



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

By Tom Bailey
Little Traverse Conservancy

By way of background, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund was created in 1976 as the "great compromise" in a dispute over drilling for oil and gas in the Pigeon River Country State Forest. A significant portion of the lease fees and royalties on oil, gas and minerals on DNR-administered public land went into the fund, to be used to generate revenue for the purchase of recreational and environmentally significant land. Trust Fund grants have funded over a billion dollars' worth of land acquisition and recreational development by local and state governmental park, recreation and resource management agencies since its inception. On several occasions, legislators diverted the funds to other uses so Michigan voters enacted two constitutional amendments to protect the fund from legislative raids. The fund is governed by a board appointed by the Governor which decides which local and state projects are to be funded. Because no more revenue is going into the fund, the Board has managed the principal much in the manner of a foundation, so that income from the

revenue produced by oil, gas and minerals consumed by one generation will be available for generations to come, not squandered like the money from so many of Michigan's previous "boom and bust" natural resource windfalls. Unfortunately, to put it bluntly, they're at it again. Legislation introduced into the current session aims to undermine the authority of the Trust Fund Board, reduce the purchasing power of the Trust Fund over time, and to handcuff the Department of Natural Resources

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The author, Jason Mitchell with a gigantic walleye caught with a Kalin's Sizmic Shad Swim Bait.

Dragging and Slow Trolling Plastics

By Jason Mitchell

So often with walleye fishing, we get conditioned to think a certain way regarding a presentation. We fish life bait rigs below the boat. We troll crankbaits. We pitch jigs. We get locked into how a specific presentation should be fished. What can become detrimental to our own growth as anglers is we quit thinking and quit experimenting with the potential of how some presentations can be used. By straying away from tradition and by

experimenting with what might be unorthodox uses for some presentations, we can make ourselves more efficient. So often, catching more fish is all about adapting to the location and what the fish are doing. This increases our efficiency dramatically. The reality is that most days, a walleye will eat a live bait rig, jig, crankbait or anything else that lands in front of their face. The right presentation matched up with the

right location however can accomplish this task with more efficiency. Slow trolling and dragging swimbaits can be incredibly effective for walleye. One hot tactic we are seeing emerge across the Midwest is slow troll tactics that incorporate soft plastic swim baits. Swim baits have blown up in some regions and over time, we

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Steelheader Students



By Bob Strek

Members and friends of the Grand Rapids Steelheaders took the 9th grade class from Sacred Heart Academy fishing on May 18th at Millennium Park. The afternoon was the last of a 9 month fishing class which began in September 2016 and met once a month

for 55 minutes in the school gym. The class was led by Don Remington and Bob Strek of the Steelheaders. During the school year, students learned many things including the Michigan DNR Fishing Guide, fishing poles, lures, knot tying, casting and set up for all types of fishing. They also learned about bait fish-



ing as well as the history of Native American camping and fishing along the Grand River. Students were given an opportunity to try Big Lake fishing by fighting a salmon on the Steelheaders' Salmon Simulator which is jointly owned by the Grand Haven Steelheaders and the Grand Rapids Steelheaders Foundation. Each student received a fishing pole put together

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SUMMER STEELHEAD & WATER TEMPERATURE

By Jim Bedford

A thermometer is an important tool for Michigan river anglers, especially those that chase trout and salmon. It is put to use during all four seasons as we try to find water temperatures best suited to our quarry and the time of year. In the winter and spring we are usually looking for warmer water while in the summer and early fall the reverse is true. There is no season or species where knowing the water tem-

perature is more important than when you are after summer steelhead. A number of years ago a friend told me about encountering a summer steelhead in a very small trout stream in southern Allegan County. We returned to explore the stream that the trout brook emptied into, the Middle Branch of the Black River. On an August afternoon with the air temperature in the low 80s we found the Middle Branch to be a cool 65 degrees. We eagerly split up

to fish adjacent sections from bridge to bridge. A mix of summer steelhead and large northern pike hammered our lures and we had a great time even though we landed less than half the fish we hooked. No summer steelhead

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The Color Bronze Is Really Gold!

By Roger Hinchcliff

Ask any springtime Great Lakes Angler if he or she doesn't love to catch a big smallmouth bass? The answer will be a resounding hell yeah! The smallmouth is hard fighting, great biting fish and loves to get air during the fight. The Great Lakes region is home to some of the best smallmouth fishing on planet earth. And people from all over the world come here to catch them every year. Springtime is a busy time of year for many, from the steelhead fishing, morel mushroom picking, and springtime gobbler hunting.

Many that can find some time will tell you pre-spawn smallmouth bass fishing can be phenomenal. The weather, temps, and winds play a huge role in your success. Knowing what to look for will be key. When water temps climb from the 30's and start reaching the 40's usually late March, early April,

the fish will start to move in shallower and be ready to bite. Peak spawning occurs late May to early June and when water temps reach between mid-40's and 50's the fish will put on the feed big time before the spawn. Giving the bank or wading angler a chance at some quality fishing. No boat is needed here folks and some say the wading or bank angler have it even better than a person with a boat. Due to the fact, they have access to water that a boat cannot get to. Kayakers love this type of fishing.

Places to fish are harbors, marina docks, piers, islands, boulders, beaches. My favorites are wind protected bays with sand or rock piles these will attract the smallies like a magnet. Did I mention this structure usually goes nowhere? So, every year once these key places are found you can come back every year and rail. The baitfish are also attracted to the warmer water and if you find the warmer

water you will strike the bronze gold. Typically, if temps are dropping and the wind is blowing hard with the waves into shore or out into the big lake, the fish will move out to deeper water with depths between 10-20 feet and school up. When those bays start to warm and calm again, they will be right back in the shallows and will spread out.

Baits to use

When the temps reach the 50's pretty much anything will catch you fish. But depending on conditions soft plastics really shine. A tube jig or grub matching a goby is tough to beat. I generally use a 1/8 oz. up to a 1/2 oz. depending on the fall rate of the bait I want. If the fish have been pressured or conditions call for a more finesse approach a shaky head with a plastic worm whacks fish too. If you're fishing on a day when the fish have moved out deeper on you, having that heavier jig will

allow you to cast out further into the deeper water allowing you a chance at that 5 pounder. Crankbaits and Stick baits such as #10-12 husky jerks and #5-9 original floating Rapala's can be deadly on big smallmouth. Also, pay attention to your surroundings and match the hatch. If you see gobies, or schools of alewives, smelt or shiners that's what they are feeding on. Try to match the presentation to the bait you're seeing and you will not believe the numbers you can put on the board in a day. I've had many 100 fish days. Once it happens to you, it's over. Vacation time will be planned every year in the early spring.

My favorite sizes of baits are in the 2 3/4 - 4 3/4 inch range mostly for smallies. However, bigger baits do take bigger fish sometimes, so leave nothing on the table here. Next swim baits, spinners, and jigs tipped with shiners should never be overlooked and lastly streamers for the fly

angler. Yes, I love stripping streamers for these fish and I prefer to do that mostly if I can. I use a 7 weight mostly with an RIO Outbound Short fly line. Long leaders are not needed here, folks. The best all-around bass rod would be 7-foot medium power stick such as a Lamiglas XP or Infinity in a 703S series. If you fish out of a kayak try the kayak Paco model in a 724S. Line choice is power pro braid for me with a 10lb fluoro-carbon leader.

This time of year, produces some big smallies and 3-5lb's a very common. Don't miss out on this fishing. Spring is my favorite time of the year, nature begins a new life.

From the winters of the Great Lakes a new season shall be woken, a bronze back beauty from the shallows of spring, will give a man a renewed spirit that was broken.



10 Habits of Great Anglers

1 Check your knots. Every single time they tie a knot, a good angler moistens the knot and gives the knot and leader a good tug to make sure it's strong and has seated correctly. Every time, period!

2 Check your leaders. Great anglers always check their leaders after every landed fish or snag. Always take the time to re-tie and do not be lazy.

3 Sharp Hooks. Good anglers will check the hook point to make sure it's sharp. If it's not, either they sharpen it or replace it.

4 Organize your gear. This is where preparation meets opportunity, having the right flies, bait, and gear for the current situations. Staying organized is a must and will translate into more fish.

5 Fish the closest water first. Great Anglers always make short casts into the near water first in the run and work outwards. Fish move around and sometimes are right next to the bank.

6 Presentation: A good angler thinks before he or she does and delivers the right presentation in the right place. After he or she has studied the run or pool.

7 Keep your offering in the water. It's simple mathematics. The longer your bait or fly is in the water the better chances you have of catching more fish. Successful anglers are always in the water.

8 Water and terrain features. A good angler is not only studying his surroundings above the water and but below it as well.

9 Analyze current conditions. Many variables can impact what kind of day you're going to have. Make changes to your techniques based on the weather, water conditions and temperatures. You must adapt based on the day you're given to fish.

10 Life Long Journey. Good anglers know that they can learn something about fishing from almost anybody and every time they are out fishing. Good anglers crave the knowledge and seek it out. Be it online, books, seminars, magazines or videos. Great Anglers talk fishing a lot with buddies.



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Why a Small Hook WINS for Great Lakes Steelhead

By Roger Hinchcliff

The sport of fishing is a lifelong journey of learning throughout one's life as we pursue our favorite fish species be it river or lake. No matter what you're fishing for we all have one thing in common, the fishing hook. Whether fishing mono, fluorocarbon, braid or a fly line. Spinning reel or bait casting reel we all differ on what we like to fish with.

Man, invented fish-hooks 20,000 years ago, and as years passed man kept perfecting the Hook. Today, the avid angler enjoys the best fishing hooks of all time. The manufacturing process kept improving over time and we now have hundreds of different styles for certain types of fish and methods.

In 2005 "Forbes" voted the fishing Hook was in the top 20 tools of all time that helped man. Today manufacturers have many metal choices to make hooks. High carbon steel, steel alloyed with vanadium or even stainless steel just to name a few. A hook is still very soft after being manufactured, the hooks get heated again and placed in oil, in a high-density oven for the hardening process. Once the hooks come out hard and brittle they need to go into another oil bath but this time at 300 degrees for 1 hour to complete the tempering process. The goal is to end up with a hook that's strong but yet supple.

If the person making these hooks at the factory isn't on their game and

doesn't leave the hooks in for the specified amount of time and temperature to complete the final hook process, there is a problem. The angler could end up with hooks that are brittle and fail. For the record, I believe harder metals are more brittle than others. The harder the metal instead of flex you could have a break. Hence why the factory must get it right during the hardening and tempering process. All metals and hooks will flex and break under a certain load. The good news is, advances in tempering and the blending of metals today have resulted in the strongest hooks to date.

Hooks today are coated with either a clear lacquer or with gold, nickel, Teflon, tin or colors for packaging. The world's greatest fishing hooks are made from premium grade high carbon steel. For a great hook, you have to start with a superior material to get a premium product. So, today's smaller hooks are stronger, lighter and sharper than ever.



What Hook Features I Look For

We covered the beginning evolution of the hook and its manufacturing process, let's delve into why a hook and knot choice is so important to the angler. In this article, we will discuss my favorite hooks and knots for Steelhead fishing and why. The opinions we will discuss are just that, an opinion. But after thousands of fish and years later many will agree with my results and reasons. The eye of the hook can affect the hooks performance. Today's hook eyes come in one of 3 ways upturned, down turned or straight, each eye design has a time and a place.

For Steelhead fishing, here are the features in hooks that I feel are important. I want a small light wire hook for several reasons. They prevent hang-ups, in clear water the fish do not see them as easily and they are perfect for light leaders. The hook tacks to the fish's mouth. A lighter wire short shank hook does not drag your bait to the bottom. This allows the angler to present the bait in a more finesse presentation. In stained water, I will use hook sizes 4-6 and in clear water sizes 8-12. People for years have their doubts of short shanked light wire hooks for steelhead.

The Benefits of using smaller hooks:

1. A smaller hook that has a shorter shank will have less leverage to work open a big hole causing the hook to pop out.
2. Small hooks with a wide gap by nature are difficult for the fish to throw once it's buried. Use the largest Hook gap you can get away with, without spooking the fish.
3. Light wire hooks offer better penetration with less resistance. This results in better Hook ups.
4. The larger barb on a hook will hold a fish better but always prevents a good hook set. The lighter wire hooks with a micro barb are best suited for Great Lakes Steelhead.
5. An offset hook with a razor point is very important to your success.

Is the Hook Vertical or Horizontal?

What happens when a fish closes its mouth? When the fish closes its mouth, the hook rotates and lays flat and is no longer in a vertical position. The hook point is now facing sideways and horizontal. When you set the hook that's when the offset hook bites and drives the hook home. Offset hooks are dynamite.

You should end up on the side of the mouth near the upper or lower jaw. In this scenario, the hook-eye position would make no difference on hook-ups. If the fish's mouth is closed, and the hook is laying sideways. You should get the same performance upon hook set with any style hook-eye and knot, right?

The answer is no because when fishing for

Steelhead and salmon I believe things are little different from let's say a bass. Because Steelhead and salmon are always opening and closing their mouths, I prefer a straight or upturned eye hook that faces away from the hook point creating more space between the shank and hook point. This results in better hook ups, and is a great feature when using smaller hooks. Especially when fishing sizes 8-12 on larger fish.

Knot Choice

I love a Palomar Knot and use that knot a lot, but the knot I use the most is a Snell Knot when fishing bait. A Snell Knot creates a direct line pull, because its tied to the shank of the hook. The hook point and line move in the same direction, resulting in better hook sets and penetration. Not to mention the more leverage the Snell Knot provides when trying to fight these fish. If you think about it, knots tied on the eye of the hook while fighting a fish, creating friction. When you have friction, you will have line and knot failure. When using an upturned eye hook, tied with a Snell Knot sometimes a little more force to set the hook is needed. But, by using the Light Wire Hook, with a micro barb and wide gap, it's the perfect deadly combination for Great Lakes Steelhead.

From a conservation standpoint, smaller hooks are better for the fish. You're less likely to hook eyeballs, the back of the fish's tongue and the gills. That's always good for the fish when we can release them unharmed. When it comes to hook choices it can be over whelming seeing how so many hooks are available today. Great Lakes Steelhead are typically smaller fish than out West. Here more of a finesse presentation is the name of the game when fishing for over-fished fish.

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cally smaller fish than out West. Here more of a finesse presentation is the name of the game when fishing for over-fished fish.

The light wire hooks do not slow or change my offerings current speed. Instead they allow me to deliver that bait perfectly to the fish with a more natural presentation. In the Great Lakes fish tend to run smaller than out West. Some believe a larger hook also has benefits and I would agree with that to a point. At the end of the day getting more bites will translate into more fish. For me the smaller light wire hooks are the way to go for fussy steelhead. Little hooks make big things happen in the steelhead world!

Simple Snell Knot

1. Thread your line through the eye. Hold your tag end and hook in your fingers. Wrap the mainline behind the eye of the hook.
2. Repeat those wraps 8 to 14 times. Wraps depend on the line diameter. The thicker the line, the fewer the wraps.
3. Once you finished your wraps, run your mainline back through the eye of the hook.
4. Pull the line tight. It may help to use a set pliers to hold the hook as you tighten the knot down.



2017 Tentative Print Schedule

Issue	Deadline	Print Date
1	12/30/2016	1/6/2017
2	2/17/2017	2/24/2017
3	4/21/2017	4/28/2017
4	6/30/2017	7/07/2017
5	8/25/2017	9/1/2017
6	10/20/2017	10/27/2017

GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

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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

Ken Merckel, *President*

Eric Braden, *Vice President*

Dennis Eade, *Executive Director*

Jerry Sickon, *Secretary*

Nick Hamadanchi, *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, reserving and promoting sport fishing, the Great Lakes and their tributary streams and rivers. Commonly referred to as *The Michigan Steelheaders*, or simply *Steelheaders*. *MSSFA* represents sport fishing families in the Great Lakes region. *MSSFA* encourages the strictest observances of sport fishing laws and ethical fishing practices.



I attended the annual meeting of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) in Duluth, Minnesota from June 6-9, 2017.

The United States and Canadian budget for the GLFC was not changed for 2017. We received full funding. In fact all U.S. agencies working on the Great Lakes received full funding.

The US 2018 budget for the Great Lakes is a different story. This budget threatens to severely reduce or eliminate critical funds for Great Lakes Programs, and agencies, such as the Great Lakes Restoration initiative, the Environmental Protection Agency, funding to prevent the spread of Asian Carp, USCOE funding for Great Lakes Harbor maintenance, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and the National Sea Grant Program.

The Canadian and U.S. Advisors to the GLFC called upon Canada and the U.S. to invest in Great Lakes Protection at a level reflecting the ecological, social and economic values of the Great Lakes. The resolution passed.

A panel of the geneticist convened by GLFC confirmed that the genetic material in Herring is pliable and they will conform to the environment in which they are introduced. My resolution allowing the reintroduction of Herring from other Great Lakes population into Lake Huron using the best scientific models available was passed by both United States and Canadian advisors.

All chapter presidents should have received the information to support federal funding for Great Lakes programs in the 2018 budget year. The presidents should forward

this information to chapter members and encourage them to write their senator and U.S. representatives. Remember one letter represents 1000 votes.

By now you probably know the new Lake Trout and Splake regulations which took effect June 9, 2017 for Lake Michigan, Lake Huron and type F down river mouths, Lake Michigan MM1 through MM 4. Lake Trout and

Splake length is 15 inches with no maximum size. MM5 through MM 8 Lake Trout and Splake are open all year with 15 inch minimum size.

At this time, there is an issue of over harvest of Lake Trout in 2016 by state anglers in MH1. We need to resolve this situation under the 2000 consent agreement, this has to be worked out with the State of Michigan and the tribes. The

only change for MH 3-MH 6 is Lake Trout season is open all year.

The news is good on the Atlantic salmon planted in Lexington Harbor. CWT returns show that these fish are being caught from Port Huron to Port Austin. In addition, many of these Lexington fish are being taken at Presque Isle, Rockport and Roger City. Many of these Atlantic Salmon stocked at Lexington

ton have been showing up at other places up and down the lake. Maybe it is time to stock the majority of Atlantic salmon at Lexington. This will be taken up at the next LHCA meeting.

I hope your 4th of July holiday is great. It is time for me to go fishing.





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Committee of Advisors
to the
Great Lakes Fishery Commission



A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESTORING COREGONINES IN THE GREAT LAKES

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes historically held a unique complex of coregonines (common name ciscoes) that ranged widely within and among lakes;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes supported multiple forms of coregonines, ranging from those that inhabited the deepest waters to those that inhabited surface and inshore waters;

WHEREAS, coregonines were the primary prey for lake trout, the native top predator;

WHEREAS, due to a combination of overfishing, sea lamprey predation, and habitat loss, coregonine populations declined dramatically throughout the Great Lakes in the 20th century;

WHEREAS, several forms or species of coregonines have been extirpated from individual lakes or are extinct;

WHEREAS, nutrient reductions resulting from the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and the introduction of dreissenid mussels have resulted in Lakes Michigan and Huron undergoing regime shifts, and with reduced ability to support alewife, the dominant prey fish of these two lakes for much of the last 60 years such that they now more closely resemble the food web and planktivore community of Lake Superior;

WHEREAS, open ecological niches may be available to support a diversity of coregonines;

WHEREAS, the science affecting coregonine decision-making is rapidly emerging;

WHEREAS, the Lake Ontario Committee is restoring Bloater and enhancing its cisco population;

WHEREAS, the Lake Huron Committee is beginning a management experiment to re-establish cisco in Saginaw Bay;

WHEREAS, the Lake Huron Citizen Advisory Committee has been actively engaged in promoting coregonine restoration in Lake Huron since 2003;

WHEREAS, two forms of coregonines—*coregonus-artedi* and *coregonus-hoyi* (Bloater)—are currently being successfully reared in hatcheries, with a third form, *coregonus-artedi albus*, scheduled for production in 2018;

WHEREAS, the Canadian and U.S. Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission believe that reestablishing native coregonines in open offshore waters is consistent with the goals of fishers, environmentalists, and conservationists; and

WHEREAS, hatchery-based conservation stocking has proven successful for other species such as lake trout, a similar model should be investigated for coregonine restoration.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. and Canadian Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission urge the Commission to encourage state, provincial, tribal, and federal partners to work together through A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries to make coregonine restoration a priority;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. and Canadian Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission call upon the Commission to work with the lake committees to determine a Great Lakes-wide strategy to determine the species or forms of coregonines of greatest relevance to each lake and evaluates the potential food-web effects;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. and Canadian Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission encourage the lake committee agencies to consider the best available science to maintain genetic diversity within the population; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the U.S. and Canadian Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission request that the Commission support research, including research on hatchery rearing, which has the potential to expedite coregonine restoration.

Passed unanimously June 7, 2017 U.S. and Canadian Committee of Advisors



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

The MDNR Fisheries Division chose not to introduce a new House Bill that would allow commercial fishermen to keep 100 lbs. of walleye and lake trout per day as bycatch in their nets. In my opinion, it was the result of the immediate and demonstrative reaction of sport fishing groups like MSSFA. We opposed the removal of the sport fish designation for either lake trout or walleye; objected to the Bycatch allowance; reviled the lack of GPS gear location availability; fumed at not being included in the advisory committee on regulations of commercial fishing and called out the proposal's lack of authority to suspend the use of small-

mesh gill nets in areas of the lakes where harm to other species would be detrimental. Although the proposed bill is stalled, sport fishermen fear its introduction and approval would lead to increased depredation of the walleye, perch and lake trout to the detriment of the sport fishing industry. In recent years, sport fishermen in Saginaw Bay encouraged commercial fishermen to move out of the Bay in order to protect the perch predation inside the Bay. What happens now that the commercial fishers see an opportunity to harvest more sport fish? MSSFA has joined with the other sport fishing organizations like TU, Hammond Bay Anglers,

MUCC, MCBA, and the Saginaw Bay Walleye Club, to draft an acceptable alternative proposal that protects our \$7.1 billion sports fishing industry from this encroachment on the sport fishery. We are in the process of determining next steps in achieving an acceptable statute for passage in the house and senate. On the federal level, proposed White House budget cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies will end federal spending on Great Lakes clean-up. That includes axing work on invasive species like Asian carp and a public health program that protects drinking water from toxic algae for 11 million residents around Lake Erie. Also killed under the President's budget plan is the national Sea Grant program, which conducts coastal research through 33 universities nationwide. Michigan Sea Grant, a joint program between the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, has provided Great Lakes re-

search and project facilitation for nearly 50 years. The budget plan also calls for a 45% reduction over 2017 funding levels in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency categorical grants to states, the funding used by states — including Michigan — to fund regulation of federal environmental laws such as the Clean Air and Clean Water acts. MSSFA is encouraging all of its members to email their representatives in Washington, DC to restore the budget cuts and continue to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Ducks Unlimited has asked me to join them on July 18 and 19 in Washington DC, and offered to cover any expenses in order to lobby key legislators, including our own Michigan Congressman John Mollenaar, who serves on the House Committee on Appropriations. Congressman Mollenaar has gone on record saying, "The Great Lakes enjoy broad support in Congress and I will work to unite my colleagues around legislation that will continue to protect the Great Lakes for years to come." We need to personally reach out to legislators to restore these proposed cuts for the welfare of the Great Lakes. On June 5, 2017, I participated on a conference call, with other Lake Michigan Citizen Fishery Advisers, on two recommendations. The first was a recommendation to reduce the bag limit on Chinook salmon and the second was whether to continue to use the protocol (Predator/Prey Ratio) for determining

the criteria for the daily catch limit on Chinook salmon. There were only eight members on the call and the committee could not reach a consensus on either recommendation. The charter boat people held to their position to reduce the bag limit to three; a position they have held for many years since the limit was raised to five. The sport fishing group advisors held to their belief that science should direct managers' decisions on stocking and regulation and not social considerations. The committee could not reach consensus. So for now we will continue using the Predator/Prey Ratio for determining the catch limit on Chinook salmon and the daily bag limit will remain at five salmon. We also considered recommending the issue to the Natural Resources Commission for public debate; but it was decided this was not a wise recommendation given the lack of credible scientific knowledge among the general public. I am sure we will revisit this topic at our October meeting. Thanks to the Traverse City Area Steelheaders for the opportunity to speak at their June meeting. I covered a number of topics including continued vigilance to counter any attempts by agribusiness to reintroduce commercial net pen aquaculture on the Great Lakes. I am really pleased to see so many chapters holding kids tournaments this summer and the number of veteran events is heartwarming. Keep up the good work in your communities.



What's happening
in Holland?

- STREET PERFORMERS SERIES**
Thursdays through August 31
6:30 – 8:30
Downtown Holland
- SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**
Fridays through August 25
6:30 – 8:30
Kollen Park
- AMERICAN LEGION CONCERT SERIES**
Tuesdays through August 22
7:30
Kollen Park
- FARMERS MARKET**
Wednesdays & Saturdays,
through December 9
8th Street Marketplace
- INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS**
July 4 – Kollen Park
- ART IN THE PARK**
Saturday, August 5
9 – 4
Centennial Park
- VINTAGE BOAT SHOW**
Saturday, August 26
10 – 4
Holland Museum
- LABOR DAY TRUCK PARADE**
Monday, September 4
9:15 am
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Deb Shephard Receives MSSFA Distinguished Service Award



MSSAFA's Communications Committee Chairman, Jim VanderMaas, presents Deb Shephard with the Distinguished Service Award for her contributions as GLSN Editor-In-Chief

By Dennis Eade

Deb Shephard has put her pen down as Editor In Chief, after a distinguished thirteen year career with the Great Lakes Sport Fishing News. She has been editor, designer and layout person all rolled into one for these many years and deserves to sit back now and begin enjoying time for herself.

Deb was honored by MSSFA in June when Jim VanderMaas, Chairman of the Communications Committee, presented her with a plaque symbolizing the organization's recognition of her accomplishments and appreciation for her service at a luncheon in her honor at Clementine's Restaurant in South Haven, MI.

Deb struggled through a difficult time taking care of husband Bob Shephard during his battle with cancer. Of late, her mother has been in and out of doctors' offices and the hospital with health problems requiring Deb's time and attention. She's done it all while working extended hours at Coca Cola for the last twenty five years,

a streak which will soon be completed with her retirement at the end of this year.

Deb's greatest attribute is her dedication and willingness to do whatever it takes, finding relevant fishing news copy, developing a network of contributors and searching the internet for stories that highlight the environment and our natural resources. She managed GLSN through the transition in leadership and a new advertising sales person; all the while, coaching and overseeing the business of producing a great publication six times a year.

Now it's time to travel, see all those places she's only read about and experience what life has instore in the next phase. She has moved back to Paw Paw, MI., after a time in the country in Bloomingdale, and ready to put her feet up, no longer needing to worry about the next deadline. On behalf of all of us Steelheaders, thank you Deb for a job well done!

Great Lakes Sport Fishing News Appoints Editor In Chief

HOLLAND, MICH – The Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen's Association has announced that Barb Aalderink of Fusion Graphic Consultants is taking over the reign of editor in chief of Great Lakes Sport Fishing News. Barb has extensive knowledge in full service marketing and has had her own business for eight years. Her background includes 35 years of experience in advertising, marketing graphic consulting and electronic media in the paper and printing industry. Barb will concentrate on marketing, creative and content for Great Lakes Sport Fishing News. She may be contacted at barb@fusiongraphicconsultants.com.

Laura Kleinheksel is the new layout and design consultant for GLSN working for Barb Aalderink. Laura has been in the graphic design field for 15 years; 8 years with Fusion Graphic Consultants and 13 years combined marketing and printing experience in West Michigan. "I look forward to partnering with GLSN to utilize my interest and skills with layout design, as well as learn about sports

fishing in the process! Please send me any photos, news articles, and event information that is important to you as Steelheaders", said Laura. She may be contacted at laura.glsfn@charter.net.

The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association is the largest sport fishing association in the Great Lakes Basin and has 15 chapters throughout Michigan which protect, promote and enhance sport fishing in the Great Lakes and connecting waterways.



Laura Kleinheksel and Barb Aalderink of Fusion Graphic Consultants.



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“Temperature” Continued from page 1

have ever been planted in this Black River or in the South Haven harbor where it joins Lake Michigan. Water temperature may have been one of the reasons they show up in this stream periodically. Indiana plants a large numbers of summer steelhead in the St. Joseph River because it is the state’s only large tributary to Lake Michigan. The fact that for much of the summer this river is too warm for steelhead and the characteristic that Skamania strain steelhead don’t seem to home in on their planted stream as well as other steelhead explains why these summer runs stray into other streams.

When the water temperature in the St. Joseph stays in the 60s you can have good success fishing below each of the dams. Berrien Springs usually provides the best fishing

Creek joins the St. Joe from the south just few miles upstream from Lake Michigan and Pipestone Creek, which joins the St. Joe about three river miles up from I-94 are both designated trout streams with resident browns present. Summer steelhead will remain in the lower reaches of these creeks until the weather cools in September. Fishing in the St. Joseph off the mouths of these streams can also be very productive.

The Dowagiac River is a good sized trout stream that joins the St. Joe in Niles. A dam about two miles north of Niles still blocks the fish from moving further upstream. There is plenty of room for all styles of fishing here.

Nearby cool rivers also receive summer steelhead that stray from their stocked river. The Galien River joins Lake Michigan in New Buffalo, about 25 miles south of the St. Joe. The mainstream of this riv-



Close-up of a summer steelhead on a spinner



Brett Hartford releases summer steelhead

but you can also have good success below the Niles and Buchanan dams as well. At normal low summer water levels you can wade below each of the dams. However, launching a boat will always give you access to water you can’t reach in your waders.

With the inevitable rise in the water temperature the steelhead that have run the St. Joe in July or August will seek cooler water. Tributary streams provide these respites. If the feeder creek is small often the steelhead will hold off the mouth of the creek or just enter the first pool or two if there is sufficient depth. Love, Lemon, and Farmer’s Creeks and Big Meadow Drain are examples of the small cool inflows below Berrien Springs.

There are two cold tributaries that join the St. Joseph below Berrien Springs that are large enough to draw steelhead well upstream into them. Hickory

er is not a lot colder than the St. Joe but its south branch definitely is cooler. Resident brown trout are present in the South Branch of the Galien and most of the summer steelhead that enter the Galien make a right turn at the forks. About the same distance to the north the aforementioned Black River flows into Lake Michigan at South Haven. This river also branches a short distance upstream from its mouth and the Middle Branch attracts most of the steelhead.

The same cool weather that results in a run in the St. Joseph will also trigger smaller runs in the Kalamazoo and Grand Rivers. Like the St. Joe these are large warm water rivers that will be too warm for summer steelhead most of the time from late June to early September. Swan Creek is a cool tributary to the Kalamazoo and will attract steelhead when the weather warms up the main river. It flows in from the



Jim Bedford with summer steelhead

south about two river miles downstream from the Allegan Dam.

Even though there is a ladder at the Sixth Street Dam this is the most likely spot to find some stray summer steelhead in the Grand River. Buck Creek is a brown trout stream that joins the Grand downstream from the dam and will attract summer steelhead when conditions are right. When a cool spell is prolonged the summer runs will ascend the ladder and be attracted to the Rogue River. I’ve caught them as far upstream as Prairie Creek but this is not something you can count on.

Michigan plants all of its summer steelhead in the Manistee River. This river also gets too warm in the

summer below Tippy Dam. Pine Creek is always cold when it joins the Manistee and attracts summer runs at its mouth in the Udell Rollways campground. Bear Creek may draw fish but often it is as warm as the big river at their confluence.

Casting and retrieving spinners is a very effective technique for summer steelhead and is my favorite. The stream size and clarity and the brightness of the day influence my choice of spinners. Real silver is the choice on dark days and when the water clarity is low while tarnished brass and black are at the other end of the spectrum when the creek is low and clear and the sun is out. Fluorescent orange tape will always be on the back of the



Terri Bedford admires summer steelhead

blade and often I will use a spinner with a fluorescent orange painted blade. A spinner with a polished copper blade has become a very good summer steelhead spinner for me in recent years. Its effectiveness may be due to the reddish orange component of its flash.

Minnow plugs also work well for summer runs. Those that dive to a moderate depth like the Kinchou Minnow and Wally Diver seem to be ideal when fishing small streams for steelhead. They get down to the fish on upstream casts but don’t dive so deep as to get hung up.

Summer steelhead orient to cover just like their cousins running in the cooler seasons. Retrieving

your lure close to logs, overhanging brush, undercut banks, and big rocks is a key to success. These steelhead also have a strong affinity to deep riffles and you should fish this type of water hard when you find it. The choppy water surface keeps them from view just like more solid cover. Summer steelhead will hit right away when they are in the mood so it pays to move right along and cover lots of water.

Hope for some cool weather and keep your stream thermometer handy. Summer steelhead are aggressive strikers when the water temperature drops to the low to mid sixties.





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SEAL THE DEAL ON SALMON

By Roger Hinchcliff

If you look around you will see many amazing things in this life. Including many of Gods wonders. Something that just amazes me personally is when it comes to nature. One of Gods many wonders are the mighty salmon that we all love to catch and eat. If you know the life cycle of a salmon and its short life span, you know they migrate from the Great Lakes or Ocean to their native streams with an internal compass through environmental cues from mother nature. Including length of daylight, the earth's magnetic field, water salinity, temperature and the big one their sense of smell. The fish seem to take these cues and will travel great distances to orient themselves to their natal rivers and once there the old sniffer takes them home.

Which leads me to my point concerning a fish's sense of smell. I believe in my opinion, that ALL living things use scent as a powerful memory trigger in confirming things, including food or a meal.

When you think of your sense of smell imagine being able to smell in parts per billion. That equates to 1,000 times better than your bird dog. I have never met anyone who didn't think that fact was amazing. I know I do and this

should not be ignored, but many anglers ignore this fact when fishing and those fishermen that do use scent have the advantage. Just look in their coolers if you don't believe me? Before I give some tips on how to catch more fish I would like to point out a few things to the non-believers out there.

With today's technology, we see a lot of underwater cameras out there and they have captured some amazing footage when trolling lures or running baits. Have you ever seen those videos where the fish comes up to the lure only to refuse it? Could it be the color, size, profile or even action caused them to refuse it? Or did it not smell, right? You have to wonder if that lure or bait had some scent on it, if that would have sealed the deal. Trust me if you're in denial about how well scent works that's fine it's just more fish for me and others.

One last thing if you think about it, God gave them this incredible sense of smell and many think they don't use it? That's like saying a white-tailed deer doesn't use its nose. Please, the sooner you start using scent your catch rates will go up. Now that I have made my case let's talk some tips.

Cleanliness

First start with your lures. I wash my hands and lures with lemon Joy dish soap. If you were to look on

some of the world's greatest angler's boats, you will find a bottle on the boat. Start with clean lures every day and wash your hands in the river or lake several times throughout the trip. I do wear rubber gloves a lot while fishing. Now many think this is overkill but I know different. I've seen my catch rates out fish my buddies countless times. Bottom line I'm a believer, you will be too if you give it a try.

The gloves to buy for this, are the Nitrile gloves. They are skin friendly for anyone with latex allergies and are surprisingly more durable than you think and will last throughout the day of fishing. Because you can buy a box pretty cheap you can afford to change often or share with your fishing buddies.

Next keep your fishing towels clean. Take them off the boat and wash often after every trip. A smelly towel can apply the wrong odors to your baits and



Brandon Glass is a true believer, now that he's using bait scents.

lures if you think about it. So, at the end of the day please gather up your towels and wash them. Clean towels should be on the boat always.

Cures

This could be another article in itself but cures are very important when fishing for Salmon whether on the big water or river. These fish come from Ocean or the Great Lakes and when they enter the river they crave salt due to their bodies going through physical and chemical changes, preparing for the spawn and ultimately their death. Knowing this information is why many salmon fishermen swear by sodium sulfate cures.

Give fish what they want. A hot cure produces the best for me. It's tough to beat the Pro Cure line up of products. My absolute favorite on Salmon is the Wizard Red Hot Double



Common bait scents available

stuff and the other is the Last Supper. Sometimes I use a combination of both cures and experiment with my own recipes with Salmon skeins. Please remember when curing and handling your eggs always wear gloves this is a must.

When I'm on the big pond running meat rigs, I use Brine 'N Brite bait brine. This product toughens your baits, and its scales. It also helps your baits stay fresh

longer. What I love about this brine is the amino acids that are in the product. Fact is amino acids are found in all proteins which are the building blocks of all life. Try brining or dyeing your rigs and your catch rate will go up.

Scents

When it comes to scent

"Salmon"

Continued on page 9

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Summertime Boss: Bluegills

By Roger Hinchcliff

Ask most folks what's the first fish you have ever caught? The bluegill will most likely be the answer. Many anglers first love affair and introduction to the sport of fishing were through fishing for panfish. The gill is native to North America and lives in streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds. It is commonly found east of the Rockies.

If I had to choose one of my favorite fish to eat you would hear me mention species like a perch and walleye, but at the top of the list; I would have to say the bluegill. Those tasty fish belong in a corn meal jacket in my opinion, but I also practice conservation.

When targeting large Summer, or Fall schools of fish, always keep conservation in mind. When catching large gills keep in mind the size of the female plays

a large role in how many eggs she will produce. A smaller female could produce as few as 1,000 eggs, and a large, healthy female can produce up to 100,000 eggs. Release the larger females to keep the fishery intact for future generations and feel free to keep the smaller ones for a delicious fish fry.

Locating Fish

The savvy anglers who are in search of trophy gills sometimes have fits on trying to locate them within any given body of water, during the hot summer months. Big gills move to deep this time of year and suspend in open water where they suspend just below the surface and feed on plankton and other aquatic creatures and go deep during the day and to lounge on the bottom. The bluegill tries to spend most of their time in water in temp ranges from 60 to 80 °F.



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Contrary to belief blue gills enjoy the heat, but shy away from direct sunlight - they typically love deeper water but will linger near the water surface in the morning to stay warm after a cold night. Example: early and late in the day, the school may move up to 8 to 10 feet deep, but as the day goes on they go deep.

A school size of 10 to 20 fish or more are pretty typical and will use all of the water column and structure to their advantage.

Tip: Aquatic insects mostly live in vegetation. Coontail and milfoil weeds are my favorite weeds to target for big gills. They can hide and hunt for food at the same time. I look for differences in cover like thinner patches, or points. Find deep water weed edges and you should connect with the biggest gills the lake has to offer. When the sun gets high and the temps go up look for fish in deeper water.

When fish are on beds early in the season it's easy to locate them, and catch them. You just cruise the shallows with some polarized glasses and look for beds and fish. Not so easy when the fish choose to go deep right? Finding them can be easier than you think. But the right equipment can make all the difference in the world. Such as the use of a good depth finder. Whether it's fixed or portable model its indispensable in helping you find

these fish. First look for the right depth and structure. Such as deep water humps, sunken islands, and deep weed edges.

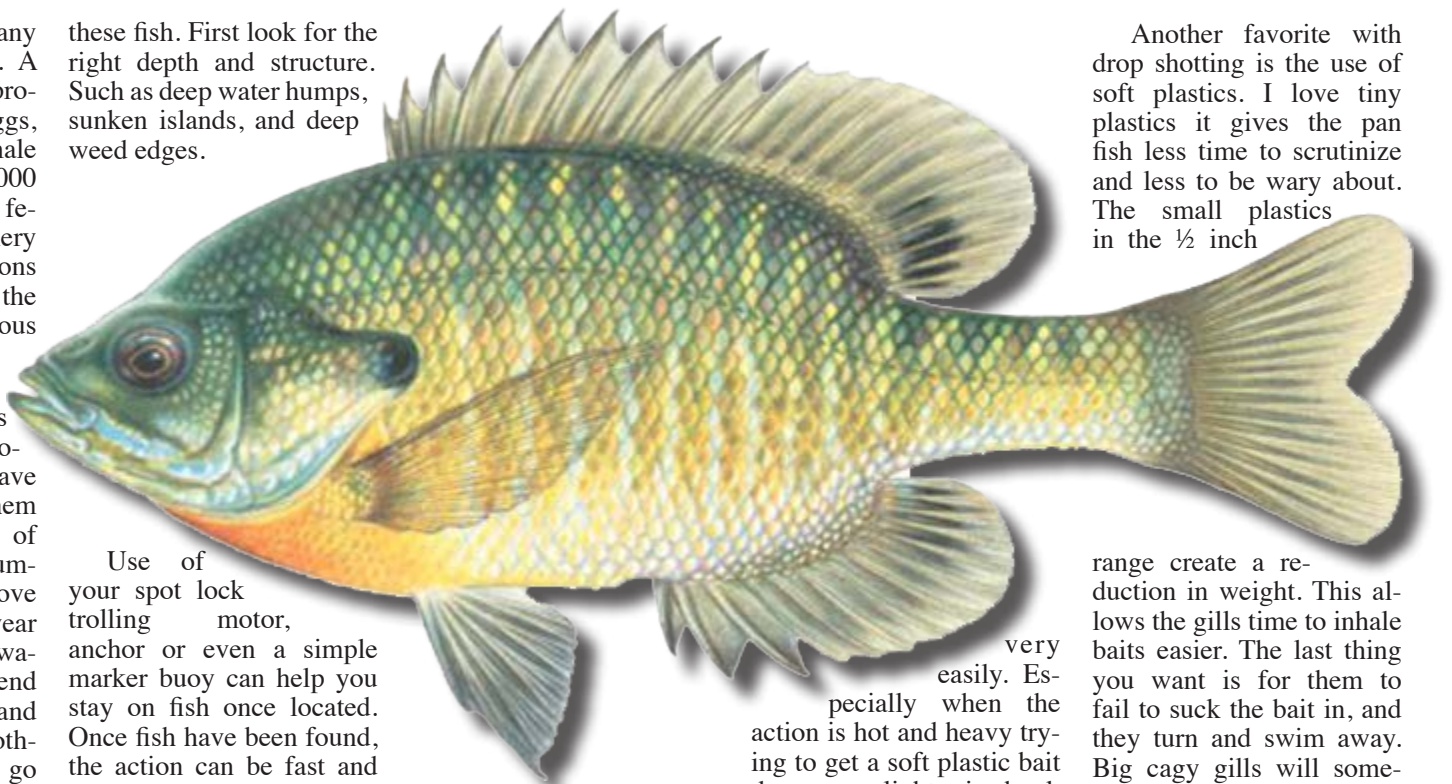
Use of your spot lock trolling motor, anchor or even a simple marker buoy can help you stay on fish once located. Once fish have been found, the action can be fast and furious. Now that we covered some biology of the fish and use of electronics to find them let's talk rods and rigging.

Rigging

Most have heard about drop shotting for Bass, how about drop shotting for Blue Gills. This technique can be deadly on deep open water gills. It's so easy to do and so effective for deep water panfish. I find it tough to try anything else.

You must first start with the right rod when fishing deep water. Especially when fishing let's say anywhere from 20-30 foot depths. The right rod will help you land more fish. A longer fast action rod is my favorite because the rod helps by picking up the slack line when a strike is detected. Yet the rod is limber enough to handle light leaders and still have the power to get those big gills out of weeds. My favorite rod length would be in a 7-foot range. Once I have my rod picked out I use braid for my main line. I love to use braid in a 4-8 lb. diameter and tie in a 3-7-foot piece of fluorocarbon or mono in.

When fishing deep water the braided line helps in getting a great hook set. Braid has less stretch than mono. My leaders are typically anything from 4-6 lb. mono or fluorocarbon for cagey bluegills. If I'm fishing in heavy weeds or structure I will bump up to an 8lb leader. For the most part, the lighter the leader line, the more bites you get



in my opinion.

How to rig it up: Tie a Palomar knot to a small hook in a size 6-10 long Aberdeen hook and leave the tag end at least a foot or more long. It's important that the hook is facing up after tying your knot. Sometimes I will vary how long I make this tag end so it will vary how far my bait is from the bottom. I will fish it sometimes just 3 inches off the bottom. The goal here is to get the bait in their face, by keeping it eye level with the fish you will connect.

Pass the tag end through the hook eye to make the hook stand out horizontally and affix a small snap swivel. I like to use a snap swivel and then attach my weight. This is so I can change out the weights easily based on conditions. This rig is great for pitching under docks too.

By having the weight below the hook, it enables anglers to suspend a bait off the bottom perfectly. It also works great when presenting bait over a weed edge, or other types of structure. Sometimes I will add a dropper line when drop shotting. By presenting the bait with this stealthy presentation it minimizes those big bluegills wariness. It's accomplished when the fish grabs the bait it doesn't feel the weight. By the time, they do it's too late because you have already set the hook.

By using a large weight, you can get the bait down

Another favorite with drop shotting is the use of soft plastics. I love tiny plastics it gives the pan fish less time to scrutinize and less to be wary about. The small plastics in the ½ inch

range create a reduction in weight. This allows the gills time to inhale baits easier. The last thing you want is for them to fail to suck the bait in, and they turn and swim away. Big cagy gills will sometimes just sit there and suck on a bait.

I also love the Berkley Gulp products for panfish. I'm no scientist and can't tell you what's in the stuff, but the fish love it that's for sure. If I had to choose my top baits for large bluegills? I would go with a cricket, leaf worms or pieces of crawlers. Or wax worms that have been dyed in a product called Krazy Dust.

My favorite again is green; sometimes fish want a certain color. Your bait choices or rigging need not be complicated.

It's all about getting the bait in front of fish, if you do that you're cooler won't be empty. I must say when it comes to big bull bluegills in deep open water the fight is great. Those fish turn sideways and look like a big pie plate coming up to the boat. On light line and tackle those fish pull so hard. It's a lot of fun and a great way to introduce someone to fishing. So, get out this summer and enjoy the thrill of a big boss blue gill. You'll be glad you did.



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About Us...

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 crewmember for a day of fishing.

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

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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 has become well renown for it's **January Special Edition** or "**Show Edition**" that is seen at all the spring expos and sport, boat and fishing shows throughout the Great Lakes.

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CHAPTER CONTACTS

AuSable Gene Kirvan, Pres. 3842 S. Cruzen Dr., Mikado, MI, 48745 989-739-2313 or 989-739-2313 calypsocharters@yahoo.com Michael Kovach, VP/Treas. 3746 N US 23, Unit 20 Oscoda, MI 48750 989-7391182 mjo2095@charter.net	Grand Haven Roger Belter, Pres. 616-842-0877 mjbelter@attelco.net Rich Wilson, Dir. 617-676-2920 rtwilson42@yahoo.com Website: www.ghsteelheaders.com	Holland Steve Weatherwax, Pres. 616-836-3809 Waxer1221@yahoo.com Brian Eade, Dir. 616-836-4071 brian.eade@live.com Website: www.hollandsteelheaders.org  facebook.com/Holland Steelheaders	Metro-West - Livonia Larry Tabaka, Pres. 517-546-2824 LarryTabaka@comcast.net Roger Hinchliff, Dir. 734-657-6535 steelheadmanifesto@gmail.com Henry Nabors, Membership Director 248-225-4964 HHNabors@ameritech.net Website: www.metroweststeelheaders.org  facebook.com/Metro West Steelheaders	Southwestern Michigan Jim Marohn, Pres. 269-983-7298 jim.marohn@doubledayoffice.com Robert Schultz, Dir. 616-450-4849 bob_schultz9259@att.net Website: www.swmsteelheaders.com  facebook.com/Southwestern Steelheaders	Traverse City Area Joe Cruzen, Pres. 741 Indian Trail Blvd. Traverse City, MI 49686 248-563-0302 Jarod Krogel, Membership Dir. 231-409-0076 jrdkrogel@yahoo.com Henry Nabors, Dir. 248-225-4964 HHNabors@ameritech.net  facebook.com/Traverse City Area Steelheaders www.traverscityareasteelheaders.org
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MUCC Headquarters 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm 2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI			
August 17, 2017	7:00 PM Thursday	MUCC	(4th Tues)
September 27, 2017	7:00 PM Wednesday	MUCC	(4th Wed)
November 08, 2017	7:00 PM Tuesday	MUCC	(2nd Wed)

PAY\$\$\$ TO BELONG
A list of participating retailers is below. The most current information can be found on the MSSFA website:
Mssfa.org

MSSFA Pays to Belong					
Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Discount Type
1 AJ's Automotive	13711 Ironwood NW	Walker	MI	49544	Member Rates
2 Al & Bob's Sports	3100 S. Davison	Wyoming	MI	49548	10% Discount with Al & Bob's Card
3 All Auto Care	1234 Ball Ave. NE	Grand Rapids	MI	49505	Member Rates
4 Alpine Rent-All & Sales	1452 Alpine Ave NW	Grand Rapids	MI	49504	10% on Stihl & Toro Parts. www.alpinerent-all.com info@alpinerent-all.com
5 Ann's Custom Canvas	4414 Remembrance Rd	Walker	MI	49544	10% Discount, not valid on specials. Mention steelheaders before ordering
6 Art Van Furniture	Statewide				Friends and Family Sales only (need special coupon)
7 Auto Owners Insurance	303 E. Monroe	Durand	MI	48429	Rowe Agent Group #486
8 Batteries Plus	2061 N-139 Suite B	Benton Harbor	MI	49022	10% & Member Discount 269-925-7374 www.batteriesplus.com
9 Batteries Plus	386 Bay Park Dr, Suite B	Holland	MI	49424	10% & Member Discount 616-396-9914 www.batteriesplus.com
10 Batteries Plus	5228 S. Westnedge Ave	Kalamazoo	MI	49002	10% & Member Discount 269-553-2355 www.batteriesplus.com
11 Batteries Plus	3031 28th Street SE	Kentwood	MI	49512	10% & Member Discount 616-575-0500 www.batteriesplus.com
12 Batteries Plus	5839 Hrvey Street, Suite 6	Norton Shores	MI	49444	10% & Member Discount 231-747-9168 www.batteriesplus.com
13 Berkfield & Co LTD	2625 Pontiac Lake Road	Waterford	MI	48328	5% Great Lake Sportsmens Program on personal Insurance, on home/auto.
14 Big Lake Outfitters of Saugatuck	640 Water St	Saugatuck	MI	49453	10% on fishing tackle (retail store) with membership card 269-857-4762
15 Big Papa Sportfishing	50642 Oregon Ave.	Novi	MI	48374	10% except on equipment
16 Black Dog Outfitters	4444 14 Mile Rd	Rockford	MI	49341	10% Discount on fly tying materials, hooks & lines. www.blackdog-outfitters.com
17 BoatU.S.					\$15 Annual Membership Dues - Use Membership # GA83723B
18 Bob's Outdoors	Statewide	www.bobsoutdoors.com			10% Discount (www.bobsoutdoors.com)
19 Dayton, Rick R, DDS	169 Louis Campau Promenade Ste 2A	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	20% off all services (616)458-2545
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23 Dockside Marine, Inc	4320 State Rd	Glennie	MI	48737	15% Off Parts & Accessories (Excludes Electronics)
24 Dunham's Sports	Statewide				10% Discount # 50050/3
25 Firestone - Metro 25	19268 Middlebelt	Livonia	MI	48152	\$20 off on \$200 or more on service www.metro25firestone.com
26 Fish with Jim Outfitters	http://www.fishwithjimoutfitters.com/	248-252-1277			Discount \$50.00 off the total trip price.
27 Glacier Corporation	1021 Fuller St	Santa Ana	CA	92701	Aquarium Chillers for "salmon in classroom" \$625 + 60 (s&h) = \$685
28 Gold Coast Outfitters LLC	6755 Butternut Dr	Port Sheldon	MI	49460	10% Discount www.goldcoastoutfitters.com
29 Great Lakes Angler Magazine		www.glangler.com			Use promo code MCLUB10 1yr/\$13, 2yr/\$25, 3yr/\$36
30 Health First Chiropractic Clinic	2526 Woodmeadow Dr SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49546	First Visit Free
31 Homestead Resort on Betsie River	2399 Dam Rd	Benzonia	MI	49616	10% In Season, 25% Off Season (homestead@crystal-rentals.com)
32 Insta-Launch Campground	20 Park Ave	Manistee	MI	49660	Member Discount
33 Insurance Shop/Fremont Ins.	824 Water St.	East Jordan	MI	49727	10% Discount off insurance for MSSFA Group Members
34 Jim Waldron Pontiac, Buick, GMC	1146 S. State Rd	Davison	MI	48423	Contact Nick Russiol for Sales, 10% off all parts not to exceed \$100.00
35 J Smith Custom Tackle	1136 E Hughes Lake Road	Rose City	MI	48854	15% - 20% off depending on rod. Customrodsbyjsmith.com 989-685-2819
36 K & M Marine	14990 Telegraph Rd	Redford	MI	48239	10% off merchandise except sale items (www.kandmmarine.com)
37 Kamp Oil Inc	6467 Manistee St	Fredric	MI	49733	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
38 Kamp Oil Inc	3650 Eastern Ave SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49508	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
39 Beebe Oil Co (aka Kamp Oil)	4999 22 Mile Rd	Utica	MI	48317	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
40 Lapeer Boat Service	3556 Fort Knox Dr	Lapeer	MI	48446	10% off parts and labor (810-245-6038)
41 Liberty Tax Service	544 E. 8th St.	Holland	MI	49423	\$20.00 Discount on tax service
42 Life Family Chiropractic Centres	5795 Balsam Dr	Hudsonville	MI	49426	Complimentary 1st visit (excludes medicare) 50% off 1st massage
43 Linwood Beach Marina & Campground	135 S. Linwood Beach	Linwood	MI	48634	10% off service work
44 Logan's Run Muskegon River Cottage Rental	1648 Gardner St.	Newaygo	MI	49337	10% Discount www.logansrun.us 616-485-4501
45 Mark's Sport Shop	11530 Mason Dr	Grant	MI	49327	Member Discount
46 MC Sports	Major Locations				Member Rates with MC Sports Card
47 MUCC	2101 Wood Street	Lansing	MI	48912	\$18.00 Membership Dues
48 Racks Taxidermy	13662 Cleveland	Nunica	MI	49448	10% Discount 616-844-4495
49 Ramada Lighthouse Inn	1555 Phoenix Rd.	South Haven	MI	49090	20% Discount 269-639-9900
50 Red Sky Outfitters	5234 Plainfield Ave NE	Grand Rapids	MI	49525	10% www.redskyoutfitters.com 616-719-3074
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55 Sonus	3535 Parks St, Suite 108	Muskegon Heights	MI	49444	10% Discount, 231-737-4570 laura.szot@americanhearingsonus.com
56 Sun Coast Marine	1172 68th Street	South Haven	MI		Member discount
57 The Angling Outpost	2480 Duck Lane Rd	Whitehall	MI	49461	www.anglingoutpost.com 5% use coupon "steelheader" for online purchases
58 Tuffy Muffler	435 N. Beacon	Grand Rapids	MI	49417	10% off parts and labor
59 Tuffy Muffler	4384 Kalamazoo SE	Grand Rapids	MI	48512	10% off parts and labor
60 Tuffy Muffler	610 28th St SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49507	10% off parts and labor
61 Tuffy Muffler	4315 Clyde Park SW	Wyoming	MI	49509	10% off parts and labor
62 Van's Sport Center	1855 Alpine Ave.	Walker	MI	49544	10% Discount
63 Warrior Lures	5915 Lillian La	Traverse City	MI	49684	10% Discount on all product ordered (www.warriorlures.com)
64 West Michigan Propeller	847 Ionia Ave. NW	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	10% Discount
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Speedy Spinners

By Dennis Foster

Toss a hard-breaking fastball for a winning changeup in your spinner presentations.

Speed and spinners for walleye's sounds like a direct contraction in terms. Running spinners-typically baited with night crawlers-has always been a somewhat tedious affair. Standard fair is dragging them up and down structural elements with the standard weighting system of a bottom bouncer ranging from 1 ounce on up to 3 and even 4 ounces, depending upon depth and wind conditions.

This has become a staple on the large windswept reservoirs of the Dakota's, where the technique was born and ultimately perfected. Another technique that was developed and fine-tuned on these very same reservoirs is the slow death method. Basically, a kinked fine wire Aberdeen style hook that slow rolls a half a crawler. Seductively simple



Prime example of the rewards of keeping an open mind.

4 mm bead followed by a contrasting colored 8 mm bead and then a small aircraft style propeller blade. This gives the rig a slightly bulkier profile and combined with the color and slight flicker and flash of the blade, serves to make

bin the well proven rolling action of slow death rigs and further enhances it by incorporating the time-honored thump and flash of a spinner rig. This is accomplished by using a slightly bigger and stouter hook in the form of the Mustad Super Slow Death hook. This holds up much better to the hard strikes it will elicit at higher speeds as well as being suited to hold the trophies the Great Lakes consistently kick out. I have followed this up with 2 Matzuo Sickle hooks. I also do something a bit interesting in that I am using either a whole crawler or an artificial such as Gulp. If you are not at the very least experimenting with artificial baits, I would strongly urge you to do so.

I run the head end of the crawler onto the slow death hook in a traditional fashion. Then, I do not impede its natural action by

impaling it with the sickle hooks. The result is an incredibly natural and nearly irresistible motion. Not hooking our bait seems to be counterintuitive. Trust me on this, once you run it beside the boat, you will instantly see why it is best

employed in this fashion. The whole crawler rolls uninhibited and has an eerily realistic snaking action. And, the hooks are running right there with it. When a fish overtakes the rig these hooks easily swing into their mouth and immediate-

ly find a meaty home. The hook up ratio with this rig is over 90 percent. It not only produces more hits, it all but eliminates getting bit short. It will soon become

"Spinners"
Continued on page 21



Super Death Plus Spinner as author has developed and described

and downright deadly when properly presented.

As simple and effective as this is, it can be made even better with some tinkering. After a couple of seasons of trial and error, I developed what is now the Slow Death Plus line for JB Lures. It uses a standard Mustad Slow Death hook and incorporates a

the whole package even more deadly. There are versions with floats and even a two-hook harness where the worm is threaded directly onto the line. Subject for an upcoming article.

Now, through extensive testing, I have taken the next logical step to come up with the Super Death Plus Spinner series. It com-

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"Resources"

Continued from page 1

from seeking other sources of funding to purchase land for public recreation including hiking, camping, hunting, fishing and other recreational pursuits that are a birthright for those of us who live in Michigan. Here's a summary from Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy, the voice of Michigan's non-profit land conservan-

cies:

Senate Bills 76 & 280: Senator Booher has proposed an amendment to Senate Bill 76, to include additional projects not recommended by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board. Heart of the Lakes believes this will have significant impacts on the longevity and transparency of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and by introducing Senate Bill 280, Booher is propos-

ing drastic revisions to the function and integrity of the MNRTF. As presented, it would allow current properties being used for public parks and recreation purposes to be "re-purchased" by the MNRTF. SB280 would require the DNR to apply to the MNRTF for land acquisition and being denied funding before using any other funding, and would place a 2-year cap for full project completion on all awards. Further it

would implement a 25% dedication of funds to trails, rather than allowing priorities to be established in response to evolving need.

It is a well-established fact that parks, recreational trails and other public open spaces are important to community well-being and to peoples' quality of life. Property values are enhanced and neighborhoods improved by accessibility to parks and trails. Though perhaps not as obvious a

need as food, clothing, and medical care, people need places to enjoy nature.

It is imperative that the latest legislative assault on the Natural Resources Trust Fund, and the attack on the system emplaced by Michigan voters by wide margins on two separate occasions, be stopped. Please urge your legislators to reject Senate Bills 76 and 280.

**"Plastics"**

Continued from page 1

have become conditioned or engrained to fish them a certain way. Many anglers using swim baits are casting them. Swim baits shine when fished through weeds or up into shallow water. Anglers cast and reel swim baits over emerging vegetation. Swim baits can be worked and twitched with a swim and stop cadence. Swim baits can be fished a lot of different ways. The stout single hook can be fished through weeds effectively and offer a good hook up percentage where more leverage or pressure can be applied to the larger single hook compared to the much smaller hook and gap found on the treble hooks of crankbaits or even traditional jig and live bait combinations.

Swim baits however can also shine out over deeper water and in water deeper than eight to ten feet, slow dragging or trolling behind the boat can be deadly for reaching fish down to twenty-five feet of water. Swim baits fish very well dragged behind the boat at a forty-five to eighty-degree angle and allow you to fish slower than traditional spinner harness and crankbait speeds. You can crawl forward at a mile to a mile and a half an hour, faster if necessary but this wide window of speed can enable you to follow irregular weed bed edges and bottom contours that can be difficult at faster speeds.

Dragging soft plastics slowly upstream on river systems first planted the seeds for experimenting with slow trolling swim baits behind the boats on reservoirs and natural lakes. There were a few earlier lessons as well but somehow out of my own stubbornness, I didn't embrace these tactics for how effective they could be. I remember years ago; I was guiding a couple on Devils Lake and the wind was blowing about thirty miles per hour and boat control was a struggle as we fished a point. We were catching fish in about fifteen feet of water and even with two large drift socks out, we struggled to slow the boat down. One of the anglers I was guiding threw out a quarter ounce jig with a three-inch twister tail grub and simply dragged it behind the boat and started catching several nice fish. We replaced the other rods with more jigs and grubs and caught a lot of fish that day in fast order. The next day, I went back to the bottom bouncer and spinner so some lessons come hard. Dragging soft plastics behind the boat wasn't something I easily embraced. Some lessons are learned the hard way.

In my opinion, why slow trolling with soft plastics can work so well is the hang time and stalling fall soft plastics have when

2017 SCHEDULE

MANISTEE COUNTY

TOURNAMENTS & EVENTS

**MCSFA Events**

Salmon & Trout Derby:
May 27 - Sept. 4

Ladies Classic: June 23

Budweiser Pro/Am: June 24-25



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VISITORS BUREAU
michigan

"Plastics"

Continued on page 14

"Plastics"

Continued from page 13

popped off the bottom. As walleye anglers, we are conditioned to rig soft plastics on jigs for fishing below the boat or for pitching away from the boat. By simply changing our mentality, we can expand the uses for soft plastics dramatically if we fish these baits with a trolling mindset.

Over the past five years, I have lit up big walleyes by trolling swim baits over shallow reefs after dark. We have even caught scattered basin fish by running swim baits behind planer boards. The only requisite seems to be a clean bottom as it can be difficult to avoid any bottom contact unless targeting suspended fish. If there is a lot of algae and

anything else on the bottom that fouls up hooks, a crankbait or bottom bouncer and spinner often works better but if the bottom is clean, trolling or dragging swim baits can be surprisingly effective. Whenever you need to either drop your speed down or need to fish closer to the boat to follow contours, swim baits can give you a lot of flexibility.

Probably the biggest difference I see with pulling swim baits versus crankbaits or spinner harnesses is that you often must set the hook. Compared to what I would prefer for either crankbaits or harnesses, swim baits seem to work better with a faster and heavier action rod. A rod in the rod holder doesn't seem to hook up with the

same consistency when using swim baits. Even when we used swim baits behind planer boards, we often had to manually set the hook by sweeping the board forward. Swimbaits seem to require a more hands on approach where you hold the rod and set the hook.

As more anglers' experiment with all the different applications where swim baits can work for walleye fishing, I suspect that more refinements will continue to be made and shared. The versatility of swim baits can enable walleye anglers to catch more and bigger fish and in many ways, swim baits compliment other traditional walleye presentations.

**Researchers Discover New Invasive Clam**

A research team found a new invasive clam of the genus *Corbicula* in the Illinois River near the city of Marseilles, Illinois, about 80 miles west of Lake Michigan, a strange entry point for an invasive Asian clam. The scientists who found it have no idea how it got there. But the discovery along with genetic tests that confirm its uniqueness means that a new species or "form" of invasive clam has made its official debut in North America.

This is only the latest invasive aquatic species to settle in North America, said Illinois Natural History Survey aquatic ecologist Jeremy Tiemann, who discovered the new clam with INHS mussel field biologist Sarah Douglass in late

2015. The INHS is a division of the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois.

"In the Midwest, you have invasive bivalves, including zebra mussels, and several species of invasive fish: Asian carp, black carp and even goldfish," Tiemann said. There are exotic plants, like Eurasian milfoil. There is an invasive water flea from Africa, Asia and Australia. There also are several kinds of invasive snails, the researchers said. All of these create problems for the natives.

The new invader is a member of the genus *Corbicula*, which was first observed in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1924. It likely was brought to North America by immigrants

from Asia who used the clams as food, the researchers said. Within a few decades, it had colonized many of the major waterways of North America.

Douglass and Tiemann found the new clams while hunting through a mudflat for a federally endangered native clam, the scaleshell, that had been spotted in the same location two years before. They noticed that this tiny creature, roughly the size of a fingernail, had unusual physical characteristics compared with the other invasive species of *Corbicula* found in this region.

The Illinois team shared the find with researchers at

"Invasive"

Continued on page 17

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Photos courtesy of Gold Coast Charter Service and Benzie County Visitors Bureau

**"Students"**

Continued from page 1

by Don Remington. Scott Devries, of Al & Bob's, gave special pricing and donations for the plastic boxes each student received. Molly Rinkey, Marketing Manager, Cabela's Grandville Store, donated Cabela's t-shirts and hats for each student and the teacher Ms. Samantha Surrell. Gino's Pizza lunch greeted students on their arrival at Millennium Park.

Fishing started under a blue sky with a few fluffy white clouds and 30-40 mile per hour winds. The fish were biting, but most were in the 2-4 inch range and were caught and released. A few pan fish were in the 6-7 inch range, but the biggest was 11 inch bass.

Over a hundred fish were caught during the afternoon providing a great learning experience for all the students. Cabela's gift certificates were given to Zach and Hanna who each caught the most fish in their respective category. Anna caught the bass and was given a carved wooden bass figure she can attach to her hat.

Many thanks to the people who made this possible: Gino Lombardo, his friend Stan, Jim Larsen, Gerald Boelema, Rob Schroeder, Bass Pro Larry Jester, Don Remington, Bob Streck, and DNR Conservation Officer Dave Rogers. Many thanks to the administration at Sacred Heart Academy, Head Master Sean Malthie and Teacher Samantha Surrell for allowing us to teach class and share our fishing expertise with the next generation of anglers.



FISHPASS

Selective Bi-directional Fish Passage

How can we improve connectivity to benefit desired species while preventing unacceptable risks from detrimental species?

GOAL: Facilitate up- and downstream movement of desirable fishes and removal of invasive fishes in the Boardman River

The Union Street Dam will be replaced by a facility to allow scientists to test technologies and techniques aimed at optimizing selective fish passage and invasive species control. Once optimized (~10 y), the system will become a permanent fish passageway. **Public consultation and community input gained from the MIDNR Open House will guide the decision, identify “desirable” species, and prioritize needs for fish passage on the Boardman River.**



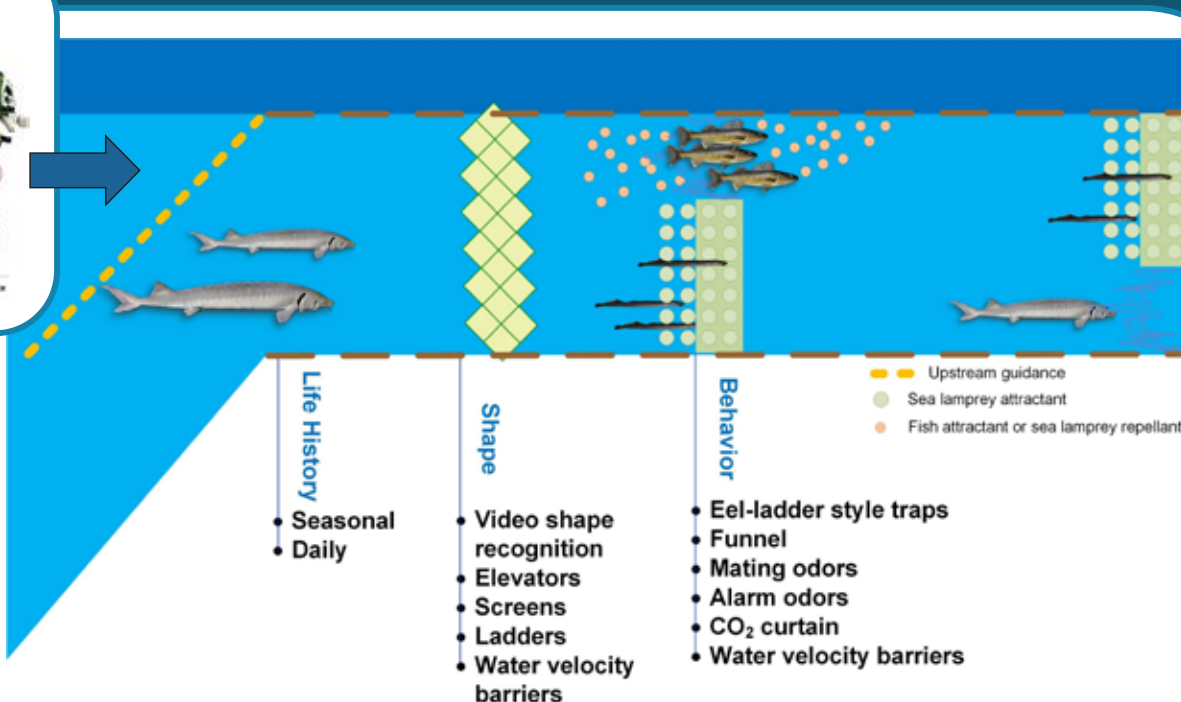
How to sort an assortment of fishes?

Sorting fish is in some ways like sorting recyclables. With recent innovations, hand-sorting recyclables is no longer needed—machines do the sorting for us based on material characteristics like size and shape. Likewise for fish, we hope to “sort” desirable from invasive fishes based on their traits and behaviors. We will use technologies that manipulate behavior of fishes in addition to recent hydraulic engineering advances to develop innovative solutions for passing desirable fishes and controlling or removing invasive species.

Single-stream recycling



Integrating technologies to sort fish



Why the Boardman River?

The **Boardman River** was selected among 12 candidate rivers for the project because:

- Union Street dam currently blocks invasive fishes and the existing structure is not sufficient to pass most desirable fishes;
- If Union Street dam is removed, the invasive sea lamprey will gain access to 179 miles of high-quality spawning habitat;
- A parasitic sea lamprey consumes ~40lbs of fish; therefore, the Boardman River must not become a lamprey-producer;
- Strong management desire to restore connectivity while controlling invasive species (**NOTE: a solution to this problem does not currently exist**);
- A solution for Union Street dam is the last piece of the Boardman River Restoration Project!

What are the expected results?

- Enhanced fisheries on the Boardman River
- Educational opportunities for locals and tourists
- Lessons learned will be applied at new sites
- Regional, national, and global implications of results

Who is involved?

Led by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in collaboration with the Boardman River Implementation Team, a team of biologists, engineers, and local managers are participating in a series of workshops to design the testing facility, establish a program of research, assess project success, and oversee long-term project management.



Traverse City and Public - Local agencies and educators are working to increase community engagement and make the FISHPASS facility a tourist destination and educational center in addition to a regional research center.



Great Lakes Fishery Commission

Andrew Muir – Science Director
Daniel Zielinski – Computational Engineer



Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries research vessels out on water to expand knowledge of Great Lakes



The DNR's survey vessel Steelhead, shown here, is celebrating its 50th year of service on the Great Lakes.

Fisheries research vessels out on water to expand knowledge of Great Lakes.

S/V Steelhead riding through channelThe Michigan Department of Natural Resources today announced all four of its fisheries research vessels are back on the water, beginning their annual surveys of Great Lakes fish populations.

Surveys conducted by these research vessels are designed to examine and collect information on all aspects of the lakes fish communities and their habitats. This information is essential in supporting the DNR's mission to conserve, protect and manage the billion-dollar Great Lakes fishery resource for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations and continues assessment and evaluation work that started in the 1960s.

The DNR's Great Lakes research vessels are based in Marquette, Alpena, Charlevoix and Harrison Township, said DNR Fisheries Division Research Section Manager Gary Whelan. They work throughout the Great Lakes on a wide variety of assessments and evaluations, beginning this work as soon as ice has cleared from the lakes and continuing well into November.

Fisheries assessment and evaluation work on Lake Huron is done by the research vessel (R/V) Tanner, the DNR's newest vessel launched in 2016. This vessel focuses on specific assessments of Lake Huron lake trout and walleye populations, as well as broader fisheries assessments in Saginaw Bay and the St. Marys River that evaluate fish community changes in these valuable Great Lakes systems. The Saginaw Bay

evaluations also are conducted jointly with the R/V Channel Cat, which is based in Lake St. Clair at the fisheries research station in Harrison Township.

Assessment and evaluation of fish populations in lakes St. Clair and Erie are entrusted to the R/V Channel Cat, which has been in service since 1968. This vessel focuses its sampling on walleye, yellow perch and lake sturgeon in these waters that support the highest fishing effort in Michigan's Great Lakes waters.

Lake Superior work is conducted by the R/V Lake Char, which launched in 2007. The Lake Char assesses the status of Lake Superior's self-sustaining lake trout populations along with other members of the unique fish community found in that water. Information collected by this vessel is used to generate annual lake trout harvest quotas to ensure the continued health of these fish populations and on lake trout sea lamprey wounding rates, a key mortality factor for this species. The latter effort helps to guide sea lamprey control work by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

On Lake Michigan, the survey vessel (S/V) Steelhead conducts a variety of fisheries assessments and evaluations, including spring evaluations of adult yellow perch, whitefish, lake trout and Chinook salmon populations. The Steelhead was launched in 1967 and has been in continuous operation since 1968, making the 2017 survey season the 50th year on the water for this vessel. Later in the summer, the Steelhead teams up with

vessels from the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to evaluate lakewide forage fish abundance, which is critical information for the proper management of trout and salmon in this lake.

Throughout the summer, DNR vessels are visible residents of Great Lakes ports. When in port, the public is encouraged to visit the vessels and talk with the crews about fisheries assessment operations.

When the vessels are collecting sampling equipment and nets or when under way operating trawls, we ask that the public give the vessels plenty of operating space as they often cannot easily steer out of the way and have a lot of mechanical equipment operating that requires the absolute attention by the crews for safe operation, said Whelan.

To learn more about the efforts of each of the DNR's vessels, visit the DNR Fisheries Division's Research website at michigan.gov/fishresearch or check out the DNR's online fact sheet about these research vessels.

For a close-up look at the work of DNR fisheries research staff and some underwater video footage taken by a remote operating vehicle, visit the Alpena Fisheries Research Station's YouTube channel.

Additional information about other science vessel operations throughout the Great Lakes can be found at the Great Lakes Association of Science Ships website, www.canamglass.org.



Michigan's state fish hatcheries offer up-close experience for all ages

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has reared fish at its state fish hatcheries for more than a century. This summer, the DNR encourages the public to pay a visit to these unique facilities and see this important work up close.

Located throughout Michigan, the DNR's six state fish hatcheries rear and stock fish for a variety of reasons, including to restore ecosystem balance, provide diverse fishing opportunities, rehabilitate depressed fish populations and reintroduce extirpated species.

Over the course of a typical year the DNR will stock roughly 26 million fish, many courtesy of its hatcheries, said Ed Eisch, the DNR's fish production manager. Each of our facilities works hard to produce several different species of fish and we love having visitors come and see directly

how we do that work.

To encourage additional visits in 2017 the DNR has launched its Hatchery Passport Program, which will reward visitors to all six state fish hatcheries and two select egg-take weir facilities with a collectible sticker representing each respective location.

An ambitious visitor can traverse the state collecting these unique stickers that are only available in person, said Eisch. Those who fill up their passport can then collect a small token of appreciation, courtesy of the DNR.

To participate in the Hatchery Passport Program, visit michigan.gov/hatcheries or stop by any of the participating locations to download or pick up a copy of the official Hatchery Passport Program document. Additional instructions are within the document. There is no time frame attached to this pro-

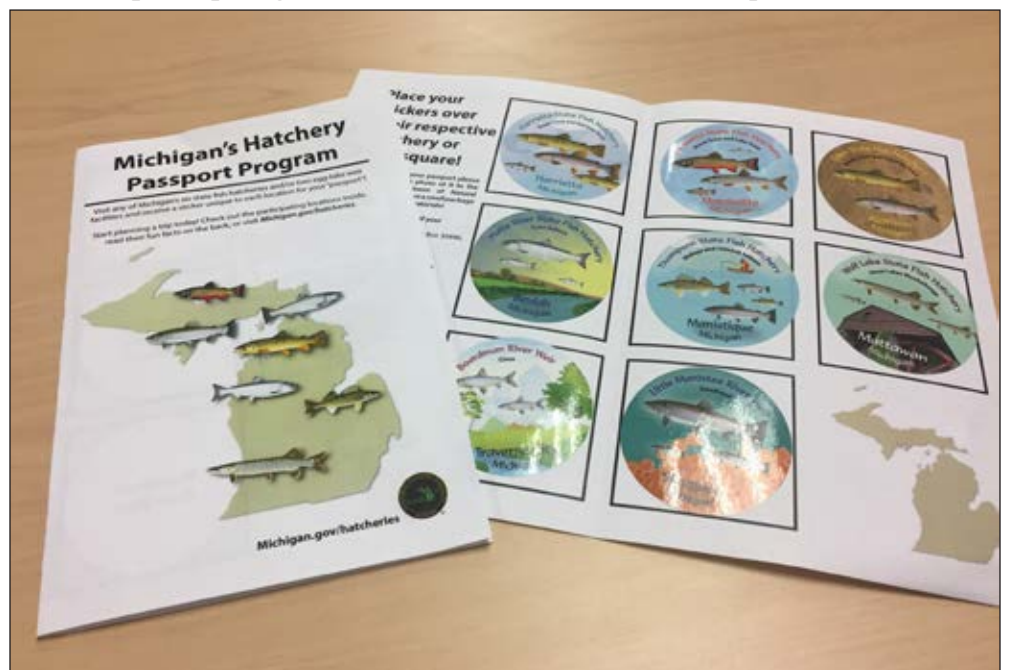
gram; it can be completed at any time by anyone.

The participating locations include:

- Harrietta State Fish Hatchery in Harrietta
- Marquette State Fish Hatchery in Marquette
- Oden State Fish Hatchery in Alanson
- Platte River State Fish Hatchery in Beulah
- Thompson State Fish Hatchery in Manistique
- Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery in Mattawan
- Boardman River Weir in Traverse City
- Little Manistee River Weir in Stronach

All participating locations should have their collectible stickers in time for or directly following the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Participants of the Michigan DNR's new Hatchery Passport Program can start by obtaining the official passport document and then make plans to visit all eight participating locations to collect each location's unique sticker.



Michigan bass anglers ready for the weekend

Bass fishing has a long history with sport anglers in Michigan

The Saturday before Memorial Day is especially significant to two groups of bass anglers those who fish tournaments and those who like to eat bass.

That's because anglers can now fish for both species of bass largemouth and smallmouth year-round in Michigan, as long as they release them immediately, until the possession season arrives later this summer.

This wasn't always so. Michigan's bass season was set by the Legislature in 1970, to begin the Saturday before Memorial Day and run through Dec. 31. That remains the open season today except on Lake St. Clair, and the Detroit and St. Clair rivers.

It has always been il-

legal to take, or attempt to take, bass during the closed season, but there were a number of catch-and-release exceptions to the season over the years.

This changed when the Michigan Natural Resources Commission allowed year-round catch-and-release bass fishing at its April 9, 2015 meeting, a rule that became effective immediately.

Michigan's first bass season was set around 1900, to run May 20-March 31. It remained that way until 1909, when it was changed to June 15-Jan. 31. In 1929, the opener was pushed back to June 25, and the season closed Dec. 31.

In 1951, the season opener was changed to

the third Saturday of June. Eleven years later (1962), the season opened June 1, except on Lake St. Clair and the adjoining rivers, where it opened the fourth Saturday of June. This was the first time that the St. Clair system had a more restrictive season.

In 1968, the statewide opener was changed to May 30, while the St. Clair system remained the fourth Saturday in June. One year later, the statewide opener was changed to Memorial Day, though the St. Clair system season remained the fourth Saturday of June. In 1976, the opener on the St. Clair system became the

"Anglers"

Continued on page 17



Pro bass angler Kevin VanDam of Kalamazoo fights a bass toward his waiting boat. (Photo courtesy of Garrick Dixon)

**“Anglers”
Continued from page 16**

third Saturday in June. In 1988, an experimental catch-and-release season was established, at the behest of organized bass fishing groups, on six large southern Michigan lakes, opening April 1. This season remained in effect until 2006, when catch-and-release bass fishing was allowed statewide to correspond to the opener of walleye and pike season, which opened the last Saturday of April in the Lower Peninsula and May 15 in the Upper Peninsula. The catch-and-release bass season was expanded to remain open year-round

protect them completely and, depending on the year, it doesn’t protect them through the entire spawn, but it protects a lot of them through the peak of the spawn enough that they’ll survive and reproduce. Bass are members of the sunfish family and like all sunfish are very prolific. The average female bass produces about 30,000 eggs per pound of body weight. It doesn’t take many successful females to ensure they’ll produce the next generation. Although considered quality table fare especially smallmouths bass are more prized these days for their sporting qualities than as foodstuffs. The vast major-

bass, there are also minimum size limits and daily creel limits. The first minimum size limit on bass was enacted in 1932, at 10 inches. It remained at 10 inches until 1976, when it was changed to 12 inches. In 1993, it was lengthened to 14 inches, where it remains today. The change in size limit has produced better fishing; anglers report catching more, and larger, average-sized bass than in the past. Because bass are efficient predators, there are indications that the larger size limit on bass has helped improve panfish dynamics. This is especially true in bluegills, which can be prone to stunting (with individuals remaining small) when their populations get overly large in a body of water. The daily creel limit was set at five in 1932, too, where it remains today, though from 1940-41, anglers on the Great Lakes were allowed to keep five largemouth bass and 10 smallmouths. Anglers typically enjoy good bass fishing around the opener, when the fish are post-spawn and feeding eagerly to recover from the rigors of reproduction. They are generally in shallow water, which makes them easier to locate. Bass are the top freshwater gamefish species pursued nationally and are always among the top targets mentioned by anglers when surveyed in Michigan. Bass are very important in Michigan, from a recreational standpoint and an economic standpoint, but not as much from a harvest standpoint as they once were, Grischke said. They are pursued by a large number of our anglers and generate a tremendous amount of economic activity. Found statewide in most lakes and streams, bass are at the top of the food chain in many of these water bodies, feeding on many species of minnows or smaller fish, as well as crawfish, frogs, leeches, and well, just about anything. It isn’t unusual to find odd items even small birds and turtles in their stomachs. Most bass anglers prefer to fish with arti-



Above and below: Anglers proudly display their smallmouth bass catch. Photos: Michigan Department of Natural Resources



statewide in 2015. Seasons were historically written into statute to protect spawning populations and have changed several times over the last 100 years, explained Todd Grischke, assistant chief of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division. It doesn’t

ity of self-described bass anglers say they always release their catch. There has also been a total change in angler behavior, from a harvest mentality to a catch-and-release mentality, Grischke said. Besides seasonal restrictions on harvesting



Bass, like this smallmouth, are growing in popularity with sport anglers in Michigan.

Photo credit: Michigan Department of Natural Resources

cial lures these days, and all manner of them from bottom-bouncing jigs to top-water poppers to everything in between will

produce, though there are still those who prefer to fish with live bait, which is perfectly legal on most waters.

Get more information on sport fishing in Michigan at www.michigan.gov/fishing.



Pro bass angler Kevin VanDam of Kalamazoo casts from the bow of his boat. (Photo courtesy of Garrick Dixon)





Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Caught a Tagged Walleye? Report it to DNR

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recently jaw tagged 3,000 walleyes in a number of Saginaw Bay tributary rivers. Anglers who catch any tagged fish are asked to collect information from the fish and report it to the DNR.

The DNR has tagged more than 100,000 walleyes in the Saginaw Bay area since 1981. Jaw tagging is part of a long-term research project to monitor survival and harvest rates and to learn about walleye movement. The program depends on anglers to report when they catch a tagged walleye, catch location, as well as the fish's length, weight (if known) and tag identification number. Once reported, anglers will receive a letter back detailing the history of their fish.

This year about 20 percent of the tags include a \$100 reward for reporting the tag. Each tag is stamped with a unique identifying number and a P.O. box address. If anglers prefer, they can report a tagged walleye online at michigandnr.com/

taggedfish. Anglers can keep or release the fish. Anglers are reminded that to be eligible for a reward, photos of the flattened tag are required. If the fish is released and anglers are not interested in being eligible to receive a reward, anglers should leave the tag in the fish's jaw and not remove it. Also new this year is a brightly colored disk tag used on some fish to test how well anglers notice and report the tags.

"This information is essential to measuring the health of the population and is critical data that is directly used in planning the future management direction needed to protect and enhance this important fishery," said David Fielder, research biologist out of the DNR's Alpena Fisheries Research Station. "Besides ensuring the walleye fishery remains sustainable, we also annually estimate the population size with the aid of these tag reports."

The tagging operation occurs each spring on the Tittabawassee River and other Saginaw Bay tributaries during the walleye spawning run. They are collected with electrofish-

ing boats that temporarily stun the fish to allow fisheries biologists and technicians to collect vital statistics, tag the fish, and release them back into the river after the fish has recovered. After spawning, walleyes migrate back into Saginaw Bay and a large number migrate out of the bay into Lake Huron. The fish that migrate out of the bay have been found ranging to the Straits of Mackinac to the north and Lake Erie to the south.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Those who fish Michigan's Great Lakes may catch a walleye with one of two types of tags: a jaw tag or a disk tag (both pictured here). Those who do are asked to report it to the DNR.

Jaw Tag



Disk Tag

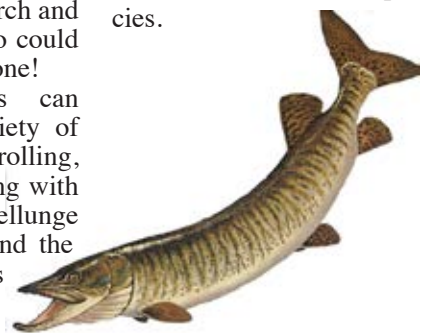


Fishing for Muskellunge is a Premier Challenge

Known as "the fish of 10,000 casts," muskellunge are a game fish native to the lakes and streams of Michigan. They are a prized catch to many anglers, but present many challenges when trying to target them. But if you do your research and are patient - you too could possibly land a big one!

Muskie anglers can choose from a variety of methods such as trolling, casting or still fishing with live bait. Muskellunge tackle must withstand the larger, bulkier lures required, as well as the fact

these fish can exceed 30 pounds. Anglers should use much heavier line and stronger rods. It should be noted that muskie fishing success usually requires more dedication and persistence than for other species.



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Lake Erie Anglers Should Scan Yellow Perch Again This Year, Fishery Managers Say

OAK HARBOR, OHIO – Anglers can again help Lake Erie fishery managers by scanning any yellow perch they catch in 2017 for microchips as part of a research study on fish behavior, migration, population size and death rate.

The project, which is in its final year, is a joint effort among the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Ohio Sea Grant.

In 2016, more than 1 million angler-caught yellow perch were scanned, said Carey Knight, fisheries biologist with the ODNR Division of Wildlife, including more than 140,000 at various cleaning houses.

"We reached out to more anglers and increased scanning at cleaning houses twofold," Knight said.

Ohio Sea Grant supported the project by producing a video public service announcement, a handout and a map of scanning stations.

Anglers simply take their catch of yellow perch

to one of the scanning facilities and pass their coolers through the scanner to check for microchips. There is no need to remove fish, and the process takes just a few minutes.

The microchips, called PIT tags, are about the size of a grain of rice and work similar to a pet microchip. Because of their small size, it is impossible to tell if a fish is tagged without scanning it. The part of the fish containing the tag is removed as a part of normal cleaning, so tagged fish are safe to eat.

Recapturing previously tagged yellow perch is helping fisheries biologists

understand the movements of yellow perch and better manage the Lake Erie yellow perch fishery.

More than 4,300 yellow perch were tagged in 2013, 2014 and 2015. Scanners on commercial trap net boats and at cleaning houses have scanned more than 5 million fish so far. Preliminary results of the study show that yellow perch tend to stick together in groups and stay within a limited area of Lake Erie, Knight said.

Visit go.osu.edu/perch-scan to view a map of PIT tag scanning stations, and watch a video about the project at go.osu.edu/perch-video.



Asian carp would have adequate food to survive in Lake Michigan: USGS study

If invasive bighead carp and silver carp spread into Lake Michigan, there would be enough food available for these particular species of Asian carp to survive, according to a new study by the U.S. Geological Survey.

This information is critical in helping resource managers mitigate effects of an Asian carp invasion. Great Lakes fisheries generate economic activity of approximately \$7 billion annually in the United States alone. Due to the introduction or invasion of many non-native species, Lake Michigan's ecosystem has already undergone broad and rapid change in fish and other aquatic life. If bighead and silver carp were to populate Lake Michigan, they have the potential to adversely affect the ecosystem and fishing industry.

Scientists used predictive models to simulate fish growth and food consumption to determine the suitability of the Great Lakes to Asian carp invasions. USGS scientists used satellite imagery of Lake Michigan showing near-surface algae to determine how much food would be available for Asian carp. Green algae and blue-green algae, specifically floating algal blooms that can be seen on the surface, are a preferred food source for Asian carp. The water temperatures and algal concentrations detected in Lake Michigan from 2009-2011 show that

the bighead and silver carp populations could not only live in this environment, but continue to grow.

"Most areas of the lake had insufficient algal food for bighead and silver carp, but the model indicates that nearshore areas and embayments had plenty of algal food to support survival and growth," said Karl Anderson, USGS scientist and

lead author of the study.

These findings imply that if bighead and silver carp were to invade Lake Michigan, they might not spread randomly across the lake, rather follow coastlines where sufficient algal food exists. Coastal areas are particularly important not only for fisheries and biological reasons, but also because human activity is



more common near shore than in the vast open areas of Lake Michigan. Silver

carp often react to boats by jumping; this activity is a nuisance because silver carp often jump into boats, harming people and property. Concentration of silver carp near the coastline would enhance the propensity of such nuisance interactions with boaters.

Food availability and water temperature are the

greatest sources of uncertainty for predicting fish growth potential. Water temperature is a key factor in determining how much bighead and silver carps need to eat. Models developed by USGS scientists helped determine how much algae carps need to eat to survive.

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Contact: Emily Whitaker, FishUSA Marketing Director
814-616-2169
emily@fishusa.com

FishUSA Acquires GLOutdoors.com

FAIRVIEW, Pa. [May 5, 2017] - FishUSA, a world leading online retailer of sport fishing tackle and related products, today announced it has acquired GLOutdoors.com, a Great Lakes-based online retailer of salmon and walleye fishing tackle and trolling gear.



GLOutdoors.com, established in 2003, offers name-brand fishing tackle specific to the Great Lakes walleye and salmon fisheries. Its inventory features brands currently carried by FishUSA, including Dreamweaver, A-Tom-Mik, Michigan Stinger and Silver Streak.

“We look forward to better serving our Great Lakes walleye and salmon anglers with a more extensive selection from these brands,” said FishUSA President, Dan Pastore.

The complete selection of GLOutdoors.com products will be available online at www.FishUSA.com, and in the FishUSA Pro Shop at 6960 West Ridge Road in Fairview.

The acquisition of GLOutdoors.com marks FishUSA’s second in as many years, following its March 2016 acquisition of Erie-based Great Lakes Tackle Shop.

About FishUSA

FishUSA, America’s Tackle Shop, caters to anglers nationally and internationally with products for the spectrum of species and fishing techniques. Launched in 2000, the company’s website, www.FishUSA.com, includes more than 35,000 SKUs and is operated by FishUSA, Inc., a privately-held company based in Fairview, Pa. The company also operates a full-service pro shop in Fairview providing anglers with access to the company’s entire product line.

“Invasive”

Continued from page 14

the University of Michigan, who conducted genetic tests that confirmed the new clams were distinct from earlier Corbicula invaders.

Despite the genetic and physical differences, the researchers can’t say whether the clam is a new species. Corbicula have reproductive strategies that make them difficult to classify,

the researchers said. To begin with, they are androgenic clones.

“When the sperm fertilizes the egg, it kicks out the maternal nuclear DNA, retaining only the male’s, and thus producing clones of the father,” Tiemann said. “These offspring, however, retain the mother’s mitochondrial DNA, which resides in tiny organelles outside the nucleus.”

Corbicula also can hy-

bridize with other Corbicula taxa, further complicating the task of classifying them, Tiemann said.

“To compound matters even more, Corbicula can also be hermaphrodites, so they can fertilize themselves,” he said. “This means that it takes only a single clam to spawn a new population.”

Skamania steelhead to boost diverse Lake Michigan fishing

The Wisconsin DNR is moving forward with an initiative to reintroduce Skamania steelhead into the Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan.

The fry, now at Kettle Moraine Springs State Fish Hatchery, were hatched from eggs provided by the state of Indiana as part of cooperative interstate management efforts. The fish represent the first batch of Skamania steelhead to be reared in the state hatchery system since 2008. A redesign of the Kettle Moraine Springs hatchery is currently underway with plans calling for a biosecure area large enough to rear all three strains of steelhead.



The fish now being raised are scheduled for stocking in the spring of 2018 with anticipated maturity ranging from 2020 to 2022.

Over the next three to five years, DNR fisheries managers intend to continue collecting eggs from Indiana to stock the Kewaunee and Root rivers with some 35,000 fish each.

The Skamania strain is particularly prized because the fish may reach 32 inch-

es and 12 pounds at age five larger than either the Ganaraska or Chambers Creek strains. Skamania also extend in-stream and near-shore fishing opportunities because they become more active when the water starts to cool in mid September and spawn from mid-December through mid-March with the peak occurring in January and February.

As with other strains of steelhead, Skamania have the capacity to spawn more than once; unlike Chinook and coho salmon, they do not die after spawning. For more info: visit the DNR website, www.dnr.wi.gov, and search “steelhead”

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“Spinners” Continued from page 12

readily apparent that the bites it elicits are bigger too. Meaning, consistently heavier fish. I feel this is due to the entire crawler stretching out completely and making for a larger overall profile. Mature fish are selective feeders and will find this more appealing. I am also a proponent of running large number 5 blades for that very same purpose. Should you feel a need to scale this down a bit, there is a single hook Super Death Plus version as well. And or, use the quick-change clevis and snap in a smaller number 3 Ventilator blade.

As important as the design of the leader portion of this rig is, there is an equally critical component that serves to balance the entire package perfectly. That being a proprietary blade from JB Lures - the Ventilator. Versions can be had in either a size 3 or size 5 blade with quick change clevises for flexibility, depending upon conditions. The Ventilator is truly unique in that it has two vents incorporated into a Colorado style blade. I feel the commotion and change in pressure created by water being forced through the vents transmits a feel of vulnerability to the fish. Furthermore, the vents create a sort of gyroscopic stabilizing effect on the whole rig at higher speeds. 1.5 mph is typically thought of as the upper end

for pulling spinners. This is where the Ventilator blade begins to shine. We can run these things clear up to and beyond 3mph without them blowing out. Try that with any other spinner and I can all but guarantee you that will soon have a tangled mess on your hands.

Now that we have our speedy spinner rigs explained, what is the best way to put them to use? This presentation is well suited for quickly covering ground on large flats or tapering shorelines. What I like to do before ever wetting a line is to make a couple of 30 mph runs up and down the structure using trim tabs to keep the nose down on my Lund to get a safe, quick, yet thorough dissemination of the presence of fish, bait and any depth or structural elements they are relating to. I can confidently do this due to the clarity of Raymarine multi-function displays coupled with the accuracy of Navionics background mapping that I have relied since the turn of the century. For this season it gets even better with the advent of the Axiom displays featuring built-in RealVision 3D sonar, and the all new Light House 3 operating system. This is all driven with blazing fast quad core performance.

Once satisfied I have found an area with decent prospects, it is time to get busy. A good starting point is say 1.8 mph and you can play with speeds up to 3mph to determine if there is a decided preference. A typical set up can include more than just the spinner option too. Assuming 3 anglers in the boat: I may send planer boards out via 8'6" St. Croix Eyecon Trolling Rods. One deep on the out-



Slow Death Plus option and packaging.

side and suspending a big aggressive bait such as an 800 Reefrunner and on the inside, either a Super Death spinner behind an inline weight or a smaller shad bodied crank bait along the lines of 200 Reefrunner ran tight to shore. 10 foot Eyecons can be ran with spinners with medium weight

snap weights or a confidence crank like the Deep Little Ripper straight out the sides. Off the stern a 7'6" rod would run a heavy snap weight basically in the prop wash with a spinner and the other side sporting a 5" "shorty" leadcore rod with a diminutive crank such as a number 4 Salmo Hornet or a Mini Ripper balances it all out nicely. In effect, we have set out a buffet line of baits and spread them over a large swath of varying depths. We are quite literally seining the water for bites. On some days you will see all rods get their share of bites. Other days, a pattern will soon develop and you can adapt as needed.

A quick discussion on line is in order. You can choose to use mono or braid depending upon the depth. I personally keep my line selection limited for simplicity. 10 lb Fireline or 12lb Nano (same exact diameters) or for mono the standard and ever reliable Trilene XT in 10lb. A loose general rule is that I prefer mono in 10 feet or less and the superlines beyond that. Mono in shallow water allows us to get our weighting systems and baits a bit further back from the boat and the stretch it provides allows us a little cushion for what are often viscous head shaking, turn and run bites in the shallows. In deep-



Kick things up a notch this summer by using high speeds and larger profiles with your spinner-rig setups. Photo by Andrew Johnson

er water, the thin diameter and low stretch qualities of braid allow us to keep our baits within a controllable distance without going to unreasonable amounts of weight. Play around with the options until you come up with a program that works best for you.

Another factor to consider is that spinner blade size can play a significant role. The old nemesis to innovation and learning-conventional wisdom-holds that big blades are only for big water, like the Great Lakes. While there is some truth to that, it is far from definitive. Big blades-in the realm of number 5's can perform just fine in smaller waters, particularly in the heat of summer. They can also be of benefit if you are dealing with a lot of pan fish and cigar sized walleyes. Bigger blades coupled with artificial crawlers will help deter them to some extent. Also, keep in mind that we are not approaching this from a finesse standpoint, we are employing a bold and brash presentation specifically designed to target the largest and most active fish the area holds. When done properly and dealing with aggressive fish, it can be the difference between

an average day and a day that averages big fish. If you are encountering tentative fish with a neutral to negative attitude, it takes but a second to snap in a more diminutive size 3 blade and see if that improves the situation.

I have a well-deserved reputation for being a non-conformist. I whole heartedly embrace this and fully realize that I have covered a lot of questionable ground here. Most likely more than a few of you saying an emphatic "really?" to yourself. Pick and choose to use as much or as little as I have shared here. I do believe you will start to open some eyes-yours and mouths of the actual wall"eyes" in the process. Besides, where's the fun in doing what is accepted practice? Always keep in mind that normal is on the very same plane as being flat out boring.

Author Dennis Foster is a Hunting/Fishing Guide and Outdoor Writer from Mellette, SD. If you would like to book a trip or have questions or comments, he can be reached through his websites www.dakotapheasantguide.com and www.eyetimepromotions.com.



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2017 Battle Creek Steelheader's Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	Contact Info
July	15	Portage Lake Pan Fish/Family Picnic in Vicksburg		Justin Kling 269-491-2980
August	19	Lake Michigan Memorial South Haven		Greg Peck 269-998-9407
October	7	Kalamazoo River Salmon Allegan Dam		Todd Sidnam 269-317-0324
October	21	Kalamazoo River Memorial Allegan Dam		Todd Sidnam 269-317-0324
October	28	Kalamazoo River Trout Quest Allegan Dam		Todd Sidnam 269-317-0324
November	25	St Joe River Fall Steelhead I-94 Boat Ramp		Todd Sidnam 269-317-0324
December	2	St Joe River Chapter Challenge	Southwest Chapter	Ryan McCartney (574)274-6382
December	9	Christmas Party		Kalamazoo Eagles

2017 Flint River Steelheader's Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	Membership Meetings Held at:
July	8	Walleye Big Bob Outing	7:00am Linwood	contact Randy 231-342-0057
	22	Walleye Tournament	7:00am Au Gres	contact Randy 231-342-0057
	29	Walleye Tournament	7:00am Port Austin	
August	5	Salmon Tournament	6:00am Ludington	contact Randy 231-342-0057
	19	Salmon Tournament	6:00am Frankfort	contact Randy 231-342-0057
	26	Salmon Tournament	6:30am Manistee	contact Randy 231-342-0057
September	20	Membership Meeting	7:00pm at Walli's	Burton Mi.
October	18	Membership Meeting	7:00pm at Walli's	Burton Mi.
November	8	Membership Meeting	7:00pm at Walli's	Burton Mi.
December	13	Membership Meeting	7:00pm at Walli's	Burton Mi.

2017 Grand Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Comments	
Grand Haven Steelheaders: www.ghsteelheaders.com				
July	29	Member Weeklong+ fishing contest begin Fish out of the Port of Grand Haven; Chinook, Coho, Steelhead, Lake Trout, Brown Trout	Jul 29 - Aug 9	contact: rtwilson42@yahoo.com
August	3	Sportsmen for Youth Fundraiser		https://sportsmenforyouth.com
	10	Grand Haven Steelheaders Member Picnic Rycenga Park, Spring Lake Twp.		contact: mjbeltier@altelco.net
September	9	Sportsmen for Youth Day	Muskegon Cty Fairgrounds	https://sportsmenforyouth.com
	16	Grand Haven Salmon Festival	Grand Haven Waterfront/City Mari	www.ghsalmonfest.com
	16	GH Steelheaders-Salmon Festival Big Fish Contest	Grand Haven Waterfront Stadium	www.ghsalmonfest.com
	16	Salmon Fest Kid Zone Activity area	Grand Haven Waterfront/City Marina location	
December	TBD	Christmas dinner/annual meeting		
For more information on Grand Haven Steelheaders activities contact: Roger Beltier - 616-842-0877 or rogerbeltier@gmail.com				

2017 Grand Rapids Steelheader's Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	
July	10	Board of Directors Meeting	7PM	
	12	Chapter Family Picnic 6 PM at Johnson Park		
August	7	Board of Directors Meeting		
	19	Fall Big Lake Salmon	Trout 2/1 Contest STC	
	28	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM/Social Hour 6:30 PM	
September	11	Board of Directors Meeting	7PM	
	25	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM/Social Hour 6:30 PM	
October	1	Chapter Buck Contest Starts		
	2	Board of Directors Meeting	7PM	
	30	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM/Social Hour 6:30 PM	
November	4	Fall River Contest Grand & Muskegon Rivers and their Tributaries STC		
	6	Board of Directors Meeting	7PM	
	11	Fishing Partners Manistee Contest STC		
	27	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM/Social Hour 6:30 PM	
December	4	Board of Directors Meeting	7PM	
	11	Chapter Family Christmas Party 6 PM - Diamond Hall		

2017 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader's Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Comments	Membership Meetings Held at:
July	15	Manistee/Arcadia Marina	Salmon outing 5:30 am - 1 pm Begins & ends at Manistee Marina	Midland VFW Hall 3013 Bay City Rd Midland, MI 48642 989-496-3410
	29	Ludington	Salmon outing 5:30 am - 1 pm	
August	12	Ludington Bring a child for great day of fun!	Salmon outing 5:30 am - 1 pm	Board Meeting starts: 6:00 pm Membership Meeting starts: 7:00 pm All Board/ Membership Meetings are held first Tuesday of each month with Exception of May, June, July and August. A raffle is held following all Membership Meetings
	13	Ludington day 2	Salmon outing 5:30 am - 1 pm	
	26	Manistee	Salmon outing 6 am - 1 pm	
	27	Manistee day 2	Salmon outing 6 am - noon	BRING A FRIEND! All Membership Meetings Are Open to the Public
September	9	Frankfort	Salmon outing 6 am - 1 pm	Register via Marine Radio channel 72 At beginning of all events. Weigh in's and Picnics follow at 2:00 pm.
December	9	Christmas/Awards Banquet Bring family and friends!	Cocktails 5 pm, dinner 6 pm K of C Hall Aubun, MI	
For more information email: kathy@steel-headers.com or check web page www.steel-headers.com				

2017 Huron Valley Steelheader's Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	Membership Meetings Held at:
May	13	Taylor Fish-N-Fun Day	Tom Cunningham	American Legion Post #200
	20	Vision Impaired Outing	Dave Backhaus	11800 Michaels St
	27	Kelley's Island Tournament w/MWS		Taylor, MI 48180
June	3	Lake Erie Walleye w/MWS		John Popp
	8	Old Geezers Outing		tzjohn@comcast.net
	15	Membership Meeting/Fish Fry	6:00 PM	
July	22-23	Ludington Tournament w/MWS		
August	17	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM	
October	19	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM	
	28	Huron Walleve Tournament w/MWS		

2017 Metro West (Livonia) Steelheader's Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	Membership Meetings Held at:
July	1	Saginaw Bay Walleye Tourn.	Fabian Sepulveda	Livonia Civic Park Senior Center 15218 Farmington Rd. Livonia, MI 48154 (SE Corner of 5 Mile/Farmington) NE Meeting Room Contact: Pres. Larry Tabaka 313 215 8979 Membership Director: Henry Nabors 248 225 4964
	6	Erieau Tournament	Clyde Schoen	
	8	Erieau Tournament	Larry Tabaka	
	8	Manistee River Cleanup Day	Roger Hinchcliff	
	11	Club Summer Picnic	Jim Robertson	
	15	Holland Salmon Tournament	Larry Tabaka	
	15	Clinton River Cleanup Day	Adam Trenz	
	20	Ludington Salmon Tournament	Gale Frazee	
	22	Ludington Salmon Tournament	Dennis Kelley	
	23	Ludington Salmon Tournament	Dave Zawacki	
August	1	Membership Meeting		
	5	Manistee Salmon Tournament	Eric Braden	
	6	Manistee Salmon Tournament	Chris Christoph	
	19	Frankfort Salmon Tournament	Tom Hesch	
	26	Betsie River Tournament	Mike Cortis	
September	5	Membership Meeting		
	9	Frankfort Salmon Tournament	MikeHartrick	
	23	Manistee River Tournament	Adam Trenz	
October	3	Membership Meeting		
	7	Ohio Steelhead Alley	Phil Bustos	
	14	Manistee River Tournament	Fabian Sepulveda	
	24	2018 Calendar Meeting	Kelley/Nabors	
	28	Huron Walleye Tournament	Jim Robertson	
November	4	Manistee River Tournament	Ray Lorton	
	7	Membership Meeting		
	18	Pere Marquette River	Phil Bustos	
December	5	CHRISTMAS PARTY		
	9	Huron River Tournament	Roger Hinchcliff	
December	5	CHRISTMAS PARTY		
	9	Huron River Tournament	Roger Hinchcliff	



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2017 Holland Steelheader's Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event		
July	10	Board Meeting		
	27	General Membership Meeting/Captain's Meeting		
	29	Holland Steelheaders Summer Challenge		
August	4-6	Big Red Classic		
	7	Board Meeting		
	19	Holland Steelheaders Ladies Tournament		
	26	Gold Coast Tournament		
September	5	Tuesday Fish League Final Night		
	11	Board Meeting		
October	2	Board Meeting		
November	6	Board Meeting		
December	2	River Tournament		
	4	Board Meeting		
	7	General Membership Meeting		

Membership Meetings Held at:
Yacht Basin Yacht Club
1862 Ottawa Beach Rd
Holland, MI 49424
Social Hour at 6pm
Dinner at 7pm

Call board members to find out locations of board meetings.

For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jeremy Erdman 616-510-9405


2017 TCAS Steelheader's Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	Membership Meetings Held at:
July	1 – 8	2016 National Cherry Festival		Traverse City Senior Center 801 Front St Traverse City MI 49686
		NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING		
	1	MWS Walleye Tournament (Saginaw Bay or Lake Erie)		
	8	Lake Charlevoix Tournament	Tim Potter/Rich Wilks	
	15	MWS Salmon Tournament – Holland		
August	20,22,23	MWS Salmon Tournament – Ludington		06:30 PM
	2	Membership Meeting		
	5,6	MWS Salmon Tournament – Manistee		
	13	MWS Salmon Tournament – Frankfort		
September	26	Lake Bellaire Tournament	Tim Potter/Rich Wilks	06:30 PM
	6	Membership Meeting		
	9	MWS Salmon Tournament – Frankfort		
	16	Crystal Lake Tournament	Warner Smith	
	23	Senior Center Fish Fry		
	23	MWS Manistee River Tournament		
October	30	Grand Traverse Bay Tournament (Elk Rapids)	Joe Cruzen	06:30 PM
	4	Membership Meeting		
November	21	Port Captain's Meeting		06:30 PM
	1	Membership Meeting		
December	8	Christmas Party		

2017 SW MI Steelheader's Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	Membership Meetings Held at:
May	11-13	Summer Challenge Tournament	www.fishthesummerchallenge.com	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks 541 601 Riverview Drive Benton Harbor, MI 49022 Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784
June	8	Membership Meeting	Board Mtg 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Mtg 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
July	13	Membership Meeting	Board Mtg 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Mtg 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
August	10	Membership Meeting	Board Mtg 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Mtg 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
September	14	Membership Meeting	Board Mtg 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Mtg 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
October	12	Membership Meeting	Board Mtg 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Mtg 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
November	8	Membership Meeting	Board Mtg 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Mtg 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
December	2	Winter Challenge Tournament		
	8	Christmas Party		

2017 South Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	Membership Meetings Held at:
July	20	Membership Meeting		Membership & Board Meetings South Haven Moose Lodge 1025 East Wells Street South Haven, MI 49090 contact: SHS President
August	12	Blueberry Festival Fish Boil		
	17	Membership Meeting		
	19	Salute to Veterans		
September	26	Merle Morris Tournament		
	21	Membership Meeting		
	21	Board Meeting		
October	19	Membership Meeting		
	19	Board Meeting		
November	1	Pro Am Committee 2018 Kick-off #1		
	16	Membership Meeting		
	16	Board Meeting		
	25	River Tournament		
December	6	Pro Am Committee 2018 #2		
	7	Local Tournament Committee Annual		
	9	Holiday Party		

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2017 Thumb Chapter Steelheaders Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	Membership Meetings Held at:
July	20	Regular Meeting	7:30 PM	Ubly Foxhunters
August	5	Summer Showdown fishing tournament	6:00 AM	Harbor Beach Marina
	13	Pig Roast	2:00 PM	Stafford Park
	17	Ladies Night	7:30 PM	Ubly Foxhunters
September	21	Regular Meeting with tackle swap	7:30 PM	Ubly Foxhunters
October	19	Regular Meeting - Election of Board/Officers	7:30 PM	Ubly Foxhunters



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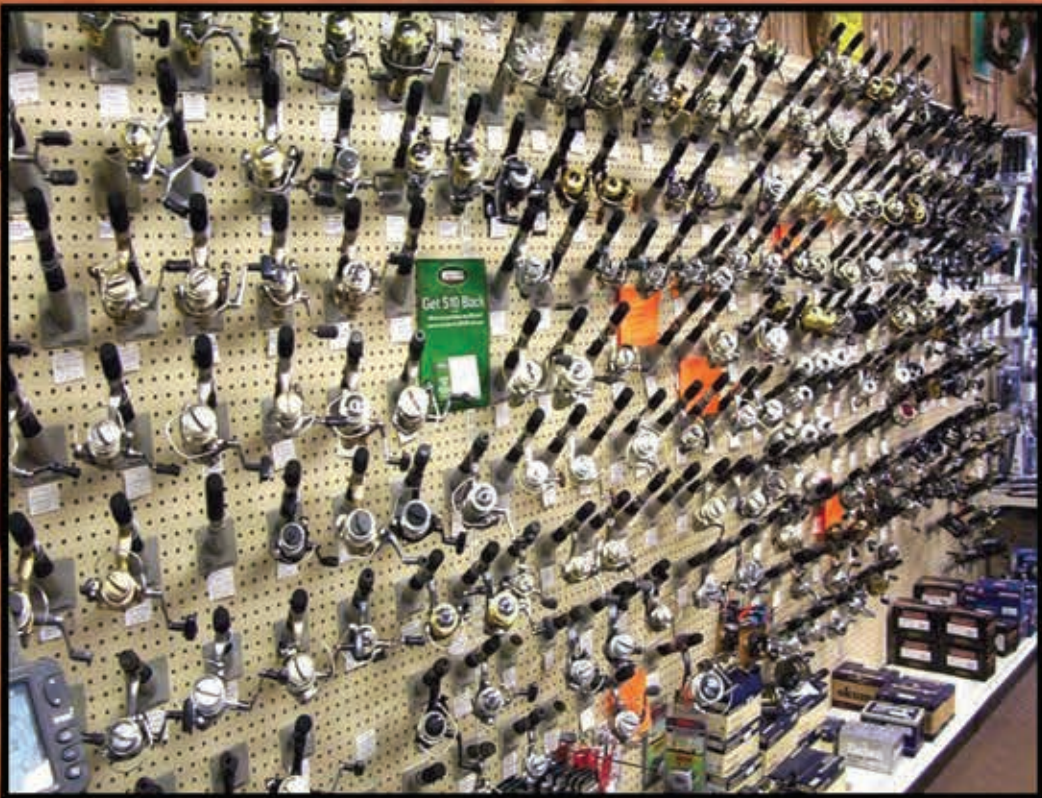
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