



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

Volume 56 July/August 2019 No. 4

HIGH WATER LEVELS

Prompt Reminders About Local Watercraft Controls, Boating Safety

By Katie Gervasi
Michigan.gov Natural Resources

Recent weather conditions means that many lakes, rivers and streams in Michigan are experiencing higher than normal water levels. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources encourages boaters, anglers and others to keep enjoying the water, but to do so with safety in mind and a clear understanding of state boating rules and regulations and local watercraft controls.

High water levels can:
Cause flooding, deep water and strong currents, which can increase the

“High Water”
Continued on page 10



State Rep. Pauline Wendzel is joined by Rep. Jim Lilly & Rep. Jack O'Malley to introduce legislation that modernizes commercial fishing regulations in Michigan

Rep. Wendzel Nets Steelheaders Support for Bill

<http://gophouse.org>

State Representative Pauline Wendzel has joined with Representatives Jim Lilly and Jack O'Malley to introduce legislation to modernize commercial fishing regulations in Michigan.

“Sportfishing produces an economic output of over \$3.7 billion and supports nearly 28,000 jobs across our state,” Wendzel said. “Michigan has some of the most precious natural resources in the world, and it's important that we have

modern regulations in place to protect our resources and ensure that people continue coming into our state to spend tourism dollars that support local communities.”

Rep. Wendzel's bill has netted early support from one of Michigan's largest angling conservation organizations. Dennis Eade, Executive Director of the Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen's Association, is voicing strong support of Rep. Wendzel's legislation. “The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon

Fishermen's Association fully supports Rep. Wendzel's legislation to establish a commercial fishing statute that protects game fish, regulates gear used to take fish and establishes penalties which will protect our sport fishery. We have gone far too long with an antiquated statute that failed to establish best practices when it comes to harvesting fish in the Great Lakes.”

“Our local sport fishermen support over 1800 jobs right here in Southwest Michigan,” Wendzel said. “My bill will protect Michigan's natural resources and jobs right here in Berrien County.”

House Bills 4567-4569 are now before the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation for further consideration.

The chairman of the committee is putting together a task force to work on the bill during the summer recess.



Search groups for MSSFA



Joel Petersen (front), a fourth-generation fisherman, unloads freshly caught Lake Michigan whitefish from the deck of the Joy, the trap net tug he operates out of Leland's Fishtown (Bridge photo by Jim Malewitz)

Commercial Fishing is Sinking Fast in Michigan. Time For More Regulations?

By Jim Malewitz

LELAND — Joel Petersen steered the fishing tug Joy into the Leland River and docked it along the row of shanties of historic Fishtown.

Another light haul, the fourth-generation commercial fisherman said this month from the tug's deck. He started to unload

whitefish caught off of Lake Michigan's Manitou islands, bringing containers to sell to the Carlson's Fishery just feet away.

Sitting on the lake bottom, the Joy's nets can extend up to 40-feet high. But algae weighed them down this time, shrinking the trap. The problem crops up for several weeks each summer — ever since quagga

mussels invaded the Great Lakes basin from Europe more than 30 years ago and took over Lake Michigan by the 2000s. The tiny mollusks suck up all kinds of tinier underwater critters, allowing sunlight to penetrate deeper into the lakes, fueling algae growth.

“Regulations”
Continued on page 13



Photo Credit: fishingbooker.com

The Quality of Fishing Reflects the Quality of Living!



MSSFA PRESIDENT Tim Stegeman

It is now mid-June as I sit down to write the President's article for this issue and what an interesting first half of the year we have experienced. Cold, rainy, high water levels and wet, wet, wet. Hopefully all the chapters who are involved with net pens found success! While this weather has not been ideal for many things, angling does not seem to be one of them. I've seen and have also heard good reports around the state. I'm glad the sport fishery seems to be producing decent experiences for anglers so far.

As you know, since the beginning of the year I have been visiting MSSFA chapters and the last couple of months have been no different.

I attended the Grand Haven chapter spring meeting. Thank you to President Matt Whitney for the invitation and a chance to speak. Grand Haven had a very informative meeting that primarily focused on issues related to the Grand River. If you use these waters, you will want to keep informed and be sure to at-

tend both the Grand Haven and Grand Rapids chapter meetings.

To see how the spring fishery in southern Lake Michigan was doing, I volunteered to help Scotty Mac by weighing fish for the Tournament Trail 333 at Michigan City and St. Joseph. While Michigan City does not have a MSSFA chapter, St. Joseph does. The Southwest Michigan Chapter in St. Joseph holds a great tournament, The Schu's Summer Challenge, just before Mother's Day every year. Thank you to Southwest President Jim Marohn and the chapter members for their hospitality and a great prime rib dinner at their tournament awards ceremony.

The very next weekend I helped my home chapter of South Haven with master of ceremonies duties at the Friday Captain's meeting and Sunday awards ceremony as well as being part of the weigh team on Saturday and Sunday. South Haven uses the tournament caught fish to put on a fish boil fund raiser at the South Haven Blueberry Festival

in August each year that usually feeds over one thousand people. While it is always a difficult task to find volunteers to take leadership roles (as with most organizations), I am always impressed by the 30 or so South Haven chapter member volunteers that show up year after year to help with the tournament. Good job President Rich Chapman and South Haven members!

While at the successive tournaments, I was able to have some great conversations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife field operators that are based in Wisconsin. Ultimately, I was able to fill in some data gaps I have been interested in as well as put a few new things on my radar for our fishery.

I then visited the Battle Creek chapter at their new meeting location for another very informative meeting. So informative as a matter of fact, I asked the same speakers to attend the next state board meeting to talk to all the directors. Thank you to President Dave Middleton for the invitation and a chance to speak. I also want to thank

Dave and his chapter members for a nice Battle Creek Steelheaders cap. Out of all my visits, this is the first time a chapter presented me with an item to remember the visit by. Greatly appreciated. Thanks!

It has been a bit of a whirlwind tour around the state and there are only a few chapters left to visit: Traverse City, Great Lakes Bay Region, Thumb and White River. Hopefully I'll get a word from each of those chapters when would be a good date and time to visit.

Wednesday, June 19th is our next state meeting. We have some important agenda items to review so I hope all chapters will have their directors present. One of the items is to elect a new Vice President. Unfortunately, due to health reasons and effective June 1st, long-time board member and current V.P. Jim Vander Maas had to step down. I want to thank Jim for all he has done over the years – actually, all he has done over multiple decades would be the more accurate statement. Jim combines



Tim Stegeman, President
Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen's Association

the aspects of experience, judgement and wisdom which has served this organization well for so many years.

The primary issue we are focused on right now is getting the new Commercial Fishing Statue Bills passed and our Executive Director will provide more

detail than I have room for here.

I hope everyone's summer is safe and fishtastic! Get out there as much as you are able because "winter is coming!" Yeah, on the heels of the series finale, I had to throw a reference in there for you GOT fans.

2019 Tentative Print Schedule

Issue	Deadline	Print Date
1	12/12/18	01/03/19
2	02/15/19	02/28/19
3	04/12/19	04/26/19
4	06/14/19	06/28/19
5	08/16/19	08/30/19
6	10/11/19	10/25/19

GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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MICHIGAN STEELHEAD AND SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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The *Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association (MSSFA)* is a multi-state, non-profit organization dedicated to educating the general public on improving, preserving and promoting sport fishing, the Great Lakes and their tributary streams and 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

Great Lakes Research Vessels Collect Valuable Fish Data



The research vessel Tanner, dedicated in honor of former DNR fisheries chief and former DNR Director Howard Tanner, who spearheaded the initiative to introduce salmon to the Great Lakes basin. Alpena, Michigan, May 20, 2016.

and lake sturgeon in these waters that support some of the highest fishing activity in Michigan.

• The RV Lake Char launched in 2007. It assesses the status of Lake Superior's self-sustaining lake trout and whitefish populations, along with other members of the unique coldwater fish community found in that water.

The survey vessel Steelhead, on the water since 1967, focuses on yellow perch, whitefish, lake trout, chinook salmon and forage fish populations in Lake Michigan."

When the vessels are in port, the public is encouraged to visit and talk with crew about their work. Learn more at Michigan.gov/FishResearch.

www.pressandguide.com

LANSGING – While at Great Lakes ports this summer or fall, you might see one of the DNR's large fisheries research vessels conducting annual fish population surveys. The vessels are based out of Alpena, Charlevoix, Harrison Township and Marquette harbors.

"The staff on these vessels are working on a variety of studies to better understand Great Lakes fish communities, population sizes and habitats," said Gary Whelan, DNR Fish-

eries Research Program manager. "Their work and the information produced are essential to supporting current and future fisheries management."

• The RV Tanner, launched in 2016, focuses on Lake Huron and the sunrise coast's lake trout, walleye and forage fish populations. It also spends time in Saginaw Bay and the St. Marys River to evaluate fish communities.

• The RV Channel Cat, in service since 1968, works on lakes St. Clair and Erie. This crew studies walleye, yellow perch

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

The Presidents' meeting took place on April 20th with all chapters represented. We honored Tom Baird as the Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award recipient for 2019 and learned about the Atlantic salmon rearing program from Roger Greil, the Manager of Lake Superior State University's Aquatic Research Lab. We awarded prizes to the members who recruited the most new members in 2018 and shared the recent accomplishments of all of

our chapters. Dr. Tanner's twenty five autographed copies of the memoir "Something Spectacular" completely sold out.

The Healing Our Waters Foundation, part of the Great Lakes Alliance, sponsored The Great Lakes Conference in Detroit, MI on May 9th and 10th and I was asked to participate on a panel to discuss the dangers of open water net pen aquaculture in the Great Lakes. We made an impression on all the conser-

vationists and activists who attended and they walked away knowing more about the dangers commercial aquaculture poses in open waters. On May 16th, MS-SFA hosted a meeting with representatives from Trout Unlimited, The Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association and Lake Stewards Association to discuss the MDNR research study undertaken to determine the lake trout mortality rate when lake trout are released back into the waters of the Great Lakes. It was originally believed that the mortality rate was around 15% prior to the study's completion. The actual study showed that the mortality rate was closer to 40%. The outcome of our meeting suggested that there is sufficient reason to recom-

mend additional research predicated on catch method and water temperature. We will be recommending reexamination of the results of the study. Ways to fund and staff additional research in cooperation with the MDNR needs to be explored.

The Commercial Fishing Statue legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives and is currently under consideration in the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee. We are hopeful the bills will move and be considered in the Senate where opposition may require strong support from the sport fishing community and tourism interests in the state. If we can rally support from small businesses, like tack-

le shops, marinas, tackle manufacturers, and hotels and restaurants who benefit greatly from sport fishing, we should be able to overcome the objections anticipated in the senate. The tourism industry is behind our efforts to pass the bills. TICOM has reached out to their members to support the bills.

During a teleconference call on June 13th, a majority of advisors of the Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Committee recommended a 29% increase in Chinook stocking in Lake Michigan for 2020. That would be an increase of 450,000 lake-wide equivalents deferring the final decision to the Lake Michigan Technical Committee when the egg taking process begins in the fall.



Battle Creek Steelheaders hosted a membership meeting on May 21st that highlighted presentations from Jim Dexter, Steve Schultz and Chris Patterson on the upcoming Tribal Negotiations. It was great meeting and we will have Chris Patterson, FSBR Law attorney, and Tony Radjenovich, president of the CPMR (the amici group) presented to our Board of Directors.

From all accounts, fishing has been excellent with nice returns of big Chinook and lake trout. We will again assist in sponsoring the Michigan Legislative Sportsmen Caucus Fishing Outing in Ludington on July 15, 2020 and expect a great turnout from the Michigan legislature for this event hosted by Senator Curt VandrerWall from Ludington, MI. *Fish On!*

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3 Tips For Summer Bass Fishing In Midday Heat

Article from shopkarls.com

In the summer, it's a known fact that the best times of the day to fish are at dusk and dawn. Light penetration is minimal, the lakes are quiet, and bass are on the feed. Early and late bass are much more active than midday bass.

But what if you can't fish in the morning? Or if you strike out in the morning and want to make something happen amid all the recreational traffic?

The good news is that bass can still be caught well during the middle of the day, and if you know what you're doing (and aren't afraid to change tactics a bit), you can keep the bite going from launch to load.

Here are three tips to help you catch more midday bass:

1. Find Some Brush

With the sun at its zenith and the recreational crowd out in full-force, bass at midday are confronted with a constant stream of noise, commotion, and light penetration – akin to a human trying to hang out quietly in the middle of a rock concert. So, bass often do exactly what you'd do under those circumstances – they go hide. One of the top destinations for hiding bass is deep brush. They can get buried up in the brush, and

"Summer"
Continued on page 19



THE MICHIGAN STEELHEAD & SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE QUALITY OF FISHING REFLECTS THE QUALITY OF LIVING!

MSSFA was incorporated in 1971 by a handful of individuals who knew that Michigan's newly formed trout and salmon fishery was something worth working to protect. They were a small group who wanted to not only protect their fishery, but learn how to catch their elusive prey and tell fishing stories.

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

For those who love to fish but have no means, *MSSFA* chapters sponsor a “Crews” program that allows a sign up as a crew member for a day of fishing.

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

So why join the *Steelheaders*... Got kids, love fishing.. **JOIN NOW!** ...and become a member of he largest organized groups of fishermen in the Midwest. There are chapters throughout the entire state. You too can help protect and preserve this world-class sport fishery for you, your children and generations to come.

THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS (GLSFN)

The Great Lakes Sport Fishing News is owned and operated by The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen’s Association.

Better than forty years ago, The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen’s Association began to publish a magazine called the “Guide to Great Lakes Sport Fishing”. Five years later the magazine became a monthly format called “The Great Lakes Steelheader”. Today the newspaper is called “*The Great Lakes Sport Fishing News*”.

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

Information in the paper covers the entire Great Lakes Basin region from Minnesota to New York including all five of the Great Lakes and their tributary streams.

Chapter members receive the paper as part of their membership. And because of the diversity of fishing in the Great Lakes, the information covers everything from river fishing, big lake fishing to inland lake fishing. The paper also offers a direct route for all new products and techniques on the market offered by our advertisers.

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Traverse City www.traversacityareasteelheaders.org

Charter Fishing A Great Option For Novice *and* Experienced Anglers

By Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Charter fishing is an ideal way to experience Michigan’s world-class fishing. Licensed charter captains, who provide the boat, the equipment and the knowledge needed to pursue fish, can make a full or half day of fishing easy and enjoyable. Charter businesses around the state help children and adults make great Michigan memories – from reeling in that first fish to targeting a brand-new species.

“Within Michigan’s waters last year, nearly 80,000 people participated in more than 19,700 charter fishing trips on Great Lakes and

specific navigable waters,” said Donna Wesander, a DNR fisheries technician who tracks charter fishing data. “Different waters and areas of the state provide diverse fishing experiences. In 2018, charter anglers caught more than 284,000 fish, including salmon, trout, walleye, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, muskellunge, whitefish, cisco and lake sturgeon.”

For catch-and-keep fishing, the fun doesn’t have to end when you arrive back at dock. Some charter businesses provide “catch and cook” options. Upon returning from a fishing trip, customers take their cleaned, fresh fish to a participating local restaurant

that will prepare and serve the catch. Ask in advance whether charter businesses offer this option.

When hiring a professional charter to fish the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair, a large river or a small lake or stream, customers need only provide personal supplies and fishing licenses, which can be purchased online or through a DNR customer service center or license agent.

Explore your options by searching online for charter operators and regional charter fishing organizations, contacting area chambers of commerce or tourism offices, or visiting Michigan-CharterBoats.com.



A guest on a fishing charter trip in Michigan holds up a big chinook salmon.

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2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Wednesday, August 21, 2019
MUCC Offices
2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI – 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 16, 2019
MUCC Offices
2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI – 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 18, 2019
MUCC Offices
2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI – 7:00 P.M.



Michigan DNR

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director Dan Eichinger today announced that Shannon Hanna has been named natural resources deputy for the agency, an appointment that will take effect following the May 31 retirement of Bill O’Neill, the department’s current natural resources deputy.

Hanna has more than 20 years of experience with the DNR, most recently

as assistant chief of the department’s Forest Resources Division since January 2018. In that role, Hanna has worked on developing the division’s latest strategic plan; helped with new initiatives, such as the Good Neighbor Authority, in which DNR staff assist in managing timber on federal lands; and been elected to and will serve on the Michigan State University Forestry Advisory Board.

Department of Natural Resources Names Shannon Hanna Deputy Director

Starting out as a seasonal employee, Hanna worked with the DNR for five years in that capacity before being hired on full-time in 2003. She spent 10 total years in the field (five seasonal and five as a wildlife technician) before taking a biologist position in Lansing, working in the department’s privately owned cervidae program (a designation that includes game ranches and hunting ranches).

Hanna credits her early field work for giving her the broad experience and perspective needed to effectively oversee Michigan’s natural resources.

“I worked at different field offices throughout the state in southeast, south-central and southwest Michigan, as well as the Upper Peninsula,” Hanna said. “I appreciate those small beginnings in the field because I was able to do amazing things, like fly to count moose in the aerial survey we conduct

every other year, help raise osprey, install water control structures at our managed waterfowl areas, and work with groups like Pheasants Forever and the National Wild Turkey Federation on habitat projects around the state.”

Later in her career, Hanna moved into policy and regulations for the DNR Wildlife Division, tackling some of the more complex initiatives including the first management regulations for chronic wasting disease, the restructuring of Michigan’s hunting license package and challenges surrounding feral swine.

As DNR natural resources deputy, Hanna will administer the divisions that oversee Michigan’s wildlife and fisheries, state forests and state parks, minerals and law enforcement.

“Through his long service to the DNR and the state, Bill O’Neill has been a good friend to Michigan’s natural resources and a vocal advocate for people who enjoy and appreciate the outdoors,” Eichinger

said. “His wise counsel and good humor will be sorely missed.

“Shannon Hanna brings a fresh perspective to this role, and I have full confidence in her ability to embrace the challenges and opportunities of serving as this department’s natural resources deputy,” he said. “She brings an enviable mix of field experience, thoughtfulness and expertise that will further advance the sound management of Michigan’s world-class natural and cultural resources.”

Hanna said she is eager to start this next chapter with the DNR.

“When it comes to woods, water and wildlife, there’s no better place than Michigan. I am deeply honored to take on this role for the Department of Natural Resources and for the people of Michigan,” Hanna said. “I have always focused on reaching common ground, finding the best solutions and working with people to solve complex natural resources issues.

I look forward to working with our resource divisions and partners in continuing that commitment.”

Hanna earned a bachelor’s degree in wildlife biology from Grand Valley State University and a master’s in forestry from Michigan State University. She studied forest health issues, including special emphasis on beech bark disease research in the Upper Peninsula.

A Fowlerville resident, Hanna gets outdoors as often as possible. She enjoys hunting – especially turkey hunting – fishing, trapping and hiking, as well as spending time in Michigan state parks and national parks throughout the country.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state’s natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. Learn more at Michigan.gov/DNR.

Good Old Days

By Denny Bobeldyk

Recently having coffee with an old friend of mine a discussion began about the good old days of early salmon fishing out of the port of Holland. Old stories suddenly emerged which brought back many good memories. The 1970's and 1980's were filled with many good memories and stories about the exciting world class fishing we have here in Holland. Newspaper reports back in the 70's gave an insight on how we could become involved in this new sport. Salmon fishing was big in the northern ports along with storms and some tragedy with drownings and capsized boats being part of it. We read about it and now we wanted to experience it here in lower Michigan. It was exciting to think about the great fishing we could have here in Michigan. We could not wait to get started to fulfill our dreams of catching big fighting king salmon.

This fired us up to start our own salmon rigging here on our boats. Started out with a small boat and worked from there into a bigger boat. One of my first experiences was hanging a couple lures off the back of the boat with open-faced spinning reels. Boy were we surprised in how much power these king salmon had. Ripping line and losing our ten-pound test line we had spooled on. After a couple years of only landing a few fish we started upgrading our equipment to catch more fish. We had a flasher graph that basically only showed us the depth we were in. Then we had a paper graph that actually marked a couple of fish here and there. Wow, pretty basic stuff that we

were into here. Lures were pretty basic with Northport Nailers and a couple of others as the only ones available. Also we first used the old Penn level winds. Still have a couple collecting dust in my basement.

Also we were able to finally scrape up enough money to buy four Walker downriggers that we mounted on a board. We would store it and then when we went fishing we would put it on the boat with c-clamps. We thought we were on top of the world with these Walker downriggers. I remember one friend who lost all his riggers when the board came off the back of his boat. Not good. Very basic fishing techniques. Just go out and locate where the other boats were fishing. Go to them and start trolling. Then we had to learn how these down riggers worked and the best way to use them. Drop the lines to different depths and set four lines at different depths. Never ran more than four rods. Speed at the ball was not heard of and trolling was always hit or miss with the speed. Never ran any planer boards, copper or lead. We didn't care much about currents, speed, or figuring out where these fish were hanging out. Very basic presentations and not very good results. There were times when we did achieve a full cooler, but we had a blast just waiting for the next strike. We also could talk to our buddies on channel 68. I once got a citation for failing to use my call numbers. We were young and stupid back then but everybody else was in the same boat. We had very good years and some very bad years. We were always thankful for the Holland

Fish & Game Club's efforts in supporting salmon stockings and supporting their annual Fishing tournament. Had a lot of fun at the Dog N Suds event before the tournament. This tournament was one of the only ones out of the port of Holland. So much fun for all who were involved. Now they have many more tournaments with the Tournament Trail around the state. Salmon fishing was really pretty basic back then with not so much emphasis on how many fish were caught by whom. My how times have changed from those days to today. I myself had to roll with the changes through the years. One thing for sure it got to be a lot more expensive!

Let's move forward to 2019.

Now we all have all the electronic gadgets and methods to guarantee big catches of salmon and lake trout. It seems like the competition is keener now than in the past and fishermen have less contact with other fishermen. With all the improvements it's definitely easier to catch limits of fish. There is definitely a lot of guys who are very good at what they do on the lake.

But I wouldn't trade the good old days of salmon fishing back in our younger days for anything. We learned everything the hard way with old boats and inferior equipment. Motors that sometimes wouldn't start at the dock. But we had loads of fun and many stories were told and retold over and over again. We still talk about the good old days around coffee or a beer. Your allowed to do this if you are in your 70's like we are. I urge the older readers to share stories and keep alive the traditions of these fun days of early salmon fishing. Maybe the young guys might ask us a few questions about these old memories chasing salmon all over the lake. Don't forget about the early times spent by sportsmen who enjoyed being on the water. We thank God for this world class fishery that we could enjoy for so many years. I still wake up in the morning very excited for a new day of fishing on the lake. Also we cannot forget the work of so many sportsmen and women who made this all possible. The foresight of many people and organizations in the stocking of fish in Lake Michigan. I am thankful for all my many fishing friends throughout the years who shared these experiences on the lake with me. I now fish with many new friends who also enjoy the sport. The best thing about it is we can keep making memories in 2019 also. On your next trip on the lake think about the history of the sport and be thankful we can still enjoy this great sport. Good fishing to all of you and be safe on the lake.



Ed Steenwyk with nice May catch.



The author, Denny Bobeldyk with an 18 lb. King Salmon

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MSSFA STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Natural Resource Committee:

Metro West, Thumb, Thunder Bay, South Haven and Grand Rapids. For the committee members that are also members of the DNR advisory committees, please submit reports regarding those activities to the MSSFA Executive Director and/or Secretary so that they may be included in the meeting agenda packets. This Committee's top 3 priorities: Invasive Species, Salmon & Steelhead stocking, Involvement with Fisheries Management.

Membership Service & Education Committee:

Grand Haven, Grand Rapids, Traverse City, White River. Priorities: New Memberships, Membership Retention, Youth Memberships.

Legal & Legislative Committee:

Holland, Battle Creek. Priorities: Consent Decree Education/Tribal Negotiation Funding, Work with other groups to fund Tribal Negotiations, New commercial fishing statute/bill/law. (June add-on: Grand River)

Financial & Audit Committee:

Southwest, Great Lakes Bay, Thumb. Priorities: New Revenue Sources, Accountability of consent decree monies, Defined budget process.

Business Management Ad-Hoc Committee:

Primary Officers (Pres, V.P., Sec. Treas). Priorities: Operating Policies & Procedures, Openly publicize current news/accomplishments to the public, annual calendar for operations.



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Grand Rapids Steelheaders 2018 – 2019 Fishing Class Is Complete

By Bob Strek

The Grand Rapids Steelheaders Fishing Class for 2018 - 2019 ended this past Thursday, May 23rd. The 9th Grade Class of Sacred Heart Academy joined the Steelheaders at Millennium Park for lunch and an afternoon of fishing.

The Fishing Class started in September of 2018 with the students receiving materials from the Michigan DNR; Fishing Guide, Salmon and Trout identification pamphlets plus students started practiced casting. In October, a male and female Steelhead freshly caught were brought into class for identification, the female was dissected and body parts were identified and studied. In Novem-

ber, Salmon fishing was discussed and more casting practice and knot tying. In December, the Steelheader Salmon Simulator was brought in and each student had a chance to fight a big lake salmon. In January, ice fishing gear and fishing techniques were covered and more casting practice and knot tying. In February, Bass Fishermen with experience in bait casting reels came in to explain and help the students learn how to cast. In March, Steelhead gear and techniques were covered and more casting practice plus the Ultimate Sport Show Scavenger Hunt for the students was held. In April, Walleye fishing gear and techniques were covered.

On May 23rd, before


the students arrived, about 9:30 AM the Steelheaders Banner was setup on the free Family Shelter at Millennium Park. A crew was there to set up the fishing poles given to the students for completing the course. The fishing poles were tied by Jamie Peckstein and Don Remington. The reels were purchased with special pricing due to Jamie. Each student had their name on their own fishing pole. Jamie also had hats

from tackle manufacturers along with poles and reels for the students. After their pizza lunch the students were visited by Conservation Office Justin Ulberg who gave a brief talk on the law governing fishing and hunting. Justin stayed around talking to the students as they fished.

Fishing was slow, storms over night and a previous school had fished off this dock earlier in the morning were the cause for a slow start. The fish caught were small but af-



“Class”
Continued on page 9



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“Class”
Continued from page 8

ter an hour the bite picked up. We awarded 3 trophies; most fish caught by a boy won by Max L, most fish caught by a girl won by Allie W and the largest fish in inches, a Sunfish caught by Julia C. After the awards it was time for the students to head to the bus. As the students were leaving they all received a goody bag with fishing hooks, split shot from the Steelheaders and jigs compliments of Show-Span.

The Grand Rapids Steelheaders thank Sacred Heart Academy for allowing us to come in and teach this fishing class. We also thank Becky Goettl, Gerald Boelena, Randy Van Der Hulst, Randy Spence, Tom Pachulski, Jamie Peckstein, Gino Lombardo, (Gino made the Pizza we ate for lunch in his shop, Gino's Pizza), His friend Stan, Don Remington and Bob Strek for contributing to the fishing class and this fishing outing.

“High Water”
Continued from page 1

amount of debris floating in the water and under the surface.

Create difficult conditions for anyone swimming or steering a boat or other

personal watercraft.

Eliminate or alter access routes to and between different bodies of water.

“It’s important to be mindful of boating laws and local watercraft controls for specific bodies of water, especially with

high water levels,” said Lt. Tom Wanless, state boating law administrator. “Your boat may create a wake that seems harmless, but it could cause a turbulence in an already flooded area.”

Conservation officers patrolling counties in

southeast Michigan have increased marine patrols in response to high water levels. Officers have encountered many boaters along the St. Clair River who are creating wakes in no-wake portions of the river.

“St. Clair County wa-

tercraft controls date back to 1967. Our officers are contacting boaters who are creating wakes in no-wake areas, which is causing water to overflow onto flooded land – specifically Harsens Island,” said Lt. Todd Szyska, DNR law enforcement

supervisor for southeast Michigan. “Most of the people our officers have talked with are unaware that there are no-wake rules in effect.”

Flooded marinas and docks that have electric power running to them pose greater risk for electric shock drowning. Conservation Officer Pat McManus, who patrols in Grand Traverse County, said that the Grand Traverse Bay area also is experiencing high water.

“Some boats are sitting so high in the rising water they are almost floating over the docks,” McManus said about the Leland River, a port for many vessels. “Regardless of the size of your vessel, if you come in too fast, your boat could cause water to overflow onto a dock where people might be standing. Speed and no-wake restrictions are in effect for a reason – it’s important to know the watercraft controls for the area.”

Water that overflows onto a dock that is located near a marina (or other structure with electrical power running to it) poses the risk for electric shock drowning. ESD occurs when a person comes into contact with an electrical current in the water, often caused by faulty wiring from boats, docks and other devices not approved for shore or marine use.

“Our crews are noticing an increase in flooding to docks and piers with electrical connections,” said Chief Petty Officer Marcus Collison, Officer in Charge, Coast Guard Station Charlevoix. “We believe this may be a serious hazard to swimmers as we get deeper into summer. Even without the current increase in water levels in the Great Lakes, electric shock drowning is a serious hazard around marinas, piers and docks.”

ESD can be prevented by being aware of your surroundings – avoid getting into water that is located near a marina or a dock. This also applies to kayakers and canoers.

Kayakers and canoers should also be aware of fast-flowing water – a result of high water levels. Wanless said that kayakers and canoers should keep in mind that higher water may make it more challenging to go under low-hanging obstacles, such as bridges or trees.

State law requires that all vessels, including kayaks and canoes, have appropriate flotation devices available for every person on board.

“Don’t just take your life jacket – wear it,” said Wanless. “Nobody expects to get into an accident, but unfortunately, they happen.”

For more information on local watercraft controls, boating access sites, boating safety and facility closures, go to Michigan.gov/Boating.

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Howell Creating Workgroup On Commercial Fishing Bills

House Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee Chair Rep. Gary Howell on Tuesday said he is creating a workgroup on legislation updating regulations on the state’s commercial fisheries.

The state’s 13 commercial fisheries oppose HB 4567, HB 4568 and HB 4569, and want a seat at the table to discuss the changes, which anglers and the Department of Natural Resources support.



Amber Petersen, representing Michigan Fish Producers, testified in opposition to the bills with her husband Eric Petersen, whose family has had a commercial fishing operation in Muskegon since 1927. Ms. Petersen operated the fish market *Fishmonger’s Wife* in Muskegon.

Ms. Petersen said an-

glers outnumber commercial fishing operations by a large margin, and in opposing the bills, they are not dismissing recreational fishing.

“But that doesn’t mean the service we provide to the general public still shouldn’t be valued. And what we provide is fish from the Great Lakes to someone who doesn’t want to or doesn’t have the means to fish in the Great Lakes,” she said.

She said the 13 full-time commercial fisheries left in the state, down significantly from its peak decades ago, should be allowed to provide variety to the communities where they work.

“And let us have a spot at the table when we talk about laws and regulations,” she said. “Because we have generations of history and we know what is going on. We are not interested in putting ourselves out of business and we are not interested in decimating the fish species. But we would like to be treated as professionals and have

some input.”

Mr. Howell (R-North Branch) said the committee will not be able to finish its work on the bills before it breaks for recess, and he is going to establish a workgroup to work on the outstanding issues.

“I think that is exactly what we need to do to make sure the relevant parties are able to talk to each other,” he said.

The bills would make a variety of changes to commercial fishing regulations, including requiring the GPS tracking of fishing equipment, increasing transparency in record keeping and increasing licensing fees and fines.

Ms. Petersen noted that commercial fishing nets are very large, cost tens of thousands of dollars and have six-month waits to be purchased. She said it has been implied commercial fishing nets are loose in the lakes wreaking havoc.

“No,” she said. “That (would be) money floating around out there.”

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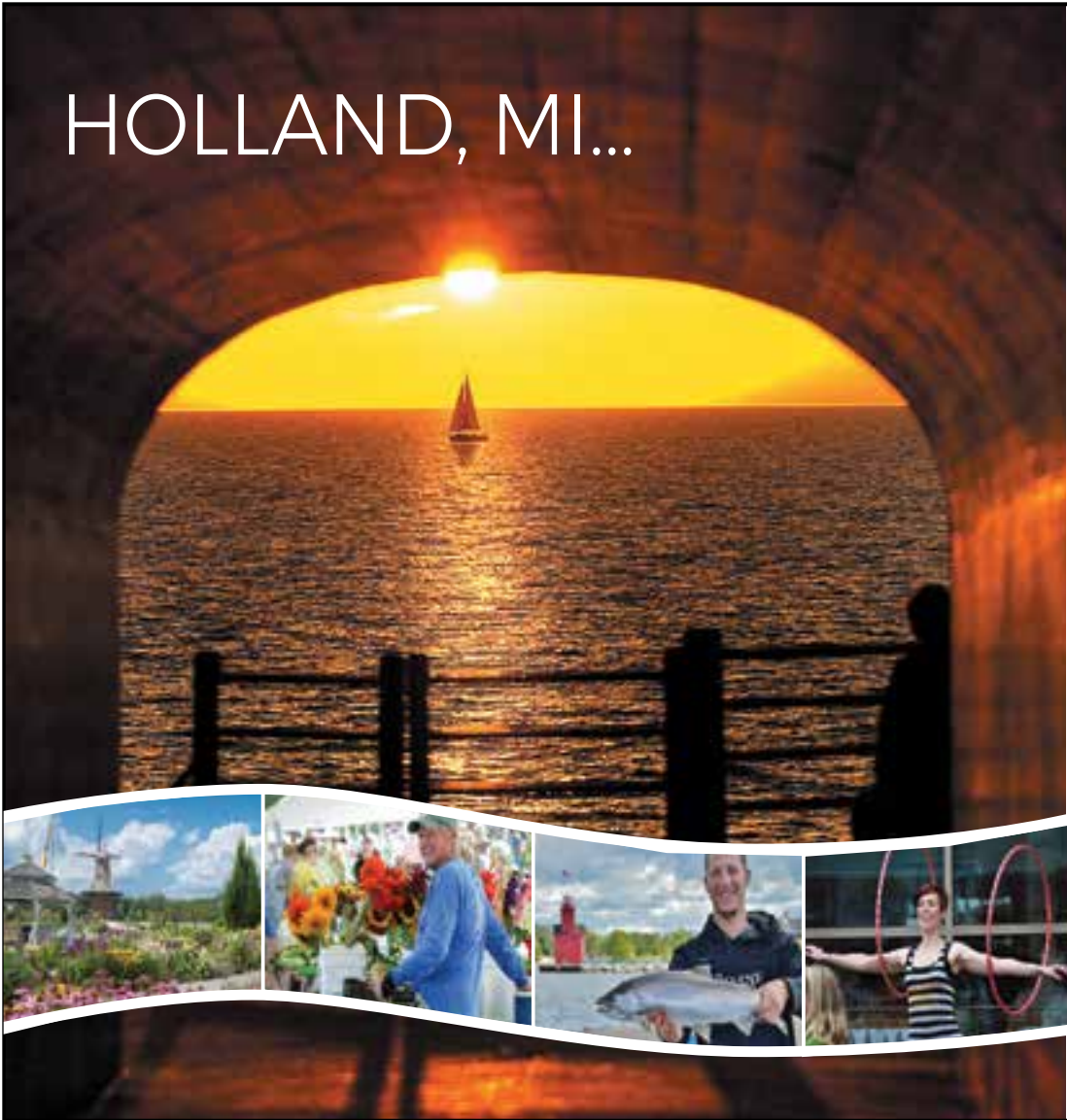
Michigan United Conservation Clubs, said in written testimony supporting the bills that the current regulations on commercial fisheries are far outdated.

She wrote that a recent study done by her group

shows sport fishing contributes \$2.3 billion to the state’s economy annually with 1.1 million anglers supporting 35,422 jobs. She said licensed commercial fisheries contribute \$5 million.

Dennis Eade, with the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen’s Association was not optimistic

“Commercial”
Continued on page 17



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The Tale of Coho McNuggets



Recipe submitted by Vicki Decker from Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheaders

In the beginning, our chapter (then called the Saginaw Valley Steelheaders), ended each outing with some sort of picnic. We tried to serve the catch of the day, Salmon, Lake Trout, Steelhead, whatever. At first we tried doing fish boils, this was very time consuming because of the quantity of water required. Then we heard about frying whole fillets using Drakes

Fry Mix, but that wasn't very successful, too much fish and larger pieces didn't feed every one fast enough. Little by little we began cutting the fish into smaller pieces, until they were bite size, hence the name McNuggets. The Coho part of the name was just easier to say and had a certain ring to it.

The recipe is very simple: Drakes Fry Mix, oil, enough to half fill your frying vessel. Heat the oil to 350 degrees (use a thermometer!). Dredge fish pieces in Drakes, shaking

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off the excess. Fry in small batches until golden brown. DON'T OVER COOK! Drain on paper towels and serve with lemon wedges and/or tartar sauce or hot

sauce. Yum! We usually serve with some sort of salad (macaroni, potato, etc.) We also have made fries and onion rings with the same oil. Now that's a fest,

the only problem is getting the members to give up their fish. We usually ask for a donation from each boat, but the best part is the camaraderie.



“Regulations” Continued from page 1

“You don’t catch anything until you go through this,” said Petersen, 39, and in his 27th year in the family business. “It last sometimes six weeks.”

The slime is one of many difficulties he and his colleagues — just 13 full-time businesses, mostly family run — face in tying their livelihoods to Great Lakes fish. They face havoc from other invasive species and market pressure from fish farms and operations outside of the Great Lakes.

And now? A push to tighten regulations and increase fees on commercial fishermen, who say it could determine whether fishing tugs still have on place on Michigan’s Great Lakes or will fade to history.

Anglers want Lansing lawmakers to place tighter curbs on commercial operations so sport fishing continues to thrive, while families like Petersen’s argue their case for existence — and to preserve Michiganders’ options for locally caught fish.

Amber Mae Petersen, who runs a Muskegon fish retail outlet and is married to Joel’s cousin and business partner Eric, made her appeal to House lawmakers at a June 18 hearing.

“Commercial fishing will never reach its heyday again,” she testified. “That’s not possible, and that’s not what we’re asking. What

we’re saying is: For the 13 [full-time businesses] left, let’s provide some variety to our community.”

Tightening Regulations

The House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation kicked off the debate this month, which is expected to continue into the summer. Three bills would: increase commercial fishing license fees from around \$200 to \$1,400; exponentially boost fines, which haven’t changed since the 1920s, for illegally harvesting fish; and tighten reporting requirements on what fishermen catch and where they leave their nets — to prevent motor-shredding encounters with charter boats.

The reforms would also bar commercial harvests of the popular yellow perch in Lake Huron’s Saginaw Bay, exclusively reserving the dwindling population for anglers.

“Catching fish in our water is a privilege, not a right,” Rep. Jim Lilly, R-Macatawa, said when introducing House Bill 4569, part of the package also sponsored by Reps. Jack O’Malley, R-Lake Ann, and Pauline Wendzel, R-Waterliet.

The Department of Natural Resources and angler groups back the legislation, calling it a long-needed update to a century-old commercial fishing code that keeps state officials from closely tracking and prose-



Brian Springstead (right), of Traverse City, own a fishing charter service in the Grand Traverse Bay and has more than 35 years experience fishing for lake trout. “Eventually, you have to pull the plug on the horse and carriage industry,” he said of the shrinking Great Lakes commercial fishing industry. His 27-year-old son Luke (left) now leads customers on lake trout expeditions.

(Bridge photo by Jim Malewitz)

cuting bad behavior.

Critics fear the changes would further burden a struggling industry, crimping supplies of locally caught fish to Michigan dinner tables.

“If I look at tourism in the U.P. and I look at every single bar and restaurant that has a fish fry every Friday night — If you want to place all these restrictions on them, what’s the impact going forward?” Rep. Sara Cambensy, D-Marquette, asked at a June 11 hearing.

“I worry about what this is going to do, especially since the number of commercial fishing outfits has gone down.”

DNR officials say they haven’t calculated the entire proposal’s financial impact on commercial fishing. But taking yellow perch off the menu in the Saginaw Bay would cut the dockside value of that bay’s fishery up to 35 percent, the agency says. That’s out of \$400,000 to \$500,000 in fish caught there each year.

A Sinking Industry?

When Petersen’s family first set out on Lake Michigan more than 90 years ago, thousands of commercial fishermen worked the Great Lakes. Tens of thousands more Michiganders drew income from the

industry. Within decades, overfishing, pollution and the invasion of the foreign sea lamprey nearly wiped out native fish such as lake trout. Michigan is still rehabilitating the lake trout and other game fish — through stocking and bag limits, reserving access to anglers.

Great Lakes Commercial Fisheries

Some 100 million pounds of fish are caught commercially throughout the Great Lakes, according to estimates from the University of Michigan. Here’s a look at what fish are caught where:

Lake Erie has the largest commercial fishery in the lakes, with most coming from Canadian waters. Walleye and yellow perch are caught the most.

Lake Superior: Whitefish, lake trout, chub, lake herring and smelt

Lake Huron: Whitefish, lake trout, chub, channel catfish, carp, Pacific salmon, yellow perch and walleye.

Lake Michigan: Whitefish, lake trout, chub, smelt, yellow perch.

Lake Ontario has the smallest fishery. Harvested species include yellow perch, whitefish, bullhead and eel.

Source: Great Lakes Environmental Assessment and Mapping Project

Now, there are only 21 businesses left, according to state records. Only 13 of them make all their income from fishing, Amber Mae Petersen said. In 2017, commercial fishermen harvested about 2.5 million pounds of fish (mostly whitefish) worth \$4 million.

They comprise about half the commercial fishing industry in Michigan, with Native American tribes taking in another \$5 million of fish in 2017. Tribal governments have regulated their own fisheries since successfully asserting their treaty rights to fish in the 1970s. A landmark consent decree

“Regulations” Continued on page 16

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Boating and Fishing Laws to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Species

Michigan’s Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Act 451 of 1994) Part 413 has been amended with changes for boaters and anglers that are in effect as of March 21, 2019. The changes are intended to strengthen protection for Michigan waterways against the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species.

What boaters need to know:

Prior to the amendment, the law only required that a person not place watercraft or trailers in the waters of Michigan if an aquatic plant is attached. In addition to this requirement, the new changes require all of the following prior to transporting any watercraft over land:

Removing all drain plugs from bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells.

Draining all water from any live wells and bilges.

Ensuring that the watercraft, trailer, and any conveyance used to transport the watercraft or trailer are free of aquatic organisms, including plants.

This means that after trailering boats, and before getting on the road, boaters must pull plugs, drain water and remove plants and debris.

Violation of the law is a state civil infraction and violators may be subject to fines up to \$100.

What anglers need to know:

For anglers, these amendments codify the Michigan DNR’s Fisheries Order 245 regarding the release of baitfish, collection and use of baitfish and cut bait, and release of captured fish, specifically:

A person shall not release baitfish in any waters of this state. A person who collects fish shall not use the fish as bait or cut bait except in the inland lake, stream, or Great Lake where the fish was caught, or in a connecting waterway of the inland lake, stream, or Great Lake where the fish was caught if the fish could freely move between the original location of capture and the location of release.

A person, who catches fish other than baitfish in a lake, stream, Great Lake, or connecting waterway shall only release the fish in the lake, stream, or Great Lake where the fish was caught, or in a connecting waterway of the lake, stream, or Great Lake where the fish was caught if the fish could freely move between the original location of capture and the location of release.

Whether purchased or collected, unused baitfish should be disposed of on land or in the trash – never in the water. Any baitfish an angler collects may be used only in the waters where it

was originally collected.

Anglers who are catching and releasing fish should only release the fish back into the same water or in a connecting body of water the fish could have reached on its own.

Violation of the law is a state civil infraction and violators may be subject to fines up to \$100.

What you should do:

To comply with the law and prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species, boaters should:

CLEAN boats, trailers and equipment.

DRAIN live wells, bilges and all water - pull all drain plugs.

DRY boats and equipment.

DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash.

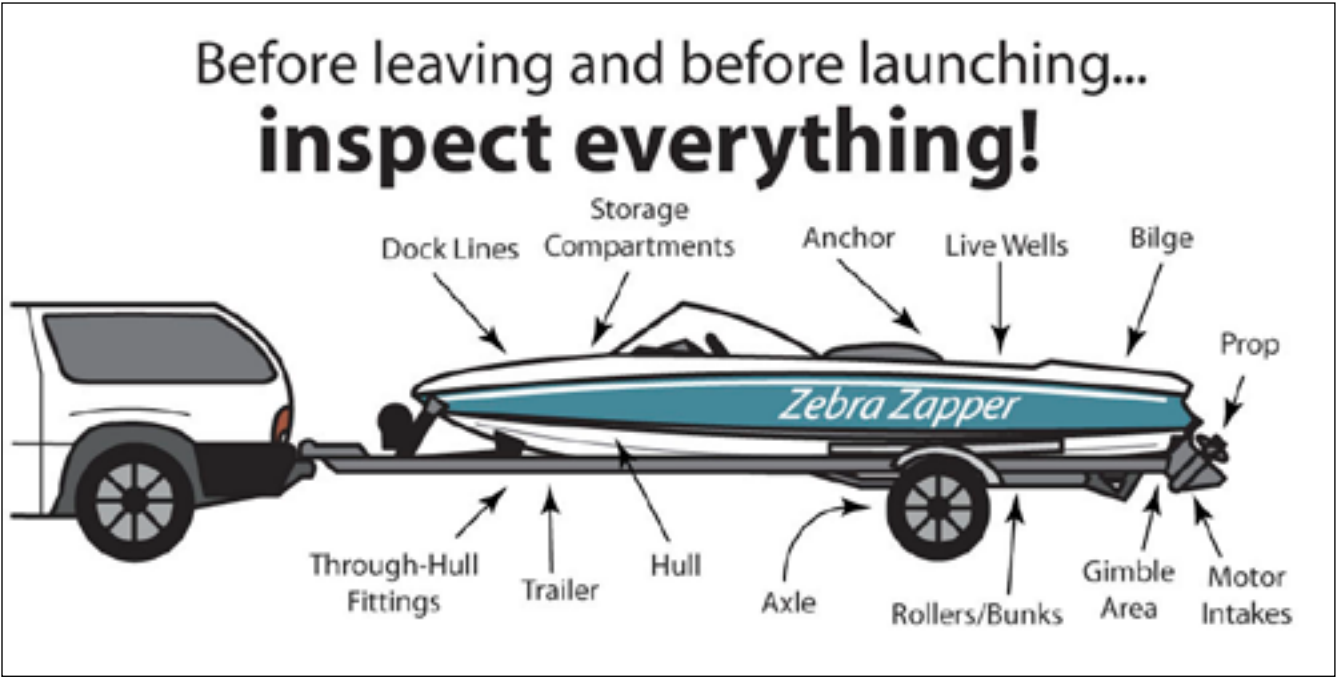


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Holland Steelheaders Host 7th Annual Kids-n-Kings

Holland State Park was the site the Holland Steelheaders' 7th Annual Kids N' Kings Tournament with 90 kids (7 to 17 years of age) determined to catch the biggest fish of the day on Lake Michigan or Lake

Macatawa. Thanks to great sponsors like Advantage Marine Repair, Specialized Demolition (pictured far left is Eric Lamer and far right is Dave Lamer second from left Dan Vander Hulst and Kevin Lacey co-chair

of the event) and Flow Rite Controls of Byron Center, MI (provided lunch for everyone), almost \$2000 in prize money, awards, and prizes were given away. Kids received gift bags and event tee shirts as well.

Trophies were awarded to the top 50 places and Parker Fantin (pictured with trophy) won 1st Place and \$500 with a 22.58lb King Salmon.



Above: Parker Fantin accepts check for \$500 from Advantage Marine and trophy for 1st Place Finish and Biggest Fish, 22lb King Salmon



How I Became A Lady Angler

By Nancy Nabors

I was asked to be part of a presentation about Lady Anglers at the Metro West Steelheaders General Meeting in June. Five ladies told how they became Lady Anglers. This is my story.

FISHING WITH DAD

Like many of you, my first fishing experiences were with my dad. We had a place we called The Shack, built on a spoil bank on the Inter-coastal canal in Texas. The Shack was made from recycled everything! The family would go for the weekend. We would throw out a net to catch shrimp for bait and then either wade or fish from the pier for Red fish, drum, trout and flounder. What we caught was what we ate!

FISHING ON "THE ALTERNATIVE"

When my husband, Henry, retired and decided, that he wanted to fish the Great Lakes, I figured we would go out for a relaxing day of fishing and I might even catch up on my reading!

I soon learned that fishing on the Great Lakes was very different from the fishing I had done as a kid. We still eat what we catch, but there is not much time for reading. Driving the boat, watching for water depth, water temperature, and speed, setting lines, reeling in and netting the fish all take precedence over reading!

On our boat it generally takes the captain, who gives the orders and several crew to land the fish once it is on the line. One crew drives, keeping in safe water, out of the way of other boats, and keeping the fish behind the boat. One crew works in the fish, and one nets the fish into the cooler! It is a communal effort! And in rough weather or fish on multiple lines at the same time can be super exciting!!!

I love fishing on the Great Lakes. I love fighting the fish! I love eating the fish! Whether you cure salmon roe, make gravlax or pickle salmon, whether you freeze it, can it, fry, smoke or boil it, that fish is delicious! I love the beautiful views! I like the stormy skies, the night-bite sunsets and morning-bite sunrises.

I love the eerie feeling you get when the fog moves in unexpectedly and the world goes grey and silent.

But what I love most is the camaraderie and inclusivity of this fishing club. When Henry and I joined Metro West 21 years ago, my friend Judy and I were the only women fishing the tournaments. In fact, it

was several years before we saw women at any club function besides the Family Christmas Party or the Banquet. But over time things began to change. Guys began to bring wives and kids to crew. We welcomed our first female Captain,

"Angler"
Continued on page 17



"Regulations"

Continued from page 13

over how Michigan and five Great Lakes tribes co-operate over fishing rights — and set quotas — expires in 2020. The proposed rules in Lansing wouldn't apply to tribal fisheries but would impact negotiations.

Sportfishing is Big Business

Both state-licensed and tribal commercial fishermen are dwarfed by Michigan's 1.1 million licensed recreational anglers. "Michigan trails only Florida in attracting out-of-state fishing tourism", Dennis Eade, executive director of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, told lawmakers. Recreational fishing in Michigan spurs \$2.3 billion in commerce, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs estimates.

Nearly 40 percent of Michigan sport fishing relies on stocked fish. With the federal government, the DNR is spending millions each year stocking 25 million fish in more than 1,000 locations. But anglers generate roughly \$30 million per year — through state license fees and federal taxes on gear — to manage those fisheries, Bryan Burroughs, executive director of Trout Unlimited's Michigan chapter, told lawmakers.

Recreational Fishing in Michigan's Great Lakes

In 2018, anglers harvested about 1.8 million fish in Michigan's Great Lakes waters and Lake St. Clair, according to Department of Natural Resources surveys. Here's a look at the sports fish caught most in each lake.

Lake Erie: Yellow perch,

walleye, channel catfish

Lake Superior: Coho

salmon, lean lake trout,

Lake Whitefish

Lake Huron: Yellow

perch, walleye, lean lake trout

Lake Michigan: Yellow perch, Chinook salmon, lean lake trout

Lake St. Clair: Walleye, yellow perch bluegill

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources

License fees on the few remaining commercial fishing businesses don't come close to paying the \$1 million to \$2 million each year to manage that industry, Burroughs added.

"Recreational anglers have been paying that tab," he said.

Angler groups point to those numbers — and ongoing ecological challenges to Great Lakes sport fish — as a reason why Michigan should go all out to protect sportfish, including tightening oversight of commercial operations.

Brian Springstead, who owns a fishing charter service on Grand Traverse Bay, said he sympathizes with commercial fisher-

men but believes it's bad policy to favor an industry squeezed by broader economic forces.

"Eventually, you have to pull the plug on the horse and carriage industry," he said, nursing a beer at a bayside bar outside of Traverse City. "It's the marketplace. If they had a superior product that was better tasting, people would be beating their doors down."

Commercial fishing families say Michiganders who can't afford their own boats would lose more than just tradition if the industry continues to decline.

"All your restaurants — you're not going to buy [Great Lakes] fish because that sports fishery can't help the restaurant," said Denise Purvis, who handles sales and marketing for Purvis Fisheries, which harvests fish off Lake Huron's Manitoulin Island and buys some Michigan-caught fish.

Aside from perch, farms don't raise the most popular Great Lakes fish to eat. For folks ordering whitefish, walleye or tribal-caught lake trout in Michigan, the only question is whether it was caught on the U.S. or Canadian side of a lake, Amber Mae Petersen said.

Order one of those fish in Northern Michigan or the U.P., and it most likely came from Michigan waters, she said. Restaurateurs downstate are less guaranteed to see Michigan-caught fish on their plates.

"If we go away as a commercial fishery, your only option will be farm-raised. So anybody that's desiring wild-caught Great Lakes fish from the United States, you're going to look hard and long and far — or go catch it yourself," Petersen said.

Following her emotional testimony Tuesday, committee chair Rep. Gary Howell, R-North Branch, said he would assemble a workgroup to hash out differences over the legislation this summer.

Paltry Fines and Fees

Michigan last updated fines and fees for commercial fishermen in 1928, while the value of a dollar has since increased 15-fold. Currently, fines top out at \$100 for offenses such as for keeping fish illegally. That makes prosecutors less likely to pursue charges.

"That is not much of a disincentive if you're a fisherman landing tens of thousands of dollars' worth of fish in an outing — over your licensed allocation," Jim Dexter, the DNR fisheries chief, told lawmakers on June 11.

Recreational anglers, in contrast, face up to \$500 in fines for keeping one too many fish.

Under the proposed legislation, law-breaking commercial fishermen could see fines as high as \$5,000. Annual license fees would jump to \$1,400 from \$200, with the potential for more increases in coming years.

The hikes would come at a time when commercial fishermen seek looser regulations.

Calls to Ease Up

Joel Petersen splits his time fishing outside of Leland and Muskegon. The Leland side of his business couldn't stay afloat without a nonprofit's subsidy; The Fishtown Preservation Society, whose mission includes preserving Michigan's commercial fishing heritage by keeping an active operation on Fishtown's docks, owns and maintains the Joy and its

"Regulations"

Continued on page 17



Commercial fisherman Joel Petersen poses by the Joy, the trap net tug he operates out of Leland's Fishtown. (Bridge photo by Jim Malewitz)

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John Letts Elected Vice President

At the June 19th board meeting, John Letts was nominated and elected MS-SFA Vice President and will fulfill the term open as a result of Jim Vander Maas' electing to step aside. John will serve through December of 2020. John has served as alternate state director for the Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheaders for the last two years and has attended board meetings regularly

bringing the perspective of members who fish walleye as well as salmon and steelhead. He grew up in the Midland, MI area and joined the GLBR Steelheaders just over three years ago. "I mostly fish Saginaw Bay for walleyes", John says, but I love to go over to Manistee with our chapter members in the late summer and early fall for steelhead." John has two boats he fishes, a 16' Larsen with an 85hp engine for the Bay and a 14' boat with a 9.5hp motor for Saginaw River fishing. He fishes crawler harnesses for walleye but with the help of fellow Steelheader, Mark Trudell, he is learning how to fish for walleye with spoons using lead core line. His favorite river spot for steelhead is Bear Creek



near Manistee. John has been married for 33 years and has two children. He works for The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saginaw in charge of maintenance for three churches in the area. He would like to visit as many chapters during his term as possible and get to know as many Steelheaders as he can. He is a valuable addition to the officer core and will represent the east side of the state well.

Mini Lock-Jaw Clip

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“Regulations” Continued from page 13

state license. "We're a niche fishery," Petersen said. "We can't catch the volumes. There's not enough guys left. There's not enough fishermen left, and the lake's changing where there might not be the fish to support a fishery anymore." He says allowing him to keep lake trout — just those that inevitably swim into the nets he sets for far more valuable whitefish — would improve his fortunes. Petersen sees so many lake trout darting beneath Lake Michigan's waters that he believes the fish are fully rehabilitated — and that the state needs higher quotas. Michigan bars commer-

cial fishing for lake trout, and it continues to stock them for anglers. As it stands, Petersen must throw back any lake trout caught in his nets, which often die anyway when surface water is particularly warm. Sometimes that's very few. But in a particularly bad six-week stretch two years ago, Petersen recalls throwing back as many as 60,000 likely dead lake trout. (The DNR allows this practice and such fish do not count toward state quotas.) "I can't describe how awful that feeling is to see these fish floating down the lake, going away," Petersen said. Anglers argue commercial crews should change their practices to avoid targeting trout. During the Legislature's 2018 lame duck session, then-Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, pushed a bill through the Senate that would have repealed the state's ban on commercial lake trout harvests on Lake Superior and Lake Michigan — adding a new revenue stream for the industry. The bill died in a House committee, but industry experts expect a similar proposal to resurface this summer. Allowing commercial fishermen to keep lake trout in Lakes Michigan and Superior would leave fewer for recreational anglers, since a 2000 agreement with five tribes in the eastern U.P. and northern Lower Peninsula limits the state's harvest. In some areas, licensed anglers already have exceeded annual quotas. In the Grand Traverse Bay of Lake Michigan, the Natural Resources Commission in April approved emergency limits on anglers of just one trout per day.

“Commercial” Continued from page 11

that the Workgroup will be successful overcoming the sport fishing community's objection to allowing game fish to be harvested by commercial fishers as by catch. "We have had this point of contention with the commercial fishers for more than a decade and I am afraid an accommodation is not a viable option. The ecosystem in the Great Lakes has changed with the introduction of zebra and quagga mussels and to think that somehow taking game fish as by catch is going to replace the loss of white fish is just not realistic."

“Angler” Continued from page 16

Karen Westphal. I really am proud of the way this club welcomes and shares with new members. I am proud that it sponsors a Kids Outing, where young ones can learn from experienced fishermen and women. I am proud that we sponsor MUCC camperships for not only kids of members, and winners of fishing show drawings, but also for disadvantaged kids from Judson Center, who in most cases have never been out of their city neighborhoods. I love that we have the Salmon in the Classroom program to help kids learn about the fish we catch. I am proud to be a part of this club... even if I don't get to catch up on my reading!

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2019 Battle Creek Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
July	13	Portage Lake Panfish/FamilyPicnic	Vicksburg
August	3	Lake Michigan Memorial	South Haven
August	17	Veterans Outing	South Haven
September	28	Perch Tournament	Lake Erie
October	5	Kalamazoo River Salmon Slam	Allegan Dam
October	19	Kalamazoo River Memorial	Allegan Dam
October	26	Kalamazoo River Trout Quest	Allegan Dam
November	23	St. Joe River Fall Steelhead	I-94 Boat Ramp
December	7	St. River Chapter Challenge	Babes Lounge
December	14	Christmas Party	Kalamazoo Eagles
Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting NEW Location: Travelers Cafe and Pub, 5225 Portage Rd. Exit 78 off I-94.			
FOR MORE INFORMATION: River Tournaments – Ice Tournaments – Justin Kling 491-2980 Lake Tournaments – Greg Peck 998-9407 battlecreeksteelheaders.com			

2019 Grand Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Contact Info
January 1 - Nov. 30		Member Year Long Fishing Contest	
September	7	Sportsmen for Youth Day	Muskegon County Fairgrounds
November	30	Member Year Long Contest Ends	
December	TBD	Annual Meeting, Recognitions, Dinner	
Other Events TBD For information on these events and other information on the Grand Haven Steelheaders contact Mary Jane Belter, mjbelter@altelco.net or GHS President Matt Whitney, whitneycharters@charter.net or 616-402-6303 www.ghsteelheaders.com			

2019 Grand Rapids Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
July	1	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
July	17	Chapter Family Picnic 6:00 PM at Johnson Park Shelter House **	
August	3	Fall Big Lake	STC*
August	5	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
August	26	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
September	9	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
September	30	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
October	1	Chapter Buck Contest Begins **	
October	14	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
October	26	Fall River Contest	STC*
October	28	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
November	4	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
November	9	Fishing Partners Manistee Contest	STC*
November	25	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
December	2	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
December	10	Chapter Family Christmas Party	6:00 PM – Diamond Hall **
STC* = Date subject to change ** = Members and Family Only. (All other events open to the public)			

2019 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Time	Event
July	2	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Only VFW Hall
July	13	5:30a – 1:00p	Manistee
July	27	5:30a – 1:00p	Ludington
August	7		No Board/Membership Meeting
August	10	6:00a – 1:00p	Ludington (day 1)
August	11	6:00a – noon	Ludington (day 2)
	24	6:00a – 1:00p	Manistee (day 1)
	25	6:00a – noon	Manistee (day 2)
September	3	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting VFW Hall
September	7	6:30a – 1:00p	Frankfort
October	1	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting VFW Hall
November	5	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting VFW Hall
November	9	Daylight -1:00	Big and little Manistee River / Bear Creek
December	3	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Only VFW Hall
December	7	Daylight -1:00	Big Manistee River / Bear Creek
December	14	Cocktails 5:00 Dinner 6:00	Christmas Awards Banquet K of C Hall, Auburn 4760 Garfield Rd. Auburn, Mi 48611
Membership meetings held at: 3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642 989-496-3410			
All Board/Membership meetings begin with Board at 6:00 pm. Membership meetings follow at 7:15 pm. Raffle follow after every Membership meeting. Board only meetings begin at 7:00pm. We ask that you please call the Port Chairman <u>no later than</u> Monday prior to the event as to whether you plan on attending or not attending. On the day of the event call in on Marine Radio, Channel 72 or cell phone for the Port Chairman. Weigh-in follows each outing. Picnics follow weigh-in on Saturdays only. Outings: All Steelheader members pay \$5.00. All non-Steelheaders pay \$10.00 to participate. Children 16 and younger are free.			
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2019 Holland Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
July	8	Board Meeting
July	13	Veterans Fishing Outing
July	25	General Membership Meeting
July	27	Holland Steelheaders Summer Challenge
August	2-4	Big Red Classic
August	5	Board Meeting
August	17	Holland Steelheaders Ladies Tournament
September	3	Tuesday Night League Final Night
September	9	Board Meeting
October	7	Board Meeting
November	4	Board Meeting
December	2	Board Meeting
December	5	General Membership Meeting
December	7	Holland Steelheaders River Tournament
Board meetings held at: Turks of Holland, 977 Butternut Dr., Holland MI 49424 7:00 PM General Membership: Bayshore Yacht Club, 1862 Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland MI 49424. Doors open at 6 pm., Dinner at 7 pm, speaker to follow		
For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jeremy Erdman 616-510-9405, or email Steve Weatherwax at Waxer1221@Yahoo.com		

2019 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Chair / Location
July	6	Clinton River Cleanup Day	
July	9	Club Summer Picnic	
July	11	Erieau Tournament – Thur Erieau, Canada	
July	13	Erieau Tournament – Sat. Erieau, Canada	
July	20	Manistee River Cleanup Day @ High Bridge	
July	25	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Thu	
July	26	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Select LUREs only	
July	27	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sat	
July	28	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sun	
August	3	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sat	
August	4	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sun	
August	6	General Membership Meeting	
August	10	Salmon Tournament – Frankfort	
August	24	Ludington Salmon Jigging	
September	3	General Membership Meeting	
September	7	Lake/Pier & River Tournament – Frankfort	
September	14	Muskegon Kayak for Salmon etc	
September	14	Manistee Pier Jamboree Starts at 7 pm	
September	21	Manistee River Tournament	
October	1	General Membership Meeting	
October	5	Manistee River Tournament	
October	12	Ohio Steelhead Alley (include Elk Creek P.A.)	
November	2	River Tourn./Pier & Shore Outing Manistee w/ DS	
November	5	General Membership Meeting	
December	3	CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
December	7	Huron River Tournament	
** ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** 7:00 PM at The New Livonia Seniors Center at the Southeast Corner of Farmington Road and Five Mile Road WEB Site: Go to www.metroweststeelheaders.org If you have questions, contact Henry Nabors - HHNabors@Ameritech.net or call 248 225 4964. Contact: <i>President</i> Larry Tabaka 313-215-8979 / <i>Membership Director</i> Henry Nabors 248-225-4964			

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2019 South Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
July	18	Board and Membership Meeting
August	10	SHS Fish Boil (Blueberry Festival August 8-11)
August	15	Board and Membership Meeting
August	17	SHS Operation Injured Soldier/SH Salute to Veterans
August	24	SHS Merle Morris Tournament
September	19	Board and Membership Meeting
October	17	Board and Membership Meeting
November	21	Board and Membership Meeting
November	23	SHS River Tournament
December	7	SHS Holiday Party 2019 (No Board or membership meeting this month)

Note: All Board and membership meetings are held the third Thursday of each month.
Membership Meetings Held at 7 pm at: South Haven Moose Lodge, 1025 East Wells Street, South Haven, MI 49040
For more information email: president@southhavensteelheaders.com

2019 Southwest MI Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
July	11	Membership Meeting
August	TBD	Trolling with the Troops
August	8	Membership Meeting
September	12	Membership Meeting
October	10	Membership Meeting
November	14	Membership Meeting
December	7	Winter Challenge Tournament
December	12	Membership Meeting

Membership Meetings Held at:
St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks 541, 601 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor MI 49022
Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM, Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM, Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784

2019 TCAS Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
June 29 - July 6		National Cherry Festival – NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING or Board Meeting
July	13	Lake Charlevoix Tournament
August	7	General Membership Meeting
August	10	Crystal Lake Tournament
August	24	Grand Traverse Bay Tournament (Elk Rapids)
September	4	General Membership Meeting
October	2	General Membership Meeting
October	5	Senior Center Fish Fry
November	6	General Membership Meeting
December	7	Christmas Party – Tentative date

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

2019 Thumb Chapter Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location / Information
July	18	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
August	12	2:00 PM	Pig Roast	Harbor beach VFW
August	15	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
September	19	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
October	17	7:30	Regular Meeting, Election of Board/Officers	Ubly Foxhunters

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

2019 Thunderbay Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Information
July	1	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
August	5	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
August	24	6:00 am	Rogers City Tournament
September	2	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
October	7	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
November	4	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
December	2	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting

Contact Dan Bouchard at dan-bouchard@hotmail.com for inquiries.

2019 White River Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Event information	Location
July			No meeting this month	
August	1	6:30 pm	Meeting at Montague Boat Launch (weather permitting) – If raining, meeting at Montague VFW	
September	5	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
October	3	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
November	7	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
December	5	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW

Note: Meeting dates and times are subject to change – Any questions or to verify dates/times please call Clint Pollock at (231) 893-0210 or Terry Clark at (231) 893-6805.

“Summer”
Continued from page 3

hunker down in its safe confines until the hubbub calms back down. For that reason, deep brush should be target numero uno when trying to catch midday bass. Use your electronics to locate brush, and concentrate on fishing brush pile areas to get strikes.

2. Go Finesse

Bass tend to enter a period of inactivity during the hottest part of the day, much like people do when confronted with a hot steamy summer day. Similarly, most people probably don’t want a big thick rib eye for lunch when they’re constantly dabbing sweat from their eyes. Bass are the same way, and will often turn their noses up at a big gaudy presentation when they’re hunkered down in cover avoiding the heat of the day. Instead, use finesse fishing presentations tempt them with something small like a shakey head, drop shot, or small jig. It’s often just enough to pique their interest and draw some strikes.

3. Fish Thoroughly

Midday bass are also often very unwilling to chase your baits, making it extremely important to thoroughly cover each piece of structure with multiple casts, from multiple angles. Concentrate on hitting each piece of a brush pile, ledge, or hump, and don’t be afraid to switch it up and fish the same piece of structure from the opposite direction, as there may be bass relating to specific places of the target. Also, once you catch a fish on a spot – keep working it as sometimes feeding activity from one fish can fire up a school and convince others to feed – even when they’re inactive.



Game fish are too valuable to be caught only once.
- Lee Wulff

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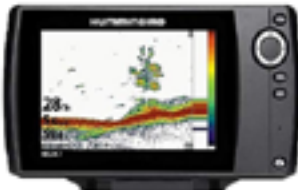
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