



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

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What It Took To Win The Grayling Fish Farm Case

By Tom Baird

Last fall the Anglers of the Au Sable successfully settled the Grayling fish farm case. After five years and hundreds of thousands of dollars, we were able to buy out the operator and take over the old fish hatchery. The pollution will stop, and the hatchery will be returned to its prior status as a tourist attraction and educational facility. The story of how a flow-through

fish farm was allowed to discharge excessive pollution just upstream from the famed Holy Waters of the Au Sable River, and how we were able to stop it, taught us some valuable lessons. Crawford County had been operating to old Grayling fish hatchery as a tourist attraction for years. It had obtained the facility from the state, subject to restrictions on its use: recreational and historical

purposes only. They were losing money, so the county leased the property to Harrietta Hills Trout Farm. In return for keeping the tourist attraction open in the summer, HHTF was allowed to operate a commercial fish farm, which would result in massive pollution from phosphorous and suspended solids (fish feces and feed), adverse environmental effects, increased risk of disease, a reduction in the fishery, and related

economic damages. **Lesson #1:** state agencies will not always protect the resource. DNR Director Keith Creagh signed a deal with HHTF and the county stating that a fish farm was consistent with the use restrictions, and waiving the DNR's right to enforce them. (A judge later found that agreement was illegal.) The DEQ issued a pollution discharge permit allowing dangerously high discharges into the river. (The permit was based on bad data, ignored other data altogether, used poor methodology, and ignored



Au Sable River

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Photo Credit: Nick Godwin

Top 5 Ways To Improve Your Center Pin Fishing

By Roger Hinchcliff

A Center Pin, what? Or what kind of reel is that? Is that a Fly Reel? These reels may look like a Fly Reel but a Pin Reel is nothing more than a spool that holds the line and spins freely on a

shaft with no drag system. I used to get those questions from a lot of people but not as much anymore. The Center Pin Fishing technique that is growing BIG TIME here in the Great Lakes and Out West. The word is out, this fishing reel is a deadly

tool. A set up that produces results and gives us the Ultimate in Float Control. The secret is all in the drift and controlling the

“Center Pin”
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The Sea Lamprey Battle Continues! (Not Everyone Knows That)

By Jill Wingfield

If you are familiar with MSSFA, you are likely aware of the sea lamprey, a parasitic “vampire” fish that invaded the Great Lakes through shipping canals in the early 1900s. Before sea lamprey control

began in the 1950s, the invader destroyed more than 100 million pounds of fish annually, as much as five times the fish harvested by humans. Today, thanks to an aggressive control program, sea lamprey populations have been slashed by 90% to 95% in most areas

of the Great Lakes. We lose fewer than 10 million pounds of fish annually to the sea lamprey. Although that is still a lot of fish, it is nowhere near the hem-

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Our Andronomous Calendar

By Jim Bedford

Michigan river anglers can find anadromous trout and salmon in our Great Lakes tributaries during all twelve months of the year. Beginning with late winter we will take you through the whole anadromous year with tips on rivers, timing and tactics. As we wait for spring to arrive in earnest we can catch steelhead that entered their natal or planted streams in the late fall. We'll have more on that at

the end of this article. The earliest spring steelhead runs occur in southwestern Michigan and will usually begin in March. This is principally a latitude thing as spring gets a slightly earlier start here. The weather plays a big role on when the runs begin. The St. Joseph River is the focal point of steelheading in Michigan's banana belt. Nearby smaller rivers like the Galien and Black (South Haven) will warm up sooner than the St. Joe and may have slightly earlier runs. Below

the dam in Berrien Springs is a good place to start on the St. Joe and the Dowagiac River near Niles and the Paw Paw River near Water-vliet are good tributaries if the big river is too high or you prefer smaller rivers. Steelhead runs proceed to develop as we travel north along Lake Michigan. Next in line are the Kalamazoo River and its tributary, the Rabbit River. Then the Grand gets going with the Sixth Street Dam and its lowest tributary, Crockery Creek having the earliest action. More inland tributaries like the Rogue and Flat Rivers follow.

As we move up the coast you should now have the idea water temperature is the key to timing of the steelhead runs. The next group of rivers to host spring runs of steelhead are the Muskegon, White and Pentwater Rivers. Even though the Muskegon is the most southerly it takes a while for the impound-

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Terri Bedford with a deer season steelhead



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MSSFA PRESIDENT

Tim Stegeman

It is an honor and privilege to be elected president of MSSFA for the coming term. I've been a member of the association for a long time and it's exciting for me to take the helm and lead the management team as we begin the New Year. I may not know all of you personally, but from what I have observed over the years, you've done some amazing work carrying out MSSFA's mission. Whether it's been the river clean up events, the veterans' fishing outings, the focus on youth, Salmon in the Classroom, tournament sponsorships or community involvement projects, you have demonstrated your commitment to protecting, promoting and enhancing sport fishing in the Great Lakes Basin.

As a past board member and president of the South Haven chapter, I understand the challenges that chapter

leadership encompasses. When approached about running for this position, I had three significant interests: to continue the compelling vision of protecting sport fishing, to capitalize on the great capabilities and opportunities we have to enhance the association and to work with great people who all love fishing.

In my view, MSSFA mission is as relevant today as when we organized in 1971 and as important now as it was then. My initial view of our capabilities is mixed. We do some things very well and some things we could do better. But it isn't anything that cannot be improved. Our future is within our control and I look forward to engaging with all of you to improve our capabilities together.

Starting out in 2019, I am going to work with the MSSFA Board of Directors

to assess our strategy and operations before we consider making any changes. The first step will be to prioritize any new goals for the organization. I have asked each chapter director to submit a list of goals that are important to them from both the state and the chapter's perspective.

I truly look forward to working with all of our great volunteers on these priorities. We have a group of committed people who once priorities are established, will work together for the common cause. We will work as a team. Reaching our goals will require continued individual excellence and collaboration.

Protecting sport fishing has become more dependent on having a voice in Lansing with our legislators and working with the agencies on fishery priorities. We have an executive

director who does that job well but he needs each of us to engage from time to time with legislators. We need to pick up the phone when necessary or email our representatives to support or oppose certain legislation.

Even with the passing of the gavel, I am pleased that Dr. Ken Merckel will remain on the board as Past President and Director from the Thumb Chapter. Ken served three terms as MSSFA's President and has been and continues to be a tremendous advocate for the sport fishery. On behalf of the board, all officers who have served on the board over the years and the membership, I would like to thank Ken for his service and dedication to the association.

To all new as well as long time members of MSSFA, I just want to remind you that MSSFA was



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

formed to be an advocate for Salmon and Steelhead fishing (sport fishing in general). To continue to be relevant we must set and accomplish our mission goals,

protect our natural resources from threats, and not forget what attracted us to the sport in the first place---the fun of fishing!

"Calendar"

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ments in this river to warm up in the spring and you will usually see earlier runs in the White River. Continuing north expect the runs to develop in the Pere Marquette, Manistee, Little Manistee, and Betsie Rivers.

On the east side of the Lower Peninsula the runs are usually slightly later than the west side rivers of the same latitude. The Huron is usually the earliest with rivers like the Clinton and Belle being delayed a bit because of the time it takes to warm the Detroit River. From there it is pretty much by latitude with



Close-up of a trophy winter steelhead (17.5 pounds)

Mill Creek, Rifle, and the East Branch of the Au Gres hosting runs that peak at least a week later than those directly across the state.

Look for runs to peak next in the Boardman, Jordan, and Elk on the west side and the Au Sable, Ocqueoc, and Sturgeon

flowing into Lake Huron. Because of its many impoundments the Au Sable usually hosts the latest run of steelhead in the Lower Peninsula. Good numbers of steelhead are almost always present below Foote Dam well into May.

Runs in Upper Peninsula Lake Michigan tributaries like the Black, Manistique, Sturgeon, Whitefish, Escanaba, Days, Ford and Cedar River will usually occur about the same time as those in the northern tip of the Lower Peninsula. Likewise for the steelhead running the Carp River that flows into Lake Huron. Peak migrations in Lake Superior tributaries like the Two Hearted, Blind Sucker, Carp, Chocolay, Huron, Ontonagon, Jumbo, Presque Isle and Black Rivers will be one to two weeks later. In an average spring early May is the time for steelhead in the far north.

The last chance location for spring steelhead is the St. Mary's River. As the outlet of Lake Superior this river takes a long time to warm into the 40s and in most years the steelhead run doesn't peak in the rap-



Tony Pagliei with lake run brown

ids of the St. Mary's until late May or early June.

June is probably the toughest month to connect with migrants from the Great Lakes. Summer steelhead can begin their run in late May or any time in June. It's those years when they get off to a late start that makes fishing tough in June. The prime rivers for summer steelhead are the St. Joseph and Manistee.

New pulses of summer runs can occur throughout the summer when we have cool, rainy weather. Planted summer steelhead tend to stray quite a bit so nearby streams to the planted river will often get runs, especially when they are cooler than the planted river. Examples are the Betsie and Little Manistee near the Big Manistee and the Galien and Middle Branch of the Black near the St. Joseph. A wild run of summer steelhead has developed in

the Pere Marquette and this may be happening in other rivers.

Atlantic Salmon numbers are expanding with additional smolts being raised in our hatcheries. They enter the St. Mary's rapids in June but all other planting sites are in either warm water rivers or ports. This avid river angler firmly believes another stocking site needs to be developed in a stream cold enough to allow a summer river fishery.

When chinook salmon were first introduced they all ran in late September and October. Now, after the many generations of wild chinook that have been produced in our cooler tributaries, these fish begin their migration as early as late June. The earliest run usually occurs in the Little Manistee River and it is not unusual to have fishable

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

Happy New Year!

What a tumultuous time for sport fishermen in Michigan. As I write this, we have five more days left in the "lame duck" legislative session in the Michigan House and Senate. Bills have been introduced these past twelve weeks that threaten our wetlands, waters of the Great Lakes, and the protection of sport fish from commercial har-

vest. SB1145, sponsored by out-going Senator Tom Casperson from Escanaba, would have allowed b-catch of lake trout in Lake Superior and Lake Michigan under a state commercial fishing license. It passed in the Senate and was assigned to the the Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Committee in the House for consideration. Thankfully, members of the

house standing committee listened to their constituents and members of our sport fishing community and chose not to move the bill. Now we can concentrate on collaborating with the new legislature in January 2019 to develop a comprehensive commercial fishing statute that addresses all the stakeholders concerns.

SB1211, also sponsored by Casperson, redefines protected wetlands, impoundments, intermittent streams and could deregulate half of the wetlands in the state. Developers see this bill as means to commercialize these areas for any number of agricultural or commercial ventures at the risk of important ecological functions and

society values. The bill is currently assigned to the Committee on Michigan Competitiveness in the House. SB1211 met with formidable resistance from the conservation community. In the end we prevailed; the deregulation language was stripped from the bill, leaving only permitting language and enforcement modifications when the bill was passed.

HB 6465, a more acceptable version of the Ballast Water Bill HB 5095, which Governor Snyder vetoed earlier, passed in the Senate and we will soon know if the Governor signed it into law. The good news is that it requires that a vessel discharging ballast water in Michigan's waters

must employ a ballast water treatment method approved by the Department of the Environmental Quality (DEQ). This provides more assurance that the risk of introducing new aquatic invasive species can be averted.

Bottom line, the "lame duck" session of the legislature needs to be eliminated. In an editorial, which appeared in the Dec. 6 edition of the Times Herald (Port Huron), "Waiting until January to take office is an archaic leftover from a horse-and-buggy era. We must amend the state constitution to eliminate the lame duck session by eliminating lame ducks. The legislative session should end when lawmakers begin

campaigning for re-election. And the new session should start immediately after the general election in November."

Dr. Howard Tanner launched his new memoir "Something Spectacular" in December and we are encouraging all MSSFA members to support the book's introduction by buying copies on line at msu-press.org



"Center Pin"

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float. How many times have you heard that? The true current speed and delivery is the key to getting bit. That's why Center Pins Rock, they deliver a drag free drift at longer distances and cover lots of water. Below are some tips to get you started on putting a whooping on your buddies and the FISH!

1. Pay attention to your drift and allow it to drift with the natural flow of the current. If your bobber is ticking that means you're too deep. Reel in and adjust your float by inches at a time. Pay attention to your float facing up stream or down? Your float is telling you what your offering is doing underwater. The bait has to be moving at the right speed. If it's moving too fast and at the wrong current speed equals no bites. Try a tapered shot pattern, this allows the bait to swing way ahead of the float. The fish only see the bait if you do it right. This helps catch more fish that may have already been educated.

2. Watch your line and mend often if need be. If your line is going ahead of your float, you need to mend and slow that presentation down. The line should be behind the float and straight as possible. Again, current speed is crucial. The fish know how fast that meal should be moving. Learn to trot your float by starting and stopping the pin reel spool by using a finger on the spool. You're simply slowing the spool and line down while it comes off the reel. By doing this the slack line straightens out and causes the bait to rise up and sometimes entices the fish to bite. Remember the surface current is faster than the bottom current. Basically, you're stopping the float and reel through-

"Center Pin"

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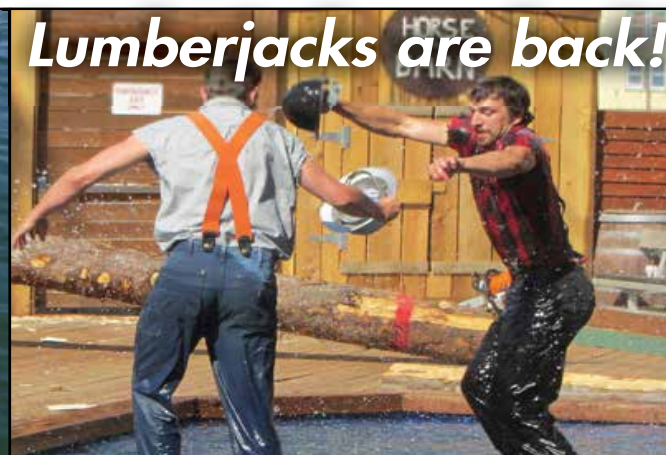
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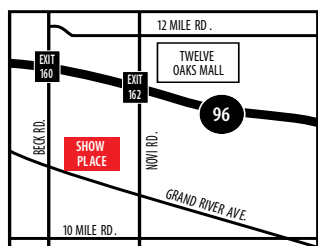
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THE MICHIGAN STEELHEAD & SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE QUALITY OF FISHING REFLECTS THE QUALITY OF LIVING!

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

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

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

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

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

THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS (GLSFN)

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

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

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

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

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

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Coho Salmon Will Again Be Stocked In Lake Huron



Above: Sabatino Rickey with a Great Lakes Coho Salmon

By: Randy Claramunt,
Lake Huron Basin Coordinator, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources – Fisheries Division

On April 28, 1989 a total of 75,000 coho salmon were released in Lake Huron at Tawas by the DNR and it was the last time that coho were stocked in the lake. During the 1980’s, alewife populations levels were robust and Chinook salmon were chosen over coho based on their growth and preference by anglers. Fast forward 30 years and managers have seen dramatic changes in the prey fish assemblages in the Great Lakes. Prey fish are smaller and becoming scarce, mainly from invasive species impacts (e.g., quagga mussels) on nutrient flows in the food web. Concurrent with those changes, Chinook salmon populations have decreased while their smaller and shorter

life span cousins, the coho salmon, appear to be increasing. Coho salmon will consume a more diverse array of prey items and have been found to quickly compensate their growth based on the productivity of the lake. For example, an age 1 coho jack returning to the weir can be as small as 10 inches or as large as 20 inches depending on how good growth conditions were the summer after it was planted. In addition to having a more diverse selection of prey than Chinook salmon, coho have been supporting a modest fishery in Lake Huron even without being supported by stocking. Particularly interesting to anglers and fisheries managers is the number and condition of coho salmon showing up in the spring fishery in southern Lake Huron. Limit catches were being reported and the fish appeared healthy and in good condition. To build on that trend and in cooperation with anglers, stakeholders and the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee (LHCFAC), the DNR is planning on stocking up to 100,000 coho in Lake Huron in the spring of 2019...exactly 30 years since the last time this species was stocked there. Over the course of the few months, the DNR

will work with anglers and stakeholder groups to develop a stocking strategy to maximize the success of the stocking with the goal of providing additional fishing opportunities. The stocking of coho salmon is significant, not only from the long history of Lake Huron as providing unique fishing opportunities, but also from the aspect that fisheries managers and anglers are working hand-in-hand to maximize fishing opportunities including shore or boat angling and a variety of species to fish for including perch, walleye, bass, salmon and trout. To maximize salmon fishing opportunities in a sustainable way, representatives from the LHCFAC are working with the DNR on a Salmon and Trout Management Plan covering not only the stocking of coho salmon, but optimizing other opportunities including fishing for Atlantic salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead and lake trout. Coho salmon will once again become part of the Lake Huron’s shared vision to manage for a sustainable and diverse salmon and trout fishery that maximizes the lakes production potential to provide exceptional fisheries for communities across the lake.



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2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at MUCC Offices 2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI – 7:00 P.M.
Saturday April 20, 2019 at Michigan Historical Museum 701 Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI – 10:00 AM
Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at MUCC Offices 2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI – 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at MUCC Offices 2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI – 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at MUCC Offices 2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI – 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at MUCC Offices 2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI – 7:00 P.M.

SMOKED SALMON

READY IN: 5hrs 15mins
SERVES: 20

INGREDIENTS:
3 lbs salmon fillets
1/2 cup salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
3/4 cup sugar
3/4 cup brown sugar
1 quart water
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
1/8 cup honey
1/8 cup molasses
1 teaspoon sesame seed oil

DIRECTIONS:

- Cut fillets into 1 inch wide strips.
- Prepare brine solution and place in a non-metallic container.
- Add salmon strips to brine and refrigerate for 4 to 6 hours.
- Rinse fish in cold water and refrigerate overnight to dry.
- Spray smoker racks with cooking spray (PAM).
- Fasten foil under racks to prevent dripping.
- Place salmon on racks leaving room between strips.
- Smoke for 4 to 5 hours rotating racks top to bottom half way through the process.



Photo Credit: www.alaskagoldbrand.com

Recipe by Roger, OH Source: <https://www.geniuskitchen.com/recipe/smoked-salmon-170182>



Raceways at the Grayling Fish Farm attract visitors all summer long.

Fish Farm
Continued from page 1

the adverse economic consequences that would result from pollution of the river and reduction of fishing and tourism.) The county leased the property to HHTF for \$1 for 20 years, and did not even require adequate insurance or a performance bond. MDARD was only too happy to issue a license for an aquaculture facility.

Lesson #2: there are powerful groups out there willing to sacrifice our natural resources just to make a buck, and they have friends in high places. The market for fish is expanding. Aquaculture was seen

as “the next big thing.” The Grayling fish farm was a step in that direction. It was to be followed by massive net pens in the Great Lakes. All of this was supported by the Farm Bureau, MSU Extension Service, NOAA Sea Grant at the University of Michigan, the Michigan Aquaculture Association, and others.

Lesson #3: sometimes you just have to sue. Our opponents are powerful, well connected, and used to getting their way. The courts are sometimes the best antidote for a sick political system. In the fish farm matter, we actually filed two cases. The first was an administrative appeal in DEQ. We

were joined by the Sierra Club. The scope of the case was narrow, being limited to the clean water laws, and we knew we would lose the early rounds and need to appeal to circuit court, which we did. We also filed a separate lawsuit claiming violations of the Michigan Environmental Protection Act, the Public Trust Doctrine and the use restrictions mentioned above. Both cases were filed in Crawford County Circuit Court. The judge ordered mediation, and that is what led to settlement.

Lesson #4: to win these cases takes organization and money. Over the years the Anglers of the Au Sable

has built a strong all-volunteer organization. We now have over 1,400 members and contributors. Our board of directors includes attorneys, accountants, biologists, habitat specialists, ecologists, communications experts, teachers, fundraisers, property owners and political folks who know their way around Lansing. We were formed to protect the crown jewel of trout streams in Michigan. The Au Sable is the number one trout fishing destination east of the Mississippi. In other words, people care about the river, and they are willing to give time and money to defend it. In the end, we raised over \$600,000

for attorneys, expert witnesses, litigation costs, and settlement. It seems ridiculous that groups like ours need to go to these lengths to protect the resource, but times have changed.

Lesson #5: you can’t do it alone. This was a political problem as well as a legal case. With the advent of net pens, the threat was getting involved: proposals to weaken environmental standards for fish farms, and to transfer authority to MDARD, were introduced in the legislature. We needed to mobilize, and both the conservation and environmental communities stepped up, big time. The “hook and bullet” crowd included the MSSFA (thank you!), Michigan Trout Unlimited, and MUCC. The “tree huggers” included MLCV, MEC, FLOW (For Love of Water), Sierra Club (which joined in the litigation), and the NWF. Major donors came from both groups, which also provided expertise and political clout. And this is the short list. Among other things, we were able to pool our resources to educate the public and government leaders about the problem, and we defeated the pro-aquaculture bills that had been introduced in the Michigan legislature.

Things are quiet on the aquaculture front right now. But these organizations have a vested interest

in using our land and water to grow food and make a profit. There is nothing wrong with that as a general proposition. The Anglers did not oppose aquaculture, we just insisted that it be done right, without damaging the resource. But our opponents don’t share that ethic. They will be back, and if we don’t have the organization, political power, money and friends willing to step up to the plate, we will be steamrolled before we know what hit us.

Clean water and sound management of our natural resources are the keys to our sport and the recreational fishing industry. I can’t stress this enough: conservation and environmental groups need to get better at working together. We’ll have our differences, but they are far outweighed by our common interests in healthy sustainable natural resources. The Grayling fish farm case is proof positive of that.

Thank you for all you have done. We could not have prevailed without help from the Steelheaders and all the other groups that took a stand. Keep up the good work! I’m sure we’ll be collaborating again in the future.

– Tom Baird, *Anglers of the Au Sable* Past president, current chair of the Legal and Government Affairs Committees

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

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MSSFA, *Publisher*
Barbara Aalderink, *Editor in Chief*
Cell: (616) 724-7191
barb@fusiongraphicconsultants.com

Dennis Eade, *Advertising & Sales*
Tel: 616-298-8842
Fax: 616-298-8847
deneade@charter.net

Bonnie Eade, *Accountant*
Tel: 616-298-8842
Fax: 616-298-8847
Cell: 616-928-8970
bonnie.glsfn@charter.net

Laura Kleinheksel, *Layout*
laura.glsfn@charter.net

Stafford Printing, *Printing*
Greenville, MI

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MICHIGAN STEELHEAD AND SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Business Office
P.O. Box 8034
Holland, MI 49422
Tel: 616-298-8842 / Fax: 616-298-8847
e-mail: michigansteelheaders.org

Tim Stegeman, *President*
Jim Vander Maas, *Vice President*
Dennis Eade, *Executive Director*
Gerry Sickon, *Secretary*
Joe Montella, *Treasurer*

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

“Center Pin”
Continued from page 3

out the drift to slow the presentation down. You will be amazed how many more bites you'll get, rather than just let her go down the pipe.

3. Use the right size float and shot based on the river size and current conditions. By having the right sized float for the job means a stable float that will track well through the drift. Depth is so crucial. Consider using micro split shots on your leader line to ensure the bait is getting down. The Steelhead always tends to be near the bottom. The bottom is the sweet spot, remember that. If your bait is not in the strike zone equals a missed opportunity. A lot of guys are too worried about snagging bottom. Remember the Angler that loses the most hooks, flies or jigs is the guy that catches the most fish.

4. Always check the water flow, water clarity and amount



Photo Credit: Nick Godwin

of sunlight before deciding what colors and sizes you're going to use. If the water is low and clear than smaller baits and jigs in pale colors. If the water is dirty, then use bigger baits with brighter colors. If the river or the faster river currents are giving you wind ripple, then always use a fluorescent color. The Light refraction isn't as concentrated when you have water ripple and the refracted light is scattered through

out the water column. By using the brighter colors, it allows them to see your offering better.

5. Bait quality is actually the most overlooked item I think by a lot of Anglers, even seasoned guys. You will spend thousands on rods, reels, tackle, clothes, travel and equipment. But not use a quality bait. Always use fresh cured spawn that was handled, bled and stored

correctly. Choice bait for the float fishermen equals more fish at the end of the day period.

I hope these tips will make you a better float fisherman whether you fish a Center Pin or not. Try these 5 steps and you will be pulling on some Fresh Chrome this season.

Bobber Down and Fish On!
– Roger Hinchcliff

“Calendar”
Continued from page 2

numbers of chinook present in early July. The northwest part of the Lower Peninsula is home to the rivers that have the best early runs of chinook. The Pere Marquette has the best run but

you will find good numbers of fish in the White, Manistee, and Betsie Rivers in August. Probably the last week of August and the first week of September is prime time for these fish.

In warmer rivers like the Grand, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph the chinook run

when the water temperature drops into the 60s. This usually happens early in September but last year we had to wait until late in the month. Peak numbers of chinook will be present in all of our rivers in late September. Some new fish will arrive in October and you can still catch kings in November.

Pink salmon have the narrowest run time with most of them entering their natal stream in September. Lake Superior and northern Lakes Michigan and Huron tributaries continue to be the best for these fish. The St. Mary's Rapids and the Carp River near St. Ignace are two of the top places to catch these salmon. They may show up just about anywhere, though, as they have been very successful in adapting to the Great Lakes.

The September overlap continues with migratory brown trout. The main run of these fish occurs in late September through October but it seems like a few run in early September every year. Runs of brown trout

will continue into November with most spawning occurring in late October and early November. A special characteristic of these big trout is that they remain in the river after spawning through the winter.

The best rivers for anadromous brown trout are the St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, Grand, Manistee, and Betsie Rivers on the west side of the Lower Peninsula and the Thunder Bay, Au Sable, East Branch of the Au Gres and Rifle Rivers on the sunrise side. Browns will also be found in other tributaries to Lakes Michigan and Huron in both peninsulas.

Coho salmon also begin their migration in September but peak in October in most streams. These salmon are now only planted in Lake Michigan streams with the Platte, Grand, and St. Joseph receiving the largest numbers. But there are a number of naturally producing populations in other rivers that flow into Lake Superior and Lake

“Calendar”
Continued on page 17



Author Jim Bedford with an early spring steelhead

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“Sea Lamprey”
 Continued from page 1

orrhage of fish the region experienced before control. Today, the fishery is worth at least \$7 billion annually. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission, with its partners the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, delivers the control program. Primary control methods include lampricides, barriers, and traps. (A wealth of information about sea lampreys and control is at www.sealamprey.org) Despite the fact the

also present a challenge for the future of control in that people often think the sea lamprey problem has been “solved” and, therefore, action is no longer necessary. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Sea lampreys are resilient beasts—they have survived four major extinction events after all—and the minute we take our foot off the gas, even briefly, they bounce back with a vengeance. Why are we so concerned about sea lampreys? Because they kill lots of fish given the chance. The sea lamprey—using its

tem itself depends upon it. Without sea lamprey control, the Great Lakes and its fishery would not be what we enjoy today. One way the Commission’s communication program seeks to keep people aware of the on-going sea lamprey problem is to take our story (and live sea lampreys) on the road! The Commission’s overall message is a cautionary one: It’s about the need to prevent invasive species from entering the lakes in the first place. Beyond that, if we wish to maintain the upper hand



GLFC Commission Chair, James McKane, educating the younger generation!

Photo credit: T. Lawrence

Commission has been around for nearly seventy years, we often hear: “Sea lampreys? I thought that problem was solved decades ago.” In one respect, that’s true – sea lamprey populations are a small fraction of their peak in the 1950s. In fact, the Great Lakes sea lamprey control program is one of the most successful invasive species programs in the world. Sure, this is a point of pride for those involved with the program, but the fact it is such a success can

tooth-filled mouth—rasps holes into fish and drinks their blood and fluids. Each sea lamprey destroys up to 40 pounds of fish in 12-18 months. As they spread throughout the Great Lakes in the mid-1920s and 1930s, they devastated the region’s commercial and recreational fisheries, and the accompanying lucrative tourism industry. The sea lamprey invasion story is an essential one to tell and keep telling, because the Great Lakes fishery and the ecosys-

against the sea lampreys’ destruction, control must be aggressive and ongoing, as current technology will not lead to eradication. Control would not be possible without strong support from legislators in the United States and Canada, so our elected officials must understand the need to prioritize the control effort. What does a typical outreach schedule look like? Throughout the year, Commission staff and advisors, and lamprey control partners from the U.S. Fish



GLFC Display_Cleveland Boat Show: credit A. Miehl, GLFC
 Small tabletop display: credit J. Wingfield, GLFC

“The commission has two sizes of displays to accommodate different venues. Both contain information about the sea lamprey control program and contain a tank of live sea lampreys.

and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, talk to tens of thousands of people so that they may learn about (and see) sea lampreys, interact with control personnel, talk to angler-volunteers, and take home information to help share their newfound knowledge. The importance of outreach and education can’t be overstated. The Commission and its partners rely on well-informed re-

source-users and the public to recognize that our work is necessary to protect and improve the \$7 billion fishery. During the previous several decades, the Commission has attended hundreds and hundreds of events throughout the Great Lakes basin to talk directly with people of all ages and from a variety of communities – not just anglers – about sea lampreys and the successful control program. The Commission’s booth

is a big hit mainly because it includes a tank of live sea lampreys. The lampreys speak for themselves. Those who see a lamprey up close for the first time experience an incredulous awe. For more experienced anglers, who see lampreys more regularly, the visuals rarely get old. Visitors to the Commission display are given a chance to view the vampire-like mouth

“Sea Lamprey”
 Continued on page 9

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Above: Sam Moore Family, Toronto Sports Show

Photo credits: A. Miehl, GLFC

The sea lamprey booth – especially the tank of live sea lampreys – attracts, entertains and educates kids of various ages. The Commission has temporary tattoos of the sea lamprey mouth that are always a big hit!

“Sea Lamprey”
Continued from page 8

sticking to the aquarium glass and touch their slimy snake-like bodies. The booth also includes information about how sea lampreys are controlled, along with a few take-home items such as brochures and fact sheets, DVDs, and the very popular sea lamprey tattoo!

The most commonly asked questions and comments that we hear when staffing the outreach display, besides the high-pitched, “Ewww! What are those things?!” include:

"I haven't heard anything in the news about sea lampreys in recent years, so I figured they were not a problem anymore."

"I don't want that to touch me!"

“Those aren’t in Lake _____, are they?”

“Can you eat them?”

"What's being done to control sea lamprey populations?"

“Do they attack people?”

"Can I hold one?"

As funding for Great Lakes environmental issues is threatened and the risk of losing our social license to use lampricides increases, our connections with the concerned, engageable public becomes that much more critical. Ensuring that residents of the Great Lakes basin are aware of the on-going sea lamprey battle is essential to developing and maintaining support for this crucial program.

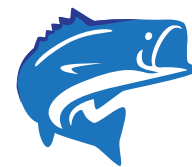
If you live within the Great Lakes Basin, be on the lookout for a Commission sea lamprey booth at a sporting or boating event near you! If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch (email address is below).

All of the Commission's outreach materials are free to the public. Most materials are accessible on the Commission's website [www.sealamprey.



Left: Brittany Butler Hosier, Grand Rapids Sport Show

Photo credit: A. Miehl, GLFC



Below: The Commission has partnered with various aquariums and museums throughout the Great Lakes basin to develop long-term displays. The live sea lamprey exhibit at the Great Lakes Aquarium in Duluth, MN, always draws in a big crowd!

Photo credit: Great Lakes Aquarium_credit GLFC



org]. Predator in Paradise, a 20-minute video about the damage inflicted by sea lampreys and the highly successful control program Commission's YouTube

channel [www.youtube.com/lampreycontrol]. If you are unable to attend an outreach event but are still interested in acquiring some of these materials,

please contact Ted Lawrence, Communications and Policy Associate, at ted@glfc.org or 734-669-3008.



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Habitat Restoration Projects in Southeast Michigan Preserve, Restore 150 acres in 2018

*Projects on the Detroit River
take a break over winter, but more
are planned for 2019.*

**By Mary Bohling,
*Michigan Sea Grant,
Michigan State University
Extension***

Cold weather is settling over the Great Lakes, including connecting waters such as the Detroit River. As construction companies wrap up their 2018 on-water operations until spring, several habitat restoration projects are put on hold. It has been a busy year for habitat restoration in the Detroit River for Michigan Sea Grant and our partners, such as Friends of the Detroit River. Much was accomplished but there is also much left to do when construction season begins in 2019.

Fish Spawning Reefs

A 4-acre fish spawning reef offshore of Fort Wayne was completed by the University of Michigan Water Center, Michigan Sea Grant, US FWS, USGS and other partners. This 2018 project brings the total

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“Restoration”
Continued on page 12

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Scott MacDonald @ 231-690-1102
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Captain Jon Upton and Team *Got Fish?* came out on top in the 2018 MCSFA Budweiser Amateur Division.



Above: Captain Paul Schlafley and Team Riverside won the MCSFA Budweiser Pro Division and the 333 Championship Series in 2018.



Right: Big Fish for 2018! Captain Tim Ervin from Team Legacy boated this 25.95 lb King.

Come Fish Manistee County in 2019

By Mary Bergen

Manistee County continues to have some of the most productive ports on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. From Point Sable (Ludington) to the south and the golf course off Arcadia to the north and the famous barrel hole off Onkama in the middle of our county consistently harvests Chinook, Cohos, Steelhead, Browns and yes, monster Lake Trout throughout the season. Manistee County routinely produces when other ports do not because of our major tributaries such as the Big Manistee, Little Manistee, Pine and Bear Creeks put out hundreds of thousands of natural fish regardless of the DNR or federal plants. With the Sable and Pere Marquette rivers to the South and Betsie and Platte Rivers north, Manistee County is well positioned. The deep water hole that exists off Manistee County

allows for nutrient rich water, filled with bait fish, to be easily accessed by all three deep water ports: Onkama, Arcadia, and Manistee. The close proximity of deep water offshore allows for short runs to the fishing grounds as compared to many other Michigan ports.

One good way to familiarize yourself with Manistee County is to come and participate in an MCSFA (Manistee County Sportfishing Association) event this upcoming June. The MCSFA sponsors tournament week and it starts off with the 26th Annual Kids Fish on June 19th. The event held on Man Made Lake in Manistee, will have over 150 children up to the age of 12. They fish with a parent or guardian for numerous prizes. Each participant receives an event t-shirt.

On Friday, June 21st, the Insta Launch Ladies Classic will take place with pro and amateur boats leav-

ing from Manistee County ports (Manistee, Onkama, & Arcadia). This PRO/AM event where ladies do the catching, pays out cash prizes for placing and for large species.

Next, on Saturday and Sunday, June 22nd and 23rd, the Budweiser PRO/AM takes place. This tripart tournament is a two day event that has a guaranteed payout for numerous place finishes and pays out big species for Kings, Lake Trout and Steelhead. During the three days of tournament fishing, the biggest fish caught overall will be paid an additional \$1,000. This is paid by the Marsh Family Foundation. Also, a second day second chance will be paid in both the PRO and Am divisions of the Budweiser on the second day. Any team who is not leading after the first day, has a chance to win \$500 per division - sponsored by Oak Grove Funeral Home of Manistee.

Also, we are again having the Budweiser affiliate with the 333 Tournament Trail. This means all that enter the 333 will have a chance to win an additional \$10,000 cash and prizes for the two days.

New this year is the FAB 4 concept which links all four Manistee County Tournaments with numerous \$1,000 random prizes awarded at the Monster Mania on September 8th. Captain Fred from Tournament Trail 333 will be rolling out this new FAB 4 concept at the March 14th Ultimate Sports show in Grand Rapids.

Finally, when fishing in Manistee County or if you want to support our group who promotes Kid Fishing, inland lake fishing league, salmon in the classroom, net penning fish, a seat on the Lake Michigan Advi-

sory Committee - consider joining the MCSFA. By joining the MCSFA you will not only be enhancing these programs, but be able to participate in the association's derby that runs from May 25th - September 8th this year. The derby pays our members thousands of dollars in prizes for big fish species: Chinook, Lake Trout, Brown Trout and Steelhead. If you are interested in joining the MCSFA,

sponsoring an event, donating cash or merchandise for our events, please contact us at mcsfa98@gmail.com or 231-887-4474. Check us out on Facebook as well.

In conclusion, make 2019 the year you come and fish Manistee County. You will see why this county continues to produce great catches of kings, coho, steelhead, lake trout and brown trout year after year.

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Great Lakes Bay Region Salmon in the Classroom

By Kathy Card

We wish to welcome the **Robert B. Havens Elementary School**, Saginaw, Mi. to this wonderful program.

Returning this school year are: **Pine River School** in Midland; **Bangor Lincoln Elementary School** in Bay City; **Christa McAuliffe Middle School**.

The teachers are preparing to set up their fish tanks in the classroom and in late Oct. and mid Nov. pick up the salmon eggs. The excitement is generated through out the schools!

Our first time teachers attend a workshop at the Platte River State Fish Hatchery where they are given a tour of the hatchery and attend a class given by the DNR. This class gives

them educational material in which to experience the studying of the salmon life cycle in the classroom.

The program also gives the school a year long opportunity to help students and their families understand that Michigan's public natural resources and lands are managed and regulated by the DNR. It teaches the children to become ambassadors of our lakes and streams to keep them healthy now and in the future. The true owners of our lakes and streams are the people.

Last May, all three schools had an average of 150 fish each. The children care for the fish tanks and feedings throughout the school year. Our members then assist the schools with the releasing of the fish into the wild.



Dr. Ken Merckel Receives Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Ken Merckel was honored for his distinguished service to MSSFA as President for the last seven years and his dedication to the sport fishery over his many years as a Michigan Steelheader. “Doc has always been the advocate for science based management of the Great Lakes fishery”, said president elect Tim Stegeman. “Since his days as a bacteriologist with the Henry Ford Hospital, throughout his career as a dentist and representative on the Lake Huron Citizens’ Fishery Advisory Committee. He has challenged the DNR managers to make the right decisions; not the easy or socially acceptable decisions in managing the resource. His friendships among fishery biologists and hatchery personnel has always given him a more thorough insight into what is really important to the health of ecosystem and stocking decisions. Because of Ken’s insight, MSSFA has been a better advocate for the sport fishery.”

Ken was reelected to three terms as MSSFA’s President. During this time he was selected by Governor Rick Snyder to fill the post as Lake Huron Advisor to the Great Lakes Fish Commission, a role that is the envy of leaders of sport fishing associations across

the sunrise coast of Michigan. He has authored a number of advisory resolutions and been an advocate for lake herring reintroduction.

At the December board meeting, Tim Stegeman said, “Doc may be handing over the gavel, but he certainly has much more to contribute to the board as Past President and Director from the Thumb Chapter and on behalf of the board and all the officers that have served it over the years, MSSFA is presenting you with this award in recognition of your service and dedication to the association and its members.”



President, Tim Stegeman (right) presents “Doc” Merckel (left) with Distinguished Service Award.

“Restoration” Continued from page 9

number of fish spawning reefs constructed through this Detroit River partnership since 2003 to six for a total of more than 15 acres. 2018 also brought great news regarding the use of the constructed spawning reefs. It was the first time that fertilized eggs from the endangered lake sturgeon were found on all constructed reefs in the Detroit River.

Stony Island
 More than 100 acres of coastal and upland habitat were enhanced and protected as a result of this project that was completed in the spring of 2018. The project increases ecological benefits for fish and wildlife including the re-establishment of spawning and nursery habitat for commercial, sport and forage fish species; revitalization of coastal wetlands; and protection of terrestrial resources within the Detroit River watershed. The project included construction of 3,500 linear feet (LF)

“Restoration” Continued on page 14

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IDEAS FOR BETTER ICE FISHING



John Peterson used a glowing spoon to get this walleye to bite.

By Bob Jensen

There are a few concepts for ice-fishing that are really good starting points. If you'll practice these concepts, with minor revisions every time out, you'll be more successful on the ice this ice-fishing season.

In any type of fishing, you need to fish where the fish are. We keep on the fish a couple of different ways depending on how thick the ice is.

Early in the year, the ice is not as thick and the fish are often shallow. When fishing shallow, we'll usually sit on a hole a little longer. Shallow water fish are often spookier than deep water fish because they're so close to the angler. It works well to pop a few holes right away. Some anglers will drill three or four holes, others will make fifteen or twenty. Whatever you choose, get those holes drilled, then let things quiet down. When you're fishing shallow water or on clear ice, if possible, drill your holes where snow covers the ice. The snow will muffle noise and will hide an angler's movement. A little detail, but it can pay big dividends.

As the ice gets thicker, we have more options. We've been spending a lot

of time lately fishing from a CORE ICE shelter. These are like campers with holes in the floor to fish through. They're lightweight but extremely durable and great to fish from. We'll fish inside awhile, maybe heat up some chili or soup, share some stories with our fishing partners, and do the other things that make ice-fishing such a social activity. You can certainly spend an entire day inside the shelter, but every now and then we like to get outside and do some on-foot exploring. We'll drill holes out to maybe a quarter of a mile away. We'll often find schools of fish roaming. In the waters that we fish the most, they'll usually be perch, walleyes, or crappies. We'll move from hole to hole, rarely spending more than two or three minutes per hole unless we see fish on the sonar. This is where sonar plays such an important role in our fishing success.

Modern sonar reveals so much below our hole in the ice. It will show fish, it will show the lure we're using, and it also will show the fish's reaction to that lure. If a fish comes in and eats your lure, great. But often, you'll see a fish come in and just look. If you see a fish looking at your lure,

hold it still and let it eat it. If it doesn't eat it, try giving the bait a quick jerk. Often, that will scare the fish away, but not always. If the quick jerk gets the fish to eat, you now know that that's how they want it. But if it leaves, you've learned that a change in lure size or color is called for. Your lure got the fish's attention, but it just wasn't quite what it wanted. Sonar plays a major role in your ice-fishing success, and Vexilar is the leader in sonar for ice-fishing. They're easy to use and will help you put more fish on the ice.

A Buck-Shot Rattle Spoon is an outstanding ice-fishing bait for a lot of fish. Go with the sixteenth ounce size for crappies or perch, eighth or quarter ounce for walleyes. Glow can be a big deal. The UV Buck-Shot Spoons rattle and glow, and at night or in stained water, those two features are a huge advantage.

As in any fishing, find the fish and give'em what they want. You'll catch more fish and enjoy your fishing even more.

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Steelhead weighing 10.82 lbs. caught by Southwest Steelheader member Todd Brill



Chapter Challenge trophy awarded to Todd Brill, Jim Marohn and Winn Wolf.

South West Michigan Winter Challenge 2018

Conditions were tough for the 2018 Winter Challenge with a strong east wind, rain and poor water clarity. However, 49 fisherman from four MSSFA Chapters took on Mother Nature and won because as we all know “fishing is always good ... it’s the catching part that can be difficult.”

Seventeen steelhead were brought to weigh-in at Babes Lounge with the

largest tipping the scales at 10.82 pounds caught by SW member Todd Brill. As a result, Todd won a spinning rod built by Magnum Custom Rods and also took home the Walt Tober Memorial award for the largest steelhead caught by a SW member. The second place fish was caught by David Sirk (10.48#) followed by Kevin Ouzts (BC 10.17#). Jim Marohn (SW 10.07#) and Winn Wolf (SW

10.02#) rounded out the top five in the biggest fish competition.

The Southwest Chapter retained the Chapter Challenge travelling trophy for the largest three fish totaling 30.91 pounds (Brill 10.82#, Marohn 10.07# and Wolf 10.02#). Battle Creek finished a close second with 27.08 pounds (Ouzts 10.17#, Knoll 8.90# and Ouzts 8.01#). South Haven had one participant, Jim

Taylor, who weighed two fish totaling 8.20 pounds and Holland had one fisherman who did not weigh.

The side bet for the largest three fish caught by a single boat was won by Kevin Ouzts (BC 26.04#) followed by David Sirk (unaffiliated 20.06#) and Jim Marohn (SW 19.69#).

Special thanks to our sponsors Tackle Haven, Fishin Hole, Yakima Bait Company, Magnum

Custom Rods and Babes Lounge. Prizes and hospitality provided by these sponsors made it a special day for all who participated and also allowed the club to make some money on the raffle that was held. Special thanks also goes to club members Ryan McCartney, Joe Montella and Bob Lausman who organized and executed this well run event.

“Restoration” Continued from page 12

of continuous rock shoals and 600 LF of shoal islands with nesting habitat for common terns; 92 habitat structures for mudpuppies, turtles and fish including rock piles, basking logs and woody debris bundles; creation of 50 acres of calm backwater for fish spawning and nursery activity; 10 acres of vegetation management including invasive species control; and protection from erosion for 52 acres of island habitat.

Celeron Island

Habitat restoration on and around the island is currently underway. Construction of 4,000 linear feet of rock shoals will be halted as winter sets in but will begin again in the spring of 2019. When completed in 2019, more than 100 acres of coastal wetlands, hibernacula for snakes, turtle nesting beaches, and common tern nesting areas will have been created.

Detroit Upper Riverfront Parks

Approximately 25 acres of wetlands, upland prairies and other habitat types will be constructed in 2019 at A.B. Ford and Lake-wood-East Parks. In 2018, contractors hired by the US Environmental Protection Agency completed design plans to create habitat for fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians and pollinators. The city of Detroit also recently announced plans to add new playground equipment and other public amenities to the parks.

Milliken State Park

Through National Fish and Wildlife Funding (NFWF) via the Great Lakes Restoration Initia-

“Restoration” Continued on page 21

The Southwest Michigan Steelheaders



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Steelhead can be notoriously finicky, even more so come wintertime. Still, the lack of competition and the potential for a chrome chase right downtown is ample enticement.

By Andrew VanDrie
vandrian@umich.edu.
www.mynorth.com

Gather up the gumption and your cold-weather gear and head to Traverse City for winter steelhead fishing on river frontage devoid of the elbow-to-elbow crowds of the spring run. As the Boardman succumbs to the cold, seek out

the slow, wide pools for potential strikes. Facing falling water and air temperatures, steelhead will slink back into deeper holds. Watch the forecast and target relative warm-ups following a stretch of cold weather to ambush more active steelhead cruising toward traditional river lies. Slow water means small presentation. Stick to

miniscule jigs tipped with waxworms such as size 10 Rat Finkees or Jammin Jigs (see gear tips below). Come equipped with a plethora of colors—chartreuse, orange and pink the go-to staples. In addition to jigs, dime-sized spawn bags are a good standby. Wade into the river with a full 9 to 11 ft. medium-action steelhead rod. A reel

Winter Steelhead Fishing on the Boardman River

spooled with 8 lbs. mono joined by a barrel swivel to a 6 lbs. fluorocarbon leader will offer enough strength without spooking wary steelies. Comb the river with a float set-up. Secure an adjustable balsa float (such as a Sheffield or Blackbird floats) and a 1/8 egg sinker to the mono above the swivel. Tie on a 3–4 ft. section of flouro leader and knot on your jig of choice at the end. The adjustable float will enable you to set the jig depth to get right into the snout of deep-holding steelhead. Hold the rod at a 45° angle to the river surface and follow the drift with the rod tip. Once the float submerges, set the hook and hang on. Steelhead are powerful and will perform impressive aerial displays and line-zinging runs.

Maintain good tension, adjust drag, and reel hand-over-fist when they come back upriver. The objective is to tire them out rather than muscle them to hand. Once you’ve wrestled the steelhead to the net, keep it in the water as much as possible. Unhook with care, let it recover, and watch as it slinks back into a wintery hold.

GEAR TIPS
Steelhead fishing calls for the ability to adjust and improvise—equip yourself with the Steelhead Super Tube Kit from Jammin Jigs. Consisting of 24 jigs in an array of colors and patterns, this is a good starter kit with enough variety to seduce even the most tight-lipped steelhead.



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Advancing the Science of Stream Restoration in Michigan

By Rob Myllyoja

The state-of-the-science of stream restoration has improved significantly in recent years. It has developed to a point where most altered streams can now be restored to mimic natural stream form and functions. In the past few years, sediment transport models and habitat assessment methods have been refined to improve channel form and optimize fish habitat. These methods are just beginning to be implemented in Michigan.

Many of our rivers and streams have been impacted by historic land use practices or direct alteration such as dredging, straightening, and clearing. Best practices change slowly. Even today, there are many direct and indirect stream impacts including poor land use practices, altered riparian vegetation, channelization, abandoned dams and hydraulic structures, under-sized road culverts, and hillslope failures. Recognizing the cumulative effects of recent and historic impacts is part of the challenge in effective field assessment.

Stream stability improvements that support ecological restoration are best achieved at the subwatershed scale. A Restoration Master Plan is an important tool for stakeholders to visualize and communicate proposed work. Such plans often culminate in a list of site-specific projects with a concept design and preliminary budget to plan for implementation as resources become available. Each of these types of improvements may involve different types of design professionals and stakeholders. However, civil engineers, landscape architects, or biologists should work with river scientists to optimize the benefits.

The most important step in developing a plan is to conduct an assessment so that any proposed work will address the underlying causes of problems. Almost a hundred stream parameters can be measured with GPS-grade survey equipment and a comparison of the results can be made with well-functioning “reference” stream reaches. This departure analysis is a systematic way to quantify the difference between study and reference sites. The ability to read the river and diagnose problems is developed by repeatedly measuring and analyzing the change in channel hydraulics, sediment transport, and morphology (size and form) compared to a reference reach. Our assessment tools will continue to be improved as we gain a better understanding of river systems through ongoing post project monitoring and implementation of applied research.

The use of arbitrarily placed fish habitat struc-

tures can seem to provide a localized improvement to a marginal fishery but could often contribute to unforeseen problems if stream hydraulics and sediment transport are not considered. Used alone, in-stream

Natural stable streams are in a state of equilibrium so that they maintain their general shape and size over time without actively downcutting or excessive sediment deposition. Stable streams can maintain appropriate widths and slopes, deep pools, undercut banks, narrow runs, and clean glides for spawning.

structures rarely achieve the optimal results. Instead, stream restoration has begun to shift from riprap, artificial “structures”, and localized piecemeal projects towards a more sus-



tainable ecosystem-based approach. Advancements in the understanding of stream eco-hydraulics, channel-forming flows, and sediment transport have allowed us to quantify the

channel forms and flows necessary to optimize fish habitat for all life stages.

The best riverine habitats typically come from a diverse array of riffle/pool features in balance with wa-

tershed conditions. Restoring streams should involve enhancing natural features such as riffles, runs, glides, pools, or point bars. Riffles provide much of the aquatic insect production

that serve as the base of the food chain. Runs provide deeper feeding lanes for fish to intercept insect drift.

“Streams”
Continued on page 17

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"Streams"

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Pools provide cover, holding water, and over-winter habitat. Glides (the transitional areas between a pool and riffle) are often used for spawning due to the oxygen provided by the rise of the river bed out of a pool. Point bars and off-channel ponds provide shallow rearing habitat areas. We are beginning to incorporate more on-site wood into the construction of each of these features to increase natural complexity and reduce costs.

Restoring the ecological functions of a stream corridor can be complex because we need to consider the form and processes of the stream and its adjacent valley features. The alignment of a creek may need to be re-meandered to maintain the appropriate pool spacing and riffle lengths. Riffle areas may need to be narrowed to reduce the deposition of fine sediment. Floodplain areas adjacent to the stream may require grading or levee removal to connect flows and wetlands for seasonal fish rearing and improving the food base.

The different life stages of target fish species should be a design consideration. Food availability is an important consideration in restoration design because the larger the female trout, the greater the egg production. Juvenile (and fry) need cover and slow moving water with fast water seams to bring macroinvertebrates to them. To this end, we often make use of abundant fallen ash as well as other on-site wood and brush for habitat features. Boulders and overhanging

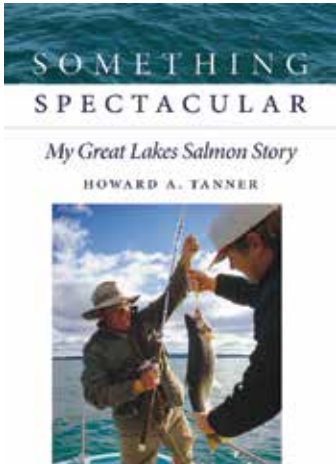
vegetation along the stream margins of the channel will also provide juvenile habitat. Riffle slopes should vary throughout a project such that velocities in runs and the heads of pools are enough to sustain invertebrate drift and maximize juvenile food intake. Shallow side channels and connected, off-channel oxbows are excellent rearing areas and are refugia from larger bodied predators that will avoid shallow water. These areas also maximize the interface between the juveniles and the aquatic/terrestrial transition zone, which increases feeding opportunities.

A good example of this approach is the Belle River in St. Clair County. Following a detailed watershed assessment, restoration is proposed for high gradient areas in the middle of the watershed. Hillslope failures will be stabilized along the edges of the river valley. Historic spoil berms will be removed along some bank areas providing connection to the floodplain and off-channel pike spawning habitat will be created. The deepening of pools will improve winter holding water for steelhead migrations and summer smallmouth bass. Riffle enhancements will add roughness components along the edges of the river and deepen the summer base flows. The work may ultimately link several miles of municipal and county parks. It's an exciting time in the field of river restoration in Michigan.

About the author: Rob Myllyoja is a watershed scientist working with Stantec Consulting's Stream Restoration Team in southeast Michigan. He can be reached at watershedscientist@gmail.com.

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"Calendar"

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Huron as well as additional Lake Michigan tributaries.

Our Great Lakes strain of steelhead begin their fall run in late September but the peak usually occurs in November. Skippers, steelhead that run after only one summer in the lake, make up a big part of the early fall steelhead. Since the steelhead don't spawn until spring there is no urgency for them to run in the fall. Thus the strength of this run varies a lot and ample autumn rains seem to increase their numbers. Larger rivers like the St. Joseph, Grand, Muskegon, Manistee, Huron, and Au Sable usually have the most dependable runs of fall steelhead.

Steelhead continue to move into the rivers in the late fall and winter plus the fall running fish stay in the streams, making them our true year around anadromous species. Fresh runs in the winter are usually not large and are triggered by mild weather and runoff. Steelhead and brown trout will comprise most of your winter catch.

All of our anadromous visitors are on a mission

to procreate their species. Even though some will remain opportunistic and feed to some extent, they are primarily on a spawning run. Thus provoking a strike by invading their territory with a gaudy lure or bright fly is a good plan for all species. Another advantage to very visible lures is that they attract fish from a considerable distance and allow you to cover lots of water fairly quickly. This can be very important when your quarry is scattered in the river. Once you find a concentration of fish then employing eggs or other bait can be very effective.

Always remember that these fish are traveling and orient to the current. Cover is very important to them when they are resting. These fish have left deep water to enter relatively shallow rivers and will seek logs, overhanging vegetation, and undercut banks for protection. Riffled surfaces and deep holes will also help these fish feel comfortable in their new environment.



River Currents: The Super Highway

By Roger Hinchcliff

Although Steelhead is the primary species I fish for, this article could apply to many different species in any river. A Steelhead is a migrating fish that will start running as early as the third week of September. They will start running the shoreline when temps reach 68 degrees or cooler, waiting for the river to call them up. The run will continue through the winter and spring here in the Great Lakes until spawning is completed. Now depending on what part of the state you live in, you may even get a limited summer run as well here in Michigan.

When you think of a free flowing river, it's like the human body. Blood must be pumped and circulated throughout the body to our organs so we can live. As we age the blood flow slows and so does one's life. The river's current is also the life blood of the stream. All species of fish need the current to survive as it cools and oxygenates the water; it's also the super highway that brings them food.

Water movement plays a huge role in creating the topography of a system. The rivers landscape can change every year by God's design and this is dictated based on that seasons weather and wind, along with the amount of rain or snow melt we receive. So every year the river system can change by eroding the banks over time, and moving woody debris that fall into the river after a high water event. This process creates the structure needed for fish and creates holding water, runs and most important of all, current.

As you can see Fish need this ever changing process in the river to happen. It helps them survive and creates new habitat. Sometimes this can be good and or bad for you and the fish. With that being said we must adapt to the conditions and maximize our time on the water and learn it. Once you understand what current is and how important it is to your success, you must use it effectively in helping you catch more fish.

Current is what brings food to the Steelhead. These fish are hydro anatomically correct and can just lie on the bottom facing upstream, waiting for a meal to come by, or reap the better oxygen levels and rest. The surface current is always faster at the top than the bottom of the river. As you make your way through the water column the current gets slower and slower. Hence why they like the bottom of the river and are always 8-10 inches off the bottom. Remember these fish are trout and are opportunistic feeders. Conserving energy is the name of the game for Steelhead.

Fish in general can have a different metabolism rate.

Each one has a different metabolic rate, again Mother Nature's way in promoting genetic diversity, but that's another article. I only mention it because it affects where the fish hold that are active.

Middle of the River

The early and late fall fish holding in the middle section or faster water is more often the active fish and willing to take your offering if it comes by.

This is a much overlooked area that always holds active fish willing to bite. They could be tucked behind a small log, boulder or even a small depression, that you cannot even see. I once saw several fish holding on a three by three small depression in the middle of the river. The depression offered them some holding water with just enough current breaks. But because of its location any meal that came by they would not miss.

Pools, Runs and Riffles

Learn what a pool, riffle and run are. A pool is basically a deeper section of a stream with slower water. These are key areas for winter holding fish, when temps are really cold. I've seen fish move to these slower deeper pools just to escape fishing pressure or sun light in the fall and spring. But a slow deep pool is where they will be in the winter always look there.

The riffles are shallower sections with faster current. These too can offer cover by broken water, cooler temps and more oxygen. Early fall and spring is when to look for steelhead there.

A riffle is important to the angler because the river riffles is what gives you a run. The water of a riffle hits the deepest edge slowing down and this is what creates a run. This is still

“River Currents”
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faster flowing water and will always hold a predator fish. But remember the run cannot be created without the presence of a riffle or faster water somewhere.

Do not confuse this with a river channel. River channels are used by fish to migrate up and down the system. Find a river channel and you will find fish. They are magnets for all migrating fish depending on water temperature.

Look for seams

Seams are where the faster current meets the slower currents causing what we call a seam. Steelhead may rely on the current for food and added cover for security by the broken water, but that doesn't mean they want to constantly be fighting current. All fish will need to take a break at some point and just rest. So to conserve energy, they likely hold in the current seams or flat water. A steelhead loves that walking pace water scenario.

Current seams can also be found along any wood or boulder that juts out into the flow and blocks the current. These are great holding areas for Steelhead. While resting they still have a view of the faster water that might be bringing a meal down the river.

Some great tips

First never alert the fish to your presence, be stealthy and wade upstream if you're wading. Run your float and drifts at longer distances and cover more water. Stop parking your boat on top of the active fish and casting towards shore or at the seams or the cover. The better choice would be to park at the top of the run and fish it all. If you're bobber fishing and constantly mending your line because of bad boat or wading position, this disturbance of the float will translate into less fish caught. *Tip: the active fish will always be at the top of the run or at the back of it. Get in front of the run from a distance.*

If casting spoons, plugs or spinners always cast upstream and retrieve with the current. This looks more natural to the fish that are holding for a meal. Everyone knows presentation is the key to anyone's success. By presenting your offerings in this manner the fish will get a better look at your presentation when fishing these methods.

Find the players

A lot of anglers focus on slack water that is behind different objects. Many think that they will produce fish and they do. I have caught many fish behind an object, but many forget those fish are usually inactive and are just resting; not actively feeding. Not to say a resting fish is not a hungry fish. Instead make a cast in front of the object as well; you're more

“River Currents”
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South Haven Steelheaders Sponsor Eagle Scout Project

In early 2018, I received a request from a local resident through the South Haven Harbor Commission asking if the South Haven Steelheaders would look into making and installing monofilament fishing line recycling containers. I had seen these receptacles in the Sanibel Island area in Florida and on other fishing piers along the east coast of the U.S. The South Haven Chapter has partnered with the City of South Haven and Eagle Scout candidate Zach Hanner from Troop 188 in South Haven to construct and install these monofilament recycling containers. The containers, constructed of PVC pipe, are designed according to specifications from the BOAT US Foundation. The

containers will be placed in locations around the South Haven area including the north and south piers, the South and North Side Municipal Marinas, the city's boat ramp, the fishing area by the waste water treatment plant, and several private locations. In the future, the Boy Scouts will maintain and empty the containers. The used line collected is sent to Berkley for processing.

Metal signs, located adjacent to the containers, are labeled with instructions explaining their purpose and proper disposal of the line. Hooks, weights, and terminal tackle need to be removed prior to the line being placed in the container, as those items can be recycled by other means.

The upper opening has a rubber cover with a slot that prevents birds and wildlife from entering and trying to pull the line out for nesting material.

This would be a great project that other chapters or clubs could undertake in their respective areas with a Boy Scout or Sea Scout troop. If anyone needs information, please contact me at president@southhavensteelheaders.com.

Rich Chapman
President South Haven Chapter



Left to right: Zach Hanner, Eagle Scout; Kate Hosier, South Haven Harbor Master and Assistant City Manager; Rich Chapman, President South Haven Chapter.

SOUTH HAVEN STEELHEADERS

2019 Pro Am

May 18th & 19th

Jason Blowers Photography

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RULES ALL BOATS:

- Fish 9 Rods
- Catch 15
- Weigh 12
- No more than 6 Lake Trout

Special Dock Rates: 269-637-3171

ENTRY FEES:

Received before May 11, 2019:	Received May 11, 2019 or after:
Pro: \$500	Pro: \$550
Am: \$250	Am: \$300

DIVISIONAL: All Species Big Fish Contest - \$50 entry fee

NEW for 2019:
Dual Port Challenge
- South Haven Pro/Am
- Saugatuck Big Lake Classic Pro/Am

For more information:
Chad Bard
269-214-6934 or go to:
www.southhavensteelheaders.com

2018 South Haven Chapter River Tournament

On Saturday, November 24, the South Haven Chapter held its annual River Tournament. Tournament boundaries for trollers were from the Black River pierheads at Lake Michigan to as far up river as you wanted. Shore fisherman could fish from South Haven's north or south beach and the river. The 34 participants were trying to win a part of the \$590 prize fund. The event ended with a hearty chili lunch provide by Jim Page, Scott Mitchell and peach cobbler from Mark Johnson for dessert at the River Bend Boat Club weigh in site.

- 1st Don Frazier 13.10 Steelhead
 - 2nd Ryan Mitchell 9.79 Steelhead
 - 3rd Ryan Daggett 6.24 Steelhead
 - 4th Mike Everhardus 6.12 Steelhead
 - 5th Mark Wilson 5.26 Steelhead
 - 6th Bruce Oliver 3.00 Steelhead
- Pike Side Pot- Kevin Jones- no pike were caught, drew name out of hat

Even if you didn't catch or enter a fish, there were still many prizes to be won in the door prize drawing. Prizes were donated by several businesses from South Haven and the surrounding area:

- Fishin' Hole - St. Joe
- Lakeshore Tackle and Firearms - Saugatuck
- Tackle Haven - Benton Harbor,
- Kal Haven Bait - Grand Junction
- Church Tackle, Eagle Claw, Fish USA, VanDerZee, Motorplex, WTP Inc,
- Subs-n-More - South Haven,
- Gift certificates - Bangor Tavern, Dannys Barber shop, Maple Grove Bar,
- Never Miss Café, Big Boy, Curve Inn, and Captain Nemos



L to R: Mark Wilson, Bruce Oliver, Ryan Mitchell, Don Frazier, Ryan Daggett, and Mike Everhardus



This is the fourth year that the Grand Haven Steelheaders have provided scholarships to the MSU 4H Great Lakes Natural Resource Camp.

The camp is held at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle, near the shores of Lake Huron between Alpena and Rogers City. The camp is for teens aged 13 to 15, or going into 8th-10th grades in the fall, who are functioning at grade-level or above

Camp expectations:
So each camper can

MSU 4-H GREAT LAKES NATURAL RESOURCES SUMMER CAMP

have the best experience possible, each camper must be able to fully participate in grade-level appropriate small group science learning sessions as well as very active large group recreation. It's an action-packed week of fun and learning!

Camp Program:
Young teens have fun and amazing outdoor hands-on learning experiences as they go charter fishing, snorkeling, sailing, hike through forests, wade through wetlands, explore dunes and more!

Learning sessions and recreation are designed to:

- Increase teens' appreciation and enjoyment of the outdoors, natural resources, and science.

ciation and enjoyment of the outdoors, natural resources, and science.

- Increase teens' knowledge about the Great Lakes, natural resources ecology and management issues.
- Develop strong attitudinal attachment to Michigan's unique natural resources and bioregional features.
- Foster scientifically rooted environmental stewardship.
- Develop and expand career and personal interests.
- Develop leadership skills and self-confidence.
- Increase social and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college and life as an adult.

ademic skills needed for a successful transition to college and life as an adult.

The Grand Haven Steelheaders provided 2 scholarships for the Natural Resources camp this year:

Those attending were: Cristin Theisen and Nathan VanTimmeren

From Nathan: "Thank you to the Grand Haven Steelheaders for the scholarship awarded to me that allowed me to attend the 4H Natural Resources Camp. At camp we had a lot of fun! I had never seen a shipwreck under water. It was beaten up, but you could still see the remains.

My evening recreation was very fun, especially when I did the trip to the quarry, the snorkeling, filleting the fish, and sailing. In the mornings we learned about

all sorts of things, such as forestry, lakes, dirt, plants, etc. I am looking forward to going next year!

Sincerely,
Nathan VanTimmeren



“River Currents”

Continued from page 19

apt to find a player. Yes that's right I said in front of the object. The name of the game is cover it all.

The players will always

be right on the edge of the current or right in the middle of it. Just because the current looks too heavy to you doesn't mean the fish are not there. Think big but aim small. The target areas of holding active fish

can sometimes have a very small target area and be stacked in there. Cover the water thoroughly those fish can be holding anywhere, especially on a large river system. Pick the run apart and thoroughly fish it with

consistency. If you catch one fish, you can find another there.

Make sure you have done your due diligence and tried various colors, sizes and different profile shapes before moving on. A steel-

head has great eye sight and can see in color but has poor depth perception. This is why in my opinion color, profile and size are important when fishing for this species. Depending on the season, river clarity and light conditions can affect what fish see. The color of bait, fly or lure should be the number one thing to try differently. Most of those fish have seen many lures and baits already, especially later in the season. You are kidding yourself if you think they don't get conditioned to it. If the bite slows always change color.

Never get impatient on the river. The strike zones on a river are much smaller. Get your bait or fly through an area really well. Once you have found holding fish and where their sitting, make sure the depth of the offering is right. You should never be more than a foot off the bottom or less. Get it in their face is the key with consistency.

Active feeding fish in a river system will always be on the edge or right in

the current because that's where the food is. Don't overlook areas just because heavy current is hitting them. This is the world's greatest game fish and they can take a lot more current for longer periods than you think.

This article was not written on what magic lure or rig to use, but more on how to approach and read the river so you may understand how to fish it more thoroughly and effectively. Just because you caught fish there last year doesn't mean it will hold fish this year. The river is an ever changing place each season. So now that you know the current is your friend use this super highway to help you catch more fish. Nothing will make you better than time on the water. Remember you spend time on land; you live life on the river.

Fish On!
Roger Hinchcliff



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Pro/Am Fishing Tournament
August 9th, 10th and 11th, 2019

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To contact us:

John Watson at 1137watson@gmail.com
Or Call Tournament Director at 616-218-6686

For Dock Space contact:

Tower Marine at 269-857-2151
Sergeant Marina at 269-857-2873

- ★ \$5000 First Prize Pro Division - based on 15 entries
- ★ \$450 early fee paid by August 1st, \$500 after
- ★ \$2500 First Prize Am Division
- ★ \$225 early entry fee paid by August 1st, \$275 after
- ★ 20 Places paid in the AM Division (35 Teams)

Location of Captains Meeting, Weight In, and Awards:
Coral Cables in downtown Saugatuck

- ★ August 9th - Free Pig Roast at Captains Meeting
- ★ August 10th - 11th Free Hamburgers and Hot Dogs at Weigh-in and Awards Ceremony

All Provided by Coral Gables Restaurant



Completed in 2018, the Lake Okonoka project includes restoration of 45 acres of aquatic and upland habitat. Photo credit: Friends of the Detroit River

“Restoration”

Continued from page 14

tive (GLRI), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources restored native habitats on nearly an acre of property in 2018 at Miliken State Park located in downtown Detroit and directly across from the Outdoor Adventure Center. The property, previously lawn and filled with invasive species, was restored to a wet meadow and prairie complex including a mass shrub planting along the Detroit River and small trees that will eventually line an existing walkway with shade as they grow.

Lake Okonoka

Completed in 2018, this project includes restoration of 45 acres of aquatic and upland habitat. Lake Okonoka's enhancements combined with the recent opening of Blue Heron Lagoon (another 41 acres) to the Detroit River will increase the availability of calm spawning and nursery habitat for Great Lakes fish. Deep water pools, basking logs and other habitat features will also benefit turtles, mudpuppies, snakes, mammals and birds. Completion of a new direct con-

nection from Lake Okonoka to the Detroit River is expected to occur in 2019.

Belle Isle Flatwoods

Design plans for 280 acres of wet-mesic flatwoods on Belle Isle were completed in 2018. Permits will be applied for by the Michigan DNR Parks staff who will also secure construction funding. The project is expected to get underway in 2020, pending funding availability.

Hennipen Marsh

The design portion of the project, estimated to be about 40 acres of coastal marsh, is currently underway with field data being gathered. Feasibility and design are expected to be completed mid-2019 with construction happening once permits and funding are secured.

Sugar Island

More than 60 people attended a public meeting on Nov. 14, 2018, to talk about the preliminary results of a feasibility and design project at Sugar Island. The island is owned and managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife

“Restoration”

Continued on page 22

SONAR FOR ICE-FISHING

By Bob Jensen

About this time last year I had an interesting conversation with a friend that wanted to get more involved in ice-fishing. He is an accomplished open water angler: He has a nice boat that's rigged with sonar and an electric motor. He has several rods and reels and a couple of tackle-boxes. We talked about the equipment that he should consider for ice-fishing. Early in the conversation sonar entered the picture. I suggested that sonar was the tool that many successful ice-anglers consider to be their most important piece of equipment. My friend had never used sonar in his very limited ice-fishing experiences and he really couldn't see the need for it. He was going ice-fishing the next weekend with some friends, so I offered to loan him mine. He said that he would "take it along, but it really isn't going to help." Short story even shorter: When he returned it on Sunday afternoon after

a day and a half on the ice, he asked me "do you want to sell that thing, and if not, where's the best place to get one?" He discovered what most people who fish through the ice discover: Sonar will help you catch more fish. Here's how.

In the mind of many ice-anglers, revealing the depth isn't a depth-finder's most important function: Revealing fish is its primary function. A depth-finder adjusted properly, and it's easy to adjust them properly, will show the tiniest of jigs. They will certainly show if a fish is below your hole in the ice. Many ice-anglers will drill a good number of holes in an area and then move from hole to hole searching for fish. They put the transducer in the hole, drop their bait down, and watch for a fish to approach it. If no fish life is detected in a couple of minutes, they move to another hole. They keep moving until they find fish. When they find a hole with fish underneath, they spend some time there. This is

when the depth-finder takes on a new role.

Once we've found some fish, we're going to use the sonar unit to position our bait. When a group of fish is found, there will usually be some that are more aggressive. Let's say we're fishing for perch. Our sonar reveals some that are very close to the bottom. Lower your bait until it's a few feet above them and see if they'll come up to it. If they do, they're often going to bite. If they don't, lower it so it's a little closer to them. Make the aggressive fish come up to the bait. Remember this: They'll usually move farther in clear water. You need to get it closer to them in stained water.

This brings us to another function your sonar will perform. We find some fish, and they come up to look at the bait, but they don't eat it. This means they're interested, but they're being choosy. If they look but don't eat, you need to do something that will convince them to do



Not a big bass, but the Vexilar showed the dad and son team of Rex and Dax Clark that there were fish below.

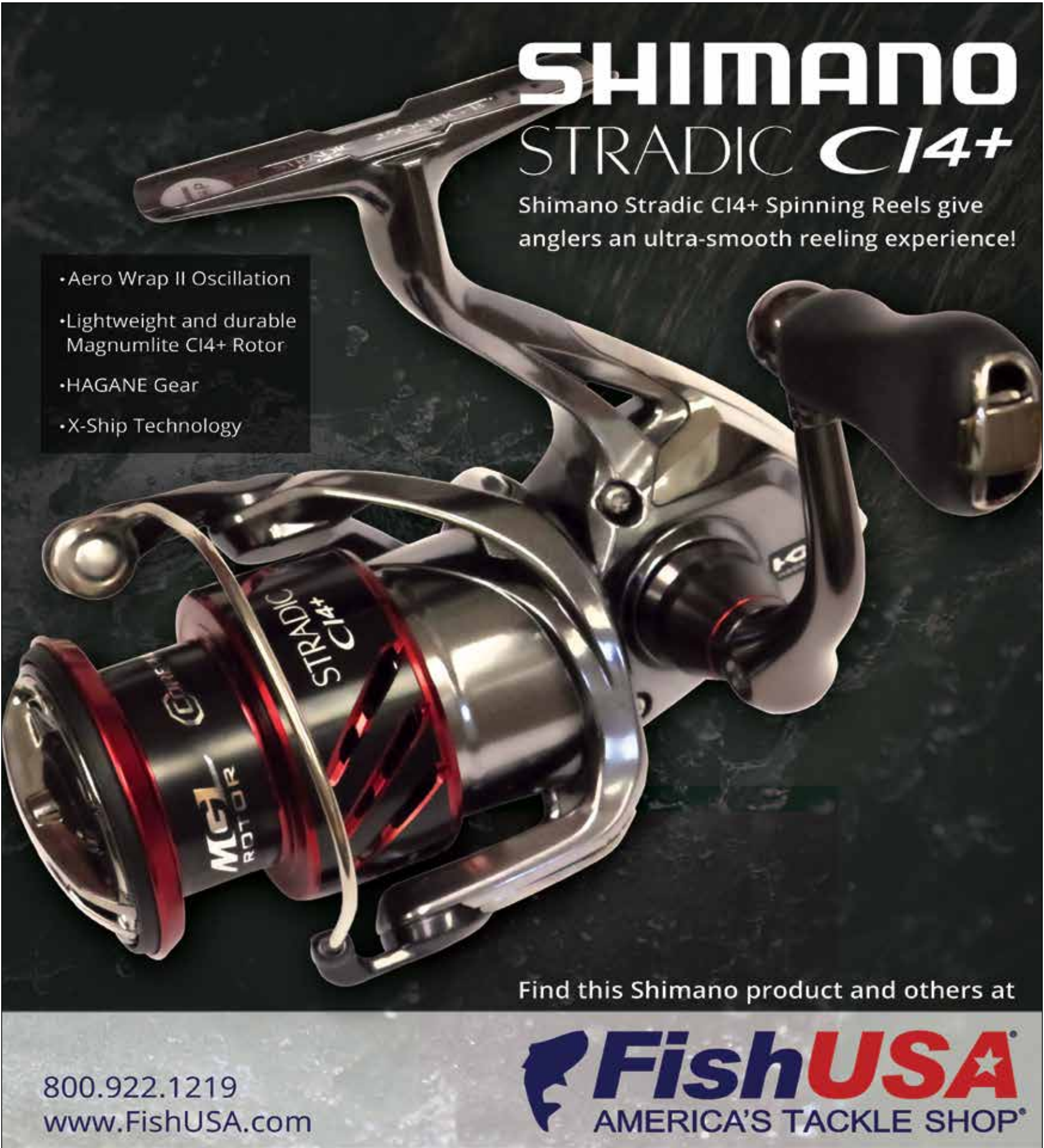
so. Try a different color or size. Maybe move the bait slower or faster. Try different presentations until you find what they want. If they don't respond to anything you show them, find a different hole but remember to come back to that one. At some point during the day,

they'll eat.

Vexilar is the pioneer in ice-fishing sonar. They're easy to use and will reveal all you need to see to catch more fish. Whatever your needs or wants, they have a unit for you. Just realize that if you want to be more successful in your ice-fish-

ing, and if you want your ice-fishing to be more fun, a sonar unit will be a huge step in that direction.

To see new and older episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, fishing related videos, and fishing articles from the past, visit fishingthemidwest.com



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"Restoration" Continued from page 21

Service as part of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Design plans were completed in 2018 that include the creation of rocky shoals, protection of bluffs and other habitat features. Permits will be sought in 2019 with construction expected to begin late 2019 or early 2020, pending funding.

Find more information about many of these habitat projects on the Friends of the Detroit River Projects webpage.

Michigan Sea Grant helps to foster economic growth and protect Michigan's coastal, Great Lakes resources through education, research and outreach. A collaborative effort of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University and its MSU Extension, Michigan Sea Grant is part of the NOAA-National Sea Grant network of 33 university-based programs.

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Recruitment Assessment of Yellow Perch and Walleye in Lake Erie, Saginaw Bay, and Northern Lake Huron

Article submission by
Elyse Walter,
*Communication Specialist
DNR – Fisheries Division*

Population size, mortality rates, and recruitment are some of the most important pieces of information the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division biologists use to manage a fish population. The first two terms describe the number of fish present within a fish population and how many of those fish die each year from natural causes or fishing. But what exactly is recruitment?

Fisheries biologists think of recruitment in two ways: the number of young fish that survive the challenges of early life and grow into the adult population, or the number of fish that are born and subsequently survive to “enter” a fishery. In angling terms, the latter definition means reaching an age or size where the fish can be captured and harvested. Recruitment is different from reproduction, which is the number of fish that are born, but the two are closely related because enough fish need to be born to survive to an age where they recruit to the population or fishery. Fisheries biologists measure recruitment because it’s important to know how many fish will be available in the future, both to sustain the population and provide acceptable angler catch or harvest rates.

The first step to measure recruitment of yellow perch and walleye in Lake Erie and Saginaw Bay is to tow a large, mesh, sock-like net called a trawl on the bottom of the lake in late summer. Trawls are very good at capturing young yellow perch and walleye, which are counted to estimate how much reproduction occurred each year. In Lake Erie, there is a strong relationship between yellow perch and walleye reproduction, estimated from the trawl survey, and the number of fish that recruit to the population two years later.

Fisheries biologists confirm that relationship with an annual fall netting survey. In Saginaw Bay, the relationship between yellow perch and walleye reproduction and recruitment is less clear because of changes to the food web that occurred after the invasion of zebra mussels and the crash of the alewife population. So, biologists are more reliant on the netting survey, rather than the trawl survey, to estimate recruitment.

Fisheries Division doesn’t conduct a trawl survey to estimate yellow perch and walleye reproduction in northern Lake

Huron. Instead, it estimates the recruitment of yellow perch with another fall netting survey in the Les Cheneaux Islands. Since many walleye in northern Lake Huron are produced in and migrate out of Saginaw Bay, the Saginaw Bay surveys can provide an index for walleye recruitment in other areas of Lake Huron.

Because Fisheries Division conducts its Lakes Erie and Huron fishery assessments every year, we have been able to track trends in recruitment through time, going as far back to the 1960’s for the Les Cheneaux Islands and the 1970’s for Saginaw Bay and Lake Erie. These data are shared with our partner agencies and used to model the yellow perch and walleye populations, which helps

fisheries biologists make decisions about regulations such as minimum size limits and daily bag limits.



Photo submission:
Michigan DNR





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2019 Battle Creek Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
January	5	Squirrel Blast	Battle Creek
January	19	Ice Fishing Tournament	Portage Lake
February	16	Ice Fishing Tournament	Gull Lake
February	23	St. Joe River Trout Quest	I-94 Boat Ramp
March	2	St. Joe River Chapter Challenge	Sand Bar
March	16	Kalamazoo River Spring Steelhead	Allegan Dam
April	6	Lake Michigan Coho Blast	Benton Harbor
April	27	Trip Swap	We Go over There
May	4	Trip Swap	They Come Here
May	18	Lake Michigan Spring Tournament	Benton Harbor
May 31 - June 1		Connie Mcgowan Invitational (Captain Must Be A Member)	Lake Erie
July	13	Portage Lake Panfish/FamilyPicnic	Vicksburg
August	3	Lake Michigan Memorial	South Haven
August	17	Veterans Outing	South Haven
September	28	Perch Tournament	Lake Erie
October	5	Kalamazoo River Salmon Slam	Allegan Dam
October	19	Kalamazoo River Memorial	Allegan Dam
October	26	Kalamazoo River Trout Quest	Allegan Dam
November	23	St. Joe River Fall Steelhead	I-94 Boat Ramp
December	7	St. River Chapter Challenge	Babes Lounge
December	14	Christmas Party	Kalamazoo Eagles
<p>Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting Location: Moonraker West Battle Creek</p> <p>FOR MORE INFORMATION: River Tournaments – Ice Tournaments – Justin Kling 491-2980 Lake Tournaments – Greg Peck 998-9407 battlecreeksteelheaders.com</p>			

2019 Grand Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Contact Info
January 1 - Nov. 30		Member Year Long Fishing Contest	
April	TBD	Placement of Net Pens	
April	TBD	Spring Program, Open to Fellow Fishermen	
September	7	Sportsmen for Youth Day	Muskegon County Fairgrounds
September	14	Grand Haven Salmon Festival	KidZone Activity Area
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
January	7	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
January	26	Ice Fishing Contest	STC*
January	28	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
February	4	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
February	25	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
March	4	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
March	9-16	Spring River Week Long Contest	STC*
March	14-17	Ultimate Sports Show	DEVOS PLACE
March	14-16	Ultimate Sports Show Fishing Contest	DEVOS PLACE
March	25	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
March	31	2018 Year Long Fish Contest Ends	
April	1	2019 Year Long Fish Contest Starts	
April	1	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
April	29	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
May	4	Spring Big Lake	STC*
May	6	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
May	20	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
June	3	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
June	7-9	Lake Erie 3 Day Walleye Contest	
June	24	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
July	1	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
July	17	Chapter Family Picnic 6:00 PM at Johnson Park Shelter House **	
August	3	Fall Big Lake	STC*
August	5	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
August	26	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
September	9	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
September	30	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
October	1	Chapter Buck Contest Begins **	
October	14	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
October	26	Fall River Contest	STC*
October	28	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
November	4	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
Novembeer	9	Fishing Partners Manistee Contest	STC*
November	25	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
	2	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
	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	
January	19	Daylight -1:00	Caseville Lake Trout Outing	
February	5	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
February	9 & 10	Daylight -1:00	Ice Fishing (anywhere), Linwood Rd. Weigh-in Lunch following @Linwood Hotel	
March	5	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
March	9	Daylight -1:00	Big Manistee, Bear Creek River Pere Marquette Fishing. Location TBA by outing Chairman	
March	23	Setup 8:30am Viewing 11:00 Auction 12:00	Annual Auction Fund Raiser	VFW Hall Midland
April	2	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
April	13	Daylight -1:00	Detroit River, Wyandot Boat Ramp	
April	27	Daylight -1:00	Tittibawassee River Walleye Picnic at Don Brown’s house. \$5.00 entry	
May	4	5:30a – 1:00p	Manistee	
May	7	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Only	VFW Hall
May	18	5:30a – 1:00p	South Haven	
June	1	7:00a – 1:00p	Linwood Beach Walleye	
June	4	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Only	VFW Hall
June	15	7:00a – 1:00p	Sebawing Walleye (Kids Day Sat.)	
June	16	7:00a – noon	Outing, Day Two	
June	29	7:00a – 1:00p	Standish Walleye	
July	2	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Only	VFW Hall
July	13	5:30a – 1:00p	Manistee	
July	27	5:30a – 1:00p	Ludington	
August	7		No Board/Membership Meeting	
August	10	6:00a – 1:00p	Ludington (day 1)	
August	11	6:00a – noon	Ludington (day 2)	
	24	6:00a – 1:00p	Manistee (day 1)	
	25	6:00a – noon	Manistee (day 2)	
September	3	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
September	7	6:30a – 1:00p	Frankfort	
October	1	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
November	5	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
November	9	Daylight -1:00	Big and little Manistee River / Bear Creek	
December	3	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Only	VFW Hall
December	7	Daylight -1:00	Big Manistee River / Bear Creek	
December	14	Cocktails 5:00 Dinner 6:00	Christmas Awards Banquet K of C Hall, Auburn 4760 Garfield Rd. Auburn, Mi 48611	
Membership meetings held at: 3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642 989-496-3410				
All Board/Membership meetings begin with Board at 6:00 pm. Membership meetings follow at 7:15 pm. Raffle follow after every Membership meeting. Board only meetings begin at 7:00pm.				
We ask that you please call the Port Chairman <u>no later than</u> Monday prior to the event as to whether you plan on attending or not attending. On the day of the event call in on Marine Radio, Channel 72 or cell phone for the Port Chairman. Weigh-in follows each outing. Picnics follow weigh-in on Saturdays only.				
Outings: All Steelheader members pay \$5.00. All non-Steelheaders pay \$10.00 to participate. Children 16 and younger are free.				
If interested in fishing with us please email: kathy@steel-headers.com. Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com				

2019 Holland Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
January	7	Board Meeting
January	19	Ice Fishing Tournament
February	4	Board Meeting
February	21	Holland Steelheaders Annual Banquet
February	23	Ice Fishing Tournament
March	4	Board Meeting
April	1	Board Meeting
April	18	General Membership Meeting
May	6	Board Meeting
May	18	Holland Steelheaders Spring Challenge
May	21	Tuesday Night League Kickoff
June	3	Board Meeting
June	8	Holland Steelheaders All Species Tournament
June	22	Kids N Kings
July	8	Board Meeting
July	13	Veterans Fishing Outing
July	25	General Membership Meeting
July	27	Holland Steelheaders Summer Challenge
August	2-4	Big Red Classic
August	5	Board Meeting
August	17	Holland Steelheaders Ladies Tournament
September	3	Tuesday Night League Final Night
September	9	Board Meeting
October	7	Board Meeting
November	4	Board Meeting
December	2	Board Meeting
December	5	General Membership Meeting
December	7	Holland Steelheaders River Tournament
<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
January	8	General Membership Meeting	
January	10-13	Ultimate Sports Fishing Show Showplace	Novi
January	19	Lake St Clair Ice Fishing Outing	
January	25	Comedy Club Fundraiser (Friday night)	
February	5	General Membership	
February	8-10	The Farm - River Fishing Tournament	
February 28 - March 3		OUTDOOR- RAMA Showplace Novi	
March	5	General Membership Meeting	
March	23	SPORTSMAN'S BANQUET – Burton Manor	
March	30	MI Steelhead Challenge Manistee River/Pier with DS	
April	2	General Membership Meeting	
April	6	New Buffalo Coho Tournament	
April	13	Detroit River/Lake Erie & St Clair Walleye Invitational	
April	20	Muskegon River Tournament	
April	27	Brown Trout Tournament Manistee	
May	7	General Membership Meeting	
May	11	Toledo Beach Memorial Walleye Tourn. &Vets	
May	18	Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament Sat	
May	19	Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament Sun	
May	25	Maumee River Kayak/Small boat	
June	1	Kids Fishing Outing at Kensington Park	
June	4	General Membership Meeting	
June	8	Grand/Southhaven Salmon Pier Event	
June	15	Lake Erie Walleye Tournament - Sat	
June	22	Walleye Tournament (Saginaw Bay or L. Erie)	
June	29	Maumee River Kayak – Small Mouth	
July	6	Clinton River Cleanup Day	
July	9	Club Summer Picnic	
July	11	Erieau Tournament – Thur Erieau, Canada	
July	13	Erieau Tournament – Sat. Erieau, Canada	
July	20	Manistee River Cleanup Day @ High Bridge	
July	25	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Thu	
July	26	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Select LUREs only	
July	27	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sat	
July	28	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sun	
August	3	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sat	
August	4	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sun	
August	6	General Membership Meeting	
August	10	Salmon Tournament – Frankfort	
August	24	Ludington Salmon Jigging	
September	3	General Membership Meeting	
September	7	Lake/Pier & River Tournament – Frankfort	
September	14	Muskegon Kayak for Salmon etc	
September	14	Manistee Pier Jamboree Starts at 7 pm	
September	21	Manistee River Tournament	
October	1	General Membership Meeting	
October	5	Manistee River Tournament	
October	12	Ohio Steelhead Alley (include Elk Creek P.A.)	
November	2	River Tourn./Pier & Shore Outing Manistee w/ DS	
November	5	General Membership Meeting	
December	3	CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
December	7	Huron River Tournament	

**** ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC****
7:00 PM at The New Livonia Seniors Center at the Southeast Corner of Farmington Road and Five Mile Road
WEB Site: Go to www.metroweststeelheaders.org
If you have questions, contact Henry Nabors - HHNabors@Ameritech.net or call 248 225 4964.

Contact: *President* Larry Tabaka 313-215-8979 / *Membership Director* Henry Nabors 248-225-4964

2019 South Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	
February		SHS Ice Tourney	Date TBD based on ice conditions
February	16	17th Michigan Free Fishing Weekend	
February	21	Board and Membership Meeting Guest speaker – Michael Kechkaylo – Antique Lure presentation	
March	21	Best Chance Fishing Seminar	South Haven Moose Lodge
March	21	Board and Membership Meeting, (week after GR Ultimate Sports Show) Best Chance Fishing Seminar	
April	18	Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop	South Haven Moose Lodge
April	18	Board and Membership Meeting Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop – Dr. Dan O’Keefe presenting	
May	16	Board and Membership Meeting Guest Speaker – Kevin Oles – Salmon in the Classroom Summit	
May	17	South Haven Tournament Captains Meeting	South Haven Moose Lodge
May	18-19	South Haven Tourney	
June	8	SHS Ladies Tournament	
June	8-9	Free Fishing Weekend	
June	20	Board and Membership Meeting	
July	18	Board and Membership Meeting	
August	10	SHS Fish Boil (Blueberry Festival August 8-11)	
August	15	Board and Membership Meeting	
August	17	SHS Operation Injured Soldier/SH Salute to Veterans	
August	24	SHS Merle Morris Tournament	
September	19	Board and Membership Meeting	
October	17	Board and Membership Meeting	
November	21	Board and Membership Meeting	Continued next column...

2019 South Haven ...continued

Month	Date	Event	Location / Contact Info
November	23	SHS River Tournament	
December	7	SHS Holiday Party 2019 (No Board or membership meeting this month)	

Note: All Board and membership meetings are held the third Thursday of each month.

Membership Meetings Held at 7 pm at: South Haven Moose Lodge, 1025 East Wells Street, South Haven, MI 49040

For more information email: president@southhavensteelheaders.com

2019 Southwest MI Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
January	10	Annual Meeting
February	2	Tackle Mania, Location TBD
February	14	Annual Meeting
March	14	Membership Meeting
April	11	Membership Meeting
May	9-11	Summer Challenge Tournament: www.fishthesummerchallenge.com
June	13	Membership Meeting
July	11	Membership Meeting
August	TBD	Trolling with the Troops
August	8	Membership Meeting
September	12	Membership Meeting
October	10	Membership Meeting
November	14	Membership Meeting
December	7	Winter Challenge Tournament
December	12	Membership Meeting

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

2019 TCAS Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
January	9	General Membership Meeting
February	6	General Membership Meeting
March	6	General Membership Meeting
March	15-17	Michigan Hunting Fishing Expo
April	3	General Membership Meeting
May	1	General Membership Meeting
May	4	Brown Trout Tournament Frankfort
May	18	Torch Lake Salmon Tournament
June	5	General Membership Meeting
June	15	Starvation Lake Tournament
June 29 - July 6		National Cherry Festival – NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING or Board Meeting
July	13	Lake Charlevoix Tournament
August	7	General Membership Meeting
August	10	Crystal Lake Tournament
August	24	Grand Traverse Bay Tournament (Elk Rapids)
September	4	General Membership Meeting
October	2	General Membership Meeting
October	5	Senior Center Fish Fry
November	6	General Membership Meeting
December	7	Christmas Party – Tentative date

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

* Ice Fishing Tournaments will be cancelled if ice is deemed unsafe.

2019 Thumb Chapter Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location / Information
January				
February				
March	21	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubyl Foxhunters
April	18	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubyl Foxhunters
May	4	6:00 AM	Can2Can Fishing Tournament	Harbor Beach Marina – Need Workers!!
May	16	7:30	Ladies Night Meeting	Ubyl Foxhunters
June	1	6:00 AM	ProKing Fishing Tournament	Harbor Beach Marina
June	8	6:00 AM	Veterans fishing outing	Contact Kevin Ramsey for details
June	20	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubyl Foxhunters
July	18	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubyl Foxhunters
August	12	2:00 PM	Pig Roast	Harbor beach VFW
August	15	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubyl Foxhunters
September	19	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubyl Foxhunters
October	17	7:30	Regular Meeting, Election of Board/Officers	Ubyl Foxhunters

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



The 2019 Winter Free Fishing Weekend is February 16 & 17. All

fishing license fees will be waived for two days. A Recreation Passport will NOT be required for entry into state parks and recreation areas during Free Fishing Weekend. Res-

idents and out-of-state visitors may enjoy fishing on both inland and Great Lakes' waters for all species of fish. All fishing regulations will still apply.

2018 Sportsman For Youth Day

Always held on the Saturday following Labor Day, 1,960 kids and almost 1,624 adults attended the 2018 Sportsman for Youth Day.

The free event features exhibits and activities from almost 60 exhibitors. The kids receive a Youth Day t-shirt, lunch and are eligible for a variety of prizes given out by the various exhibitors.

Youth Day was created 26 years ago by a core

group of outdoor recreation/natural resource related organizations. The goal was to introduce young people to the outdoors and educate them about such activities as hunting, fishing and conservation of natural resources.

The Grand Haven Steelheaders are busy with the virtual fishing machine, giving kids the opportunity to 'land' a big fish while answering fishing related questions from adults.

Members of the Grand Rapids Steelheaders assisted with the virtual fishing machine and other tasks that make Youth Day such a success.

For more information, go to: <https://sportsmenforyouth.com/>

Left: Martin Parrott and Bob Strek providing assistance to a young 'angler'.



Trolling without a Fish Hawk is called BOATING.

A photograph of two people fishing from a boat on a body of water. The boat is a black Ranger 621VS with a Mercury outboard motor. The person in the foreground is wearing a yellow jacket and a black beanie with 'MERC' on it. The person in the background is wearing a dark jacket. The water is choppy and the sky is overcast.

A photograph of the Fish Hawk X2 System electronic device. It is a black rectangular unit with a digital display showing '54.8 °F' and '1.6 MPH'. Below the display are several buttons and a power switch. A clear plastic protective case is shown next to it, revealing the internal electronic components.

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



Above: Rich Wilson handing a young boy one of the many rods the Chapter gave away that day.

Permission to reprint photos in this article from Grand Haven Steelheaders

Below: Parrott assists another youth on the simulator.



2019 Thunderbay Steelheader’s Calendar of Events


Month	Date	Time	Information
January	7	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
February	16	4:00 pm	Annual Meeting/Dinner
March	4	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
April	1	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
May	6	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
May	18	6:00 am	Alpena tournament
June	3	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
June	8	6:00 am	Presque Isle Tournament
June	22	6:00 am	Tournament location to be determined
July	1	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
August	5	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
August	24	6:00 am	Rogers City Tournament
September	2	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
October	7	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
November	4	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
December	2	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting

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

2019 White River Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Event information	Location
January	4	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
February	7	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
March	7	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
April	4	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
May	2	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
June	6	6:30 pm	Meeting at Montague Boat Launch (weather permitting) – If raining, meeting at Montague VFW	
July			No meeting this month	
August	1	6:30 pm	Meeting at Montague Boat Launch (weather permitting) – If raining, meeting at Montague VFW	
September	5	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
October	3	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
November	7	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
December	5	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW

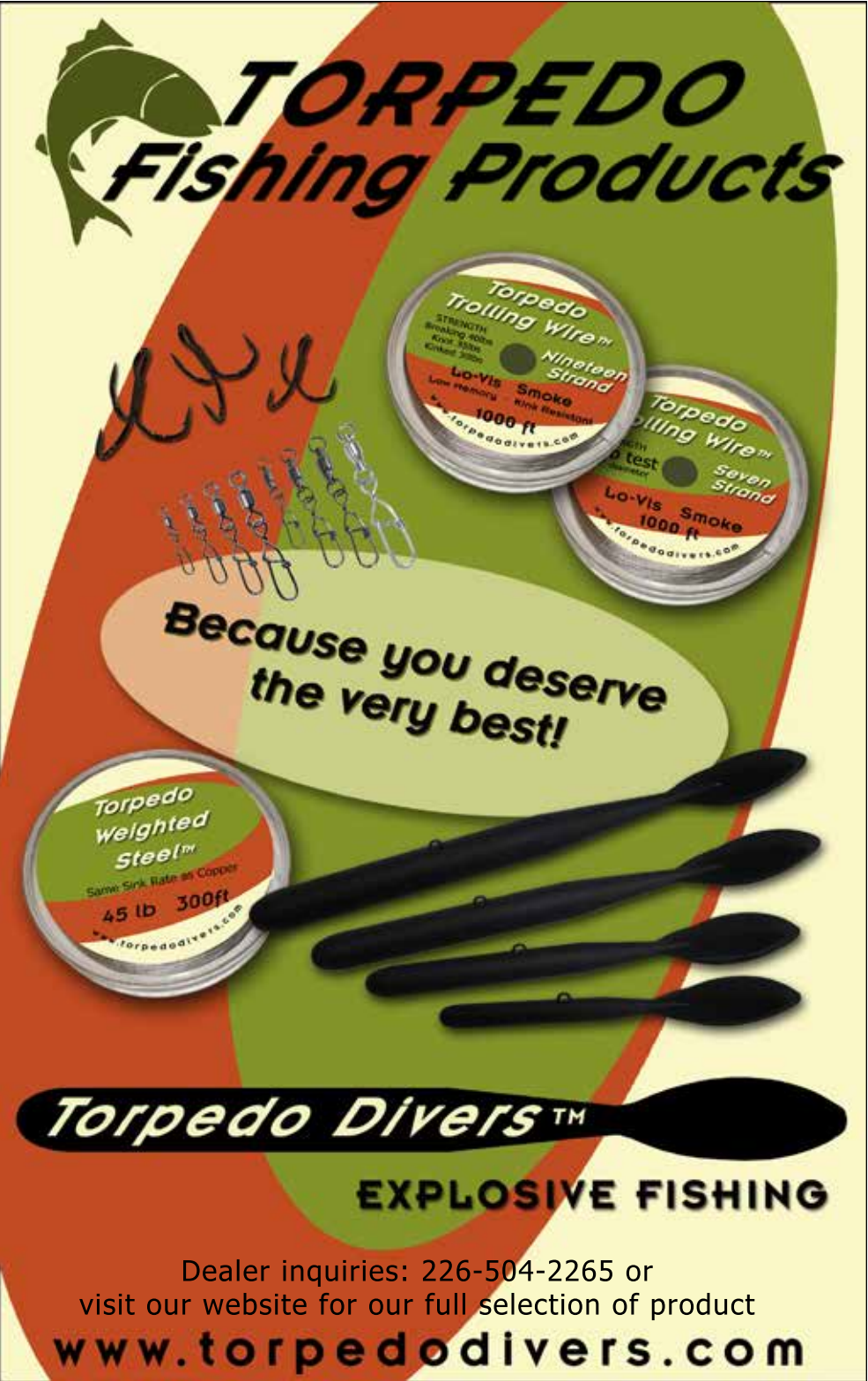
Note: Meeting dates and times are subject to change – Any questions or to verify dates/times please call Clint Pollock at (231) 893-0210 or Terry Clark at (231) 893-6805.



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2019

Membership Drive



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

Let's get them to join!



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

Tackle Packs

Here's how it works!

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

For more information,
contact your Chapter Membership Director
or mssfamembership@charter.net



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Combo includes 9" floating fish gripper and 50 lb mini digital scale.

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LUHR JENSEN
Dipsy Divers

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Available in 4 sizes!

Circular multi-directional planer with adjustable trip allows you to cover more water.

SHIMANO
Curado DC
Baitcast Reel

\$249.99

New Digital Control (DC) braking system utilizes a microcomputer to monitor spool speed 1,000 times every second and apply the perfect amount of brake to prevent backlash.

YAKIMA Mag Lips

\$5⁹⁹

Available in 3 sizes!

World-famous FlatFish action with a deep-diving lip design. Features strike-producing wide wiggle in slow currents and erratic "skip-beat" action in faster currents - up to 4 MPH!

ATTWOOD
Anchor Lift

SALE \$24⁹⁹

Reg. \$44.99

Convenient system drops anchor at the turn of a button and stores it in anchor mount housing when not in use.

NEW HUMMINBIRD
Helix 7 CHIRP GPS G3N

\$549.99

Features Dual Spectrum CHIRP Sonar, Ethernet networking capability, Bluetooth, AutoChart Live, GPS and Humminbird Basemap built-in.

NEW MINN KOTA Trolling Motors

With Built-In MEGA DOWN IMAGING

The Built-in MEGA DI transducer provides both MEGA Down Imaging and 2D CHIRP Digital Sonar directly from the motor!

GARMIN
Panoptix Ice Fishing Bundle
ECHOMAP Plus 73cv

\$1,899.99

Includes ECHOMAP Plus 73cv combo with 3 types of sonar: GT10HN-IF ice fishing transducer with narrow beam & Garmin CHIRP traditional, plus a Panoptix PS22 transducer with LiveVü Forward and LiveVü Down

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