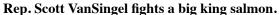


The Great Lakes SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

Volume 51 September/October 2018 No. 5







Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter landed a nice lake trout.

Legislators Hooked on Salmon Fishing

By Dennis Eade

The Michigan Legislative Sportsmen Caucus summer fishing outing was held in Ludington, MI on July 16th. Rep. Curt VanderWall, who is running for the senate this fall, hosted the event with a legislative reception on Sunday evening, July 15th for the

twelve legislators who participated. (Advsiory Council Members were invited as well and since I serve as the Vice Chair of the council, I attended both the reception and the dinner that followed at the Timbers Restaurant.) MSSFA organized the charter boat trips and made arrangements for the Catch and Cook luncheon

that followed the event at Jamesport Brewing Co. This event is made possible by MSSFA's affiliation with the MLSC Advisory Council, who underwrites the cost of the charter boat trips and the Michigan Softdrink Association who hosts the luncheon. It is designed to educate legislators on the importance of sport fishing

to Michigan's economy and the importance of preserving our lakes and natural resources.

Michigan has one of the largest sportsmen's caucuses in the nation with more than eighty members from both the house and sen-

"Legislators"
Continued on page 2

Snyder Vetoes Bill Weakening Ballast Water Standards

By Keith Matheny, Detroit Free Press

Gov. Rick Snyder has vetoed a bill passed by the legislature that critics say would have weakened how the Great Lakes State manages ships' release of ballast water — a critical means by which aquatic invasive species can arrive.

Ballast water is carried in special tanks to improve a ship's stability. It is added or discharged by ship operators when cargo is loaded or unloaded, or to improve stability during bad weather.

Aquatic species taken up in ballast water in one part of the world and then released elsewhere can become an ecology-disrupting invasive species in their new home. Invaders that are now ubiquitous in the Great Lakes, including quagga and zebra mussels, the round goby and the fish-killing VHS virus, are all believed to have arrived as hitchhikers in foreign ships' ballast water.

House Bill 5095, passed by the state House last November and by the Senate earlier this month, states that its intent was "to help harmonize regulatory programs in Great Lakes states for preventing the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species in the Great Lakes, including ballast water management programs, and allow regulatory agencies to cooperate in developing stronger programs."

Michigan's strict ballast water rules were pushing the state's ocean-going export business to other Great Lakes states, the bill's sponsor, Rep. Dan Lauwers, R-Brockway, said as he introduced the bill last November.

Lauwers at the time said state regulations often lead to goods being transported by truck to ports outside of Michigan.

"Our current regulations were seen as environmentally friendly, but one ship can carry on average what it would take about 60 trucks to carry," Lauwers said. "While commodities are still moving, it's certainly not in an environmentally friendly or fuel-efficient fashion. We need to eliminate this over-regulation and utilize our deep water ports to bring back jobs and protect our roads."

But James Clift, policy director for the Lansing-based nonprofit

"Ballast"
Continued on page 6



By Jim Vander Maas

MSSFA is a member organization of the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources (CPMR) which has had amicus curiae status in the Tribal fishing rights cas-

es over the years.

The other member organizations are: Black Lake Association, Blue Water Sport Fishing Association, Burt Lake Preservation Association, Cheboygan Area Sport Fishing Association

ation, Grand Traverse Area Sport Fishing Association, Great Lakes Council of Fly Fishers International, Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association, Michigan Charter Boat Association, Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association and Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

CPMR will be bringing on line a web site in the

"Tribal"
Continued on page 7



Zebra mussels are on the telegraph on top of the small pilot house of the Hydrus, a freighter that sank to the bottom of Lake Huron on November 9, 1913 during the

Great Storm of 1913. Photographed in July 2015.

(Photo: Keith Colombo, Special to the Detroit Free Press)



Search groups for MSSFA



MSSFA PRESIDENT Dr. Ken Merckel

There are four issues we need to confront immediately. The first is the use of State Park land and launch sites used for events. The current law governing DNR defines an event as a single, structured, organized, consolidated, scheduled meeting or occurrence on State owed land and to which one or both of the following apply; a fee or donation is required for participation and the number of people involved is 20 or more individuals. Under the current policy a fee can range from \$0.00 to \$2400.00 based on use and importance of event. All proposed events regardless of type or who organizes them are required by law to have a permit and pay required fees, unless the permit is wavered by the Department. Because of all the requirements, I have invited Nicole M. Toman-Regulatory Unit Manager of MDNR to our October 17th board meeting to explain policy and receive comments and feedback from our directors on the proposed permit criteria.

The second distressing issue is treating Sea Lam-

prey larvae on the Mississauga and Garden River that empties into the North Channel and then Lake Huron. The Mississauga River was last treated in 2013 and the Garden River 2014. Both rivers were not treated for Sea Lamprey in 2017 and will likely not be treated in 2018, due to the Canadian First Nation concern with chemical treatment. It is estimated by the Michigan State University Quantitative Fisheries Center, if the Garden River is not treated then the spawning phase for Sea Lamprey numbers will increase from 145,000 to 188,000 and left untreated the Mississauga River will increase to 424,000. This increase could undo many years that has decreased Sea Lamprey to a lower level and waste funding that reduced Sea Lamprey levels to the present low levels. It is time for the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission to do their jobs and get the Canadians to treat these rivers.

The third troubling issue is Walleye bag limits in Saginaw Bay and MH4 which was established at

8 Walleye with a measurement length limit of 13 inches in 2105. The original objectives of the 2015 liberalization of Walleye regulations which are to finally utilize the abundant Walleye population, reduce yellow perch mortality and increase forage abundance. So far perch mortality hasn't responded, the forage base remains lower and Walleye population has not been reduced as hoped. The two year old Walleye class has been estimated at 2 million fish. The Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory voted to leave the limit at 8 fish. The 2019-2020 MDNR fishing guide has to be completed by the end of October and management seems to want a more conservative creel number (6). So much for managing the resources with the best science available and not by time limits and a printing press.

The final pressing matter is the disagreement over the Brandon Road Asian Carp Project. This project

"MSSFA President" Continued on page 15



"Legislators" Continued from page 1

ate. It is truly one of the few bi-partician caucuses formed to advance our outdoor heritage through science-based wildlife and fisheries management.

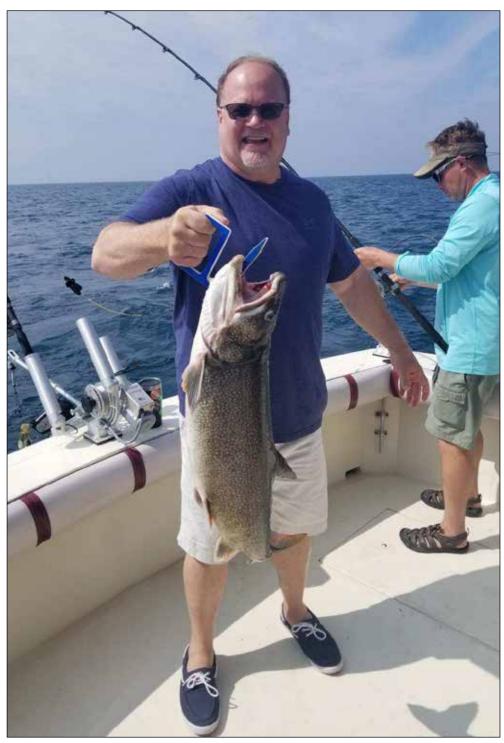
On this day though, it was all about watching rod tips and scrambling to pull dipsy diver rods from rod holders to land big lake trout and fight big kings at the back of the boat. Deputy DNR Director, Bill O'Neil landed a big king salmon only to be outdone by Rep. Tim Kelly from Saginaw who landed an 18lb laker on Finpower Charters. Rep. Jim Runstad and Fisheries Chief, Jim Dexter, caught nice lakers on Dreamweaver Charters only to be out fished by Amy Trotter from MUCC who landed the day's biggest fish a 24 lb. laker which turned out to be

a Master Angler Catch, certified by Captain Chuck's II tackle store in Ludington, MI.

Between releases there was time to discuss topics of concern to sport fishermen. We covered Great Lakes stocking, the impact of invasive species, phosphorus in Lake Erie, the importance of the Farm

"Legislators"
Continued on page 3





Rep. Jim Runestad from White Lake caught a big laker on Dreamweaver Charters.



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

On the legislative front, Governor Rick Snyder will not lower the state's standards for dumping ballast water in the Great Lakes. He vetoed a bill with the changes made by the House that sent it to his desk. Ballast water is collected by large ships in one body of water to help stabilize the ship. Then it's dumped into other bodies of water, along with whatever plant and animal species collect-

ed with it. The bill sat for months in the House lawmakers pushed it through on their last day of session before their summer break. Ari Adler is a spokesperson for the governor said, "We want to make sure that those protections are solid and in place when you're dealing with something as important as ballast water discharge in the Great Lakes."

The Great Lakes Resto-

MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis Eade

ration Initiative is getting its full \$300 million in an appropriations bill passed Thursday, July 18th by the U.S. House. The Senate still needs to approve the legislation. The GLRI has been threatened the last two years by President Trump, who has tried twice to strip its funding down to \$30 million. Michigan's Congressional Caucus has said the initiative is a "critical program" that helps strengthen and preserve the Great Lakes environment. They add that the funding also helps support Michigan's economy, and they will continue fighting for

The primary elections are determing who will

the Great Lakes.

have a say concerning our fisheries and natural resources. We will keep you apprised of those candidates running who have demonstrated their support for enhancing sport fishing and protecting our natural resources.

At the August board meeting officer nominations for fiscal years 2019 and 2020 were accepted and approved. The elections will be held at the board's October 17th meeting at MUCC in Lansing, MI. The nominees are Tim Stegeman (South Haven), for president, Jim Vander Maas (White River), for vice president, Gerry Sickon (Thunder Bay) for secretary and Joe Montella (SW

Michigan) for treasurer. The board also finished its initial review of the recommended changes to the bylaws. The By-Laws committee will bring the revised by-laws and recommended changes to the board in October for approval before distributing to the chapters for their consideration.

It is gratifying to see how many of our chapters are honoring veterans with community reconnection events and big lake fishing outings. There is no better way to share the excitement of sport fishing with those who have served and protected our right to freedom and the enjoyment of our natural resources then to spend time with them on the water.

Fishing for silver fish has slowed dramatically in July and August. I believe it can be attributed to the warmer than ususal water temperatures. We are not seeing the presence of definitive thermoclines and the bait fish that showed up early in the spring are no longer present. Lake trout fishing remains good as many of us are catching them throughout the water column as well as on the bottom. Looking forward to nice fall run of salmon and steelhead and a good returns to our rivers to heighten natural reproduction for 2019. Tight lines!



Above: Deputy DNR Director, Bill O'Neil with a big king salmon.

"Legislators" **Continued from page 2**

Bill and tribal fishing regulations. We also explained the economic impact sport fishing has on Michigan's economy and hopefully our conversations will have not only educated legislators but influenced perspectives

At the luncheon, participants had the opportunity to try lake trout and salmon prepared three different ways; blackened, lemon peppered and deep fried. (Fillets were provided the day before by Captain Shane Ruboyanis, Luding-

on conservation issues.



Rep. Tim Kelly from Saginaw landed a big laker on Finpower Charters.



Above: Michigan Legislative Sportsman Caucus Advisory Council (MLSCAC) Chair Dan Eichenger shares the mission at a July 16th, 2018 fishing event.

tion president and myself on Pier Addiction Sport Fishing.) Advisory Council Chairman, Dan Eichinger spoke at the luncheon emphasizing the role the council plays in advising legislators on good natural resources policy and thanking them for what they do to preserve our outdoor heritage. Eichinger concluded the event by saying, "While this is a Michigan Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus Advisory Council event, the credit for pulling the whole thing off really goes to the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fisherman's Association. All of us are grateful to Dennis and MS-SFA for making this outing one of the real highlights of the year for our sportsmen's caucus members. They take the lead in securing the boats, handling all of the logistics, and ensuring that all

of our legislative attendees are paired with folks from the Advisory Council and the DNR so that we can showcase our tremendous fishery and the people who are working to conserve it".





Above: Rep. Julie Alexander from Jackson Michigan fished on Clock'd Out with Captain Dennis Polomondon and DNR biologist, Mark Tonnello. She battled and landed a beautiful 10lb steelhead for her first big lake sport fish!





THE MICHIGAN STEELHEAD & SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE QUALITY OF FISHING REFLECTS THE QUALITY OF LIVING!

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

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

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

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

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

THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS (GLSFN)

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

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

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

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

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

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the art of going fishing when you should be doing something else

2018 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**

MUCC Headquarters

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm 2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI

Wednesday October 17, 2018 Wednesday December 19, 2018





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۱۸	WG Grinders	5769 28th St. SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49512	10% Discount dine in/carry out (catering discounts available)

mssfa.org

Dog Days Fishing

By Denny Bobeldyk

Last month a change in water temperature and bait led to a slowdown in salmon fishing. I would call it the Dog Days. Beginning in April and continuing into May the fishing on the west side of the state had been outstanding. Lots of limits caught consisting of a variety of fish: browns, lake trout, steelhead and especially big king salmon. 2018 had been a year to remember. The great Spring fishing led to an onslaught of big kings being taken, some in the 20 to 30 lb class. With warming water temperatures and abundant bait the salmon moved up the east side of Lake Mich-

igan and provided fantastic fishing. Up until the end of May we took big kings, bigger than I have ever seen in Michigan during this time of the year. Many boats were limiting out this Spring. But by the end of May something happened to the lake and the salmon fishing dried up in June and July. Charter boats were forced to target lake trout to satisfy hungry customers longing to fight big kings. Pounding the lower water column in 80 to 120 ft of water they were able at least to take home some decent creel limits of lake trout. My guess is that the salmon move where they can find the most bait and in water temperatures to their liking. From all reports this seemed to be happening on the Wisconsin side of the lake. This led to tough fishing in West Michigan. We were spoiled for sure with the earlier successes in April and May.

June and July brought on the dog days of Summer fishing. Various fishermen struggled to catch fish as the fishing went from great to bad in a heartbeat. What caused this decline in success? For sure besides water temperatures and bait we also did not have a decent thermalcline setup in the lake. It seems like there was no break in the water temperatures from warm to cold water. The fish without a decent temp to be in were

simply not there. They were probably seeking better water temperatures somewhere else. I can remember the Summers when we had a decent thermalcline all Summer. Thus many Kings simply left the area when there was no temperature break to be had. The result of this being a poorer summer fishing season for salmon. Lake trout saved us this year. They were easier to target whereas the salmon were very hard to find and tough to catch. Most fish became scattered with small pods of fish here and there. Silver fish became very hard to find. Again most die-hard big lake fishermen resorted to catching lake trout which seemed to be in very good numbers here on the east side of Lake Michigan. During the dog days it might be advised to either catch lakers or wait until the big kings come in late August and September. My guess is that the size of the king salmon will be better than they were in May during the Spring run. Simply put this middle of the summer swoon seems to happen every year. Only this year seemed to be worse than other recent years. Expect reduced creel size and also some skunks. But for the love of fishing keep trying.

The big kings will be back! The dog days of Summer will lead to great fishing this fall. Hang in there and be patient. Personally I have caught these summer fish in every possible way.

Denny Bobeldyk fishes out of Holland, Michigan two to three days a week since 1980. We used leadcore, coppers, dipseys and riggers. Ran our baits all over the place. Water depth varied greatly between 80 ft and 200 ft of water. When locating a small pod of fish it would be advisable to

stay on them if at all possible. Waypoints on the GPS work well. There seemed to be a lot of mixed up water. Every once in awhile a fish would hit. Seemed like

these salmon we did find were in pockets of cold water here and there. As quick as we found this cold water it would disappear within minutes with no hits being taken. On average we were taking between 1 and 5 fish

per trip. There was always the choice of targeting silver fish or lake trout. Silver fish was a real challenge! It was pretty tough out there. But with this type of lake fishing we can expect highs and lows. We also can be thankful that we have such fantastic fishing at our doorstep. Most of us can be fishing within an hour or two. Having one of the great fisheries in the United States is a great blessing. Ride out the dog days with me. Lake Michigan will again produce this Fall after a slower than normal Summer. Good fishing to all of you!



"Ballast" Continued from page 1

Michigan Environmental Council, told the Free Press earlier this month that the bill worked to weaken ballast water standards that have been strengthened in recent years. Clift on Friday praised the governor's veto.

"HB 5095 would have created a loophole around Michigan's current law, which requires vessels to add 'active treatment' technologies approved by Michigan or the federal government that protect the Great Lakes from invasive species and was clearly a step backwards," he said.

Snyder spokesman Ari Adler said the governor "could not support something that could expose the Great Lakes to invasive species, which poses a serious threat to Michigan's waterways and economy."

"It allowed for the use of alternate management systems that may not be as protective as those currently approved by the U.S. Coast Guard and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality."

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





"Tribal" **Continued from page 1**

very near future which will give the public the opportunity to keep current as we go through the negotiation process. As in past negotiations there will be a confidentiality agreement so CPMR may be limited on what information can be passed along.

The web site will also give anglers, other angling organizations, and businesses involved in the manufacturing and in selling related products to the angling public to also make donations to protect their businesses and the jobs they create. CPMR is a 501-c-3 organization and all contributions may be tax deductible, depending on your level of deductions. CPMR also has a PayPal account which will displayed on line for ease in contributing.

I have arranged for members from CPMR member organizations to make tax deductible donations and at the same time their associations will get credit for the donation. In MSSFA's case simply make

out a check to CPMR and send it to Dennis Eade, MS-SFA PO Box 8034 Holland, MI 49422. Dennis will log in the check and forward it to CPMR's treasurer. Dennis can then follow up to make sure MSSFA gets the

I don't expect negotiations to begin until sometime in 2019. It is imperative that we begin to grow the Tribal Negotiations Fund now. The bench mark goals for the fund will be discussed at the next MS-SFA Board of Directors meeting in October.

The proceeds from the Tribal Fund go directly to CPMR to pay for our assessment. When we receive billings from the attorneys the treasurer reviews those bills then divides the amount due by the number of members and assess each member the same amount. So, basically the only bills CPMR incurs are State of Michigan filing fees and the billings from our attorneys. I might add that when both attorneys are attending a meeting we are charged for one, and thank you Steve Schultz for that consider-

As I mentioned, we have two attorneys assisting us in this case. Steve Schultz (the veteran) and Chris Patterson. Steve has been involved in Tribal issues since the late 1970s and he is a principal in the law firm of Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes in Okemos. Chris is an upcoming attorney who loves to hunt and fish and once the process for the 2020 agreement is completed, Steve will be in full retirement mode and Chris will be running with the ball.

Steve's experience from being involved as an amici attorney in the 1985 and 2000 Great Lakes agreements and the 2007 Inland Agreement makes him the most experienced attorney involved other than Tribal and Federal attorneys.

Next edition of GLS-FN will include a report by Chris Patterson covering the Executive Council meeting on Aug. 23, 2018 in Traverse City. The Executive Council is made up of the 5 Tribes; Bay Mills Indian Community, Salute Band, Little Traverse Bay Band, Grand Traverse Band and the Little River Band



Public-Private Partnership Supports Great Lakes

who are all signatories to the 2000 Consent Decree plus the Federal Government, State of Michigan and the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources. The 2000 Consent Decree requires the Executive Council to meet at least once a year.

By Dennis Eade

Traverse City – Sustain Our Great Lakes, a program funded by federal agencies and the steel and mining company ArcelorMittal has awarded \$6.6 million to support wildlife habitat restoration projects in the Great Lakes region. Re-

cipients of the grant monies agreed to provide \$8.2 million in matching funds. The funds will be used for the restoration of wetland habitat and reopening of more than 100 miles of rivers for fish passage. In Michigan, other projects will control invasive species, prevent nitrogen and phosphorus runoff that contributes to algae blooms, and install "green infrastructure" that improves water quality using natural features such as trees and roof-top gardens to soak up rainwater that otherwise would flow into

Rep. Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph, announced Wednesday, Aug. 15, the Allegan Conservation District has been awarded \$180,000 in a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant by the Great Lakes Commission. "This is a significant recognition of the Allegan Conservation District's work to protect the health of our Great Lakes, waterways and communities," Upton said.

The grants awarded will support projects in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Canadian province of Ontario to sustain, restore and protect fish, wildlife and habitats. Charlie Wooley, acting Midwest regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said "Sustain Our Great Lakes brings together local, federal, state, tribal, provincial and non-government partners to deliver on-theground projects that make a difference to the fish. wildlife and people of the basin."

"The Great Lakes region is home to eleven Arcelor-Mittal facilities," said Bill Steers, general manager of communications and corporate responsibility for ArcelorMittal's Americas region. "Our commitment to produce safe, sustainable steel transcends our physical operations and includes sustainaing the vitality of Great Lakes ecosystems for future generations."

Sustain Our Great Lakes has generated more than \$158 million through grants and matching contributions since 2006.



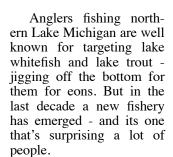
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Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Cisco Fishing

in Northern Lake Michigan

Photo Credit: Cisco or lake herring (Wikimedia Commons)



"The new thing in the area is cisco (formerly known as lake herring)," shared Heather Hettinger, a fisheries biologist based out of Traverse City. "Obviously these fish have been around forever but they used to not be very big in size. About 10 years ago anglers started catching much bigger fish - especially as the lake whitefish population numbers started to tick down."

During that time anglers started targeting cisco versus lake whitefish, with available locations to fish for them expanding as well.

'A hot spot in this area to fish for cisco is east Grand Traverse Bay," Hettinger said. "But really there are fishable populations in the west bay up to Elk Rapids, Charlevoix and Petoskey."

Hettinger explains that you can fish for cisco any which way you want - including trolling, jigging from a small boat, and pier fishing. She says most anglers are happy about this newer fishing opportunity - but there's still so much we don't know about this species.

Enter Jory Jonas, a who is fascinated by this growing effort - and is aiming to figure out why it has changed over time.

Cisco and lake whitefish are technically related. yet for several years lake whitefish have been on the decline while cisco populations seem to be thriving. These fish spawn around the same time and grow up

in similar environments - so why the big difference?

"It's so interesting to me, as a scientist, as to why these two species are headed on two different trajectories," explained Jonas. "I need to find out where their life cycle bottlenecks are. I have hypotheses, but nothing definitive. The first place I want to go to is larval fish - when you come out of an egg and you're a larvae, is there a problem with the size of Lake Michigan's zooplankton and can your mouth allow you to catch them?"

Like many things in Lake Michigan, zooplankton have changed (become larger) and species compositions are different then 10 to 15 years ago. Jonas thinks lake whitefish - with smaller mouths - are having a tougher time catching those zooplankton while cisco are having a much easier time and are capitalizing on the available food source.

"What's even more fascinating is that as these cisco grow, they're turning into a totally different type of fish," she said. "When we type out some of the larger fish we're seeing caught on Lake Michigan they're actually piscivorous - meaning they're eating other fish! It's hard for me to convince folks that cisco are actually top predators, like Chinook salmon or lake trout - they really aren't prey!"

It should be noted that in addition to the northern fisheries research biologist Lake Michigan cisco opbased out of Charlevoix portunities, larger populations are starting to show up in some connected inland lakes as well.

> "This past winter Portage Lake in Manistee County had good, fishable ice - and anglers reported catching cisco there," Hettinger shared. "I've heard rumblings from other ports with drowned Rivermouth lakes that are started to have

similar stories. Ports as far south as Ludington and even Muskegon are reporting cisco both through the ice and open water."

Anglers who previously caught cisco in northern Lake Michigan would consider a 12-inch fish as decent size, but reports have

become much more regular of fish in the 22 to 26-inch size range. If you catch some, the key is knowing how to harvest

"I think they're delicious - but I recommend bleeding them out as soon as you catch them and getting them on ice quick," said Hettinger. "And get up

here - this cisco fishing is really awesome for those who want to pursue

Jonas shares similar sentiments and has noticed a gain in popularity even among those with insider knowledge.

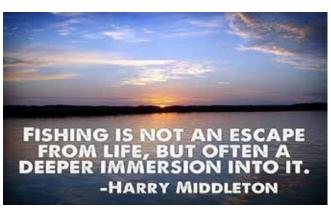
"Folks from all over the state are coming here to fish for cisco - even other fishery

biologists and researchers," she said. "What's so cool is that this is a native species which was nearly non-existent and it is recovering for reasons we don't yet under-

For information on fishing for cisco, including regulations, visit the DNR's Fishing page.



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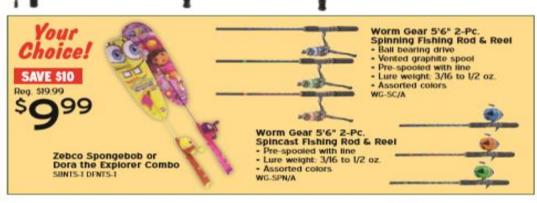






















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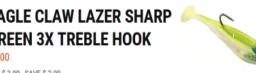






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Shipwreck Buoy Project Gains Steam (Ships)

The April edition of Great Lakes Sport Fishing news ran an article laying out plans for placing mooring buoys on shipwrecks. Since the articles publication the writer has been asked by quite a few fishermen for details about the project. Anglers are beginning to see these showing up on sites all over the Great Lakes now. An advantage for fishermen will be seeing a visual object on the surface which hopefully will prevent gear loss due to entanglement with the shipwreck. The Michigan Underwater Preserve Committee (MUPC) in cooperation with the State of Michigan has undertaken the task of placing Buoys on up to 186 shipwrecks throughout the Great Lakes. This project also involves the cooperative efforts of the Lake Carriers Association, Michigan DNR, US Coast Guard, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Ships buoyed are generally 19th century sailing vessels and steamships.

Perhaps the most common question the writer has been asked has been "why". That answer can be summed up with simply safety, for both the scuba divers and shipwrecks. The importance of having secure mooring for a dive operation can't be overstated. Contrary to what reality TV tells the public recreational scuba diving done within safety and training limits is not a hazardous activity. Dive Charter Captain Kevin Suhr believes "it is extremely important for locating (the wreck) and for the safety of the diver it's best to have a line (mooring buoy) which comes directly back to the boat." An anchoring line is by nature longer and less depth stable than a mooring line. A longer and less stable line becomes a safety concern on deeper dives, particularly when decompression is involved. Even when a person is left aboard the dive boat it is possible for anchors to become dislodged allowing the vessel cure and seasonally permanent mooring reduces that possibility.

Shipwrecks are in need of protection as well. Without a mooring buoy dive boats tend to get their an-

activity throughout the State his response was "We've got about 24 buoys here in the Straits this year. Besides West Michigan and Thunder Bay areas, I know that Sanilac Preserve has a num-



Bultemas Barge 125 feet deep out of South Haven tends to collect tackle

chors fouled in the shipwrecks. This can cause extensive damage to a fragile wooden schooner. Many of the shipwrecks in deeper water still have intact rigging and standing masts which can be toppled by a wayward anchor. Dan Friedhoff, Secretary of the Michigan Underwater Preserve Committee tells us that this spring a Great Lakes Freighter at the Straits dropped anchor within 100 feet of the Shipwrecked Sandusky. This happened before the buoys had been put up for the season. Had that anchor hit the Sandusky the now intact 1848 built ship would have been severely damaged if not destroyed. The brig (N45*47.959 Sandusky W084*50.249) is a rare example of a Brig. Brig type sailing vessels were prized for their speed but eventually were replaced by more maneuverable sloop rigged ships. Sandusky is the oldest known wreck in the Straits Preserve and sank in 1856. Her story can be found at straitspreserve.

Dan also is Secretary of the Straits of Mackinac Underwater Preserve. The Straits Preserve has been extremely active in placing buoys on shipwrecks.

ber of site buoyed as well." Details on eactly which shipwrecks have been buoyed in those preserves are extensive and beyond the scope of this article. More information on those shipwrecks can be found at Michiganpreserves.org.

John Hanson is President of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve (WMUP). This a bottomlands preserve which runs from Port Sheldon to just north of Ludington Michigan. According to John the mooring buoys have a permanent anchor generally about 30 feet to the north of the shipwreck. The anchor may be a helix screw in, cement, or crib capable of holding a dive boat. His preserve tends to use train wheels which are set in place by the DNR. Ascending from the anchor is a line attached to a subsurface buoy. This is placed at 15 feet depth which is the level scuba divers make a safety stop. From there a surface line attaches to the mooring buoy. The final line is the mooring for the dive boat which comes off the buoy.

This is the second year for the West Michigan Underwater placing Bouys on shipwrecks. During

"Shipwreck" **Continued on page 11**





or mssfamembership@charter.net



Fall Fishing: Lake Michigan

By Tim Hyvonen

With the fall salmon run in full or almost full swing, in the majority of the Midwest, it came to my mind to do a three-part series covering river tactics for salmon, brown trout and steelhead.

Salmon

Every fall, I have conversations with anglers who think chinook and coho salmon "don't bite" once they enter the river - this can't be further from the truth. Once the chinooks start entering the rivers, they will spend up to a couple of weeks in the deeper holes before they move onto shallow gravel to spawn. This is a perfect time to pull out the spinning or centerpin rod and target these fish using skein (spawn still in the membrane). I prefer to use my Raven RPX 13' centerpin or 12'6" Shimano Convergence rod for drifting skein under a float. If I'm fishing a deeper, faster run, I will peg an 8mm bead 1-2" above my piece of skein to get it to sink quicker. On days the chinooks don't want anything to do with skein or I have run out of skein, I will pull out my 13 Fishing Omen Black and either an inline spinner or small crankbait and slow roll them on a 45-degree angle across the hole. For fly fishing this time of year, I utilize either larger streamers stripped through

the hole or a tandem egg pattern floated through under a strike indicator.

For this next part, I want everyone to know that there is virtually zero natural reproduction on the rivers I fish. Also, note that the methods I refer to are for targeting the aggressive male chinooks. If you are fishing water with natural reproduction, I highly advise using selective harvest.

As the water starts to cool down and the chinooks start moving out of the deeper holes to spawning gravel, I spend more time with the fly rod swinging large streamers like a dolly llama or a FishUSA Flash Kandy. I can't stress this enough - these fish, once on spawning gravel, are striking out of aggression. I walk slowly and once I see two or more male chinooks chasing/beating each other up, I will stand upriver of the fish and send my steamer on a 45-degree angle and swing it through the redd. Once my streamer gets next to the sparring chinooks, I will start snap stripping my line causing my streamer to dart and pause which, 8 times out of 10, will cause one of the males to chase and hit. No matter what the clarity of the river is, I prefer to use a lot of white, orange and chartreuse streamers. I like to tell people, "The bigger and flashier, the better.' On days I feel like switch-

ing things up, I will bring along a shorter spinning rod and a box of inline spinners with either silver, orange, or chartreuse blades. Just as I swing streamers, I will swing my inline spinners past sparring chinooks. The biggest thing with using inline spinners is matching the spinner weight for the depth and speed of the water. If your spinner is too heavy, it'll hit bottom too quick or you'll have to really burn it back fast. If it's too light, you'll never get it

down to the fish's level. If you get tired of catching chinooks, or don't believe in fishing spawning chinooks, and want to go for brown trout or steelhead, there is one trick some people do in my area. Take your spinning or centerpin rod, put on an 8mm orange bead and make sure your depth is barely ticking bottom. When you see a female chinook roll on her side dropping eggs, fire your float at her midsection and let it drift down river. A lot of times you will be able to find a steelhead or brown trout sitting behind that spawning chinook, eating the eggs as they come down

Captain Tim Hyvonen is a licensed charter captain and the owner/operator of WIFinlander Guide Service based on Lake Michigan.



Above: Scuba Diver Amy Schuring is quite impressed with the bow of the shipwrecked William H. Barnum.

"Shipwreck" Continued from page 10

the Summer of 2017 the Ironsides (Steamship at N43*02.931 W86*19.155) 3 miles out of Grand Haven and State Of Michigan (Steamship at N43*23.336 W86*27.851) near Whitehall Michigan were buoyed. For 2018 the shipwrecks (Steamship at Salvor N43*15.615 W86*22.119) Anne Minch (Steamship at N43*45.784 W86*27.776)

and Hamilton Reef (N43*12.990 W86*20.499) were also added to their seasonally buoyed list.

The SouthWest Michigan Underwater Preserve (SWMUP) has begun the process of getting involved with the buoy project. Anglers can expect to see buoys offshore from the Indiana State line, north to Port Sheldon.

2018 has been a year of growth for the Buoy Project throughout the state. All of

those involved would like fishermen to be aware of the project and are happy to share with others why we enjoy the sport of scuba diving.

The writer (Kevin Ailes) is a multi-certified technical scuba diver. He is a DNR volunteer Diver and volunteers with the Michigan Underwater Preserve System.

What Happens When Lake Superior **Has Too Much Water?**

It dumps it into an already overflowing Lake Michigan

By Tony Briscoe, Contact Reporter Chicago Tribune

For nearly a century, a dam at the head of the St. Marys River near Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., has been used like a faucet, controlling the amount of water flowing from Lake Superior into lakes Michigan and Huron.

In the past five years, following a swift rise in lake levels, the relatively obscure Lake Superior board that regulates the amount of water released has stepped up these discharges, raising an outcry from a group representing property owners along the shoreline of Lake Michigan and potentially harming seasonal tourism.

John Ehret, an Olympia Fields, Ill., resident and a director of the Great Lakes Coalition for Shoreline Preservation, occasionally shows people photos of the broad sandy beaches that once existed outside his cabin in western Michigan. Now, Ehert said, many of his neighbors have fortified their home with boulders, and his property is "damn near in the water."

Several factors have contributed to rising water levels and shoreline erosion, including increased precipitation and runoff, but Lake Superior outflow is exacerbating the problem, data from the National Ocean Atmospheric Administration and the International Lake Superior Board of Control show. Last year, the amount of water released from Lake Superior into lakes Michigan and Huron was the highest in 32 years.

This month, Lake Superior measured about 9 inches above its long-term average but almost 5 inches below its levels from last July. Lakes Michigan and Huron were recorded at nearly 2 feet above their historic average and a half inch higher than a year ago. Still, the Lake Superior board expects to increase the flow to 2,800 cubic meters per second this month more than enough to fill an Olympic-size swimming pool each second - and above the amount called for in the most recent regulatory plan for balancing the lakes.

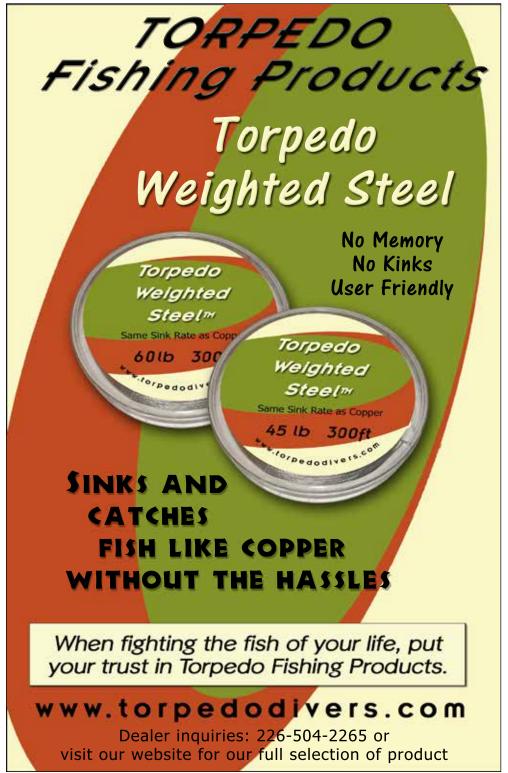
"They have no right ...," Ehret, 88, said. "They are having the same problem we are. They've lost a lot of their sand. What they want is to lower their lake and dump it downstream — and we don't want it!"

U.S. officials say the elevated discharges aren't simply an attempt to drive down Lake Superior's levels, highlighting the need to accommodate hydropower plants, downstream fish-spawning habitat and commercial shipping.

The St. Marys River runs between Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Ontario, passing through a network of canals, hydropower plants and a dam with 16 steel control gates, which are regulated by the Lake Superior control board, a binational entity that determines how much water is released into the rapids. The board assumes the daunting responsibility of balancing the socio-economic and environmental interests of Lake Superior with those of lakes Michigan and Huron, which are considered one body of water because they are connected at the Straits of Mackinac.

Although Lake Superior's flow has been fully regulated since 1921, scholars say it wasn't until a period of high lake levels in the mid-1970s that the board adopted regulatory

"Lake Superior" Continued on page 14



2018 AuSable Steelheader's Calendar of Events Month Date Event Information

Information TBD.
Contact Gene Kirvan at calypsocharters@yahoo.com for inquiries.

2018 Battle Creek Steelheader's Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	
October	6	Kalamazoo River Salmon Slam	Allegan Dam	
October	20	Kalamazoo River Memorial	Allegan Dam	
October	27	Kalamazoo River Trout Quest	Allegan Dam	
November	24	St. Joe River Fall Steelhead	I-94 Boat Ramp	
December	1	St. Joe River Chapter Challenge	Elks Lodge Benton Harbor	
December	8	Christmas Party	Kalamazoo Eagles	
Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting Location: Moonraker West Battle Creek				
FOR MORE INFORMATION: River Tournaments —				

Ice Tournaments – Justin Kling 491-2980 Lake Tournaments – Greg Peck 998-9407 battlecreeksteelheaders.com

2018 G	rand	l Haven Steelheader's	Calendar of	Events		
Month	Date	Event	Information	Contact Info		
Jan.1 - Nov.	30	GH Steelheaders' Year Long Fishing	Contest			
Jan.1 - Sept	. 5	GH Steelheaders' Youth Fishing Cont	est			
September	8	Sportsmen for Youth Day	Muskegon County Fairgrounds	https://sportsmenforyouth.com/		
September	14	Sons of the American Legion Salmon Festival Fish Boil	Grand Haven Municipal Marina area	www.ghsalmonfest.com/		
September	15	Grand Haven Salmon Festival KidZone activity area	Grand Haven Municipal Marina area	www.ghsalmonfest.com/		
September	15	GH Steelheaders - Salmon Festival Big Fish Contest	Grand Haven Municipal Marina area	www.ghsalmonfest.com/ mjbelter@altelco.net		
December	December 5 Annual dinner, recognitions, fund raiser					
For information on these events and other information on the Grand Haven Steelheaders contact Mary Jane Belter @ njbelter@altelco.net www.ghsteelheaders.com						

2018 G	2018 Grand Rapids Steelheader's Calendar of Events					
Month	Date	Event	Information			
September	10	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM			
September	24	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM	Social Hour 6:30 PM		
October	1	Chapter Buck Contest Begins **				
October	1	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM			
October	29	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM	Social Hour 6:30 PM		
November	3	Fall River Contest Grand & Muskegon	Rivers and their Tributaries	STC*		
November	5	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM			
November	10	Fishing Partners Manistee Contest	STC*			
November	26	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM	Social Hour 6:30 PM		
December	3	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM			
December	10	Chapter Family Christmas Party	6 PM	Diamond Hall		
STC* = Date subject to change ** = Members and Family Only. (All other events open to the public)						

2018 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader's Calendar of Events					
Month	Date	Event	Comments / Contact Info		
December	8	Christmas/Awards Banquet	Cocktails 5:00 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m. Bring family and friends! K of C Hall Auburn, Mi 48611		
December	15	Big Manistee, Bear Creek	Call Mark Trudell 989-615-0481		
		3013 Bay City I	nip meetings held at: Road, Midland, MI 48642 9-496-3410		
		ership meetings are held first Tuesd	n / Membership meetings: 7:15 pm ay of each month with the exception of June, July and August. NG A FRIEND! All membership meetings are open to the publ		

Register via Marine Radio channel 72 at beginning of all events. Weigh in's and picnics follow at 2:00 pm.

If interested in fishing with us please email: kathy@steel-headers.com. Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com

2018 H	ollan	d Steelheader's Calendar of Events
Month	Date	Event
September	4	Tuesday Fish League Final Night
September	10	Board Meeting
October	1	Board Meeting
November	5	Board Meeting
December	1	River Tournament
December	3	Board Meeting
December	6	General Membership Meeting

Membership meetings held at:
Yacht Basin Yacht Club 1862 Ottawa Beach Road, Holland MI 49424
Social hour at 6 pm, Dinner at 7 pm
Call board members to find out location of board meetings.

For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jeremy Erdman 616-510-9405, or email Steve Weatherwax at Waxer1221@Yahoo.com

2018 Metro \	West -	Livonia	Steelheader'	s Calendar	of Events
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Month	Date	Event	Chair
September	4	General Membership Meeting	
September	8	Lake & River Tournament – Frankfort w/TCAS	Chair: M/D (MWS/TCAS) Hartrick/A Trenz
September	15	Manistee Pier Jamboree	Chair: Adam Trenz
September	17	Captain/Crew/River Angler 2019 Calendar Mtg	Chair: Kelley/P. Bustos/Nabors/Grech
September	22	Manistee River Tournament w/TCAS	Chair: Adam Trenz
September	29	Detroit River Kayak/Small boat	Chair: Eric Braden
October	2	General Membership Meeting	
October	6	Ohio Steelhead Alley (include Elk Creek P.A.)	Chair: Phil Bustos
October	13	Manistee River Tournament	Chair: Fabian Sepulveda
October	27	Huron Walleye Tournament w HVS	Chair: Jim Robertson
November	3	River Tourn./Pier & Shore Outing Manistee w DS	Chair: Dave Zawacki/Eric Braden
November	6	General Membership Meeting	
December	4	CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
December	8	Huron River Tournament	Chair: Hinchcliff/Davis

** ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
7:00 PM at The New Livonia Seniors Center at the Southeast Corner of Farmington Road and Five Mile Road

WEB Site: Go to www.metroweststeelheaders.org If you have questions, contact Henry Nabors - HHNabors@Ameritech.net or call 248 225 4964.

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

2018 South Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events

20100	Juli	Thaven Occemicades 5 Calcindar of Events
Month	Date	Event
September	1	Labor Day Weekend
September	8	SHS/BC/SW Tri-Chapter Perch Tournament (Tentative)
September	20	Board and Membership Meetings - prioritize and set next year's events. Identify event chairs
October	18	Board and Membership Meetings - finalize next year's events and set calendar
November	7	The Pro Am Tournament Committee Kick-off meeting
November	15	Board and Membership Meetings
November	24	SHS River Tournament
December	6	The Local Tournament Committee Annual meeting (if necessary)
December	8	SHS Holiday Party 2018

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

Membership Meetings Held at:

South Haven Moose Lodge, 1025 East Wells Street, South Haven, MI 49040 For more information email: president@southhavensteelheaders.com

2018 Southwest MI Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Location / Contact Info	
September	13	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge	7:00 PM
October	11	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge	7:00 PM
November	8	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge	7:00 PM
December	1	Winter Chapter Challenge Tournament		
December	13	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge	7:00 PM

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

Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784

2018 TCAS Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Location / Contact Info
September	5	General Membership Meeting	
September	8	MWS Salmon Tournament	Frankfort
September	15	Crystal Lake Tournament	Howard & Judy Seaver
September	22	MWS Manistee River Tournament	
September	29	Senior Center Fish Fry	
October	3	General Membership Meeting	
October	20	2019 Port Captain's Meeting	
November	7	General Membership Annual Meeting	
December	1	Christmas Party – Tentative date	

Membership Meetings Held at: Traverse City Senior Center, 801 Front St., Traverse City, MI 49686 * Ice Fishing Tournaments will be cancelled if ice is deemed unsafe.

018 Thumb Chapter Steelheader's Calendar of Events

2018 II	numb	Chapter Steelnead	er's Calendar of Ev	ents
Month	Date	Event	Information	Location
September	20	Regular Meeting w/ Tackle Swap	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
October	18	Regular Meeting - Election of Board/Officers	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
November	TBD			
December	TBD			
		Contact Scott Stanke at	989-553-0972 for inquiries.	

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The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association (MSSFA) is a multi-state, non-profit organization dedicated to educating the general public on improving, preserving and promoting sport fishing, the Great Lakes and their tributary streams and rivers. Commonly referred to as The Michigan Steelheaders, or simply Steelheaders. MSSFA represents sport fishing families in the Great Lakes region. MSSFA encourages the strictest observances of sport fishing laws and ethical fishing practices. www.MSSFA.org



Mary Jane Belter's big King caught in June with Dave Jones - Alpenview Wilderness Lodge on Ugak Bay, Kodiak

BROILED SALMON WITH HERBED LEMON BUTTER

Recipe from: Roger and Mary Jane Belter - Grand Haven Steelheaders

Ingredients:

Salmon fillets—4-6 ounces each
(if frozen, allow to thaw)
1/4 cup butter, melted
2 tbsp. chopped parsley
2 tbsp. lemon juice
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. dill weed, rosemary or
marjoram, crushed
1/8 tsp. coarsely ground pepper

Directions:

Line broiler pan with foil and place salmon fillets on the well-greased rack. Combine the remaining ingredients; baste salmon with mixture. Broil 4 inches from heat, allowing 10 minutes cooking time per inch of thickness measured at its thickest part, until salmon flakes easily when tested with a fork. Do not turn salmon. Baste several times during cooking.





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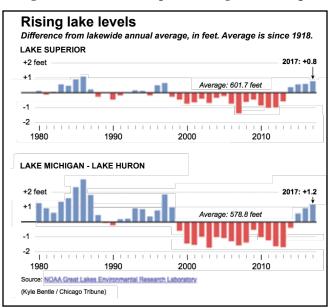
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Photo credit: https://cooking.nytimes.com

Month	Date	Event	Information
September	3	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
October	1	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
November	5	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
December	3	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM

Month	Date	Event	Information
September	6	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
October	4	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
November	1	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
December	6	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm



"Lake Superior" Continued from page 11

strategies that considered lakes Michigan and Huron.

John Allis, chief of Great Lakes hydraulics and hydrology for the Army Corps of Engineers, acknowledged the increased flow from Lake Superior can translate into a few inches of change in lakes Michigan and Huron but said the changes are insignificant.

"It's very important to note that the deviations do not call for increasing flows only or decreasing flows only," Allis said in an email. "We balance the flows over the year to balance total outflow and therefore have very minimal impact on water levels. One way to think of the deviations is as a method that serves to reduce adverse local effects while not affecting the Lakes overall."

But according to Lake Superior board records, in the past five years, there has only been one month when Lake Superior flows were below the historical average.

Illinois state coastal geologist Ethan Theuerkauf said inches matter.

"You have to think about the slope," Theuer-kauf said. "If you're talking a couple inches against a heavily armored bluff, you might not be impacting the shore that much. If lake levels are encroaching on a sandy shore and waves are moving farther up, a couple inches could have a profound impact."

Dramatic swings in water levels

In January 2013, Lake Michigan hit a record low. Immediately afterward, it saw an unprecedented two-year rebound boosted by wetter-than-normal conditions and back-to-back polar vortex winters, which froze over much of the Great Lakes and prevented evaporation.

In the last century, Illinois has become 1.2 degrees warmer and 10 to 15 percent wetter, with much of the added water from heavy rainfalls or thunderstorms, according to state climatologist Jim Angel.

But scientists are divided over how climate change will affect the Great Lakes over the long term.

In 2015, amid the ongoing stretch of rising water levels in the Great Lakes,

the control board implemented a modified regulatory plan that allows it to make small deviations to the amount of water released from Lake Superior without oversight.

Brig. Gen. Mark Toy, the U.S. chairman of the control board and Army Corps commander in the Great Lakes region, said the plan takes the entire region into consideration.

"Outflows from Lake Superior are currently set to help balance water level conditions and their related impacts to all stakeholders on Lake Superior, the St. Marys River, and Lake Michigan-Huron," Toy said in an email.

Lake Superior discharges have been proven capable of shaving as much as 4.7 inches off lake levels in one month, which is greater than some of the highest rates of monthly evaporation, according to the International Joint Commission, the organization that oversees the control board and handles water disputes between Canada and the United States. For every inch Lake Superior can be lowered by water passed through the St. Marys River, lakes Michigan and Huron can rise a half inch, experts say.

Late last year, as Lake

Superior swelled to nearly 4 inches shy of its record high set in 1985, the board ordered the highest discharges since it began adhering to the 2015 plan. Monthly outflows surged to more than 35 percent above historical averages for July, August, October and November. By April, aided by drier than usual conditions, Lake Superior had dropped more than one foot.

Now, with higher discharges expected to continue through November, some property owners on the lower lakes are watching the shoreline closely.

"The challenge is: How do you distribute the water between Lake Superior and Michigan," said Roger Smithe, a spokesman for the Great Lakes Coalition for Shoreline Preservation, an organization that represents about 900 shoreline-property owners mostly from Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Ohio. "Lately, we've seen articles about sharing the pain, but we think Lake Michigan shares most of the pain. We think Lake Michigan is a dumping ground for extra water."

The Saugatuck, Mich.based coalition has complained about a lack of public input and has written to the control board asking for an explanation about why more water continues to be released.

While control board representatives have stressed they have minimal control of Upper Great Lakes water levels, the consortium of Canadian and American decision-makers, which has historically been charged with keeping Lake Superior within predetermined high and low levels, has been known to open more dam gates if Lake Superior encroaches on those extremes.

"Lake Superior" Continued on page 15



"MSSFA President" Continued from page 3

has not moved forward, there seems to be major disagreements on the non-Federal sponsor. Illinois wants an economic assessment on the impact CAWS will have on the barge industry. Illinois has made statements to the effect that the fish have not advanced in a decade. Asian Carp fishing initiative has been so successful, therefore there is no urgen-

cy to build infrastructure to further address the threat. The empirical evidence of bighead, silver and black carp moving throughout the entire Mississippi/Missouri/Ohio river systems upstream to Minnesota, South Dakota and Pennsylvania, demonstrates that Locks alone do not stop movement. We cannot waver in our support for keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes and I believe we need to renew our efforts to

pressure our legislators to effect the needed changes at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam. I am inviting Tammy Newcomb-Senior Water Policy Advisor from the MDNR to meet with our board to discuss what possible next steps can be implemented to get this project off the ground.

Kenneth E. Merckel President of Michigan Steelheaders



"Lake Superior" Continued from page 14

Lakes Michigan and Huron have no such safety valve. The 6.3-foot range between their 1986 record highs and 2013 record lows is the largest of all the Great Lakes. By comparison, Lake Superior's historic variability has been less than 4 feet.

Anxiety Along Lake Superior

Despite help from the control board, the consequences of shoreline erosion are drastic along Lake Superior.

On the northern shores of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Tim and Susan Biehl have seen Lake Superior's rising water overtake beaches, inundate sections of shoreline parks and in some cases claim entire homes.

"Cabins built 50, 60 years ago have gone into the lake," said Tim Biehl, 71, who noted the water reaches to the tree line in some places. "You can walk down the north shore, and the number of trees on the beaches is phenomenal."

After several years of anxiously watching the waters draw closer to their home, the Biehls and their neighbors joined a chorus of Yoopers calling for more discharges downstream.

"We're just a bathtub to store water," Tim Biehl said.

But that doesn't sit well with Lake Superior's southern neighbors who have their own complaints.

beaches have shrunk and the dog beach is completely submerged, the city has found that buying and importing sand to replenish beaches isn't a sound investment.

"That's not in our budget," said Lawrence Hemingway, Evanston's parks and recreation supervisor. "That's money that can wash away overnight"

Highland Park's Rosewood Beach, which was named among the nation's best restored beaches in 2016, was blitzed by powerful storms in April, which caused significant damage. In Chicago's Roger's Park neighborhood, Juneway Beach is all but submerged. And over the years, erosion has gnawed away at the shoreline walking trail at Illinois Beach State Park.

It's unclear if this has had an impact on tourism or recreation, but it certainly affects a visitor's experience, according to Diane Tecic, director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' coastal management program.

"Even with the high lake levels, I doubt people will just say, 'I'm just not going to go to the beach,"" Tecic said. "But it could shift where they go."

Lake Michigan's erosion issues have also been greatly complicated by development, which has cut off the natural flow of sand along much of the southern shores of Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. As a result, the sand washing from the shores isn't being replen-



People sit on a private beach that is heavily eroded due to high water levels in Lake Michigan along the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore on July 12, 2018. (Zbigniew Bzdak / Chicago Tribune)

Every summer, for more than 30 years, Darcy Haury's family has driven from suburban Chicago to stay at a vacation rental a few miles outside St. Joseph, Mich. Last year, she arrived at the cabin to find the beachfront where she had enjoyed building sand castles as a child was largely underwater. The stairs leading to the private shoreline had apparently been beaten into splintered timbers by a storm, and they were later told by management that the beach was closed.

Next month, relatives plan to return to the annual family tradition. But it could be the last time they go there.

"It's pretty depressing because it's my favorite time of year," said Haury, 28, of Bolingbrook. "Now we're looking for somewhere else to go."

Shrinking Beaches

Along Illinois' 63-mile shoreline, there has been no shortage of issues.

In Evanston, though

Illinois Αt Beach State Park, state geologist Theuerkauf has extensively monitored the shoreline since 2014. In that time, he's seen as much as 75 feet of shoreline chewed away in a year by Lake Michigan waves and storms.

Theuerkauf said this shoreline loss is unprece-

"Five hundred years ago this wetland would've been protected by a beach ridge further out." said Theuerkauf, who has researched and dated the habitat. "Now, 500 years' worth of shoreline is eroding in a matter of months.'

Under these circumstance, even though Lake Michigan's lake levels are 1 ½ feet below the highs of 1986, the coastline continues to endure accelerated erosion as waves crash further inland.

"Sure, this has happened before," Theuerkauf said about rising lake levels. "But now we're permanently losing habitat,

and things are always a little different the next time around. Because if the landscape changes, the outcome becomes different."

Urgency Versus History

Smithe, the Great Lakes coalition spokesman who lives in Manistee, Mich., said the alarming reality only requires a glance out the window for many of the group's members.

In recent years, Smithe has thumbed through nearly 30-year-old documents from the International Joint Commission detailing several proposed solutions to handle high lake levels,

which he said weren't followed up on. Though he'd like to get more information on what can be done, he said the looming threat requires more immediate

"We don't need another study." Smithe said. "We need action on one of the last studies.'

Drew Gronewold, hydrologist for NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, said he can empathize with the sense of urgency that exists in the community during these high water levels. But he noted that a rush to judgment could easily put policymakers in a pinch down the road, cautioning people to remember the lakes' his-

'Lake Michigan hit a record low in January 2013 and hit a record high in 1986 and a record low 1964. And there were discussions in what to do in those situations, which are the very similar to those happening today. We should take time to look back at the resolutions for some insight for an appropriate pathway forward.'

For some, waiting and hoping the lake will subside is their only option.

Ehret, the coalition director with a lakefront cabin in Stevensville, Mich., typically splits his time between his home in Chicago's south suburbs and his western Michigan hideaway. This year, he hasn't gone to the cabin, and he's not sure if he will.

"We usually go up there with our grandchildren," Ehret said. "But with our house leaning into the lake, I don't think they want to go. Last year, we had no beach."

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