

THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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RED HOOKS OR MARKETING HYPE?

By Roger Hinchcliff

They say the color red is the ultimate cure for sadness. Red is the color of blood, so it's an intense color said to enhance one's metabolism, respiration rate and even raises blood pressure. If you own a red car, your auto insurance premiums will be higher. If these points are true, it means the color red is one powerful color to humans. Let's look at red hooks while fishing. Let me start by saying I fish with a black nickel or bronze hook 80% of the time.

When it comes to the red hooks through the years, I have gotten mixed opinions from anglers. Many fishermen swear by them while

others dismiss them as just marketing hype? For years I have used them and I can honestly say in my opinion I truly believe with the right conditions they work.

Most folks know me for my addiction to Salmon, Steelhead and Trout. But I use red hooks for drop shooting for bass, walleye jigging and even pan fish. Hook manufacturers out there offer a red hook for the most part. I'm not the only one that believes they work. If red hooks did not sell would companies still manufacture them, right? No matter what side of the fence you're on when it comes to red hooks opinions vary. Let's explore a

"Red Hooks"

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SMALL STREAM STEELHEADING

By Jim Bedford

As the spring steelhead run approaches many anglers will launch boats on our larger rivers and attempt to intercept these special anadromous rainbows. Keep in mind though, that many of these fish end up in small streams and creek as spawning time approaches. Summer steelhead will also often be found in smaller streams as they seek colder water.

Small streams have a special place in my an-

gling heart. I love fishing where my senses can tell me where to cast without any help from electronic gadgetry. Large steelhead rivers attract large numbers of fish and large numbers of anglers and are certainly fun to fish but I love the intimacy of small rivers and creeks. There are actually many more miles of small streams containing steelhead than there are big rivers.

"Small Streams"

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Fish Deeper – Work Harder



Left to right: Josh Gruppen, Bryan Houtman, Dustin Peck, Matt Carini, Brian Eade

By Bryan Houtman

With the changes occurring in Lake Michigan over the past several years, fishermen have had to adapt their style of fishing in order to be successful. Whether it's fun fishing on a Saturday morning or more adrenaline rush tournament fishing for the entire weekend, we have had to start targeting different big lake species at many different depths. For the last five years, we have started fishing bottom depths of 200 to 300 feet. We have always had the ability to reach these depths but because of running 15 lb. weights, we needed to release 300 to 400 feet of cable and slow our troll speed way down. Then, to get the weight back up after a release, it would take quite a bit of time. To limit the amount of "blow back" at these depths, we needed to start thinking about running 20 lb. downrigger weights.

We started researching downriggers about 5 to 6 years ago, looking for a downrigger that could handle a 20 lb. weight but with increased retrieval speed



Scotty No. 2106 and No. 2116 High Performance Downriggers

that didn't break the bank. There were a couple options available but only one fit the financial profile for a weekend hobby fishermen. It was the Scotty No. 2106 and No. 2116 High Performance Downrigger that turned out matching our needs perfectly.

fishing this deep is that you don't have to wait for the downrigger to bring the ball to the surface to reset the line, and the speed of these riggers allows you to get the cable and weight out of the way when fighting a fish.

The Scotty HP downrigger comes with a sturdy stainless steel boom, adjustable out to 60 inches. It comes with a resettable digital counter and a back light which proves invaluable during early morning or late evening fishing. Included in the package are stock swivel bases and a tilt able boom to help with weight retrieval and line setting. One of the key features is the auto stop; there is no special cable needed, just attach a stopper bead or two (we use two just in case) and adjust to where you want the weight to stop and you are all set. For the money you cannot beat these riggers and they have proven to perform very well for us. In my opinion, you would be hard pressed to find a rigger that can pull a 20 lb. ball at 260 fpm with the standard features these riggers have in the same price range.

A couple of features I really appreciate in this downrigger is that it is belt driven and not motor driven. Downriggers I previously owned posed problems when drive systems failed. With one rigger we actually melted the brass gears. The belt drive gives a very solid pull and yet if you do happen to hit the retrieve button when the rigger is already up, the belt pops off with no resulting damage. Simply take the top cover off, slide the belt back into place and your back in business. The other feature I particularly like is how you let the weight down and set your line. With a pull of the

"Downrigger"
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The Quality of Fishing Reflects the Quality of Living!

Color for Open Water and Ice

By Bob Jensen

To some anglers, lure color isn't that important. To other anglers, color is very important. To the most successful anglers, lure color is part of the equation. In a good number of situations, whether it be open-water or ice-fishing, the color of your lure can affect how many fish you catch.

It's especially obvious while ice-fishing that color is important. When we're on the ice, our eyes are usually glued to the depth-finder. You can see everything that goes on directly below that hole. If a fish comes in and looks at your bait but doesn't eat, considered for

change is color. There are times when fish are very color conscious. Following are some ideas on color that apply to open water and ice-fishing.

The general rule-of-thumb that many successful anglers use when selecting a lure is to go with a bright or chartreuse in it, in stained or dirty water. However, some choose to start with black or purple.

In clear water, natural or subtle colors are often preferred. Some like baits that resemble the primary forage fish in the body of water being fished, but other anglers prefer a bait that looks nothing like the dominant baitfish. The theory there

is, if the predator fish are seeing and eating the same thing day after day after day, something that looks completely different will be more appealing. Give them something different and they're more likely to eat it. I don't know what fish are thinking, but I do know that sometimes in clear water they like natural looking baits and sometimes they like baits that look like nothing that swims in that lake or river or pond. If you're not catching anything, try a different color, and keep trying different colors until the fish show you what they want.

Color can be especially important in ice-fishing. Fish can really study a bait

out when you're ice-fishing. The bait is only going up and down, and usually pretty slowly. In open water, if you're casting or trolling, the bait is moving, and often pretty fast. The fish in open water need to respond quickly. Under the ice, they can take their time, and if that bait isn't exactly what they want, they don't eat it. Lure action and size certainly make a difference, but so does color.

We all have our favorite colors. This past summer I discovered Strike King Walleye Elite Lucky Shad baits. These baits look like artwork, and, I guess in a way, they are. They just don't cost as much as artwork, or as much as a lot of other crankbaits. The Chrome/Blue, Yellow Perch, DB Craw, and Chartreuse Perch have quickly become my go-to baits when walleyes are the quarry.

Some folks believe that the only reason baits are offered in different colors is so the lure-makers can sell more lures. The truth is, if that color doesn't catch fish somewhere at some time, it won't be around very long. Next time you go fishing and aren't getting bit as often as you would like, try a different color. Sometimes color will be the difference between catching a few and catching a bunch.

To see new and old episodes of Fishing the Midwest television and fishing articles as well as fishing video tips, go to fishingthemidwest.com



In this Aug. 22, 2017 photo, Allen Cooke, left, and Nathan Cultee emerge from the hold of the Marathon after having separated out the 16 farm-raised Atlantic salmon they caught fishing off Point Williams, Wash. (Dean Rutz / Associated Press)

Washington State Cancels Salmon Farm Lease After Fish Escape

Associated Press

SEATTLE – Washington state officials have canceled an Atlantic salmon farm lease belonging to a company that also operates another salmon farm where more than 160,000 adult fish escaped into Puget Sound last summer.

Public Lands State Commissioner Hilary Franz says the decision is final with no room for negotiation, the Seattle Times reported in a story on Sunday.

Franz said the Washington Department of Natural Resources will work with Cooke Aquaculture Pacific and other state agencies to complete an orderly shut-down and removal of the

farm in Port Angeles.

The company also operates a fish farm at Cypress Island where the escape occurred in August.

In a news release Sunday, Franz said that after the fish escape she directed her staff to inspect every net pen in the state to make sure the company was meeting its contract and that the state's waters were safe.

"It is now clear that Cooke has been violating the lease terms for its Port Angeles net pens," Franz wrote. "In light of this violation, and in fulfillment of my commitment to protect our lands and waters, I am terminating the lease."

Franz said the farm is outside the boundaries of its lease and causing a navigation hazard. She also said the company has failed to maintain the salmon farm in a safe condition, posing the risk of another fish escape. The farm currently holds about 700,000 Atlantic salmon.

Cooke Aquaculture Pacific spokesman Joel Richardson told the newspaper in an email that the company learned of the lease termination Friday and is "evaluating their request."

Richardson wrote that the notice from the Department of Natural Resources "came as a surprise given the extensive improvements we have been undertaking to the site to ensure compliance, and our efforts to work with DNR to address self-identified issues in a cooperative manner."

Of the fish that escaped in August, officials say more than 105,000 remain unaccounted.

The Upper Skagit tribe has been catching Atlantic salmon more than three months after the escape some 40 miles up the Skagit River, considered one of the state's Pacific salmon strongholds.



Mike Frisch caught this open water bass on a crawfish pattern rubber-legged jig. Crawfish is an outstanding color for largemouth and smallmouth bass.



2018 Membership Drive



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Tackle Packs



For more information, contact your Chapter Membership Director or mssfamembership@gmail.com

MSU Prof Seeks Crowdfunding Support for Great Lakes Fish Diet Research

You can be a part of this important study by donating to support student researchers analyzing stomach samples from Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.



by Dan O'Keefe, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Sea Grant; and Brian Roth, Michigan State University

In 2017, anglers around the Great Lakes teamed up with scientists from U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wisconsin DNR, Michigan Sea Grant, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and Michigan State University to collect and freeze fish stomachs to help with the Great Lakes Predatory Fish Diet Study. A lot of stomachs were collected but additional staffing is needed in order to analyze all of them.

As we all know, the Great Lakes have changed a lot in the last decade or so. Alewife have declined, round goby are increasing, and lake trout and walleye

continue to recover. Chinook salmon, the heart of Lake Michigan's fishery, have fluctuated in numbers in the past few years, and have collapsed in Lake Huron.

Our fisheries agencies must make informed decisions regarding stocking and levels to support both fisheries and conservation goals. These decisions are based in part on what those predators are eating. What predators eat is an excellent indicator of ecosystem health, and can help tell us how sustainable the fishery is.

With the tremendous help of recreational anglers, MSU together with state, federal, and tribal agencies have collected nearly 2,000 predator stomachs from around Lake Michigan and Huron. We need help to be able to analyze all of them, particularly those from Lake Michigan. MSU has a

wealth of potential help in terms of undergraduate students eager to gain valuable research experience. However, funding is needed to pay these students for their work.

Would you help by contributing to this research effort?

With the help of MSU CrowdPower, any donations made at <https://givingto.msu.edu/crowdpower/predatory-fish-study> will go directly to the predator diet study. Any donation will help, and all donations are tax deductible.

Want to stay up-to-date on the project? We have several other ways to connect including:

Find us on facebook, search [huronmichigandietstudy.com](https://www.facebook.com/huronmichigandietstudy)

Follow the project on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/greatlakes-predatordiet/>

Or follow it on Twitter: @ichthyprof

Web page for diet study and other Great Lakes angler citizen science efforts: <http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/explore/fisheries/great-lakes-angler-science-fishing-for-answers/>

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

This article was originally published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>.



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Proposed Brook Trout Regulation Change in Upper Peninsula

The Department of Natural Resources is proposing an increase to the brook trout possession limit on select Upper Peninsula stream sections starting in April 2018.

The brook trout daily possession limit has been set at five (5) for the past 17 years. During that time, many requests were received from anglers wanting to keep more fish. Sparked by these requests and with interest from the Natural Resources Commission and input from the DNR's Coldwater Regulations Steering Committee, department fisheries staff investigated social and biological aspects of increasing the brook trout posses-

sion limit from five to 10 on a subset of Upper Peninsula streams.

From 2011 to 2017, public opinions were obtained through numerous public meetings; various surveys (internet, postcard, creel); consultations with sport clubs and other governing agencies; and from public e-mails, letters and phone calls. Biological information was gathered on seven streams using electrofishing surveys and DNR creel clerks collected catch, effort and harvest data on four streams.

Using this information, fisheries staff worked to select specific stream segments or sub-watersheds to be considered for the 10 fish possession limit based on guidelines proposed by the DNR's Fisheries Division and accepted by the Natural Resources Committee. Consideration was given at the level of individual sub-watersheds, but also sought to look broadly across all unit and community boundaries. The intent was to find a way to diversify fishing opportunities across the landscape while simultaneously being protective of brook trout populations.

The proposal seeks to implement a higher brook trout possession limit on 33 stream sections distributed throughout the Upper Peninsula. In terms of stream mileage, the selected sections represent about 8% of the total mileage for Type 1 Upper Peninsula streams.

The proposed regulation changes will benefit anglers by creating additional fishing opportunities. Details about specific stream sections to be included under the new regulation were presented at the October 12 Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Visit www.michigan.gov/dnr for more detailed information regarding the streams impacted by this decision.



2018 Tentative Print Schedule		
Issue	Deadline	Print Date
1	12/15/17	01/05/18
2	02/16/18	02/23/18
3	04/20/18	04/27/18
4	06/22/18	06/29/18
5	08/24/18	08/31/18
6	10/19/18	10/26/18

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

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MSSFA PRESIDENT

Dr. Ken Merckel

I hope everyone had a joyful holiday season and your stockings were filled with goodies. 2017 saw many things which would have adverse effects on the Great Lakes Fishery.

Proponents of Aquaculture made a push to set up facilities in the waters of the Great Lakes and were turned down. The Fisheries Division in Lansing tried to rewrite the Commercial Fisheries Act, which has many issues that sport fisherman objected to along with Sport fishing organizations including MSSFA. At this time there is no

movement on this issue in the legislature.

Both the State and the House passed Legislation that terminated the Michigan Ballast Water Discharge Law. The new law will allow ballast water discharge into Michigan water of the Great Lakes. The bill now sets on the Governor's desk. Thanks to all MSSFA members and the fishing and boating community who called the Governor's office asking him not to sign this bill. As of now, the bill has not been signed.

The Fisheries Divisions is establishing a Lake

Michigan Zonal Management Fishing plan. Three public meetings were held. The first meeting was held at Manistique which had 30 people in attendance, the second meeting was in Traverse City with 9 in attendance, and the third meeting was in Grand Haven with 22 people present half of which were MSSFA members. Jay Wesley went through the plan and answered questions and public comments were taken.

In my opinion, this is going to be a formative task, with the lower food web changing by the pres-

ence of exotic species, fall trawling data is not available until the first of next year and the eggs are already in the hatcheries. To balance this out will be a difficult task.

The 2018 Federal Budget has once again dropped funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Michigan Senator Stabenow, Peter's and Michigan House Representatives are working to restore funding.

In the battle to keep Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes, the Army Corp of Engineers wants additional barriers in the area of

the Brandon Road Lock. Eleven thousand calls and e-mails may keep it on track to acquire the funding.

Representative Jack Bergman of Michigan's 1st district, has introduced HR 4429 Cormorant Control Bipartisan Legislation to address Cormorant depredation. The Cormorant Control Act will direct Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke to reissue the 2014 rule related to Double Crested Cormorant depredation order, allowing Michigan to resume responsible Cormorant management activities. At the present time, both

Michigan Senator's Stabenow and Peters are also working on this issue.

After talking to Russ Mason, Michigan Wildlife Director, I was advised that U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel are going to have public meetings in Michigan to inform us about Cormorant control.

2018 should be an interesting year for Michigan's sport fishery.



Commentary: Gov. Snyder Betrays Michigan With Foolish Line 5 Deal

By Jim Lively
Program director at the Traverse City-based Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities

Gov. Rick Snyder once again is sidestepping leadership on an important water issue. First, it was his handling of the Flint drinking water crisis. Then, the Nestle groundwater giveaway.

Now, he's signed an agreement with Enbridge Energy over Line 5 that keeps the Canadian oil pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac for decades to come, rather than moving toward the solution that unquestionably will protect our fresh water: Terminating Enbridge's easement and decommissioning the 64-year-old pipeline.

Snyder announced the agreement days after expressing frustration about Enbridge's lack of transparency following another disclosure that the Canadian company had withheld information about missing protective coating on the pipeline.

But rather than consult his appointed Pipeline Safety Advisory Board, which has spent two years studying the issue and was weeks away from completing a study of alternatives, Snyder chose to cut a private deal with Enbridge. The agreement leans strongly toward preserving the company's interests and ignores the concerns of Michigan residents and business owners.

While the agreement minimally addresses some safety concerns, it does little to prevent an oil spill calamity in the Great Lakes.



A diver working on behalf of the nonprofit National Wildlife Federation inspects the Line 5 oil pipelines at the lake bottom in the Straits of Mackinac.

Photo: National Wildlife Federation



Illustration from MLive.com

And it ignores an obvious question posed by many business leaders: Why does Michigan shoulder all the risk from this pipeline while a Canadian company benefits?

Despite Enbridge's marketing campaign touting the benefits of Line 5 for Michigan, only 5-10 percent of the oil pumped through Line 5 stays in Michigan. Line 5 is simply a shortcut for western Canadian oil to move through the Great Lakes and into eastern Canada. Michigan and the Midwest would continue to have access to sufficient amounts of oil from other pipelines to meet demand if Line 5 were decommissioned.

Line 5 is part of Enbridge's "Eastern Canadian Refinery Access Initiative" plan to move Tar Sands oil from Alberta, Canada, through Michigan and onto East Coast Canadian re-

fineries. Today, Enbridge is transporting 380,000 barrels per day more oil through Michigan in its two major pipelines than it did in 2010, the year of its massive oil spill into the Kalamazoo River.

Nearly all of that excess oil is being refined in Canada. Line 5 helps Enbridge pad the profits of the Canadian oil industry, while Michigan stomachs all the risk to our Great Lakes. There is an important but small amount of propane carried by Line 5 to Upper Peninsula residents that could simply be transported by other means.

While Enbridge has worked hard to mask the true story about Line 5's benefits to Michigan, the company has failed to cover up the risks of a leak. Despite repeated claims that it learned a lesson from the disastrous Kalamazoo Riv-

er spill, Enbridge continues to show a blatant disregard for transparency and basic pipeline maintenance.

For example, required anchor supports that should be keeping the pipeline from swaying in the strong currents of the straits have repeatedly been found to be placed at inadequate spacing intervals. And we recently learned that Enbridge's installation of the supports has compromised the protective coating on the pipeline in at least 48 locations. Serious questions remain about the ability of Enbridge or the Coast Guard to clean up an oil spill. One estimate suggests only 30 percent oil recovery would be considered a success.

The state's recent agreement with Enbridge included a provision to close Line 5 during "adverse weather conditions" when recovery

efforts would be impeded. But the details of this provision are not reassuring. Ice cover, which is often several feet thick at the Straits of Mackinac, is not considered an "adverse condition."

And waves would need to reach 8 feet for more than hour to close the pipeline — even though the Coast Guard has stated clearly that it would be unable to mobilize any spill recovery in waves more than 5 feet high. (Editor's note: The pipeline was temporarily suspended on Tuesday because of high winds and waves.)

While the state has been slow to act on Line 5, public concern about the risk of an oil spill has exploded in the past couple years. In addition to the thousands of citizens who have offered comments in opposition to the pipeline, all of the state's tribal governments have

passed resolutions calling for action to decommission the pipeline, as well as more than 70 local governments. In the past year, more than 70 CEOs have joined a Great Lakes Business Network calling on state leaders to decommission Line 5.

It is alarming and disheartening that Snyder would privately negotiate an agreement that promotes a compromise that would allow Enbridge to blast a massive tunnel through ancient, porous limestone under the Straits of Mackinac.

Michigan citizens want strong leadership from our state officials when it comes to protecting our Great Lakes. As candidates for governor and attorney general begin to develop their platforms for next year's elections, they should listen to Michiganders' clear mandate to decommission the Line 5 oil pipeline.



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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Oct. 11, 2017

Contact: Christina Guenther, (517) 373-0625

**VanderWall bill offers more flexibility
for ice shanty owners**

Legislation introduced by state Rep. Curt VanderWall increases the flexibility of rules regulating ice shanties placed on Michigan waterways.

VanderWall's bill gives the Michigan Department of Natural Resources the ability to adjust ice shanty removal dates each year based on weather conditions. Current law sets precise dates by which ice shanties must be removed from specific waters.

"Some winters may be warmer, some colder," said VanderWall, of Ludington. "It just makes more sense to allow the department to determine the dates based on weather conditions each year."

Furthermore, the legislation will offer increased privacy protections for the owners of ice shanties, who are currently required to put their names and addresses on the structure.

"Not everyone wants their name and address visible to anyone who happens to walk out on the ice," VanderWall said. "My bill offers more options. You'll be able to choose whether you want to put your name and address, driver's license number or DNR Sportcard number on your ice shanty."

Dennis Eade, executive director of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, joined VanderWall today to testify in support of the bill before the House Natural Resources Committee.

"This is a bill that gives a little more flexibility to the shanty owner as to how they are identified," Eade said.

VanderWall noted the additional identification options in his bill are consistent with other types of sporting equipment, such as tree stands and animal traps.

House Bill 4787 was voted on and became law as of January 1, 2018.

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State Rep. Curt VanderWall, left, and Dennis Eade, executive director of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, testify before the House Natural Resources Committee.

**MSSFA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Dennis Eade**



We should have seen this coming, but stewards of the Great Lakes have become too contented with the protections guaranteed by our State's Ballast Water Discharge Law since it went into effect in 2007. Back in the mid-1990's, Michigan was growing restless with federal officials' lack of urgency in establishing meaningful regulations to treat ballast water. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) were disrupting the ecosystem in the lakes. The spread of zebra and quagga mussels across the lakes' bottomlands were depleting the zooplankton in the system which serves as the nutritional building block in the aquatic food chain.

Michigan borders four of the five Great Lakes with over 3000 miles of shoreline and the world's finest freshwater fishery. It had just experienced the latest of the 183 invasive aquatic species entering the Great Lakes with the discovery of "bloody red shrimp" in Muskegon Lake. Thanks to the leadership of then state senator Patty Birkholtz and senate majority leader Ken Sikkema, Michigan passed a law banning ocean ships from discharging ballast water in Michigan waters unless equipped with one of four state-approved treatment systems, one of which was chlorination. It also mandated that ocean going ships entering the Great Lakes dump ballast water at least 200 miles before entering the St. Lawrence Seaway. The practice gave rise to a tag line "swish and spit" as a means of reducing the likelihood of more AIS introductions.

Last May, a U.S Senate Committee approved a measure that would set a single national standard for ballast-water discharges from maritime vessels, preempting states from enacting stricter standards and

exposing the Great Lakes to greater danger from AIS. Then in Michigan on November 9, 2017, according to the Detroit Free Press, "The Republican-controlled Legislature finished voting Thursday (HB 5095) to weaken a law that keeps oceangoing cargo ships from releasing untreated ballast water in Michigan waters, despite a possible veto from Gov. Rick Snyder. The bill, which won approval on a mostly party-line 25-11 vote in the Senate, cleared the House last week. It would revise a 2005 law requiring saltwater vessels to use state-approved cleansing technology before discharging ballast water, which provides stability in rough seas."

The bill is clearly a response to the administration's push for deregulation at the cost of environmental protections. Proponents of the bill claim that this move will enhance the state's ability to attract more oceangoing carriers to our ports in Michigan. This is unlikely since the spoilers are the lack of adequate infrastructure to handle the "container revolution" at our ports and the seasonality because of closure to shipping for the winter months due to ice over. Now that lawmakers have reversed themselves on requiring ballast water treatment systems, what do they say to the responsible shippers like Canada's Fednav Ltd, who launched the Federal Caribou in the summer of 2116, as one of seven new oceangoing lakers equipped with a ballast water treatment system (BWTS) and is one of a series of 16 Handy-size vessels, representing an investment of more than \$400 million? Hopefully, Gov. Snyder will veto HB 5095.

MSSFA is involved with a new commercial fishing statue bill and we

have had discussions with Senator Mike Green who is writing the legislation. MSSFA along with other sport fishing organizations like TU, Hammond Bay Anglers, MUCC, MCBA, and the Saginaw Bay Wall-eye Club, are working to protect sport fishermen from the encroachment of commercial fishing on our \$4.2 billion sport fishing industry in Michigan. We object to a Bycatch allowance; want GPS gear location availability; want to be included on the advisory committee on regulations of commercial fishing and the authority to suspend the use of small-mesh gill nets in areas of the lakes where harm to other species would be detrimental. We will be meeting again in January to focus on the key provisions of the legislation.

MSSFA's next board meeting will be February 21, 2018 at The Glassen Shooting Education Center (MDNR) on Peacock Rd, in East Lansing. (MUCC's offices were acquired by a developer who will be making renovations to the building and the conference room will not be available until after construction is completed in June.)

Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator for the MDNR and member of the Lake Michigan Technical Committee, has been holding public meetings these past three months to familiarize the public with Lake Michigan stocking decisions under consideration and the concept of Zone Management for the Lake. I attended the meeting in Grand Haven, MI along with a number of other Steelheaders who attended as well. We were asked to register our preferences for stocking allocations and locations for trout and salmon in those Lake Michigan locations. Jay's presentation was received well by those

in attendance with a good exchange of questions and answers.

The Ludington Regional Fisheries Workshop is scheduled for January 13th at West Shore Community College in Ludington, MI. Topics for discussion include Lake Michigan's plankton problems, tribal fishing, salmon and trout tagging program and more. There should be discussion on Cisco recruitment and rehabilitation as well.

MSSFA signed onto a letter sent to the Army Corps of Engineers imploring quick and decisive action on the solutions to keep the invasive Asian carp at bay. The Plan relies on multiple technologies to reduce the chance Asian carp can enter the Great Lakes. The Corps essentially lays out a plan in which Asian carp have to run a gauntlet of defenses before the invasive fish could even get to the Brandon Road lock--reducing the chance that an Asian carp gets through at each stage. The Corps needs to finalize this plan as efficiently as possible and Congress needs to act with urgency to authorize and appropriate the necessary actions that will help protect our Great Lakes, fish and wildlife, and economy.

Finally, I am pleased at the fall returns at our weirs and the size of the returning salmon and trout. Hopefully the winter will not impact the resurgence we've seen in prey fish abundance and we have a recurrence of the early spring coho fishery that was such a pleasant surprise last year. Happy New Year everyone and make sure you make all those repairs and upgrades so you get on the water early in 2018!



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Five Spring Steelhead Baits That Get No Respect

By Roger Hinchcliff

Rodney Dangerfield was an American stand-up Comedian, actor, producer and screenwriter who was most known for the catchphrase "I don't get no respect!" No question he was a comedic genius and enjoyed the most success in the 80s. I was already chasing anadromous fish at that time and still to this day almost 40 years later. When it comes to the most popular bait to use, I would say fish eggs are the most widely used.

Don't get me wrong eggs do work well and put lots of fish in the boat or net, but so do a lot of other techniques and baits. Such as beads, jigs, spinners and plugs. I wanted to shed light on other excellent steelhead baits that you don't see or hear of many anglers using. Maybe you're not hearing them talk about it for a reason, because it works so well? I also have concluded that spring fish that have been in the river for 3-6 months tend to start to behave like Trout. They become opportunistic feeders again once the spawning rituals have been completed.



Photo: thewormdude.com

Night Crawlers

In the springtime this bait is hard to pass. Especially after a good Spring rain the river has plenty of crawlers floating down the river, Steelhead absolutely love them and fishing them can be a game changer. Drop back steelhead are putting

on the feed bag and almost never refuse them. Think about it many of these fish have been looking at spawn bags for six months. By presenting something different can make all the difference in the world. Not to mention they can be bought anywhere and are always readily available.

For rigging you can keep it simple or do a little extra work and present bait many ways. Whacky Style, through the nose by using a bait keeper hook or my favorite way, threaded on the leader. You can use a Bait needle or the hook itself. Sometimes by threading a worm, your presenting crawler as straight as possible gets you more strikes. There could be many reasons for this, I think a larger profile the water column seems to make sense. When drifting a threaded worm, add a fish pill, corky or spin-n-glow; it works like dynamite. Another trick is dyeing your worms with the commercial fishing dyes on the market today or you can just buy them. A neon green crawler sometimes is just stupid good for steelhead.



Photos: crawfish.org



Photo: fastcompany.net

Crawfish and Shrimp

When fishing for Spring drop back steelhead this bait gets no respect. When you say crawfish most anglers associate it with Bass fish-

ing but river crawfish are abundant in the Great Lakes Streams. When steelhead are dropping back to the lake after the rigors of the spawn they become ferocious feeders and really put on the feed bag. I've caught Steelhead using crawfish during this time of year.

Basic rigging is just hook through the tail. Make sure you use a large enough hook. Hook size is important you do not want to lose or miss fish because your hook gap was too small. Consider using a hook size #4 or larger. Another tip is you can pinch off the pinchers or even the head of the crawfish and just use the tail. I've also done very well on store bought shrimp. Cooked or uncooked right from the grocery store. My favorite is to look for shrimp with the most orange on them. I will pick through the freezer at the store looking for the bag that has the most orange shrimp in them. Everyone knows steelhead love the color orange. A shrimp is a popular bait on the piers for steelhead. Many anglers think once they enter the river and pass the concrete pier they no longer will eat a shrimp. Not the case, it's a great spring time bait for steelhead.



Photo: www.onthewater.com

Leeches

Again, many fishermen think just bass fishing. Ask any fly fishermen about how well an egg sucking leech works. Leeches are available at many bait and tackle shops in your local area. They wiggle like crazy and are the color black. A natural neutral color that

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Large steelhead landed on the New Lamiglas Closer Centerpin Rod

Photo Credit: Jarett Carlson

works well in many water conditions. When rigging a leech keep a couple things in mind.

They are not very fast swimmers and move and wiggle about a foot every few seconds. I love fishing a large float with lots of weight to slow the presentation. As I float the leech down the river I give the rod a twitch and pop the float and or stall the float. I want the leech to swim through the run as slow as possible. Imitating the slow swimming action of the leech. This presentation can drive a spring steelhead wild.



Photo: www.alibaba.com

Butter worms

Lots of seasoned anglers already know about the power of a butter worm. Many anglers are familiar with the wax worm but not butter worms. Not all bait shops carry them but many do. A butter worm is the larva of the Chilean Moth. These gems can be found

online and sent right to your door if you can't find them. This larva is much bigger than a waxworm usually an inch or even bigger. What I like about them so much is many educated fish haven't seen them very often. With their larger profile fish can see them much easier.

There's no doubt a spawn sac is a great bait to use for springtime steelhead. If you're running low on spawn or the bite has slowed on the river, pull one of these baits out of your bag of tricks and say Fish On!

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Ice Fishing Reminders For A Safe Season



By Bob Jensen

There was a skim of ice on the pond this morning which served as a good reminder that ice-fishing is getting closer all the time. While we're probably still a couple of weeks away from getting on the ice, now is a good time to think about some of the things we can do this year to have a successful ice-fishing season. Here are some of those things we should think about.

The first and most important thing to remember is that you don't need to be the first person on the ice. Every year someone tries to get out there before the ice is safe. Make sure the ice is safe before you attempt to walk on it.

With that in mind, remember that first ice can provide very good action. As soon as it's safe, you should be out there.

Early ice is usually thin, and often there is no snow on top of it. That means

that the fish can detect your presence very easily. You need to be super quiet and super still when fishing on thin ice.

Even though it can be fairly warm early in the ice-fishing season, many of the most successful anglers like to fish from a shelter because the shelter can hide an angler's movements. If an angler is fishing outside, that angler is backlit by the sky, and the angler's movements are easy to see by the fish below. However, the fish see the shelter as just a dark object, and the movements of the angler inside the shelter can't be seen as easily.

Early in the ice-fishing season, it is usually a good idea to sit on a spot longer than you might later in the year. Because of the thin ice, it works well to give a spot more time to produce. The more you move around, the more you're going to spook the fish. Later in the year when the ice is thick and there's snow cover, the fish won't detect your movements, so you can move around more.

Line that is hard to see will be better for spooky fish. P-Line Floroice is perhaps the lowest visibility line out there. It provides

outstanding sensitivity and strength.

Also, tiny baits are usually better when the fish are finicky. If you're after panfish and you've got to convince them to bite, go with something like a Hard-Rock Mooska jig tipped with live bait or one of the Impulse Helium jigs. Move them slowly and make the fish bite.

Early in the ice fishing season, the water is often quite clear and the fish will usually be in shallow water. This can be a great time to watch the fish. You can learn a lot about fish and fishing by watching how they relate to different lures, lure sizes, and lure actions. Even if the catching isn't so good on some days, you can learn a lot of things that will help you catch more fish next time out just by watching the fish.

Always remember our first reminder: You don't need to be the first one out on the ice. If you remember that, you'll enjoy lots of ice-fishing early in the ice fishing season.

To see past and present episodes of Fishing the Midwest, recent and older fishing articles, and fishing video tips, visit fishingthemidwest.com

Left: It was early in the ice-fishing season when Mike Frisch got this walleye to eat his Buck-Shot Rattle Spoon.

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Salmon Fever

Every year in the Great Lakes and Pacific Northwest a strange metamorphosis takes place. Anglers, once satisfied with a pailful of tasty panfish, become obsessed with "salmon fever."



The beauty of this fishing is that it's available to almost anyone. Depending on the time of year, huge kings and coho can be caught not only trolling, but off piers, surfcasting, wading a river, or even stream fishing from shore.

Coho and chinook salmon are anadromous fish. This means they are born in a river or stream, migrate to the ocean or Great Lakes and return to their birth place to spawn. In the Pacific Northwest, these spawning runs occur in the spring, summer and fall. Great Lakes salmon only spawn in the fall.

The chinook (king)

salmon is the largest of all salmon. Some Alaska "giant" chinook reach weights in excess of 120 pounds. However, they will average about 20 pounds, and any fish over 30 pounds is a trophy. Coho salmon are smaller, but are fierce fighters and can become very acrobatic when hooked. Like the coho and chinook, the steelhead is also migratory. It is really nothing more than a sea-run rainbow trout or, in the Great Lakes, a Great Lake-run rainbow.

Spinner and spoon fishermen considering salmon fishing for the first time should equip themselves with a medium-heavy rod and reel combination capable of holding at least 200 yards of 15- to 20-pound test line. A rod length of 5-1/2 to 6-1/2 feet is ideal.



Lure selection for these trophy fish is critical. Because of their unique design, the Mepps Syclops, Syclops Lite and Little Wolf spoons provide maximum flash and movement at any trolling or retrieve speed.

These colorful spoons can be highlined, attached to a diving planer, downrigged or fished on a planer board. And, they track evenly behind a downrigger providing tangle-free fishing. They can also be cast from a pier. In fact, they are two of the most versatile pier fishing spoons ever developed. Sandwich a couple of Syclops front to back, and you'll cast further than ever before. Once the fish have moved upstream, the flash of these spoons will aggravate the most passive salmon into striking.



The Mepps Trophy Series was developed specifically for the trophy trout and salmon fisherman. These high-contrast, maximum visibility lures only come in sizes #3, #4 & #5. Their size and blade/body color contrast provide intense flash and vibration so they can easily be seen and heard by trophy trout and salmon. The Mepps LongCast also features maximum visibility while

"Salmon"

Continued on page 17



Early Ice Panfish Junkie

By Jerry Carlson

The early ice is always an interesting period in the fishing calendar. It is definitely one of my favorite times of the year for angling.

Although most of my open water fishing is spent targeting walleyes and bass, when it comes to the early ice period, I most certainly become a panfish junkie. I enjoy eating these tasty fish, I like the fact they are cooperative biters and I appreciate being able to find them on a consistent basis.

It is easy to get hooked on ice fishing during the early ice period.

When it comes to locating early ice sunfish and crappies, I usually find myself going back to the same half dozen lakes I target each winter. I have learned through experience what to expect on these lakes which brings me to my first point.

Panfish, especially crappies, are quite predictable when it comes to their early ice locations. On the lakes I target, the fish are always located in a deep section of the lake that is usually referred to as a deep basin.

The exact location in this basin may change somewhat from year to year which will require a little searching to find the fish. However, there are times when the schools of fish are pretty much in the exact spot I found them other years. GPS data can be very beneficial.

These fish will be suspended and roaming. This means that sitting in one hole and pulling a mess of fish is probably not going to happen. On the contrary, when I locate fish, I will drill out eight to ten holes in the area. This will allow me to relocate the roaming fish once they leave the hole I am working.

Because the crappies and gills are suspended, they become easier to find. By dropping my transducer in a hole, I can instantly read my Vexilar and determine if there are fish present. If I don't mark fish, I move on to another hole until I do see fish.

Frequently, I will pour a little water on the ice for my transducer and take a reading through the ice before I ever drill a hole. Because the fish are suspended they will show up clearly on my Vexilar. This can be a huge time saver when searching for fish.

Light, supple line is essential for early ice success.

Once I do get down to the serious work of catching, I am a fanatic about my technique. I have learned that light, supple line and small jigs are extremely important in the equation of success.

Two-pound-test is my standard line weight. It will hang straight with no memory and communicate the



Light, supple line is essential for early ice success.



It is easy to get hooked on ice fishing during the early ice period.

tinest of bites back to the surface. I am also a big believer in tungsten jigs. Dave Genz puts it well when he says they are "small but fish heavy." Clam's Drop Jigs are ideal. Along with the tiny jigs, I will usually use plastic. Depending on the mood of the fish, I may attach one or two Euro larvae, as well. If the fish are aggressive, I will go without

larva and just use plastic.

There is one last point I want to make about the early season bite. I find that these fish can usually be caught during the day. There is no doubt that the low light bite is better, however, there are advantages to being able to fish during the daylight hours.

Early ice is a great time to fish panfish. It is easy to understand how someone can get hooked on ice fishing at this time of the year.

About the author:

Jerry started his outdoor career in 1987 when he began writing for Outdoors Weekly. He currently

writes about a 130 articles a year for various publications in the Midwest. In addition to writing and giving numerous hunting and fishing seminars, Jerry does weekly radio shows on two St. Cloud, Minnesota stations; WJON and WWJO. He also authored a book called Details for Locating

and Catching Fish. Hunting and fishing photos and articles written by Jerry, along with his email address, can be found at jerrycarlsonoutdoors.com. Jerry fishes all species but prefers crappies in the winter and bass in the summer. He also loves to hunt Canada geese in the fall.

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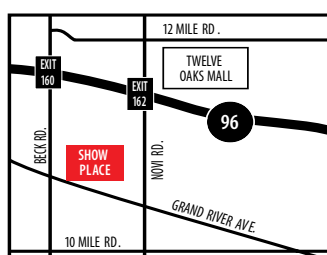


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“Downrigger”
Continued from page 1

clutch handle, your weight will begin to free fall. We actually have determined that you can only allow this to free fall for about a distance of 1.5 times the amount of line you let out before attaching your line to the downrigger release. If you allow a full speed free fall your line will fold up on itself and cause unnecessary

tangles. So we allow a full speed free fall for 50 to 75 feet then feather the clutch back in so the decent slows and the bait does not fold up on itself. This technique allows us to get baits back in the water as quickly as possible.

One feature, no longer available is the solid 3 foot boom on the HP riggers. I feel this was a good option but I understand why they made the change but

wish they had not gone to all adjustable booms. One other thing I would consider changing is the boom adjusting knob, located on the top of the boom. For riggers that are used off the side of the boat, it is not a problem. With the chute rigger, however, this can cause a problem. The knob sits high enough that when netting a fish and having to quickly move from one side of the boat to the other, a net can get caught on the knob and create a little panic. To fix this we replaced the adjustment knob with a rounded top bolt. This way it doesn't stick up and catch the net. It could require more work if you are constantly needing to adjust the boom, but ours stay the same length all the time.

Although we are just serious weekend fishermen and do not charter, our current set of riggers have been working hard for 35 to 50 trips per year for the past 3 years and not given us one bit of trouble. The previous

Left: Scotty downrigger in action

set we owned on our prior boat gave us 3 years of even higher use, although we had not started fishing the deeper water as frequently as we do now and will in the future. For the fishermen that are just going out for fun on the weekends, these riggers will give you everything you need and more. They can be intimidating at first, however, when you get use to them, fishermen comment, “boy are they fast”, “they are so simple to use” or “how do you fish that deep?”. For the fishermen who participate in tournaments and plan to keep fishing in Lake Michigan regardless of how it changes, these riggers will give you the ability to get down to those fish whether its Lake Trout or Chinook that have moved out into less fished water. Scotty riggers won't break the bank and will handle all the abuse you can give them. As tournament formats change and require multiple species be caught, and King salmon become even more allusive, you have to have the ability to adjust your fishing from day to day and hour to



Captain Bryan Houtman, of Fly Catcher Fishing Team.

hour. It is the only way to be around at the top of the leader board on day two of a tournament. There are other riggers on the market and more are available today than ever before, but Scotty has continued to make a quality rigger that the regular weekend, non-sponsored fisherman can afford and

with which he can effectively compete.

In my opinion, whether you're fishing on a Saturday morning with your buddies, a small local one day tournament or a large multi-day tournament, having the right equipment is going to be key to future success. You are going to have to fish deeper and work harder to find the fish that will help you win at the end of the day. Scotty HP downriggers have been a big part of our success and hopefully will continue to be in the future.

Editor's Note: Bryan Houtman, is the captain of Fly Catcher Fishing Team, a Professional Division Tournament team that has competed on the Tournament Trail 333 series since 2005, compiling 24 top 5 finishes since 2012, winning seven tournaments including the Grand Haven Offshore Challenge Pro Division twice in 2015 & 2016. His team was featured on the Salmon Showdown TV series during the 2015 season and can be visited on facebook at Fly Catcher Fishing Team.

Accomplishments of the Fly Catcher Fishing team:

- 2017 Schu's Shootout Champion
- 2016, 2015 Grand Haven Offshore Challenge Pro Champions
- 2016 Grand Haven 333 Tournament Trail Champion
- 2016 Holland Save the Tata's Champion
- 2016 Holland Steelheaders Summer Challenge Champion
- 2013 Muskegon Tri-Port Challenge Am Champion
- 2012 Grand Haven Offshore Challenge Am Champion
- Fished on the Salmon Showdown TV series during the 2015 season
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About Us...

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

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

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

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

So why join the *Steelheaders*... Got kids, love fishing. **JOIN NOW!** And become a member of the largest organized group 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.

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

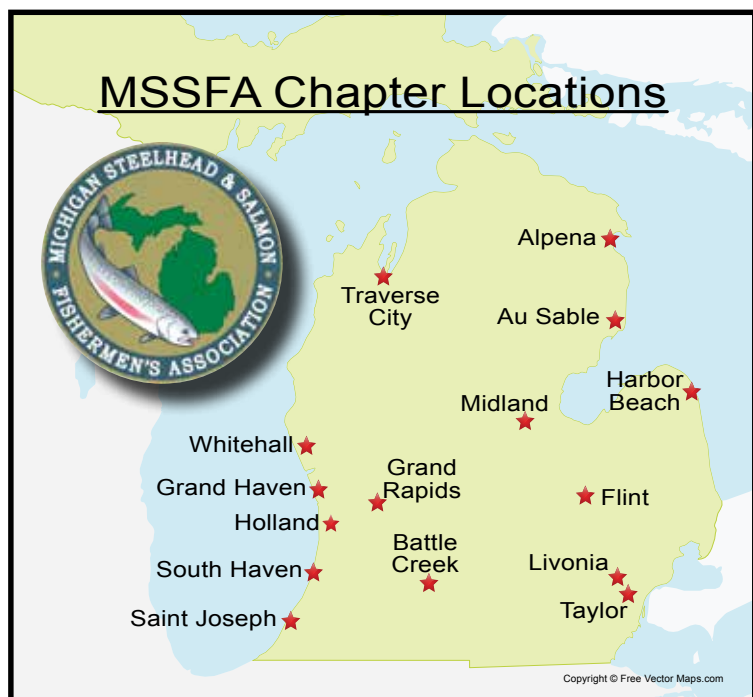
Information in the paper covers the entire Great Lakes Basin region from Minnesota to New York including all five of the Great Lakes and their tributary streams.

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 to all the new products and techniques on the market through our advertisers.

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Grand Haven Roger Belter, Pres. 616-842-0877 mjbelter@altelco.net Rich Wilson, Dir. 517-676-2920 rtwilson42@yahoo.com Website: www.ghsteelheaders.com	Membership Renee Davis 616-350-6933 mssfamembership@gmail.com	Executive Director Dennis Eade 616-298-8842 deneade@charter.net			



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City, State, Zip		Membership Payment:
e-mail Address:		Tribal Negotiations Fund
Sponsored By:		Total:
MSSFA State and Chapter Dues (Yearly)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Au Sable \$60.00 (Oscoda) <input type="checkbox"/> Battle Creek \$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Flint River Valley \$40.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Haven \$40.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Rapids \$45.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Great Lakes Bay Region \$40.00 (Midland) Rev. 6-23-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Holland \$40.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Huron Valley \$40.00 (Taylor) <input type="checkbox"/> Metro West \$40.00 (Livonia) <input type="checkbox"/> South Haven \$40.00 <input type="checkbox"/> SW MI. \$45.00 (St. Joseph) <input type="checkbox"/> Thumb \$40.00 (Harbor Beach)	<input type="checkbox"/> Thunder Bay \$40.00 (Alpena) <input type="checkbox"/> Traverse City \$40.00 <input type="checkbox"/> White River \$40.00 (Whitehall) <input type="checkbox"/> At Large Membership \$35.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Membership \$5.00
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2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
 MUCC Headquarters
 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
 2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI

Wednesday February 21, 2018	7:00 PM	Rose Lake Shooting Range, 14500 Peacock Road, Bath MI
Saturday April 14, 2018	10:00 AM	MI Historical Library & Museum
Wednesday June 20, 2018	7:00 PM	Rose Lake Shooting Range, 14500 Peacock Road, Bath MI
Wednesday August 15, 2018	7:00 PM	MUCC (optional mtg.)
Wednesday October 17, 2018	7:00 PM	MUCC
Wednesday December 19, 2018	7:00 PM	MUCC

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

	Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Discount Type
1	AJ's Automotive	13711 Ironwood NW	Walker	MI	49544	Member Rates
2	Al & Bob's Sports	3100 S. Davison	Wyoming	MI	49548	10% Discount with Al & Bob's Card
3	All Auto Care	1234 Ball Ave. NE	Grand Rapids	MI	49505	Member Rates
4	Alpine Rent-All & Sales	1452 Alpine Ave NW	Grand Rapids	MI	49504	10% on Stihl & Toro Parts. www.alpinerent-all.com info@alpinerent-all.com
5	Ann's Custom Canvas	4414 Remembrance Rd	Walker	MI	49544	10% Discount, not valid on specials. Mention steelheaders before ordering
6	Art Van Furniture	Statewide				Friends and Family Sales only (need special coupon)
7	Auto Owners Insurance	303 E. Monroe	Durand	MI	48429	Rowe Agent Group #486
8	Batteries Plus	2061 N-139 Suite B	Benton Harbor	MI	49022	10% & Member Discount 269-925-7374 www.batteriesplus.com
9	Batteries Plus	386 Bay Park Dr, Suite B	Holland	MI	49424	10% & Member Discount 616-396-9914 www.batteriesplus.com
10	Batteries Plus	5228 S. Westnedge Ave	Kalamazoo	MI	49002	10% & Member Discount 269-553-2355 www.batteriesplus.com
11	Batteries Plus	3031 28th Street SE	Kentwood	MI	49512	10% & Member Discount 616-575-0500 www.batteriesplus.com
12	Batteries Plus	5839 Hrvy Street, Suite 6	Norton Shores	MI	49444	10% & Member Discount 231-747-9168 www.batteriesplus.com
13	Berkfield & Co LTD	2625 Pontiac Lake Road	Waterford	MI	48328	5% Great Lake Sportsmens Program on personal Insurance, on home/auto.
14	Big Lake Outfitters of Saugatuck	640 Water St	Saugatuck	MI	49453	10% on fishing tackle (retail store) with membership card 269-857-4762
15	Big Papa Sportfishing	50642 Oregon Ave.	Novi	MI	48374	10% except on equipment
16	Black Dog Outfitters	4444 14 Mile Rd	Rockford	MI	49341	10% Discount on fly tying materials, hooks & lines. www.blackdog-outfitters.com
17	Boat U.S.					\$15 Annual Membership Dues - Use Membership # GA83723B
18	Bob's Outdoors	Statewide	www.bobsoutdoors.com			10% Discount (www.bobsoutdoors.com)
19	Dayton, Rick R, DDS	169 Louis Campau Promenade Ste 2A	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	20% off all services (616)458-2545
20	Cascade Capital Funding	4251 Cascade Rd. SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49546	Free appraisal up to \$300.00
21	Dockside Marine, Inc	4320 State Rd	Glennie	MI	48737	15% Off Parts & Accessories (Excludes Electronics)
22	Dunham's Sports	Statewide				10% Discount # 50050/3
23	Firestone - Metro 25	19268 Middlebelt	Livonia	MI	48152	\$20 off on \$200 or more on service www.metro25firestone.com
24	Fish with Jim Outfitters	http://www.fishwithjimoutfitters.com/	248-252-1277			Discount \$50.00 off the total trip price.
25	Glacier Corporation	1021 Fuller St.	Santa Ana	CA	92701	Aquarium Chillers for "salmon in classroom" \$625 + 60 (s&h) = \$685 Use promo code MCLUB10 1yr/\$13, 2yr/\$25, 3yr/\$36
26	Great Lakes Angler Magazine					First Visit Free
27	Health First Chiropractic Clinic	2526 Woodmeadow Dr SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49546	10% In Season, 25% Off Season (homestead@crystal-rentals.com)
28	Homestead Resort on Betsie River	2399 Dam Rd	Benzonia	MI	49616	Member Discount
29	Insta-Launch Campground	20 Park Ave	Manistee	MI	49660	10% Discount off insurance for MSSFA Group Members
30	Insurance Shop/Fremont Ins.	824 Water St.	East Jordan	MI	49727	Contact Nick Russloll for Sales, 10% off all parts not to exceed \$100.00
31	Jim Waldron Pontiac, Buick, GMC	1146 S. State Rd	Davison	MI	48423	15% - 20% off depending on rod. Customrodsbyjmsmith.com 989-685-2819
32	J Smith Custom Tackle	1136 E Hughes Lake Road	Rose City	MI	48654	10% off merchandise except sale items (www.kandmarine.com)
33	K & M Marine	14990 Telegraph Rd	Redford	MI	48239	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
34	Kamp Oil Inc	6467 Manistee St	Fredric	MI	49733	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
35	Kamp Oil Inc	3650 Eastern Ave SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49508	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
36	Beebe Oil Co (aka Kamp Oil)	4999 22 Mile Rd	Utica	MI	48317	10% off parts and labor (810-245-6038)
37	Lapeer Boat Service	3556 Fort Knox Dr	Lapeer	MI	48446	\$20.00 Discount on tax service
38	Liberty Tax Service	544 E. 8th St.	Holland	MI	49423	Complimentary 1st visit (excludes medicare) 50% off 1st massage
39	Life Family Chiropractic Centres	5795 Balsam Dr	Hudsonville	MI	49426	10% off service work
40	Linwood Beach Marina & Campground	135 S. Linwood Beach	Linwood	MI	48634	10% Discount www.logansrun.us 616-485-4501
41	Logan's Run Muskegon River Cottage Rental	1648 Gardner St	Newaygo	MI	49337	Member Discount
42	Mark's Sport Shop	11530 Mason Dr	Grant	MI	49327	\$18.00 Membership Dues
43	MUCC	2101 Wood Street	Lansing	MI	48912	20% Discount 269-639-9900
44	Ramada Lighthouse Inn	1555 Phoenix Rd.	South Haven	MI	49090	10% Discount
45	Richfield RV	Statewide				Buy 1 get 1 free - call 313-575-4367 (www.riverraisinmarina.com)
46	River Raisin Marina & Campground	2502 E. Elm Avenue	Monroe	MI	48161	Plan 308
47	RX Optical	Statewide				10% Discount
48	Slamco	Internet Sales	www.slammertipup.com			10% Discount
49	Sonus	3535 Parks St, Suite 108	Muskegon Heights	MI	49444	10% Discount. 231-737-4570 laura.szot@americanhearingsonus.com
50	Sun Coast Marine	1172 68th Street	South Haven	MI		Member discount
51	The Angling Outpost	2480 Duck Lane Rd	Whitehall	MI	49461	www.anglingoutpost.com 5% use coupon "steelheader" for online purchases
52	Tuffy Muffler	435 N. Beacon	Grand Rapids	MI	49417	10% off parts and labor
53	Tuffy Muffler	4384 Kalamazoo SE	Grand Rapids	MI	48512	10% off parts and labor
54	Tuffy Muffler	610 28th St SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49507	10% off parts and labor
55	Tuffy Muffler	4315 Clyde Park SW	Wyoming	MI	49509	10% off parts and labor
56	Van's Sport Center	1855 Alpine Ave.	Walker	MI	49544	10% Discount
57	Warrior Lures	5915 Lillian La	Traverse City	MI	49684	10% Discount on all product ordered (www.warriorlures.com)
58	West Michigan Propeller	847 Ionia Ave. NW	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	10% Discount
59	WG Grinders	5769 28th St. SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49512	10% Discount dine in/carry out (catering discounts available)

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How Water Temperature And Oxygen Affect Fishing

By Mepps.com Staff

There's no simple answer to the question, "Why do fish bite?" Many variables are involved. Two of the most important conditions dictating fish feeding activity are water temperature & oxygen content.

Water consists of two parts hydrogen for every one-part oxygen. However, this oxygen is not used by the fish. They breathe the excess oxygen in the water. High barometric pressure forces more oxygen into the water than low barometric pressure. Also, wave action or current exposed more surface area, thus raising the oxygen content.

Growing plants give off abundant oxygen. Cold water has the ability to hold more oxygen than warm water. Hot summer temperatures can heat water so it won't hold enough oxygen to maintain fish life.

Oxygen content and water temperature go hand in hand; just like a reel goes with your fishing rod. Fish are cold blooded and take on the temperature of their surroundings.

In cold water, enzymes that digest the food a fish eats are very slow acting. Therefore, it takes quite a while for a fish's meal to be completely

utilized and the fish are inactive. As the water warms, these enzymes become more active and fish eat more often.

The oxygen and temperature factors will finally reach a point where a fish's digestive system functions quickly. However warm water does not contain much excess oxygen, which fish need. When it gets too warm and oxygen levels drop, fish become sluggish and inactive.

In the graph to the right are the favored temperature ranges where digestive systems function best, and the oxygen content is high enough. Usually, the best conditions exist in the middle of the range.

During warm months many lakes develop a thermocline. The top layer of water differs significantly from the colder water below. The top layer of water may be 15 feet deep. Water below that depth may drop 10 or 15 degrees.

High oxygen content exists just above where the cold and warm water meet. This can be the key to success. The thermocline will be the same depth over the entire lake. It varies from lake to lake. If you can find areas where the thermocline meets weeds, rocks bars, structure or cover, you will almost be sure to find fish present.

FAVORED TEMPERATURE RANGE



Muskellunge

55° to 73°



Northern Pike

55° to 75°



Walleye

53° to 72°



Crappie

65° to 75°



Bluegill

65° to 75°



Largemouth Bass

60° to 77°



Smallmouth Bass

58° to 71°



Yellow Perch

55° to 72°



Rainbow Trout

50° to 65°



Lake Trout

42° to 55°



Coho (Silver) Salmon

44° to 60°



Brown Trout

52° to 73°



Brook Trout

48° to 65°



Chinook (King) Salmon

44° to 60°

Chasing Steelies On The River



First place winners of the 28th Annual Southwest Michigan Steelheaders Winter Challenge

By Ryan McCartney

The 28th Annual Southwest Michigan Steelheaders "Winter Challenge" River Tournament was held on the St. Joseph River on December 2nd. The weather was

fantastic, with sunny skies and mild temperatures, which helped attract more than 75 fisherman. Fishing was hindered by the beautiful weather and only 46 fish were weighed in. All the fish weighed were steel-

head, although tournament rules permit brown trout, lake trout and walleye to be included in the allowable catch.

Although you enter as an individual, your registered weights play a key

role in the "Chapter Challenge" category of the tournament. The three biggest Steelhead caught by a Battle Creek Chapter member(s) go up against the three largest weighed-in by a S.W. Michigan Chapter member(s). A traveling trophy is then awarded to the Chapter with the highest total weight, which this year was won by the S.W. Michigan Chapter, with a total weight of 30.63# versus 24.49#.

The largest steelhead of the tournament was recorded at 12.85# and caught by Tackle Haven's Mark Radvonavsky, who has been chasing steelhead for many years on the river. The weights of the three winning steelhead comprising SW Michigan Chapter's total were 11.67#, 10.71# and 8.25#. They were caught by Bob Lausman, Winn Wolf and Brian Bolen respectively. The three, qualifying steelhead comprising the Battle Creek Chapter's total were caught by Greg Peck, Paul Lajoie and Nate Suhr, and weighed 11.34#, 7.40# and 5.75# respectively.

The coveted "Walt Tober Memorial Award", named after a longtime,

contributing member of the SW Club and presented to the SW Member catching the largest steelhead of the day, was awarded to Bob Lausman.

Benton Harbor Elks lodge provided a wonderful facility for the weigh-in, Tackle Haven and The Fishing Hole were great

sponsors, and thanks to the SW Michigan Steelheaders' members who assisted with the event. Of course, we cannot thank all of the participants enough for making this tournament the special event it has become over the last 28 years....see you all next year.



Photo (Left to Right): Joel Devries, Elmer Rudlaff and Bob Lausman.



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Or Poseidon's Yellow Middle Finger of Doom.

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COSTADELMAR.COM

Bay City's Christa McAuliffe Middle School Receives Chiller

Salmon in the Classroom has become one of the most successful DNR Fisheries outreach programs since the introduction of Pacific salmon to the Great Lakes. The engagement and enthusiasm evidenced when middle schoolers participate in the program is truly amazing. Science teacher's revel in the interest young people demonstrate while learning about the life cycle of Chinook salmon from the day the eggs are lowered into the fifty gallon aquarium to the day the class releases the young fry into a feeder stream on their way to the Big Lake.

Many MSSFA chapters sponsor Salmon in the Classroom programs across the state including Metro West, Great Lakes Bay Region, Battle Creek, South Haven and Grand Rapids. However, when Dan John-

son, long time president of the Battle Creek Chapter, MSSFA life member and member of the Lake Michigan Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, was battling late stage cancer in 2015, he made a unique request. Upon his death, he asked his son Justin to direct any memorial donations to a special fund administered by the state office of MSSFA to underwrite the establishment of a Salmon in the Classroom program in a city not currently served by one of our chapters, so that kids who didn't have a sponsoring organization could enjoy the experience as well.

After Dan passed away on July 24, 2015, MSSFA received memorials totaling enough to purchase the most expensive component of the in-classroom salmon rearing process—the aquarium chiller. (Raising salmon successfully requires maintaining a water temperature of 47 to 52 degrees at all times.)

supplies, however the cost of a chiller is a little more than my teaching budget can afford, therefore I am looking for a local club that may assist me or point me in the right direction to get this going for the fall 2017 school year.”

MSSFA contacted Ron and Kathy Card from the Great Lakes Bay Region chapter in February to see if GLBR would be willing to reach out to Bay City's Christa McAuliffe Middle School and present Kevin and his students with the Glacier Aquarium Chiller purchased in memory of Dan Johnson. Kathy Card said, “Sue Rummel and I went to Bay City to meet Mr. Miller and he was as happy as child at Christmas with MSSFA's offer to assist with the chiller.” Kevin then applied for participation in the DNR program by the April 15th



Left to right: Dave Rummel GLBRS board member, Kevin Miller teacher, Kevin Biskup Principal at the Christa McAuliffe Middle School and Ron Card GLBRS board member.



Salmon ova hatchlings. Photo credit: teara.govt.nz

deadline and was accepted. The Chiller was presented in October to complete the aquarium setup in the classroom. Eggs arrived in November and today there are 170 newly hatched salmon quickly maturing to the free swimming stage. Watch at: YouTube, search: cmms

Students are thrilled with the progress of the program so far and diligently testing water quality, temperature and monitoring the feeding schedule. Great Lakes Bay Region is committed to a new school program in Bay City and Justin Johnson is comforted knowing his father's final wishes have been realized.

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Terry Weber
4/26/47 - 12/16/16

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How Fishing Makes You A Better Person (According To Science)

By Abigail Wise, *Healthy Living, Huffington Post*

Fishing is one of the most accessible outdoor sports. Nearly anyone, no matter age, income level or even fitness ability, can easily participate. And the sport is no longer the boys' club it was once thought of either. Of the 46 million Americans who fish today, over one third of them are women, according to a new report released by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation and the Outdoor Foundation. There's also growing age and ethnic diversity within the sport.

Whether they grew up heading out onto the lake every Sunday with Grandpa or are one of the millions trying the sport for the first time every year, those who fish have a direct connection to health and well-being. Here's how fishing can

help you lead a happier, healthier life.

Fishing can keep you physically fit.

While fishing itself isn't necessarily going to get your heart rate up, many of the best fishing spots require a bit of paddling, biking or hiking to reach, all of which have proven cardiovascular benefits. "You can make your fishing excursion as physical as you want," Janna Superstein, president of fly fishing company Superfly International Inc., tells The Huffington Post. She stresses, however, that you don't need to be incredibly active to participate. "Even just getting out there, you'll still get the benefits of the outdoors and maybe that's the beginning of a new fit, healthy lifestyle," she says.

Of course, just spending time outside is good for your body and your brain. The outdoors gives us plenty of vitamin D (but don't

forget the SPF!), makes us happier and helps us age gracefully.

Fly fishing — a specific type of fishing that incorporates artificial "flies" and a weighted line — may also help women with breast cancer recover. Groups like Casting for Recovery combine breast cancer education with the sport as a form of support, therapy and exercise. Casting for Recovery's site says that the gentle motion of fly casting resembles exercises often prescribed after surgery or radiation to promote soft tissue stretching. The group is designed for women of all ages in all stages of treatment and recovery.

Fish are an excellent source of nutrition.

While not all who fish keep what they catch, those who do may be in for some bonus benefits. Fish is an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids, which may

decrease blood pressure and lower the risk of stroke and heart failure. They could also reduce irregular heartbeats and improve brain function in children, according to the Mayo Clinic.

In addition to heart and brain health, research shows that eating fish can save your eyesight, decrease the risk of asthma, protect your skin from UV-rays and cut your chances of developing rheumatoid arthritis in half. Some research suggests that eating a fish-heavy diet could even help reduce the risk of breast cancer.

Eating fish could help you live longer.

All of that healthy eating pays off. Some credit the long lifespan of the Japanese to a fish- and veggie-heavy diet. Japanese women have the longest life expectancy in the world, at 87 years, according to the World Health Organization. And while men in Japan ar-



doing the activity relieves pressure and creates sense of excitement," Frank Peterson, president and CEO of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, tells The Huffington Post.

Of the nine percent of Americans currently considering taking up the sport, 38 percent of them are interested in it as a means of relieving stress, according to the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation and the Outdoor Foundation report. In a country where 80 percent of us report feeling even more stressed or equally stressed each year and only 37 percent of us actually think we're doing a good job at managing it, finding a way to relax is vital to our mental and physical health.

For many, a day of casting line is the answer because research shows that focusing on any one activity at hand can be a fast track to stress reduction. "When you're fishing, you have to be mindful," Superstein says. "You have to be present in order to observe what's happening with the fish and catch them."

The sport may decrease symptoms of PTSD.

The combination of mental relaxation and an easy form of exercise could also help those who suffer from post traumatic stress disorder. A 2009 study shows that fishing can lower PTSD symptoms and increase the mood of those who suffer from the disorder. After three days of fly fishing, participants reported a 32 percent reduction in guilt and a 43 percent decrease in feelings of hostility. The feeling of fear was also reduced by 30 percent, and sadness dropped by 36 percent. A portion of these positive effects remained even a full month after the fishing retreat.

Fishing helps you unplug.

Some of the mental benefits of fishing may be thanks to the opportunity it offers for us to unplug from our digital lives and enjoy nature. Sure, many love to snap shots of their big catches for various forms of social media or to print off and frame the old-fashioned way — "Before there were selfies, there were 'fishies'," says Peterson. And 50 percent of us use technology — whether for music, pictures or GPS — when participating in outdoor activities, according to the Recreational Boating

"Better Person"
Continued on page 35

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HOURS:	
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FRIDAY	11 am - 9 pm
SATURDAY	10 am - 8 pm
SUNDAY	10 am - 5 pm

South Haven Steelheaders Gear Up for 32nd Annual Pro/Am Tournament

The 2017 South Haven Steelheader's Pro/Am Tournament (SHSPAT) Event is geared up for its 32nd year! The event will be held May 18th through 20th, 2018, out of the beautiful port of South Haven, Michigan.

It all begins with the Friday 5 Challenge hosted by South Haven's Star of the Lake Masonic Lodge #158 Friday morning May 18th, and then moves into final registration, Friday 5 awards and a captain's meeting offering incredible opportunities to win merchandise in the evening at the South Haven Moose Lodge.

The next two days will be all about fishing for top cash awards, prizes and trophies in the Pro/Am and 333 tournament events.

But, that's not all! There will also be an All Species Big Fish Contest for both Divisions including an Overall Big Fish Award.

The tournament event culminates Sunday afternoon at the City's Southside Marina with the final tournament awards ceremony.

Free and open to the public, everyone is invited to attend the tournament's daily weigh-ins and Sunday award ceremony at the City's Southside Marina.

If you plan on coming by boat, the short distance

from the pier to the centrally located city marina and fuel docks is very convenient. This arrangement has the added bonus of offering very short walks to the downtown dining and shopping district, public beaches and Michigan Maritime Museum featuring the tallship, "Friends Goodwill" and the Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat #36460 that was in the Disney Film "The Finest Hours."

If you are trailering your boat, we have a large public launch ramp with plenty of parking also located within a short distance of the downtown and pier heads. Participation is easy and here is how to catch a piece of the action: Simply visit our website, www.southhavensteelheaders.com download and fill-out the entry form and mail it to the South Haven Steelheaders with your entry fee before May 12th, 2018.

As the SHSPAT is a qualifying event for the 333 tournament series many visiting anglers are expected again this year. All out-of-town anglers are invited to take advantage of special SHSPAT dockage and hotel discounts by visiting our web site at: www.southhavensteelheaders.com.

The South Haven Steelheader's Pro Am Tournament's primary purpose is to obtain fish for the Blueberry Festival Fish-

boil, the Chapter's primary fund raiser to provide money for the goal of educating the general public on improving, preserving and promoting sport fishing in the Great Lakes and their tributary streams and rivers. To accomplish this goal, the Chapter is actively involved in a number of activities such as Salmon in the Classroom, Scholarship Programs, Net Pen project and supporting the deployment of South Haven near shore data buoy station #45168.

If you find the buoy useful, please consider making a donation to support its continued deployment.

While the South Haven Steelheaders earnestly solicits you to compete in our annual tournament the weekend after Mother's Day, we also invite you to explore our gem of a port at any time!

Besides our season long fishery including some of the finest Lake Trout fishing on Lake Michigan, South Haven is also host to some great events throughout the year. The primary events you should consider exploring are the Harbor Festival, Independence Day Fireworks, Blueberry Festival, Salute to Veterans Boat Parade and Ice Breaker Festival.

In addition to its extensive network of bike and walking trails, South Ha-

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For more information:
Chad Bard
269-214-6934 or go to:
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ven has installed multiple canoe/kayak launch sites that make the river and lake very accessible for all types of watercraft.

If you are a member of the Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen's

Association (MSSFA) you can also participate in other South Haven Steelheader tournaments throughout the year such as the February Ice Tournament, June Ladies Tournament, August Merle Morris Memorial

Tournament and November River Tournament.

We look forward to seeing you "on the water" in South Haven!

Be Versatile For More Ice-Fishing Success

by Bob Jensen

Across the ice-belt there are several species of fish that anglers have the opportunity to catch from under the ice. Walleyes, northern pike, perch, crappies and other types of panfish, smallmouth and largemouth bass and even catfish can be caught by ice-anglers. The thing is, our presentation needs to change for the different types of fish. Different species of fish respond to different presentations. Walleyes like spoons, panfish like tiny jigs, and pike like natural baits. If you're targeting a particular species of fish, you need to employ a technique that that species is most likely to respond to.

However, there are some basic principles of fishing that you need to keep in mind regardless of what fish you want to catch. Following are some of those basic principles.

The most important

"Success"

Continued on page 21



Mr. Walleye Gary Roach with a jumbo perch. Gary is one of the pioneers in the fishing industry who taught us how to catch more fish through the ice.



Photo by Daniel Shepler

Sharpen Your Steelhead Technique with This Fly-Fishing Tactic

By DANIEL SHEPLER, MyNorth.com

November in Northern Michigan is a month of transition between the fading colors of fall and the white of winter. It is also one of the best months to catch steelhead on a swung fly.

Steelhead swim up the rivers in the fall to find food and feed off salmon eggs. The fish are actively

seeking sustenance to gain weight to make it through winter and be healthy for spring spawning.

There are several methods one can use to catch these anadromous fish, but by far the most exciting way is on a swung fly. If you are unfamiliar with this method, then here is a basic description. You cast across the river to the opposite bank at a 45-degree angle. This allows the current to

grab your line and slowly swing your fly across the river in a tantalizing way, hopefully in front of a willing steelhead. There are some great videos on the web that will give you a better understanding of what swinging a fly is all about, one I suggest is The Fall Run, by Todd Moen.

We are so lucky in Northern Michigan to have many good rivers to fish, and the Pere Marquette is

among the best, with many access points and boat launches all along the river. One of the things I love about fly fishing, is that to do it well you have to devote all of your attention to it. It is very serene, as you have to clear your mind of work and all anxiety to focus on what your fly is doing.

On a late November morning I met up with a good friend to swing the "fly only" water of the PM. It had been colder earlier in the week, and there was a small covering of snow on the ground and trees. We assembled our rods, geared up, and started our float. There was much excitement and anticipation for a day of solitude on the water. As luck would have it,

the very first hole we came to produced a beautiful fish. It nailed the fly as it was coming across and the fight was on. We found more fish, and lots of laughs as we made our way down the river. There were very few other anglers, and if it weren't for the occasional house or cabin you would never know you weren't a world away. Fly fishing requires patience and perseverance, but when you finally get a fish to grab your fly it is unforgettable.

Gear Tips: When swinging a hole or run, the speed and depth at which your fly comes across are very important factors. Because each hole you fish has different current speeds and depth, it is crucial to change your sink tip to match each

spot. Sink tips come in different lengths and sinking rates. Rio Products sells iMow tips that work great and are easily interchangeable, making it simple to have the correct setup each time. It is also very important to get flies that are tied specifically for Great Lakes steelhead. My rod of choice for our local rivers is the Redington Chromer. The 11'6", 8-weight rod is a fast-action rod that works great for casting under trees and bushes in tight cover.

"Salmon"

Continued from page 7

providing added casting distance. It is available in two sizes: #4 - 5/8 oz., or #5 - 7/8 oz.



Another Mepps spinner that's perfect for both pier and stream fishing is the Mepps Flying C. This heavyweight spinner, like the LongCast, allows you to maximize your casting distance. In addition, it drops deep and stays deep throughout your retrieve. The Flying C is available in two hefty sizes: #4 - 5/8 oz., and #5 - 7/8 oz. All Flying C's feature a bright hot chartreuse, hot orange, hot red, or hot pink body tube. Both the Flying C and LongCast are perfectly balanced lures that are heavier than other spinners in their class, making long distance casting easy and effortless.



Gold blades on all Mepps salmon and steelhead spinners are polished brass. Silver blades are genuine silver plate. Painted blades feature computer age epoxy finishes that won't chip, crack or fade. Hooks are extra sharp perma steel trebles. Single salmon hooks are also available.

While all of these Mepps lures are great salmon catchers, don't forget the #3 Mepps Aglia Streamer and the classic Mepps Aglia spinners that have been producing consistent salmon catches for more than 70 years. Stream fishermen, in particular, have always relied on the #3, #4 or #5 Mepps Aglia, the #3 or #4 Aglia Long or the #3, #4 or #5 Black Fury.

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METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS

MWS Receives MUCC Award

Metro West Steelheaders received the MUCC Affiliate of the Year Award from Michigan United Conservation Clubs for 2017. The award recognizes MWS's dedication to the Michigan Out-of-Doors (MOOD) Youth Camp for many years. Each year, MWS allocates funds to send kids to camp for a week during the summer. In recent years, they have greatly increased their support of conservation education by increasing the number of kids they sponsor at the MOOD Youth Camp.

Since 2014, Metro West Steelheaders has done an exceptional job finding kids in the Detroit metropolitan area who are interested in learning outdoor technical skills and attending camp. In addition, MWS has developed a partnership with the Judson Center, which provides unique camp experiences for children in foster care.

In 2014, MWS hosted a banquet which raised enough funds to send nine campers to the MOOD Youth Camp. Following the success of the 2014 dinner,

MWS held the fundraiser again in 2015 and increased the number of sponsored youth to 15. In 2016, it rose to 24 kids able to attend MOOD Youth Camp and 25 kids were able to attend in 2017. This means that MWS has provided funds for more than 70 young people to attend the MOOD Youth Camp, learn about Michigan's natural resources and develop into conservation stewards.

Metro West Steelheaders has been involved in the MUCC policy development process as it relates to addressing Lake Erie's impairment and raising concerns about net pen aquaculture, and grassroots education and advocacy necessary to carry out MUCC's positions. In addition, members have hosted "On the Ground" events to clean up sections of the Clinton and Manistee Rivers for the past three years. Several members, dedicated a Saturday each year to help remove hundreds of pounds of trash and debris from the rivers in popular locations for anglers. These are just a few of the reasons why Metro

West Steelheaders was selected as the 2017 MUCC Affiliate of the Year.

In his acceptance speech, Matt Lubaway, MWS representative to MUCC, recognized MWS members who have contributed hours of volunteer time to make the award possible. He credited Marty Drum, Carmen Ziries and Karen Westfall (as well as the board of directors) for the successful fund raising associated with the banquets. Jim Robertson was credited for helping gain over 3000 signatures on petitions to legislators on Asian carp control. Henry and Nancy Nabors were instrumental in bringing attention to the Farming Crisis and Nitrate Pollution issue plaguing Lake Erie. With the assistance of Gary Towns, Matt Lubaway authored MWS's first MUCC resolution, "Lake Erie Algae Bloom and Phosphorus Load Improvement" and it was presented at the annual MUCC convention. Adam Trenz, Roger Hinchcliff and Eric Braden were recognized for their efforts with the Clinton River and Manistee

River cleanup.

"MWS is growing in numbers and energy", said Matt Lubaway, "which makes it rather unique among sporting clubs in Michigan today. Most hunting and fishing clubs are suffering from shrinking membership and lack of 'young blood'. With nearly 250 members, we continue to be a strong force on issues relating to the environment and the sport we enjoy."



Right: 2017 Michigan United Conservation Clubs

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“Small Streams”
Continued from page 1

While there will be sanctuaries like log jams and other heavy cover you can usually “reach” the holding water in a small river or creek. The stream will never be too wide or too deep so that you can’t make a presentation to the holding steelhead. An obvious additional reason I like small rivers is that I much prefer to wade rather than fish from a boat.

Probably the number one factor in having success catching steelhead in a small river is making sure you are stealthy. In general fish are not very intelligent but they are innately wary. This is especially true for the older, larger members of stream resident species but remember that steelhead have left the depths of a very large lake or the ocean and now feel vulnerable in a much smaller environment. A real key to catching a migrating steelhead is not letting them know of your presence. Once fish bust you they become much harder to catch. This is especially true when you are fishing with artificial lures and flies. We are going to concentrate on being stealthy when wading small to mid size streams.

Moving in an upstream direction is probably the number one key to sneaking up on and catching more stream fish. Many anglers, especially some fly anglers and those drifting live bait, traditionally move downstream. Turning around will instantly make you more successful. Because of eyes on both sides of their heads, fish have a wide range of vision. But they do have a blind area directly behind them. Since they are almost always facing into the current, you can best approach them by wading upstream.

Even though they are looking upstream in the opposite direction, a quick movement by a large, predatory angler behind them will still likely send them scurrying for cover. So moving slowly and keeping a low profile are also important. Wearing clothing that blends in with the sky and bank vegetation will also help keep you hidden.

Moving upstream also prevents the sand and silt that you stir up when wading from betraying your presence. Some bait anglers think that sending some silt ahead of them as they wade downstream helps make their drifting crawler more effective when fishing for resident trout but I have never seen that to be the case. Big trout, especially browns, and steelhead will know something is amiss when a cloud of silt rolls by.

The sounds you make when wading are also carried away by the current when you move upstream. But sounds do travel readily through water so it is important to wade as quietly as possible. Making long slow strides is better than short splashy steps. Pay attention and try to not to dislodge



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Tackle Haven.....	741 Riverview Drive.....	Benton Harbor, MI 49022.....	269-925-0341



Jim Bedford admires a creek steelhead

rocks or cause them to grind against each other. A wading staff can help your stability and avoid missteps that might alert the fish. One made out of wood is better than a metal or metal tipped model because it will be quieter when contacting the bottom. The ripples in

the water surface you send ahead when wading are also not likely to reach and alarm the fish upstream unless the current is very slow. They will still be diminished when moving against the current and slow strides will further negate them.

One of the ironies

of the cautious upstream approach is that many lures and flies are best fished across and down. My favorite river lure is the weighted spinner and its most effective presentation is a quartering downstream cast and then allowing it to sweep and hang in the like-

ly fish holding water. The fly angler using streamers wants to do likewise. And the plug fisherman, especially, wants to be above the fish and sweep or hold his diving lure against the current.

So how do we do this?

Well, we still cautiously work our way upstream and plan ahead how we will cast to each fish holding area or feeding station as we come to it. We can still cast spinners, spoons, plugs, and streamers upstream and retrieve them downstream at a speed slightly greater than the current so they will have action. Beads, eggs, jigs, and drift lures can also easily be fished straight upstream. You just need to take in line as it drifts back to you as opposed to the traditional letting line out as it drifts downstream from your position. A float will help you make good presentations without hanging up a lot. It is much better to position your offering a foot or so above the substrate rather than snagging up all the time.

Now let's look at some examples on how we can sneak upstream and make across or across and down presentations. If a log goes across the stream you can slowly and quietly wade up to it along the edge of the stream. Staying below the log, extend your rod upstream and cast across and sweep the lure in front of the log. The log helps keep the fish lying under it from seeing you from this position but if you had been moving downstream, it would not have helped.

Utilize the cover that is hiding the fish as that also helps conceal you. This can be overhanging vegetation, an undercut bank, a large boulder, or a rock or clay ledge. Turbidity, water depth, and a broken or riffled surface can also help you sneak along side or above the holding water.

Looking upstream and anticipating the holding water and how you will

Ballast Water Bill – A Race to the Bottom

By Jim Johnson

House Bill 5095 (Dan Lauwers, with Sue Alor one of 12 cosponsors) would remove ballast water treatment requirements for oceangoing vessels using Michigan ports. Passed House November 9. The Senate passed the same bill by voice vote with no debate, thus there will be no reconciliation process. Next step is the bill will be “enrolled” by the House for Governor’s consideration. As of November 15, this had not been done. The bill will probably be enrolled when the House reconvenes after the holiday recess. The Governor has reservations about this bill and may not sign it.

What this bill would do:

The bill would amend Part 31 (*Water Resources Protection*) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to delete the current ballast water discharge treatment requirements for oceangoing vessels that engage in port operations in Michigan, and adopt Federal regulations for ballast water management and control of nonindigenous species in the Great Lakes. The bill would have no effect on intra-lake carriers (such as ore carriers and other strict-



ly Great Lakes carriers).

Rationale:

Proponents of this measure argue the bill would reduce regulation and thereby increase use of Michigan ports by ocean-going vessels, thus economically stimulating coastal communities with deep-water channels and carrier loading facilities. Another argument for the bill is that federal regulations, not state, should govern ballast water treatment so as to provide a level regulatory playing field for carriers. Opponents are urging the Governor not to sign the bill because the economic costs of salt-water navigation on the Great Lakes have far outweighed benefits, with zebra and quagga mussels alone costing Lake Huron ports millions of dollars annually in lost fishing-based tourism dol-

lars and Great Lakes sea lamprey control costing \$20 million per year. Others argue that few Michigan ports would experience increased freighter use because they lack channel depth and facilities necessary to accommodate these vessels. Most ocean-going vessels are owned by foreign countries and fly “flags of convenience” meaning they are registered in countries with minimal regulation or ability to enforce environmental, safety, or labor standards. Why would Michigan strive to favor foreign flag-of-convenience shipping over U.S. or Canadian owned/operated transportation systems? Further, the EPA administers the Clean Water Act, but Congress is pushing to remove ballast-water regulation from EPA’s realm of responsibility (U.S. Senate Bill 168). The waters and bottomlands of the Great Lakes are not federal responsibility – they are trust responsibilities of the states, and Michigan has more Great Lakes water and shoreline than any other state. Why should Michigan, “the Great Lakes State”, not show leadership in Great Lakes stewardship, as it has in the past?

Ocean-going carriers (“salties”)

Ocean-going carriers are responsible for most of the aquatic invasive species that have invaded the Great Lakes. (There has been no proof that a Great Lakes carrier has ever been responsible for vectoring an invasive species to the Great Lakes, <http://www.marinedelivers.com/great-lakes-ships-carriers>.) The rapids of the St. Lawrence River and Niagara Falls had protected the Great Lakes since the last ice age from aquatic invaders from the oceans by blocking their upstream movement. The Welland Canal/St. Lawrence Seaway, built to give Great Lakes access to salt-water shipping, breached this barrier. The ecological costs alone (excluding costs to water supply systems, power plants, and cooling systems) of invaders that hitchhiked in ballast tanks is approximately \$200 million annually (University of

Notre Dame, 2008) for the Great Lakes region alone. Quagga mussels have now spread westward, and the costs to western states have been similarly dire.

Yet, the use of the Great Lakes by ocean-going vessels has never lived up to the expectations of the Welland Canal/St. Lawrence Seaway project. In a typical year, overseas freighters account for 5% or less of overall tonnage moved annually on the St. Lawrence Seaway and less than 2% of total grain exports from US/Canada. And “salty” use of the lakes has been slipping for decades (locks are too small for larger ships like tankers and containerships). The incoming and outgoing cargo carried by “salties” could be hauled by a single daily inbound and outbound train from the east coast (Egan 2017)

According to Teach. GLIN.NET (http://www.great-lakes.net/teach/business/ship/ship_2.html) about 800 ocean-going vessels transit the GLs each season. Chamber of Marine Commerce (<http://www.marinedelivers.com/great-lakes-ships-carriers>) reports that most Great Lakes commercial vessels, such as Great Lakes ore, coal, or salt carriers, are registered in either the US or Canada. By contrast, ocean-going ships are typically “foreign flagged”, registered in any one of a number of other flag states.

Thus, ocean-going vessels are largely owned and registered in foreign countries and, thanks to the St. Lawrence Seaway, they can compete with U.S. and Canadian railways, trucks, and intra-lake carriers.

Most ocean-going ships fly “flags of convenience” that are other than the nation of ownership in order to reduce operating costs or avoid regulations of the owner’s country (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_convenience). Panama, Liberia, and Marshall Islands are the leading “flags of convenience”. Criticisms of the flag of convenience system include: 1) these flag states have insufficient regulations and that those regulations they do have are poorly enforced; 2) in many cases, the flag state cannot identify a shipowner, much less hold the owner civilly or criminally responsible for a ship’s actions; 3) as a result of lack of flag state control, flags of convenience are criticized on grounds of providing an environment for conducting criminal activities, supporting terrorism, providing poor working conditions for seafarers, and having an adverse effect on the environment.

House Bill 5095 would favor these ocean-going ships by reducing regulation of their ballast water discharges in Michigan ports. One could rightly question why the legisla-



The Helena G unloading in Sorel on Oct. 12, 2017 - Rene Beauchamp

Of 215 ocean-going ships listed on “Great Lakes and shipping on-line” that navigated the Great Lakes in 2016 (<http://www.boatnerd.com/pictures/salty/>):

- 4 ships were owned by US companies
- There were only two ships registered to US ports (flags).

ture would wish to favor flag-of-convenience foreign shipping over US- and Canadian-owned and operated transportation systems (their cargo could be off-loaded at Montreal or New York, for example, and shipped by train, truck, or intra-lake carrier to Midwest destinations).

The current regulatory environment:

DEQ opposes this bill. Thirteen other states have passed legislation similar to the 2005 Michigan law (*Part 31 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act*) that requires ballast tank treatment, thus Michigan is not alone in regulating ballast water discharges. The U.S. Coast Guard is advising shippers to phase in a ballast-tank treatment system but that will take years. Meanwhile, this legislation would mean residual biota that have survived saltwater flushing at sea (now required) could now be discharged in our harbors.

Meanwhile, on the federal level, the Commercial Vessel Act (S.168) would remove from EPA the role of enforcement of ballast water under the Clean Water Act and transfer that role to Corp of Engineers, which has little expertise in water quality management. Nine State AGs (including Michigan’s) have opposed this measure saying:

“The Clean Water Act requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to scientifically develop and regularly improve uniform minimum pollution treatment standards, and then incorporate them as discharge requirements in permits that are renewed every five years. The Commercial Vessel Act takes the radical step of eliminating these vital Clean Water Act protections and relegates EPA—the federal agency with the greatest knowledge and experience in addressing water pollution – to an advisory role. The Commercial Vessel Act vests primary responsibility for controlling vessel pollution with the U.S. Coast Guard, an agency mainly focused on homeland security that has little water pollution expertise.”

But in any event, exactly why the legislature thinks putting our most precious resource, the water quality of the Great Lakes, in increased danger is not clear.

We should all hope the governor decides to veto this piece of highly risky special interest legislation.



See page 21 for information on contacting Governor Snyder to voice your opinion.

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Call Michigan Governor Snyder Today to Encourage Him to Veto Legislation that Would Weaken Michigan Ballast Water Standards

The history of past 70 years reveals that aquatic invasive plants and animals that have been 'accidentally' introduced to the waters of the Laurentian Great Lakes via ballast water discharge are capable of rapidly spreading to thousands of Michigan inland lakes where lakefront property owners now 'voluntarily' spend in excess of 30 million dollars a year to protect their lakes from the ravages of exotic macrophyte species such as Eurasian water milfoil and Starry stone-wort.

The release of ballast water from oceangoing vessels originating from Europe and Asia is known to have served as the most active mode of entry into the Great Lakes region for a steadily increasing and harmful array of highly destructive aquatic invasive species that now includes zebra and quagga mussels, sea lamprey, spiny water-flea, and an array of rapidly proliferating and highly destructive aquatic macrophyte species.

Citizens concerned about the future of Michigan's

lakes should know that if Governor Snyder decides to sign House Bill 5095, and thus lowering state ballast water standards to weaker and much less effective federal standards, Michigan's lawmakers are in essence threatening the economic and ecological health and stability of the entire Great Lakes region.

Can you guess who is going to have to foot the bill for managing the newly introduced aquatic invasive species that will inevitably come to plague our inland lakes if this legislation be-

comes law? If you realize that the correct answer is all of us citizens, then you fully understand why you need to contact Michigan Governor Rick Snyder today to encourage him to veto House Bill 5095. To protect our lakes and the value of our lakes, please don't delay, make your opinion known to the Governor today!



"Success"

Continued from page 16

consideration is finding the areas where the fish are most likely to bite your bait. Some community holes will hold lots of fish, but fishing pressure makes those fish very selective. And, after awhile, those community holes get fished down. Take some time to search out other areas away from the fishing pressure: Those fish will be more likely to bite your bait, making them easier to catch.

Once you find the fish, you want to keep your bait above them for a couple of reasons. First of all, fish see up better than they see down. If your bait is above them, they're more likely to see it, which makes them more likely to eat it.

The other reason for keeping your bait above the fish is to possibly prevent spooking the other fish around them. If you see fish on the sonar, drop your bait but stop it when it's still three or four feet above the fish. Active fish will come up and take the bait. Catch the active ones first. If they quit rising to the bait, then allow it to get closer to them. If you drop it into the group of fish right away and catch a couple, the rest of the school might spook. Make the active ones move away from the school to prevent spooking. I use a Vexilar FLX-28 in the Zoom Mode much of the time. This unit enables me to "zoom" in on a particular zone, so the definition is really good, and I'm able to position my bait exactly

where I want it to be.

Another important thing to keep in mind for more ice-fishing success for any specie: If they're not responding to what you're doing, do something else. If you chase panfish when you're ice-fishing, you probably know how productive some of the different baits in the Bro's Bug Collection can be. These are baits that were designed for ice-fishing. They're all very small, and each has its own distinctive quality. The differences may not be that much, but the fish can tell the difference and at times will favor one over the other.

Last thing: As the ice-fishing season proceeds, don't sit on one hole too long. I know lots of ice-anglers that move constantly. If they're on a big structure, they'll put an auger, sonar, and anything else they need into a portable shelter and just keep popping holes until they find the fish. The Otter Pro Cottage is perfect for this plan of attack. It can seat two anglers, but I like plenty of room, so I use this unit even when fishing alone.

Now is when you need to be ice-fishing. If you employ the tactics above, you'll catch more fish more often when you go ice-fishing.

To see new and old episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, fishing articles, and fishing video tips, visit fishingthemidwest.com



Winter Steelhead Fishing Tips in Northern Michigan

By **BOB BUTZ** Shared from **MyNorth.com**

Few moments can jazz winter like seeing the chrome flash of a steelhead in a dark and frigid river. Fisherman and writer Bob Butz shares the way and the how-to of the winter Northern Michigan steelhead fishing sport.

Before I tell you a little about the magic and mystery of winter steelhead fishing, I need to tell you the most important factor determining the likelihood of actually catching a fish. It should come before any discussion about what kind of rod and reel is best or whether float fishing, bottom-bouncing, swinging streamers or chucking plugs will put more fish into the bank or boat. The simple rule is this

You can't catch fish that aren't there.

For as long as human-kind has been fishing, people have been coming up with excuses for coming home from the water skunked. Lousy luck has been attributed to weather that's too hot or too cold, water that's too clear, too muddy, too low or too high. Fishermen blame the moon, the falling barometer and even the sun for being too ... sunny.

But here's the deal with winter steelhead. The truly hardcore steelheaders I've met are a cultish and obsessive lot. And patient. They're content to tie flies and spawn bags while watching the weather and waiting for word that the winter run has commenced. When it finally happens, generally on days when the weatherman advises to stay indoors, there are often fish in every seam and eddy to be had, it's like no other fishing in the world.

Steelhead actually begin arriving in Michigan rivers during and shortly after the peak of the fall salmon run. These early fish stay put, gorging themselves on freshly laid salmon eggs while getting educated by anglers as they wait for the right conditions that encourage more of their kind to make a push upstream from Lake Michigan. This could happen anytime between January and March, the traditional peak of the season, when the river temperature climbs to between 48 and 54 degrees.

Regardless of whether or not the fish are hard-to-fool holdovers from the fall or newbies in the river prior to the spring spawn, steelhead are always on the move and never stay in one place for very long. In other words, a deep, dark water hole that held fish one day might be devoid of life the next. So the smart angler with a shallow well of tolerance for enduring subzero temperatures is well ad-

vised to play the numbers and wait by a warm fire—reading fish reports and, my favorite, blogs from local guides—for word that the run is on.

Steelhead are really just overgrown rainbow trout which, unlike salmon that fill the rivers in the fall, do not die after spawning. Young steelhead may stay in the river where they were born for up to three years before heading out into Lake Michigan where they can grow in five years to a weight of anywhere from eight to 20 pounds.

The newest fish returning to their home waters to spawn are always easier to coax into biting than the fished-over ones that arrived in the fall, so the real magic of winter steelhead fishing happens when the number of newbies peaks.

The lure of winter steelhead, for me anyway, has something to do with the liveliness of the river itself

set against the backdrop of still, icy air and gray, leafless forests covered in a crisp blanket of snow. After months of winter numbness, the quiet landscape lies in contrast to the wholly electric sensation of feeling a fish on the end of the line, a fish so totally alive against the backdrop of a season so totally dead.

Steelhead fresh from Lake Michigan are leaping, surging, chrome-colored bullets that will aggressively take everything from Spin-Glo rigs, gold Wiggle Warts and chrome/blue Hot-N-Tots to pink colored spawn bags drifted under a bobber, hand-tied leach imitations and fuzzy, peach-colored eggs (both in size 8).

I love to come upon a gravel bar, some boulder or submerged log and see the dark shadows of tailing fish. I love the anticipation of casting to something so big and alive and know-



Photo by Todd Zawistowski

ing that the strike, when it comes, will always cause me to gasp. Cold, numb hands suddenly begin to sweat. Muscles tense against a brilliant charge of electricity surging through every nerve ending.

But I think what keeps me coming back year after year is the moment just before and after the strike. Sometimes at the take there's a flash of unseasonal silver, a flash of light in the

cold winter murk. Instantly the line goes taut, slicing a small wake across the water as the fish blades into the current, often cleaving the surface with impossible somersaults and acrobatics. To go a winter without experiencing the spectacle ... well, there's really no excuse for that.

little elbow-to-elbow competition on the riverbank? That's what you'll typically find in March when the steelhead run hits its frenzied peak.

Steelhead can be found along the entire length of the Platte River in Benzie County during the river months, from the mouth at Lake Michigan all the

**Steelhead:
If You Do It Yourself**
So you're not afraid of a

"Winter Tips"
Continued on page 34

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Close-up of a spring steelhead



Terri Bedford with spring creek steelhead

“Small Streams”

Continued from page 19

make your presentation is important. To do this you must be able to read the water and see well. Polarized sunglasses are an absolute must and they should be coupled with a hat that has a substantial bill or visor to keep the atmospheric glare off the lenses. The glasses should be 100% polarized and those with amber tints are usually best because they heighten contrast and

let through more light while still cutting the surface glare.

Waders rather than hip boots are your best choice, even if you are fishing a stream that is mostly shallow, because they give you more options when approaching your quarry. They allow you to stay in the stream in deeper water, which helps keep you out of sight. They also allow you to kneel in shallow water if necessary to stay out of

sight and get into the best position to cast. As mentioned earlier, a wading staff will help you move well through deeper, rockier sections. Paying attention to where you are wading can also help you approach the fish. Try to avoid areas with loose rocks and gravel that will shift and make noise when you walk on them. Often the best and easier path is the deeper route because there will be less current and, of course, you are less visible to the fish when you are waist deep in the water.

A stealthy upstream approach is a good one for all river species in addition to steelhead. It is certainly a great tactic for fishing low and clear rivers for especially wary species like brown trout and large smallmouth bass. And, for sure, it is the key way to be successful when fishing creeks and small streams. Making sure the fish don't know you are in the area will always be a very important part of enticing a strike from them. Be sneaky and improve your odds for hooking lots of big fish.

Gaining Access to Small Streams

In Michigan we are fortunate in that almost all of our small steelhead rivers are considered public water and we can wade or float them when gaining access from public access sites or public road right of ways.

Often land is posted at bridges because the landowner doesn't want strangers on his property but could really care less about the stream and the fish. By asking permission and getting to know the landowner you can often gain access to fish relatively lightly fished water. Ask if the landowner would prefer if you released all of your fish and then abide by his/her decision. Conversely, if keeping fish is okay, offer to bring the landowner a legally caught steelhead if a fresh fish dinner is desired. And, go a step further and ask how they want the fish, whole, filleted or dressed.

Always show respect for the adjoining land and leave no trace that you have fished there by leaving no litter and getting in and out of the stream where you won't harm the bank. Re-

ally show you care by hauling out litter that someone else has left behind. If the landowner still won't let you fish, politely thank him for considering your request and try another location. Perhaps you can then return the following season and try again.

Given our litigious society, probably many landowners feel the need to protect themselves from liability claims from anglers that injure themselves on their property. No doubt that is often the reason for the multitudes of no trespassing signs. A possible plan could be to try writing a waiver of liability form, perhaps with the help of an

attorney friend, and then bring a copy with you when you ask permission.

If the liability concern happens to come up, you can offer to sign the waiver in the presence of the landowner and leave it with them.

Finally, maps are a big help in getting the lay of the land for the small rivers and streams that you are interested in fishing. Many county map books color code federal and state lands in addition to showing public access sites. On public lands and those in conservation easement programs you can use the maps to pinpoint travel routes to the river and with a relatively small

amount of hiking, find yourself some fine fishing without competition. Somewhat larger small streams might also be navigable with personal water craft and the maps will show you where you can launch and take out as well as give you a feeling of the sinuosity of the stream. This translates into the likely distance in stream miles and how long the float might take. Of course, the number of fish present and the amount of quality holding water will also factor into the time equation.



Joe Burcar admires a creek steelhead



Jim Bedford releasing a beautiful steelie.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 8, 2017



Drew YoungeDyke
Communications Coordinator
National Wildlife Federation
Great Lakes Regional Center
734-887-7119
www.nwf.org

ANN ARBOR, MICH. — 50 hunting, angling, conservation and outdoor industry organizations submitted public comments today in support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Tentatively Selected Plan (plan) to improve defenses at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. The Brandon Road Lock and Dam, near Joliet, Illinois, and below the Chicago Area Waterway System is a chokepoint to reduce the risk of the invasive Asian carp from swimming directly into Lake Michigan. The plan proposes a gauntlet of technologies including an electric barrier, water jets, complex sound and a flushing lock to reduce the risk that Asian carp get through while still allowing navigation through the lock.

"The organizations submitting these comments represent millions of hunters, anglers and outdoor recreation enthusiasts across the nation, including those who support the Great Lakes \$7 billion sport-fishery and even larger outdoor recreation industry," said Marc Smith, Great Lakes conservation director for the National Wildlife Federation. "We understand that the Asian carp knocking on the door of the Great Lakes threaten our way of life, the economy we support, and the fish and wildlife which support us. While not perfect, the Army Corps of Engineers Brandon Road plan is the best near-term option for keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. We cannot waste this opportunity to act."

While expressing support for the TSP, the groups in the letter also urge the Army Corps of Engineers to pursue full federal funding of the \$275 million estimated cost, rather than require a local cost share, due to the national significance of the issue. Additionally, the groups identify that Congress authorized the Corps to prevent aquatic invasive species transfer between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins, and therefore the Corps needs to continue pursuing a two-way solution to preventing aquatic invasive species transfer. However, that pursuit should be simultaneous without diverting resources from moving ahead with the TSP. The groups also encourage the Corps to explore aquatic nuisance species (ANS) treatment technology that can be used in the locks, as well as continuing existing non-structural practices which reduce the Asian carp population below the lock and dam.

"We need stronger controls in place now in order to prevent Asian carp and other invasive species from continuing to swim closer to - and eventually into - the Great Lakes," the groups state in their comments. "Without firm and swift action to stop the further movement of Asian carp and other invasive species, the future of hunting, fishing and our outdoor heritage in the Great Lakes and Mississippi River region is at risk."

The Corps issued a timeline with the release of the plan which estimates a final report in August 2019, at which point it will be up to Congress to approve and fund the project, with a construction completion date of 2025 if there is no delay in approval and funding.

The groups signing on to the comment letter of support include, in alphabetical order:

- American Sportfishing Association
- Anglers of the Au Sable
- Antigo Chapter Trout Unlimited (WI)
- Austin Chapter 10 of the Izaak Walton League of America
- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.)
- The Bass Federation of Michigan
- Bush Lake Chapter Izaak Walton League of America
- Cass County Chapter of the Minnesota Izaak Walton League of America
- Columbiana County Federation of Conservation Clubs (OH)
- Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
- Conservation Federation of Missouri
- Ducks Unlimited
- Fly Fishers International
- Fishing League Worldwide
- Great Lakes Council of Fly Fishers International
- Hoosier Coho Club
- Indiana Wildlife Federation
- Iowa Wildlife Federation
- Izaak Walton League of America
- Lake Erie Charter Boat Association
- Marine Retailers of the Americas
- Michigan B.A.S.S. Nation
- Michigan Chapter, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association**
- Michigan Trout Unlimited
- Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- Minnesota Chapter, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Minnesota Conservation Federation
- Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of America
- Minnesota Trout Unlimited
- Montmorency County Conservation Club (MI)
- National Professional Anglers Association
- National Wildlife Federation
- New York Trout Unlimited
- Northwest Indiana Steelheaders
- Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
- Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation
- Ohio Conservation Federation
- Ohio Council of Trout Unlimited
- Owatana Chapter of Izaak Walton League of American (MN)
- Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited
- Silvertip Productions (Ohio)
- Trout Unlimited
- W.J. McCabe (Duluth) Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America
- Wabasha Chapter, MN Division, Izaak Walton League of America
- Wild Rivers Chapter, Trout Unlimited (WI)
- Wisconsin Chapter, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
- Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

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Comments regarding the Draft GLMRIS – Brandon Road Report

December 8, 2017
Colonel Aaron Reisinger
Commander, Chicago District, US Army Corps of Engineers

Dear Colonel Reisinger,
Please accept these comments submitted on behalf of the undersigned organizations as well as our hundreds of thousands of hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreation enthusiast members across the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins and nationwide, regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Draft Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) Brandon Road report.

The undersigned organizations appreciate the opportunity to comment. While we support the Corps Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) we have several recommendations, which are highlighted below. We would like to first express that the overarching goal that Congress authorized the Corps to study is to reduce the risk of transfer of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins.

Threat

Indeed, the urgent need for action is only amplified by the live capture of a silver carp this June 2017 just 9 miles from Lake Mich-

igan on the Lake-side of the electrical deterrents. Today, we are dealing with the worst crisis to face the Great Lakes since the colonization of the lakes by zebra and quagga mussels: the potential invasion of Asian carp. Once the invasive carp invade the lakes, there is no turning back; the damage will be done. We have no choice; we have to take action now to stop the Great Lakes' invasion by Asian carp. And we have to take action quickly, while there is still time to save the lakes, and the fish and wildlife that call them home.

The Great Lakes are a phenomenal natural resource, a network of five inland seas that span 94,000-square miles of surface area, contain 20 percent of all surface freshwater on the planet and comprise the world's largest freshwater ecosystem. The five lakes — Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario — provide drinking water for 35 million people. In addition, the Great Lakes support a \$7 billion fishery; a \$16 billion tourism industry; waterfowl production areas that support a hunting economy of \$2.6 billion/year; and hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation that generates approximately \$18 billion/year. Combined, these represent a massive outdoor economy that is an integral part of North America's cul-

tural and outdoor heritage.

Support of the Draft TSP

Our organizations are supportive of the TSP, as this plan is the best near-term option for getting additional defenses in place to prevent Asian carp from establishing a population in Lake Michigan and our Great Lakes until a long-term solution is found. While not perfect, we recognize that adding a combination of non-structural with structural controls in and leading up to the Brandon Road Lock and Dam is our best hope at reducing the threat that Asian carp will continue to swim towards Lake Michigan. These include an engineered channel fitted with an electric barrier, water jets, complex noise, and a flushing lock. We agree that this combination of technologies together, provide the greatest interim protection against Asian carp while still keeping navigation open.

While we support the TSP, our organizations encourage the Corps to consider the following recommendations moving forward:

Full Federal cost share

The Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) is currently operating like a superhighway in transferring invasive species between

"GLMRIS"
Continued on page 34

2018 SCHEDULE

MANISTEE COUNTY

TOURNAMENTS & EVENTS



Ladies
Shake Down

May 25

For info call: Carrie Paxton 231-889-5000 – email: carrie@onekamamarine.com
or Scott MacDonald 231-690-1102 – email: smac54@gmail.com



Shake Down
Main Event
May 26-27



MCSFA Events

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- ★ August 11th - 12th Free Hamburgers and Hot Dogs at Weigh-in and Awards Ceremony

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2018 Saugatuck Fishing Tournament Humminbird/Cannon Big Lake Classic

The 2018 Humminbird/Cannon Big Lake Classic will be held in Saugatuck and is planned for an even bigger tournament than before with over \$40,000 expected in payouts between Friday August 10th - Sunday August 12th . The 2017 tournament payout to the Fishing Teams was a pay back to Fishing teams of 175% of entry fees paid. In total 38 boats participated in the two day Tournament. The Pro Division paid out 5 places and the Amateur division 11 boats received checks for the fishing weekend experience.

Watch for more details for the 2018 Friday August 10th one day "Pretournament Shootout". Weigh in will be at Spectators Restaurant on Blue Star Highway just north of Saugatuck. Look for Flyers for more details on this one day shootout on our new website!

Changes for the 2018 Tournament: The Big Fish Event has been changed to "The DENNY ALLEN MEMORIAL Big Fish Tournament".

Watch for our Updated WEBSITE as we will have

all the Tournament information on this site: Cowhill Yacht Club please check us out at www.cowhill.us

The 1st Annual DENNY ALLEN MEMORIAL-big fish contest will have a guaranteed first place payout of \$1,000, this event is sponsored by Jet's Pizza of Holland, MI. All boats can enter this special event in which any and all boats can try for that ONE big fish over the two day tournament. This will be a \$50 entry and 15 places will be paid. A boat may enter this

contest without participating in the Pro or Amateur division if they so desire.

The 2018 Humminbird/Cannon Tournament is planned for Saturday August 11th and Sunday August 12th, with the Captains meeting Friday night August 10th in downtown Saugatuck. Boats will be able to dock and leave and return to their docks in Saugatuck, Holland and South Haven.

Downtown Saugatuck continues to offer a lot of opportunities to shop, eat at Sports Bars or eat at Fine Dining restaurants, you can visit many famous Restaurants or local watering holes within walking distance from most docking locations in Saugatuck. Come and join in the food, fun and Fishing in Saugatuck August 10th - 12th and visit many of our local Sponsors.

The Saugatuck tournament is put on by Sportsman for Sportsman and is a nonprofit organized event. Monies raised for the tournament from Sponsors as well as entries from the fisherman themselves are put toward the payout to Tournament entrants. Other beneficiaries from the Tournament are: Salmon

in The Classroom, we are now supporting classrooms in the Saugatuck/Douglas, Hamilton and Holland schools and our new sponsor is the Cowhill Yacht Club.

Contact the 2018 Tournament Director John Watson with questions regarding the 2018 Humminbird/Cannon Big Lake Classic at 616-218-6686 or mail to 1137watson@gmail.com.

Thank you,
 2018 Tournament Committee

2017 Pro Division Top 5
My Tyme - Bill Dodrill - Mich City Ind
Best Chance Too - Dave Engel - Saugatuck
Best Chance - Hunter Engel- Saugatuck
Toolin Around - Mike Flinsky - Holland
Trollin Dirty - Aaron Giesler - Holland

2017 Am Division Top 5
Bigger Bill\$ - Bill Klaasen - Holland
Diamond Edition - Tracie

Larsen - Grand Haven
King I - Randy King - Saugatuck
Ruckus - Adam Seng - Holland
Big Spreads - Mike Meeuwse - Holland

2017 The Big One - Big Fish Top 5
Toolin Around - Mike Flinsky - Holland
Retirement Home - John Sisson - Saugatuck
Outta the Woods - Matt DeFer - Holland
Bigger Bill\$ - Bill Klaasen - Holland
Stressless - Terry Hinz -



Photo by Todd Zawistowski



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“Red Hooks”

Continued from page 1

few reasons of why red hooks can possibly make a difference. For years I had started buying red treble hooks and put them on my crank baits for the bleeding gill affect.

Ever since that day I was on a quest to keep track of my red hook fishing. I wanted to see how the hook performed for my own catch rates and against others that fished with me. After a while I started to notice a pattern and recorded my findings in my fishing journal.

I do pull plugs for steelhead and many of my belly trebles below the gill plate have a red treble. But it wasn't until a few years ago when I was fishing on the famed Manistee River for King Salmon that it became clear. I happened to be fishing with one of my closet friends Adam and we were on a float fishing trip with red and pink skein. We both were running a center pin, a 15-gram float, same main line and leader. We were even using the same cured eggs from the same zip lock bag. When comparing the two rigs, he was running a red wide finesse gap hook from Gamakatsu and I had the same hook just in black nickel. Adam proceeded to out fish me. We checked the depth and shot pattern and we made sure mine was the same. Our conclusion was the red hook theory. Was it because the Salmon could not see the red hook with the red skein?

Can the fish see red hook?
When reading this article, you must remember it's just an opinion but many industry professionals have the same opinion as me. Can the fish see it? At what depth can they see it?
It's a fact that red is the first color to fall off the spectrum depending on depth and light conditions. So, in deep water the color red turns the color grey. I primarily fish for river steelhead and most steelhead are caught in 4-8 foot of water 90% of the time here in the Great Lake tributaries. In normal stained water with visibility of 2 feet and better, I have seen a red hook shine.
Recent studies have shown the color red can be seen in deeper water than the color blue. I have run red spawn sacks or skein with a red hook in depths of six feet and the fish don't mind it. I have seen



Captain “Red” Hook, Roger Hinchcliffe with a beautiful river steelhead

my catch rates go up with red when the water is the clearest. Typically, in the winter months most rivers are very low, and clear. Is matching the hook color to a particular bait or lure for steelhead the way to go? Or is it because in clearer water the extra shine may attract the fish?
Could the marketing

hype give me more confidence in a red hook thus resulting in more fish because of my sheer confidence? I will admit that could be possible. You must be confident and believe in what you're fishing, to be successful. I honestly do believe colors are viewed differently by different fish.
What I have found is when we have blue bird sunny days a red hook does produce for me. During these conditions red is a great color to use. Could it be the color red suggests feeding to the fish?

When fishing gets tough be it the weather or fishing pressure. I will run red bags, red power bait honey worms and a small red 3-inch soft plastic worm. Is that red hook blending in with these bait choices? I've even tied up red spinners with different blades to use during these conditions. It's safe to say the color red is a great color for me in very clear water with sunny skies.

water the pike went crazy over my spoons with red hooks.

I always carry a pair of split ring pliers in my pack or tackle bag. If you need to make a hook change, they can be swapped out easily. Not to mention when fishing for large fish sometimes they trash a hook and it will need to be replaced regardless of the hook color. Split ring pliers are a great piece of gear to have handy.

Color

Most Anglers believe that with the right lure and color it will help you catch more fish. These decisions are based on conditions: water clarity vs depth and overcast or sunny days. Many folks agree that small color swash on baits have made a difference. A splash or dot of color on a jig head for example. Why not a red hook? Could that small color splash be just enough?

Could the red hooks act as an accent color? Fishermen say they want to hide the hook, and not show it to the fish. This is a valid point and I agree. Honestly, I only have theories on why I think a red hook performs on certain days. Try them on crank baits, plugs, spinner and when fishing for salmon and steelhead.

The red hook craze has slowed down through the years. But make no mistake about it, red hook fans are out there including me. Remember Steelhead are the most color conscious fish on Planet Earth.

As I discussed maybe I'm just a sucker for marketing hype. Say or think what you wish, you will never convince me of anything different. When fishing shallow clear water and a blue bird day I believe a red hook helps me. Whatever the reason the old saying goes "if it's not broke don't fix it".



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MSU 4-H Great Lakes Natural Resources Summer Camp

By Cristin Theisen

2017 was the third year that the Grand Haven Steelheaders have provided a scholarship to the MSU 4H Great Lakes Natural Resource Camp. This year's recipient was Cristin Theisen.

Following is a letter the Grand Haven Steelheader's received from Cristin:

Dear Grand Haven Steelheaders,

I would like to thank you so, so much for giving me a scholarship to attend this year's camp. I had an amazing time learning about Michigan's natural resources, making lots of new friends and meeting some pretty cool counselors and instructors throughout the week. Some of the afternoon activities I did were going to the quarry and getting to look for fossils, going to two lighthouses (one of which is believed to be haunted), processing the two Lake Trout I caught while charter fishing, canoeing, making cool lures.

I also got to attend some pretty interesting morning activities with my Lake Group like environmental stewardship, forestry and wildlife, charter fishing, going to the NOAA Marine Sanctuary and watersheds and lakes. The week I spent at camp was definitely my favorite thing I had done all summer and I will never forget it. I will definitely apply to go to this camp again next year. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Cristin Theisen



Cristin Theisen, scholarship recipient

About the camp and the program:

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

Camp expectations:

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

Camp Program:

Young teens have fun and amazing outdoor hands-on learning experiences as they go charter fishing, snorkeling, sailing, hike through forests, wade through wetlands, explore dunes and more! This really fun MSU pre-college program could be the highlight

of your summer - it could even change your life!

Learning sessions and recreation are designed to:

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

For more information on the camp - go to: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp

2017 Sportsman for Youth Day

2017 marked the 25th anniversary of this event. Always held on the Saturday following Labor Day, 2494 kids and almost 2000 adults attended the 2017 event.

The free event features exhibits and activities from almost 60 exhibitors. The kids receive a Youth Day t-shirt, lunch and are eligi-

ble for a variety of prizes given out by the various exhibitors.

Youth Day was created 25 years ago by a core group of outdoor recreation/natural resource related organizations. The goal was to introduce young people to the outdoors and educate them about such activities as hunting, fishing and con-

servation of natural resources.

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

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



Walleyes on Spoons Through the Ice

By Bob Jensen

Another ice-fishing season is underway across many parts of the Midwest, and many of the anglers that hit the ice this winter will be after walleyes. Walleyes will eat a lot of different presentations. A plain hook and split-shot under a bobber works, as does a jig like we would use in open water. But perhaps the most popular presentation for walleyes involves a spoon: Walleyes really like spoons. Keep these spoon ideas in mind and you'll increase your odds for walleyes under the ice.

There are a bunch of different types of spoons available to walleye anglers. Although they may look similar, there are some differences, and there are a few things you should consider when you're deciding what spoon to tie onto the end of your line. Here are some of those considerations.

Is the water clear or cloudy? In cloudy water, a noisy spoon like a Buck-Shot Rattle Spoon is the way to go. The rattling noise coming from the spoon will help walleyes find the bait easier when their sight is limited.

In clear water the rattling noise isn't as necessary, but it still doesn't hurt.

However, if you're fishing clear water and see fish on your sonar come in and look at your lure but not eat it, and if you're using a rattling lure, switch to a spoon that doesn't rattle. A quiet lure, at times, will be more productive, especially in clear water.

Consider the color of the spoon. Again, clear or cloudy water will have a bearing on what color to start with. Clear water: Something natural in appearance.

Cloudy water: Go with something brighter, something that will be more visible in limited visibility conditions. If you have a "glow" lure, give it a flash of light and put it down there. I've seen lots of times when a "glow" lure out-produced anything else.

And, again, if the fish are looking but not eating, try something else. Sometimes bright lures perform very well in clear water.

If you're fishing walleyes that have been getting a lot of fishing pressure, try something way different. Fish become conditioned to a particular presentation. If everyone is doing the same thing and it's not working, try something else.

Think about the physical size of your lure. In stained water a larger spoon will be easier to see, so a large

lure will often be more productive. Maybe go with a bulkier spoon made of metal, something like the Buck-Shot Flutter Spoon. This bait flutters as it falls, so it falls slower and puts out more vibrations, making it easier for the fish to find.

When the fish are finicky, a spoon that's smaller in appearance will often be better.

Also consider the line you're using. In deep water a no-stretch line like P-Line XTCB Braid in about 15 pound test will provide outstanding sensitivity and hooksets.

In shallower water 8 pound test Floroice in very good. It's invisible and has very low stretch, so it also provides good sensitivity and hooksets.

Something that adds taste and smell is usually hung on the spoon. A minnow or an Impulse Minnow Head will usually increase your bites.

Spoons catch walleyes as well as perch and crappies and pike. Give them a try this winter. If you haven't tried spoons, you'll maybe find a new friend.

To see all the new and old episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, current articles and articles from the archives, and fishing tip videos, visit fishingthemidwest.com



Even largemouth bass like spoons under the ice. Max Clark caught this one on a tiny spoon intended for bluegills.



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“GLMRIS”
Continued from page 24

the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins. Zebra mussels have utilized the CAWS to spread throughout much of the nation, and have been found in western states including California. Therefore, the time to act is now as lessons learned from the national spread of other invasive species go unheeded. Unfortunately, the state of Illinois where the Brandon Road Lock and Dam resides, has declined to serve as the local cost share partner, complicating the final completion of the TSP. Combined with the national significance that the CAWS plays in transferring invasive species between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River and the clear and present danger Asian carp present to our Great Lakes, we request that the federal government assume the full responsibility of the construction and operations and management costs moving forward in perpetuity.

ity.

Two-way Solution

While the TSP is aimed at reducing the risk of invasive species moving from the Mississippi River to the Great Lakes, the U.S. Congress authorized the Corps to ‘prevent aquatic nuisance species movement between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River Basins through aquatic connections.’ This means finding a two-way solution - in addition to keeping carp out of the Great Lakes - that also protects against the dozens of invasive species threatening the Mississippi River basin. In fact, the Corps’ 2010 Project Management Plan for GLMRIS specifically references potential movement of species in both directions. Therefore, a permanent, effective, two-way, solution is still needed. We strongly encourage the Corps to prioritize and include in the President’s FY’18 budget appropriate resources to begin studying options to address this glaring need for action.

The scoping of a two-way control point in the CAWS should happen simultaneously, but not divert resources or focus away from finalizing the Brandon Road TSP.

ANS Research and Technology Development

We request that the Corps continue to support and utilize the most updated research on technology control options to deter and reduce the risk of invasive species transferring between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. Given the urgency and high risk of Asian carp and other ANS getting into Lake Michigan, research and development on non-structural and structural control technologies must continue. Additional federal investments moving forward will help inform the Corps as it progresses with the current TSP and in identifying a two-way solution either at Brandon Road Lock and Dam or at other locations throughout the CAWS.

Non-structural actions must continue

We applaud the current actions from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (ILDNR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Geological Service (USGS), and other state and federal agencies in utilizing and deploying aggressive harvest activities along the Des Plaines River and other areas in the CAWS in order to ‘fish down’ the population of Asian carp below the Brandon Road Lock and Dam. We strongly encourage the Corps to continue to partner and collaborate with these agencies in order to reduce the leading edge populations of Asian carp adjacent to the Brandon Road Lock and Dam.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our organizations thank the Corps for the opportunity to submit comments. Preventing Asian carp and other invasive species from transferring between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River is an urgent matter that demands immediate action. We thank the Corps for its efforts in studying ways to address this critical situation. We encourage you to consider our comments and move as fast and efficiently as possible to finalize this study. We need stronger controls in place now in order to prevent Asian carp and other invasive species from continuing to swim closer to - and eventually into - the Great Lakes. Without firm and swift action to stop the further movement of Asian carp and other invasive species, the future of hunting, fishing and our outdoor heritage in the Great Lakes and Mississippi River region is at risk.

Sincerely,
American Sportfishing Association
Anglers of the Au Sable
Antigo Chapter Trout Unlimited (WI)
Austin Chapter 10 of the Izaak Walton League of America Backcountry Hunters and Anglers



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2017 Grand Haven Steelheaders Salmon Festival - Kid Zone

The Grand Haven Salmon Festival is a week-end festival that is annually held in September on the waterfront in Grand Haven. The 2017 Festival was September 15 - 17.

The event was designed to mark the passing of summer, promote the area as a unique fall tourist destination and celebrate the fall harvest season and salmon migration. The festival theme is arts, education and entertainment and assures the residents and visitors alike a unique opportunity to learn about the region's natural assets, while experiencing the cultural appeal

of the area through music, art, entertainment, history and education.

The KidZone area features a variety of natural resource related activities and exhibits. The Grand Haven Steelheaders have a

booth in the KidZone activity area. Kids have the opportunity to use the virtual fishing machine. Adults often stop to ask fishing related questions. It is a great event!



2017 Grand Haven Steelheaders Salmon Festival - Big Fish Contest

The Big Fish contest is always scheduled on Saturday of Salmon Festival though there have been several years when we have had to reschedule to Sunday of the weekend due to poor lake conditions. It is the goal of the Grand Haven Steelheaders to have the Big Fish contest be a fishermen 'friendly' activity. Contestants weigh-in their one big fish with the weigh-

in open to Chinook, Coho, Brown Trout, Lake Trout or Steelhead.

Our 2017 contest had 45 registered boats. Cash prizes were awarded for 1st-5th place, with tackle awarded for 6th-10th place. With the contest being held on the busiest day of the GH Salmon Festival and the weigh-in taking place at the GH Waterfront Stadium, a large crowd of spectators are in

attendance. This presents an opportunity for 'teachable' moments with discussions on invasive species, the health of the fishery, the economic value of the fishery and an opportunity to interact with representatives of Michigan Sea Grant and the US Fish and Wildlife Service as they gather data on the fish brought to the weigh-in.



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2018 Battle Creek Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information
January	6	Squirrel Blast Weigh In	Battle Creek
January	20	Ice Fishing Tournament	TBD
February	17	Ice Fishing Tournament	Gull Lake
February	24	St. Joe River Trout Quest	I-94 Boat Ramp
March	3	St. Joe River Chapter Challenge	Location pending
March	10	Swap Meet	Kalamazoo Eagles
March	17	Kalamazoo River Spring Steelhead	Allegan Dam
April	14	Lake Michigan Coho Blast	Benton Harbor
May	12	Lake Michigan Weigh 3 Trip Swap	Benton Harbor
June	1-2	Connie McGowan Invitational	(Captain must be a member) - Lake Erie
July	14	Portage Lake Pan Fish/Family Picnic	Vicksburg
August	4	Lake Michigan Memorial	South Haven
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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 River Tournaments –
 Ice Tournaments – Justin Kling 491-2980
 Lake Tournaments – Greg Peck 998-9407

2018 Grand Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information	Contact Info
January	1	Member Year Long Fishing contest	Jan 1 - November 30	rtwilson42@yahoo.com
January	1	Youth Fishing Contest	Jan 1- September 4	rtwilson42@yahoo.com
April	TBD	Placement of net pens	Roger Belter	rbelter@altelco.net
April	TBD	Spring meeting, program	Roger Belter	rbelter@altelco.net
July	28	Member Weeklong + fishing contest begins	July 28 - August 9	mjbelter@altelco.net
August	2	Sportsmen for Youth Fundraiser/ dinner		https://sportsmenforyouth.com/
August	9	Chapter picnic, weeklong fishing contest awards	Rycenga Park, Spring Lake Twp.	mjbelter@altelco.net
September	8	Sportsmen for Youth Day	Muskegon County Fairgrounds	https://sportsmenforyouth.com/
September	14-15	Grand Haven Salmon Festival	Grand Haven Waterfront/City Marina location	www.ghsalmonfest.com/
September	15	Salmon Festival KidZone activity area	Grand Haven Waterfront/City Marina location	www.ghsalmonfest.com/
September	15	GH Steelheaders - Salmon Festival Big Fish Contest - Tentative	Grand Haven Waterfront/City Marina location	www.ghsalmonfest.com/ mjbelter@altelco.net
November	30	Member Year Long Fishing contest ends		
December	TBD	Annual meeting, dinner, recognitions		

For more information on Grand Haven Steelheaders activities, contact:
 Roger Belter - 616-842-0877 or rogerbelter@gmail.com
 www.ghsteelheaders.com

2018 Grand Rapids Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information
January	8	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
January	20	Ice Fishing Contest	STC*
January	29	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
February	5	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
February	26	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
March	5	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
March	15-18	Ultimate Sports Show	DeVos Place
March	15-17	Ultimate Sports Show Fishing Contest	DeVos Place
March	26	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
March	31	Year Long Fish Contest Ends	
April	1	Year Long Fish Contest Starts	
April	2	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
April	7	Spring River Contest Grand & Muskegon Rivers and their Tributaries	STC*
April	30	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
May	7	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
May	19	Spring Big Lake	STC*
May	21	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
June	4	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
June	8-10	Lake Erie 3-Day Walleye Contest	
June	25	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
July	2	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
July	11	Chapter Family Picnic	6:00 PM Johnson Park Shelter House*
August	6	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
August	18	Fall Big Lake Salmon/Trout 2/1 Contest	STC*
August	27	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
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*

Continued...

2018 Grand Rapids Steelheader's Calendar of Events...continued

Month	Date	Event	Information
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
February	10-11	Ice Fishing on Saginaw Bay	Meet Sun. @ 1:00 p.m. at the end of Linwood Rd. to weigh in Sundays catch and register Saturdays catch. Lunch following at the Linwood Hotel for Pizza. Pappy's Tournament rules apply if fishing.
February	24	Big Manistee, Bear Creek	Call Mark Trudell 989-615-0481 for details on Big Manistee River events.
March	10	Big Manistee, Bear Creek	
March	24	Annual Auction Fund Raiser	Held at the VFW Hall, Midland MI. Preview at 11:00 a.m./ Auction at noon. Food Concession available.
April	28	Opening day of Walleye on the Tittabawassee River	Daybreak to 2:00 p.m. Weigh in at 3:00 p.m. Held at Don Brown's home with lunch to follow. 989-600-8455
May	12	Manistee	Salmon Outing 5:30 am - 1:00 pm
June	2	Sebewaing Harbor Marina	Walleye outing 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Bring a child for a great day of fun
June	23	Grindstone	Walleye outing 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
July	14	Manistee	Salmon outing 5:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
July	28	Ludington	Salmon outing 5:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
July	29	Ludington Day 2	Salmon outing 5:30 a.m. – noon
August	11	Ludington	Salmon outing 6:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
August	25	Manistee	Salmon outing 6:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
August	26	Manistee Day 2	Salmon outing 6:00 a.m. – noon
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

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

Board meetings: 6:00 pm / Membership meetings: 7:15 pm
 All Board/Membership meetings are held first Tuesday of each month with the exception of June, July and August. A raffle is held following all membership meetings. BRING A FRIEND! All membership meetings are open to the public. 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 Holland Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Location / Info
January	20	Panfish Challenge (Ice permitting)	Duck or Swan Lake TBD
February	22	Annual Dinner Banquet	Holland Fish & Game Club

Balance of 2018 calendar to be featured in the next issue of Great Lakes Sport Fishing News

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.

2018 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Chair
January	2	General Membership Meeting	
January	11-14	Ultimate Sports Fishing Show Showplace Novi	Jordan Pontoni/Marc Traver
January	20	Lake St Clair Ice Fishing Outing	Contact: Adam Trenz
January	26	Comedy Club Fundraiser (Friday night)	Contact: Karen Westphal
February	6	General Membership Meeting	
February	9-11	The Farm - River Fishing Tournament	Chair: Phil Bustos
March	1-4	OUTDOOR- RAMA Showplace Novi	Chair: Robert Grech/Chris Christoph
March	6	General Membership Meeting	
March	10	SPORTSMAN'S BANQUET – Burton Manor	Contact: MWS Board
March	15-18	Novi Boat Show Showplace, Novi	Chair: Jordan Pontoni/Chris Christoph
March	24	MI Steelhead Challenge Manistee River/Pier with DS/TCAS	Chair: Adam Trenz/Eric Braden pier
April	3	General Membership Meeting	
April	7	New Buffalo Coho Tournament	Chair: Dave Hutton/Dennis Cheshure
April	14	Detroit River/Lake Erie & St Clair Walleye Invitational	Chair: Denny Cheshure/Bill Gagnon
April	21	Brown Trout Tournament Ludington w TCAS	Chair: Eric Braden/Dave Hutton
April	21	Muskegon River Tournament	Chair: Phil Bustos
April	28	Brown Trout Tournament Manistee w TCAS	Chair: Zawacki/Ringer
May	1	General Membership Meeting	
May	5	TCAS Brown Trout Tourn. @ Frankfort w MWS	Chair: Richardson/McDonald
May	5	Kent Lake Blue Gill Kayak/Small boat	Chair: Mark Davis
May	12	Toledo Beach Memorial Walleye Tourn. & Vets	Chair: Larry Tabaka
May	19	Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament	Chair: Chris Thompson/Kruszewski
May	26	Kelley's Island Walleye Tournament w HV	Chair: Phil & Dennis Kelley
June	2	Kids Fishing Outing at Kensington Park	Chair: Brad Allan
June	5	General Membership Meeting	
June	9	Grand/Southhaven Salmon Pier Event	Chair: Eric Braden
June	16	Lake Erie Walleye Tournament - Sat w HV	Chair: Dennis Kelley/Jeff K
June	23	Rogers City Salmon Tournament	Chair: Jordan Pontoni
June	30	Walleye Tournament (Saginaw Bay or L. Erie)	Chair: Fabian Sepulveda

Continued...

2018 Metro West - Livonia ...continued

Month	Date	Event	Chair
July	6	Erieau Tournament - Erieau, Canada	Chair: Clyde Schoen
July	7	Erieau Tournament - Erieau, Canada	Chair: Ron Bellemore/Henry Nabors
July	7	Manistee River Clean-up Day	Chair: Roger Hinchcliff
July	14	Clinton River Clean-up Day	Chair: TBD/Need a leader!!!
July	19	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Thu w TCAS	Chair: Gale Frazee/Tom Abdelnour
July	21	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sat w TCAS/HV	Chair: Dennis Kelley
July	22	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sat w TCAS/HV	Chair: Dave Zawacki/Ted Ringer
August	7	General Membership Meeting	
August	4	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sat w TCAS	Chair: Henry Nabors/Bill Gagnon
August	5	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sun w TCAS	Chair: Marc Traver
August	11	Salmon Tournament – Frankfort w TCAS	Chair: Tom Hesch/Bill Dodge
August	14	Club Summer Picnic	Chair: Jim Robertson/Dave Zawacki
August	25	Holland Salmon Tournament	Chair: Larry Tabaka
September	4	General Membership Meeting	
September	8	Lake & River Tournament – Frankfort w/TCAS	Chair: M/D (MWS/TCAS) Hartrick/A Trenz
September	17	Captain/Crew/River Angler 2019 Calendar Mtg	Chair: Kelley/P. Bustos/Nabors/Grech
September	15	Manistee Pier Jamboree	Chair: Adam Trenz
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

Month	Date	Event
January	11	Board Meeting - Election of Officers
February	TBD	SHS Ice Tourney. Date determined based on ice conditions
	15	Board and Membership Meetings
	17	Tacklepalooza Swap Meet South Haven Moose Lodge
	17-18	Michigan Free Fishing Weekend
March	22	Board and Membership Meetings *week after GR Ultimate Sports Show
	22	Best Chance Fishing Seminar South Haven Moose Lodge
April	19	Board and Membership Meetings
	19	Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop South Haven Moose Lodge
May	5	Michigan City Tournament
May	12	St. Joe Tourney/SW Chapter Saturday
May	17	Board and Membership Meetings *prior to SHS Pro/Am
May	18-20	South Haven Tourney
May	26	Memorial Day Weekend Holiday
June	2	OPEN
June	9-10	SHS Ladies Tournament/Free Fishing Weekend
June	14	Board and Membership Meetings
June	16	Harborfest
June	23	OPEN
June	30	Independence Day Holiday
July	7	OPEN
July	14	OPEN
July	19	Board and Membership Meetings
July	21	OPEN
July	28	OPEN
August	11	SHS Fish Boil (Blueberry Festival Aug. 9-12)
August	16	Board and Membership Meetings
August	18	SHS Operation Injured Soldier/SH Salute to Veterans
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
January	11	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM
February	8	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM
March	8	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM
April	12	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM
May	10-12	Summer Challenge Tournament	
June	TBD	Kids Fishing Event	
June	14	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM
July	12	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM
August	24	Trolling with the Troops	
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
January	3	General Membership Meeting	
February	7	General Membership Meeting	
February	17	Long Lake Ice Fishing Tournament *	Roger Racine
February	24	Torch Lake or Lake Skegemog Ice Fishing Tournament *	Jared Krogel/Jim Heegeman
March	7	General Membership Meeting	
March	16-18	Michigan Hunting Fishing Expo	
April	4	General Membership Meeting	
April	21	MWS Brown Trout Tournament Ludington	
April	28	Torch Lake Salmon Tournament	Tim Potter/Howard Seaver
May	2	General Membership Meeting	
May	5	Brown Trout Tournament Frankfort	Carl MacDonald/Randy Richardson
May	19	Torch Lake Salmon Tournament	Tim Potter/Howard Seaver
June	2	Torch Lake Salmon Tournament	Joe Cruzen/Randy Richardson
	6	General Membership Meeting	
	30	Lake Skegemog/Elk Lake Tournament	Howard Seaver/Jim Heegeman
June 30 - July 7		2018 National Cherry Festival – NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING or Board Meeting	
July	14	Lake Charlevoix Tournament	Tim Potter/Joe Rhode
July	19, 21-22	MWS Salmon Tournament	Ludington
August	1	General Membership Meeting	
August	4,5	MWS Salmon Tournament	Manistee
August	11	MWS Salmon Tournament	Frankfort
August	18	Lake Bellaire Tournament	Tim Potter/Rich Wilks
August	25	Grand Traverse Bay Tournament (Elk Rapids)	Joe Cruzen/Joe Rhode
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.

2018 Thumb Chapter Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information	Location
Information TBD. Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries.				

2018 Thunderbay Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information
January	8	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
February	3	Annual Meeting/Dinner	4:00 PM
March	5	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
April	2	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
May	7	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
May	19	Alpena Tournament	6:00 AM
June	4	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
June	9	Presque Isle Tournament	6:00 AM
July	2	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
August	6	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
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

Contact rgoloch@comcast.net or dist24cm@aol.com for inquiries.

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way inland to the Platte River State Fish Hatchery, located four miles east of Honor. Anglers looking for less crowded banks will find good forestland access south of the hatchery (along with a campground located almost right across the street from the hatchery on US31).

The best chance to see winter steelhead on the Platte is in the stretch located below “the lower weir” located off Lake Michigan Road two miles northwest of M22. Trails to the water below the weir are numerous, but largely unmarked.

The other option is to head into the fray at places like Tippy Dam on the Manistee River and Homestead Dam on the Betsie River in Benzonia. Search Google for directions and camping options. What these places lack in seclusion, they more than make up for in the sheer number of fish. You won't typically see the fish as you often can on the crystal-clear waters of the Platte. But if anglers are present, you can be sure the fish are there, too. Miles of riverbank trail on both the Manistee and the Betsie offer great access to downstream fishing opportunity. It only depends on how far you're willing to walk.

First-timers will do well to hire a guide. A good guide with a riverboat brings ready-rigged tackle, can show you how to use it and can even put you right on top of holes and into steelhead, even if you come to the launch in the morning having never cast a fishing rod in your life.

Captain Ben Wolfe, Traverse Magazine's “Best of 2014” winner in the Charter Captain category, is also a topnotch steelhead angler who offers fly fishing and light spin tackle trips on the Manistee, Betsie, Platte, Pere Marquette and Au Sable Rivers. He is also the only guide permitted to fish the tailwaters of the Platte inside the boundaries of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Ben Wolfe guided us on our day on the river.

Wolfe Outfitters can direct you to lodging opportunities at Crystal Mountain Resort or one of his other lodging partners. To check out his full-range of fishing services, go to wolfeoutfitters.com. There you'll also find his regularly updated fishing blog/report that gives advice throughout the year on what rivers are producing and what lure/bait combos Wolfe and his team of guides are using to bring fish to the bank and boat.

By far the easiest way to catch a winter steelhead is floating dime-sized spawn bags with a spinning or “noodle” rod with a length of eight to 10 feet. When fishing from the bank, the longer rod allows for lon-

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- Smallmouth Trout

2018 White River Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information
January	4	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
February	1	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
March	1	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
April	5	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
May	4	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
June	7	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
July		No meeting	
August	2	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
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

Contact whpollock@netzero.net for inquiries.



**Michigan Free Fishing Weekend
February 17 & 18, 2018**

Two days twice a year, families and friends can enjoy one of Michigan's premiere outdoor activities, Michigan Fishing, for FREE!

The 2018 Free Fishing Weekends are scheduled for this winter: February 17 & 18 and this summer: June 9 & 10.

All fishing license fees will be waived for two days. Residents and out-of-state visitors may enjoy fishing on both inland and Great Lakes' waters for all species of fish. All fishing regulations will still apply.

For many, the annual Free Fishing Weekend has become a tradition - a time

to get together and have some fishing fun. While some may find time to reflect while fishing, there are no limits to variations on a great theme! Experienced anglers who offer a child or young adult the chance to take their first fishing trip can provide a rewarding experience for all. People who fish tend to understand the natural aquatic network of plants and animals that help to sustain fish as well as the regulations that govern fishing in Michigan.

Research shows that young people today do not have access to fishing opportunities that were enjoyed by generations before

them. Some of the reasons: living in urban or suburban areas where fishing access is not readily available, competition for time by an ever-increasing schedule of special activities and too little time for unstructured leisure.

Michigan offers some of the finest freshwater fishing in the world, with more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, more than 11,000 inland lakes and tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams.

So grab a rod and your family and friends and let's go fishing!

“GLMRIS”

Continued from page 30

- Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.)
- The Bass Federation of Michigan
- Bush Lake Chapter Izaak Walton League of America
- Cass County Chapter of the Minnesota Izaak Walton League of America
- Columbiana County Federation of Conservation Clubs (OH) Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
- Conservation Federation of Missouri
- Ducks Unlimited
- Fly Fishers International
- Fishing League Worldwide
- Great Lakes Council of Fly Fishers International
- Hoosier Coho Club
- Indiana Wildlife Federation
- Iowa Wildlife Federation
- Izaak Walton League of America
- Lake Erie Charter Boat Association
- Marine Retailers of the Americas
- Michigan B.A.S.S. Nation
- Michigan Chapter, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association
- Michigan Trout Unlimited
- Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- Minnesota Chapter, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Minnesota Conservation Federation
- Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of America
- Minnesota Trout Unlimited
- Montmorency County Conservation Club (MI)
- National Professional Anglers Association
- National Wildlife Federation
- New York Trout Unlimited
- Northwest Indiana Steelheaders
- Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
- Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation
- Ohio Conservation Federation
- Ohio Council of Trout Unlimited
- Owatana Chapter of Izaak Walton League of American (MN)
- Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited
- Silvertip Productions (Ohio) Trout Unlimited
- W.J. McCabe (Duluth) Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America
- Wabasha Chapter, MN Division, Izaak Walton League of America
- Wild Rivers Chapter, Trout Unlimited (WI)
- Wisconsin Chapter, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
- Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

“Better Person”

Continued from page 15

and Fishing Foundation and the Outdoor Foundation. But overall, fishing offers a way to cut back on screen time. “It gives us a chance to unplug from daily lives and plug into something completely natural,” Superstein says. “We can then recharge our batteries in a natural way.”

Interested in taking up the sport yourself? So you're ready to feast on a fresh catch. Luckily, it's easier to start fishing than you may think. We talked to an expert to find the best tips for beginner fly fishers:

First, get rid of the misconceptions. Contrary to popular belief, fly fishing isn't only done for trout in mountain streams. According to Superstein, you can actually do it in saltwater, lakes, ponds and rivers.

Invest in a starter kit. If you're a total newbie, look into buying a starter kit that includes a rod, reel, line and flies. Some even come with the necessary knots already tied. And don't feel like you have to spend a

fortune, Superstein says. “Spending more money on gear doesn't necessarily mean you're going to catch more fish.”

Ask the experts. From weather to season to type of fish, there are so many variables to take into account that Superstein cautions against sticking to any hard and fast rules for catching more. Instead, check with people who know the area. Ask fellow boaters, workers at the bait shop or members of local fishing clubs for the best spots to fish and the best type of bait or fly to use.

Explore the waters close to home. There's no need to venture into the depths of the woods or up a mountain to a small trout stream. Fishing is likely more accessible than you think. You can fish in the heart of downtown Chicago or on the Hudson River in New York City and still get the benefits of nature while living in an urban setting, Superstein says.

Go whenever you can. While some only fish in the early morning and others swear by the first thaw of

spring, Superstein warns against letting these restrictions hold you back. If you want to fish, go fish.

“To quote my father,” she says. “‘The best time to fish is whenever you can,’ because for the most part, it's

not about the fish, it's about getting out on the water.”



Photos top left, right and bottom: by Todd Zawistoski, Traverse Magazine

“Winter Tips”

Continued from page 34

ger casts and lighter presentation. The longer rod also gives you the option of using the lightest line possible (anywhere from six to 10-pound)—important when fishing line-shy steelhead in shallow, gin-clear Michigan rivers in winter.

The light-line-longer-rod approach may seem counterintuitive when faced with such a powerful fish, but the light line gives you greater reel capacity. With a good drag and ample room to play a fish, the longer rod gives you the necessary leverage to play the fish on ultra-thin line. For what it's worth, the best steelheader I ever met favored a 12-foot rod with 4-pound monofilament when fishing the banks of the Platte and the Bet-sie. He could reach more fishy-looking water and always hooked more fish than others on the bank using shorter, more powerful rods and heavy line. And I can only think of a handful of times I ever saw him lose a fish.

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