anglers for the most part. Take advantage of that in the next few weeks and months.

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Our friend Jim McDonnell with an eater walleye from a good number of years ago. Cherish the catches, but more importantly, cherish the time you spend with family and friends.



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### “Secret Plans” Cont'd from page 1

allow the commercial “by-catch” of walleyes.

Walleye and lake trout are two of the most important sport species in the Great Lakes yet they are not listed as sport or commercial species in the proposed commercial fishing Statute. The Director would have the authority to designate any species as commercial if it is not on the sport fishery list, and this leaves the potential that both walleye and lake trout could become commercial species in the future.

A major concern of boaters and anglers in Saginaw Bay and other Great Lakes waters is knowing the exact locations of commercial nets so they can avoid them. Providing GPS coordinates of net locations

online and/or ports when the nets are set or moved would greatly reduce accidental encounters between boaters and commercial nets. This



Lake Trout by-catch.

is an important safety concern that needs to be included in the Statute.

Another concern is allowing the commercial fishers to have their own committee representation to negotiate future regulations

with the DNR. Currently, each Great Lake has its own Citizens Fishery Advisor Committee, which acts as a liaison between the DNR

Great Lakes. To allow the commercial fishers their own unique committee to do business with the DNR is a real mistake. If all special



Walleye by-catch.

interest groups were allowed to do that, lake-wide management would become impossible.

Finally, the DNR has been negotiating a deal with the commercial fishers behind closed doors for the

past six years. The Great Lakes Citizens Fishery Advisory Committees have not been involved nor will they be involved in any dis-

they are too far out on the schedule.” I have talked to a couple fisheries biologists who knew nothing about the proposed draft until a week ago!

Developing a new commercial fishing, Statute impacts both the sport and commercial fishery, and the DNR has the responsibility to ensure the Lake Committees and general public have plenty of opportunity to participate in discussions and help determine the final version of the Statute. It is critical that captains and mates call Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter in Lansing (517/284-5836) and tell him this proposed Draft Legislation is badly flawed and needs the input of sportsmen throughout the State.

### “Bouy” Cont'd from page 1

through, which is why 2017 deployment plans were uncertain. A revived public support campaign led by Mike Boros, a local member of the Singapore Yacht Club in Saugatuck, began fundraising efforts in January. Mike worked closely with the buoy's owner, LimnoTech, to reach out to the thousands of individuals that rely on the buoy each season for up-to-date weather reports. In 2016, nearly 35,000 unique visitors logged over 600,000 hits to the buoy's webpage ([www.great-lakesbuoys.org](http://www.great-lakesbuoys.org)), which makes it the most popular buoy in the Great Lakes. As a boater himself, Mike knew how valuable the buoy was to area boaters, and what a loss it

would be if the buoy didn't return. “When I heard the buoy might not return in 2017, I knew I had to do something,” said Boros. He went on to add, “As someone who doesn't live on the lake, I frequently check the buoy before heading down to my boat. I also check it right before I head out on the water, and while I'm on the water if conditions are changing.”

Outreach efforts focused on engaging the many users of the buoy, which included a featured visit to the Grand Rapids Boat Show in February and a new crowd fundraising page on GoFundMe. Support grew quickly as word spread about the fundraising effort. A few statements left on the GoFundMe page proved the buoy's value to

local boaters: “Love the fast weather report by text to my cell phone with information about speed and direction of wind and wave size”, said one user from Holland. Another left this message: “Crucial information for our Sea Scout unit 9316”. Major supporters of the buoy campaign this year include TowBoat US Lake Michigan, Consumers Energy, Holland Steelheaders, Grand Haven Steelheaders, Down The Hatch Party Stores, Anchorage Marina, Yacht Basin Marina, BestChance-Too Charters, and Zeeland Farm Servers.

Boaters, fishermen, and sailors are encouraged to contribute to the GoFundMe campaign throughout the season to ensure that enough funds remain to address ongoing support and maintenance costs and to get a jump on next year's efforts. A new buoy support sticker campaign will also be kicked off in 2017 as a way for area boaters to show their support. The “Atta Buoy!” stickers will be available for purchase at area yacht clubs and marinas and through GoFundMe.

The weather buoy is stationed three miles offshore of

Pigeon Lake in Lake Michigan in approximately 90 feet of water. Every ten minutes the buoy reports the current air temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, pressure, wave height, and water temperature from the surface down to the bottom of the lake. A specially equipped webcam also transmits high definition video clips and images of the lake over the internet. Funding for the buoy was originally provided by a federal grant through the NOAA Coastal Storms Program in partnership with the Great Lakes Observing Sys-

tem. LimnoTech is one of the country's leading water sciences and environmental engineering consulting firms. Founded in 1975, the company is headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan with clients across North America and internationally. LimnoTech is a dedicated leader in advancing the application of environmental technologies and in environmental monitoring, modeling, restoration, and remediation. Please visit our website at [www.limno.com](http://www.limno.com) for more information.

### “Award” Cont'd from page 1

fishing captains and sport fishermen alike to contemplate what is occurring in the ecosystem and what will impact the sustainability of our anadromous sport fishery.

The award is named in honor of Dr. Howard A. Tanner who is credited with the creation of a Lake Michigan sport fishery and the 7.1 billion dollar industry it has become. Dr. Tan-

ner was on hand for the award ceremony in Lansing on March 25th at the Michigan Historical Center.

The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association is the largest sport fishing association in the Great Lakes Basin and has fourteen chapters throughout Michigan which protect, promote and enhance sport fishing in the Great Lakes and connecting waterways.

### 2017 Tentative Print Schedule

Issue	Deadline	Print Date
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2	2/17/2017	2/24/2017
3	4/21/2017	4/28/2017
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5	8/25/2017	9/1/2017
6	10/20/2017	10/27/2017

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The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association (MSSFA) is a multi-state, non-profit organization dedicated to educating the general public on improving, preserving and promoting sport fishing, the Great Lakes and their tributary streams and in rivers. Commonly referred to as The Michigan Steelheaders, or simply Steelheaders. MSSFA represents sport fishing families in the Great Lakes region. MSSFA encourages the strictest observances of sport fishing laws and ethical fishing practices.

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# MSSFA President Dr. Ken Merckel

Having attended many forage survey programs over the past many years and listening to comments by participants, I thought that a basic understanding of the common forage fishes of the Great Lakes may provide some understanding for how dependent we are on them.

**ALWIFE:** First detected in Lake Erie in 1931, entered Lake Erie through either the Welland Canal or the Erie Barge Canal. They first appeared in Lake Huron in 1933 and Lake Michigan in 1949. In 1945 they appeared in Lake Superior but never became abundant there because the water was too

cold. They spawn in May in shallows off beaches and in bays. Onshore migration starts in April. They spawn at night over sand and gravel bottom. In fresh water, a female will have 10,000 to 12,000 eggs. The eggs hatch in six days at 60\* F. The eggs sink to the bottom and are somewhat adhesive. The adults leave near-shore waters right after spawning and migrate to deep water. Adults winter in 150-300 feet of water until March. Sexual maturity is at age 2 for male and age 3 for female. The average length of adults is about 6 inches. They feed on zooplankton, insects and larval fishes and fish eggs. The young of the year reach 2 -3 inches by first fall.

**RAINBOW SMELT:** They

are native to the east coast, and introduced to the Great Lakes by planting in 1912 in Crystal Lake. Smelt spawn from mid-April to mid-May. They can spawn in streams over sand and gravel or on near-shore gravel reefs. Spawning is over a 3 week period of time. Spawning takes place at night. Eggs are small. A female can produce from 4,600 - 27,000 eggs each. An adult smelt are from 5.5 -7.5 inches long. They are sexually mature after 3 growing seasons. Smelt can be subject to significant post-spawning mortality. Smelt feed heavily on Mysis and other invertebrates, and a variety of small fishes (including their own young.)

**BLOATER:** They are

native to the Great Lakes, and spawn in February and March over a variety of bottom types in 120 -300 feet of water. The females produce from 3,000- 12,000 eggs each. Bloaters can live to be 11 years old, and generally live in depths of 100-400 feet. The young tend to live near the bottom, and the adults may live near the bottom or become more pelagic. Their food is primarily zooplankton.

**SCULPINS:** There are 3 species in the Great Lakes, Slimy, Spoonhead, and Deepwater Sculpins. Slimy Sculpins spawn in May, and Spoonhead and Deepwater Sculpin spawn in late summer and early autumn. They live in the bottom at depths up to 400 feet. They have no swim bladder and

are negatively buoyant. They are food for Lake Trout and Burbot.

**STICKLEBACKS:** There are several species found in the Great Lakes. All of these species can be found in the Great Lakes to substantial depth. They may spawn several times during the summer. They feed on invertebrates, zooplankton, fish eggs and fish fry.

**ROUND GOBY:** They are native of the Caspian Sea, northern Black Sea, Sea of Azov, and South-Central Eurasia, and they look like a Sculpin. They were brought to North America in Ship ballast water. First observed here in 1990 in the St. Clair River, and first found in Lake Huron in 1994. Since then they have spread to all the great lakes. They can live in fresh, brackish, and salt water, and can tolerate water temperatures from 32 degrees to 92 degrees Fahrenheit. Females may spawn up to six times per breeding season and produce up to 5,000 eggs at each spawn. Newly hatched young are bottom-feeders. Adult gobies are also bottom feeders and consume various insect larvae, other invertebrates, fish eggs, small fishes, and zebra mussels. Gobies have no swim bladder and are negatively buoyant (like Sculpins.) They are the new Alewife for Lake Huron.

**MYSIS relecta (opossum shrimp):** They are made up of four separate species, none of which have been assigned proper names. Mysis is a small transparent shrimp like crustacean of less than one inch in length. This species is found in relatively deep cold lakes before the thermocline. They may move vertically through the water column at night to the surface. They feed on zooplankton and phytoplankton, and also are a filter feeder. They are a food source for generalist feeders. (Editor's Note: Coho are feeding on mysis almost exclusively right now in 230' of water off both the sunrise and sunset coasts.)

I hope this will help in future prey based discussions you have with other fishers or with our DNR biologists when we talk about how these prey fish are faring given the impact invasive quagga mussels are having in depleting nutrients in the lakes.

Material for this article was taken from:

Freshwater Fishes of Canada, Edited by W.B. Scott and E.C. Crossman (1973), including Columbia University, United States Geological Survey, and Illinois Natural History Survey websites.



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# MSSFA Executive Director Dennis Eade



Back Row from Left to Right: Andy Tepfenhart, Bill Klausen, Jeff Dehn, Brian Eade, Jim Vanbrocklin, Eric Braden, Jim Marohn, Larry Tabaka, Roger Hinchcliff, Kathy Card, and Ron Card. Second Row from Back, Left to Right: Roger Belter, Rich Chapman, Bonnie Eade, Ken Merckel, Rob Schroeder, John Moore, Renee Davis, Cate Musselman-Pope, and John Letts. Third Row from Back, Left to Right: Dennis Eade, Mary Jane Belter, John Dettmers, Dan O'Keefe, Nick Hamadanchi, and Gerry Sickon. Seated: Dr. Howard Tanner

MSSFA celebrated the beginning of a new fishing season with the annual spring Presidents' Meeting in Landing, MI on March 25th. Representatives from all over the state came together to learn what the ecosystem is like now as we enter a precarious period when the food web is dramatically changed as a result of invasive species like zebra and quagga mussels. 90% of the energy in the system is concentrated at the bottom of the lakes, creating challenges for pelagic fish throughout the system. Gobies make up the dominant prey fish base and alwife struggle to maintain a presence in Lake Michigan given the number of predators prowling the water column. Dr. John Dettmers, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, presented a portentous picture of the challenges that we are facing so we could better understand what is occurring in the system.

MSSFA presented the Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award to Dr. Dan O'Keefe, Sea Grant Educator, and close associate of MSSFA, having guided our strategic planning process for the last three years. It is gratifying to see someone like Dan, in midcareer, be so honored and Dr. Tanner present to recognize his accomplishments first hand and celebrate his recognition with all of us present.

Dr. Tanner regaled us with some brief remarks and told us that his upcom-

ing autobiographical account of the introduction of Pacific salmon in Great Lakes should be published within the year.

The DNR is in the spotlight again after the Chinook salmon stocking controversy quieted down somewhat. This time it centers on a new proposed commercial fishing statute that was negotiated behind closed doors with the commercial fishers and Michigan Fish Producers Association. The first any of us sport fishermen heard of the proposal was at meeting held by the DNR in Clare, MI on February 16th. There is no doubt that a revised statute is way over due, given the lack of updating for decades, but the ramifications on sport fishermen and the impact on upcoming tribal negotiations in 2020 casts an ominous shadow over the lack of transparency and involvement of other stakeholders. MSSFA is working with other sport fishing groups, including the Michigan Charter Boat Association, Trout Unlimited, MUCC, Saginaw Bay Walleye Club, and the Hammond Bay Anglers Association to determine the best course in moving ahead. We have completed a section by section analysis of the proposed statute and will soon meet again to determine how we respond to the impact it will have on the sport fishery.

The Lake Michigan Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee meeting is com-

ing up April 25th at MUCC offices in Lansing, MI. and the DNR's Cold Water Resources Committee will be discussing the Inland Trout Management Plan draft at its next meeting on April 27th.

The Michigan Legislative Sportsmen Caucus summer fishing outing will be out of Ludington, MI on July 10th. There are nineteen legislators signed up to participate so far. Long time GLSFN advertiser, Shane Ruboyanes, who owns Deamweaver Lures is arranging for the charter boats. MDNR Fisheries Division will have a biologist or manager on board each vessel to discuss invasive species and the factors affecting the fishery. A Catch and Cook luncheon will follow the event at one of Ludington's premiere restaurants.



## Lake Erie Yellow Perch Breaks 32-Year-Old Ohio Record

Some 32 years ago, on Lake Erie, the Perch record was set. Recently that amazing record was broken by Dave Berg of Mentor, Ohio not far from the mouth of the Grand River. Finally, the state record was broken! In an article written

The South Haven Steelheaders Chapter conducted a successful Southern Lake Michigan Fishery Workshop on April 20th that included the results of lake bottom trawls and acoustic trawls conducted last fall. An overall evaluation of the 2016 fishing season was presented by Matt Kornis, Fishery Biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator MDNR and Donna Wesander, Fisheries Technician Specialist (Charter Catch and Effort).

I know all of you are in the process of recommissioning your boat right now and some of you have already ventured out and caught some nice early season Coho that are nearshore one day and 200 feet deep the next. It's a great time to be a Steelheader. Tight lines everyone!

by David Smith for Wide Open Spaces you can read all about this amazing catch!

It weighed in right at 2.9 pounds and measured 15.75 inches long. The long standing record before was 2.75 pounds, so this fish has well and truly topped it!



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## To All who fish the waters of Michigan's Thumb

*By Walter Godzwon*

It does not matter if you captain a 30 foot sportfisherman, troll the slot for walleyes, or fish the cuts and marinas for perch and panfish. We are ALL affected by whatever affects our waters and our fisheries! Whether these events are natural, man-made, or a combination of both does not matter, they still affect all of us. For years now, the MSSFA (composed by mostly salmon and trout fisherman) has been on the forefront of the battles fighting the negative influences affecting our waters and fisheries. The battles never

cease, and new issues keep arising. The MSSFA remains on the front line of the battles. They represent all of us, member or not, in these battles. Current issues include;

- Microbeads in the water which kill our fry.
- Proposed commercial fish farming in our waters which have potential for marine life disasters
- Upcoming tribal negotiations to prevent, or reduce exploitation of our resources.

The good news is that progress appears to have been made on the first two issues, but we must contin-

ue our efforts. The bottom line is that the MSSFA needs continued support to fight for us, and be our voice not only now, but in the future. Consider this to be an open invitation to attend our monthly meetings at The Ugly Foxhunters Club. They are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month starting @ 6:30 PM. The club is located on M19 North of Ugly. Please try to attend these meetings See what we are about, have a hot dog and help the MSSFA to protect, promote, and enhance the waters and fisheries that we all share.



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# UV and Fishing Lures

By Jim Bedford

UV light is invisible to man but some wavelengths may be seen by various species of animals and fish. While most of the game fish predators we seek utilize scent, sounds, and vibrations to find prey, these fish



Spring steelhead with bright, fluorescent Wally Diver

are primarily sight feeders. Thus, it stands to reason that making your lure more visible will help make it more likely to be noticed by the steelhead, trout, salmon, walleyes, and other Great Lakes' species we seek. However, there are some outrageous claims being made such as UV light penetrating water to depths over 300 feet and that below six feet almost all the light is UV. These claims

compounds with similar properties are likely the ones used in clear coats for lures and incorporated into scent solutions. The lure companies I have talked to were not willing to share information on the actual blocker compounds they

to note that blue light can activate a fluorescent red pigment because of its shorter wavelength. Since blue light penetrates the deepest (that's why deep, clear water looks blue) your fluorescent red lure still looks red at 50 feet while a plain red lure would be black. Blue light also activates the other "warm fluorescent colors" like pink, orange, and yellow.

Obviously a UV blocker could be detrimental if applied over a fluorescent paint or tape. Yakima Bait Company applies UV blockers to many of their lures but is careful NOT to apply them to their fluorescent finishes. You should also be careful not to apply scent solutions with UV blockers to your fluorescent lures. Of course, blue and visible violet light will still activate your fluorescent lures.

Black lights can be valuable in determining which of your lures are fluorescent. These lights emit both visible violet light and UV light so that you can tell that it is turned on. It may not tell you if a lure has a UV blocker coating unless it also blocks violet light since the UV light is invisible to you. But it will let



Terri Bedford with a spring steelhead on a silver spinner with fluorescent tape.

seem to be increasing. This is an updated article that was published in these pages four years ago and the goal continues to be to sort through the hype and give you information that will help you make your lures more visible under various conditions.

Normally, we think of UV light as something to avoid. We protect our eyes by wearing long billed caps and wearing sun glasses. Likewise, we keep our skin covered or wear sunscreen to prevent sunburn and decrease the risk of skin cancer. Sunscreens may contain organic compounds that absorb the UV radiation or inorganic compounds that block or bounce back the UV rays.

Obviously, if we want our lure to reflect UV light we need to use blockers. Titanium dioxide and zinc oxide are the two most common compounds that block UV light. So these or

green—65 feet, blue—110 feet, and violet—70 feet. Infra red light doesn't penetrate into water at all and, surprisingly, the average depth of penetration of UV light is only about 10 feet. However, near UV light, that which is just out of the visible range can penetrate up to 60 feet.

For me, as a river fishing fanatic, the "activation" of fluorescent pigments in lure coatings and tapes by UV light is a very important consideration. Fluorescence is defined as the emission of light by a substance that has absorbed light or other electromagnetic radiation of a different wavelength. Almost always the emitted light has a longer wavelength. The most striking examples occur when the absorbed radiation is in the UV region of the spectrum, and thus invisible and the emitted light is in the visible region. But, it is important

you know if the UV blocker is diminishing the brightness of a fluorescent color. So, take advantage of the fact that fluorescent pigments let you see the effects of invisible UV light and put your lures under a black light. Even just taking your lures outside or under a fluorescent light will help you evaluate the effect of UV on them. Glass filters out much of the UV light so lures won't be as bright indoors, even with the sun shining through the window.

Just as coatings with UV blockers can make your lures and baits more visible so can it make your line glow to the fish. You take care to make you leader invisible to the steelhead or trout or walleyes by using fluorocarbon line so don't defeat that by putting scent with a UV blocker on it.

It should be noted that "UV" Cont'd on page 16

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# Fishing the Midwest Ideas for More Fishing Success

**By Bob Jensen**

Different anglers have different definitions of what fishing success is. To some, fishing success is catching a bunch of fish: Size doesn't matter, they just want to catch something.

To other anglers, fishing success means you caught a big one. Size is more important than numbers.

And then there are those who just enjoy being outside with a fishing pole in their hand and sharing a boat with a friend or family member and savoring the entire experience. I enjoy those folks, but I also really like to catch fish. I usually don't care what kind, and I like to catch big ones, but most of all, I just like to get bit. Following are some ideas for getting bit more in this open water fishing season.

First of all, don't fish memories. By that I mean, just because you caught 'em good on a certain spot last year or on your last trip doesn't mean they'll be

there on this trip. Good spring spots aren't necessarily good summer or fall spots. So many things factor in to where a fish will be. We need to be aware of what fish need at a particular time of year. We need to be fishing where the fish are. It sounds so simple, but it's such an important concept of fishing: Fish where the fish are.

Along those same lines, don't assume that because we had good success on the last trip with an eighth ounce chartreuse jig tipped with a minnow that that same set-up is going to be good on this trip. It might be, and if you want to start with an eighth ounce chartreuse jig tipped with a minnow that's okay, but if the fish don't eat it, and if you really think you're around fish, then try something else. Jigs are outstanding fish catchers, but sometimes something else might be better. Try a different color, or try substituting a leech for the minnow, or



Our buddy Leif Lundbeck with a nice smallmouth. He keeps a close eye on his sonar to make sure he's fishing where the fish are.

maybe try a crankbait or a slip-bobber rig. If they're not eating what you're using, use something else.

Try a new body of water.

So many of us get comfortable on a certain lake or pond or river and that's where we always go, and if that's what you enjoy, keep

going there. Fishing is supposed to be fun and you should do what is fun for you. But many anglers also enjoy exploring new places.

You never know what you might find in that little lake that you always drive by on the way to your favorite fishing lake. Do some research and find out what lives there and give it a shot. You never know.

Pay attention to your sonar. This goes back to the idea about fishing where the fish are. Modern sonar are so effective at revealing if there are fish around, especially when they're in deeper water in the summer and fall. Raymarine produces a series of units called the Dragonfly. They're outstanding and they're priced right. They will show if there are fish in the area. Anymore, if we don't see fish, we find another spot to fish.

There are lots of things we can do that we don't always think of that will help us catch more fish. I promise, if you keep these ideas in mind, your chances of catching more fish will be increased.

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# Lake Erie Increased Yellow Perch and Walleye Allowable Catches

## Courtesy of Great Lakes Basin Report

Fishery managers from Michigan, New York, Ohio, Ontario and Pennsylvania—the five jurisdictions that manage the Lake Erie fishery—agreed to a total allowable catch (TAC) of 10.375 million pounds of yellow perch and 5.924 million walleye for 2017. (Yellow perch are allocated in pounds and walleye are allocated by number of fish.) These TAC recommendations represent a 13% increase for yellow perch and a 20% increase for walleye. Specific allocations of both species are presented below by jurisdiction.

The Lake Erie Committee's TAC recommendations are produced after extensive, lake-wide biological assessments, analyses, discussions, and consultations with stakeholders. The recommendations are consistent with the status of Lake Erie's fish populations, taking into the account the goal of stable harvest.

Committee believes that yellow perch populations are stable, though stock status varies by basin and, thus, the TAC varies across

management units. In contrast, walleye populations are managed as a single stock and are increasing lake-wide. These conditions support the recommended increases to the yellow perch and walleye TACs. The individual provincial and state governments adhere to and implement the TAC recommendations consistent with their respective regulations and management objectives.

The Lake Erie Committee operates by consensus and relies on biological assessments to inform their TAC recommendations. The Lake Erie Committee also supports the Lake Erie Percid Management Advisory Group, or LEPMAG, a structured process that engages commercial and recreational fishers. LEPMAG, which has existed since 2010, reflects the committee's interest in involving the fishing community in actions related to management of Lake Erie's percid fisheries.

### YELLOW PERCH

The proposed yellow perch TAC is the result of deliberations among the jurisdictions and with stakeholders through the LEP-

MAG process. Based on science and those deliberations, the Lake Erie Committee recommended a 2017 TAC of 10.375 million pounds of yellow perch, a 13% increase from last year's allocation of 9.208 million pounds.

The five jurisdictions on the lake share Lake Erie's yellow perch under an area-based formula. Pursuant to the 2017 TAC recommendation, Ontario will receive 4.868 million pounds, Ohio 4.525 million pounds, Michigan 0.279 million pounds, New York 0.093 million pounds, and Pennsylvania 0.611 million pounds.

The yellow perch fishery is divided into "management units," which generally correspond to the eastern, central, and western basins of Lake Erie. The Lake Erie Committee has strived to maintain harvest stability while still responding to changing trends in each management unit. The proposed TAC represents nuances among the management units in abundance and biomass.

### WALLEYE

The Lake Erie Committee set a 2017 walleye TAC of 5.924 million fish, a 20% increase over the 2016 TAC

of 4.937 million fish. The increased TAC recommendation reflects the strength of the walleye population and the committee's goal to manage the lakewide fish stock sustainably while integrating stakeholder input into the process. Positive recruitment during the previous few years will translate into increasing walleye abundance over the coming years. Consistent with the committee's Walleye Management Plan, this optimistic outlook for walleye allows for the maximum increase in the TAC for 2017.

The Province of Ontario and the states of Ohio and Michigan share the TAC based on a formula of walleye habitat within each jurisdiction in the western and central basins of the lake. Under a 2017 TAC of 5.924 million fish, Ohio will be entitled to 3.028 million fish, Ontario 2.551 million fish, and Michigan 0.345 million fish. Jurisdictions in the eastern end of the lake are outside of the TAC area and harvest limits there are set consistent with lakewide conditions and objectives.

As with yellow perch, the walleye TAC recommenda-

tion is the result of extensive discussions among scientists, managers, and stakeholders. Scientists and field biologists from all Lake Erie jurisdictions, meeting as the Walleye Task Group, share data and reach consensus on biological conditions. The task group's walleye abundance estimates, which incorporate suggestions from LEPMAG, serve as the foundation for the Lake Erie Committee's discussions and TAC recommendations. Also like yellow perch, each Lake Erie jurisdiction is responsible for implementing its portion of the TAC.

## DNR investigating citizen reports of dead fish in Lake St. Clair

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is investigating several fish mortalities—particularly of gizzard shad—that have been reported by citizens around Lake St. Clair. A number of samples have been collected to determine the cause. Some of the fish may have been affected by viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV), a very contagious pathogen, but the DNR is still waiting on confirmation.

"Thanks to the public's vigilance we are able to get timely samples from these fish mortalities, and it is very likely VHSV is involved," said Gary Whelan, research program manager for the DNR's Fisheries Division. "VHSV has been detected in these waters since at least 2003, and when conditions are right the pathogen will cause disease events like this one."

Many of the collected fish showed the classic external signs of VHSV: bloody patches on the skin. VHSV first caused fish mortalities in the St. Clair-Detroit River corridor in 2006 and occasionally has been detected in these waters since that time.

The virus is known to infect more than 30 species of Great Lakes fish and has been found in lakes Superior, Huron, Erie and Ontario, along with a few inland lakes. Some species such as lake sturgeon and walleye are very resistant to it and others such as bluegill, largemouth bass, muskellunge, gizzard shad and round goby are very sus-

ceptible to the virus. The pathogen causes the fish's blood vessels to leak, which is why the skin shows bloody patches. This symp-



The Michigan DNR is investigating recent reports of dead fish on Lake St. Clair. Citizens should report anything they might find, such as the dead gizzard shad shown here.

tom is shared with other pathogens, so testing is needed to confirm if VHSV is involved. Previous research has shown that many fish recover from this virus infection, although there is no treatment.

"The public is encouraged to continue to provide us with reports of fish kills with a focus on kills of more than 25 fish," Whelan said. "The public can provide the reports to our fish kill email address at DNR-FISH-Report-Fish-Kills@michigan.gov. This information helps us track this event and determine where best to collect additional samples."

Anglers are reminded to refrain from moving live fish between water bodies and to properly dispose of bait. Boaters need to make sure their bilges and live wells are emptied prior to

leaving a boat launch, and equipment must be cleaned and disinfected after use. Visit [michigan.gov/fishing](http://michigan.gov/fishing) for more information on

how those who fish and boat can help limit the spread of fish disease and invasive species.

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MSSFA chapters have membership meetings with guest speakers to learn about all the aspects of sport fishing. MSSFA chapters also sponsor fishing clinics, seminars, sport-fishing shows, derbies and tournaments. And are active sponsors for fishing outings for kids, seniors, veterans and our handicapped.

For those who love to fish but have no means, MSSFA chapters sponsor a "Crews" program that allows a sign up as a crewmember for a day of fishing.

With a common goal, and a close working partner with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, MSSFA helps to enhance the resource and sport fishing in our rivers, streams, inland lakes, and of course the mighty Great Lakes. MSSFA is a front-runner at all levels of the legislature and in courtrooms and has spent countless hours working behind the scenes and attending hearings.

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This paper has no paid writers and has a grass roots style. Its writers are the every day fishermen who share their techniques and fishing adventures. And has become well renown for it's *January Special Edition* or "*Show Edition*" that is seen at all the spring expos and sport, boat and fishing shows throughout the Great Lakes.

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August 22, 2017	7:00 PM Tuesday	MUCC	(4th Tues)
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Revised: 3-4-17 djs

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- Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee
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- Cold Water Resources Advisory Committee
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Revised: 12/26/16

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Contact Renee Davis 616-363-3564

# Quad Spinners: Fluke or Hot New Attractor

By Dave Mull

Spinners have been around our Great Lakes fishery forever, although spoons and hardbodies in the lake proper have always

reigned for everything except Lake Erie walleyes. Those fish, of course, used to be targeted primarily with venerable Erie Dearie weight-forward spinners

(along with lots of other brands) trailing a night-crawler.

This spring we tried a spinner configuration that seemed to work well for

cohos and that we think might be great in front of a spoon or stickbait in any number of other presentations not only for salmonids, but for walleyes, too.

It's a four-blade, articulated spinner rig, with two separate spinner blades on separate clevises on the top, a line of beads below the clevises to add some color and keep the blades at the top of the lure. Then a second piece of wire is attached below with nearly the same setup: Twin spinners on separate clevises and a line of beads.

Jim Larson, a long time Grand Rapids (Michigan) Steelheader gave me three of these attractors at a late

took four of our 10-fish limit, losing one other bite. We also caught a coho on the classic peanut fly behind a 00 orange dodger taken slightly to the side on a small Dipsy. A 1/4-ounce Hot-N-Tot behind a board also took a fish, as did a Brad's Thin Fin on a down-rigger and a jointed orange and gold J-11 Rapala.

We had nine fish and then went into a long lull hoping our final fish would bite before a rainstorm on the horizon caught up to us.



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Junior Thunderstick

winter sport show, and I tried them while trolling for early cohos with my buddy

Finally Al suggested I try another quad spinner in front of a small spoon and



Quad spinner with Scorpion spoon.

Al Malsch out of St. Joseph, Michigan. To make a long story short, a gold and orange Junior ThunderStick behind one set of brass spinners run out to the side behind a planer board not only took our first fish, but

handed me a Stinger Scorpion. I tied the spoon on a leader so it trailed the quad spinners by about three feet. I stretched the spinners about 12 feet behind a downrigger ball and lowered it just 6 feet down. Five minutes later our last coho was in the boat after attacking the little Scorpion spoon.

We conjectured the spinners was so effective because there was just enough stain and suspended silt in the water to create about 5 feet of visibility. It stands to reason that the spinners helped call fish in with the extra flash and vibration, and might have stimulated strikes by giving the appearance of one fish chasing another.

We've had open water trolling success with some spinners as sliders. Stands to reason these quad spinners in front of a spoon ought to work well for salmon, steelhead and lake trout as an attractor for a spoon behind a downrigger or on a slider. They might be awesome in front of a tuna-stuffed Brad's Super Cut Plug.

We also think these spinners might have their days enticing those nearly dormant fall walleye that suspend in muddy Lake "Spinners"

Cont'd on page 23

Terry Weber

4/26/47 - 12/16/16

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# How to take care of your Fillet Knives

**Roger Hinchcliff**

The fillet knife, it's something very personal and special to many anglers. Some have been handed down through the years and have cleaned thousands of fish. Actually, if a fillet knife could talk think all the stories and places it has been. The stories it could tell would be something special for sure. Now that I have reminded you of how special that knife is in the drawer to you and your families heritage. Let's teach you some simple steps on how to preserve this precious heirloom.

A knife is a tool and all tools require maintenance and care in order to last a lifetime or longer. The number one mistake made by most folks happens after every use. The knife goes into the dishwasher for a cleaning. This is a big no, no, for several reasons which we will discuss further.

Whenever having this conversation on knife care with folks the first thing out of their mouth is "But is it Stainless Steel?" Yes, that maybe true but stainless steel is not what you think. Let's look at the makeup of what that knife blade is more than likely made up of.

The definition of stainless: a form of steel containing chromium, resistant to tarnishing and rust.

Yep its resistant to tarnishing and rust, think stain less. Most blades are typically made up of 18% chromium and this is what gives the metal blade the properties of being stain less resistant. So now you can tell your buddies and they will think you're a metallurgist or a professor of metals instead of a dumb fishermen.

Here are some tips to follow to keep that knife for years to come.

1. Wash knife in warm soapy water by hand in mild detergent. Not scolding hot water or the dish washer. The intense heat in the dishwasher will destroy the handle and pit the blade.
2. Do not soak or leave knife at the bottom of a stainless sink or pan. This prevents Galvanic action, which is the transfer of electrons from one metal to another. This prevents pitting the blade and damage to the blade edge. Not to mention for your safety reaching down into a sink full dishes.
3. Rinse all Mild soap and detergents off from the knife and wipe dry with a soft towel.
4. Avoid storing knife loose in the Kitchen drawer. This again will prevent the blade from getting chipped or pitted. And once again for safety reasons.
5. Store knives in a block or the sheath that was provided.

If you noticed a common theme here that all these tips prevented the blade from getting chipped, dull and pitted. Furthermore, a dull knife is more dangerous than a sharp one. When the blade hangs during use, the angler applies



more pressure to break it free causing the knife to jump. Thus, creating an accident.

Try these tips on your fillet knives and make them last for years to come and pass them down to your

kids. Just think of the feeling you get when using a tool that your father or grandfather had used for years.

The greatest fishing legacy one can pass on to one's children or grandchildren is not just money or

fishing tackle. But rather the character and sharpness of a man's blade.

Tight lines everyone and take a kid fishing. Roger Hinchcliff Steelheadmanifesto.com

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## MICROCYSTIN:

*It May Not Just Be In The Water*

by Christina Dierkes, Ohio Sea Grant Communications

By Christina Dierkes, Ohio Sea Grant Communications  
Ohio State researchers are looking at harmful algal bloom impacts on fish and produce.

harmful algal blooms (HABs) has been implicated in a number of health issues, from skin rashes to liver and nervous system damage. A main focus of preventing these negative health impacts has been limiting exposure

to contaminated water, but researchers at The Ohio State University have been looking at things from a different angle: microcystin exposure from food.

Lake Erie fish like walleye and yellow perch often

Microcystin, one of the major toxins produced by



► **Above:** Most people who live on Lake Erie are familiar with the green scum produced by harmful algal blooms, and with the potential drinking water problems they cause. Ohio State researchers are now looking at bloom impacts on fish and produce.

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swim through algal blooms, breathing in potentially contaminated water through their gills and eating up smaller critters that in turn may have been exposed to toxin. And produce grown along the Lake Erie shoreline – the Maumee River watershed is largely agriculture, after all – may well have been watered with surface water, either from the lake itself or from smaller lakes and streams that also contain cyanobacteria, the organisms that cause harmful algal blooms.

What isn't known so well is whether those fish and vegetables actually retain any of the algal toxin they are exposed to, and if they do, whether those toxin concentrations are high enough to be of concern. Researchers Drs. Jay Martin, Stu Ludsin and Jiyoung Lee, with funding from Ohio Sea Grant and the Ohio Department of Higher

"Microcystin"  
Cont'd on next page

**“Microcystin”**  
**Cont’d from previous page**  
 Education’s Harmful Algal Bloom Research Initiative (HABRI), have been working on addressing those

fitting from the development of this method,” said Ludsin, associate professor and co-director of Ohio State’s Aquatic Ecology Laboratory.

“We found that green beans accumulate more than carrots, and both accumulate more than lettuce,” Lee summarized. “And then it looks like there is generally

any accumulated pollution from that. In addition to toxin accumulation in both plants and the soil surrounding them, Lee and her team found that microcystin exposure can stunt plant growth, distort shape and cause yellowing, making the vegetables less valuable as commercial crops.

So what can be done about this specific contamination while research continues to try to solve the overall harmful algal bloom problem in Lake Erie? For agriculture, Lee suggests finding an alternative source of water for irrigation. Most large farms already use groundwater in their operations, while smaller farms tend to use more surface water, which can lead to microcystin contamination during bloom season. In those cases, regular water testing and switching to alternative water sources is essential to reduce or prevent exposure that can lead to microcystin contamination. If the toxin is found in soil, rotating cropland gives the toxin time to degrade before planting new crops.

Though fish are unlikely to avoid exposure to microcystin while they’re in the lake, anglers and other consumers don’t have to worry too much about toxin exposure from eating them. Fish can metabolize toxins like microcystin via the liver, which means that unless

toxin concentrations are so high that the liver becomes overloaded, the edible muscle tissue is unlikely to contain levels high enough for concern beyond normal fish

allows the guideline of no more than one fish meal per week, there would be no concern of getting any sort of toxicity from consuming the edible fraction of either



Above: Produce for the study was grown in greenhouses at The Ohio State University campus, and watered with water containing known amounts of microcystin toxin. Once harvested, the vegetables and the surrounding soil were tested for microcystin contamination. // Left: Lake Erie’s Makumee River watershed is largely agricultural, and many smaller farms use surface water that may have come in contact with harmful algal blooms to water their fields.



Photo: Mike Tewkesbury

questions for the past few years, and so far results have shown that in both cases there is some toxin accumulation, but no reason to completely avoid consumption.

“An important result that really needs to be emphasized based on this work is that while we did find microcystin in these fish, they’re not at a level that impacts public health,” explains Martin, professor in Ohio State’s Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering. “If anglers and the public abide by the advisories that are sent out from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, which are usually about one fish meal per week, then they’re going to be fine.”

Led by Master’s student David Witiszinski, the researchers started with a method most commonly used to detect microcystin in fish tissue, a technique called enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). They found relatively high levels of the toxin in their walleye, yellow perch and white perch samples, but some previous studies suggested that using ELISA to quantify this algal toxin in fish may lead to false positive results and indicate higher concentrations than are actually present in the fish.

So the next step was to develop a procedure to use liquid chromatography tandem-mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) with the fish samples, as that method has been shown to offer more reliable results than ELISA in identifying specific types, or congeners, of microcystin. With the help of post-doctoral researcher Manjunath Manubolu and Dr. Ken Riedl, associate director of Ohio State’s Food Innovation Center, the scientists are now able to quantify nine different types of algal toxins from fish tissue samples, including some of the most abundant and most toxic forms of microcystin.

“We’ve used that procedure to process samples from Lake Erie and Grand Lake St. Marys for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, so the state is already bene-

The team is also working with a testing method called MMPB to quantify total microcystin in tissue samples (instead of detecting specific types that may not add up to total microcystin concentrations with the LC-MS/MS method). That approach allows agencies like the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to issue any needed drinking water warnings based on a conservative estimate of potential toxicity, while the more detailed analysis by type offers information specifically about some of the most toxic forms of microcystin.

While Ludsin’s lab focused on analyzing fish samples, Lee and doctoral student Seungjun Lee grew three types of vegetables – lettuce, carrots and green beans – while watering them with microcystin-contaminated water at different concentrations. Once harvested, they used ELISA to determine not just how much microcystin was present in those plant samples, but also where exactly the toxin was present: did it accumulate more in the roots, or the leaves, or possibly more in the soil surrounding the plant?

more toxin in the roots, and that makes sense because we water around the root area.”

Total toxin accumulation isn’t the end result when it comes to public health impacts though. The researchers also calculated health risk based on a number of factors, including data on average monthly consumption for adults and children. They found that, when it comes to health risk, contaminated lettuce is actually of more concern than contaminated carrots, because on average, people tend to eat more lettuce and therefore take in more of



Above: Researchers examined how microcystin, the toxin produced by harmful algal blooms, accumulated in carrots, lettuce and green beans watered with toxin-contaminated water. They found some toxin in their produce, particularly in the roots, but not enough to raise concerns about eating the vegetables. P Photo: Jeremy Keith

consumption advisories.

“What we don’t know yet is whether these fish are really taking in toxin but the liver is handling it, or if they’re not taking it in at all,” Ludsin said. “We don’t have that data yet, but we will look at exposure to see whether fish are taking in toxin but handling the load or if they’re just not living in areas where there are blooms.”

Results from fish caught in 2015 so far show that out of 73 analyzed fish, only six showed detectable levels of microcystin in edible tissues, which don’t include the liver and other organs, and those levels were still well below consumption limits. “So if a person fol-

walleye or yellow perch,” Ludsin concluded.

And of course, while some scientists are focusing on the impacts of harmful algal blooms on everything from food to recreational opportunities, research also continues to help address the algal blooms themselves. The Harmful Algal Bloom Research Initiative (HABRI), funded by the Ohio Department of Higher Education and managed by Ohio Sea Grant, connects research teams across the state and beyond to find new approaches to reducing harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie, using input from stakeholders that range from state agencies to local farmers.

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“UV”

Cont'd from page 7

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bidity or muddiness is another matter. Despite what you may have read recently, UV light is quickly extinguished by silt, plankton blooms, glacial milk, and other materials that make water opaque. Surprisingly, red light tends to penetrate best when the water is muddy. Of course, when the water is really dirty it is probably time to

rely more on scent and vibration and a stationary offering for the fish to find. While UV light itself and the fluorescent pigments it “lights up” can be magical and help make your lures and baits more visible to the fish we are trying to catch you need to keep the visible spectrum in mind as well when you select your offering. Don't forget that

silver reflects more than 90% of visible light which is superior to any other metallic surface. Nickel and chrome are especially poor reflectors of visible light with only 60% or less bounced back. Adding a UV blocker to an all silver lure might just make it irresistibly noticeable and obnoxious to that steelhead hanging out and protecting his territory in that deep slot. Using contrasting colors can also make you lure more conspicuous to the fish. I know that most of the time I am using silver bladed spinners with fluorescent yellow and orange tape on the back of the blade and a mix of the same colors for the beads and hook tubing when fishing for territorial steelhead. Of course, it is possible



Author with spring steelhead on a Wally Diver.

to make your lure too bright and gaudy for the size and clarity of the stream. So UV reflectors may not

always be the best plan. I devote a whole chapter to matching the conditions with your lure in “Spinner Magic!”.

In my opinion, the activation of fluorescent pigments is a lot more important in making our lures visible than the direct reflection of UV wavelengths of light. Many of our game fish probably don't see UV light including bass, pike, and walleye while others like trout and salmon detect it only in their young life stages. So keep putting fluorescent tape and paint on your lures or buying those that are already adorned with these special pigments and take care not to cover them with a UV blocker.



Close-up of a spring steelhead on a silver and fl. orange spinner.

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# Michigan Department of Natural Resources Latest round of DNR's Aquatic Habitat Grant Program recipients announced



The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has approved five Aquatic Habitat Grant Program projects totaling \$1.25 million.

Twelve applications, requesting \$3.26 million, were received and evaluated. This is the fourth round of projects since the program began in

2014. It is funded annually by a portion of fishing and hunting license sales.

The list below highlights the five projects that received

funding in this round.

The Aquatic Habitat Grant Program funds projects that: *Protect intact and rehabilitate degraded aquatic*

*resources throughout the state.*

*Develop self-sustaining aquatic communities that provide for continuing recre-*

*ational opportunities and natural resource-based economies. Develop strong relationships and partnerships.*

“These recipients will use these grant funds to enhance a broad range of aquatic habitat, the foundation for Michigan’s world-class fishing opportunities,” said Kevin Wehrly, and inland research biologist with the DNR’s Fisheries Division. “We’re excited for these projects to get under way and to see what a difference they make.”

Anyone interested in learning more about the Aquatic Habitat Grant Program should visit [michigan.gov/dnr-grants](http://michigan.gov/dnr-grants).

Applicant Name	Project Name	Applicant County	Grant Amount
Huron Pines	Milligan Creek Restoration	Cheboygan	370,200
Conservation Resource Alliance	Restoring Sanborn Creek, a Headwater Stream of the Pere Marquette River	Lake	95,000
Ingham County Drain Commission	Red Cedar River Watershed Protection & Restoration	Ingham	427,178
City of Rochester Hills	Avon Creek Phase IV Habitat Restoration	Oakland	100,000
Kent County Parks and Recreation	Mill Creek Restoration - Dwight Lydell Park Phase One	Kent	257,622

## Large trout stocked in SE Michigan's Huron River and Spring Mill Pond

The Michigan DNR recently stocked 3,350 adult trout in the Huron River at Proud Lake Recreation Area (Oakland County) and Spring Mill Pond at Island Lake Recreation Area (Livingston County).

The Huron River was stocked with 900 brown trout and 1,650 rainbow trout, both sized 15-21". Spring Mill Pond was stocked with 200 brown trout and 600 rainbow trout,

also measuring 15-21" long. This annual stocking activity uses unneeded brown and rainbow trout broodstock from Michigan's state fish hatcheries. Every year there are surplus adult trout in the hatchery system, which then are stocked in special regulation areas.

Huron River at Proud Lake Recreation Area is closed to fishing October 1 through March 31. From April 1 through April 28

anglers are limited to flies-only, catch-and-release fishing. Youth under the age of 12 may keep one fish between 8 and 12". Beginning April 29, all baits are allowed and anglers may keep up to five trout over 8", but only three over 15".

Spring Mill Pond at Island Lake Recreation Area is closed to fishing March 15 through March 31. From April 1 through April 28 anglers are limited

to artificial lures only, catch-and-release fishing. Youth under the age of 12 may keep one fish between 8 and 12". Beginning April 29, all baits are allowed and anglers may keep up to five fish over 8", but only three fish over 15".

See 2016-2017 Michigan Fishing Guide for complete regulation details.

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### 2017 Battle Creek Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information	Contact Info
May	13	Lake Michigan Weigh 3, Trip Swap	Benton Harbor	Greg Peck 269-998-9407
June	2-3	Connie McGowan Invitational	Lake Erie Captain Must Be A Member	Greg Peck 269-998-9407
July	15	Portage Lake Pan Fish/Family Picnic	in Vicksburg	Justin Kling 269-491-2980
August	19	Lake Michigan Memorial	South Haven	Greg Peck 269-998-9407
October	7	Kalamazoo River Salmon	Allegan Dam	Todd Sidnam 269-317-0324
October	21	Kalamazoo River Memorial	Allegan Dam	Todd Sidnam 269-317-0324
October	28	Kalamazoo River Trout Quest	Allegan Dam	Todd Sidnam 269-317-0324
November	25	St Joe River Fall Steelhead	I-94 Boat Ramp	Todd Sidnam 269-317-0324
December	2	St Joe River Chapter Challenge	Southwest Chapter	Ryan McCartney (574)274-6382
December	9	Christmas Party		Kalamazoo Eagles

### 2017 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Comments	Membership Meetings Held at:
May	6	Linwood Beach Marine, Linwood	Walleye outing 7 am - 1 pm South Haven, Black River Mar 6 am - 1 pm	Midland VFW Hall 3013 Bay City Rd Midland, MI 48642 989-496-3410
June	3	Sebawaing Harbor Marina	Walleye outing 7 am - 1 pm Bring a child for great day of fun!	Board Meeting starts: 6:00 pm Membership Meeting starts: 7:00 pm All Board/ Membership Meetings are held first Tuesday of each month with Exception of May, June, July and August. A raffle is held following all Membership Meetings
	17	Standish-Eagle Bay Marina	Walleye outing 7 am - 1 pm	
July	15	Manistee/Arcadia Marina	Salmon outing 5:30 am - 1 pm Begins & ends at Manistee Marina	<b>BRING A FRIEND! All Membership Meetings Are Open to the Public</b>
	29	Ludington	Salmon outing 5:30 am - 1 pm	
August	12	Ludington	Salmon outing 5:30 am - 1 pm Bring a child for great day of fun!	<b>Register via Marine Radio channel 72 At beginning of all events. Weigh in's and Picnics follow at 2:00 pm.</b>
	13	Ludington day 2	Salmon outing 5:30 am - 1 pm	
	26	Manistee	Salmon outing 6 am - 1 pm	<b>For more information email: kathy@steel-headers.com or check web page www.steel-headers.com</b>
	27	Manistee day 2	Salmon outing 6 am - noon	
September	9	Frankfort	Salmon outing 6 am - 1 pm	
December	9	Christmas/Awards Banquet	Cocktails 5 pm, dinner 6 pm K of C Hall Aubun, Mi	

### 2017 Flint River Valley Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information	Membership Meetings Held at:
May	17	Membership Meeting	7:00pm at Walli's	Burton Mi.
	20	Salmon Tournament	6:30am Holland	contact Randy 231-342-0057
June	3	Walleye Tournament	7:00am Linwood	contact Randy 231-342-0057
	17	Walleye Tournament	7:00am Sebawaing	contact Randy 231-342-0057
July	8	Walleye Big Bob Outing	7:00am Linwood	contact Randy 231-342-0057
	22	Walleye Tournament	7:00am Au Gres	contact Randy 231-342-0057
	29	Walleye Tournament	7:00am Port Austin	
August	5	Salmon Tournament	6:00am Ludington	contact Randy 231-342-0057
	19	Salmon Tournament	6:00am Frankfort	contact Randy 231-342-0057
	26	Salmon Tournament	6:30am Manistee	contact Randy 231-342-0057
September	20	Membership Meeting	7:00pm at Walli's	Burton Mi.
October	18	Membership Meeting	7:00pm at Walli's	Burton Mi.
November	8	Membership Meeting	7:00pm at Walli's	Burton Mi.
December	13	Membership Meeting	7:00pm at Walli's	Burton Mi.

### 2017 Holland Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Membership Meetings Held at:
May	1	Board Meeting	<b>Membership Meetings Held at:</b> Yacht Basin Yacht Club 1862 Ottawa Beach Rd Holland, MI 49424 Social Hour at 6pm Dinner at 7pm
	20	Holland Steelheaders Spring Challenge	
	23	Tuesday Night League Kickoff	
June	5	Board Meeting	Call board members to find out locations of board meetings.
	10	All Species Tournament	
	24	Kids N Kings Tournament	
July	10	Board Meeting	For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jeremy Erdman 616-510-9405
	27	General Membership Meeting/Captain's Meeting	
	29	Holland Steelheaders Summer Challenge	
August	4-6	Big Red Classic	
	7	Board Meeting	
	19	Holland Steelheaders Ladies Tournament	
	26	Gold Coast Tournament	
September	5	Tuesday Fish League Final Night	
	11	Board Meeting	
October	2	Board Meeting	
November	6	Board Meeting	
December	2	River Tournament	
	4	Board Meeting	
	7	General Membership Meeting	

### 2017 Grand Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Comments
<b>Grand Haven Steelheaders: www.ghsteelheaders.com</b>			
July	29	Member Weeklong+ fishing contest begin	Jul 29 - Aug 9 contact: rtwilson42@yahoo.com
		Fish out of the Port of Grand Haven; Chinook, Coho, Steelhead, Lake Trout, Brown Trout	
August	3	Sportsmen for Youth Fundraiser	https://sportsmenforyouth.com
	10	Grand Haven Steelheaders Member Picnic	contact: mjbeltel@altelco.net
		Rycenga Park, Spring Lake Twp.	
September	9	Sportsmen for Youth Day	Muskegon Cty Fairgrounds https://sportsmenforyouth.com
	16	Grand Haven Salmon Festival	Grand Haven Waterfront/City Mari www.ghsalmonfest.com
	16	GH Steelheaders-Salmon Festival Big Fish Contest	Grand Haven Waterfront Stadium www.ghsalmonfest.com
	16	Salmon Fest Kid Zone Activity area	Grand Haven Waterfront/City Marina location
December	TBD	Christmas dinner/annual meeting	

For more information on Grand Haven Steelheaders activities contact: Roger Belter - 616-842-0877 or rogerbelter@gmail.com

### 2017 Huron Valley Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information	Membership Meetings Held at:
May	13	Taylor Fish-N-Fun Day	Tom Cunningham	American Legion Post #200 11800 Michaels St Taylor, MI 48180
	20	Vision Impaired Outing	Dave Backhaus	
	27	Kelley's Island Tournament w/MWS		
June	3	Lake Erie Walleye w/MWS		John Popp tzjohn@comcast.net
	8	Old Geezers Outing		
	15	Membership Meeting/Fish Fry	6:00 PM	
July	22-23	Ludington Tournament w/MWS		
August	17	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM	
October	19	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM	
	28	Huron Walleye Tournament w/MWS		

### 2017 Grand Rapids Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information
May	1	Board of Directors Meeting	7PM
	22	Membership Meeting	Devos Place Devos Place
June	3	Spring Big Lake Contest STC	7:30 PM/Social Hour 6:30 PM
	5	Board of Directors Meeting	7PM
	9-11	Lake Erie 3 Day Walleye Contest	
	26	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM/Social Hour 6:30 PM
July	10	Board of Directors Meeting	7PM
	12	Chapter Family Picnic 6 PM at Johnson Park	
August	7	Board of Directors Meeting	
	19	Fall Big Lake Salmon	Trout 2/1 Contest STC
	28	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM/Social Hour 6:30 PM
September	11	Board of Directors Meeting	7PM
	25	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM/Social Hour 6:30 PM
October	1	Chapter Buck Contest Starts	
	2	Board of Directors Meeting	7PM
	30	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM/Social Hour 6:30 PM
November	4	Fall River Contest Grand & Muskegon Rivers and their Tributaries STC	
	6	Board of Directors Meeting	7PM
	11	Fishing Partners Manistee Contest STC	
	27	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM/Social Hour 6:30 PM
December	4	Board of Directors Meeting	7PM
	11	Chapter Family Christmas Party 6 PM - Diamond Hall	

### 2017 Metro West (Livonia) Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information	Membership Meetings Held at:
May	2	Membership Meeting		Livonia Civic Park Senior Center 15218 Farmington Rd. Livonia, MI 48154 (SE Corner of 5 Mile/Farmington) NE Meeting Room
	6	Brown Trout Tourn. Frankfort	Richardson	
	13	Brown Trout Tourn. Ludington	Eric Braden	
	13	Toledo Beach Walleye Tourn.	Larry Tabaka	Contact: Pres. Larry Tabaka 313 215 8979
	20	Benton Harbor Salmon Tourn.	Chris Thompson	
	27	Kelley's Island Walleye Tourn.	Dennis Kelley	Membership Director: Henry Nabors 248 225 4964
June	3	Lake Erie Walleye Tournament	Dennis Kelley	
	6	Membership Meeting		
	10	Kids Fishing Outing	Brad Allan	
July	1	Saginaw Bay Walleye Tourn.	Fabian Sepulveda	
	6	Erieau Tournament	Clyde Schoen	
	8	Erieau Tournament	Larry Tabaka	
	8	Manistee River Cleanup Day	Roger Hinchcliff	
	11	Club Summer Picnic	Jim Robertson	
	15	Holland Salmon Tournament	Larry Tabaka	
	15	Clinton River Cleanup Day	Adam Trenz	
	20	Ludington Salmon Tournament	Gale Frazee	
	22	Ludington Salmon Tournament	Dennis Kelley	
	23	Ludington Salmon Tournament	Dave Zawacki	
August	1	Membership Meeting		
	5	Manistee Salmon Tournament	Eric Braden	
	6	Manistee Salmon Tournament	Chris Christoph	
	19	Frankfort Salmon Tournament	Tom Hesch	
	26	Betsie River Tournament	Mike Cortis	
September	5	Membership Meeting		
	9	Frankfort Salmon Tournament	MikeHartrick	
	23	Manistee River Tournament	Adam Trenz	
October	3	Membership Meeting		
	7	Ohio Steelhead Alley	Phil Bustos	
	14	Manistee River Tournament	Fabian Sepulveda	
	24	2018 Calendar Meeting	Kelley/Nabors	
	28	Huron Walleye Tournament	Jim Robertson	
November	4	Manistee River Tournament	Ray Lorton	
	7	Membership Meeting		
	18	Pere Marquette River	Phil Bustos	
December	5	CHRISTMAS PARTY		
	9	Huron River Tournament	Roger Hinchcliff	

### “Lamprey” Cont'd from page 1

during the larval phase of development may increase the odds of sea lampreys becoming male. During the study, environments lacking plentiful food were male-skewed, with 78 percent of sea lampreys becoming male after three years, whereas environments more conducive to growth pro-

North American Great Lakes. With their blood-sucking capability and gaping round mouths, sea lampreys feed on the blood and fluids of native fish, causing population declines in commercially and recreationally important species that are essential to the Great Lakes' multi-billion dollar per year fishery.

Between 2005 and

toward developing advanced technologies to control sea lampreys in the Great Lakes, which have caused unparalleled damage to fisheries,” said David Ullrich, chair of the GLFC. “Although sea lamprey populations have been reduced by 90 percent, innovation will be key to maintaining strong control into the future. The results of this



Invasive sea lamprey prey on commercially important fish species, living off of the blood and body fluids of adult fish. (Credit: Marisa Lubeck, USGS.)

duced only 56 percent males.

This discovery could be a critical step in developing advanced technologies to control sea lamprey.

“Remarkably, we didn't set out to study sex determination in sea lampreys – we were planning to study environmental effects on

2007, the scientists tagged and released sea lamprey larvae into unproductive lakes and productive streams. These environments included tributaries of Lakes Huron and Michigan and areas of those lakes near stream mouths. The researchers then recaptured the tagged fish as adults during their

study could open paths forward to novel technologies that can disrupt or modify gender in sea lampreys, providing the commission with other means to control this noxious predator.”

Some sea lamprey populations have skewed sex ratios, but the reasons why have remained a biological



USGS sea lamprey expert Nick Johnson demonstrates the ridge of tissue, called a rope, along the back of a mature male sea lamprey. (Credit: Andrea Miehl, USGS.)

growth rates only,” said Nick Johnson, a USGS scientist and the lead author of the study. “We were startled when we discovered that these data may also reveal how sex is determined because mechanisms of sex determination in lamprey are considered a holy grail for researchers.”

Sea lampreys are imperiled in Europe and the Pacific Northwest, where they are native, but are invasive and destructive in the

spawning migrations.

The sex ratios in productive and unproductive environments were initially similar but quickly diverged, with unproductive lakes becoming increasingly male-dominated. Once the larvae changed into their parasitic adult stage, their sex did not shift, and their survival rates generally did not differ between productive versus unproductive environments.

“The results of this study could be a critical step

mystery for decades. The new study, with its unanticipated sex determination findings, begins to answer a scientific question that has previously eluded researchers.

This study, “Indication that sex determination in sea lamprey is influenced by larval growth rate,” is published in the journal Royal Society Proceedings B.

### 2017 South Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information	Membership Meetings Held at:
May	3	Pro Am Committee		Membership & Board Meetings South Haven Moose Lodge 1025 East Wells Street South Haven, MI 49090 contact: SHS President
	18	Membership Meeting		
	19	Pro Am Tournament	19th - 21st	
June	7	Pro Am Committee		
	10	Ladies Tournament		
	15	Membership Meeting		
July	20	Membership Meeting		
August	12	Blueberry Festival Fish Boil		
	17	Membership Meeting		
	19	Salute to Veterans		
	26	Merle Morris Tournament		
September	21	Membership Meeting		
	21	Board Meeting		
October	19	Membership Meeting		
	19	Board Meeting		
November	1	Pro Am Committee 2018 Kick-off #1		
	16	Membership Meeting		
	16	Board Meeting		
	25	River Tournament		
December	6	Pro Am Committee 2018 #2		
	7	Local Tournament Committee Annual		
	9	Holiday Party		

### 2017 SW MI Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information	Membership Meetings Held at:
May	11-13	Summer Challenge Tournament	<a href="http://www.fishthesummerchallenge.com">www.fishthesummerchallenge.com</a>	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks 541 601 Riverview Drive Benton Harbor, MI 49022 Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784
June	8	Membership Meeting	Board Mtg 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Mtg 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
July	13	Membership Meeting	Board Mtg 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Mtg 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
August	10	Membership Meeting	Board Mtg 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Mtg 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
September	14	Membership Meeting	Board Mtg 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Mtg 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
October	12	Membership Meeting	Board Mtg 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Mtg 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
November	8	Membership Meeting	Board Mtg 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Mtg 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
December	2	Winter Challenge Tournament		
	8	Christmas Party		

### 2017 TCAS Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information	Membership Meetings Held at:
May	3	Membership Meeting		06:30 PM
	6	Brown Trout Tournament Frankfort	Carl MacDonald/Randy Richardson	
	13	MWS Brown Trout Tournament Ludington		
	20	Torch Lake Salmon Tournament	John Truchan, host Bill Frost	
June	7	Membership Meeting		06:30 PM
	24	Saginaw Bay Walleye Tournament	Jeremy	
July	1-8	2016 National Cherry Festival		
		NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING		
	1	MWS Walleye Tournament (Saginaw Bay or Lake Erie)		
	8	Lake Charlevoix Tournament	Tim Potter/Rich Wilks	
	15	MWS Salmon Tournament - Holland		
	20,22,23	MWS Salmon Tournament - Ludington		
August	2	Membership Meeting		06:30 PM
	5,6	MWS Salmon Tournament - Menistee		
	13	MWS Salmon Tournament - Frankfort		
	26	Lake Bellaire Tournament	Tim Potter/Rich Wilks	
September	6	Membership Meeting		06:30 PM
	9	MWS Salmon Tournament - Frankfort		
	16	Crystal Lake Tournament	Warner Smith	
	23	Senior Center Fish Fry		
	23	MWS Manistee River Tournament		
30	Grand Traverse Bay Tournament (Elk Rapids)	Joe Cruzen		
October	4	Membership Meeting		06:30 PM
	21	Port Captain's Meeting		
November	1	Membership Meeting		06:30 PM
December	8	Christmas Party		



# Rig Your Ride Right

Is your boat set up and ready for results?

**By Dennis Foster**

The first trip of the season isn't the best time to deal with all the little things that can and do go wrong in a boat. Common sense dictates that they can quickly become big things and will ruin a trip if you fail to address them long before your boat hits the big water.

Foresight will not only salvage a trip for you, but should you experience equipment failures in extreme conditions, it might also just save you from catastrophe. This is just as much true for maintaining a boat you have owned for years as it is for a newly purchased boat. Proper rigging

and scheduled maintenance are the keys here, and any corners that are cut — no matter how small they might seem — will end up costing you big time.

Unless you truly possess the skills, tools and patience to do the job properly, have any detailed maintenance performed by a seasoned professional. I can personally attest to the fact that impatience and power tools are not a good mixture in the wrong hands.

This is where a good dealer comes into play. Anyone can take your hard-earned money in return for a boat and motor package. That is simply a transaction.



Unless you truly possess the skills, tools and patience to do the job properly, have any detailed maintenance performed by a seasoned professional.

Photo by Dennis Foster.

It takes a real and reputable dealer to have the knowledge and integrity to make the appropriate recommendations for what is needed for your intended purposes and then have the properly trained personnel in their shop to make sure it is all put together correctly and cared for from the get-go. Done properly, this will continue to pay dividends in years of trouble-free service.

### Pick Your Poison

Picking a suitable boat and motor package is the first step in helping to guarantee you won't be disappointed. In my opinion, for the conditions that we are often faced with on the Upper Great Plains — meaning big water and often bigger winds — fiberglass trumps aluminum.

If you plan on fishing any of the large reservoirs or the bigger lakes, this is just good judgment because glass boats, in general, will give you a smoother, drier, and safer ride. This isn't to say that a fiberglass boat is inherently superior, because whether it's glass or aluminum, a good boat will still need to have the proper hull design that cuts waves, directs the spray away from you, and tracks and handles well.

I personally run boats made by Warrior. More specifically, my choice is the V203 model, and I couldn't be more tickled. I spend a lot of time on notoriously nasty waters, and the ride is phenomenal.

The boat's design is further enhanced by Smooth Moves seat suspensions that help tame even the harshest conditions. I have yet to have my spirits or body dampened from taking a wave in a Warrior boat — something to consider should you be in the market for a new ride.

### Rigging Done Right

For the purposes of this article, I will use the rigging of this particular boat as a platform to make some suggestions as to what you may want to include in a new boat or if you're looking to upgrade some of the equipment in your current boat. First and foremost are the engines you hang off the back. After all, they are what transports us to our favorite fishing holes and, even more importantly, back to the dock safely.

For years I have been a fan of Mercury, as they continue to develop the most technologically advanced power plants imaginable. Their super-charged 4-stroke Verado is a testament to this. If you haven't had the opportunity to experience the quiet, smooth and powerful acceleration these motors dish out, you owe it yourself to arrange a test ride with your dealer. I rely on the 300 hp model to push the deep hull of my V203 into the 60 mph range. Not

"Rig"

Cont'd on next page

## 2017 SCHEDULE

# MANISTEE COUNTY TOURNAMENTS & EVENTS



*Ladies*  
**Shake Down**  
May 26

**Onkama Marine Inc.**  
Memorial Weekend "Shake Down"

**Shake Down**  
**Main Event**  
May 27-28

For info call: Carrie Paxton 231-889-5000 – email: carrie@onekamamarine.com  
or Scott MacDonald 231-690-1102 – email: smac54@gmail.com



### MCSFA Events

**Salmon & Trout Derby:**  
May 27 - Sept. 4

**Ladies Classic: June 23**

**Budweiser Pro/Am: June 24-25**



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### Salmon Splash

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**“Rig”**

Cont'd from previous page

bad for a true big-water walleye boat that is heavily loaded with myself, admittedly well-fed friends, and more equipment, tackle and bait than many shops keep in inventory.

For serious walleye anglers, a kicker motor is necessary for pulling plugs and to assist your bow-mount electric trolling motor when rigging live bait in heavy winds. Pointed straight forward and slipped into gear, the kicker gives you the extra thrust to run the bow-mount motor on a lower setting and help preserve precious battery reserves on long, grueling days. I also use my Xi5 MotorGuide bow-mount trolling motor in conjunction with the kicker when pulling crankbaits. The quick response and precise steering lets me maneuver and hold tight to changing contours. By using the bow-mount motor to steer, you will find that even extreme turns from the front result in far less tangled lines. An added benefit is that you can dial in your speed with incremental adjustments to the bow-mount troller, and there is no need to spend more money for additional devices.

For kickers, most folks go with a 9.9 hp model, but my personal opinion is that the added thrust of a 15-horse kicker gives a bit more control when it's dropped into gear at idle speed.

An interesting option I have been intrigued by and finally had the chance to test in my last boat are trim tabs. Now that I fully comprehend just how much you can fine-tune the ride and attitude of your boat with separate controls for each tab, I will never be without them

and strongly recommend them for any boat over 18 feet long. Warrior offers Lenco trim tabs as a factory installed accessory, and most anyone could retrofit a boat with them in an hour or so.

**Electronic Options**

The most useful upgrade you can add to any boat are the electronics that help locate fish and also give us the ability to narrow our search to the most likely areas in which to find fish. These technologies continue to expand at a mind-boggling pace. The good thing is that as sophisticated as today's electronics are, they are also becoming easier to use and interpret. That, in my opinion, is the most important factor to consider when purchasing new units. You can have units that profess to have the most dazzling of capabilities, but if they are difficult and intimidating to use, the amount of usable information you actually obtain becomes miniscule in comparison to the amount of money you have spent.

Value is the key here, and for that I have been relying on Raymarine units for the past 15 years, primarily because the technology incorporated is fisherman friendly. After having built a solid and deserved reputation in salt-water markets for decades, they have now made a dedicated commitment to the fresh-water market.

As anglers, we all benefit from additional options and stiff competition that will drive all manufacturers to continually deliver innovative products. DownVision, SideVision, and CHIRP Sonar are the newest and most widely discussed features in the realm of fishing electronics and are far

more than fancy labels, fads or marketing ploys to get you to purchase more options than you need. These are serious tools for serious anglers and surpass “wants” and warrant the status of “needs.” Once you have had the opportunity to use them, you will quickly discover your understanding of the underwater environment expanding right along with your catch rates.

Mounting today's large-screen models has been an issue, till now. The Balzout mounting system has solved this and allows me to keep the 12-inch-screen Raymarine units I run snug and secure in the exact position I want without constantly adjusting and tightening, no matter how rough the conditions are. In the short time I've used them, I believe they're something that anglers have needed for some time and are worth checking out.

My personal electronics setup involves using a combination of A-Series and the surprisingly affordable Dragonfly units. This combination gives me the benefits of pinpoint GPS combined with Navionics Hotmaps Platinum background-mapping, which features 1-foot contours. Navionics gives you the added capability and ease of daily updates right from your smartphone, as well as building your own customized fishing maps.

It's just truly amazing stuff compared to what was available just a few years ago, and I will be making a concerted effort to put it all to good use this season. With the intuitive-touch screen format, even us older curmudgeons will quickly become comfortable and utilizing it to its full potential in no time at all.

**No-Brainers**

Now that we have covered some of the higher ticket items, here are a few great additions to quickly trick out your boat that are light on the wallet but heavyweights in function and value. CrankCaddy has an ingenious storage system I have been utilizing to organize and keep all of my crankbaits accessible and tangle free for the last few seasons. They have taken the proven concept of the slotted plastic dividers that work so well in their storage boxes and made a vertical, standing Dash Caddy. I use suction cups and mount several to my dash or any other flat surfaces to keep the daily lineup of lures at the ready. No more dealing with dozens of lures haphazardly tossed on the dash only to soon become a completely fused and unusable mess. GearGrabbar products fall into the same organizational category and work perfectly for mounting to more-vertical surfaces. They employ incredibly strong magnets that will hold anything containing metal, no matter how bumpy the conditions. I have several mounted throughout my boat so I can have ready access to pliers, forceps, scissors, mouth spreaders, jigs or whatever else I might need. Throw in some rod buckle straps to hold the extra rods you plan on using either on your deck or along the sides of the cockpit. These straps will help protect your investment in expensive, technique-specific rods and still keep them at the ready.

By using these three simple and inexpensive systems, you will have cleaned up and organized your boat considerably and will immediately increase your efficiency and, more impor-

tantly, your catch rate.

With just a dab of thought, time and effort you can guarantee that all of your equipment will perform flawlessly, leaving you to concentrate on putting fish in the boat and enjoying yourself in the process. After all, isn't that the desired outcome of every

outing?

Dennis Foster is an outdoor communicator and a pheasant hunting and fishing guide from Mellette, SD. He welcomes comments and input through either of his websites [www.eyetimepromotions.com](http://www.eyetimepromotions.com) [www.dakotapheasantguide.com](http://www.dakotapheasantguide.com).

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# Don't Mess with the Great Lakes

By Dennis Eade

President Donald Trump's proposed funding cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency could have dire consequences for the Great Lakes region. Eight states benefit from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), which provides funding for thousands of projects to help improve waterways. The proposal would eliminate the \$300 million dollar per year funding completely.

The initiative utilizes those funds to clean up waterways around the Great Lakes, like toxic algae blooms in Lake Erie or preventing invasive species like the Asian Carp from coming into the region. It helps clean pollution and control pollution runoff, contaminated sediment and helps restore habitats and wetlands.

On April 5th, Congressman Dan Kildee, Todd Ambs, Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, the Chair of the U.S. Committee

Advisors to the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission Denny Grinold, and Dennis Eade, Executive Director of MSSFA held a teleconference with media outlets across the state, to call attention to the fact that the health of Michigan's economy is also directly tied to the health of the Great Lakes.

"The Great Lakes have extraordinary economic value, supporting jobs for over a million and a half people, including 800,000 people in Michigan. (They) generate literally billions in economic activity, supporting \$60 billion in annual wages for workers and \$52 billion in fishing, hunting and boating industries," Congressman Kildee said.

For example, the charter fishing industry would be directly impacted by eliminating the GLRI according to Denny Grinold. "Charter fishing companies operate on the Great Lakes, with around 600 in the state of Michigan. They all rely on the GLRI to keep out inva-

sive species."

Without GLRI funding, it would further jeopardize the Great Lakes ecosystem and the \$7 billion sport fishing industry and the economic benefits of the jobs associated with the industry.

A coalition of more than 145 environmental, conservation, and outdoor recreation groups is speaking out against the Trump administration's widely reported plans to propose massive funding cuts to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

"Funding cuts of this magnitude would be devastating," said Todd Ambs, campaign director for Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition. "(It) would essentially stop restoration efforts in their tracks."

"Not only would this destroy the on-the-ground restoration efforts, but it would severely curtail the EPA's regional presence," said Ambs. He says protection of the Great Lakes cannot happen without a strong EPA.

"Communities would continue to grapple with drinking water restrictions, fish consumption advisories, and closed beaches - a state of affairs that undermines public health and economic development," said Joy Mullinex, co-chair of the Coalition.

"There's a reason that the Great Lakes Restoration investment is supported by the region's chambers of commerce, industries, mayors, and tribes, and conservation groups. These investments are good for the environment and the economy," Mullinex said.

Ambs also raised concerns about two other recent environmental actions of the Trump administration.

He said the administration should not delay the release of a government study on how to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes and he condemned Trump's recent executive order to start the process of rescinding Clean Water Act protections of streams and wet-

lands that feed drinking water supplies to one in three Americans.

Just this past week, in a radio interview with Michigan Radio, Congressman Fred Upton, expressed his strong opposition to the potential closure of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 office located in Chicago. "This is bad news and we cannot let it happen. To close Region 5 office, that has been so helpful in so many ways, and move it to Kansas is just not right."

Congressman Upton joined with other Great Lakes Caucus members to send a signal to "put the Genie back in the bottle". "This is not a wise move; the quicker we can shut the door on this the better." When the chemical spill occurred at the U.S. Steel Plant in northern Indiana last week, Upton said, "EPA was there in a nanosecond...that's not going to happen if they are in Kansas. We need the EPA to

stay where they are (in Chicago)."

Upton pointed out that Trump's "skinny budget request" is only a road map for the Appropriations Committee to move forward and we have someone who cares about the Great Lakes on the appropriations committee; Congressman John Mooleenaar, representing Michigan's Fourth Congressional District.

"We must not turn our backs on the safety, health, and future of our Great Lakes. Whatever the deficiencies of the Region 5 office, the folks there do play a critical role in protecting human health and the environment. In fact, it was my bipartisan legislation with U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Michigan, that would make important reforms. I believe strongly that we must work together, republicans and democrats, to protect the natural resources we all know and love. Don't mess with the Great Lakes!"

## 'Perchanator' is New Panfish Weapon

By Ted Peck

Perch are a perennial source of torment for rabid anglers. Frustration is understandable in pursuit of walleyes or muskies. These piscators are gamefish. Perch are panfish. Conventional wisdom says panfish are easier to catch.

Legions of fishers across

the upper Midwest have discovered the enigmatic nature of these golden tiger-barred devils, sometimes going to extreme measures to figure them out while trying even harder to remain nonchalant when perch decide not to cooperate.

I tried to display this façade when guiding three

clients for panfish last summer.

Two of this trio was catching a pile of bluegills using nine-foot St. Croix panfish rods and a tiny, black 1/80 oz. jig-fly known as the Bimbo Skunk.

In a lifetime on the water I have yet to find a bluegill lure which will outfish the

'Skunk. A white cousin of this lure called the Blonde Bimbo has a similar effect on crappies. Both will also fool the occasional perch.

Until last summer there were other presentations which would consistently catch more perch-including the basic split shot and tiny red hook with a pinch of worm.

This most basic rig is profoundly effective on perch-but sometimes beneath the dignity of someone who considers himself a professional angler.

Returning to the dock with a nice mess of perch and admitting they were caught on a hook and split shot would be like Kevin Van-Dam telling the world he just won the Bassmaster Classic tourney throwing a raspberry scented, pre-rigged plastic worm.

Professional anglers use "lures" to catch their fish. I used to employ Minnesota logic in building my perch rigs, adding a single orange bead so I could call it a "lure".

Until just a couple of years ago Minnesota ice anglers could not use a basic chub on a treble hook on their tip-ups. They had to use a "lure". Legal compliance was accomplished by adding

a tiny spinner blade or super-fluorous plastic bead.

On this particular sum-

mer outing the third angler in my party was using the "professional" perch rig of a hook and orange bead, fishing the exact same water as his buddies who were wailing away on the 'gills with Bimbo Skunks.

It took several incarna-



two days later and were immediately field tested.

tions and over a month to finally come up with a lure approaching perch perfection. We came up with a slightly larger hook with a slightly heavier jighead weight of 1/32 ounce to effect a quicker fall through the weeds which are a popular perch summer home.

The final touch was a chartreuse stripe running along of the lure's spine. The stripe effectively imitated a tiny green benthic macroinvertebrate which lived between the fronds of elodea which perch like to feast on from mid-summer through late fall.

Even after most green weeds died off, the Perchanator continued to fool fish under the Mississippi River ice...and really live up to its name now that ice has

"Perchinator" Cont'd on next page

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**“Spinners”**  
Cont'd from page 12  
Erie water into striking a stickbait a few feet behind. It's well worth trying.

Jim Larson sells the quad spinners for \$6 apiece in brass, plated silver, nickel and a variety of painted blades including orange and

pink. You can order them over the phone by calling him at 616-453-4779.



**“Perchinator”**  
Cont'd from previous page  
faded from backwaters of Old Man River.

A major key to consistent angling success—regardless of species you're chasing—is to focus on forage down the food chain from the fish you want to catch.

Perch start life feeding on zooplankton, progressing to benthic macroinvertebrates as they grow. Really big perch eventually go after minnows, including smaller perch, but they maintain a craving for benthic macroinvertebrates until the day they wind up on a stringer.

Most of my panfish guiding is done on backwaters of the Upper Mississippi River.

Throughout the summer and into the fall bluegills, crappies and perch can be found in pockets and near the deep outside edge of elodea and similar water weeds in 6-9 feet of water on this fishery.

Finding fish is the first component of a successful day on the water. The second step is putting something which appears to be irresistible prey in their strike zone.

Put these two parameters together and you can catch fish with a basic hook and split shot.

Folks who fish for a living have a tendency to tweak a system which already works. Those with a guide service logo on a fancy shirt

can't use terms like ‘coontail weeds’ or ‘little green worms’.

They feel compelled to expound on six species of elodea and piscatory preferences within the vast buffet of benthic macroinvertebrates.

My clients rave about the new Teddy Skunk Perchinator. They catch more fish, bigger fish. It really, really works.

Available at a bait shop near you, or online at [www.bimboskunk.com/ted/](http://www.bimboskunk.com/ted/) for the bargain price of \$2 per copy—but WAIT—order now and you can get a second TSP free. Just add \$2 for additional shipping and handling.



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Part# 40620, 2pk Color - yellow Replacement Pads part# 40701 6/pk



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**TX-007 Stern Planer**  
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Part# 40519 sold 2 per package 1 left & 1 right

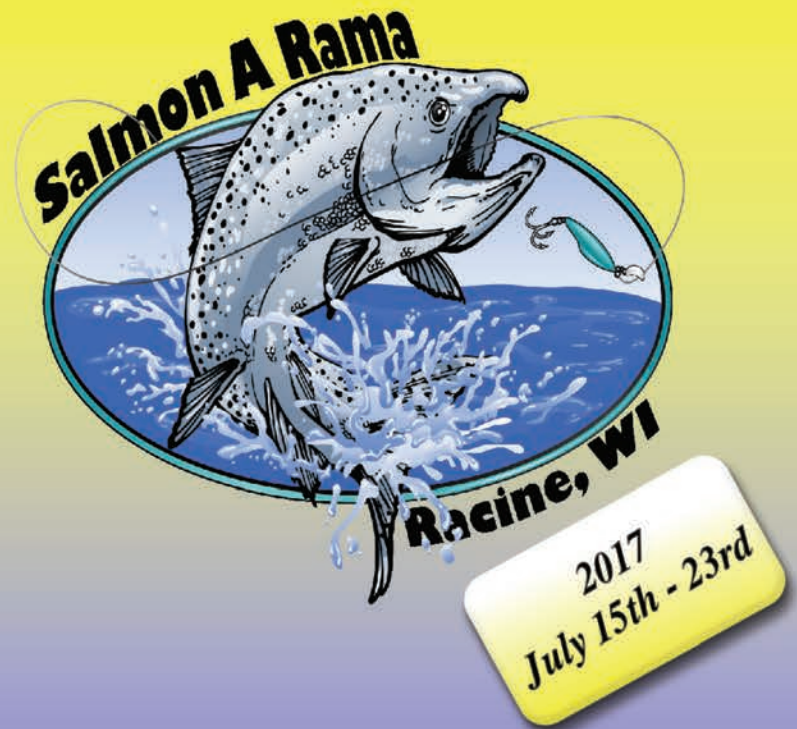
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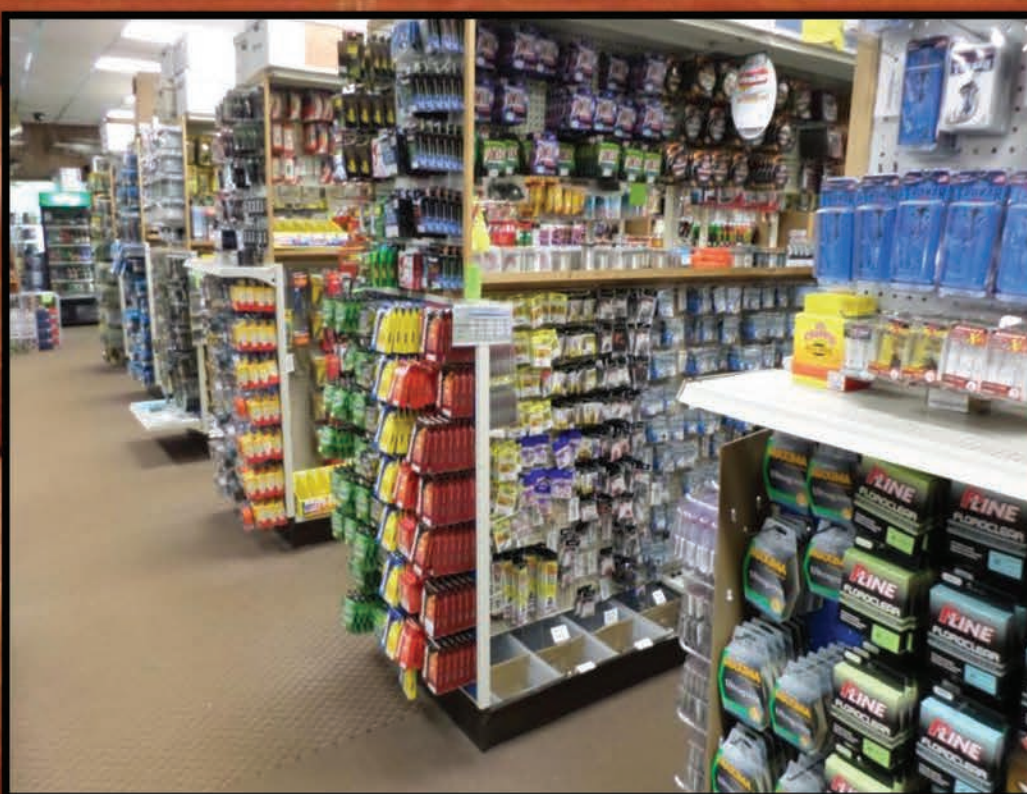


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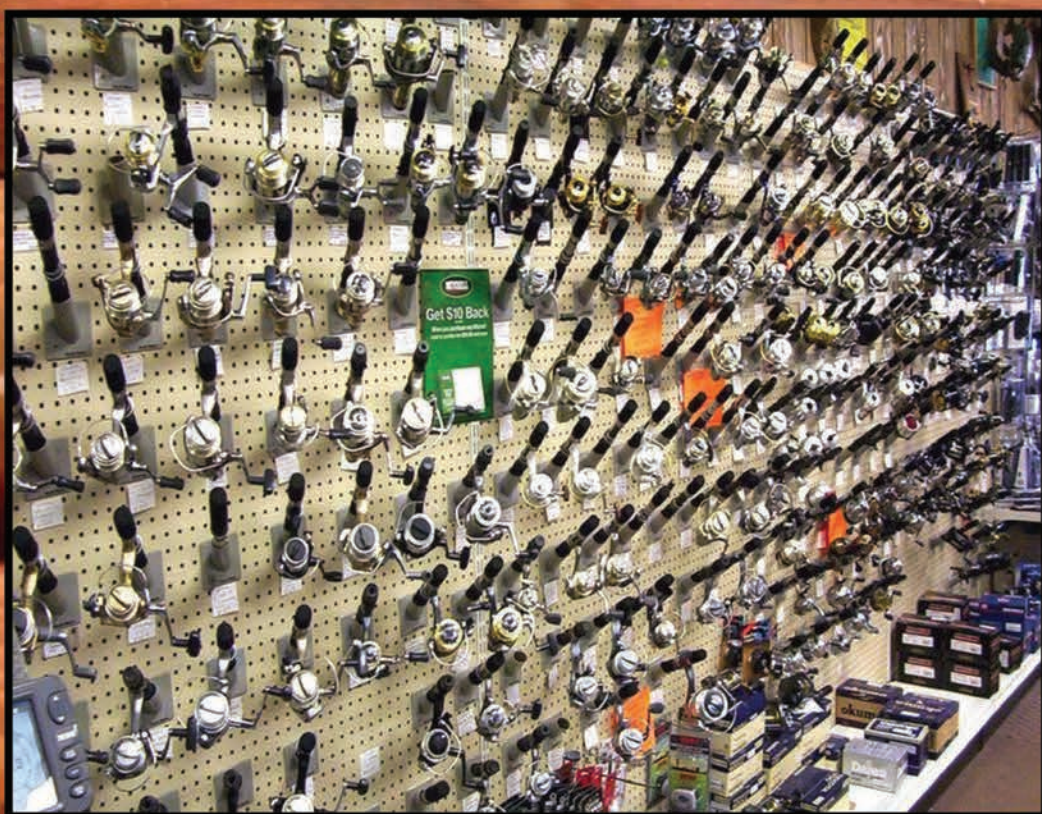
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