



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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Jim Bedford

When Anadromous Salmon and Resident Trout Come Together

By Jim Bedford

A big goal of both the DNR's Fisheries Division and sport fishing groups is to reconnect the habitat of our cold water rivers and creeks. Dam builders were certainly very busy in Michigan and have fragmented the vast majority of our streams. Slowly, through dam removals and fish ladders, we are making it possible for trout to travel upstream to good spawning habitat and cold water refuges.

The removal of dams on the Boardman River is an ongoing major reconnection project. But, not all anglers are on board with allowing salmon and steelhead on their spawning runs to join the resident browns and brookies. Some think that the visitors from Lake Michigan will compete with the trout for spawning sites and have an adverse affect on the natural reproduction of the wild trout. They are also concerned that the young of the anadromous fish will compete with trout of similar size. In general, salmon and steelhead spawn on larger gravel and in more open areas than the more reclusive browns and brookies.

And, while there will be overlap of spawning salmon and resident trout in the fall, steelhead spawn in the spring. On the other hand, competition between the juvenile anadromous fish and small resident trout for food and space definitely will occur. When the DNR introduced adult steelhead into Hunt Creek, a tributary of the Thunder Bay River system which is isolated from Lake Huron by a dam in Alpena, for several years the number of resident trout present decreased. This is certainly what you would expect since each stream has a limited carrying capacity for resident trout.

One must remember, however, that the reason for fewer browns and brookies is that the stream is now raising rainbows to smolting size. So if you enjoy coaxing six to eight inch trout to take your dry fly you will still have the same number of trout to fish for, just that some of them will be rainbows. Actually, you will probably have even more small trout because of the nutrients brought to the stream from Lake Michigan by the anadromous fish. Rainbow and salmon eggs are very nutritious

foods for small trout and, in the case of the chinook and cohos, their decaying carcasses add even more trout food to the river.

When the salmon and steelhead smolts leave the river they become vulnerable to the larger trout. They are not as wary when they head downstream and you can bet the larger browns take advantage of this. And, with the smolts out of the river, the resident browns and brookies have plenty of space and food to grow large.

Fisheries biologists measure the abundance of trout in a stream in pounds per acre. This allows them to compare the productivity of rivers of different sizes. It will likely surprise you that the Little Manistee River is right up there with Michigan's most productive trout streams. You would think that the very large runs of both wild coho and wild chinook salmon along with the steelhead that this stream supports would not allow the strong numbers of large browns. But, again, we have to remember what the anadromous salmonids

"Salmon-Trout"
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Greetings From Mackinaw City, Where Line 5 Fears Threaten a Way of Life

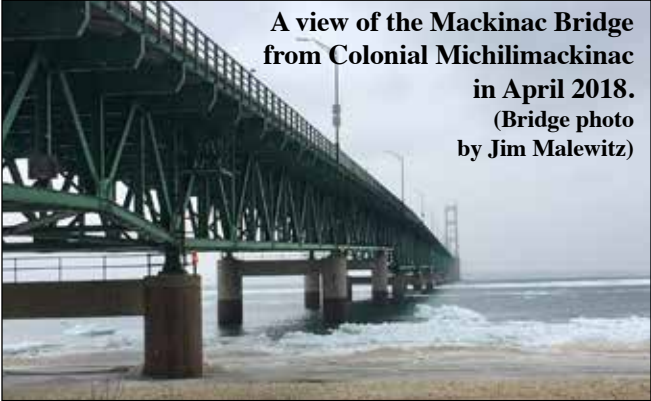
MACKINAW CITY

George Warner didn't hesitate when asked what issues most concern folks in this wildly popular tourist town at the tip of Michigan's mitten.

"Line 5," he told a reporter while buying goodies at Devon's Mackinac Island Fudge Company, one of few businesses open Wednesday during a slow, snowy lead-up to tourism season.

Caitie Dannatt, 27, nodded emphatically from behind the cash register as she rang up the 68-year-old Air Force veteran.

"I'm afraid it's going to



A view of the Mackinac Bridge from Colonial Michilimackinac in April 2018. (Bridge photo by Jim Malewitz)

bust. As old as it is, you're rolling the dice," said Warner, who lives in Cheboygan and often pops into Devon's after checkups at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health cen-

ter here.

As northern Michigan awaits a thaw after a long winter, Warner and Dannatt

"Line 5"
Continued on page 13

A New Open-Water Fishing Season

By Bob Jensen

It's a new fishing season! After a spring unlike any other in memory, we're

finally getting the lawn mowers ready for action. That's the down-side: The up-side is that the fish are biting, and the bite is just

getting to get better. Following are some things that you can do to make your fishing season even better this year.

First of all, make sure you have a current fishing license. Some states offer options on fishing licenses. For instance, in Iowa you can buy a three year license that offers a cost savings. For me, even better than the cost savings, is the fact that I don't have to remember to buy a fishing license in Iowa for a couple of years. Also in Iowa, you can buy a license that allows an extra line. For a few dollars more, you can use three lines, which can be an advantage when you want to pull planer boards or use slip-bobbers.

Be aware of any new regulations that may have been implemented. There are frequently changes that we need to be aware of in daily and possession limits and size limits. Minnesota has changed the northern pike laws in some areas: Be sure you know the rules.

Be really aware of

"Open Water"
Continued on page 17



A sunset can be just as memorable as a fish catch.



Search groups for MSSFA

The Flint Water Crisis Isn't Over

By Curt Guyette,
Investigative Reporter,
ACLU of Michigan

Four years to the day that the Flint water crisis began, there has been notable progress. Multiple tests, both independent and government-run, have shown average lead levels dropping back below the federal action level as a result of switching the city from the highly corrosive Flint River back to the safe and clean Detroit water system. In response to the testing, Gov. Rick Snyder

recently announced that the state would no longer provide free bottled water to the city's residents, but it would continue to provide water filters free of charge.

But many of the city's residents don't much believe the water's safe. Who can blame them? Because of decisions made by state-appointed emergency managers and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, they were forced to use water laced with dangerously high levels of lead, a potent neu-

rotoxin, and contaminated by bacteria that cause Legionnaires' disease, which claimed at least 12 lives during the 18 months the city used the Flint River as its municipal water source. Despite the concerns voiced by residents and mounting scientific evidence that a massive problem existed, those same officials repeatedly offered assurances that the water was safe and attacked the credibility of those attempting to reveal the truth.

Gov. Snyder's termination of the free bottled wa-

ter program has met intense resistance. Flint mayor Karen Weaver has threatened legal action. Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, the Flint pediatrician who proved blood lead levels in children dramatically increased after the switch to the river, tweeted that bottled water should continue to be provided until all the city's lead service lines are replaced. Residents agree, with many expressing concerns that unfiltered tap water can still pose a significant risk.



They are right. Lead testing done by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in February found 28 water samples in elementary schools that registered above the federal lead limit of 15 parts per billion.

But even that minimizes the real problem affecting Flint and its water supply. Because of the Flint water crisis, it's now generally acknowledged that the federal lead limit is dangerously outdated. Lead is especially harmful to pregnant women, infants, and young children. Even at very low levels, lead can cause kids to lose IQ points and to develop learning disabilities and behavioral problems.

So it isn't surprising that Flint's mayor and the rest of the community remain skeptical of the governor's declaration that the water is safe again — assurances they heard before from state officials who knew it wasn't fit for consumption. In March 2015, Flint's emergency manager refused to allow a return to Detroit's system, saying there was no need because the water was "safe." Then, a few months later, a spokesman for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality insisted the residents of Flint should just "relax" because exten-

sive testing showed federal lead standards were being met, despite warnings from scientists that those tests were dangerously flawed.

For families who got sick believing official lies about the water, there are few reasons for faith in government now, especially when some of the very officials accused of playing a role in the crisis — including two health officials charged with involuntary manslaughter — remain on the job, while taxpayers finance their defense. In all, 15 state and local officials were hit with felony charges, with four having taken plea deals in return for their cooperation with prosecutors.

Perhaps one of the biggest reasons why Flint residents don't trust their government is the fact that the law — which the governor's own task force acknowledged led to this nightmare — still hasn't been repealed, or even altered at all.

In 2012, the legislature passed an emergency manager law, which enabled the state to take complete control of Flint governance because of financial woes. The emergency manager immediately, and undemocratically, implemented austerity measures. Most significantly, in an effort to save the city \$5 million over two years, Flint's water supply was switched from the relatively clean Lake Huron to the filthy Flint River.

There is no acceptable explanation as to why such an undeniably dangerous law remains in place and unchanged. It is telling, though, that the targets of this law have been cities and school districts which, like Flint, have majority African-American populations and high poverty rates.

The state and federal governments have already committed \$450 million to address the aftermath of this man-made disaster. But that is only a fraction of what the true cost will eventually be. Multiple class action lawsuits and dozens of individual actions have been filed in an attempt to win some compensation for the damage done to residents of a city that is about 57 percent Black and has a poverty rate that hovers

Recent Regulation Change Helps Anglers Pursuing Steelhead This Spring

Recent legislation passed in Michigan has simplified fishing regulations for anglers, particularly those pursuing steelhead on the state's rivers and streams in the spring.

The legislation removed a net size restriction that has been in place for many years to protect spawning salmon from illegally being harvested. The restriction can be found on page 10 of the printed 2018 Michigan Fishing Guide, under Hand Nets. It reads: "During April, May and June, hand nets larger than 5 1/2 feet in circumference or having a handle exceeding 14" may NOT be used or possessed on designated trout streams..."

With the removal of this restriction, which immediately took effect, anglers now legally may use hand nets with handle lengths longer than 14 inches. The regulation created a safety issue for anglers fishing for steelhead from boats, as



A recent regulation change gives Michigan anglers the chance to use lengthier nets when fishing steelhead streams this spring

there was concern anglers would not be safe if they had to lean way over the side of their boat to net a steelhead with such a short net handle.

Anglers still can only use hand nets to help land lawfully hooked fish, except

under a few circumstances (which can be found on page 23 of the 2018 Michigan Fishing Guide).

The 2018 Michigan Fishing Guide was printed prior to the passage of the legislation, so the net restriction on designated trout

streams still is listed in the current guide available at license retailers, even though it will no longer be in effect or enforced. However, it has been removed from the online 2018 Michigan Fishing Guide, and will be removed from future versions.

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Senator Peters
Statement on
Senate Failure
of Ballast Water
Discharge
Legislation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 18, 2018
Zade Alsawah

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI) released the statement below after the U.S. Senate failed to invoke cloture on the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act that included the controversial Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA):

“The spread of invasive species presents an existential threat to health of the Great Lakes, and I’m pleased to have worked with my Senate colleagues to stop the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act from moving forward. Setting weak environmental standards for ballast water in the Great Lakes, and preempting the State of Michigan and the Environmental Protection Agency’s authority, would only put the Great Lakes at greater risk for devastation. As a strong supporter of the U.S. Coast Guard and its mission, I believe the Senate should debate and pass a clean Coast Guard reauthorization bill that is free from controversial measures like VIDA, which jeopardizes the health of the Great Lakes and prospects for bipartisan Coast Guard legislation.”



“Flint”
Continued from page 2

around 40 percent. When everything’s accounted for, the emergency manager’s decision to save \$5 million could easily end up costing taxpayers well over \$1 billion. Just one of the many class action lawsuits filed on behalf of victims is seeking \$722 million in damages. If you ask the residents of Flint, they will tell you the crisis continues, regardless of what the governor says. How could they say otherwise when the financial costs keep rising, the health impacts continue to unfold, and the broken trust remains unhealed?

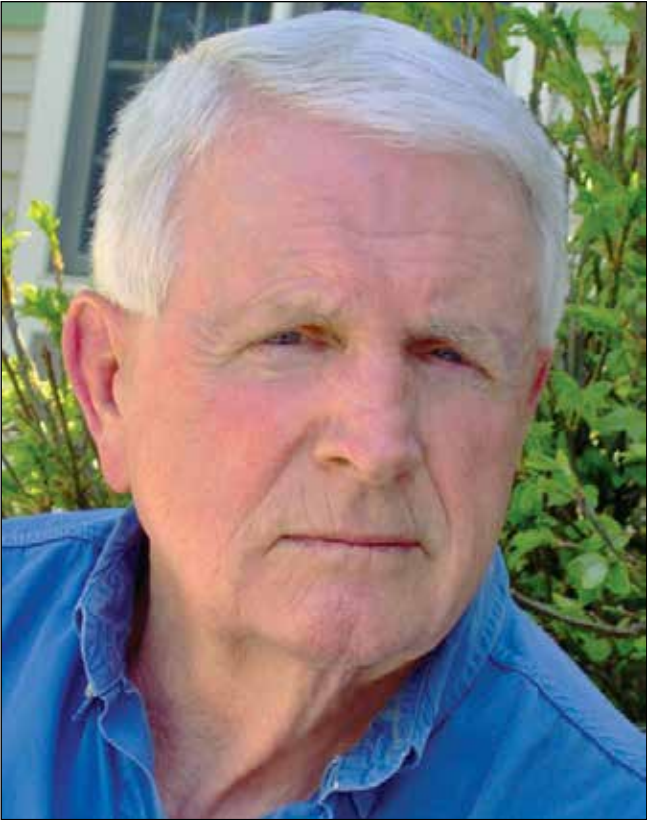
Curt Guyette, an investigative reporter for the ACLU of Michigan, played a pivotal role in helping expose the lead contamination of Flint’s water supply.

John Robertson
Remembered

John Robertson, retired Chief of Fisheries and Forest Management divisions of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, died March 4, at his home in Grand Haven. He was 76 years of age, a long time Steelheader and member of the Grand Haven Chapter. Robertson had more than 40 years of experience in working with complex and contentious natural resources issues and was skilled in bringing diverse, often competing, interests together to collaborate and strengthen their advocacy for the values they held in common. While serving as Chief of the Fisheries Division, he was instrumental in negotiating the settlement of a bitter and drawn out Federal lawsuit between the native tribes and commercial and sport anglers. And while Chief of Fisheries, his efforts to design programs across disciplines, adding

much needed public relations, political science, and basic legal training to the curricula used for training resource managers of the future, earned him a Distinguished Service Award from Michigan State University. He has been an advocate and leader for joint jurisdictional management of the Great Lakes fishery under the aegis of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and spearheaded the creation of citizen fishery advisory groups for each of the five Great Lakes. In partnership with Michigan State University he was instrumental in the design, development and creation Great Lakes Leadership Academy (GLLA), which conducts specialized training in individual and organizational leadership. He also served as both a coach and mentor for the GLLA’s Emerging Leaders and Leadership Advancement programs. He was

commended by the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission for his efforts in fostering cooperation among the states and Canadian provinces sharing the management of the Lakes and has received awards for his work in creating the Great Lakes Fishery Trust Fund; the Fishery Advisory Committees of Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. He will be best remembered by his friends and colleagues as a mentor. John had a unique ability and a sense of how he could help you accomplish what needed to be done by guiding you through the process. There are countless examples over his lifetime when he could have of just picked up the phone and used his influence to solve your problem for you, but instead, he advised you on what you needed to do to solve the problem for your-



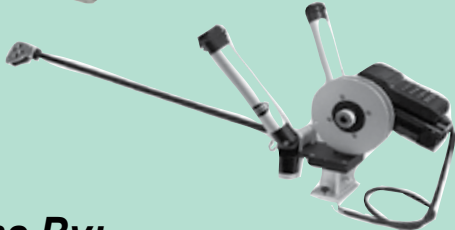
John Robertson, former retired Chief of Fisheries and Forest Management divisions of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

self and as a result you were a better manager, or fisherman, or person for having had the experience. Memorial contributions may be made to the Great Lakes Leadership Endowment Fund, Michigan State University, University Advancement, 535 Chestnut Road, Room 300, East Lansing, MI 48824. Donations may be made online on the Academy page at msu.edu.

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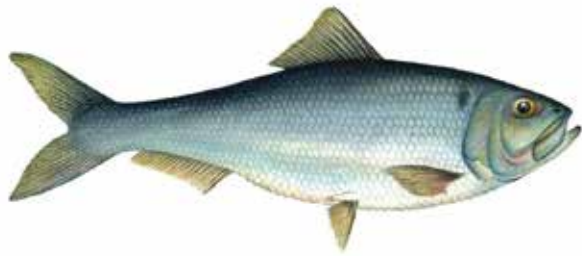
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MSSFA PRESIDENT Dr. Ken Merckel



The Great Lakes Fisheries' Commission 2018 Upper Lakes Committee Meeting was held on March 19-22 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, at which time research biologists from all the Upper Lakes presented their research.

The prey base for Lakes Michigan and Huron are still at historic low levels. There have been no significant improvements.

Nick Legler's (WDNR) research on the bottle neck for Alewife reproduction was very interesting. He said because of the Clean Water Act, the phosphorous levels in Lakes Michigan and Huron are so low that there are few chlorophyll blooms in the summer and fall. Therefore, the Zooplankton which feeds on the chlorophyll are fewer in number and newly hatched Alewife have nothing to feed on after the yolk sac is gone. Therefore, mid-lake reproduction of Alewife is very low.

River mouths which have nutrients flushing downstream have slightly larger chlorophyll blooms and have slightly better reproduction. The choke point of Alewife reproduction is the very low levels of phosphorous.

Sea Lamprey in Lake

Huron, after nearly 30 years on a downward trend, are now increasing. Two rivers in Ontario North Channel are producing very high numbers of Sea Lamprey, but at this time cannot be treated because they are in First Nation Lands and the native people object to poisoning the rivers.

Lake Michigan Sea Lamprey levels are below target, wounding rates are below target and the trend is holding steady.

Sea Grant Fisheries meetings are being held throughout the State. Four workshops are being held for Lake Huron fishers. The April 19, 2018 Uby, MI. workshop had 103 people in attendance. The topics were Prey Fish survey, Lake Huron Predator diet study, the Off Shore Fishery Native Cisco restoration efforts, Saginaw Bay Walleye, Yellow Perch Fishery and Lake Huron Management. After much

discussion on Yellow Perch limits, the majority supported a 25 fish State wide daily limit. The Cisco (herring) restoration of 1 million fish per year for 10 years to be planted on reefs in outer Saginaw Bay was discussed and supported.

The By-Laws Committee has sent out the first draft of the new By-Laws to all of the chapter presidents and representatives for comments. If possible, get your comments back by early May, so the committee can put together a second draft that reflect your comments. By the June board meeting, we would like to discuss the new By-Laws. I wish to thank everyone who attended the special board meeting. It allowed us to work on some special issues.

Have a safe summer and a great fishing season.

— Kenneth E. Merckel,
D.D.S.



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Dennis Eade, Executive Director
Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen's Association

MSSFA celebrated the beginning of a new fishing season by having to cancel the annual spring Presidents' Meeting in Lansing, MI on April 14th. Unseasonably cold weather, sleet sweep roadways and hazardous driving conditions caused MSSFA to cancel the meeting. Tournaments and recommissioning our boats, now that better weather has arrived, will force us to wait until an upcoming board meeting to award prizes for the new member recruitment drawing and Todd Grischke's presentation on the Grayling Restoration Project. We have, however, been invited to the Great Lakes Fish Commission Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario on May 10th to present Dr. John Dettmers with the Howard A. Tanner Award at its annual awards luncheon. John will receive the award for his dedication and outstanding contributions to Michigan's anadromous fish sport fishery in the

presence of his peers.

On Feb. 28th I attended the hearing on House Bill 5638 which would amend Part 327 (Great Lakes Preservation) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to provide an additional avenue for submitting a water withdrawal assessment, to regulate the calculations for determining streamflow depletion, and to exempt agricultural withdrawals from Freedom of Information Act requests. The bill is strongly supported by Farm Bureau and gives corporation farmers the opportunity to independently determine how much water the aquifer is capable of supplying to irrigate large fields of seed corn in southwest Michigan. This could have an adverse impact on water levels in streams and rivers in the area. The bill is strongly opposed by MS-SFA, TU and MUCC as well as the Quality of Life Agencies in Michigan. The hearing was adjourned af-

ter the proponents testified and, as of this date, has not been scheduled.

A new proposed commercial fishing statute which was negotiated behind closed doors with the commercial fishers, the MDNR and Michigan Fish Producers Association failed to get introduced for lack of a bill sponsor in the senate. This opened the door for MSSFA and other sport fishing groups, including the Michigan Charter Boat Association, Trout Unlimited, MUCC, Saginaw Bay Walleye Club, and the Hammond Bay Anglers Association to work directly with Senator Mike Green on SB 925 which protects sport fishing from the adverse impact the original legislation would have caused.

SB 925, was introduced on April 11th and referred to the Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism. This bill does several good things: 1) Lists all game fish under Part 487 as not allowed for commercial harvest; 2) Establishes requirements for GPS locations of nets when lowered or lifted, and a website to go to access that information; 3) There are a variety of improvements on reporting and daily record keeping; 4) The conditions of



Senator Mike Green receives input on commercial fishing bill (SB 925) from (L-R): Dennis Eade, MSSFA, Senator Green, Dan Eichinger, MUCC, and Bryan Burroughs, TU.

an issued permit can specify when gear can be in the water and when it has to be lifted; 5) Every three years the Department of Natural Resources will conduct a by-catch study, and using that, we will be able to better understand the effect of commercial fishing on the entirety of the fishery. The Commercial Fishery Advisory Group identified in the bill needs to be more balanced in terms of proponents and opponents of commercial fishing — as it

stands, commercial fishing proponents hold a majority within the group, determine the best course in moving ahead. I met with the chairman of the Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Committee, Senator Geoff Hansen, on April 26th in Lansing and he admitted he had not read the bill and would reserve comment until he had researched the bill's provisions and talked with commercial fishers. We need the support of all sport fishermen across

the state for passage of this bill. When hearings are announced, we need you to come to Lansing and testify in support of SB 925! An alert will be sent out but watch for a hearing date and make time to come to Lansing and attend the hearing, fill out a card supporting the bill or testify directly on behalf of passage.

On the federal level, we have succeeded in gaining

"MSSFA"

Continued on page 10

Opinion: FishPass Project, Boardman River



By Dennis Eade

The FishPass Project on the Boardman River is a once in a generation opportunity to transform an underperforming river system into a potentially world class fishery and to greatly

expand our options for fish passage at the terminal (the lowest most) fish passage barriers to Great Lakes fish by providing a unique field facility to test a wide range of ideas to selectively pass fish. To understand the threshold we are about to

cross, you need to consider the concept of "The Shifting Base Line" popularized by Dr. Daniel Pauly, who developed the concept of shifting baselines in 1995 and authored the seminal paper, Fishing down marine food webs, in 1998. His

amazing TED Talk on the topic is at https://www.ted.com/talks/daniel_pauly_the_ocean_s_shifting_base_line. The essence of his argument is the perception of what a healthy ecosystem looks like and is capable of producing is dependent

on the moment in time you start observing it without any consideration of what it was previously, constantly forgetting there ever was a past. This view of a continually degraded baseline, without a past, continues with generation after generation of observers with the result being a permanently impoverished system. What it was like before or what it could be like in the future is not fathomable or at least, not considered in a vision of what system is capable of being.

This phenomenon is occurring among certain angler groups in the Boardman River Valley. Groups like the Brook Trout Coalition and some local river property owners consider the Boardman River system as "just fine the way it is," producing many but very limited large sized brook and brown trout. They cannot fathom a time when lake trout, whitefish, lake herring, round whitefish (Menominee), yellow perch, burbot, white and longnose suckers, muskellunge and a multitude of other Great Lakes were commonly using the Boardman River system seasonally prior to the dams being built. They do not realize

if you pass steelhead in the system you are also likely to create a "resident" rainbow trout fishery, similar to that in the Pine River above Tippy Dam, in close proximity to Traverse City. By having reproducing populations of Great Lakes fish in the river, you are reducing the possibility of an ecological catastrophe such as the invasion of quagga and zebra mussels, destabilizing and devastating Great Lakes' fish populations.

A key problem with the current Boardman River fishery is a lack of nutrients in the system. Only low amounts of nutrients are coming off a landscape dominated by forests. The only place you are going to get nutrient subsidies is from fish coming from the Great Lakes depositing lots of materials in the stream in the form of eggs, excretion products, carcasses and young which provide mutual benefits for both resident and migratory species. The increased nutrients from the Great Lakes should increase the numbers of large "resident" brook and brown trout and MI DNR has evidence from other linked

"Boardman"

Continued on page 11

\$100 reward offered by DNR if you catch one of these fish

By Michael Kransz
mkransz@mlive.com

BAY COUNTY, MI -- There's tens of thousands of dollars in the Saginaw Bay and anglers can reel it in one walleye at a time.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recently tagged and released 3,000 walleye fish in Saginaw Bay tributary rivers as part of their annual drive to get anglers to help monitor survival and harvest rates of the species as well as their movements.

Of the 3,000 tagged walleye, about 20 percent of the tags include a \$100 reward when reported, according to the DNR. More than 100,000 walleye have been tagged since 1981, but the cash reward for reporting a catch began within the last several years.

Chuckie Militello, owner of Chuckies Bait and Tackle in Hampton Township, has caught a lot of walleye in his life but never one with a winning tag. He remembers when a customer of his, Dan Ford, caught one in May 2017.

"I was excited for him," Militello said. "It costs a lot of money to go fishing and when you go fishing and catch one with a \$100 tag

in its mouth, that makes the day a lot easier."

"It's like catching a hidden treasure," he said, laughing.

Within the next week or two, walleye making their spawning runs in Saginaw Bay tributary rivers will return to the bay and adjoining areas of Lake Huron, said Dave Fielder, a DNR fisheries research biologist.

In other words, it's a good time to catch the fish, said Militello.

"Right now is really a unique time," he said. "I was fishing yesterday, we must have caught 15, 20 walleye right at the mouth of the Saginaw River. Right now is a good time for even a novice to go out and catch some walleye."

There's an estimated 2.2 million walleye age two or older in the Saginaw Bay and nearby areas of Lake Huron, Fielder said. The tagging operation, which began in 1981, helps manage the population's sustainability. Each year, the DNR pays out between \$3,000-\$5,000, he said.

"It's really essential information for the fisheries managers to make sure we're not overharvesting these populations," he said.

The cash incentive be-

gan several years ago as a way to increase reporting and ensure more accurate data, Fielder said.

To cash in on a reward tag, anglers must provide a clear photo of it to the DNR. Reporting tagged walleye can be done by mail at the address on the tag, by phone at 989-684-9141 and online at michigan.gov/taggedfish.

"We are very appreciative to those who take the time to report them," Fielder said. "We couldn't do it without their participation."

The DNR, for the second year in a row, is tagging walleye with an orange disk-shaped tag, as opposed to the silver-colored jaw tags put on in previous years. Fielder said it was done to see if it helped reporting numbers by making the tags more visible.

It may be the last year of disk-shaped tags, though, because they have a tendency to fall off the fish, he said.

Walleye season is year-round on the Saginaw Bay. The catch limit is eight per day, and the fish must be at least 13 inches long. Fishing for walleye on the bay's tributary rivers begins the last Saturday of April, Fielder said.



Dan Ford holds the \$100 reward walleye he caught in May 2017.
(Photo courtesy of Chuckie Militello)

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What Does A Changing Forage Base Mean for Lake Michigan Salmon and Trout?



Matt Kornis, USFWS



Ben Turschak, MDNR

By Matthew Kornis, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ben Turschak, Michigan DNR

In recent years, alewife abundance has reached historically low levels in Lake Michigan. Invasion of zebra and quagga mussels has limited food available for alewife, and predation on alewife by salmon and trout has further reduced their abundance. This reduction is especially evident in the older, larger alewife that are most responsible for producing future year classes. The lake's forage base has seen other changes in addition to fewer alewife, including increased abundance of nonnative round goby, a bottom-oriented prey fish that eats zebra and quagga mussels. Understanding how salmon and trout species are adjusting to these changes in their forage base is a chief concern to anglers and fishery managers.

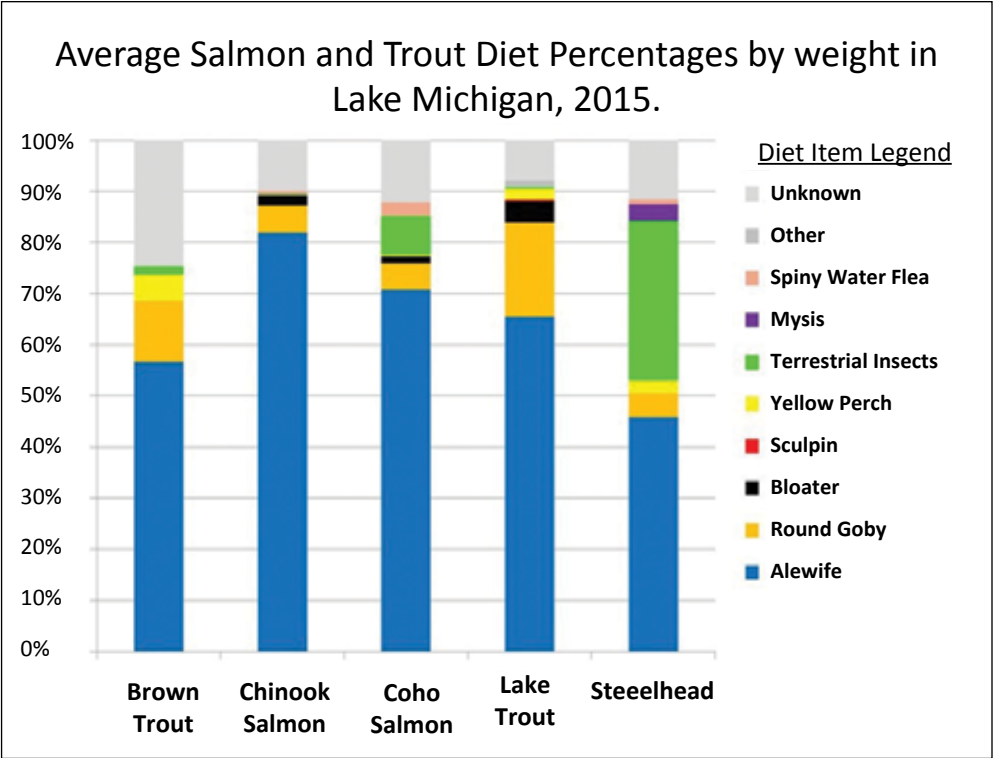
Several fisheries agencies and research institutions joined forces to study the diet of Chinook salmon, lake trout, coho salmon, steelhead, and brown trout in Lake Michigan in 2015 and 2016. Diets assessed from stomach contents showed that alewife was the most important item in each species' diet. However, Chinook salmon and coho salmon fed more exclusively on alewife, while lake trout, brown trout, and steelhead had more diverse

diets that included more round gobies, bloaters (chubs), yellow perch, and/or insects.

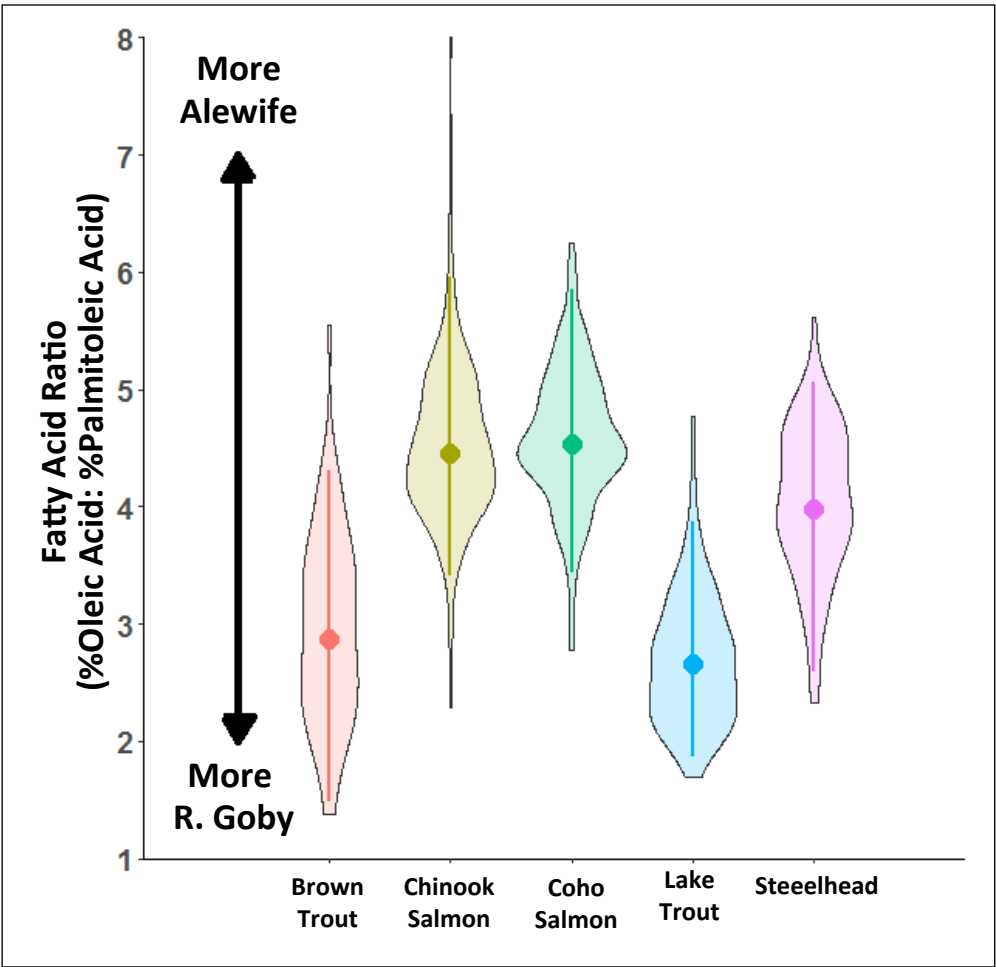
The study also found that salmon and trout diets were different in different areas of the lake, at different times of year, and from fish captured from different parts of the water column. For example, Chinook salmon usually fed almost exclusively on alewife, but bloater (chub) made up almost half of Chinook salmon diet in northeastern Lake Michigan during late

summer of 2016. Lake trout and brown trout also tended to eat more round gobies in spring and fall than in summer. This may be because round gobies are more available to salmon and trout when they migrate to deeper water in the fall, and back to shallow water in spring. During summer, gobies are usually spawning in shallow, rocky areas less accessible to salmon and trout predators. Lake trout captured in bottom-set gill nets in the spring and fall also had a much higher proportion of round goby in their diet than lake trout captured by anglers. This may be because Lake Michigan anglers typically target salmon and trout during the summer when they are actively feeding on suspended alewife and less frequently capture trout on bottom, where they are more likely to be feeding on bottom-oriented prey like round goby. The bottom line is that the stomach contents of any given fish does not provide a good representation of that species' diet in other times of year or in other areas of the lake.

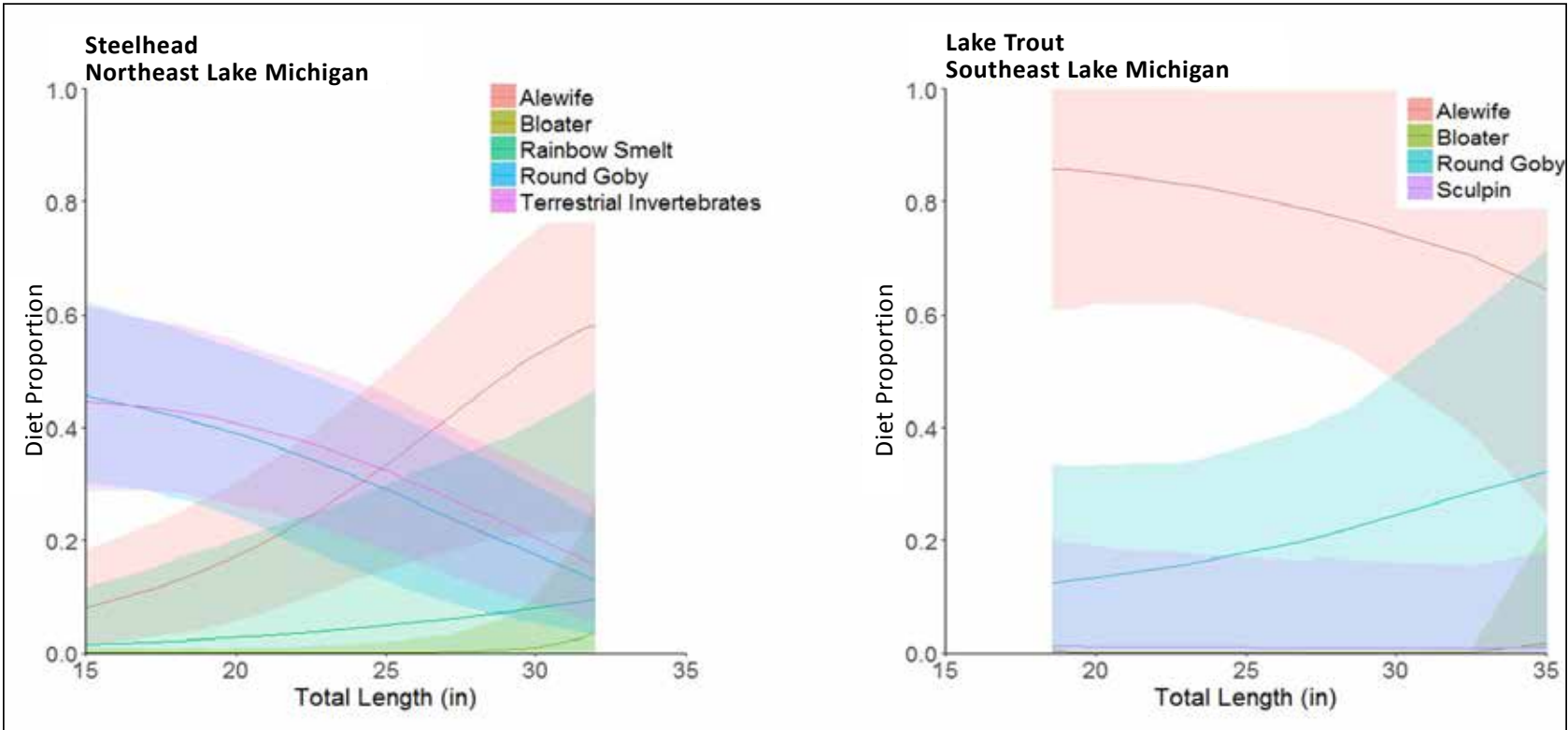
In short, the results show that alewife is still the most important diet item in Lake Michigan, but that competition for this declining prey fish will be greatest between Chinook salmon and coho salmon. Lake trout, brown trout, and steelhead are capable of diversifying their diets and will likely be more resilient to declines in alewife abundance than Chinook salmon and coho salmon.



Credit: Matt Kornis, USFWS, from collaboratively analyzed data



Fatty acid indicator of predation of alewife and round goby; points are median values and clouds show variability in individual fish.
Credit: Austin Happel, Univ. of Illinois, and Ben Turschak, MDNR, from collaboratively analyzed fatty acid data



Diet proportions estimated from stable C and N isotope data. Shaded areas around trend lines show uncertainty.
Credit: Ben Turschak, MDNR, from collaboratively analyzed data



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Wednesday August 15, 2018	7:00 PM	MUCC
Wednesday October 17, 2018	7:00 PM	MUCC
Wednesday December 19, 2018	7:00 PM	MUCC

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Name		Address	City	State	Zip	Discount Type
1	AJ's Automotive	13711 Ironwood NW	Walker	MI	49544	Member Rates
2	Al & Bob's Sports	3100 S. Davison	Wyoming	MI	49548	10% Discount with Al & Bob's Card
3	All Auto Care	1234 Ball Ave. NE	Grand Rapids	MI	49505	Member Rates
4	Alpine Rent-All & Sales	1452 Alpine Ave NW	Grand Rapids	MI	49504	10% on Stihl & Toro Parts. www.alpinerent-all.com info@alpinerent-all.com
5	Ann's Custom Canvas	4414 Remembrance Rd	Walker	MI	49544	10% Discount, not valid on specials. Mention steelheaders before ordering
6	Art Van Furniture	Statewide				Friends and Family Sales only (need special coupon)
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9	Batteries Plus	386 Bay Park Dr, Suite B	Holland	MI	49424	10% & Member Discount 616-396-9914 www.batteriesplus.com
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12	Batteries Plus	5839 Hrvey Street, Suite 6	Norton Shores	MI	49444	10% & Member Discount 231-747-9168 www.batteriesplus.com
13	Berkfield & Co LTD	2625 Pontiac Lake Road	Waterford	MI	48328	5% Great Lake Sportsmens Program on personal Insurance, on home/auto.
14	Big Lake Outfitters of Saugatuck	640 Water St	Saugatuck	MI	49453	10% on fishing tackle (retail store) with membership card 269-857-4762
15	Big Papa Sportfishing	50642 Oregon Ave.	Novi	MI	48374	10% except on equipment
16	Black Dog Outfitters	4444 14 Mile Rd	Rockford	MI	49341	10% Discount on fly tying materials, hooks & lines. www.blackdog-outfitters.com
17	BoatU.S.					\$15 Annual Membership Dues - Use Membership # GA83723B
17	Bob's Outdoors	Statewide	www.bobsoutdoors.com			10% Discount (www.bobsoutdoors.com)
18	Brenner's Service	4765 W River Dr	Comstock Park	MI	46321	5% exclusions may apply. 616-784-9872 dawnbrenner@hotmail.com
19	Dayton, Rick R, DDS	169 Louis Campau Promenade Ste 2A	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	20% off all services (616)458-2545
20	Cascade Capital Funding	4251 Cascade Rd. SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49546	Free appraisal up to \$300.00
21	Dockside Marine, Inc	4320 State Rd	Glennie	MI	48737	15% Off Parts & Accessories (Excludes Electronics)
21	Dunham's Sports	Statewide				10% Discount # 50050/3
22	Firestone - Metro 25	19268 Middlebelt	Livonia	MI	48152	\$20 off on \$200 or more on service www.metro25firestone.com
23	Fish with Jim Outfitters	http://www.fishwithjimoutfitters.com/				Discount \$50.00 off the total trip price.
24	Glacier Corporation	1021 Fuller St.	Santa Ana	CA	92701	Aquarium Chillers for "salmon in classroom" \$625 + 60 (s&h) = \$685
25	Great Lakes Angler Magazine					Use promo code MCLUB10 1yr/\$13, 2yr/\$25, 3yr/\$36
25	Health First Chiropractic Clinic	2526 Woodmeadow Dr SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49546	First Visit Free
26	Homestead Resort on Betsie River	2399 Dam Rd	Benzonia	MI	49616	10% In Season, 25% Off Season (homestead@crystal-rentals.com)
27	Insta-Launch Campground	20 Park Ave	Manistee	MI	49660	Member Discount
28	Insurance Shop/Fremont Ins.	824 Water St.	East Jordan	MI	49727	10% Discount off insurance for MSSFA Group Members
29	Jim Waldron Pontiac, Buick, GMC	1146 S. State Rd	Davison	MI	48423	Contact Nick Russllo for Sales, 10% off all parts not to exceed \$100.00
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32	Kamp Oil Inc	3650 Eastern Ave SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49508	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
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51	WG Grinders	5769 28th St. SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49512	10% Discount dine in/carry out (catering discounts available)

Gov. Snyder Welcomes Chicago as Newest Member of Great Lakes Basin Partnership to Block Asian Carp

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Jordan Kennedy
517-335-6397
DNR: Ed Golder
517-284-5815

March 28, 2018
LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today thanked Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Chicago city leaders for including their municipality as the newest member of the Great Lakes Basin Partnership to Block Asian Carp. The partnership is a multijurisdictional coalition that supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' plan to reduce the risk of invasive carp entering the Great Lakes by upgrading security at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, Illinois. "We commend Mayor Emanuel and the residents of Chicago for taking a leadership role to protect the Great Lakes," said Snyder, who announced the partnership's creation during

a Jan. 31 press conference in South Haven, Michigan. "The Great Lakes comprise the largest freshwater system in the world. Protecting the ecosystems and economies of the Great Lakes for generations to come, while also maintaining navigability, is a top priority for the Great Lakes states." Chicago will provide policy support for the Army Corps' tentative plan and joins the partnership's founding members of Michigan, Ontario, Ohio and Wisconsin that have committed to providing support for the tentative plan. "Chicago takes our responsibility to preserve and protect the Great Lakes seriously, and we are proud to stand with our regional partners in the fight against the threat of invasive species," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "Chicago will always do our part to safeguard the future of the Great Lakes for future generations, and we hope other Illinois leaders will step up and join us in

this essential effort." The plan proposes new and additional measures to stop invasive carp – especially silver and bighead carp, the two species of greatest concern – at Brandon Road Lock and Dam. The discovery last June of a silver carp just 9 miles from Lake Michigan has added to the sense of urgency for additional security. An internal Army Corps decision on the plan is expected by June. Chicago's inclusion in the partnership is contained in a letter released today expressing the nonbinding commitment of the states of Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, the province of Ontario and the city of Chicago for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Brandon Road Feasibility Study. The study will evaluate control mechanisms to prevent the spread of invasive carp from the Mississippi River watershed to the Great Lakes basin. The Army Corps is

considering a suite of technologies, including an engineered approach channel that could serve as a national test model for invasive species monitoring and control; water jets to sweep out fish caught between barges; a flushing lock to eliminate fish eggs, larvae or floaters from going upstream toward the Great Lakes Basin; complex noise systems to keep fish out of the channel; and state-of-the-art electric barriers at the lock's entrances. An estimated \$8 million is needed annually to provide the nonfederal share of funding to operate and maintain the stronger safeguards, which is the budget gap the Great Lakes Basin Partnership and leading stakeholders seek to resolve. The partnership's letter highlights Gov. Snyder's decision that Michigan will accept the primary funding responsibility for cost-share requirements to maintain and operate the improved

security system for the first five years once the technology is up and running. The partnership's goal also includes identifying opportunities to secure more long-term and sustainable sources of funding for continued operation. In addition, the partnership's letter to the Army Corps reiterates a call for Congress to approve federal funding for implementation of the \$275 million proposed security improvements resulting from the feasibility study. The Army Corps proposes the federal government should pay 65 percent of the \$275 million project's construction costs, with a "non-federal partner" providing the rest. Snyder said Michigan has worked with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago to pass legislation to make significant funds available

"Chicago"
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"MSSFA"
Continued from page 5
the authorization of funding (\$300,000,000) for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for 2018. I was able to go to Washington, D.C. for Great Lakes Days to lobby for the funding through a grant from the Healing Our Waters Coalition and I visited with Senator Peters' senior legislative counsel, Catherine Barrett who assured the Senator's support for GLRI funding and we discussed the VIDA provision in the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act. I also met with Congressman Fred Upton, Dan Kildee, Debbi Dingell, and Bill Huizenga's legislative assistant Trevor TenBrink. We were able to lobby successfully for the Senate defeat (46 Yeas and 52 Nays) of the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act with the VIDA (Vessel Incidental Discharge Act) provision. This was a provision put into the bill by international shipping interests to supersede Michigan's ballast water discharge law which requires ballast water to be treated prior to its release. We have been able to maintain the current safeguards in Michigan waters of the Great Lakes from the introduction of more aquatic invasive species.

The U.S. Geological Survey has approximately \$400,000 in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding available to advance the Invasive Mussel Collaborative (IMC) zebra and quagga mussel management strategy. This is a short-term funding opportunity, with the bulk of the work expected to be completed by May 2019. The IMC met March 13-14, 2018 to discuss the strategy and identify science priorities and potential projects. The IMC Steering Committee was asked to provide feedback on the projects and select one or more to move forward. Final selection will depend on funding needs associated with individual projects. The project that MSSFA supports is Project Abstract 2. Enhance Quagga Mussel Removal Activities at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. It would focus on additional monitoring of algal and benthic community response to manual removal; small scale (i.e. shallow water) experimental applications of different control methods; and a experimental application of a molluscicide or other method on a different section of the reef. We are waiting to see which project is selected. MSSFA has joined with the Greater Traverse Area Sport Fishing Association and the Michigan Charter Boat Association, along with MDNR Fisheries managers and biologists, in support of the passage of steelhead into the Boardman River which would



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“Boardman”

Continued from page 5

systems that this can be the case.

Currently, the Brook Trout Coalition supports the passage of native species from the Great Lakes, some excellent common ground, but not naturalized species such as steelhead or Coho salmon. They do not seem to welcome anglers on their stream who would gladly travel long distances to the Boardman River to take advantage of a quality steelhead fishery, nor would they wish to provide the public access needed to fish the resource. This is the “NIMBY” malady, or Not In My Back Yard, and it is all too common these days. However, we need to interact with these good folks in a civil manner. They have strong ties to the area and clearly care about the Boardman River. Together, we need to see the system’s potential and how all can better enjoy their own fishing experience. Some of these anglers have joined our Traverse City Area Steelheaders’ Chapter and we look forward to engaging with them on the benefits of passing a wide range of Great Lakes fish including steelhead. We need to show that steelhead fishers today are not the same people who flocked to the lake connected rivers in the fall to capitalize on the introduction of Pacific salmon in the late 1960’s. Today’s

steelheaders don’t litter, trespass, or disrespect other fishers by encroaching on their proximity in a stream and in general, spread out widely to fish unless there is a dam or barrier on the stream. Transferring the old perception of the 1970s and 1980s “slob” salmon fisherman to today’s steelhead fisherman is just wrong and is an affront to too many anglers who care just as deeply about our remarkable fisheries resource.

Other sport fishing groups like the Grand Traverse Area Sport Fishing Association and the Michigan Charter Boat Association have joined with MSSFA in supporting the FishPass Project and will be taking an active role in educating the public and gathering support for the project. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission recognizes the importance of this initiative and has engaged some of the brightest scientists and biologists in the field to guide this unique project to completion, whose research results will change our fisheries map.

What can you do to support this project and be instrumental in bringing world class fishing to the Boardman River? You can get your group or organization to write a resolution in support of the Fish Passage Project; you can engage your fellow fishers and educate them on the benefits of the project; and you definitely should write a letter

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of support to: Keith Creagh, Director, MDNR, Executive Division, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48908, or to Jim Dexter, Fisheries Chief, Fisheries Division, P.O. Box 30446, Lansing, MI 48909, or to Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator, 621 N. 10th Street, Plainwell, MI 49080, or to Heather Seites-Hettinger, Fisheries Biologist, Cadillac Operations Service Center, 8015 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, MI 49601 or all of these decision makers.

The FishPass Project, in downtown Traverse City, has the potential to succeed beyond our expectations, creating new fishing opportunities, and will provide new ways to reconnect our Great Lakes to our impoverished inland waters. It has the potential to be an international destination for fish passage research and for those who are interested in changing the “Shifting the Base Line” paradigm.



“Chicago”

Continued from page 10

for construction of the Brandon Road project. A recently enacted law could enable cities or states to help cover such costs with funds the federal government owes them for advance payment toward other public infrastructure upgrades.

With more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes coastline, 11,000 inland lakes

and 36,000 miles of rivers and streams, Michigan faces the greatest risk and has the most at stake if invasive carp infest the Great Lakes Basin.

The second jurisdiction with the most risk, in terms of the percentage of its Great Lakes surface water area, is Ontario, Canada (36 percent), followed by Wisconsin (nearly 10 percent), New York (4.27 percent), Ohio (3.75 percent), Minne-

sota (2.69 percent), Illinois (1.66 percent), Pennsylvania (less than 1 percent), and Indiana (less than 1 percent). Quebec also is indirectly affected due to the Great Lakes feeding into the St. Lawrence Seaway.

To learn more about invasive carp and encourage elected officials and policymakers to help protect the Great Lakes, visit www.BlockAsianCarp.org.



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Planer board pioneer Bruce DeShano with a planer board walleye. The water was almost 30 feet deep, but the walleyes were only down about 10 feet. That's a perfect planer board situation.

Get Out To Catch More Fish

By Bob Jensen

At the beginning of every fishing season, a good number of anglers promise themselves that they're going to learn a new tactic this season. There are always new things that we can try, and there are also some established tactics that we just haven't gotten around to trying yet. If you haven't tried using planer boards yet, make this the year that you do so. Planer boards offer many advantages and much of the time will help us put more fish in the boat, spring, summer, and fall. Following are some reasons why you should give planer boards more water-time this year.

A planer board gets your bait out away from the boat. When it comes to walleyes, in the spring the fish will be shallow and they can be spread out. It works well to cover water, and trolling is the best way to cover water, but if we troll in the shallows, we're going to spook the fish. Planer boards enable us to fish shallow without spooking the fish. Off Shore Tackle is the leader in planer board technology. They've done the most re-

search, which has enabled them to create the boards that work the best.

"More Fish"
Continued on page 17

"MSSFA"
Continued from page 10

allow connectivity with the Great Lakes. It would provide natural recruitment of steelhead augmenting hatchery raised steelhead coming from the Thompson State Hatchery. (A separate opinion article appears in GLSFN covering the positive aspects of this project.) MSSFA needs to inspire support for this Fish Pass Project both locally, in the Traverse City area, and statewide since it will provide an outstanding sport fishing destination for all fishers.

The Michigan Legislative Sportsmen Caucus summer fishing outing will again be out of Ludington, MI on July 16th. Rep. Curt Vander Wall will be the host for the event and there will be a legislative reception on Sunday evening before the event for senators and representatives. 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 Jamesport Brewing Co., one of Ludington's premiere restaurants.

The South Haven Steelheaders Chapter conducted

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a successful Southern Lake Michigan Fishery Workshop on April 19th that included the results of lake bottom trawls and acoustic trawls conducted last fall. An overall evaluation of the 2017 fishing season was presented by Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan Basin Co-

ordinator MDNR and other biologists from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and GLRI.

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 sea-

son Coho that are nearshore one day and 200 feet deep the next. It's a great time to be a Steelheader.

Tight lines to everyone!

— Dennis Eade

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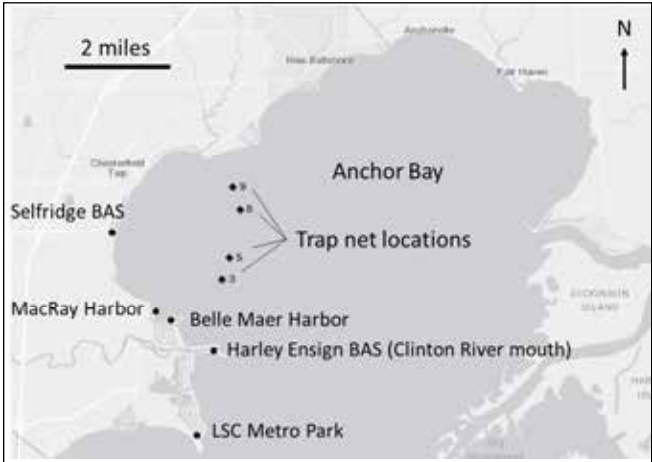
Jim Francis
Lake Erie Basin Coordinator
Michigan DNR – Fisheries

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Lake St. Clair Fisheries Research Station will be conducting a fisheries survey in Anchor Bay, Lake St. Clair, from April 23 to May 18, 2018. The primary purpose of the survey is to assess the status of fish populations in the lake. The survey gear used will be trap nets, located along a 10-foot contour, between the Clinton River and New Baltimore. Each of the nets will be marked with at least two floating flags and nine smaller buoys. The nets are approximately 650 feet

Attention Boaters!

long. Boaters and anglers are encouraged to watch out for these markers and to avoid boating or fishing near them. Anglers who catch tagged fish, are encouraged to report the catch to the MDNR. Anglers can report catching a tagged

fish on the internet at <http://www.michigandnr.com/taggedfish/>. Please call the Lake St. Clair Fisheries Research Station (586-465-4771) if you have additional questions regarding the net survey. Thank you.



Area of MDNR Trap Nets in Anchor Bay

Individual net locations are approximately:

Net ID	Start		End	
	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
TN3	42 36.965	-82 46.514	42 36.965	-82 46.385
TN5	42 37.357	-82 46.327	42 37.351	-82 46.185
TN8	42 38.217	-82 46.069	42 38.209	-82 45.940
TN9	42 38.635	-82 46.243	42 38.617	-82 46.104

“Line 5” Continued from page 1

are among those casting wary eyes on the Straits of Mackinac. Below those waters lies Line 5, a 645-mile oil pipeline that has become a magnet for environmental concerns, largely because it is 65 years-old and owned by Enbridge Energy Partners, which has been accused of being less than transparent about the upkeep of the line.

Bridge Magazine visited Mackinaw City on Wednesday as part of the Center for Michigan’s “Truth Tour,” a traveling caravan and mobile newsroom that will engage and inform state residents throughout the year about the most critical issues facing Michigan.

The Truth Tour plans more than 100 stops across the state through Election Day in November in hopes of increasing citizenship in a hyper-partisan era. At each stop, the Center for Michigan – Bridge’s parent organization – is asking what most concerns residents.

In Mackinaw City, the answer lies in the waters that provide much of the

livelihood in this town of less than 1,000. The population surges during the summer, including an influx of seasonal workers for the town that serves as a base of operations for ferry service to Mackinac Island.

People here have only grown more concerned about the water following last week’s leak from an entirely different set of lines beneath the straits.

Officials on Wednesday were still responding to a leak of some 600 gallons of mineral oil from a pair of electric lines – operated by a Wisconsin utility, American Transmission Company (ATC) – that tripped offline on April 1.

A “Unified Command” including the U.S. Coast Guard, local emergency managers, tribal leaders and state and federal environmental agencies are responding to the leak.

The U.S. Coast Guard has called the leak a “low risk to fisheries and wildlife” as Great Lakes water dilutes the chemicals. And Anthony Wilson, a wildlife specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture said in a press release Monday his colleagues “did not

see any oil sheen or injured wildlife” while observing more than 1,200 waterfowl.

These assurances don’t much comfort Warner or Dannatt, who fear other leaks could be on the horizon.

“Line 5 needs to go,” Dannatt said, adding “pretty much everyone” in the community was talking about it.

Enbridge calls Line 5 a crucial piece of energy infrastructure and says the risk of a leak miniscule. A recent state-commissioned report found there is a low risk of rupture from corrosion or other factors.

But several residents in Mackinaw City said they don’t much trust Enbridge, or the state for that matter.

In November, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder announced an agreement that, among other provisions, requires Enbridge to replace a pipeline piece beneath the St. Clair River and construct a tunnel around it.

The deal also requires Enbridge to conduct studies about replacing the pipeline, building a tunnel to protect the section at the Straits of Mackinac and improving underwater monitoring.

On Wednesday, Snyder called on Enbridge to speed some of those efforts following revelations the same “vessel activity” – an anchor strike – that likely damaged the ATC electric lines may be responsible for three small dents in Line 5.

“An anchor strike was the largest risk identified in a previous independent analysis of the Enbridge pipeline, which is apparently what happened in the Straits last week,” Snyder said in a statement.

“We need the right answers, but we need them as soon as we can get them so that we can take action faster to protect the Great Lakes.”

Attorney General Bill Schuette, who is a Republican candidate for governor, said his office is “determining what legal action may be appropriate.” He also said the incident underscores the need to increase fines and “penalties for polluting the waters of the Great Lakes.”

Patrick C. Wyman, Mackinaw City’s village manager, called the recent leak “very concerning,” but he said he is confident in the agencies who are responding.

Wyman lives near where Line 5 runs and said he heard the hum of oil-sucking equipment while walking his dog Tuesday night.

But he’s taking a middle-of-the-road approach to the controversy and said the community has a good working relationship with Enbridge.

“Everyone wants the straits to be safe and clean,” he said.

Wyman called Line 5 one of two top issues for his community. The other: Lo-

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Healthy Rivers and Lakes Attract Investment to Michigan Communities

By Jon Allan
Guest Commentary from
www.bridgemi.com

Michigan's Great Lakes water resources — over 11,000 inland lakes and

about 40 percent of the largest freshwater system on earth — are irreplaceable. The benefits these resources offer to communities through business, recreation, and natural beauty

are valuable to everyone for a variety of reasons. This value has historically been difficult to quantify and document, though many who live and work in this state intuitively know it

to be significant. The power of the relationship a community has with its water resources can be transformative if it is more fully understood.

With considerable effort, the Huron River Watershed Council has worked to do just that. Over the course of a year, the organization collected and analyzed on-the-ground data to more thoroughly understand the value of the Huron River to its local communities in an economic impact report.

The Huron River is a 130-mile natural waterway that meanders through southeast Michigan's Oakland, Livingston, Washtenaw, Wayne and Monroe counties, touching several cities including Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

The findings of the report conservatively estimates that the Huron River Water Trail draws at least 2.6 million annual visitors, many who are repeat visitors, resulting in a collective annual economic impact of \$53.5 million per year. These visitors, who return to the river 21 times per year on average, create a sustainable source of revenue for many local businesses and support a thriving tourism sector. With an aging population and an increasingly service-based economy, a community's capacity to attract recreators — and, more than that, to ensure they return year after year — is one of its greatest assets.

The economic benefits of vibrant natural resources can extend far beyond tourism and recreation. The report also concludes that proximity to the Huron River added a total of \$628 million to property values in the region. Not only does this create value for the people who own real estate, it also produces a more attractive environment for business development and draws more people (many of whom may be potential recreators) to the region.

The economic impact of desirable living conditions can be greater than many people realize. This is because, traditionally, economists have relied on the assumption that people move

to follow jobs; conclusive explanations of how businesses select their locations have been scarce.

In the past 20 years, evidence has begun to suggest that high-tech, high-skill companies prioritize the desirability of the natural and social environment in siting decisions because their employees prefer to live in such places, helping them attract talent.

Finally, an email survey of businesses sited on or near the Huron River found that more than a third chose their location with the river as a factor. A further 25 percent of respondents reported that over half of their customers came to kayak or fish on the river and ended up patronizing their shop or restaurant.

This finding is particularly telling because it demonstrates the value of the Huron River to businesses and individuals who are not involved in water-using industries. This again speaks to the ability of water resources to support local businesses and demonstrates what an incredible asset a river, lake, or coast can be.

Though desirability of location is difficult to quantify, Michigan communities are uniquely situated to supply this amenity. While this study focused on the Huron River and its communities



Jon Allan is the director of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes

in particular, the lessons gained have applications in all Michigan communities situated on or near rivers and the Great Lakes coast. The approach taken in the study has the potential to be replicated across the state.

The economic productivity that the Huron River supports cannot happen entirely on its own. The Huron River Watershed Council and other organizations in the area have worked hard to ensure a clean and healthy river with well-functioning ecosystems by providing watershed management planning support and encouraging low-impact development practices like green infrastructure.

Visitors come to the river to enjoy natural beauty and connect with their environment. They keep coming back because they can find these experiences in a well-maintained and acces-

“Investment”
Continued on page 17

The Huron River and Huron River National Water Trail are estimated to have the following economic impact...

- **\$53.5M in annual economic output, which is the sum of \$29.9M in direct spending and \$23.6M in indirect and induced spending**
- **641 local jobs added to the region**
- **\$628M in added property value**
- **\$150M in annual environmental value**
- **2.6M visitor days**

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3	04/20/18	05/04/18
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6	10/19/18	10/26/18

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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, reserving and promoting sport fishing, the Great Lakes and their tributary streams and 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. www.MSSFA.org

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Sour Cream and Parmesan Cheese Fillets

This recipe has been tested with lake trout ,steelhead, walleye, scallops (parboil).

Ingredients:

- 1 fillet of fish, wash and pat dry
- 16 oz. Container of sour cream for a large fillet or two fillets
- ¼ c of melted butter
- 1/3 c of Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon of fresh dill (*available all year at major food chains.*

I grow my own and freeze it so its available all the time.)

Mix together all sour cream, cheese, butter and dill.

If cooking on the grill use no-stick aluminum foil. Place fillet on foil and cook approx 6 min.

If it is a thick fillet, go 8-10 min. Flip fillet over using foil to flip. Cover fillet with sour cream mixture and cook approx. 6-10 min. until fish flakes easily.

If baking fish, place in glass pan on a bed of sliced lemon and cover fillet with the sour cream mixture and bake at 400 for approx. 15-20 minutes depending thickness of fillet.

Bon appétit!



**“This recipe has been around for years, I’m just the gatherer !”
Lenore Merckel**

** Lenore will be back in July with the recipe for Poor Man's Crab Cakes*



“Investment”

Continued from page 15

sible river ecosystem like the Huron River. Active stewardship is what makes this level of economic activity possible.

This study illustrates the economic power natural resources can provide to communities in Michigan and the Great Lakes region. This value can be sustained by prioritizing healthy rivers, lakes, and other water resources as a long-term investment in maintaining communities where people want to live, work and play. It can be supported at the local level by providing public access; people protect what they love and connecting with the natural world invariably inspires passion to care for it.

Michigan's Water Strategy, a statewide plan to protect and manage Michigan's water resources, recommends emphasizing and enhancing the connection between environmental protection and economic development. The plan was developed from the collective knowledge of Michigan state agencies, business owners, academic institutions, and tribal governments.

The Huron River Watershed Council's report shows exactly why the protection and management Michigan's incredible natural resources, unparalleled in size and splendor, must become an integral part of our state's future. Water bodies, and the spectacular landscapes around them, are business and development incentives that can and should attract new opportunities to the state. The report's findings unequivocally show how healthy aquatic ecosystems contribute to a strong economy, and in doing so, they underpin the importance of committing to responsible stewardship.

The importance of doing work like the Huron River Watershed Council's to gather information about how people use and enjoy Michigan's water resources cannot be overstated. The report offers a clear take-away for local leaders and decision-makers: Natural resources are an important part of a community's economy if they are cultivated, connected, and communicated appropriately.

Michigan has the capacity to support a thriving small business environment. As we consider the future of our state's economy, this is a sector that can be supported and enhanced to enhance the lives of residents and recreators alike. The Huron River Watershed Council's work to investigate and report the benefits that healthy water resources provide quantitative evidence of the potential of Michigan's blue economy.



For Michigan Farmers (and Nestlé) Bill Makes Big Water Withdrawals Easier, and Info Secret

Jim Malewitz

Michigan Environment Watch
www.bridgemi.com

LANSGING — House Republicans want to overhaul Michigan's water withdrawal laws — by making it easier to gain permission to suck up large volumes of groundwater while shielding from the public data related to agricultural water use.

In a packed hearing room that overflowed into another, the House Committee on Natural Resources on Wednesday heard partial testimony on House Bill 5638. Shaped by the Michigan Farm Bureau, the legislation has drawn fierce pushback from environmentalists and anglers who say it would eviscerate protections for rivers and streams vulnerable to heavy water withdrawals.

The bill's critics did not get a chance to testify during Wednesday's 90-minute hearing. The committee — which left the bill pending — said it will take further testimony at a later date.

Introduced by Rep. Aaron Miller, R-Sturgis,

with 24 other Republicans, the bill would soften regulations for "large quantity" water withdrawals of 100,000 gallons or more per day, allowing users to avoid Department of Environmental Quality reviews in some cases.

Miller said he's received complaints from "numerous constituents" in his heavily agricultural district who call DEQ's review process too long, and he said the agency's "science is not up to date."

The proposal would create a "rebuttable presumption" that a withdrawal would not harm local river systems — as long as the applicant submitted data and analysis from a professional hydrologist or hydrogeologist attesting as such, or if the water was to be withdrawn from specific mapped areas.

Rep. Aaron Miller, R-Sturgis, introduced a bill that would make it easier for farmers to get approval for large withdrawals of groundwater. Miller said he was driven by complaints that state regulators take too long to make such decisions.



Rep. Aaron Miller, R-Sturgis, introduced a bill that would make it easier for farmers to get approval for large withdrawals of groundwater. Miller said he was driven by complaints that state regulators take too long to make such decisions.

The public could not scrutinize data submitted by agricultural water users. The bill would exempt that information from the state's Freedom of Information Act, a right-to-know law notoriously ridden with loopholes. Farm Bureau staffers said secrecy was needed to prevent terrorist

"Water Bill"
Continued on page 19

"More Fish"
Continued from page 12

Boards allow us to get more lures in the water, and there are times when a particular lure will be more productive. The quicker we determine what that lure is, the more fish we're going to catch. Even when we know what style of lure to tie on there are things to think about. What color, what size, what running depth: These are all things that can influence how many fish come to our net.

Many states allow anglers to use multiple lines. If you're fishing in one of those states, you'll increase your odds for getting bit if you put an extra line in the water, and the best way to effectively use an extra line is through the use of a planer board.

If you try to fish too many lines directly behind the boat, eventually you're going to regret it. Planer boards take your bait out away from the boat. Let's say we're using crankbaits. We believe the fish are down about ten feet, so we tie on a crankbait that runs eight or nine feet down. A Lucky Shad would be a good choice. Let out enough line to get the bait to a depth just above the fish, snap on a board, and put the board in the water. The board goes out to the side of the boat as far as we want it to. In this case we'll let it go out fifty

feet. Engage the reel and put the rod in the rod holder. Select another bait, different color, maybe a different running depth, maybe even a different action. As good as the Lucky Shad has been for us lately, we would go with maybe a Banana Shad. It runs differently and that might be what the walleyes want on this day. We'll put that line out about thirty feet from the boat. Just do different things until the fish show you what they want. If there are two of us fishing and the regulations allow two lines per angler, we'll put four lines in the water. If the fish are close to shore, we'll put all the lines on the shore side of the boat. If they're spread out, we'll cover both sides of the boat. We have a spread of four lines that are easy to manage, and we can try lots of different crankbait presentations at the same time. We are really increasing the odds of showing the fish the bait that they want to eat.

Even in one line states boards will put more fish in the boat at times. I recall a memorable day on Mille Lacs. There was a bug hatch happening and the walleyes were feeding on those bugs close to the surface. We used planer boards and flat-lines: At the end of the day we realized that for every fish caught on the flat-line, five were taken on boards, and that's too much of an advantage to ignore. If you haven't already

done so, discover planer boards this fishing season.

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"Most of the world is covered by water.

A fisherman's job is simple: Pick out the best parts."

-Charles Waterman



**Bill Bunn with a nice Clear Lake Iowa May walleye.
The fish are eating, get out and get some!**

"Open Water"
Continued from page 1

the trailering law in some states that requires boaters to pull the plug out of the boat when you're on the road. This is to prevent the spread of invasive species. In year's past, I've put a spare plug on the key ring for my boat's motor so I remember to put the plug in when launching. I might not need to do that this year. I've become pretty good at remembering to do so.

Also remember to pull weeds off the boat trailer when you take the boat out of the water. This is another attempt to slow the spread of invasives. If you develop a routine when loading and unloading, loading and unloading is very quick and easy.

Make sure the line on

your reels is in good shape. Your line is the only connection between you and the fish. Use good line!

Make sure your landing net is in good shape. Replace the bag if necessary.

Netting a fish is an important consideration. If you're going to keep the fish, netting it increases the odds of getting it in the boat.

If you're going to release the fish, the proper net will increase the odds of the fish's survival. Some nets damage fish, a few nets are designed with the fish's best interest in mind. Beckman Nets are the best nets out there. They have a model of net that will fit any angler's needs, and they're easy on the fish. If you're in need of a new net, be sure to look at a Beckman.

Now is the time to start

investigating some of those close to home spots you've always thought about trying. See if you can get permission to fish from area pond owners. Fish in ponds are often the first biters of the year. Most ponds have bass and panfish and maybe some catfish. They can provide outstanding early season action. Get permission, then get out there.

Last of all: Do what you can to make this a safe and pleasant fishing season. Drive carefully and be patient at the boat ramp. If someone is having trouble loading or unloading their boat, ask if you can help.

It's time for open water fishing, enjoy the season.

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Early Season River Walleyes

By Bob Jensen

Pretty much wherever you live in the Midwest, there are walleyes willing to be caught right now. Some states, and some areas of some states have a closed season on 'eyes, but with just a little travel, you can get to areas that have walleye fishing happening now, and those areas are probably closer to you than you think. Following are some ways to get in on the action.

Most of the walleyes that are being caught this time of year are being caught in rivers. While some lakes still have an icy cover, rivers are open. As the water warms, as the days get longer, and as the current increases, the walleyes feel the urge to start spawning. They've probably been feeling that urge for a while now, but the warmer water and other changes move them closer to the actual spawn time.

Most of your catch this time of year will be smaller males, but there is always the chance that a big one will eat your bait. If you want a meal of fresh walleye, keep the smaller ones and let the big ones pass their genes on one more time.

Most walleye chasers this time of year will be using jigs. Jigs are great walleye catchers any time of the year, but they're especially productive now.

Start with a jig/plastic combo. In many areas the walleyes will be shallow: Wading can be very productive. Water less than ten feet, and usually only two or three feet deep will be best. An eighth ounce jig head with a three inch tail is a favorite anywhere that walleyes live. One of the best combos is a Slurp! Jig with a Swim'N Grub body. This time of year bright colors are usually better, as the water is usually stained. Use a body color that contrasts with the jig color.

Swim the jig just above the bottom. It seems like a straight, slow retrieve is most productive most of the

time, but also try a slow lift/drop retrieve.

If the walleyes don't respond to this presentation, go to a jig and minnow presentation and work it slower, dragging it along the bottom. This works best on a sand bottom. Rocky bottoms will eat too many jigs that are dragged. If the walleyes are on the rocks, try using a slip-bobber to suspend the jig above the rocks. Allowing a jig to float just above the bottom as it works with the current suspended under a bobber can be a killer presentation.

A slower presentation will be best when the walleyes are being fussy. A stand-up head allows an angler to work the bait slowly better than a round head. The stand-up Fire-Ball jig is a great choice. When dragging the jig, you'll want to give it lots of pauses to give a finicky walleye the chance to eat your jig. With the stand-up head, the minnow will remain very visible to the walleye when you pause it. The minnow on a round head jig will lay flat on the bottom when the jig is paused and won't be as visible. When you're



Dean Arnoldussen was fishing in the mouth of a river in the spring when this lunker walleye hit.

using a dragging retrieve, a stand-up head will catch more fish.

If you're using the jig/minnow combo, a minnow

about three inches long will be best. Smaller is better early in the spring.

Rivers across the Midwest are home to lots of walleyes. Now is an out-

standing time to get in on that action.

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“Water Bill”**Continued from page 17**

activity.

Critics, including environmentalists and anglers, call the legislation a sweetheart deal for the agriculture industry and other big water users that would allow analysis from paid consultants to determine who gets to tap groundwater. Only so much water can be withdrawn before stressing watersheds — harming wildlife and other water users, critics argue.

“At some point, all the predictions say you’re out, you’ve hit the limit,” Bryan Burroughs, director of Michigan Trout Unlimited, told Bridge Magazine. “Now you can submit (your own data), and if you submit any data, we have to give you a provisional clearance to go and do it — even if current tools say that you can’t.”

The debate comes as bottled water company Nestlé Waters North America seeks DEQ permission

to dramatically increase groundwater withdrawals in Osceola County, a long-stalled effort that has drawn national headlines and withering pushback from local residents and environmentalists.

But HB 5638 is more of a nod to Michigan’s agriculture sector, which is by far the state’s biggest water user.

Farmers say DEQ takes too long to review withdrawals from potentially vulnerable areas, leaving them waiting to tap precious resources. The arguments come as Republican lawmakers are pushing a litany of bills that would erode DEQ’s power amid industry complaints that the agency won’t accommodate their needs.

“This process has led to frustration from farmers and other water users looking for clarity and timely decision making,” Matt Smego, a Farm Bureau lobbyist, told lawmakers at the hearing Wednesday.

Farmers from Branch,

Cass and St. Joseph counties echoed that critique.

Miller’s legislation would accommodate the rising irrigation demands of Southwest Michigan farmers as they sign more corporate seed contracts. His district includes Cass and St. Joseph counties. St. Joseph County hosts the world’s two biggest seed corn processing plants — operated by mammoth Monsanto and Pioneer.

Michigan had nearly 600,000 acres under irrigation as recently as 2012, according to the U.S. Census of Agriculture. Much of it was in the state’s southwest corner, a region known for producing specialty crops such as seed corn.

No state is more freshwater-rich than Michigan. It’s surrounded by the Great Lakes, home to more than more than 76,000 miles of rivers and streams and much of the state sits atop high-quality groundwater.

But those resources aren’t infinite, experts say, and too-voluminous with-

drawals can wreak havoc.

“At a local level, high demand for groundwater can cause folks’ wells to go dry and streams to dry up, it can lower lake levels and it can undermine wildlife habitats,” said Noah Hall, a professor of environment and water law at Wayne State University. “Just because a resource is abundant doesn’t mean you should use it frivolously.”

That’s why lawmakers in 2008 created a new regulatory system for major withdrawals as part of the state’s commitment to abide by the Great Lake Compact, the landmark interstate agreement designed to protect the region’s water.

Those wanting to withdraw large volumes of water must first input data into an online tool developed by the state that estimates possible effects on the local watershed. If that tool — built to be conservative — rejects the withdrawal as too risky, then DEQ performs a deeper analysis of



Corn field irrigation in Superior Township. (Photo by Dwight Burdette, via Wikimedia Commons)

the site.

That’s what happened in the closely watched Nestlé case. The company failed the online tool test but passed the site-specific review. Now it’s waiting for a separate permit under the state’s Drinking Water Act — requirements that don’t apply to irrigators.

But farmers slurp up more water than anyone else in Michigan. Through 2016, some 90 percent of large water withdrawal requests came from the ag

sector, according to agency data analyzed by Trout Unlimited, which advocates for anglers. Of about 3,900 requests, DEQ approved nearly 3,300. It denied just 35, and the remainder of applications were retracted or canceled.

By statute, DEQ is supposed to deliver its site-specific analysis within 10 days, but the agency — seen by environmentalists and some lawmakers as underfunded and understaffed — took 35 days on average in 2017, according to agency data.

Rep. Bill Sowerby, D-Clinton Township, was among lawmakers most skeptical of Miller’s proposal on Wednesday. He asked why the Republican didn’t instead push for more funding at the DEQ to speed up reviews.

Miller said more funding might help, but said his bill addressed additional issues, such as updating the science behind evaluating withdrawals.

The bill lists two specific studies — one from 2003, the other from 2011 — big water users must rely upon when analyzing watersheds. Or they can use a “peer-reviewed functional equivalent.”

Sowerby also questioned why farmers needed to exempt withdrawal data — including the analysis used to justify approval — from state open records laws.

Laura Campbell, who manages agricultural equality for the Farm Bureau, suggested that terrorists could use the information to target state water supplies.

“This provision keeps specific, intensive data out of the hands of those who misuse it.”

James Clift, policy director at the Michigan Environmental Council, is among those skeptical of that argument, and he pointed out that well locations are easy to pinpoint on publicly available maps.

“What they want to hide is their consultant’s analysis,” he told Bridge.

Clift suggested the secrecy could trigger more lawsuits from residents accusing major water users of harming local water supplies; If folks can’t request the data from DEQ, then they could only turn to the courts.

“It’s going to be neighbors suing neighbors,” he said.



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Two-in-Five Large Michigan Industrial Plants Exceeded Water Pollution Limits

By Jim Malewitz
Michigan Environment Watch
www.bridgemi.com

LANSING — More than 40 percent of Michigan’s major industrial facilities spewed large amounts of pollution — above legal limits — into lakes, rivers and other waterways over a 21-month period ending in September 2017.

That’s according to a report released last week accusing environmental regulators nationwide of failing to aggressively enforce parts of the federal Clean Water Act, risking public health and safety along U.S. waterways.

Environment Michigan, a nonprofit advocacy group in Lansing, and Frontier Group, a California-based think tank, released the study, which analyzed data industrial sites reported to states and the federal government.

Researchers found 32 of 77 major Michigan industrial sites reported exceeding their pollution permits during the period analyzed. Twenty facilities did so multiple times, the report said.

All told, the facilities reported 196 such discharges. The wastewater discharges

involved a wide range of pollutants including hydrogen sulfide, chlorine, oil and grease, mercury and fecal coliform. In 70 instances, companies released more than twice the threshold of pollutants permits allowed.

Environmental advocates acknowledged progress over the years in cleaning Michigan waterways, but they say they fear a march backwards as President Donald Trump and some Republican state leaders move to loosen environmental regulations and slash funding for oversight.

“All Michigan lakes and streams should be clean for swimming, drinking water, and wildlife,” Nathan Murphy, state director with Environment Michigan, said in a statement. “But industrial polluters are still dumping chemicals that threaten our health and environment, and no one is holding them accountable.”

The study specifically examined the records of “major” industrial facilities, which are permitted to discharge more than a million gallons of wastewater per day. The data came from “discharge monitoring reports” facilities and states are required to submit on-

line. Michigan regulators did not review the compiled data for accuracy despite the authors’ “repeated requests,” the report said.

Melanie Brown, a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality spokeswoman, said she was unable to confirm whether anyone at the agency was asked to review the data, “but it would have been a very significant task.”

“Some violations are likely accurate, as it is not uncommon for facilities to have occasional effluent violations,” she told Bridge Magazine in an email. “MDEQ issues violation notices where appropriate and the majority of violations are resolved informally with return to compliance.”

Two companies accounted for a particularly large share of excessive discharges in Michigan: Great Lakes Aggregates — Sylvania Minerals Quarry, a sandstone and limestone quarry in Monroe County; and UP Paper, LLC in Manistique, on the north shore of Lake Michigan in the Upper Peninsula.

Great Lakes Aggregates tallied 52 excessive discharges for chemicals such as hydrogen peroxide and hydrogen sulfide, which



A stretch of the Huron River. Over a 21-month period, Great Lakes Aggregates-Sylvania Minerals Quarry in Monroe County tallied 52 excessive chemical discharges into river water and Laudenschlager Drain. (Photo by Dwight Burdette, via Wikimedia Commons.)

flowed into the Huron River and Laudenschlager Drain. Of those, 39 discharges were more than twice the legal threshold.

The company did not return several messages.

UP Paper exceeded per-

mits 23 times — 8 of which were more than twice the limits, discharging wastewater into the Manistique River. Those permits covered chlorine, total dissolved solids (such as salts and metals) and biochemi-

cal oxygen demand.

Lars Dannberg, president and CEO of UP Paper, confirmed the violations on Friday and said his two-

“Pollution”

Continued on page 21



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“Pollution”
Continued from page 20

year-old company is working closely with DEQ regulators to fix the problems. The company, a key piece of the local economy, operates an aging paper plant purchased out of bankruptcy and only recently discovered the full scope of its wastewater discharge issues as staffers ramped up production, Dannberg said. The company is spending more than \$100,000 on upgrades.

“We are fully aware of it, and we are working hard to avoid any more,” he said.

Nationwide, researchers tracked more than 8,100 excessive discharges. About 40 percent of facilities had exceeded limits at least once — similar to the share in Michigan.

Compared with Michigan’s 196 excessive discharges, the states with the most identified discharges were: Texas (938), Pennsylvania (633), Arkansas (567), Louisiana (535) and Ohio (491).

Among its neighbors, Michigan ranked in the middle of the pack.

With more major industrial facilities — 93 — than any Midwestern state, Ohio tallied by far the most excessive discharges in the region. It was followed by Indiana (211 discharges from 66 facilities); Iowa (197 discharges from just 27 facilities); Michigan; Illinois



UP Paper, LLC says it’s working to upgrade its facilities after repeatedly violating permits for discharging chlorine, total dissolved solids (such as salts and metals) and failing to meet biochemical oxygen demand standards in the Manistique River in the Upper Peninsula (Photo via UP Paper, LLC Facebook page)

(149 discharges from 65 facilities); Minnesota (35 discharges from 28 facilities) and Wisconsin (29 discharges from 43 facilities).

Perhaps the Midwest’s most high-profile discharges have come in Indiana, where U.S. Steel faces legal challenges from several entities — including the City of Chicago — over spills of hundreds of pounds of hexavalent chromium into Lake Michigan near one of Chicago’s water intakes. Hexavalent chromium is a highly toxic, cancer-causing metal made infamous by the 2000 movie Erin Brockovich.

“While we may have come a long way since the 1960s and the times when Lake Erie was all but dead and the Cuyahoga River caught fire, there is still

a long road ahead to ensure water quality in our communities,” State Rep. Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit, said in a statement accompanying the report’s release.

The report also examined nationwide enforcement data, though it did not break down state-by-state figures.

From 2011 to 2017 fewer than half the yearly average of nearly 28,000 non-compliant facilities faced any state or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency penalty.

“Even when fines are issued, they are often too low to deter polluters,” the report said. “In 2017, the median fine issued by the EPA was lower than it had been in any year since 2011.”

Brown, the DEQ

spokeswoman, said agency staffers routinely monitor discharge reports and perform on-site inspections of wastewater facilities. She said the agency last year performed more than 1,500 inspections of facilities permitted under Clean Water Act provisions — about the same amount as a decade ago.

“Our inspection commitment to the EPA transmitted as our Compliance Monitoring Strategy has not materially changed with regard to EPA major facilities,” her email said.

At UP Paper, Dannberg said the DEQ had not fined his company for its early violations, but the agency was pushing his company hard to comply. “They’re tough with us,” he said, “but that’s OK.”

GET BIT BY PANFISH NOW

By Bob Jensen

The big lake near where I live still had a lot of ice on it when I drove by a few days ago, but it was opening up near the shoreline. But the smaller ponds in the area have a lot of open water. In fact, of friend of mine told me that a friend of his had just caught a nice bunch of crappies from the open water in one of those ponds. For many anglers, panfish are how we kick off another open water fishing season. Most of us have a body of water nearby that it is home to bluegills and crappies and the like, and they’re a great place for that first fishing trip of the year. Here’s how you do it.

One of the keys is finding the warmest water in the lake or pond you’ll be fishing. Warm water makes the fish more active and more likely to eat your lure. The north side of a body of water warms up faster, as do the bays and canals and areas like that. Those are the areas where we’ll be concentrating our efforts.

Panfish like to be near “stuff”. “Stuff” could be a tree that has fallen into the water, a dock or boat lift, anything that provides some cover for the panfish

that’s in warm water and is close to deeper water will probably be the hangout for some bluegills or crappies.

A small jig under a slip-bobber is probably the best presentation this time of year. If you’re after ‘gills or sunfish, go with a tiny jig. Something in the 1/32nd or 1/64th size range will be good.

If crappies are the quarry, go a little larger, maybe a 1/16th ounce jig. Crappies have a large mouth and can handle a bigger jig. ‘Gills and sunfish have tiny mouths and prefer tiny meals.

By using a slip-bobber, you can suspend the jig right in the fishes face. A slow presentation is best now, and the slip-bobber allows for a slow presentation. Set the bobber stop so the bait is just a tad above where you expect the fish to be. They’ll go up to take a bait, but rarely down.

Black is a good jig color. In many areas the panfish are eating just hatched black bugs in the spring. Crappies seem to prefer something brighter. A Firefly jig tipped with a small minnow will be a winner.

Or try an Impulse Heli-

“Panfish”

Continued on page 23



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Submitted by Carmen Zirls on behalf of the Banquet Committee

A year of planning and acquiring prizes; the last two months in final preparations; the final week before the banquet filled with last minute changes and prize logistics, all leading up to Saturday, March 10, 2018 Banquet day! And what a day it was! Starting at 10 a.m., 20 MWS volunteers unloaded prizes, unboxed and assembled prizes, organized prize tables, worked



on the sound system and coordinated last minute room changes by the banquet hall. Everything ready for the big event starting at 5:30 pm.... well, not quite, but close enough! Finishing touches being added as guests streamed in (early as usual!) A big crowd of 390 (last year was 364), checking out more than 180 prizes and silent auction items. Tough to decide where to put your Red & Blue tickets! Then there were all the five tables of firearms for the gun raffles (21 gun raffles held), PLUS the table of great Grand Prize firearms. And, of course, we had Fishing Charter raffles (4 of them) and 50/50 raffles throughout the evening. A final treat was a special raffle for Red Wing tickets: four Row 1 Club seats on the Blue line with parking, dinner & drinks (thanks Jeff Green!). Total revenue and expenses were higher than last year, but, most importantly, net profit was up almost 20% over 2017! This revenue is already being direct-

ed towards MWS's many community and outreach programs and projects.

Metro-West wishes to thank all of the people who had a part in making this banquet a successful event.

Prize acquisition or donation, set-up, working and planning the banquet:

Sara Drum, Jen Drum, Luke Hoyer, Tammy Klevlen, Larry Tabaka, Mark Davis, Karent Westphal, Jeff Green, Bob Olari, Marty & Kelly Drum, Todd Stav, Bill & Melissa Gagnon, Denny Cheshure, Hermann & Marsha Christoph, Brad Allan and Mary Beth Kocsis, Zane Billings, John Andersen, Marc Traver, Phil & Karen Bustos, Jeff Bustos, Debbie Schoen, Robert Grech, Henry Nabors, Mark Platt, Adam Trenz, Dave Zawacki, Gale Frazee, Marshal Walker, Scott Gralinski, Dennis Murphy, Gary Hafemeister, Jordan Pontoni, Tom Telfer.



A special "THANK-YOU" to the "Captains" who have this designation for selling a full table(s):

Dennis Kelly (6+ tables!), Larry Tabaka, Jeff

K., Jeff Green, Ace DeVillez, Mark Davis, Mark Saven, Marty Drum, Todd Stav, Denny Cheshure, Karen Westphal, Clyde Schoen, Tim Tenbusch, Bob Olari,

Jordan Pontoni, Rick Giercki. We are already discussing next year's banquet and how we can make it even better!

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A pair of anglers work some shallow water reeds in the spring.
Note the long rods with no reels.

“Panfish”

Continued from page 21

um Stonefly. These jigs are meant to be fished under a bobber and they look like the bugs that panfish like to eat. Maybe tip it with a waxworm or spike if the fish are a little hesitant to eat it.

Twitch your rod gently to impart a quiver to whatever jig you use. Rig your baits on four pound test line. P-Line CX Premium has become favored among many anglers. It’s easy to manage and it fishes well around cover. Additionally, some of the most successful panfish-catchers have gone to longer rods. The traditionalists might go with a seven foot rod in medium light action. This length is good for swinging baits into position and for swinging fish into the boat.

Others go with a rod with no reel, just a couple feet of line tied to the tip. Cabela’s has one called a Whuppin’ Stick that telescopes out to ten or twelve feet and is very affordable. They have become extremely popular in many areas.



Kevan Paul, noted Clear Lake Iowa fishing guide, with a spring crappie.

If you’re anxious to get fishing, find a panfish pond or lake in your area and get out there. The fish will bite if you just put a lure in front of them.

To see episodes of Fishing the Midwest television or fishing articles as well as fishing videos, go to fishingthemidwest.com

“Line 5”

Continued from page 13

gistical changes during Labor Day’s annual Mackinac Bridge Walk, which draws more than 30,000 partici-

pants. (The agency that operates the bridge, Mackinac Bridge Authority, this year is eliminating bus service to St. Ignace, forcing walkers to turn around follow-

ing their 2.5-mile trip. “We really don’t know what to expect,” Wyman said.)

Local Line 5 protests last year lead to some tense moments between protesters and the village’s short-staffed police, Wyman added.

Warner, who moved to Cheboygan from Detroit 10 years ago, called the region “a wonderful place to live.” It’s where he met his wife three years ago while helping protect spawning lake sturgeon, a threatened species, from poachers.

“I went sturgeon guarding and caught my limit,” he joked.



Mackinaw City Hall, April 2018.
(Bridge photo by Jim Malewitz)



Plan To Protect Lake Erie From Algae Blooms Isn’t Working, Study Shows

Keith Matheny,
Detroit Free Press

Miles of green, mucky and potentially toxic algae blooms on western Lake Erie — and the oxygen-deprived dead zones in the Great Lake that come with them — have led Ohio to spend more than \$3 billion to combat them since 2011. Michigan has chipped in millions of dollars of its own, seeking to dramatically cut a major source of fuel for the algae blooms: fertilizers that run off farmers’ fields into tributaries and on to the Great Lake.

But those efforts aren’t working, a new study by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency finds. At least not yet.

The agency examined annual nutrient loads in the watersheds feeding the lake, from 2013 to 2017. The results “show no clear trend of an overall decrease” in most watersheds — and even worse in watersheds most associated with agricultural activity.

On the Maumee River, 88% of the phosphorus it carries to Lake Erie comes not from single sites such as a wastewater treatment plant or a factory, but the hundreds of farms that line its 137 miles from Ft. Wayne, Ind., to Toledo. The Ohio EPA study shows “no discernible decrease in phosphorus or nutrient loading to Lake Erie” from the Maumee watershed, and “the loading in 2017 was the highest of the years reported.”

The findings may call into question the costly approaches taken to-date to combat Lake Erie algae blooms, and whether allowing farmers to voluntarily take steps to reduce their fertilizer runoff, rather than government mandates, works well enough to stop the annual algae bloom breakouts. But Lake Erie researchers say it may just take more time for farmer buy-in to begin to show results.

“We believe it has helped, but it has not helped enough,” Ohio EPA spokeswoman Heidi Griesmer said of the state’s spending and efforts.

Michigan, Ohio and Ontario have all signed on to a plan to reduce nutrient loads reaching Lake Erie by 40% by 2025, a plan endorsed by the U.S. EPA. “We are not on the trajectory we need to be” to reach that target, Griesmer said.

A dramatic turnaround wasn’t expected over that five-year time period, said Jill Ryan, executive director of the Petoskey-based environmental nonprofit Freshwater Future.

“But as Ohio is saying, given the amount of money they had invested, they had hoped to see something,” she said.

The toxic algae bloom on Lake Erie that left more

than 400,000 residents in Toledo and southeast Michigan without drinking water over three days in August 2014 was thought to be a wake-up call. Much of Ohio’s spending on nutrient reductions has occurred since that incident.

Michigan has focused on continued improvements at the Detroit Waste Water Treatment Plant and improved farming practices in the River Raisin and portions of the Maumee watershed in Southeastern-most Michigan. A \$17.5-million program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service includes \$2.5 million for Michigan, and the funding is available to eligible farmers to build riparian buffers, restore wetlands, construct sediment retention control structures and other runoff prevention activities.

“The voluntary measures are working — there are measurable differences,” said Mark Mathe, a corn and soybean farmer who also raises some cattle and sheep at his farm in Ida. Mathe is the president of the Monroe County Farm Bureau.

Mathe said he hopes requested improvements in farming operations remain voluntary, rather than mandatory.

“At the end of the day, the land is our livelihood,” he said. “We’re drinking the same well water as our neighbors. We’re all swimming and boating in the same Lake Erie as our friends and neighbors are.

“We all want to be a part of the solution. But anytime you get into mandates, there’s more hesitation for people. There’s more push-back when you’re told you have to do something, rather than, ‘I recognize there’s a problem, and it’s incumbent upon myself to do something about it.’”

It could be that there is so much phosphorus build-up in the soils around these watersheds that it will take some time before actions on the land begin to show up in rivers, said Don Scavia, a professor emeritus at the University of Michigan’s School of Environment and Sustainability and a leading Lake Erie algae bloom researcher.

“This has recently been shown to be the case in the Mississippi River basin, albeit for a much larger basin,” he said.

Policy makers may also need to better pinpoint spending on the issue, Scavia said.

“Our modeling work has shown that targeting practices on the highest source areas is much more effective than spreading them across the watershed,” he said.

“It also showed that subsurface fertilizer application, planting winter cover crops and installing buffer strips was most effective. However, this would have to be applied to half the cropland that has the highest phosphorus loss. I doubt that has been happening.”

Crops take up almost all of the phosphorus applied to them as fertilizer, Scavia said. “The Maumee may just be overwhelmed with the amount of industrial corn,” he said.

Corn grown for fuel creates more than a half-billion gallons of ethanol a year in Ohio, and is the state’s second-leading crop after soybeans with a value of \$1.9 billion.

There may just be a lag time between the directive for changes in farming practices and their implementation, said Richard Becker, an associate professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of Toledo whose work includes agricultural runoff modeling.

The U.S. EPA Action Plan for Lake Erie was signed in spring 2015, so any changes implemented from its recommendations have possibly only been in place for one growing season, he said.

“Adoption may start slowly and build up over time,” he said. “That would be my optimistic point of view. It’s also possible that voluntary adoption (of new farming practices) may not be enough. The jury is still out on that.”

The years that pass before that determination can be made might be lost time for Lake Erie, Ryan said.

“If we don’t set some sort of floor on how we apply and use fertilizer on agricultural fields, we could spend another five or seven years looking for positive results that never materialize,” she said. “We have to go beyond voluntary, in my opinion.”

Contact Keith Matheny: 313-222-5021 or kmatheny@freepress.com. Follow on Twitter @keithmatheny.



In this Aug. 3, 2014 file photo, algae is seen near the City of Toledo water intake crib in Lake Erie, about 2.5 miles off the shore of Curtice, Ohio. (Photo: Haraz N. Ghanbari, AP)

2018 AuSable Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
<p>Information TBD. Meetings to begin in April. Contact Gene Kirvan at calypsocharters@yahoo.com for inquiries.</p>			

2018 Battle Creek Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
May	12	Lake Michigan Weigh 3 Trip Swap	Benton Harbor
June	1-2	Connie McGowan Invitational	(Captain must be a member) - Lake Erie
July	14	Portage Lake Pan Fish/Family Picnic	Vicksburg
August	4	Lake Michigan Memorial	South Haven
October	6	Kalamazoo River Salmon Slam	Allegan Dam
October	20	Kalamazoo River Memorial	Allegan Dam
October	27	Kalamazoo River Trout Quest	Allegan Dam
November	24	St. Joe River Fall Steelhead	I-94 Boat Ramp
December	1	St. Joe River Chapter Challenge	Elks Lodge Benton Harbor
December	8	Christmas Party	Kalamazoo Eagles
<p>Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting Location: Moonraker West Battle Creek</p>			
<p>FOR MORE INFORMATION: River Tournaments – Ice Tournaments – Justin Kling 491-2980 Lake Tournaments – Greg Peck 998-9407 battlecreeksteelheaders.com</p>			

2018 Grand Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	Contact Info
July	28	Member Weeklong + fishing contest begins	July 28 - August 9	mjbelter@altelco.net
August	2	Sportsmen for Youth Fundraiser/ dinner		https://sportsmenforyouth.com/
August	9	Chapter picnic, weeklong fishing contest awards	Rycenga Park, Spring Lake Twp.	mjbelter@altelco.net
September	8	Sportsmen for Youth Day	Muskegon County Fairgrounds	https://sportsmenforyouth.com/
September	14-15	Grand Haven Salmon Festival	Grand Haven Waterfront/City Marina location	www.ghsalmonfest.com/
September	15	Salmon Festival KidZone activity area	Grand Haven Waterfront/City Marina location	www.ghsalmonfest.com/
September	15	GH Steelheaders - Salmon Festival Big Fish Contest - Tentative	Grand Haven Waterfront/City Marina location	www.ghsalmonfest.com/ mjbelter@altelco.net
November	30	Member Year Long Fishing contest ends		
December	TBD	Annual meeting, dinner, recognitions		
<p>For more information on Grand Haven Steelheaders activities, contact: Roger Belter - 616-842-0877 or rogerbelter@gmail.com www.ghsteelheaders.com</p>				

2018 Grand Rapids Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
May	7	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
May	19	Spring Big Lake	STC*
May	21	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
June	4	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
June	8-10	Lake Erie 3-Day Walleye Contest	
June	25	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
July	2	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
July	11	Chapter Family Picnic	6:00 PM Johnson Park Shelter House **
August	6	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
August	18	Fall Big Lake Salmon/Trout 2/1 Contest	STC*
August	27	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
September	10	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
September	24	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
October	1	Chapter Buck Contest Begins **	
October	1	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
October	29	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
November	3	Fall River Contest Grand & Muskegon Rivers and their Tributaries	STC*
November	5	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
November	10	Fishing Partners Manistee Contest	STC*
November	26	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
December	3	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
December	10	Chapter Family Christmas Party	6 PM Diamond Hall
<p>STC* = Date subject to change ** = Members and Family Only. (All other events open to the public)</p>			

2018 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Comments / Contact Info
May	12	Manistee	Salmon Outing 5:30 am - 1:00 pm
June	2	Sebewaing Harbor Marina	Walleye outing 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Bring a child for a great day of fun
June	23	Grindstone	Walleye outing 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
July	14	Manistee	Salmon outing 5:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
July	28	Ludington	Salmon outing 5:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
July	29	Ludington Day 2	Salmon outing 5:30 a.m. – noon
August	11	Ludington	Salmon outing 6:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
August	25	Manistee	Salmon outing 6:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
August	26	Manistee Day 2	Salmon outing 6:00 a.m. – noon
Continued...			

2018 Great Lakes Bay Region ...continued			
Month	Date	Event	Comments / Contact Info
December	8	Christmas/Awards Banquet	Cocktails 5:00 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m. Bring family and friends! K of C Hall Auburn, Mi 48611
December	15	Big Manistee, Bear Creek	Call Mark Trudell 989-615-0481
<p>Membership meetings held at: 3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642 989-496-3410</p> <p>Board meetings: 6:00 pm / Membership meetings: 7:15 pm All Board/Membership meetings are held first Tuesday of each month with the exception of June, July and August. A raffle is held following all membership meetings. BRING A FRIEND! All membership meetings are open to the public. Register via Marine Radio channel 72 at beginning of all events. Weigh in's and picnics follow at 2:00 pm.</p> <p>If interested in fishing with us please email: kathy@steel-headers.com. Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com</p>			

2018 Holland Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
May	7	Board Meeting
May	19	Holland Steelheaders Spring Challenge
May	22	Tuesday Night League Kick-off
June	4	Board Meeting
June	9	All Species Tournament
June	23	Kids N' Kings Tournament
July	9	Board Meeting
July	14	Veteran's Fishing Outing
July	26	General Membership Meeting/Captain's Meeting
July	28	Holland Steelheaders Summer Challenge
August	3-5	Big Red Classic
August	6	Board Meeting
August	18	Holland Steelheaders Ladies Tournament
September	4	Tuesday Fish League Final Night
September	10	Board Meeting
October	1	Board Meeting
November	5	Board Meeting
December	1	River Tournament
December	3	Board Meeting
December	6	General Membership Meeting
<p>Membership meetings held at: Yacht Basin Yacht Club 1862 Ottawa Beach Road, Holland MI 49424 Social hour at 6 pm, Dinner at 7 pm Call board members to find out location of board meetings.</p> <p>For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jeremy Erdman 616-510-9405, or email Steve Weatherwax at Waxer1221@Yahoo.com</p>		

2018 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Chair
May	1	General Membership Meeting	
May	5	TCAS Brown Trout Tourn. @ Frankfort w MWS	Chair: Richardson/McDonald
May	5	Kent Lake Blue Gill Kayak/Small boat	Chair: Mark Davis
May	12	Toledo Beach Memorial Walleye Tourn. &Vets	Chair: Larry Tabaka
May	19	Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament	Chair: Chris Thompson/Kruszewski
May	26	Kelley’s Island Walleye Tournament w HV	Chair: Phil & Dennis Kelley
June	2	Kids Fishing Outing at Kensington Park	Chair: Brad Allan
June	5	General Membership Meeting	
June	9	Grand/Southhaven Salmon Pier Event	Chair: Eric Braden
June	16	Lake Erie Walleye Tournament - Sat w HV	Chair: Dennis Kelley/Jeff K
June	23	Rogers City Salmon Tournament	Chair: Jordan Pontoni
June	30	Walleye Tournament (Saginaw Bay or L. Erie)	Chair: Fabian Sepulveda
July	6	Erieau Tournament - Erieau, Canada	Chair: Clyde Schoen
July	7	Erieau Tournament - Erieau, Canada	Chair: Ron Bellemore/Henry Nabors
July	7	Manistee River Clean-up Day	Chair: Roger Hinchcliff
June	30	Walleye Tournament (Saginaw Bay or L. Erie)	Chair: Fabian Sepulveda
July	6	Erieau Tournament - Erieau, Canada	Chair: Clyde Schoen
July	7	Erieau Tournament - Erieau, Canada	Chair: Ron Bellemore/Henry Nabors
July	7	Manistee River Clean-up Day	Chair: Roger Hinchcliff
July	14	Clinton River Clean-up Day	Chair: Jay Labban
July	19	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Thu w TCAS	Chair: Gale Frazee/Tom Abdelnour
July	21	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sat w TCAS/HV	Chair: Dennis Kelley
July	22	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sat w TCAS/HV	Chair: Dave Zawacki/Ted Ringer
August	7	General Membership Meeting	
August	4	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sat w TCAS	Chair: Henry Nabors/Bill Gagnon
August	5	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sun w TCAS	Chair: Marc Traver
August	11	Salmon Tournament – Frankfort w TCAS	Chair: Tom Hesch/Bill Dodge
August	14	Club Summer Picnic	Chair: Jim Robertson/Dave Zawacki
August	25	Holland Salmon Tournament	Chair: Larry Tabaka
September	4	General Membership Meeting	
September	8	Lake & River Tournament – Frankfort w/TCAS	Chair: M/D (MWS/TCAS) Hartrick/A Trenz
September	17	Captain/Crew/River Angler 2019 Calendar Mtg	Chair: Kelley/P. Bustos/Nabors/Grech
September	15	Manistee Pier Jamboree	Chair: Adam Trenz
September	22	Manistee River Tournament w/TCAS	Chair: Adam Trenz
September	29	Detroit River Kayak/Small boat	Chair: Eric Braden
October	2	General Membership Meeting	
October	6	Ohio Steelhead Alley (include Elk Creek P.A.)	Chair: Phil Bustos

Why Fish Manistee?

The Manistee County Sportfishing Association (MCSFA) annual tournament week starts on Wednesday, June 20th and runs until Sunday June 24th. We are a members-only tournament that purposely sets our "payout" structure so many walk away with something instead of a "few" hitting the big pay day. Also, all proceeds from the tournament week goes back into the association to finance projects such as Kids Fish, Net Pens, lobbying, habitat improvement,

education, stewardship, and protecting and promote the great fishing that exists in Manistee County.

First, Tournament Week starts with the annual KIDS FISH event that takes place on Wednesday, June 20th at Man Made Lake. This event attracts hundreds of youth from in and around the county. Also, it is co-sponsored by the local Wild Turkey Federation (WTF) chapter The Sunset Shoreline Strutters. Many local sponsors help with bait, transportation, prizes,

media coverage, and supply volunteers to help the event run smoothly.

Then, on Friday, June 21st, the annual Ladies Classic begins. This all ladies event has both pro and amateur angler divisions and allows teams of women to compete for prizes and annual bragging rights.

Next, on Saturday and Sunday, the Budweiser PRO/AM begins with two divisions with separate prizes and also competing for an additional \$1,000 sponsored by the Marsh

Foundation, for the biggest fish caught over the weekend. On Sunday, anglers in both divisions can compete in the second day second chance contest sponsored by Oak Grove Cremation. We are one of the few tournaments that payout team overall prizes, big fish overall, big fish by species, second chance, etc. We continue our ongoing relationship with Tournament Trail and Tournament Trail participants can win over \$10,000 in cash and prizes.

Next because you need



Manistee KIDS FISH event will takes place on Wednesday, June 20th at Man Made Lake

to be a member to fish the tournament you are eligible to be automatically entered into the MCSFA Salmon Derby which runs Memorial Day to Labor Day, access to the website, get newsletters and have a voice on the Great Lakes Michigan

Citizen Fishery Advisory Committee, and participate in social events such as the Spring Banquet.

For additional information, visit our website at www.mcsfa.org or call us at 231-887-4474.

2018 SCHEDULE MANISTEE COUNTY TOURNAMENTS & EVENTS



*Ladies
Shake Down*
May 25

Onekama Marine Inc.
Memorial Weekend "Shake Down"

**Shake Down
Main Event**
May 26-27

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 26 - Sept 3

Ladies Classic: June 22

Budweiser Pro/Am: June 23-24



Presented by:

The Manistee County Sportfishing Association
PO Box 98, Manistee, MI 49660
email: mcsfa98@gmail.com
www.mcsfa.org • 231-887-4474

Salmon Splash

July 27-29

**Ladies Splash, Pro/Am,
Big Splash Cash & More!**

www.tournamenttrail.net



Call Scott MacDonald 231-690-1102
email: smac54@gmail.com



Friday, June 21st, the annual Ladies Classic begins.



**Budweiser PRO/AM Tournament
sponsored by the Marsh Foundation**

Michigan Free Fishing Weekend



The 2018 Free Fishing Weekend for this summer: June 9 & 10.

All fishing license fees will be waived for two days. A Recreation Passport will NOT be required for entry into state parks and recreation areas during Free Fishing Weekend. Residents and out-of-state visitors may enjoy fishing

on both inland and Great Lakes' waters for all species of fish. All fishing regulations will still apply.

During the Summer Free Fishing Weekend it is also Free ORV Weekend!

Many locations around the state hold fun events during the weekend. Check www.michigan.gov/dnr for events happening this year!

**Little River Casino
Resort Presents**



Monster Mania: Sept. 8-9

Find out more at www.tournamenttrail.net



Manistee County has the most Tournaments on the Trail!

Multiple Divisions – Fun For All!

Catch 1 fish, 3 fish, 5 fish, 10 fish & more!

333 Only available at all events.



MANISTEE COUNTY
VISITORS BUREAU

2018 Metro West - Livonia ...continued

Month	Date	Event	Chair
October	13	Manistee River Tournament	Chair: Fabian Sepulveda
October	27	Huron Walleye Tournament w HVS	Chair: Jim Robertson
November	3	River Tourn./Pier & Shore Outing Manistee w DS	Chair: Dave Zawacki/Eric Braden
November	6	General Membership Meeting	
December	4	CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
December	8	Huron River Tournament	Chair: Hinchcliff/Davis
<p align="center">** ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**</p> <p align="center">7:00 PM at The New Livonia Seniors Center at the Southeast Corner of Farmington Road and Five Mile Road</p> <p align="center">WEB Site: Go to www.metroweststeelheaders.org</p> <p align="center">If you have questions, contact Henry Nabors - HHNabors@Ameritech.net or call 248 225 4964.</p> <p align="center">Contact: <i>President</i> Larry Tabaka 313-215-8979 / <i>Membership Director</i> Henry Nabors 248-225-4964</p>			

2018 South Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
May	5	Michigan City Tournament
May	12	St. Joe Tourney/SW Chapter Saturday
May	17	Board and Membership Meetings
May	18-20	South Haven Tourney
May	26	Memorial Day Weekend Holiday
June	2	OPEN
June	9-10	SHS Ladies Tournament/Free Fishing Weekend
June	14	Board and Membership Meetings
June	16	Harborfest
June	23	OPEN
June	30	Independence Day Holiday
July	7	OPEN
July	14	OPEN
July	19	Board and Membership Meetings
July	21	OPEN
July	28	OPEN
August	11	SHS Fish Boil (Blueberry Festival Aug. 9-12)
August	16	Board and Membership Meetings
August	18	SHS Operation Injured Soldier/SH Salute to Veterans
September	1	Labor Day Weekend
September	8	SHS/BC/SW Tri-Chapter Perch Tournament (Tentative)
September	20	Board and Membership Meetings - prioritize and set next year’s events. Identify event chairs
October	18	Board and Membership Meetings - finalize next year’s events and set calendar
November	7	The Pro Am Tournament Committee Kick-off meeting
November	15	Board and Membership Meetings
November	24	SHS River Tournament
December	6	The Local Tournament Committee Annual meeting (if necessary)
December	8	SHS Holiday Party 2018

Note: All Board and membership meetings are held the third Thursday of each month except in January and March.
Membership Meetings Held at:
South Haven Moose Lodge, 1025 East Wells Street, South Haven, MI 49040
For more information email: president@southhavensteelheaders.com

2018 Southwest MI Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Location / Contact Info
May	10-12	Summer Challenge Tournament	
June	TBD	Kids Fishing Event	
June	14	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM
July	12	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM
August	24	Trolling with the Troops	
September	13	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM
October	11	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM
November	8	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM
December	1	Winter Chapter Challenge Tournament	
December	13	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM

Membership Meetings Held at:
St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks 541, 601 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor MI 49022
Monthly meeting second Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM
No meetings in May or August
Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784

2018 TCAS Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Location / Contact Info
May	2	General Membership Meeting	
May	5	Brown Trout Tournament Frankfort	Carl MacDonald/Randy Richardson
May	19	Torch Lake Salmon Tournament	Tim Potter/Howard Seaver
June	2	Torch Lake Salmon Tournament	Joe Cruzen/Randy Richardson
June	6	General Membership Meeting	
June	30	Lake Skegemog/Elk Lake Tournament	Howard Seaver/Jim Heegeman
June 30 - July 7		2018 National Cherry Festival – NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING or Board Meeting	
July	14	Lake Charlevoix Tournament	Tim Potter/Joe Rhode
July	19, 21-22	MWS Salmon Tournament	Ludington
August	1	General Membership Meeting	
August	4,5	MWS Salmon Tournament	Manistee
August	11	MWS Salmon Tournament	Frankfort
August	18	Lake Bellaire Tournament	Tim Potter/Rich Wilks

Continued...

2018 TCAS Steelheader’s ...continued

Month	Date	Event	Location / Contact Info
August	25	Grand Traverse Bay Tournament (Elk Rapids)	Joe Cruzen/Joe Rhode
September	5	General Membership Meeting	
September	8	MWS Salmon Tournament	Frankfort
September	15	Crystal Lake Tournament	Howard & Judy Seaver
September	22	MWS Manistee River Tournament	
September	29	Senior Center Fish Fry	
October	3	General Membership Meeting	
October	20	2019 Port Captain’s Meeting	
November	7	General Membership Annual Meeting	
December	1	Christmas Party – Tentative date	

Membership Meetings Held at:
Traverse City Senior Center, 801 Front St., Traverse City, MI 49686

2018 Thumb Chapter Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information	Location
May	5	Can2Can Fishing Tournament	6:00 am	Harbor Beach Marina
May	17	Regular Meeting	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
June	2	ProKing Fishing Tournament	6:00 am	Harbor Beach Marina
June	9	Veterans Fishing Outing	6:00 am Contact Kevin Ramsey for details	Harbor Beach Marina
June	21	Regular Meeting	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
July	19	Regular Meeting	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
August	12	Pig Roast	2:00 pm	Stafford Park
August	16	Ladies Night	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
September	20	Regular Meeting w/ Tackle Swap	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
October	18	Regular Meeting - Election of Board/Officers	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
November	TBD			
December	TBD			

Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries.

2018 Thunderbay Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information
May	7	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
May	19	Alpena Tournament	6:00 AM
June	4	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
June	9	Presque Isle Tournament	6:00 AM
July	2	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
August	6	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
September	3	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
October	1	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
November	5	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
December	3	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM

Contact rgoloch@comcast.net or dist24cm@aol.com for inquiries.

2018 White River Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information
May	4	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
June	7	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
July		No meeting	
August	2	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
September	6	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
October	4	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
November	1	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
December	6	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm

Contact whpollock@netzero.net for inquiries.



2018 Membership Drive



There are thousands of fishermen, women and children who need to join
in taking care of the Great Lakes and its fishery!

This is a year-long contest.
You need not be present to win!
For new membership sign-up only!

Let’s get them to join!

Here’s how it works!

- You (current member) are the sponsor.
- Have the new member fill out the application.
- On the bottom of the application, put your name in “Sponsored By” section.
- For each member signed up by you, you get a ticket.
- Your ticket(s) are put into a pot for a drawing.
- The drawings are held at the April Presidents’ meeting.
- There are between 15 - 25 drawings.
- The more tickets in the pot, the more chances to win prizes.



**For more information, contact your Chapter Membership Director
or mssfamembership@gmail.com**

"Salmon-Trout"

Continued from page 1

bring to the stream!

Remembering what happens in Alaska should help you understand this dynamic. We have all read

about the reason Pacific salmon die after spawning, to provide the nutrients in the relatively sterile streams for the next generation. The fact that the nutrients provided by the eggs and flesh of these fish

allows resident rainbows to grow to steelhead size (10+ pounds) while only being able to feed for four months of the year really helps explain this phenomenon.

Closer to home, I have had the chance to fish a

relatively marginal trout stream before and after a fish ladder allowed steelhead and salmon to spawn in it. One of my quirks is that I have been an avid fishing log keeper since I caught my first Michigan brown trout and steelhead, 53 years ago. I can honestly say, and my annual catch summaries verify, that the brown trout fishing in Prairie Creek is better now than it was in the 60's and 70's when anadromous fish could not get there.

Another fear among trout anglers is that the presence of anadromous fish will cause their newly open trout water to become over run with anglers. The easy solution here is to keep much of this water classified as a Type 1 stream, open to fishing only during the trout season. The middle to lower reaches of the stream can be classified as Type 4 so salmon and steelhead anglers can intercept the anadromous fish while releasing all of the browns and brookies caught outside of the regular trout season. It also should be noted that when the major hatches of mayflies and other aquatic insects occur, most of the anadromous fish and the anglers that fish for them will not be present.



Terri Bedford admires spring Steelhead caught on a spinner.

The lower dams on our Great Lakes coldwater tributaries have been a positive in preventing sea lampreys from gaining access to these river systems for spawning. Luckily a low head barrier can be maintained at the dam site that allows salmon and steelhead to ascend upstream while blocking sea lamprey migration because the sea lamprey can't jump.

While it is obvious

that I am in favor of opening more streams to trout movement and anadromous fish, I still strongly believe that many miles of trout only water should be kept that way. The upper Au Sable mainstream and branches and upper Manistee and tributaries (including the Pine) along with the Fox in the Upper Peninsula immediately come to mind.

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