



# THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

Volume 58 November/December 2019 No. 6



## 2.5 Million Reasons For No Increased Commercial Netting In Michigan

By Mark Sak, President  
of Michigan's Outdoor  
Writers Association

As this story heads to print, the commercial netting issue in Michigan heads to both Ways & Means committee in Michigan's House and, if passed on the floor of the House, probably the Natural Resources committee in Michigan's Senate for hearings. In a previous article, published in Woods-N-Waters News, I spelled out the various bills being considered that support increased commercial netting of game fish, (Senate Bill 0389 and House Bill 4790), and the bills that will prohibit the increased commercial harvest of game fish, (House Bill 4567, 4568, and 4569). It was important just to lay it all out on the table and let the language of these bills sink in. The bottom line is Senate Bill 0389 and House Bill 4790 will give a new allocation of up to 20 percent of the total allowable catch of game fish in designated zones and 30 percent of the total allowable catch of walleyes in Saginaw Bay. This all comes just as the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announce charges in a two-year undercover operation that charged three Upper Michigan fish markets and their fishing operations as well as raids on a fish distribution company in Wisconsin.

More charges are expected in the coming weeks. The investigation focuses on illegal fishing and distribution from catches in Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. One of the biggest problems with these charges is the laws and penalties are old and have no bite. The laws need updating. Most companies that violate the law pay huge penalties for illegal operations. Not commercial fishers on the Great Lakes. Many times, the penalties are small fines. There is no threat to the netters or wholesalers license, and that needs to change. House Bills 4567, 4568, and 4569 not only make game fish illegal to net but also make netters more accountable, adjust fees accordingly and provide better tracking of sales. It is long overdue. The next issue that needs to be examined is why would we want to invest so much as sportsmen and women to build these fisheries with license and excise tax dollars to merely hand almost a third over to private companies to sell? These companies have invested nothing in our state's game fish but are demanding they get a share. A large percentage of the game fish harvested will immediately be shipped to markets in New York and Chicago as well as other

**"Reasons"**  
Continued on page 5

## Great Lakes Fishery Commission Unveils "FishPass" Design

*After months of planning and considerable consultation, innovative project to pass fish and block invasive species is revealed*

DETROIT, MICHIGAN—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission unveiled the final design for the innovative "FishPass" project today during its 64th annual meeting, held in Detroit, Michigan. FishPass, which will be located on the Boardman River in Traverse City, Michigan, is a project aimed at solving one of the world's most difficult

fishery management challenges: how to pass fish around barriers and dams while still blocking harmful species like sea lampreys. FishPass is the capstone of a 20-year whole-river restoration project on the Boardman River. Photos from today's unveiling are overleaf. Jim McKane, the Commission's chair, explained:

"Tens of thousands of dams fragment habitat throughout the Great Lakes basin. This fragmentation is not always conducive to fishery restoration or management. That said, those dams also block invasive sea lampreys, each one of which will destroy 40 pounds of Great Lakes fish. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission believes technology can be

developed to have it both ways: to automatically sort a mixed assemblage of fish so that desirable species can pass an obstruction and destructive species like sea lampreys can be stopped." FishPass will be constructed on the Boardman

**"FishPass"**  
Continued on page 7



MDNR Resource Analyst Joe Nohner, left, prepares to anchor as Kevin Wehrly a fisheries research biologist with the MDNR's Institute for Fisheries Research marks their GPS coordinates on Cedar Island Lake in White Lake Township Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019 as Research analyst from MSU Ken Yeh looks on.

Photo Credit:  
Mandi Wright,  
Detroit Free Press

## Climate Change Transforming Where Fish In The Great Lakes Region Live

*Warming temperatures in the Great Lakes are already causing population shifts among cold water and warm water fish, including those in inland lakes.*

Keith Matheny, Detroit Free Press

Climate change is warming the waters of the Great Lakes and other lakes and rivers in the region — a big concern to scientists and fisheries managers, as few animals are more sensitive to temperature than fish.

Different fish species need different temperature ranges to thrive. And the region's warming waters are already causing fish population shifts, with the consequences not yet fully understood.

What fish can be caught where will continue to change over the next few decades — perhaps dramatically. And that will impact — and could harm — a vital economic driver in Michigan. Some 1.1 million anglers contribute \$2.3 billion to Michigan's economy

**"Climate"**  
Continued on page 9



Search groups for MSSFA





## MSSFA PRESIDENT Tim Stegeman

Seems like it was just yesterday when I watched the last of the ice flow out into the lake to melt away along with the last remnants of the shoreline ice-pack. Since that time I've been visiting and communicating with the chapters and chapter officers as well as talking and visiting with legislators.

I've also had opportunity to speak to a wide range of our membership and listen to what they do and do not like about our fishery and our organization. When it comes to the organization, many of the concerns that have been stated to me are really based at the local chapter level. The two I hear the most are related to membership acquisition/retention and membership participation. While we all have the common bond of interest in the sportfishery, each chapter has its own

unique style in how it approaches that interest. The chapters that seem to be the most successful to me are the ones that are able to integrate new members into either their committees or their officer line-ups. These chapters also seem to have a tendency to accept or at least have an open mind in considering changes big or small. Then again, those that are making the suggestions are willing to throw their hat in the ring and see the idea through to fruition. We all know the other type. The person who has a lot of ideas but no follow-through.

The example that is most poignant in my mind from this year is that one of our members from one of our chapters was engaged in a discussion with several other members and brainstorming about activities to schedule. The member

mentioned an activity he was familiar with from another organization that he thought would be successful. One of the members in the discussion indicated that he thought the idea was fantastic and he would like to help organize it. The member who made the suggestion then proceeded to say that he was too busy and the supporting member would just have to figure it out and do it on his own. That fantastic idea died right there and then.

My question, to you, the membership is whether you want to be "that person" or not? If you have been a member for a long time or whether you have recently joined, have you volunteered to help your chapter? If not, have you participated in its events? Those are the things that help keep your local chapter active and successful.

From those successes we are able to band together at the state level to achieve those goals of interest in the sportfishery.

For those of you who are active in your local chapter, I know I can depend on your help. However, I also need your non active members to give us a little bit of their time, attention and small amount of participation for the next couple of months and the coming year too. Specifically, in the short term, we need your help on HB 4567, HB 4568 & HB 4569. Your chapter directors have the specific details on what needs to be done.

Then, we have the big, long-term item that is the year 2020. Guess why that number is important to us? It will now have been 20 years since the 2000 Consent Decree. The 2000 Consent Decree is the Federal



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

Court order that represents a negotiated agreement between the United States, the State of Michigan, and Five Native American Indian Tribes signatory to the 1836 Treaty of Washington. This court order was signed in August of 2000 and expires in August of 2020.

We need your continued support to put us over the finish line for funding the MSSFA's financial obligation of belonging to the amici group, Citizens to Protect Michigan Resources. This obligation is more commonly known in MSSFA circles as the "Tribal Negotiation Fund". Some

chapters have already met the goal, some are close and some have a ways to go. But we are looking pretty much on track to be able to meet the goal by the eve of the expiration of the negotiated agreement. If everyone continues to work at meeting their chapter's target goal amount, the goal will be achieved. Excellent progress and thank you to all who have given their time and treasure!



## STEELHEAD ATTACK

By Jim Bedford

This angler really reveres fall run steelhead. These fish, that are four to six months away from spawning, rarely fail to put up an outstanding battle when you hook one. Fall steelhead respond especially well when the hook is set with the stiff rod that the lure tossers use. Maybe too well!

Last November I hooked into an extremely frisky steelhead that tried a different means of escape. I was fishing Prairie Creek, a tributary of the Grand River, and there were a couple of dead trees leaning over the stream and the creek was full of wood. I made an underhand cast to a deep spot just below a submerged log and let the spinner sink for a second or two before beginning the retrieve. Almost immediately a fish tried to take the rod out of my hand and then went skyward on the hook set.

I was standing about waist deep in the creek and was suddenly looking up as the steelhead put about six feet of air between itself and the surface of the creek. It attained the same altitude three more times and I was afraid it would come down on the other side of a tree branch. On the fourth leap, I had a onetime experience in my many thousands of hours of steelheading. The fish grazed my head and bounced off my shoulder as it came down. At that point I was sure glad that it was hooked on a spinner and not a multi-trebled stick bait. Luckily the steelie was now pretty tired and after a short run and a shorter leap I had the bright fish in my net. It was a modest sized female of about eight pounds and very silver. I didn't take a photo of the spot or the fish at the time but returned later to get a shot of the wood surrounded tight spot.

(Photo, top right)



## INTRODUCING THE EZ CRANKBAIT TUNER

- Properly tuned crankbaits catch more fish
- Easy to use, won't damage bait
- Works for baits with the eye in the bill or coming out of the nose
- High-strength Nylon construction
- Lanyard included
- Patent # 9,807,992

Adjustable tension knob prevents over-tuning



offshoretackle.com



YouTube Facebook Twitter

**ALL NEW, OR38**  
**Awesome Crappie Board**

**Your Leader In Trolling Technology**  
**www.offshoretackle.com**





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

The Commercial Fishing Statue bills introduced in the House of Representatives (HB 4567, HB 4568 and HB 4569) were favorably passed out of the House Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee on October 8, 2019 by a vote of 7-2. In preparation for the committee vote, we prepared "local units of government" resolutions that were approved in cities around the state and sent

to legislators in the house. South Haven, Park Township, Bay City sent resolutions and they were referenced by the bill sponsor (Rep. Lilly) in his remarks before the committee prior to the final vote. St. Joseph, Portage and Kalamazoo are still considering resolutions. We were assisted by the American Sportfishing Association in getting a letter of support from tackle manufacturers and business

supporters of the bills. We reached out to our GLSFN advertisers with excellent results and had 37 commercial businesses sign onto the letter expressing support for passage of the bills.

The Michigan Fish Producers Association attempted a last minute series of supplemental bills sponsored by Rep. Sara Cambensy (Marquette) to get its own language included but the three supplemental bills were systematically voted down by the committee on 7-2 votes against. HB 4567 – HB 4569 were referred to the Ways & Means Committee in the House. The committee will have the bill sponsors and Natural Re-

sources Committee Chairman Howell come before the Ways & Means committee and review the wording of the bills to ensure all is correct before being introduced on the floor of the House for a vote. If the bills pass the House, Speaker Chatfield will assign them to a Senate committee to be taken up.

The Senate Natural Resources Committee is the most likely committee to take up the bills. Its Chairman, Ed McBroom (Iron Mountain), may not be inclined to support the legislation and could allow the bills to languish in committee by not scheduling hearings. The bill sponsors

will try to convince Speaker Chatfield to assign the bills to another senate committee but I suspect that is not going to be the case. In all likelihood, we will be engaged with the Senate Natural Resources Committee on the Commercial Fishing Statue bills.

On August 23rd, I attended a Michigan-centric informational meeting concerning the future of Michigan game and fish species in an era of a changing climate. The Round Table, entitled "Conservation and Climate Change: Impacts on Michigan Fisheries and Wildlife", was hosted by the Wildlife Management Institute, Michigan State

University, and the Michigan Sea Grant College Program at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center at Michigan State University. The purpose of the Round Table was to present information about the current scientific information on Michigan game and fish species in an era of changing climate; and to identify additional information that Michigan conservation organizations need about climate change and its effect on Michigan fish and wildlife that can form the basis for new scientific inquiry and the development of appropriate policies.

Lake Michigan Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee agreed to a 450,000 Lake-wide Chinook stocking increase for 2020. That is about half of what was reduced in 2016. Michigan DNR worked with the Lake Michigan Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee and the Lake Michigan Basin Team to come up with the proposed stocking plan. Complete minutes of the meeting can be found on our website [mssfa.org](http://mssfa.org) and clicking on MSSFA, then MSSFA Reports, Lake Committee Reports and finally Lake Michigan, September 2019.

We are currently sending advertising proposals to Great Lakes Sport Fishing News advertisers to renew their ads for 2020. Deb Shephard has rejoined our team as sales administrator and will work with Laura Kleinheksel, our designer, and get all the ads lined up for each edition going forward.

Finally, I would like to encourage all of our members to call or email their representatives in Lansing to support HB 4567, HB 4568, and HB 4569, the Commercial Fishing Statue Bills that provide the strong basis for successful tribal negotiations and a new Consent Decree in 2020. This is critical legislation we need to get passed in the House and Senate.

**Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen's Association**

Protecting,  
Promoting  
and Enhancing  
Sport Fishing  
in the Great Lakes  
and Connecting  
Waterways  
since 1971...

**mssfa**  
**.org**

We'll **HOOK YOU UP**  
with the latest news!

## MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis Eade



**January 9-12**

**The Largest  
Pure Fishing Show  
in North America -  
7 Acres!**

**FISHING  
BOATS**

**FISHING  
TRIPS**

**FISHING  
TACKLE**

**ICE FISHING  
VILLAGE**



Commemorative Dardevle Lure  
by **Eppinger** to  
the First 500 People  
on Thursday and  
Friday.



**More seminars  
than any other show  
in the Midwest!**

**SHOW HOURS:**  
**THURSDAY** 1 pm – 9 pm  
**FRIDAY** 11 am – 9 pm  
**SATURDAY** 10 am – 8 pm  
**SUNDAY** 10 am – 5 pm



**SUBURBAN COLLECTION  
SHOWPLACE**  
Grand River One Mile West of Novi Road

**UltimateFishingShow.com**





# 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.

<b>Executive Director</b> Dennis Eade 616-298-8842 deneade@charter.net	<b>Grand Haven</b> Matt Whitney, President 616-402-6303 whitneycharters@charter.net  Paul Zelenka, Director 616-638-3273 pbzfarms@gmail.com  Website: www.ghsteelheaders.com	<b>Great Lakes Bay Region</b> Mark Trudell, President 989-839-4920 kathy@steel-headers.com  Vicki Decker, Director 989-859-7472  John Moore, Alternate Director 989-642-5721  facebook.com/Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheaders  Website: http://steel-headers.com	<b>Metro- West - Livonia</b> Larry Tabaka, President 517-546-2824 LarryTabaka@comcast.net  Roger Hinchcliff, Director 734-657-6535 steelheadmanifesto@gmail.com  Henry Nabors, Membership Dir. 248-225-4964 HHNabors@gmail.com  Website: www.metroweststeelheaders.org facebook.com/Metro West Steelheaders	<b>Southwest Michigan</b> Jim Marohn, President 269-983-7298 jim.marohn@doubledayoffice.com  Joe Montella, Director 616-283-4296 joe-monte@comcast.net  Website: www.swmisteelheaders.com facebook.com/Southwestern Steelheaders	<b>Traverse City Area</b> Joe Cruzen, President 741 Indian Trail Blvd. Traverse City, MI 49686 248-563-0302  (Open), State Director  Dick Hartrick, Membership 231-536-2271 Dick758@aol.com  facebook.com/Traverse City Area Steelheaders www.traversecityareasteelheaders.org
<b>Membership</b> Deb Shephard 269-655-4704 mssfamembership@charter.net	<b>Grand Rapids</b> Don Remington, President and State Director 616-742-0238 donremington99@yahoo.com  Randy Van Der Hulst, VP 616-886-8632 rbvdh@datawise.com  Bob Strek, VP/Treasurer and Alternate Director 616-723-1268 rstrek@aol.com  Website: www.grsteelheaders.org facebook.com/Michigan Steelheaders (Grand Rapids Chapter)	<b>Holland</b> Steve Weatherwax, President 616-836-3809 Waxer1221@yahoo.com  Brian Eade, Director 616-836-4071 brian.eade@live.com  Website: www.hollandsteelheaders.org facebook.com/Holland Steelheaders	<b>South Haven</b> Rich Chapman, President president@southhavensteelheaders.com  Jeff Dehn, Director 269-377-5554 statedirector@southhavensteelheaders.com  Website: www.southhavensteelheaders.com facebook.com/South Haven Steelheaders	<b>Thunder Bay</b> Dan Bouchard, President 989-255-7350 Cell dan-bouchard@hotmail.com  Gerry Sickon, Director 734-624-4490 gsickon@ford.com  <b>Thumb Chapter</b> Scott Stanke, President 989-553-0972 scottstanke@gmail.com  Dr Ken Merckel, State Director Jack Kelly, Alternate Director  Website: thumbsteelheaders.org facebook.com/Thumb Chapter Michi-gan Steelheaders	<b>White River</b> Clint Pollock, President 231-893-0210 whpollock@netzero.net  Terry Clark, Director 231-730-6628 dadshideout03@yahoo.com



M.S.S.F.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION		
Today's Date:	Method of Payment: Check ____ Cash ____ Credit Card ____	Check Membership Type Below
(check one) Visa ____ MC ____ CC Exp. Date: ____ 3-Digit Code ____		Renewal: ____
Credit Card Number:		New Member: ____
Membership Expiration Date:	Phone#:	Associate: ____ (Home Chapter required below)
Members Name:		List Home Chapter if Associate
Address:		Other: ____
City, State, Zip		Membership Payment:
e-mail Address:		Tribal Negotiations Fund
Sponsored By:		Total:
MSSFA State and Chapter Dues (Yearly)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Battle Creek \$45.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Holland \$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Thunder Bay \$40.00 (Alpena)
<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Haven \$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Metro West \$40.00 (Livonia)	<input type="checkbox"/> Traverse City \$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Rapids \$45.00	<input type="checkbox"/> South Haven \$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> White River \$40.00 (Whitehall)
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Lakes Bay Region \$40.00 (Midland)	<input type="checkbox"/> SW MI. \$45.00 (St. Joseph)	<input type="checkbox"/> At Large Membership \$35.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Thumb \$40.00 (Harbor Beach)	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior Membership \$5.00
Mail to: MSSFA / PO Box 423 / Paw Paw, MI 49079		

The following Chapters accept online payments via Credit Card and/or PayPal.  
A PayPal account is not needed-use the option credit card. Note: some Chapters charge a small fee for processing.

Holland [www.hollandsteelheaders.org](http://www.hollandsteelheaders.org) • Metro-West (Livonia) [www.metroweststeelheaders.org](http://www.metroweststeelheaders.org)  
South Haven [www.southhavensteelheaders.com](http://www.southhavensteelheaders.com) • Southwestern( Saint Joseph) [www.swmisteelheaders.com](http://www.swmisteelheaders.com)  
Traverse City [www.traversecityareasteelheaders.org](http://www.traversecityareasteelheaders.org)



MSSFA State Board of Directors, Officers and Committee Chairs

Tim Stegeman	President	tstegg@yahoo.com
Dennis Eade	Executive Director Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Fishery Committee Legislative Committee	deneade@charter.net
John Letts	Vice President	maintenance@stjohn23.net
Gerry Sickon	Secretary Lake Erie Citizens Advisory Fishery Committee	gsickon@ford.com
Joe Montella	Treasurer	joe.monte@comcast.net
Brian Eade	Tribal Negotiations Committee Co-Chair	brian.eade@live.com
Mark Spann	Tribal Negotiations Committee Co-Chair	mark_spann@yahoo.com
Roger Hinchcliff	Streams Committee	RHinchcliff@mortgageone.biz
Deb Shephard	Membership Coordinator	mssfamembership@charter.net

“Reasons”  
Continued from page 1

out-of-state markets. It doesn’t make any sense at all for our state’s wonderful resource.

There is also a very real history of what happens when netters move in. Read about what Saginaw Bay was like in the late 1930s and early 1940s and the reader will find more walleyes in Saginaw Bay than any other time in history, until the netters moved in. They depleted the bay of walleyes almost completely. If netters could do it then, think of what they can do now with today’s technology, and as the struggle and legal challenges with DNR oversight of these commercial netters continues. (In 1985 a case of DNR boarding to inspect a commercial fishing vessel without a warrant went all the way to the Supreme Court and the court found it was legal and part of the license purchased from the state). Recreational anglers are boarded every single day for inspections across the Great Lakes, but commercial anglers felt they should not have to comply. Again, why would we hand over 20 to 30 percent of our game fish?

The biggest reason is the 2.5 million anglers that enjoy one of the best fisheries on the planet. I was in Fairbanks, Alaska in 2012 and went on several guided trips during the week there. I heard over and over and over from Alaskans how they wanted to come and fish in Michigan as the netters have wiped out many of Alaska’s huge biomass of salmon. Now many rivers in Alaska prohibit not only keeping one King salmon but even restrict anglers from removing the hooked fish from the water for one picture. Lake Mille Lacs in Brainerd, Minnesota is also seeing a huge issue with netting from the local tribe and last year the recreational total allowable catch (of walleye) for sportsmen and women was “zero.” Sportsman groups went through the ceiling. This year the daily catch for recreational anglers went up to a whopping one fish per person. Lake Mille Lacs used to be one of the greatest walleye lakes in Minnesota. Many recreational anglers avoid it today.

We can’t let this happen in Michigan. We have too much to lose for the gain of very few. There is plenty of walleye on the market currently which by the way is already coming from Lake Erie. We don’t need to hit the same fish twice. If you would like to help this important issue you can do so by emailing both you State Representative and State Senator and tell them “No netting of game fish in Michigan.” It is important because these laws will be in effect for 20 years and we can’t afford to give away our world class fishery.

TNT

CHARTERS

LAKE MICHIGAN FISHING AT ITS FINEST  
Over 25 Years Experience

For reservations or information call or email.  
CAPT. TODD HUNDLEY (231) 723-9907  
USCG Licensed & DNR Inspected Email: thundley@chartermi.net  
www.tntcharters.com

Fishing The Lake Michigan Waters  
Off Manistee, Michigan For  
Salmon and Trout

Freddie B

Sport Fishing Charters

Capt. Fred Bolton

USCG Licensed  
State DNR Inspected

Cell: 248.670.2479  
Email: FreddieB@acegroup.cc

www.FreddieBSportfishingCharters.com

2019 BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING

Wednesday,  
December 18, 2019

MUCC Offices  
2101 Wood Street,  
Lansing, MI  
7:00 P.M.

Scotty

The Way  
to Fish

240

striker

with 241 side deck mount

Designed and built tough for Salmon, Muskie, Halibut, Sturgeon, and other big game fish. Stainless steel reinforced post with an oversized opening and easy lock/unlock collar. The inner support rotates with the rod to instantly remove and strike simultaneously.

SCOTTY.COM



# BIG BAIT, BIG FISH IN THE FALL

By Bob Jensen

A recent fishing trip and memories of other fall fishing experiences reminded me why, to many anglers, autumn is a special time for fishing. I'm also reminded of how active so many species of fish can be at this time of year. Right now and until ice-up, almost every predator fish that swims in fresh water is willing to eat, but there are things you should keep in mind if you want to catch them.

If you want to catch a true trophy, fall is the time to do so. To up your odds of doing so, remember that big fish want big baits this time of year. It's the expended energy thing. A big fish would rather eat one big meal than several small ones. That's how that fish got big. I remember when I was guiding back in the 80's: We caught more big walleyes, bass, muskies, and northern pike in the fall than we did during the rest of the year. Prior to that time I had heard a lot about the big bait/big fish in the fall philosophy, but during my autumn guiding days, I realized that this was reality. During the summer we fished for muskies a lot. Musky lures are typically larger than lures used for other fish. We caught muskies and pike in the summer on those big baits. But in the fall, in addition to muskies and pike, we caught lots of big walleyes

and some giant smallmouth bass on musky baits. At first we thought this was a fluke occurrence, but after having it happen frequently, we started to believe we'd catch a couple of big walleyes every day while fishing muskies, and we usually did. If you want to catch lots of walleyes or bass, tie on a Fire-Ball jig with a three inch fat-head minnow. In the fall, that set-up doesn't stand a chance in a school of 14 to 17 inch walleyes, and a live-bait rig with a 4 inch red-tail or sucker will do the same thing. But if a truly big walleye or smallmouth is your goal, go with the big stuff.

Keep this in mind: In some lakes the walleyes will be in deep water: 30 feet and deeper is not uncommon. We need to leave those fish alone if we're catching and releasing. When a fish is hooked in deep water and brought it to the surface quickly, the pressure change does bad things to the fish, especially the small ones. Those fish usually can't be released successfully. If you want, catch a few for the table and then go looking for shallower fish.

Nice weather in the fall is good for fishing, and it's great to be out in. But sometimes conditions that are a little nasty are pretty good also. This is when you really appreciate good foul weather gear, and Ca-

Kevan Paul with a large mouth bass from a recent fall fishing trip. You can catch lots of them this size and bigger right now!



bela's Guidewear is the best I've used. From Clear Lake in Iowa to below the Lake Oahe dam in South Dakota to Leech Lake in Minnesota and Little Bay de Noc in Michigan, I've experienced some outstanding night-fishing for walleyes, both trolling and fishing from the shore, when the

wind was blowing pretty hard. The best wind when you're fishing from shore is a wind that you're looking into, so that can get a bit uncomfortable. But when the walleyes are in, they're going to bite. Tie on a Lucky

Shad or a KVD 300 Series Jerk Bait. If they're there, they'll eat those baits.

Autumn truly is a wonderful time to be on the water, and to a certain extent, you can decide what size of fish you're going to catch.

Put the proper bait in front of the fish you want to catch and your chances of getting bit will be very good. There is still time left for you to discover, or re-discover, this for yourself.



## First-Ice Walleye Lessons

By Jason Mitchell

In so many cases, the fall sets up the early ice bite. At the very least, what happens as the lake freezes sets the course for the beginning of winter. There are variables each winter that influence the location of where we find walleyes at early ice. Some of the outcomes of some of these variables can be predicted ahead while other outcomes are figured out after the fact. If there is a lesson I have learned over and over, that lesson would be that we cannot predict every

outcome ahead. Just like there are upsets in World Series and Super Bowls that prove pundits wrong, there are situations in fishing that are difficult to always prove correctly. At the end of the day, we still have to keep an open mind and fish through locations and patterns with a process of elimination strategy. With that disclaimer, there are still some guidelines that serve us well when trying to figure out walleyes at first ice.

### Learn how to fish shallow walleyes

If there is a lesson that has been a hard lesson at times, that lesson would be simply not looking shallow enough at early ice. Can't tell you how many times we found aggressive fish in less than six feet of water. Shallow is a relative term but in my mind, shallow is anything less than ten feet.

There is an art, however, to really dialing in shallow bites. If there is

“First-Ice”  
Continued on page 10

DW  
Team Dreamweaver

DREAMWEAVER

ALWAYS ROOM  
FOR A SUPER SLIM

WWW.TEAMDREAMWEAVER.COM



“FishPass”  
Continued from page 1

River in downtown Traverse City at the location of the existing, but deteriorating, Union Street Dam. It will consist of a sea lamprey barrier just upstream of the to-be-removed dam, a channel downstream of the sea lamprey barrier to test fish-sorting techniques and technologies, and a natural river channel for recreation and normal river flow. The location also will be an improved city park so that visitors can observe the “living laboratory” that

FishPass will provide. Many of the FishPass Partners were on-hand for today’s unveiling. In addition to members of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, officials present included Jim Carruthers, mayor of Traverse City; Mark Wilson, a councilor for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chipewewa Indians; Marty Co-burn, city manager of Traverse City; Gary Whelan, program manager for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Frank Dituri, director of public services for Traverse City; Carl Platz, Great Lakes pro-

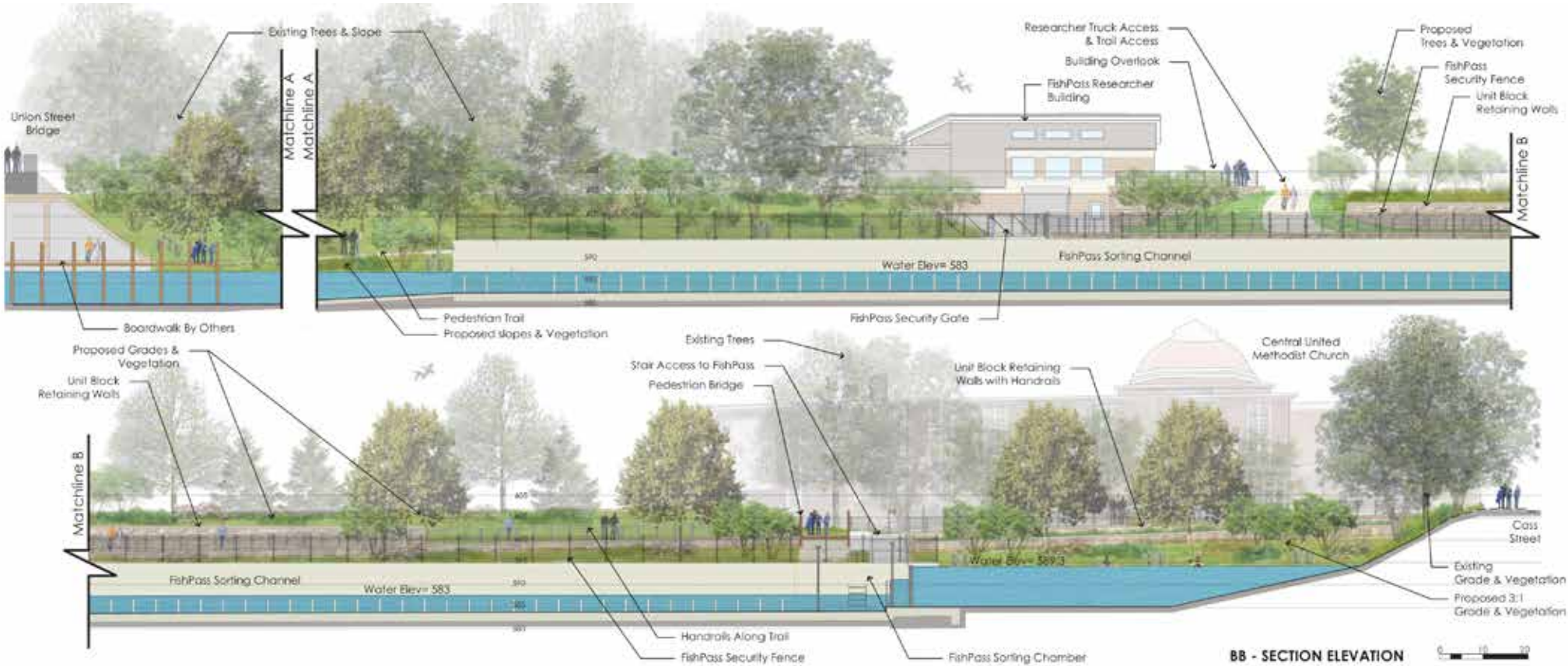
gram manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and Brett Fessel, a biologist with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chipewewa Indians. “The final design for FishPass reflects the project’s engineering requirements, the agencies’ fishery management goals, and the community’s desires,” said Doug Stang, the Commission’s vice-chair. “The Commission and its partners have held scores of public meetings and workshops over the past few years to ensure the project is sound and is a welcomed addition to Traverse City.



The design unveiled today demonstrates we have hit the mark—a project where form meets function and has the potential to change the way fisheries are managed, both in the Great Lakes basin and world-

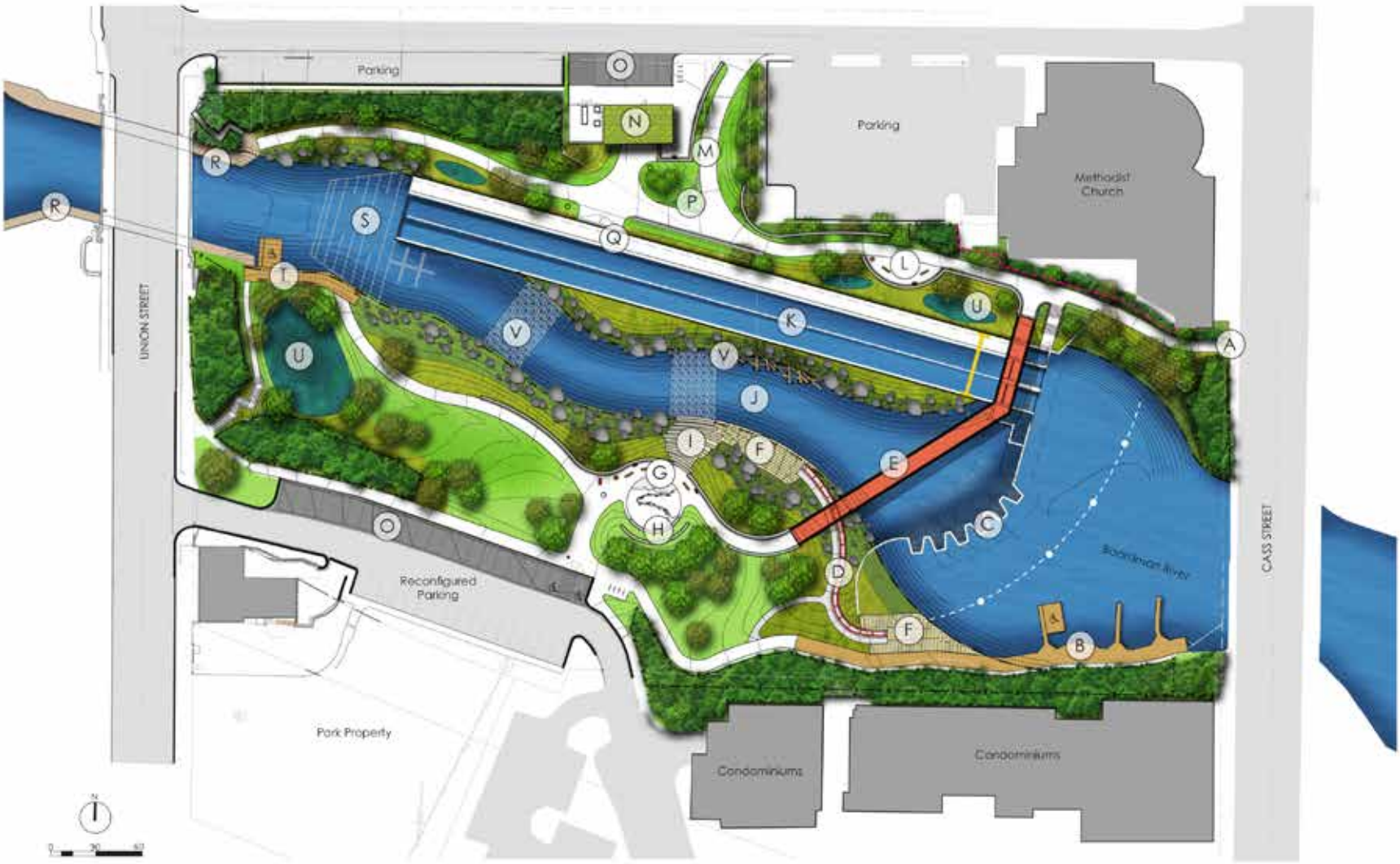
wide.” The Army Corps of Engineers, in collaboration with the firm AECOM, developed the FishPass design with input from the partners and the community. Construction of Fish-

Pass should begin in early 2020. For more information about FishPass, and to see the final design, visit <http://www.glfc.org/fishpass.php>.



Union Street Dam FishPass

- LEGEND
- Town
  - Meadow
  - Riprap & Live Stakes
  - Stormwater Seeding
  - Concrete Plank Paver Boat Launch
  - Fish Habitat Logs
  - Existing Fence
- PLAN KEY
- (A) New Pedestrian Connection to Cass Street
  - (B) Rehabilitated Boardwalk & Accessible Kayak Launch
  - (C) Labyrinth Weir
  - (D) Kayak Portage Rail
  - (E) Pedestrian Bridge
  - (F) Kayak Shore Access
  - (G) Interpretive Overlook 1
  - (H) Outdoor Classroom & Amphitheater
  - (I) Fishing Area - Stone Stepped Hillside
  - (J) Bypass Channel w/ Boulder Armoring & Native Vegetation
  - (K) Fish Sorting Channel
  - (L) Interpretive Overlook 2
  - (M) Service Drive/Pedestrian Walk on City Easement
  - (N) FishPass Research Building/ Public Restrooms
  - (O) Pervious Pavers
  - (P) TurfStone Vehicular Access
  - (Q) Research Access Way & Security Fence
  - (R) Future Boardwalk (BY OTHERS)
  - (S) Tailwater Entrance Pad
  - (T) Boardwalk Overlook Accessible Kayak Launch
  - (U) Rain Garden To Manage Building/Parking Runoff
  - (V) Stream Habitat & Stream Riffles





# Floating Fundamentals

By Dan Robson  
www.glangler.com

As peaceful as the morning was, there was a degree of intensity that is hard to explain. There was no one else around and the breeze pushing through the trees was the only sound.

Birds, aware of the impending storm, were silent. There were no distractions, just me, alone with my float. My heart wasn't quite to the point of racing, but beating faster than normal.

*As intently as I watched my brain failed to register the exact moment the float went down: there one second, gone the next.*

It's a sight that keeps me coming back for more.

It's almost as exhilarating as the fight itself. There is just something about having a visual; seeing the exact moment when the fish takes what you've offered up to them.

My early steelheading days were generally spent chucking hardware for aggressive spring chrome. Spinners, spoons and crankbaits all led to excitement on the water.

It was how my father did it, and with him as my mentor it was how I did it. It was years later before I started float fishing but it wasn't long until it took over.

*Float fishing will reward you with fish faster than any other method.*

Its simplicity makes it intriguing, its complexity makes it addicting. A float captivates and mesmerizes.

For me it started with an 8-foot rod and a spinning reel - the same set-up I used for chucking hardware. The spinning reel stuck around for a while as the rod grew from an 8 to an 11 footer.

As my confidence and ability progressed so too did my equipment until it came to the point now where all of my float fishing is done with a centerpin. The beauty of the float is that even though there are endless options available, you don't need to break the bank on all new equipment until you're ready to.

Let the equipment evolve with you. Whether you use a spin set-up, baitcaster or centerpin, the ultimate goal is to catch fish.

Steelhead can be selective to say the least. To overcome this selectiveness anglers more often than not need low profile, natural looking presentations. There is no better way to achieve this than with a float.

A float can cover considerably more water than any other technique, without having to move around a lot.

Floats can efficiently cover back eddies and current seems, again better than any other technique. There is a pretty strong case that float fishing, when done effectively, is better than any other technique, which is precisely why it

has become so popular in tributaries up and down the great lakes

Whether you choose to run a float with a spinning reel, baitcaster or centerpin, the idea is to get a drag-free drift. Drag-free lets the bait drift toward the fish with the current and when done right offers a natural drift unmatched by any other.

As I said before, the

more practice to achieve the right drift. There is a very fine line between a good drift and a bad one, and not getting the drift right means not getting fish. You can open the bail and let the line spool off, but be careful, too much line leads to big bows in the line. Bows in the line lead to missed hook sets.

On the other end not

ury of letting the reel slow the fish down.

Often still referred to as 'noodles' today's float rods are a far cry from the soft, limp rods of old. Rods today have a considerable amount of power yet remain soft enough to maintain the ability to protect light lines.

One of the biggest variables in float fishing is the terminal gear. Hooks; leader strength and length; shot size and placement; will all change drastically depending on water, weather conditions and time of year. Sometimes these changes can happen three or four times in one outing.

*If you were to ask a hundred float fisherman how they place their shot, it wouldn't surprise me if you got a hundred different responses.*

There are seemingly infinite ways to place your shot, and believe me when I say I've tried them all. What a good shot pattern does is get the bait down into the strike zone while remaining as invisible as possible. Before we discuss patterns it's important to know one thing: Current speed is at its fastest on the surface. This is the basis for all shot patterns. This is why no matter what pattern is used, the closer to the float you get the larger the split shot will be. The larger shot slows the float and allows the bait to travel out in front, being the first thing the fish sees.

There are two patterns for shot that I stick to for Great Lakes tributaries; a "shirt button" pattern and a "stacked" pattern. The "shirt button" pattern starts with two big split shot di-

rectly under the float and continues down the line to the swivel that attaches the leader. As the shot progress, evenly spaced and usually two at a time, down the main line they get smaller until the smallest are placed by the swivel that joins main line to leader.

At this point I could discuss what size of shot should be used where but that really is determined by the water being fished. If the water is low and clear you'll want to go as small as possible while still getting down into the strike zone efficiently. On the other hand if the water you're fishing is fast, or dirty, you can get away with bigger shot and not worry about spooking fish.

"Float"

Continued on page 11



Steelhead float fishing centerpin



Centerpin float fishing

centerpin isn't the only way I catch steelhead but it is the only way I run a float so maybe I'm being a little biased when I say that it is the most efficient way to achieve this drag free drift.

The free spool action and zero start-up of the 'pin makes it the easiest, most effective way to present a float. Centerpin float fishing continues to gain popularity throughout U.S. tributaries, but north of the border the 'pins dominate Ontario tribs.

That doesn't mean the natural drift can't be accomplished with other gear if you so choose. Many quality baitcasters come with excellent free spooling options that, although will not outperform a centerpin, will present a float effectively, and are very well suited for big, fast water where you may require something extra to turn a big fish.

A spinning reel requires a little more effort, and a lot

feeding enough line out leads to awkward, inefficient swinging motions and un-natural looking drifts. Too many of those in a row will spook even the most steadfast steelhead.

*A key variable to float fishing is rod length. Go long.*

Line control is crucial and the longer the rod the easier it is going to be to control that line. A typical float rod will run anywhere from 10 1/2 to 15 feet in length. Rods on the shorter end are generally used along with spinning or baitcasting reels, while the longer 13- to 15-foot rods are considered centerpin rods.

When floating with a 'pin there is no help from a reels drag and the long rod acts as a giant shock absorber, taking the brunt of the punishment while still protecting the light leaders often needed on Great Lake tributaries. You can get away with a shorter, stouter rod when you have the lux-

## Trolling without a Fish Hawk is called BOATING.

**The NEW X2 System**

- Stowable and portable
- Patent pending Slip-Ducer™
- Wireless down speed and temp
- Can be used with or without a downrigger

**Fish Hawk ELECTRONICS**  
fishhawkelectronics.com

**SPORTSMAN'S LODGE**  
**Brothren Bungalows**  
231-477-5588

Convenient Location next to Manistee, Little Manistee and Bear Creek

4544 Amick Street  
Brethren, Michigan 49619  
Phone: 231-477-5588

Website:  
www.brethrenbungalows.com



## “Climate”

Continued from page 1

each year, through purchases of gear and clothing, booking hotel rooms, buying meals and more, the nonprofit Michigan United Conservation Clubs found in a study released in January.

“If you like bass, things are looking good. But if you like walleye or cisco, things aren’t looking as good,” said Gretchen Hansen, an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota’s Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology.

At the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and its counterpart agencies in Minnesota, Wisconsin and elsewhere throughout the Great Lakes region, planning for how to man-

age fisheries amid these significant shifts is already a matter of urgent study.

### Region’s air, water getting warmer

A popular sport fish in Michigan, walleye are considered a cool-water fish — for optimal breeding and growth, they want lake conditions warmer than trout, but cooler than bass and panfish. They’re having trouble finding that anymore in southern Michigan’s warming inland lakes, said Kevin Wehrly, a fisheries research biologist for the Michigan DNR’s Institute for Fisheries Research in Ann Arbor.

“Historically, we’ve stocked walleye into inland lakes in southern Michigan, and there are many of those lakes that just don’t support walleye any longer,” he said.



Kevin Wehrly a fisheries research biologist with the MDNR’s Institute for Fisheries Research takes a sample of water out of Cedar Island Lake in White Lake Township Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019.

Photo Credit: Mandi Wright, Detroit Free Press



MDNR Resource Analyst Joe Nohner prepares to dock the boat after running tests with his team at Cedar Island Lake in White Lake Township Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019. Photo Credit: Mandi Wright, Detroit Free Press

“It’s most likely water temperature. Water temperature is the main driver of most (fish) species’ distribution patterns.”

To the north, in Ontario, studies of fish populations in thousands of inland lakes show warm-water-loving species such as smallmouth and largemouth bass are making their way into northern lakes where they’ve never been seen before. Those newcomers could stress the fish that already make those lakes home, as they compete in many cases for the same habitat and food.

Air temperatures in the Great Lakes region have warmed faster than the rest of the United States — by 1.6 degrees Fahrenheit between 1901-1960 and 1985-2016, as the rest of the contiguous U.S. warmed only by 1.2 degrees. By the end of the 21st century, global average temperatures are expected to rise an additional 2.7 degrees F to 7.2 degrees F, depending on future greenhouse gas emissions, with corresponding changes in the Great Lakes region, a report by 16 researchers around the Great Lakes Region, sponsored by the nonprofit, Chicago-based Environmental Law and Policy Center,

found earlier this year.

The Great Lakes have warmed faster than the surrounding area in recent years, according to the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program (GLISA), a collaboration of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, part of a national network that focuses on adaptation to climate change and variability.

That warming impacts local waters as well. Summer surface water temperatures on the coldest Great Lake, Lake Superior, increased approximately 4.5 degrees F from 1979 to 2006, a significantly faster rate than regional atmospheric warming. Declining winter ice cover is the largest driving factor, according to researchers.

### The ‘double-squeeze’ on cold-water bottom fish

In deeper lakes, summer temperatures cause water to form distinct temperature bands, warmer near the surface and colder below, a phenomenon called thermal stratification. Warming makes that process stronger and longer-lasting, and oxygen can’t permeate those

thermal layers to reach the bottom.

Historic weather records also show climate change is leading to stronger spring storms that spur nutrient runoff from farms and lawns, which, in turn, fuel algae blooms in lakes. When those blooms die in a lake, they sink to the lake bottom and remove oxygen. The layers prevent a replenishing of the depleted oxygen, creating hypoxic “dead zones.” The dead zone in algae-challenged Lake Erie from this phenomenon, every summer into fall, can be more than 6,200 square miles.

“Lake Erie is an example of a Great Lake where you’ve already seen, partly through warming and the (depleted oxygen zones) in the central basin, cold-water fish isolated in the eastern basin and not really found much in the other parts of Lake Erie,” said Brian Shuter, a professor in the University of Toronto’s Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

For fish that need cold, deep water, like lake trout, the lack of oxygen at the lake bottom pushes them closer to the surface, into temperatures and habitats that aren’t optimal for them to thrive, Wehrly said.

“We call that a temperature-oxygen squeeze,” he said. “They’re limited by temperatures from the top, and they’re limited by oxygen depletion on the bottom.”

Cisco, a lake herring species native to Michigan, prefer cool-to-cold, deep water.

“We had about 153 cisco lakes in the state historically” out of Michigan’s 11,000 inland lakes, Wehrly said. “We’ve lost a number of those populations because of that total loss of oxygen in the cold water portion of the lake during the summer.”

### Fishing through big data

When Karen Alofs looks to see how fish populations are changing in Ontario lakes, she doesn’t use waders and nets. She uses a computer and big datasets.

Alofs, an assistant professor of applied aquatic ecology at the University of Michigan’s School for Environment and Sustainability, has spent the past several years, going back to her days at the University of Toronto, studying how warming waters in the northern Great Lakes region might be affecting where fish live.

Fortunately for her, the Canadian province of Ontario offered a great way to check: data from fish surveys in 1,527 inland lakes, taken both decades ago, between 1957 and 1986, and again more recently, between 1983 and 2011. The surveys for each lake, on average, were about 29 years apart.

Crunching the numbers, Alofs landed a big finding: The northern range of warm-water-loving sport fish such as largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill and pumpkin seed is shifting farther north, and rather dramatically: from 8 to al-

## “Climate”

Continued on page 12

**THE DEVLE HAS A NEW HOME**

**DARDEVLE**  
BY EPPINGER

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!  
**DARDEVLE.COM**

**Moonshine Lures**

Family-owned and operated, each lure is hand-painted.

MADE IN THE USA

**NEW COLORS!**  
MORE NEW COLORS ON OUR WEBSITE!

BLUE KNIGHT  
LUCKY FLOUNDER  
THUMPER  
TUNA TIC  
KK SHADE HOLOGRAPHIC  
GREEN KNIGHT  
OSCAR RV  
GRAPE SHADE HOLOGRAPHIC  
ULTIMATE FLOUNDER

Visit our website to find your local retailer • Dealer inquiries welcome  
**MoonshineLures.com**



## “First-Ice”

Continued from page 6

one mistake many anglers make, it is underestimating the impact our presence has on shallow fish. We wouldn't expect to catch fish in four feet of water after driving a boat over the spot during the spring, yet many anglers make the mistake in the winter of simply having too much commotion over the spot when ice fishing. You can get away with much more commotion when you get thicker ice and snow cover, but plan on fishing being spooky at early ice when you are dealing with little ice or, in some cases, no snow cover. Don't drive your quad right over your fishing spot. Keep your walking to a minimum.

### Least disturbance, maximum catches

Over the years, I have come to the realization that I usually catch more fish if I simply plant down on a good spot and drill the bare minimum of holes and sit still. In most cases, there are not a lot of people out right away. Pressure is light and that is an advantage. You can sit on key spots and work the natural flow of fish that wander underneath you.

Drill your holes and let everything settle down and wait for the sun to get low; that is the basic program on most water. At first-ice, we often find walleyes relating to shoreline-related structure. Either tall-standing weed lines or some type of rock or gravel bottom. I say tall-standing because I have learned over the years that weeds don't have to be green to hold fish at early ice. If there is good water circulation and oxygen—which usually isn't an issue at early ice—there are often fish holding off cabbage, for example, which is often brown by late fall. If the weeds are brown, that is fine as long as they are still not down. Brown is fine, brown and down is not so ideal. Other weeds like coontail and milfoil also hold fish.

Tall stands next to a subtle dip are often prime spots, but don't overlook the corners and pinch points on large, shallow flats. These fish often travel like mobs. All you have to do is intersect a few of these mobs during each outing. The peak activity often occurs at sunset or shortly after dark on many fisheries, but water that is really turbid can see a daytime bite in shallow water.

### Wind effect

Strong winds late in the fall during the freeze up period especially can have a drastic impact on early ice walleye fishing. Strong winds can really mess with water clarity and set the tone for early ice walleyes. This wind affect can really become evident on large bodies of water like Lake of the Woods and Devils Lake. A telltale sign at early ice is a lot of broken up

ice that is rough and jagged. This turbulence not only seems to affect water clarity and visibility, but also seems to move fish around during the process. As the sediment settles, the bite often gradually improves.

As a general rule of thumb, the chaos of this type of freeze up often seems to push fish deeper. Bad visibility combined with deep fish is often a tough combination. On Lake of the Woods, we have combated this situation by focusing on river fish that moved up to follow the shiner run that occurs in the fall. Instead of going out on the lake past the island, for example, we fished further in hoping to intersect fish that were moving from the river out into the lake. Ice safety is always a factor at early ice and river ice takes much longer than lake ice, but the advantage of rivers is that they do clean up much faster than large lakes.

### First strike

Always easy to overanalyze situations but, at early ice, the first people to fish many locations often score big. The key to success is really to be safe and diligent by simply being in the know. If you are the first person to walk out on five inches of ice with a spud bar and diligently pick your way to a good spot, you are typically going to experience the best fishing. After word travels and people realize that there is good enough ice, the spot will cool off when more people arrive. When more ice develops and you can take a quad safely out on the ice to reach new spots that are further than walking distance, the first people in the know score. The people who figure out after the fact get the scraps. Being in the know takes some diligence.

Don't overthink location. There are great spots that are no secret. If you are the first lure on that spot after a month of no angling pressure, you are usually

going to encounter fish that make you look good. Don't compromise safety to get on ice, but always think like a hunter. Fishing fresh ice is important all through the winter, but seems especially critical at early ice because a little bit of clear ice and shallow water, in particular, combine to create short opportunities. On average, we might only get two days off a spot where the fishing could be considered good. Doesn't take long to wear out your welcome.

### Follow the fall

As mentioned above, the best locations and patterns at early ice are simply a continuation of the fall. Lakes that were fishing poorly in the fall often have a tough bite at early ice. I often head to locations at early ice where we caught fish a month prior. On Devils Lake, for example, where I live, if a flooded roadbed was hot in October and November, that is where I will start at early ice. Usually, finding fish at early ice is that simple. If a spot was quiet in the fall, very seldom do I find much has changed three weeks later once the lake gets ice.

Obviously, people who put in time on the water during the fall have a great advantage at early ice. If you don't get to spend a lot of time on the water during October and November, you can still follow fishing reports and general activity to narrow your focus. If a particular lake is simply fishing well during the fall and getting some attention, that is a great starting point. If the fish are not on shallow weeds on a particular lake during the fall like they are some past years, that is still relevant information for early ice. Particularly when you have to walk out and drag your gear on the ice, the more shortcuts you can take the better. You have to be strategic and pick your spots because if the spot doesn't pan out,

it is not always easy just to pack up and walk to another spot. There is no broad stroke approach when you are on foot.

### Early-ice safety

Early-ice is one of my most coveted windows for finding and catching walleyes through the ice. Especially in states where the walleye season closes during the late-ice period, the early ice time is perhaps one of the best periods to find some of the most incredible fishing. Prioritize safety over catching fish, but make a point to experience this opportunity if you are physically able. Always test the ice with a spud bar and have the proper tools like ice picks and a flotation suit like Clam's popular Ascent Float Suit or the new Rise Float Suit. Carry a throw rope in your sled or Fish Trap and use common sense. The reward is some of the best walleye fishing of the winter.

Jason Mitchell hosts the popular outdoor program *Jason Mitchell Outdoors* which airs on Fox Sports North on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. More information can be found online at [jasonmitchelloutdoors.com](http://jasonmitchelloutdoors.com). Follow on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.



Photo credit:  
northernwilds.com



# Catching Crappies on Humps

By Tim Huffman

Tim Huffman called upon some experts to share their knowledge of working submerged hilltops to chase fall slabs.

*BrushPile Fishing* TV host, Russ Bailey from Ohio says, humps can be very productive up North anytime, including the fall. "...with today's mapping and electronics, humps aren't difficult to find. Find the right depth, and you'll have lots of action."

"The depths can vary, but something about 14 feet deep, maybe up as shallow as 8 feet, can be productive in late fall. I love to cast if the depths are right. I'll use a jig or jig tipped with a minnow."

A lot of impoundments are drawn down to winter pool to provide an extra layer of protection from floods. Late fall is when most drawdowns start. Fishing guide Brad Whitehead says, "The water is cooling, and fish will be scattered until the water gets cold. So in the fall, we look for structure in the middle depths, or even shallower water. A hump that tops out at 8 or 10 feet is ideal because the shad are roaming, and like getting on something like a ledge or hump. Find the shad in a location, and you'll always have some crappie."

"I work a hump from

the top of the hump down to deeper water, so I don't spook the upper fish by catching the deeper fish first (and pulling them up through the shallower fish). A hump is great because it allows a lot of different depths to be worked in a hurry.

"One particular hump I like is about half the size of a football field. Current can be a factor, with little current being best. Shad get on the back-current side, and crappies come to them. Another factor is (bright) sunlight, because it pushes the shad deeper."

Whitehead uses a side pull method, keeping his speed very slow. He prefers live minnows in the cold water. Putting the bait near cover, like logs and man-made brushpiles, is always a good choice for more fish. Electronics are critical to watch hump contours, cover and fish.

Missouri guide Terry Blankenship says humps are good year-round and are premium structures that will hold fish a long time, as long as they're not too shallow.

Blankenship likes to cast in clearer water lakes, but chooses vertical jigging in stained waters.

"Lake of the Ozarks

"Crappies"

Continued on page 11

MICHIGAN

Stinger

SPORTFISHING PRODUCTS

In 2019 we promise to bring you even more fish catching products you'll come to love!

michiganstinger@yahoo.com Phone: 231-549-3640

www.mistinger.com





**FishUSA**  
AMERICA'S TACKLE SHOP

**StrikeMaster**  
ICE AUGERS

**StrikeMaster**  
PRO STAFF

**AUGERS | REELS | TIP-UPS | LURES | LINE | GLOVES | ACCESSORIES**

**FOR ALL OF YOUR ICE FISHING NEEDS & MORE,  
VISIT FISHUSA - YOUR ONE-STOP ONLINE TACKLE SHOP!**

Shop online 24/7 at [www.FishUSA.com](http://www.FishUSA.com) | 800.922.1219

**FishUSA**

### “Crappies” Continued from page 10

has clearer water, so I like a blue-ice-colored Bobby Garland Slab Slay’R. The jig is versatile, whether casting or jigging.”

#### Tips

Humps should be thoroughly inspected with electronics before fishing. Small drop-offs, irregular feature and brush are important things to note. Markers and GPS waypoints allow you to go back and fish specific covers and structures.

Consider fishing in a stair-step method. If the hump is 8 feet at the top and 15 at the bottom, start at 15 feet and stair-step your way up in one- or two-foot increments, until you find the depth of active crappies. This works best with vertical jigging or slow trolling.

Mark spots, back off and cast. A fisherman can work a spot or area without getting too close to the fish. Be sure to cast past the spot, let the jig settle to the correct depth and slowly retrieve the jig. Or, use a slip-float and minnow rig. The slip-float allows precise depth control and can be kept on the spot as long as necessary.

Pay attention to current. Crappies are okay with a little current, but too much puts them behind cover and structures. Paying attention to current allows you to better predict where crappies will be located.

### “Float” Continued from page 8

The shirt button pattern is easily adjusted. Depending on the water being fished the split shot can be slid up or down the line to adjust for depth or added and taken away to adjust the amount of weight. Be careful when sliding the shot up and down. Always wet the line first to help prevent the heat created by the friction from compromising line strength.

The “stacked” pattern is as is sounds. Stack a few split shot under the float, and a few just above the swivel attaching the main line and the leader. This is a pattern I will typically use in fast water, the shot stacked by the leader helps get the bait down and into the strike zone, or in colored water where the fish are less likely to spook.

No matter what pattern you use, the idea is to get the bait down to the fish without tipping them off to your presence. Use enough weight to properly balance the float.

Steelhead floats have a bright colored top, if weighted properly that top should be level with the water.

Shot pattern comes down to one thing: confidence.

*Experiment a little, and when you find one that catches you fish use it.*



**Steelhead float fishing tributaries**

Fluorocarbon really changed the game when steelheaders of the 90’s followed their saltwater counterparts and began using it as leader material. Fluorocarbon’s refractive index (the degree of which light bends as it passes through a substance) is almost identical to water, making it nearly invisible.

This along with its incredible strength and abrasion resistance, all while maintaining a very thin diameter, has made it the line

of choice when it comes to leader lines.

This is important because it means that there is no longer a need for ultra-light leaders. Gone are the days of 2-pound test mono leaders replaced by the more invisible, stronger, more abrasion resistant fluorocarbon.

Some do still remain set on the light leader theory, but in my opinion the super light leaders lead to long dragged out fights, and exhausted fish. Exhaust

the fish too much and its chance of survival after being released is slim.

With the heavier lines of today you can put some pressure on the fish without the fear of blowing your lead. I run nothing less than 6-pound-test fluoro, even in crystal clear water. I’ve experimented with all strengths of fluoro and find no difference in hook-ups if I were to drop down to 4- or even 2-pound test. Six pound is just as invisible and allows the luxury of putting pressure on the fish without the fear of leader break.

Six-pound fluorocarbon is the perfect leader weight for most Great Lake steelheading situations but I will even bump it up to 8 or 10 pound depending on water clarity, weather conditions and fish aggressiveness.

I hear a lot of talk of leader length and how to determine the right length.

Like anything else in float fishing it comes down to the water being fished, more specifically water depth. Of the amount of line between hook and float, the majority of it is main line. There is no need to run fluorocarbon this entire distance, instead attach a length of fluoro to the main line using a quality barrel swivel. This fluoro leader can be anywhere from 8 to 32 inches long depending on water clarity.

All of the split shot should be placed on the main line between the

float and the swivel, leaving the fluoro leader bare. Fluoro sinks on its own, so you really don’t need to worry about weighing it down, the split shot above the swivel will accomplish that. Split shot on the leader only places an unnecessary stress point making it more susceptible to breaking.

Of all the things we’ve discussed so far, there is one integral piece I have yet to mention: The Float.

*Without the float we’d be nothing more than bottom bouncing.*

Floats allow us to control the depth of our fishing, keeping our presentations suspended up and off snag infested bottoms, and more importantly keep the bait in the strike zone at all times.

*Steelhead sit in the bottom foot of the water column, but they look up and out, not down. A suspended presentation is always in the right spot.*

There are all kinds of floats available on the market today, so which one is the right one? Great Lakes floats of today took years of development. West coast floats were too large so Great Lake steelheaders experimented with floats from the UK, the pioneers of fishing with a float.

Experimentation led to development of Great Lake specific float styles that are



“Climate”

Continued from page 9

most 11 miles per decade. “The large-bodied sport fishes were the ones that had the largest shifts in their distributions northward,” she said. “For example, smallmouth bass is one of the species that’s expanding north, and now occurring in lakes in northern Ontario that were previously too cold for them.”

Research shows the fish expand their range via human stocking by government agencies or fishing clubs; naturally through connected waterways and drainage networks, and by illegal introductions by anglers and lake residents, or from bait-bucket transfers.

While bass expanding their ranges farther north sounds on its face like good news for bass fishermen, it’s more complicated than that.

In the northern lakes where warm-water predator fish like smallmouth bass are establishing themselves, small prey fish — we’d call them minnows, Alofs said — decline, and are more likely to vanish from lakes. Brook trout also tend to decline, she said, as the bass compete for the same food.

The loss of prey fish not only potentially impacts the cool- and cold-water species of fish already living in northern lakes, it could cause an eventual crash in populations of the bass now gaining a foothold.

“Bass are extremely efficient predators in warm water,” Shuter said. “They pretty much clean up the feeder fish that lake trout also rely upon.”

The vast Great Lakes have more space and habitat range for fish to find a way to limit the impacts of new stresses, but that’s harder for them to do on other lakes, Hansen said.

“Range expansions, when we’re talking about inland lakes, are tricky things to think about,” she said.

Managing a shifting population

How to manage fish populations, and preserve a multi-billion-dollar sport fishery, in the changing environment of the rest of this century will not be simple.

“We’re trying to be proactive as an agency, trying to understand what waters are vulnerable, what species are vulnerable — and likewise, what waters and species are resilient — and shift our management decisions accordingly,” Wehrly said.

“Certainly, as warm-water species become more abundant, that’s what you’re going to catch more of. We have many of those species already in the state. The southern part of the state is already dominated by warm-tolerant species. What we’ll see is just a shift in where that line is in the state.”

The DNR is currently trying to pull together Michigan’s archive of fish survey data from lakes, to look at historical changes over time in a similar way to how Alofs has in Ontario, Wehrly said.

“Fish can act as a canary in the coal mine, and be indicators of environmental problems as they emerge.”

Karen Alofs, assistant professor of applied aquatic ecology at the University of Michigan’s School for Environment and Sustainability

Researchers say the emphasis will become highlighting lakes and rivers better equipped for stressed fish populations to withstand warming waters, and targeting efforts there — “protecting those places we think are going to be the strongholds for many of these species,” he said.

There are some lakes where “it’s clear that the climate is not going to be suitable anymore,” Alofs said,

“If you like bass, things are looking good. But if you like walleye or cisco, things aren’t looking as good.”

Gretchen Hansen, an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota’s Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology

without naming names.

“And then there are some lakes where the climate may be all right, and if we protect these fish from other stresses, like over-exploitation or pollution, we might ensure they can make it through those really warm years,” she said.

Things could become as outside-the-box as lake-by-lake catch limits, Alofs said.

“Targeting bass over walleye in certain lakes may actually favor the long-term viability of the walleye population,” she said. “These are all management tools we are thinking about right now.”

Alofs is also collaborating with Wehrly on examining walleye fry, or juvenile

insula and Upper Peninsula walleye stocks.

“We hope to better understand whether those fish are better adapted to those temperatures, and how temperature might impact the survival of those fish,” she said.

The Great Lakes region’s fish are vital to our way of life, Alofs said — as a sustainable food source, for angling and its impact on the economy, and from a cultural perspective. But our freshwater fish species are more threatened than most of their fellow animals on land or in the ocean, she said.

“They accumulate all of these stresses: climate change, pollution, invasive species, habitat destruction,” she said. “We have less of a body of knowledge to work with to understand the declines of the habitats we see.

Contact Keith Matheny: 313-222-5021 or [kmatheny@freepress.com](mailto:kmatheny@freepress.com). Follow on Twitter @keithmatheny.

2020 Tentative Print Schedule		
Issue	Deadline	Print Date
1	12/12/19	01/03/20
2	02/14/20	03/03/20
3	04/14/20	04/29/20
4	06/15/20	06/29/20
5	08/14/20	08/28/20
6	10/09/20	10/27/20

GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

MSSFA, <i>Publisher</i>	Dennis Eade, <i>Advertising &amp; Sales</i>
Deb Shephard, <i>MSSFA Membership Coordinator &amp; Sales Administrator</i>	Tel: 616-298-8842
Cell: (269) 655-4704	Fax: 616-298-8847
<a href="mailto:mssfamembership@charter.net">mssfamembership@charter.net</a>	<a href="mailto:deneade@charter.net">deneade@charter.net</a>
Laura Kleinheksel, <i>Layout</i>	Bonnie Eade, <i>Accountant</i>
<a href="mailto:laura.glsfn@charter.net">laura.glsfn@charter.net</a>	Tel: 616-298-8842
Stafford Printing, <i>Printing</i>	Fax: 616-298-8847
Greenville, MI	Cell: 616-928-8970
	<a href="mailto:bonnie.glsfn@charter.net">bonnie.glsfn@charter.net</a>

The Great Lakes Sport Fishing News (GLSFN) is the official publication of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen’s Association (MSSFA). Subscription to th GLSFN is through membership in MSSFA. The GLSFN publishes six issues per year. Permission for reprint from this publication is normally permitted, unless otherwise stipulated by the article, and proper credit is given to the author and the publication. The GLSFN or MSSFA does not necessarily agree or support the contents of articles within this publication. The views expressed are those of the author(s) of the articles.

MICHIGAN STEELHEAD AND SALMON FISHERMEN’S ASSOCIATION

Business Office	Tim Stegeman, <i>President</i>
P.O. Box 8034	John Letts, <i>Vice President</i>
Holland, MI 49422	Dennis Eade, <i>Executive Director</i>
Tel: 616-298-8842 / Fax: 616-298-8847	Gerry Sickon, <i>Secretary</i>
e-mail: <a href="mailto:michigansteelheaders.org">michigansteelheaders.org</a>	Joe Montella, <i>Treasurer</i>

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](http://www.MSSFA.org)

**741 RIVERVIEW DRIVE**  
**BENTON HARBOR, MI 49022**  
**(269)925-0341**

**TACKLE HAVEN**  
 741 RIVERVIEW DR  
 BENTON HARBOR, MI  
 (269)925-0341

**EVERYDAY LOW PRICES on RODS, REELS and Tackle**  
**for FISHING the Great Lakes.**  
**Shop Online at [www.tacklehaven.com](http://www.tacklehaven.com)**  
**or call us with your order. We ship Everyday!**

CV 300 \$80.99   CV 450 \$80.99   CV 53L \$99.99

# TORPEDO Fishing Products

Our snap swivels are made with only the highest quality standards. The position of the clasp ensures you will NEVER have a false opening.

Torpedo Ball Bearing Snap Swivels Available in:  
 Size 1 - 40lb  
 Size 2 - 55lb  
 Size 3 - 70lb  
 Size 4 - 90lb

Torpedo Snap Swivels Available in:  
 Size 0 - 20lb  
 Size 1 - 30lb  
 Size 2 - 45lb  
 Size 3 - 60lb

Torpedo Snaps Available in:  
 Size 00 - 15lb  
 Size 2 - 50lb

**Because you deserve the best!**

Dealer inquiries: 226-504-2265 or visit our website for our full selection of product  
**[www.torpedodivers.com](http://www.torpedodivers.com)**



Open  
6AM-10PM  
362 Days  
a Year!



# Northwoods Wholesale Outlet

We Make the Outdoors Affordable!

R.V.  
& Boat  
Parking



**BARNETT**  
TS 370  
**SAVE \$200**  
Reg. \$599.99



**WICKEDRIDGE**  
RDX 400  
**SAVE \$40**  
Reg. \$99.99



**TENPOINT**  
Nitro XRT  
**SAVE \$30**  
Reg. \$119.99

**FREE Crank & Target**  
**\$399<sup>99</sup>**

**Wicked Ridge RDX 400 Crossbow w/Stag Hard Case & Proview Illuminated Scope Upgrade**  
**\$679<sup>99</sup>**  
Case value \$149.99, scope \$199.99

**Complete Outfitters Package!**  
**\$2499<sup>99</sup>**  
**Assembled, Chronographed, Sighted In & Shipping to your Door FREE!**

**SAVE \$40**  
Reg. \$79.99  
**\$39<sup>99</sup>**  
WFS Burly Camo Neoprene Boot  
• Side zipper  
• Natural rubber lower, 5mm neoprene upper  
• Sizes 8-13  
B-RB-408-B-409



**SAVE \$80**  
Reg. \$179.99  
**\$99<sup>99</sup>**  
Lacrosse 4xAlpha Lite 16" Boot  
• Realtree Edge camo  
• 7mm neoprene upper  
• Sizes 6-15  
376106



**SAVE \$9**  
Reg. \$14.99  
**\$5<sup>99</sup> Each**  
Northwoods Custom Printed Fruit-of-the-Loom Sweatshirts



**STEALTHCAM**  
Droptine 14-Megapixel Game Camera  
• Includes 8GB SD card and batteries  
STC-FX12CMOK  
**SAVE \$40**  
Reg. \$99.99  
**\$59<sup>99</sup>**



**FREE**  
5-Lb. Evolved Dirt Bag Attractant  
with 2 game cameras or 2 trail cams purchase.  
A \$12.99 value!



**SAVE \$30**  
Reg. \$119.99  
**\$89<sup>99</sup>**  
Dirt Cam Twin-Pack Combo  
**INCLUDES:** 16 AA batteries, 2 8gb SanDisk Memory Cards



**SAVE \$40**  
Reg. \$59.99  
**\$19<sup>99</sup>**  
Dead Ringer 3-Pk. Crossbow Bolts w/Broadheads  
DR2665



**SAVE \$40**  
Reg. \$59.99  
**\$19<sup>99</sup>**  
Mosquito Repellent Device  
Includes holster & R-1 refill



**SAVE \$80**  
Reg. \$129.99  
**\$49<sup>99</sup>**  
Scent Blocker Axis Midweight Jacket or Pant  
• Sizes M-2XL  
DLWPC-DLWPC



**SAVE \$60**  
Reg. \$99.99  
**\$39<sup>99</sup>**  
Scent Blocker Axis Lightweight Jacket or Pant  
• Sizes M-2XL  
DLWPC-DLWPC



**SAVE \$40**  
Reg. \$129.99  
**\$89<sup>99</sup>**  
Game Hide Chameleon Parka or Bibs  
• Insulated, windproof, waterproof, and reversible  
• Available in Realtree Edge to Naked North Blaze or Realtree Edge to Snow Camo  
• Sizes M-4XL  
17RE1-17RE2-29RE1-29RE2



**SAVE \$60**  
Reg. \$119.99  
**\$59<sup>99</sup>**  
WFS Warpaint Burly Tan Camo Hooded Jacket and Bibs  
WK101-409 WK5101-409



**SAVE \$20**  
Reg. \$49.99  
**\$29<sup>99</sup>**  
Frogg Toggs 2-Pc. Rainsuit  
• Available in Blacktip or Martin  
AP102



**SAVE \$20**  
Reg. \$29.99  
**\$9<sup>99</sup>**  
Sherpa-Lined Full-Zip Hoodie  
• Available in black, navy, or charcoal  
• Sizes M-2XL  
437



**Starting At \$24<sup>99</sup> Each**  
Northwoods "Bad To The Bone" or "Bigfoot" Hoodies  
• Cotton



**SAVE \$6**  
Reg. \$11.99  
**\$5<sup>99</sup>**  
WFS Promo Blaze Orange Hat & Vest Combo  
• M/L or XL/2XL  
CP-499-ORANGE



**SAVE \$20**  
Reg. \$69.99  
**\$49<sup>99</sup>**  
Ameristep Outhouse Ground Blind  
AMEBL1001



**SAVE \$20**  
Reg. \$99.99  
**\$79<sup>99</sup>**  
Rhino Blind 150 Realtree Edge  
R150-RTE



**SAVE \$40**  
Reg. \$179.99  
**\$139<sup>99</sup>**  
Baronett Grounder 350 BT Blind  
GR351-BT



**SAVE \$35**  
Reg. \$69.99  
**\$34<sup>99</sup>**  
Big Dog Pop-Up Ground Blind  
BDGB-100



**SAVE \$6**  
Reg. \$14.99  
**\$8<sup>99</sup>**  
Allen Camo Burlap  
• 12' x 54"  
2366



**SAVE \$5**  
Reg. \$9.99  
**\$4<sup>99</sup>**  
Miller Creek 18" Machete w/Sheath  
12375



**SAVE \$10**  
Reg. \$19.99  
**\$9<sup>99</sup>**  
Mossy Oak Deluxe Cushion  
• 14" x 18"  
MO-DCUSH-BR



**Starting At \$24<sup>99</sup>**  
Galvanized Fire Ring



**SAVE \$30**  
Reg. \$159.99  
**\$129<sup>99</sup>**  
Primal 17' Single Vantage Deluxe Treestand  
PVI-C-316



**SAVE \$30**  
Reg. \$189.99  
**\$159<sup>99</sup>**  
Primal 22' Mac Daddy Deluxe Ladderstand  
PVI-C-316



**SAVE \$40**  
Reg. \$179.99  
**\$139<sup>99</sup>**  
Big Dog 17.5' Red Tick 2-Man Ladderstand  
RDI-J-4R1



**SAVE \$50**  
Reg. \$199.99  
**\$149<sup>99</sup>**  
Big Dog 22' Lancer Pro Ladderstand  
RDI-J-106



**SAVE \$40**  
Reg. \$99.99  
**\$59<sup>99</sup>**  
Big Dog 15' Sky Raider Ladderstand  
RDI-J-091



**SAVE \$20**  
Reg. \$69.99  
**\$49<sup>99</sup>**  
Big Dog 24' Dual Step BDSL-24



**SAVE \$3**  
Reg. \$14.99  
**\$11<sup>99</sup>**  
Big Dog Climbing Sections  
BDCS-100



**SAVE \$40**  
Reg. \$79.99  
**\$39<sup>99</sup>**  
Mahco Outdoors Realtree Camo or Realtree Pink Tail Director's Chair  
DC3038



**SAVE \$23**  
Reg. \$44.99  
**\$21<sup>99</sup>**  
Mahco Outdoors Realtree Camo or Realtree Pink Director's Chair  
DC2241 DC2242



**SAVE \$20**  
Reg. \$89.99  
**\$69<sup>99</sup>**  
Northwoods Deluxe Swivel Arm Chair  
• Black  
HCH-001-BK



**3,000,000<sup>00</sup> BUYOUT!**  
**75% OFF**  
reg. retail



**TowelMaster Roll Y-Key White**  
450ft, 7.4" wide, case pack 12. Reg. \$69.99  
BUY THE CASE (12 rolls/450ft each roll)  
**NORTHWOODS PRICE \$299<sup>99</sup> PER CASE**  
OR  
Reg. \$5.99 each  
**\$299<sup>99</sup> EACH**



**JUST IN!**  
A MUST FOR EVERY DEER CAMP, GARAGE, CAPTER, SHOP, ETC.  
**Towel Roll MAX 2000, X-Key EPA Brown, 700ft, 7.4" wide, case pack 6 \$149<sup>99</sup> PER CASE**  
OR 3 ROLLS **\$9<sup>99</sup>**  
Reg. \$6.99 each



**WHILE SUPPLIES LAST, NO RAINCHECKS**



**229 W 5TH ST., PINCONNING, MI 48650 • NO RAIN CHECKS**  
**OPEN 6AM TO 10PM 362 DAYS A YEAR!**  
**1-989-879-1110 • NORTHWOODSOUTLET.COM**

**Sale Ends 11/21/19**  
**NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PRINTING ERRORS**



2019 Battle Creek Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
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
<p>Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting  <b>NEW Location:</b> Travelers Cafe and Pub, 5225 Portage Rd. Exit 78 off I-94.</p> <p><b>FOR MORE INFORMATION:</b>  River Tournaments –  Ice Tournaments – Justin Kling 491-2980    Lake Tournaments – Greg Peck 998-9407  <b>battlecreeksteelheaders.com</b></p>			

2019 Grand Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Contact Info
January 1 - Nov. 30		Member Year Long Fishing Contest	
November	30	Member Year Long Contest Ends	
December	TBD	Annual Meeting, Recognitions, Dinner	
<p>Other Events TBD</p> <p>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</p>			

2019 Grand Rapids Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
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 **
<p>STC* = Date subject to change  ** = Members and Family Only. (All other events open to the public)</p>			

2019 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Time	Event
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
<p>Membership meetings held at:  3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642  989-496-3410</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Outings: All Steelheader members pay \$5.00. All non-Steelheaders pay \$10.00 to participate.  Children 16 and younger are free.</p> <p>If interested in fishing with us please email: kathy@steel-headers.com. Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com</p>			

2019 Holland Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
November	4	Board Meeting
December	2	Board Meeting
December	5	General Membership Meeting
December	7	Holland Steelheaders River Tournament
<p>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</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>		

2019 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Chair / Location
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	
<p><b>** ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**</b>  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.</p> <p>Contact: <i>President</i> Larry Tabaka 313-215-8979 / <i>Membership Director</i> Henry Nabors 248-225-4964</p>			

2019 South Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
November	21	Board and Membership Meeting
November	23	SHS River Tournament
December	7	SHS Holiday Party 2019 (No Board or membership meeting this month)
<p>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</p>		

2019 Southwest MI Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
November	14	Membership Meeting
December	7	Winter Challenge Tournament
December	12	Membership Meeting
<p>Membership Meetings Held at:  St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks 541, 601 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor MI 49022  <b>Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM, Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM, Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM</b>  Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784</p>		

2019 TCAS Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
November	6	General Membership Meeting
December	7	Christmas Party – Tentative date
<p>Membership Meetings Held at: Traverse City Senior Center, 801 Front St., Traverse City, MI 49686</p>		

2019 Thumb Chapter Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Event	Location / Information
<p><b>Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries.</b></p>				

2019 Thunderbay Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Time	Information
November	4	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
December	2	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
<p><b>Contact Dan Bouchard at dan-bouchard@hotmail.com for inquiries.</b></p>			

2019 White River Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Event information	Location
November	7	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
December	5	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
<p><b>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.</b></p>				



**The Best Place to FISH in the Midwest?**  
**Manistee, Michigan**

**STEELHEADERS Get 10% OFF**  
the Best Selection  
Of Tackle In  
Manistee!

**Insta Launch**  
Campground & Marina  
We Rent Boats!

**The Best Place To Stay & Play In Manistee?**  
**Insta Launch Campground & Marina**  
Cabin & Trailer Rentals • Rustic To Full Hook-Up

20 Park Avenue, Manistee, MI 49660 • 231.723.3901 • www.instalaunch.com



## “Float”

Continued from page 11

now seemingly endless. There are however three major styles that every steelheader should carry.

First let's talk Pencil floats. If you fish long enough it's inevitable that you're going to run into low, ultra-clear water conditions. Enter the pencil float. Designed for stealth, the pencil float is thin and sleek and presents the bait without large amounts of weight, and without casting a fish spooking shadow. When the sun is high, and the water is low, the pencil float is the ultimate in stealth.

Next is the pear shaped float. These floats are short and wide, representing and inverted pear. These floats can handle a considerable amount of weight, and are designed to fish fast water where bulk shot patterns are used to get the bait down quickly. In fast flows, whether shallow or deep, it's hard to beat a pear shaped float.

Finally the Cigar shaped

float. Cigar shaped floats are one of the most versatile float style available to Great Lakes steelheaders. Originally used to fish fast, deep flows the Cigar float can handle a considerable amount of weight while still maintaining the sensitivity needed to detect subtle takes. Even though they were designed with fast deep water in mind, when balanced properly the cigar float can also be used to fish the slow flows; the “frog water.” This range of usability makes it the most versatile float shape, and often saves from having to change float multiple times per outing. The cigar float is the float I start every day with and is usually the float I end the day with.

*Fixed or sliding? Balsa, cork or clear plastic?*

Even after you narrow it down to three styles, there are more options. Now, however, it is a matter of experimenting which leads to confidence and personal preference.

For the majority of my applications I'll use a slip float, like a Drennan Pik-

er, fixed to the line with a toothpick pushed through the center. I've been asked countless times: Why a slip float to the line? Why not just use a fixed float? The answer is simple: In my personal experience most slip floats are easier to balance and track better (floats in the water better) than fixed floats.

There also seems to be much debate between clear plastic versus solid colored balsa or cork floats. I know guys who fish clear plastic exclusively, claiming that the sight of a solid colored float passing overhead will spook the fish. Personally I've never noticed anything to support that theory, but I do fish clear plastics floats almost exclusively for no other reason than personal preference.

*I can't reiterate enough how important it is to experiment.*

Experiment with every aspect of float fishing be it hook size, floats and the amount of weight needed to run effectively, and even the bait you're presenting.

The more experimenting you do the more confidence you will gain. The best steelheaders are the confident ones; the ones that know exactly what to run and when.

Float fishing has taken the Great Lakes by storm in recent years, and its popularity is only going to continue to grow, and for good reason; it is by far the most versatile and most effective steelhead method out there.



Steelhead float bobber options

# Science Ideas For Young Children: Lakes Versus Rivers

By Darren Bagley,  
Michigan State University  
Extension

Michigan is blessed with a great deal of natural water features. In Michigan, you are never more than six miles from a lake, stream or river. You are also never more than 85 miles from a Great Lake. This article is part of a series by Michigan State University Extension about conducting science activities with children in the natural world. This can be done within a family, in a daycare setting, as part of school activities, with a 4-H club or with any group working with young children.

What is the difference between a lake and a river? Most children can come up with the answer quickly.

Rivers are always moving and lakes do not. To quote from the song “Just Around The Riverbend,” “What I love most about rivers is, you can't step in the same river twice, the water's always changing, always flowing.”

Once children understand the primary difference, explore the following questions on what that difference might mean for the lake or stream and the creatures that live in it.

What adaptation might a creature have to be able to live in a river compared to a lake? How might a river fish look different than a lake fish? How might insects living in the river be adapted to that movement of water?

Which do you think would usually be warmer, a lake or a river? Why do you think that? Could you test it? Is it easier for trees to shade a lake or a river? If water is running off a parking lot into a river, how might that change the temperature?

Almost all creatures need oxygen to live, and for aquatic creatures, it is dissolved in the water. How might oxygen levels be different in a lake compared to a river? Usually rivers have more oxygen because the water flowing over rocks increases the oxygen level.

How might pollution behave differently in a river than in a lake? In a river, the water is always moving, so the pollution entering the river at a certain point today will probably be further downstream tomorrow. In a lake, the pollution tends to stay in the lake.

What about food sources in lakes versus rivers? Lakes are more likely to have rooted plants in the water as well as floating phytoplankton to support the food chain. Narrow rivers are more likely to get their food from leaves falling into the river in the fall, and some wider rivers have rooted plants.

With any of these points, there are always exceptions. How might a lake made from a dammed river affect any of the above discussion? Or a big, wide, river that moves very slowly? How might inlets or outlets affect a lake? When a river enters a lake, how might that affect wildlife? Sometimes fish like to hang out at inlets because of the food it brings in or the cooler water.

Enjoy the wonderful waters of Michigan and engage youth in some meaningful science questions while doing it.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>.

## The Original Michigan Sportsman's Show – Now Its Largest Size Ever!



SUBURBAN COLLECTION  
SHOWPLACE  
Novi, Michigan—Detroit Market

**FEB 27-MAR 1**



**Big Buck Night  
Thursday 7-9 pm!**

From exotic hunting trips to family camping trips, you can find them all at the  
**Outfitters Expo**

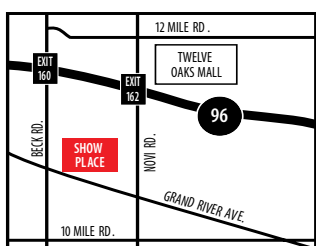
Get the latest in Hunting & Fishing equipment from techs who know how to rig 'em right!



**Fishing Boat  
Supermarket!**



**Timberworks  
Lumberjack Show!**



SUBURBAN COLLECTION  
SHOWPLACE  
Grand River One Mile West of Novi Road

SHOW HOURS:  
Thursday 1pm-9pm Saturday 10am-8pm  
Friday 11am-9pm Sunday 10am-5pm

**Outdoorama.com**

Special Bonus!

FREE Crossover Admission to  
13th Annual  
Cottage & Lakefront Living Show  
- Detroit™  
[NoviCottageShow.com](http://NoviCottageShow.com)  
with Paid Admission to Outdoorama





D&R SPORTS CENTER

(269) 372-2277

8178 West Main Street  
Kalamazoo

Shop Online @ DandRSports.com

Mon, Tues 9 am - 6 pm; Wed - Fri 9 am - 8 pm; Saturday 9 am - 5 pm; Sunday 10 am - 4 pm

FISHING • HUNTING • MARINE • BOAT SALES

CVA Hunter  
450 Bushmaster  
w/3-9x50 Scope

**SALE**  
\$299<sup>99</sup>



Reg. \$339.99

RUGER FDE .450 Bushmaster  
or 350 Legend

w/Vortex  
3-9x40 Scope

**SALE \$579<sup>99</sup>**

w/Leupold CDS  
3-9x40 Scope

**SALE \$729<sup>99</sup>**



MOSSBERG Patriot  
.450 Bushmaster Bolt Action

w/Tasco Bucksight  
3-9x50 Scope

**SALE \$399<sup>99</sup>**

w/Vortex  
3-9x40 Scope

**SALE \$449<sup>99</sup>**



SAVAGE  
Axis Rifles

Assorted Calibers and Packages  
featuring tons of 350 Models!



**Starting at \$299<sup>99</sup> after  
\$30 mail-in rebate**

BERSA Thunder 380  
Assorted Colors  
- Blue/Black/Purple

**SALE**  
\$229<sup>99</sup>



Reg. \$279.99

SMITH & WESSON  
Shield 40 w/safety 3.125"

+ \$50 additional rebate  
all Shields Oct 14  
to Dec 1

**SALE**  
\$299<sup>99</sup>



Reg. \$399.99

PLANO  
Single Rifle Hard Case



Reg. \$29.99

**SALE**  
\$19<sup>99</sup>

BUSHNELL  
1000yd Rangefinder  
6x power



Reg. \$149.99

**SALE**  
\$99<sup>99</sup>

VORTEX Copperhead  
3-9x40 Riflescope



Reg. \$139.99

**SALE**  
\$119<sup>99</sup>

SIG SAUER  
Kilo 850 Rangefinder



Reg. \$189.99

**SALE**  
\$149<sup>99</sup>

FEDERAL  
Fusion 3" Sabot Slug 12ga

**SALE**  
\$7<sup>49</sup>



Reg. \$14.99

HORNADY Black  
or Custom .450 Bushmaster  
Ammo

**SALE**  
\$29<sup>99</sup>



Reg. up to \$34.99

LACROSSE 16"  
4X Alpha Rubber/7mm  
Neoprene Camo Boot

**SALE**  
\$119<sup>99</sup>



Reg. \$139.99

RHINO 150  
Hub Style Blind  
in Realtree Edge



Reg. \$109.99

**SALE**  
\$89<sup>99</sup>

WILDLIFE RESEARCH  
Super Charged Scent  
Killer Spray Combo

**SALE**  
\$9<sup>99</sup>

with mail-in rebate

Reg. \$19.99



Huge selection of scent  
removers from Primos,  
Dead Down Wind, Phaze,  
Wildlife Research,  
Scentlok and more!



Hunting apparel by Sitka, Scent-Lok,  
GameHide, World Famous, LaCrosse,  
Muck, DryShod and more!

**END OF SEASON SALE**

Huge sales on kayaks by Jackson,  
Bonafide, and NuCanoe

+

Save on trolling motors, electronics,  
rods, reels and more!

Our Big Buck Contest is going on now! Bring your deer in to be scored and entered for  
a chance to win up to a \$100 D&R Sports gift card! See website for rules and details.