



# THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

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## Late Fall is Prime Time for Steelhead Fishing

**OutdoorHub Reporters**  
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*This article was produced in partnership with Pure Michigan.*

While spring runs of steelhead get a lot of the glory, there is a strong run of fish in the fall after the salmon spawn. These fish set up for their own spawning season and gorge themselves on salmon eggs and fry all winter long. November can be a weird month for Michigan anglers, but a great time for steelhead fishing. It can be plenty cold, and in some cases

cold enough to freeze over the inland lakes. But that early ice won't be anywhere close enough to walk on. The salmon runs are over, and the weather can be downright horrible, making it dangerous to go out on the bigger lakes. Then there is deer season. Some anglers put their rods away come November, but that's a huge mistake. Hurry up and fill that tag so you can get to the river and enjoy some of the best steelhead fishing you'll find anywhere.

**"Late Fall"**  
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## Load your Quiver for Winter Steelhead

By Roger Hinchcliff

Tis the season Deer Hunters across North America take to the woods in Fall and Winter. But there is a special breed of fishermen called the Winter Steelheader. These individuals brave the cold water and temps in pursuit of the mighty Great Lakes Steelhead.

The ambient conditions may not be super pleasant at times, but the fishing can be excellent without crowds. So loading your steelhead quiver with a few more options and diversifying your tactics can pay huge dividends this season.

### Reading Water

Before we get into tactics and rigging, let's touch on reading water, a crucial step in improving your steelhead game. Some of the best anglers I've ever fished with have a knack for reading good water that holds fish based on the current conditions.

An angler needs to read the water every time they are out. A river is an ever-changing place. You can know a stream very well, but next year many things could have changed. But



Author Roger Hinchcliff

where the fish hold one day may not be desirable the next. Let's not forget Steelhead are shy creatures and are constantly on the move.

Look for current seams, boils, bowls, tail outs. As a general rule, look for slow deeper pockets of water when winter fishing. As river levels fluctuate, so do the fish. The ultimate goal is to learn how the fish behave and where they lie during your conditions.

By understanding these patterns and taking mental notes of where the fish were, your angling skills significantly improve and make you more successful. Cover all the water thoroughly and methodically by doing this will stack the odds in your favor in the future.

### Jigs

The best way to cover lots of water is by using

float fishing techniques, and this is such a versatile way to offer a wide array of offerings. That allows you to change throughout the day quickly. A jig is tough to beat during the winter-time.

At this time of year, when it's a game of inches, you can essentially bump

**"Quiver"**  
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Author Jim Bedford with a wild hen

## Great Lakes Angler Diary Continues

Jim Bedford

As I write this in late October the fall steelhead run has been both late and light. The exception was an early spurt of steelhead to the Little Manistee. Is an exceptionally warm October to blame? It is not the warmest fall in recent years as in 2001 the fall was so warm the steelhead were actively spawning in December. Not unexpected as in the Pacific Northwest where the climate is much milder than Michigan, steelhead regularly begin spawning in December.

With this mild fall it is even more important to log our catch into the diary program. Will it show a difference in how wild versus

hatchery steelhead respond to the mild fall?

For the last four years all of our hatchery steelhead have had their adipose fins clipped but no hatchery smolts were raised in 2020 as eggs couldn't be collected due to the pandemic. This effort has been made possible by the availability of mass marking trailers. This amazing technology allows us to clip the adipose fins of steelhead smolts at a rate of 2 to 3 fish per second with only a 0.5% rate of missing a clip. This will allow us to determine the contribution of hatchery and wild steelhead to our tributary streams. For us to learn this we need to "collect data" on returning steelhead and that is what

the angler diary program is all about. Steelhead anglers will be critical data collectors.

All data collected and reported to the system will be "anonymous". Anglers won't have worry that their hotspot(s) will be "exposed" on the internet. River guides are also encouraged to report the catch of their clients. The more fish that are reported the more we will learn about the survival of hatch-

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Search groups for MSSFA



**"Quiver"**

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them on the nose. We use tiny jigs in the Great Lakes, just like ice fishing due to the cold-water temperatures. A 1/32 oz and 1/64 oz size jig are ideal. Many excellent choices are just a plain round head or the tube style.

Jigs tied with Marabou, rabbit zonker strips, and many different materials. Unfortunately, many think you must tip the jig with something which is not valid. However, some days, a wax worm, mousy, butter worm, or gulp product can seal the deal.

The ideal depth is 8-10 inches off the bottom when fishing for winter steelhead. By tying a Palomar knot will help the Palomar jig stay more horizontal during the presentation. By presenting the bait this way catches you more fish. Steelhead, like to bite head on!

**Weighted Flies**

You're missing the boat if these aren't in your quiver of tactics. First, of course, fly patterns tied to an actual jig head. But many that are weighted or with a tungsten bead do the trick nicely. Some of my absolute favorites include a Black stonefly, egg-sucking leech, sucker spawn, hare's ear, polar shrimp, copper john, and any caddis nymph patterns.

These flies tied weighted are deadly on Steelhead and produce fish when other offerings don't work. But, fished just like a jig under a float close to the bottom will do the trick. Not to mention learning to tie these patterns or your jigs during the off-season can be very rewarding and fun.

If anything, visit your local fly shop and stock up on some of these patterns for winter steel.

**Beads**

The power of the single

egg presentation cannot be overstated here. Sometimes the egg bite can be phenomenal. So here are a few tips and tricks for when fishing beads can increase your odds of success.

Many anglers only fish a 6-10 mm bead. But I cannot over-emphasize that a more extensive profile can pay off big time during the bright days. Try a 12- or 14-mm size bead, especially on sunny sunshine days. That more extensive profile allows the fish to see the bead better and get you more strikes.

Change colors often when fishing beads. If the bite slows down constantly changes color, you will be surprised how it can make a big difference. Make sure to match the hook gap size to the bead you are fishing, and always tie a Snell knot. This knot gives the angler much more leverage which in turn lands more fish.

Leader length is a minimum of 24- 36 inches when bead fishing to ensure the

egg covers and tumbles all through the strike zone.

**Spawn Sacks**

Everyone is familiar with tying spawn sacks here in the Great Lakes. However, a few tips include the same strategy as the bead. Many think a super small spawn sack is the only way to go during the Winter, catching fish.

However, the same rule of thumb applies sometimes; a more prominent profile is absolute money. Tying bags on the river to match conditions can pay off big time.

The colors Chartreuse and pink are very popular color choices, no doubt. But when water is low and clear, the following color spawn bags can be deadly on Steelhead.

Consider the following color choices. Black, red, peach, white, yellow, and blue can be dynamite. So many anglers forget that Steelhead, a rainbow trout during the Winter Time, acts like resident river rainbows during the Winter while resting in winter holes awaiting the spring spawn.

Deadly Colors for a trout at this time are red and yellow. Consider trying some yellow bags; you will be glad you did.

**Your Arrows**

As you can see by having these four tricks up your sleeve will make you ready



Above: Jig Box

for the Fall & Winter Hunt. You can be an excellent angler, but if you're not flexible on using various techniques and offerings while on the water, unfortunately, this will result in fewer fish.

I get people like using what you're comfortable with and having confidence in using. But let's make

some minor changes in your arsenal this Winter. So I ask you this do you think Kevin Vandam only uses two baits or techniques? I think you see my point!

I sincerely hope this article has been a good read for you. Good luck this season, and may your lines always be tight.

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

The Michigan Legislative Sportsman Caucus breakfast meeting was held on October 14th in Lansing and was well attended by legislators and Advisory Council members alike. Rep. Brad Slagh of Zeeland, MI was recognized for introducing HB 5393 that would allow charitable non-profits like MSSFA apply for and conduct on-line (internet) raffles to raise funds for its association. The bill has bi-partisan support and will be vetted in committee. The Commercial Guiding Bills are in the House Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee for hearings. HB 5358; 5359; and 5360 are bills to regulate hunting and fishing guides to ensure the quality of the experience and safety of the hunter or angler contracting their services. The bills also require reporting harvest information and hunter or angler effort for wildlife and fisheries management data collection. MUCC is shepherding these bills through the house after two years of vetting with sportsmen groups.

I attended the Natural Resources Commission meeting on the 14th as well, because Commissioner Nyberg was proposing an amendment to the Fishery Order (FO 200.22) which would add exceptions for establishing a daily possession limit of one (1) rainbow trout during the spawning period of March 15 through May 15th on several rivers. A proposal such as this would normally come from the department after discussion with the Cold-Water Resources Advisory Committee and public meetings in order to get stakeholder input before it's considered by the Commission. Since the process wasn't being utilized as outlined, I raised the issue during the public comment period, expressing the need for angler involvement in the process before adopting the amendment. The Chair assured that the department will come to the November commission meeting with a presentation that would advise the commissioners on the merits of the regulation change. MSSFA is anchored in the belief that science should dictate management of the fishery so we will see what research and scientific data supports this amendment and whether there should be public

engagement prior to its adoption.

The Lake Michigan Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee met Oct. 6th and the subcommittee on stocking was comfortable with increasing from 600,000 to 1,000,000 Chinook salmon in 2023. The basin committee (composed of biologists from the surrounding states) was less positive on increasing stocking because of the amount of natural recruit-

ment coming from the rivers. Wild fish are returning as 3- & 4-year old's while planted fish are returning when they turn 2- & 3-years old. MSSFA went on the record as supporting the one million fish number in 2023 since the biology supports it and the timing of the increase is needed to generate more angler effort. Catch hours were down on Lake Michigan this past year to 800,000 hours when the target is 1.0 million. The committee also spent time considering the various port designations for stocking.

The Michigan Charter Boat Association (MCBA) held its annual business conference in Bay City, MI on October 16th. The Fishery Chief and each Basin

Coordinator provided updates on the fishery and the reports are excellent going into the 2022 season. Walleye and perch numbers are up and sustainable in Lake Erie and Huron, Atlantic's continue to survive in Lake Huron and even return to ports where they were planted providing a winter fishery in spite of not having a river to run. Steelhead fishing wasn't quite as good this past season but still providing good opportunities. Lake trout remain the largest component of the catch rate. The amici group attorney, Steve Schultz provided a Tribal Negotiations update though limited in detail because of the confidentiality agreements signed by the participants. We still haven't seen sub-

stantive progress in negotiations with the tribes, but face to face meetings are occurring. I suspect Judge Maloney was not pleased with the progress of the negotiations when he held a progress hearing with the parties on Oct. 15th. He has scheduled a follow up conference for November 12th and the mediator should become more involved meeting individually with the parties in spite of one tribe's objection to meeting separately. Time is running out on this latest extension and it's not known whether the judge will extend the negotiations beyond December 31, 2021. (An extension is possible.) Amy Trotter, executive director of MUCC was honored as the Pistis Award Recipient

this year at the banquet in recognition of her leadership and accomplishments in preserving our hunting and fishing heritage.

The 50th Anniversary Lures have been distributed to each chapter (2 dozen lures, a dozen of the gold lures and a dozen of the white glow lures tipped in green and blue). They will be used to fund raise or as prizes as the chapters determine. The Membership Services committee met at D&R Sports Center on Oct. 12th to view space and layout of the fishing show event scheduled for February 19, 2022 at D&R Sports Center in Kalamazoo, MI. D&R's owner, Randy Van

**"Director"**  
**Continued on page 5**



## MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis Eade

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**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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| Issue                         | Deadline | Print Date |
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| 2                             | 02/11/22 | 03/02/22   |
| 3                             | 04/15/22 | 05/03/22   |
| 4                             | 06/15/22 | 07/05/22   |
| 5                             | 08/15/22 | 09/01/22   |
| 6                             | 10/07/22 | 10/28/22   |

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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*

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Wednesday,  
December 15, 2021  
via ZOOM  
7 PM

“Director’s Report”  
Continued from page 3

Dam joined the group and helped with planning the outline of the event. Members are following up on individual assignments.

Late fall fishing is in full swing so get out on your favorite lake, river or stream and take advantage of the excellent salmon, trout and walleye fishing!

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| 20 | Firestone - Metro 25                      | 19268 Middlebelt                      | Livonia                        | MI    | 48152 | \$20 off on \$200 or more on service www.metro25firestone.com                   |
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| 27 | Jim Waldron Pontaic, Buick, GMC           | 1146 S. State Rd                      | Davison                        | MI    | 48423 | Contact Nick Russlolf for Sales, 10% off all parts not to exceed \$100.00       |
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| 30 | Kamp Oil Inc                              | 6467 Manistee St                      | Fredric                        | MI    | 49733 | Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.            |
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| 44 | The Angling Outpost                       | 2480 Duck Lane Rd                     | Whitehall                      | MI    | 49461 | www.anglingoutpost.com 5% use coupon "steelheader" for online purchases         |
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# Michigan's Balmy October Means More Mosquitos, Peril For Coldwater Fish

By Kelly House  
Bridge Magazine

Normally this time of year, Dennis Eade would be on a boat in the Pere Marquette River or Grand River, hooking chinook salmon or steelhead as they migrate upstream for the annual fall spawning season.

But instead, Eade is still waiting for his fishing buddies to alert him that the fall run has finally begun to pick up steam, after falling weeks behind schedule.

"All we need is a nice cold front and some rain," said Eade, a Holland resident and executive director of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association.

Nearly three weeks into October, much of Michigan remains stuck in early autumn mode, fueling frustration for fall anglers, exaltation for late-season swimmers, and itchiness for anyone who ventures outside for too long without bug spray.

Experts say it's not an anomaly: For decades now, climate change has been slowly stealing Michigan's crisp Octobers and replacing them with a milder, muggier, buggier version.

Across the state, Michigan's October temperatures have been between 10 and 15 degrees above long-term averages, said Richard Rood, a University of Michigan professor who is an expert in weather modeling and co-principal investigator at the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments.

What's causing the warm fall? It's not just warm days, Rood said, but also "a lot of accumulated heat in the environment." Specifically, in the Great



A kiteboarder glides across Lake Michigan near Muskegon on Oct. 10. Surface water temperatures in every Great Lake are the warmest on record for this time of year, according to federal data. (Bridge photo by Kelly House)

Lakes, which cool down slower than the surrounding air.

The waters of the Great Lakes are dramatically warmer than usual. In fact, as of Monday, all five of the Great Lakes were the warmest they've been this time of year since NOAA's record keeping began in 1995, said Craig Stow, a scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory.

The average surface water temperature on Lake Michigan, for example, was 63 degrees on Monday, or eight degrees above the long-term average. Lake Superior's 57 degrees was almost four degrees above average.

While it might be tempting to rejoice at sweat-shirt-free tailgates and prolonged swimming seasons, Rood said the prolonged summer-like weather is no cause for celebration.

As someone who spends his days researching the ongoing destruction caused by burning fossil fuels to generate electricity and power our vehicles, he sees this year's pleasant October temperatures as a harbinger of even more dramatic disruption ahead.

"I find it quite difficult to enjoy weather that's so anomalously different," he said, "because we're just at the beginning. You can't just say this is a freak nice day."

Coupled with a hot, stormy summer that repeat-

edly flooded out southeast Michigan and produced widespread power outages, Rood said this year's delayed fall is just the latest oddity in a summer of weather that has been "just plain weird."

A combination of late-season warmth and humidity has created good growing conditions for all sorts of things, from plants and fungus to mosquitoes and ticks.

Along with the warmer weather comes heightened risk for mosquito and tick-borne diseases, said Emily Dinh, a medical entomologist with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

The agency last week announced three new cases of Eastern equine enceph-



alitis in Michigan horses. So far, Michigan has registered eight cases of the deadly virus in animals this year, and none in humans. That's a decrease from last year's 41 animal cases and 4 human cases.

But this year's late-season cases point toward a trend: Warmer falls are allowing zoonotic diseases to spread later into the year, and expanding their range further north.

Dinh said Michiganders will remain at risk until the state gets its first hard overnight freeze — something that's not in the near-term forecast pretty much anywhere in Michigan.

Long term, Dinh said, the growing threat of insect-borne diseases means Michigan needs "a more comprehensive approach" to combating the problem, such as more widespread mosquito control efforts such as locally-funded programs in the Thumb.

"My hope is that those sorts of programs become more prominent throughout the entire state, because the mosquitoes are all over the state," she said.

While Eade's salmon and steelhead fishing is suffering, some fish species have benefitted from the mild October, which has lengthened their growing season and enabled them to put on more weight before the winter, said Gary Whelan, a program manager with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources fisheries division.

But coldwater fish like salmon and steelhead are stressed, he said.

"Their reproductive cycle is telling them, based upon sunlight, that it's time to spawn," Whelan said. "But the temperatures are not."

That's causing some fish to spawn later, which also means their eggs will likely hatch later in the spring, potentially creating survival challenges for next year's young.

Warmer weather has also made for a slower start to fall bird migration season. Waterfowl migrate down from Canada once the weather cools. Holy Vaughn, spokesperson for the DNR wildlife division, said the fall duck hunting season has so far been slower than usual.

Bigger changes are ahead, said Rood, the U-M researcher. As climate change continues unabated, Michigan's summers will

continue to lengthen while its falls and springs contract.

Since 1951, average air temperatures in the Great Lakes region have increased by 2.3 degrees fahrenheit, and Michigan has lost 16 days of annual frost. Surface water temperatures in the Great Lakes have increased even faster than the air, with Lake Superior warming by 4.5 degrees fahrenheit since 1979.

Making matters worse, a landmark global assessment released this summer warned that by continuing to burn fossil fuels, humanity has locked in at least three more decades of worsening climate impacts, even if world governments and economies swiftly ditch fossil fuels to become carbon neutral by 2050.

With those changes now locked-in, Stow said, "the past may no longer be a good predictor of the future."

In other words, this warm October isn't all that abnormal at all. It's a predictable consequence of a changing climate.

And while today's version of climate change in Michigan is manageable in comparison to the massive wildfires and drought out West or the mega-hurricanes and rising seas along the ocean coasts, "it could be a very different story in 30 years," Rood said.

Whelan, of the DNR,

"Temperature"  
Continued on page 7

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**“Diary”****Continued from page 1**

ery and wild smolts in each river system. And the data will shed light on the overall contribution of hatchery and wild steelhead to our fishery. We should be able to also answer the question about whether anglers selectively keep clipped steelhead.

Anglers will need to accurately measure the total length of their steelhead from the end of their closed mouth to the tip of their tail. This is easily done by anglers fishing from a boat and by wading anglers that are retaining their steelhead but more difficult for catch and release waders. I utilize my wading staff or rod to mark the length of steelhead when I am out in the middle of a river and then measure the rod or staff after the fish is released. If you are close to the bank and have shallow water to turn the fish on its side, or vegetation or snow on a flat bank you can measure your

steelhead without doing any harm.

The reason for measuring released fish is to estimate the year they smolted or hatchery steelhead were released. We have three years of released hatchery smolts but most steelhead runs are made up of four year classes of fish. Sadly, we won't have that fourth year class of marked steelhead because Covid cautions did not allow an egg take this past spring. But this season, 2021-2022, we will have marked steelhead that have been in the lake for four years (planted in 2018). There will always be overlap but some general length guidelines for Lakes Michigan, Huron, and Erie would have been in the teens if steelhead had been planted this spring, 21-25" for those planted in 2020 and 26-29" for those planted in 2019. Steelhead that are over 30" in length have likely spent 4 or more seasons in the lake. Lake Superior steelhead will have somewhat lower size

ranges.

When you are fishing with partners that are not participating in the program you will want to include them and their catch. Fishing hours will also be part of your report. You will be able to make your reports via a mobile device or on your home computer. Details on doing this can be found at [www.glanglerdiary.org](http://www.glanglerdiary.org) along with additional information including how to register. Questions can be directed to Dr. Dan O'Keefe of Michigan Sea Grant who is leading this program by contacting him via email at [GLanglerdiary@gmail.com](mailto:GLanglerdiary@gmail.com).

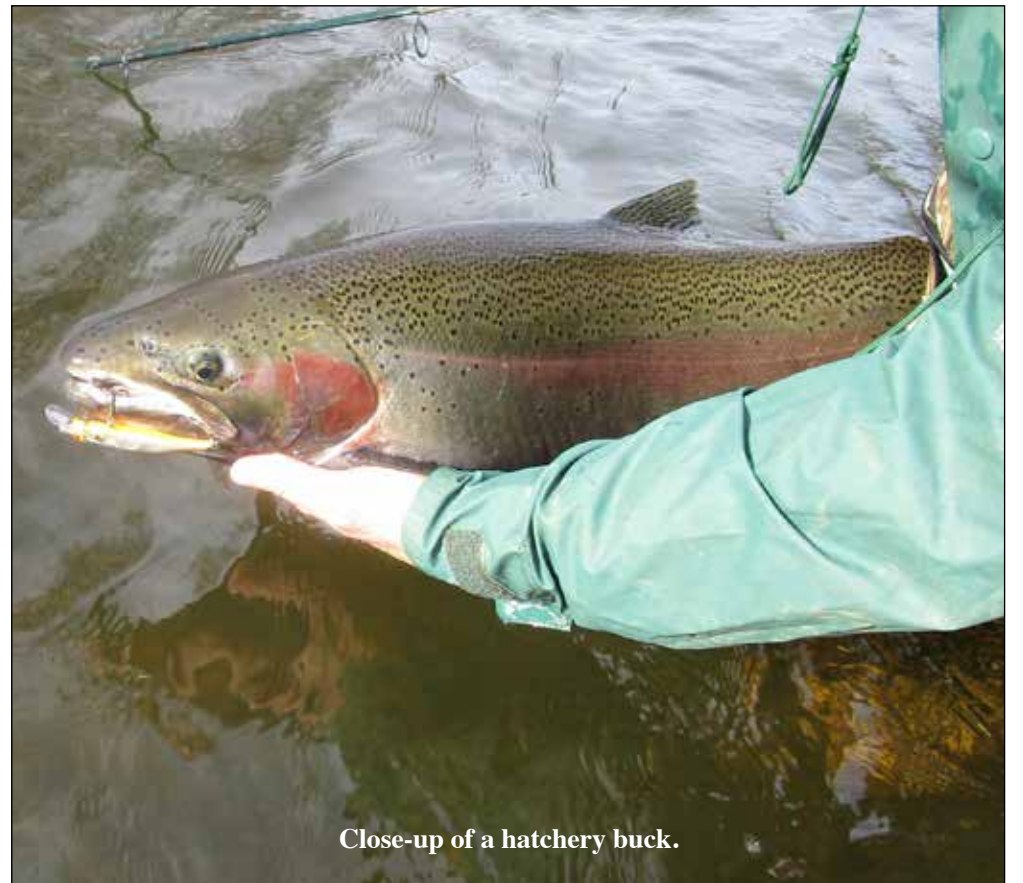
In early September of last year my daughter, Terri, caught a steelhead in a tributary of the Grand River on her ultra light trout tackle. This made dad mighty proud and because the fish's adipose fin was clipped we knew it was a hatchery summer run and, by its size, probably stocked in 2019. Because only its adipose was clipped it was probably

a stray from a plant in the St. Joseph River as Michigan also clips the right ventral fin of the summer

steelhead stocked in the Big Manistee.

So by joining this program you help the biolo-

gists manage the steelhead program and learn more about the fish you caught. A win-win for sure!



Close-up of a hatchery buck.

**“Temperature”****Continued from page 6**

said that's bad news for the long-term survival of Michigan's coldwater fish in some rivers and lakes.

"It's going to be a huge challenge for future biologists," he said.

Beyond the noticeable immediate effects like abundant mosquitoes and delayed fish runs, warm Octobers can produce long-term change that's harder to notice in the moment.

For example, Rood said, cold snaps that come on suddenly after warm weather can stress or kill trees, creating new opportunities for invasive plants to gain a foothold. Over time, Rood said, those subtle changes snowball, amounting to "a massive amount of disruption."

He said Michigan shouldn't just be taking note of the changes by keeping bug spray on hand later into the year, or installing sump pumps to deal with worsening summer floods. Instead, he said, we should be anticipating and adapting to the changes we'll continue to see in the decades ahead.

That means preparing our public health system to deal with worsening insect-borne diseases, educating first-responders who will have to respond to more heat-related emergencies, and training contractors to design new buildings to withstand climate threats.

Eade's fishing group has taken that advice to heart by growing increasingly focused on advocating to remove dams that artificially slow and warm Michigan's rivers.

As Michigan's summers grow longer, he said, "we're going to need that colder water to keep these trout healthy and alive."

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**“Late Fall”  
Continued from page 1**

November has amazing steelhead fishing, as the first strong runs of winter fish come into the river to fatten up on salmon eggs. There are also stupendous opportunities to catch absolute monster brown trout too, mostly for the same reason. Rivers and open waters that

are safe to fish also hold some hungry walleyes. It’s not uncommon to run into some great perch fishing, too. The month known for deer hunting, Thanksgiving dinner, and combat shopping is also a great time to fish. It can be hard to make the time, but the steelhead fishing makes it worthwhile.

**Why do Some People Seem Addicted to Steelhead?**

As a kid in high school, I had it pretty good when it came to fishing. I lived in Manistee County and was within walking distance of Tippy Dam. I spent so many days down along the river banks chasing everything from walleyes and panfish to steelhead and salmon. During November, I would

occasionally skip school to chase steelies during the couple of weeks leading up to deer season. It grew to be kind of an addiction.

A few years later when I was in college in Michigan’s glorious Upper Peninsula, I lived right on the St. Mary’s River. Those fall runs of fish kept my attention often and skipping classes to feed my fishing problem wasn’t exactly

uncommon. Can you really call it a problem? My advisor used that term when he asked why I had missed so many of his classes. Hey, it’s not my fault that even the chance of having a steelhead or walleye on the end of my line was way more exciting than sitting through yet another lecture. I learned quickly in college to schedule my classes around hunting and fishing season. By my senior year, I only had to skip a math class, and why not bail on math? It was a statistics class and the odds of me coming to class directly hinged on whether there were fish running.

Jump ahead to my post-graduation, professional life. Steelhead fishing is a passion of mine, and now that I’ve got friends who fish the Manistee River from a heated boat during the fall months, it’s hard to always work as scheduled when an offer to go arises. Well go fishing, of course!

**Where are the Best Places to Go Steelhead Fishing?**

Late November and December are great months to catch steelhead on the Manistee, Muskegon, and Pere Marquette rivers. We do a lot of plug-style fishing. If you’re steelhead fishing from shore or in waders, and this time of year, I’d suggest tough waders, with brush protection, you can

use spawn or flies. I see a lot of guys bottom bouncing little black insect imitators that do well.

Fish the Pere Marquette at night for huge brown trout. Head to the urban river systems for some spectacular walleye and perch fishing this time of year, too. Besides being great fishing, if you go during deer season, there is bound to be less traffic from other anglers. It can also be a great escape for those who tag out on a Michigan deer on opening weekend.

Of course, there are other places to go for late-fall steelhead fishing besides Michigan. Anywhere along the great lakes where you have a healthy river, should hold a winter steelhead run. I know Wisconsin anglers enjoy it, as do those fanatical folks in New York. And of course, our Canadian friends to the north have their own fun with the chrome fish. Check your local areas and tackle shops for information. I can write about my experiences on my favorite spots, but local anglers and tackle shops are the best way to get the right intel. Steelhead fishing is fun and a great way to relax and enjoy the splendid late-fall weather. You’ll find that you will become addicted to steelhead fishing, but that’s ok. You have lots of company.

## WALLEYES IN RIVERS RIGHT NOW

**By Bob Jensen**

The autumn season offers many outdoor activities. Some folks like to go hunting and others know that ice-fishing is not far away. But there are some, probably more than you would think, that look forward to this time of year for open water fishing. They know that right now, in rivers throughout the Midwest, there are lots of opportunities to catch walleyes. In fact, an angler friend of mine who catches lots and lots of walleyes every year regularly proclaims that from late October and well into December is when he catches many if not most of his year’s catch of walleyes. He fishes large rivers from his boat and casts on smaller rivers while wearing waders. I’ve done the same for the past four decades and have some fond memories of catching walleyes in rivers in the fall. Here’s how you can get in on this action.

Number One Tip: Be prepared for any weather. It can be twenty degrees or seventy degrees. If you’re cold, you’re not going to enjoy being out there no matter how good the fish are biting. Start out dressed for cold conditions: You can always take clothes off, but you can’t put on clothes that you don’t have with. Most days on the river this time of year will be

very pleasant, made even more pleasant by walleyes and sauger that want to get caught.

Different areas will produce walleye and sauger. Sand flats, wingdams, mid-river holes, current breaks, they’ll all hold fish. You need to keep moving around until you find the areas that have the most biters.

Jigs will be fish-catchers. Let the water depth and current determine jig weight. You’ll usually need at least a quarter ounce jig and on larger rivers it’s not unusual and often is common to go to a half ounce and sometimes even heavier. When you’re hovering over the fish, you’ll want to use a jig that will allow you to fish as vertically as possible. On smaller rivers when casting to shallower water, an eighth ounce jig is probably the best size much of the time.

Three to four inch fathead minnows are still the traditionally preferred tip for your jig, but every fall we see more anglers using and catching walleyes and sauger on jigs tipped with plastic. When they want plastic, and they want plastic much of the time, it’s hard to beat Rage Swimmers in the small to medium sizes. The brighter colors are usually better, but try a variety of colors until the fish show you what they want.

A presentation that’s new to a lot of anglers is a bait that was designed for ice-fishing but is outstanding when vertically jigging in open water. It’s called a Tikka Mino. This bait looks like a minnow. It has a single hook on each end and a treble belly hook. It’s designed to be fished aggressively, but as with color, experiment. Sometimes a slower lift/fall will be more productive than a ripping lift/fall. If there are two anglers or more in the boat, Tikka Mino’s and traditional jigs can be fished at the same time, so anglers can figure out which the walleyes and sauger prefer on that day.

When the fish are in the deeper areas, it works well to hover directly over them and hold the bait right in their face. These fish don’t want to chase a bait, but if it’s wiggling on their nose, they’re going to eat it.

There’s probably a river within an easy drive of where you live that has walleyes in it. Now and for the next few weeks would be a great time to go there and see if you can catch a few.



**Rivers big and small are the place to be now for walleye and sauger action. Ken Poole took this sauger from the Mississippi River near Red Wing Minnesota.**





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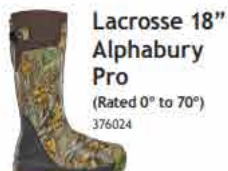


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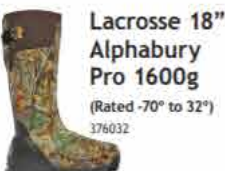
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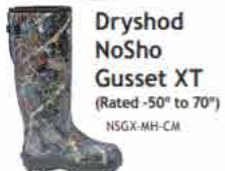
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# The Forgotten End of the Temperature Spectrum: Winter Fishing

By Sascha Clark Danylchuk.

Keep Fish Wet is a US 501(C)3 NonProfit Organization

### Winter Fishing

We often think about what happens to fish as water temperatures heat up in the summer, but neglect to consider the other end of the temperature spectrum. This is true in fisheries science as well — perhaps you could chalk it up to scientists favoring fair weather field work — there are many more studies that examine the impacts of warm water on fish than cold. The lack of studies, however, does not mean that the subject area is unimportant. Especially in temperate and more northern (or southern) latitudes, fish spend a considerable proportion of

their lives contending with cold water temps.

Below is some biologically relevant information on how fish respond to cold water temperatures, as well as some insights from studies on ice fishing. Combined, these scientific facts provide some considerations and precautions that anglers should take when fishing during the winter months.

### What Happens to Fish as Temperatures Decreases

Fish survive between a thermal maximum and minimum, above and below which is fatal. Even within their thermal tolerance range, fish have another smaller range. This is known as their thermal optimum, or the water temperatures at which they thrive and prefer to live in. The thermal optimum,

maximum, and minimum varies by species, but can also vary depending on life stage, size, as well as what temperatures fish are acclimated to.

Fish are cold-blooded animals so as water temperatures decrease, so do fishes metabolic processes. In fact, water temp is often referred to as the master factor for fish. A fish's ability to swim, feed, digest food, avoid predators, and defend its location all decrease as water temperatures decrease. This leads to more sluggish, less hungry fish in the winter.

### What to do when Fishing in Winter

Fish in streams and rivers often move into deeper areas (sometimes forming aggregations) in the winter because there is less optimal habitat as temperatures



Photo by Joe Klementovich.



Photo by Joe Klementovich.

drop and ice begins to form. Deeper pockets can also be slightly warmer if there are groundwater seeps. One consideration to make when fishing during the winter is that removing fish from their deep pockets and thermal refuges could be detrimental. Their decreased swimming abilities at low temperatures could make it more challenging for them to return to the preferred spot from which

they were caught.

**Recommendation:** Consider releasing your fish into the same pool from which you caught it during the winter.

Prior to winter, fish in temperate and northern latitudes will pack on the fat that will be later used as energy, especially since feeding tends to decrease during winter months. For some species, prey items are also not as readily available in winter. As winter progresses, energy reserves can become depleted, and if they run out of energy to maintain basic bodily functions, fish can die — essentially from starvation. This is different from winterkill, which mostly occurs in lakes that become completely frozen over when there is not enough dissolved oxygen in the water and fish die of hypoxia (lack of oxygen).

Anything that causes the accelerated depletion of energy stores can make the situation worse. Fighting at the end of a fishing line increases the metabolism and muscular activity that is fueled by energy. During the winter when fish haven't been feeding and are already depending on limited energy stores, long fight times as well as anything else that could require energy, such as healing a hook wound or replacing a slime coat, could impact fish overwinter survival.

**Recommendation:** Re-

duce fight time and use barbless hooks.

### Tailwaters

While tailwaters (water below a dam) can be popular spots for winter fishing because they are often free of ice, they can present worse situations for fish. Tailwaters are usually warmer and have an increased flow rate. The increased water temperature raises fish metabolism and fish are able to be more active, but they have to contend with the increased flow rate of the water. Both of these lead to fish needing more food/energy, however, prey availability is usually low — fish are hungrier, but cannot find enough food. This can result in mortality, especially for smaller fish that have lower energy stores.

**Recommendation:** When fishing tailwater in the winter pay attention to the health of the fish. If they look especially skinny consider fishing further downstream.

### Lessons From Science on Ice Fishing

There have been a handful of studies examining the impacts of ice fishing on fish. Despite the differences between ice fishing and, for instance, fly fishing in open water, there are some parallels we can draw, especially in regard to how fish react to angling at very

"Winter"

Continued on page 11

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# Quick Tip: How to Clean Your Livewell

*A clean livewell means healthier fish and happier anglers*

**Article by** [www.mercurymarine.com/en/us/dockline/quick-tip-how-to-clean-your-livewell](http://www.mercurymarine.com/en/us/dockline/quick-tip-how-to-clean-your-livewell)

If your livewell could talk, it would probably wearily ask for a little attention.

Fish, mud, vegetation, scales, dirty water and heat all combine to create an environment that's ideal for mold, mildew and smells that you'd rather not be sitting or standing next to on your day on the water. What's more, when left unchecked these unavoidable byproducts of fishing can clog your recirculating pump and drain lines, and potentially leave your livewell inoperable at the least convenient time.

No need to fret. In this Mercury Quick Tip video, we'll show you how to get your livewell sparkling clean and ready for your next trip. It only takes an hour or so, and your livewell pump will do a lot of the work for you. To properly clean one livewell, all you need is:

0.5-1 gallon distilled white vinegar

32-ounce bottle of hydrogen peroxide

Scrub brush

Handheld vacuum or shop vacuum with hose

Water hose

Note: If your livewell is particularly dirty you might be tempted to use bleach or other harsh chemicals to clean it, but don't do it. It will be very difficult to get all traces of such aggressive cleaning products out of your livewell when you're finished, and what remains could cause additional stress or harm to your fish. It's simply not worth the risk as this is the exact opposite of what you want from your livewell.

Once you've gathered your materials (the vinegar and peroxide can be picked up at your local grocery store or pharmacy for around \$10), you're ready to start cleaning. Here are the steps:

1.) Remove any screens and drop them into the livewell.

2.) Vacuum out any loose dirt and debris.

3.) Start filling the livewell with clean water, inserting the plug to keep the water from draining.

Fill the livewell at least three-quarters full.

4.) Pour all of the the vinegar and peroxide into the livewell. Then turn on the recirculating pump to thoroughly mix the water and cleaning agents.

5.) Use the brush to scrub all parts and surfaces of the livewell, including the screens and the well side of the drain plug.

6.) Let the recirculating pump run for at least 30 minutes. Then turn it off and drain the livewell.

7.) Reinsert the livewell drain plug and refill the well at least three-quarters full with clean water.

8.) Turn on the recirculating pump on once again and let it run for at least another 30 minutes.

Turn off the pump and pull the plug to drain the livewell. Replace the screens and any other loose parts. If you're not going to use the livewell again right away, consider towel-drying the inside of the livewell for even greater protection against creeping mold, mildew and foul smells.

Doing this once or twice a year, coupled with a quick

washdown and recirculating a well full of clean water for a few minutes after each use, should keep your livewell clean, odor free and

working properly throughout the boating season. The same general procedure and schedule will also work for fish boxes (substituting

vigorous rinsing for the recirculation steps) and baitwells in boats so equipped.



## Tools of the Trade

» Successful big water trolling requires the right tools. Elite anglers know that underwater currents impact lure action and water temperature drives fish location. Speed and water temperature at the lure can be the most important information on the boat. Without it – you're fishing blind.

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## "Winter"

Continued from page 10

cold-water temperatures. Two trends that stand out and one aspect that needs to be examined further are:

1) During winter, fish have a muted physiological stress response and mortality rates are generally lower. The stress response measured by examining blood concentrations of glucose, lactate, and cortisol (read here for more information) often decreases at lower water temperatures. By holding walleye in a pen, this study was able to show that all fish were still alive 24 hours after angling. This is good news for anglers — fish are less physiologically impacted by angling during the winter.

2) Although stress responses are often diminished at lower water temps, they can also be prolonged and/or delayed. A study on

northern pike, found that it took 45 mins to 4 hours to see changes in blood chemistry following the angling event. As a comparison, in warmer water temperatures we often see these types of changes within minutes. During the winter, this means that fish may not incur the physiological impacts of angling until hours after they are released, and these impacts may last hours longer. We often say that just because you saw your fish swim away does not mean that it's ok, and this is even more relevant at colder water temperatures.

3) While not specifically addressed, several of the studies also point out some of the potential impacts of air exposure during winter fishing. One study noted that fish showed signs of freezing damage to eyes and gills. Very cold air temperatures and windchills

could cause damage even during brief air exposures.

**Recommendation:** If the guides on your rod are freezing up, consider how delicate gill tissue might respond to air exposure. Just one more reason to **Keep Fish Wet.**

## Takeaways

Until we have some more conclusive science on the impacts of winter fishing at cold temperatures, it behooves us to employ the precautionary principle and extra careful when fishing during cold temperatures. Returning fish to the same lie where you hooked them, limiting fight time, using barbless hooks, and minimizing air exposure are all important actions that anglers can take to help create better outcomes for fish after release.





# Michigan Department of Natural Resources

## Giving Lake Sturgeon A Lift

By Jennifer Johnson and Darren Kramer  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Lake sturgeon are a long-lived fish species that were once common throughout the Great Lakes. However, over the last two centuries, lake sturgeon populations have significantly declined due to several factors, including habitat loss from dam construction. Once numbering in the millions in the Great Lakes region, the lake sturgeon population has now been reduced to a few thousand fish. The lake sturgeon is currently listed as a threatened species in Michigan.

The Menominee River, forming part of the border between Wisconsin and Michigan in the Upper Peninsula, is a large tributary to Green Bay on Lake Michigan and supports one of the largest remaining populations of lake sturgeon in the Great Lakes. The sturgeon here number roughly 1,200 adult fish – compared to roughly 20,000 to 25,000 historically.

Before construction of several hydroelectric dams throughout the Menominee River during the 19th century, lake sturgeon migrated upstream from Green Bay for approximately 70 miles to spawn, before encountering a natural barrier at Sturgeon Falls in Dickinson County.

Currently their access to the river is cut short by the Menominee Dam, which

is located approximately 2.5 miles upstream from Green Bay. A second dam, Park Mill, is located only about 1 mile upstream of the Menominee Dam.

Mature, adult lake sturgeon need specific spawning habitat typically found in rivers and are willing to make long migrations to reach those optimal spawning locations.



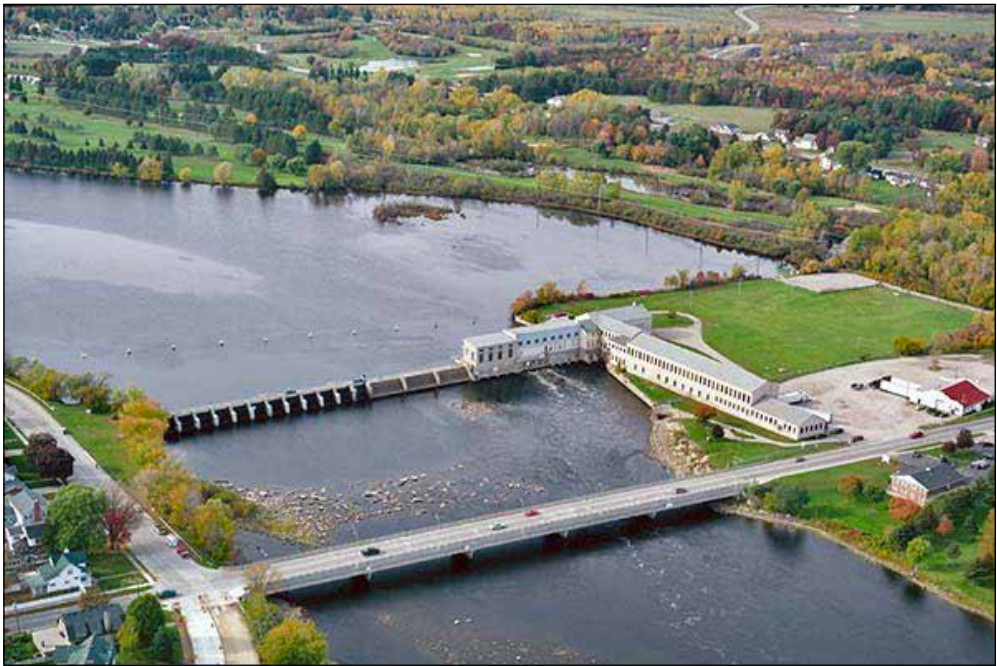
A close-up view of a lake sturgeon’s face is shown.

“Dams are considered one of the greatest impediments to successful sturgeon recovery efforts in the Great Lakes because adult fish are unable to access river spawning habitat and critical habitat needed to support juvenile fish,” said John Bauman, fisheries biologist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The lack of suitable lake sturgeon spawning habitat and juvenile rearing habitat downstream of the Menominee Dam are likely key factors limiting the rehabilitation of the lake sturgeon population.

Luckily for the lake sturgeon, there is ample habitat for both adults and juveniles above the Park Mill Dam up to the Grand Rapids Dam, situated approximately 19 miles upstream.

Given these facts, the question for fisheries managers was how to reconnect adult lake sturgeon from the lower Menominee River to



An image shows the Menominee Dam on the Menominee River, where efforts to aid lake sturgeon populations have been underway for several years. (Eagle Creek Renewable Energy photo)

collaborative partnership among Anglers of the AuSable, Trout Unlimited, the Great Lakes Fly Fishing Association and the River Alliance of Wisconsin formed the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition to determine how to best address reconnecting adult lake sturgeon from the lower Menominee River with habitats upstream.

The overarching goal of the effort was to increase lake sturgeon recruitment – the process by which small, young fish survive to larger, older fish. It was presumed that these recruits would survive and contribute as adults to the overall sturgeon population in Green Bay and more broadly across Lake Michigan.

The work of the team led to the construction, in 2015, of a “fish elevator” located at the Menominee Dam. The elevator was designed to capture adult lake sturgeon for transfer upstream of the Menominee and Park Mill dams.

The fish elevator was built in an empty bay at the Menominee Dam powerhouse. Within the bay is a rectangular metal hopper, measuring 10 feet by 15 feet. The hopper can be lowered to the bottom of the river.

Water from above the dam flows through the hopper area by opening an upstream gate, creating an “artificial river” to lead lake sturgeon into entering the hopper. A fixed gate at the head of the hopper restricts fish from traveling farther into the dam.

The downstream end of the hopper is open for fish to move in and out until a gate is lowered, trapping fish inside. The hopper is lifted approximately 30 feet to the upper floor of the powerhouse with an electric winch. A door on the side of the hopper opens, emptying water and the fish into a sorting tank.

From there, fish species captured unintentionally are sorted out and sent back

downstream via a pipe with water. Lake sturgeon are visually inspected for previous injuries or disease, measured and then tagged, if no previous tags are observed.

Sex and spawning condition are determined using an ultrasound unit like the ones found in veterinary clinics. Most male lake sturgeon spawn every one to two years, and females spawn every three to five years. Fish that are not ready to spawn during the next spawning period (late April to mid-May) are sent back downstream.

Fish that are ready to spawn are moved to an adjacent holding tank in the powerhouse to await transfer upstream. Minimum fish lengths required for transfer are 45 and 50 inches for males and females, respectively.

When transferring lake sturgeon upstream, fish are

“Lake Sturgeon”  
Continued on page 13



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# Salmon In The Classroom Teachers Readying For Egg Pickup

It's hard to imagine tiny Chinook salmon eggs will one day become the mighty, fighting fish that swim Michigan waters, but it's a natural wonder that plays out year after year in the DNR's Salmon in the Classroom program. Though the program raises and releases a relatively small number of fish, it does something just as important – it builds students' respect and understanding of this very cool species.

Eggs for the SIC program were collected in early October. By mid-November they'll become "eyed eggs,"

meaning that you can actually see the fish eyes as they develop on each egg. At this point, the hardy eggs will be ready for teachers to pick up and transport back to classroom fish tanks. Some 300 teachers (third through 12th grades) and more than 30,000 students are participating this year.

DNR aquatic education coordinator Tracy Page said each classroom will mark the same milestones:

By early December, eggs will hatch into "sac fry" and live off their yolk sacs for a few weeks. By winter break, they should

have absorbed their yolk sacs and begun feeding on provided food pellets.

Through winter and early spring, classes observe and feed the fish, test water quality and maintain the tanks. Teachers will use over 30 DNR-provided classroom activities to help students learn about Great Lakes ecology, invasive species, history and even art.

Schools begin releasing fish into approved waterways around the state by mid-April. Release days usually involve fun field trips, with education sta-

tions on casting/fishing, macroinvertebrate sampling (fish food), fish identification and other topics. Many community partners get involved, too, offering great experiences for the kids. All fish are released by June 1.

"This popular program is a highly interactive experience for teachers and students, who are involved in every aspect of raising the salmon and responsible for their survival and release," Page said. "The kids are getting hands-on learning about science and seeing firsthand that they can make a positive difference on our



natural world."

Everyone can learn more about Salmon in the Classroom through a series of more than 50 videos that cover everything from full-class presentations on the history and life cycle of salmon, to brief looks at

time-lapse hatching, water testing and fish tagging.

Classroom teachers interested in applying can do so between Jan. 1 and April 15 each year.

*Questions? Contact Tracy Page at 989-277-0630 or visit [Michigan.gov/SIC](http://Michigan.gov/SIC).*

## "Lake Sturgeon" Continued from page 12

loaded into a custom-built trailer and transported about 2 miles to a boat launch above the Park Mill Dam, located on the Michigan side of the Menominee River. There, the trailer is backed into the river and the adult sturgeon are released to continue their migration upstream.

Since 2015, elevator and transfer operations at the Menominee Dam have occurred each year during the spring (mid-April to mid-May) and fall (late August to late September).

"Captures of lake sturgeon have been found to vary widely from year to year and between spring and fall seasons," said Elle Gulotty, a DNR fisheries biologist. "As time goes on, we have learned more and more about efficiently operating the fish elevator."

Over the past six years, the number of fish transferred upstream has ranged from a low of 25 in 2015 to a high of 147 in 2019.

Lake sturgeon trans-



Several lake sturgeon are shown in the trailer that will move them upstream behind the dams.

ferred during the spring will spawn during that period, while the fish transferred in the fall spend the winter in the river before spawning the following spring. Roughly 90% of the sturgeon transferred upstream stay there for at least one spawning period before migrating back downstream to Green Bay.

During this migration, lake sturgeon pass through

the Menominee and Park Mill dams via open gates at the dams or by fish-bypass structures specifically built at each dam for lake sturgeon.

Lake sturgeon that migrate downstream to Green Bay may then return to the Menominee River when they are again ready to spawn. Recently some adults have been captured at the Menominee Dam

fish elevator for the second time, after initially being captured and transferred upstream several years ago.

To meet management objectives, lake sturgeon passed upstream must survive, remain upstream to spawn and eventually contribute offspring to the overall population of lake sturgeon in Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

The University of Wis-



A fisheries worker releases a lake sturgeon from a trailer into the Menominee River upstream of the Menominee and Park Mill dams.

consin-Green Bay is currently leading efforts to determine the contribution of juvenile fish that transferred lake sturgeon have added, compared to the overall lake sturgeon population in the Menominee River.

This next phase in this research will provide essential data on recruitment benefits of restoring lake

sturgeon connections to historical spawning habitats and will help inform decisions about implementing sturgeon upstream passage efforts in other Great Lakes tributaries.

Capturing and transferring adult lake sturgeon around the Menominee and Park Mill dams in the Menominee River is a unique solution to assist with the restoration of this important fish population to Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

Fish elevator and transfer operations will likely continue though the life of the Menominee and Park Mill dams.

While lake sturgeon can access part of their former range in the Menominee River, natural resource agencies and partners are continuing to seek solutions to restore lake sturgeon access in the river up to Sturgeon Falls.

Learn more about this unique fish species on the DNR's lake sturgeon web-page.

*Check out previous Showcasing the DNR stories in our archive at [Michigan.gov/DNRStories](http://Michigan.gov/DNRStories). To subscribe to upcoming Showcasing articles, sign up for free email delivery at [Michigan.gov/DNR](http://Michigan.gov/DNR).*



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## Event Calendar Disclaimer:

*Please visit your chapter website for the latest status on the activities listed.  
Many events are being postponed or canceled due to state restrictions.  
Call, text or email any additional questions or need for direction.*

### 2021 Battle Creek Steelheader's Calendar of Events

| Month    | Date | Event                        | Location         |
|----------|------|------------------------------|------------------|
| November | 13   | Kalamazoo Trout Quest        | Allegan Dam      |
| November | 20   | Kalamazoo River Memorial     | Allegan Dam      |
| November | 27   | St. Joe River Fall Steelhead | I-94 Boat Ram    |
| December | 4    | St. River Chapter Challenge  | Babes Lounge     |
| December | 11   | Christmas Party              | Kalamazoo Eagles |

**Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting**  
**Meeting Location: Travelers Cafe and Pub, 5225 Portage Rd. Exit 78 off I-94.**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
**River Tournament - Joe Foy at 269-303-1894 / Lake Tournament - Dan Foster at 269-370-3693**  
**battlecreeksteelheaders.com**

### 2021 Grand Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events

| Month    | Date | Event           | Contact Info |
|----------|------|-----------------|--------------|
| December | 1    | Christmas Party |              |

Other Events TBD  
For information on these events and other information on the Grand Haven Steelheaders  
contact GHS President and State Director Paul Zelenka at pbzfarms@gmail.com  
www.ghsteelheaders.com

### 2021 Grand Rapids Steelheader's Calendar of Events

| Month    | Date | Event                             | Information                        |
|----------|------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| November | 6    | Fishing Partners Manistee Contest | STC                                |
| November | 9    | Board of Directors Meeting        | 7:00pm STC                         |
| November | 22   | Membership Meeting                | Social Hour 6:00pm, Meeting 7:00pm |
| December | 6    | Chapter Family Christmas Party    | 6:00pm - Diamond Hall **           |
| December | 14   | Board of Directors Meeting        | 7:00pm STC                         |

STC\* = Date subject to change  
\*\* = Members and Family Only. (All other events open to the public)

### 2021 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader's Calendar of Events

| Month    | Date | Event                        | Location / Time  |
|----------|------|------------------------------|--|
| November | 6    | Big/Lil Man. Bear Creek      | Daylight – 1:00pm  |
| November | 9    | Board Meeting                | VFW Hall 7:00pm  |
| December | 4    | Big Man., Bear, Betsie, P.N. | Daylight – 1:00pm  |
| December | 7    | Board Meeting                | VFW Hall 7:00pm  |
| December | 11   | Annual Christmas Banquet     | Cocktails 5:00pm/Dinner 6:00pm<br>K of C Garfield Rd. Auburn, MI |

Membership meetings held at:  
3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642  
989-496-3410

Board meetings begin at 7:00pm  
Please call the Port Chairman no later than Monday prior to the outing whether you plan on attending or not attending.  
On the day of the outing, call in on Marine Radio, Channel 72.  
Weigh-in follows each outing. Picnics follows weigh-in on Saturdays only.  
Outings: All Steelheader members pay \$5.00. All non-Steelheaders pay \$10.00 to participate.  
Children 16 and Under are free. Picnic is \$5.00 for everyone.

If interested in fishing with us please contact: Gary Decker at 989-859-7472  
Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com

### 2021 Holland Steelheader's Calendar of Events

| Month    | Date | Event              |
|----------|------|--------------------|
| November | 1    | Board Meeting      |
| November | 6    | River Tournament   |
| December | 2    | Membership Meeting |
| December | 4    | River Tournament   |
| December | 6    | Board Meeting      |

Board meetings held at: Turks of Holland, 977 Butternut Dr., Holland MI 49424 7:00 PM  
General Membership: Bayshore Yacht Club, 1862 Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland MI 49424.  
Doors open at 6 pm., Dinner at 7 pm, speaker to follow

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

### 2021 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader's Calendar of Events

| Month    | Date | Event                                      | Chair / Location                    |
|----------|------|--|-------------------------------------|
| November | 2    | General Membership Meeting                 |                                     |
| November | 6    | Manistee River/Pier/Shore Tournaments w DS | Dave Zawacki/Eric Braden/Adam Trenz |
| November | 20   | PM River or Betsie River Tournament        | Phil Bustos                         |
| December | 7    | CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS           |                                     |
| December | 11   | Huron River Tournament                     | Hinchcliff/Brown                    |

**\*\* 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@gmail.com or call 248-225 4964.

Contact: *President* Eric Braden, esbraden630@gmail.com, 419-344-2541  
*Membership Director* Henry Nabors 248-225-4964

### 2021 South Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events

| Month    | Date | Event   |
|----------|------|---|
| November | 3    | Pro Am Tournament Committee Kick-off meeting                        |
| November | 18   | Membership Meeting 7:00 pm  |
| November | 27   | SHS River Tournament Invitational (must be a member to participate) |
| December | 16   | Membership Meeting 7:00 pm  |

Membership Meetings Held at 7 pm at: South Haven Moose Lodge, 1025 East Wells Street, South Haven, MI 49040  
For more information email: president@southhavensteelheaders.com

### 2021 Southwest MI Steelheader's Calendar of Events

| Month  | Date | Event                       | Information                                     |
|--|------|-----------------------------|---|
| Due to uncertainty of public meetings as a result of CV19 please check online for the latest information.<br>www.swmsteelheaders.com<br>www.facebook.com/southwestmichigansteelheaders |      |                             |   |
| November   | 11   | Membership Meeting          | Check online for latest information (see above) |
| December   | 4    | Winter Challenge Tournament | St. Joseph River                                |

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

### 2021 TCAS Steelheader's Calendar of Events

| Month | Date | Event |
|-------|------|-------|
|-------|------|-------|

All events are TBD

TCAS meets the first Wednesday of each month except July (Cherry Festival) and December (Christmas Party)  
Meetings begin at 7 pm at the Traverse City Senior Center, 801 Front St., next door to the Maritime Academy.

### 2021 Thumb Chapter Steelheader's Calendar of Events

| Month    | Date | Time | Event | Location / Information |
|----------|------|------|-------|------------------------|
| November |      |      | TBD   |                        |
| December |      |      | TBD   |                        |

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

### 2021 Thunderbay Steelheader's Calendar of Events

| Month    | Date | Time    | Information     |
|----------|------|---------|-----------------|
| November | 1    | 7:00 pm | Monthly Meeting |
| December | 6    | 7:00 pm | Monthly Meeting |

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

### 2021 White River Steelheader's Calendar of Events

| Month | Date | Time | Event information | Location |
|-------|------|------|-------------------|----------|
|-------|------|------|-------------------|----------|

All events are TBD

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

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# Grilled Cedar Plank Salmon

A simple recipe that proves less can absolutely be more

**Recipe from**  
*www.mercurymarine.com*

There’s an almost infinite number of ways one can prepare salmon, but the beauty of this fish is that you really don’t have to do much to bring out its gorgeous flavors for a meal that is both healthy and delicious.

One very simple way to capture the inherent deliciousness of this vibrantly colored fish is to grill it on a cedar plank. Doing so gives the fish a unique, smoky finish and provides a meal every bit as flavorful as one you’d find in a restaurant, and at a fraction of the price. And with the complexities of flavors created by the cedar, there’s no need to purchase a bunch of costly ingredients.

We eat a lot of salmon in our household, and while one of my favorite recipes is short on ingredients, it’s tall on flavor. The addition of a little salt, pepper and a little parsley is enough to complement the clean, smoky goodness created by the wood.

**Simple Cedar Plank Salmon** *(Serves 4)*

Ingredients:

- Four 4 to 6 ounce salmon fillets
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Sea salt
- Fresh parsley

You’ll want to get started by pre-soaking your cedar planks in water overnight or at least several hours before you are ready to grill. This will prevent the planks from catching on fire on the grill. Pre-cut cedar planks for cooking can be ordered online or purchased at stores that carry outdoor gear.

Prepare the salmon by cutting the fillets into manageable serving sizes. I like to cut the fish into strips about 2 inches wide, cutting across the fillet from top to bottom. This allows the flavor to absorb deep into the salmon on all sides.

About 30 minutes before going on the grill, brush some olive oil on your salmon fillets and season them with crushed sea salt, freshly ground black pepper and parsley to taste. Remember, you only want to use enough seasonings to bring out the inherent flavors of the fish.

Next, pre-heat the grill to high heat. This will make the grill hot enough to char the cedar planks when they are placed onto it. Don’t worry about the smoke or burning the boards. That’s what makes the flavor. Be

prepared for things to get smoky. In fact, smokiness is a sign that you’re doing things right. After all, it’s the smoke that is creating all that delicious flavor. Do keep in mind that some salmon, like Chinook, can be extremely high in omega-3 oils, and can catch on fire. For that reason, I recommend keeping a small spray bottle of water handy in the event that you need to douse out any small flames.

Place the planks on the grill prior to placing the salmon on them and close the lid. This will char the underside of the plank and release even more flavor. After a couple of minutes flip the cedar plank over and place the salmon on the charred side. Close the lid and let the salmon cook on the plank for around 5 to 7 minutes before checking it.

The salmon should turn from a translucent red color to pale pink as it is cooking.



The best way to determine when your fish is ready to be removed from the grill is to use a sharp knife to peek into the thickest part of the fillet. If the meat begins to flake, but still has a little

translucency in the middle, it is ready to be plated.

Now, all there is left to do is to pair it with a nice salad or vegetable, and perhaps some fresh bread, dig

in and enjoy!

*This recipe is from a blog by Mercury Pro Team member Rob Endsley, an Alaska charter captain*

*(princeofwalessportfishing.com), former river guide and host of the “Outdoor Line” radio show in Seattle, Washington. Instagram @robendsley.*



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