



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

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Beautiful Arctic Grayling.
Photo from journal.amberjack.com,
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U.S. House Passes Major Wildlife Conservation Spending Bill

A bill to conserve endangered species — from the red-cockaded woodpecker to the snuffbox mussel — was passed by the U.S. House in a 231-to-190 vote.

By Laura Benshoff

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) would create an annual fund of more than \$1.3 billion, given to states, territories, and tribal nations for wildlife conservation on the ground. While threatened species have been defined and protected under the Endangered Species Act since 1973, that law does not

provide robust funding to proactively maintain their numbers. The effort comes as scientists and international organizations sound the alarm about accelerating species decline. "Too many people don't realize ... that roughly one-third of our wildlife is at increased risk of extinction," said lead House sponsor Debbie Dingell, a Demo-

crat from Michigan, echoing a recent study about climate change. A bear in Arlington is the last local wildlife sighting. Should we be worried? In the United States, there are more than 1,600 endangered or threatened species, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife "RAWA" Continued on page 5

Sportfishing Groups Submit Motion to Intervene in Tribal Negotiations

By Dennis Eade, GLSFN

The Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources ("CPMR") is a nonprofit organization that represents numerous Michigan-based fishing, boating and conservancy groups. MSSFA has been a member of the CPMR from its beginning in order to protect the interests of recreational fishermen in negotiations with five Michigan tribes, the State and the federal government over a Consent Decree that oversees the rights of all parties, including the people of the State of Michigan, to fish a portion of the waters and resources of the Great Lakes subject to a treaty with five tribes. Since 1985, the relationship between the State



Bay Mills Tribal Fisherman, Jacques LeBlanc Sr.

and its recreational fishery and the five tribes has been steadily improving and is vastly better than years ago. Significantly, the status quo for the last 22 years, the 2000 Consent Decree has maintained a roughly 50-50 allocation of the fishery through a zone approach that balances recreational fishing and commercial fishing interests by creating recreational and commercial fishing zones. It also "CPMR" Continued on page 7

How Important is Fishing Line?

By Roger Hinchcliff

How vital is the fishing line? That's the question! Many will say presentation, hook or lure, or even the rod. Not going to argue all those things are essential to your success. But the line has many effects on presentation, and without the proper presentation there are no bites. Like it or not, the line and lure combination must come together to catch fish. It truly is a critical link to your success. Despite what most people think, fish can see your fishing line. That's a proven scientific fact that lines can be

seen. Now, does a fish know what they see? Probably not, nor do they understand what the line is. What's essential is the lure being presented naturally or displaying characteristics and size and movements as something they are currently feeding on as an available food source. Your job is to fool the fish into biting even if they are not in the mood. A larger diameter line, when cast, creates a disturbance in the water. As the line is reeled back or is trolled through the water column, it can make a significant disturbance,

thus creating a negative response from the fish, especially if they are not in the mood. In my opinion, this disturbance or being able to see it lets the fish know of your presence. This is why the presentation has to be good enough or so good that you fool the fish and not ignore that genetic response to eat it. If you think about a fly

"Fishing Line" Continued on page 8



Search groups for MSSFA



Author Roger Hinchcliff
with a trophy
Smallmouth bass

The Quality of Fishing Reflects the Quality of Living!



The Great Embrace



A pioneer in the field of ballast treatment technology, Allegra Cangelosi, M.S. '87, (left) is helping to keep invasive species out of the Great Lakes.

Shortly after graduating from MSU with a master's in resource development, Allegra Cangelosi, '87, was tasked with addressing an intricate problem threatening the Great Lakes ecosystem—aquatic invasive species. Cangelosi recalls an explosion of the Eurasian ruffe (a member of the perch family) in Duluth-Superior Harbor as the first warning of just how detrimental invasive species could be to the region.

With no natural predators and a faster maturation cycle, the ruffe out-competed native fish species for food and habitat, leaving them reeling. The region was also victim to many additional invasive species, which were being routinely transported to the Great Lakes from overseas in the ballast water of cargo ships. Cangelosi was drawn to the issue of invaders. "It wasn't just one state's problem, one city's problem," she says. "It was about a region caring for a shared resource."

Then working for former Ohio Sen. John Glenn

as the director of the bipartisan Senate Great Lakes Task Force, Cangelosi had to figure out how to limit the introduction of critters from commercial shipping vessels' ballast water. For our land-dwelling audience, ballast water is the extra weight added to a ship after it unloads its cargo. That counterweight is what keeps them stable at sea. In commercial vessels, ballast water can reach millions of liters, and when you're pulling in water from your destination, you're also sucking up the fauna that lives there. Upon arrival to the Great Lakes, vessels dumped their ballast water—and stow-aways—before loading their next shipments. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, that practice introduced 30% of the invasive species to the Great Lakes.

Cangelosi's team worked to implement legislation that would require ships to exchange ballast before entering the Great Lakes. It wasn't all smooth-sailing; Cangelosi

describes "incredible skepticism within the maritime industry. That if you exchange your ballast water, the ship will start bobbing like a cork, it'll tip over. It's not structurally made for that."

With the threat of closing the St. Lawrence Seaway—the connector between the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes—the commercial shipping industry got creative with a method for exchanging

ballast while plying on the high seas. New water came in while old water went out, dumping the freshwater critters into salty seawater where they were less likely to thrive.

Ballast exchange had issues. The method burned more fuel and could only be safely performed when sea conditions were right. This pushed Cangelosi into researching onboard ballast treatment, a prospect that was also met with skepti-

cism. Cangelosi was particularly interested in filtration as it would minimize additional chemical treatment. In 1997, with help from the Great Lakes Protection Fund, Cangelosi's Great Lakes-based team tested an onboard filtration system on the Canadian Laker MV Algonorth, proving the method was effective. That research was critical in supporting the advent of national and international policies directing ships to

treat ballast water.

In 2021, the Great Lakes Protection Fund recognized Cangelosi's work with the Great Lakes Leadership Award. As a senior researcher at Penn State Berrend, she continues to advocate for the region. "We can't take [the Great Lakes] for granted," she says. "We have to actively learn how to take care of them or we'll lose them. We have to embrace the Great Lakes."

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The proposed state supplemental budget appropriation which contains \$30 million for Fish Hatchery Infrastructure, \$4 million to replace the RV Steelheader with a new state of the art research vessel and \$12.4 million to replace equipment within the entire department (Forestry, Parks, Law, Fish, and Wildlife) and another \$652,000 to hire four staff for the Tribal Coordination Unit was passed in the House and Senate on July 1, 2022! This is a monumental victory for us sport fishermen since it sets us up for success for decades to come.

The tribal negotiations are continuing with in person meetings and the CPMR Amici group has been in contact with the tribes through their respective attorneys hoping to resolve conflicts with sport fishing anglers in a final agreement. The state of

MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dennis Eade

Michigan representatives are not being as forthcoming as we had hoped with involving the sport angling community. The mayor of Ludington has evidently sent a letter to the MDNR Director critical of the lack of transparency in the negotiations process that was not well received. Our attorneys are participating within the guidelines of the "Friend of the Court" requirements. They have been having side bar meetings with the tribes expressing our concerns and the tribes seem to be listening. The state seems focused on getting to an agreement within the current extension period.

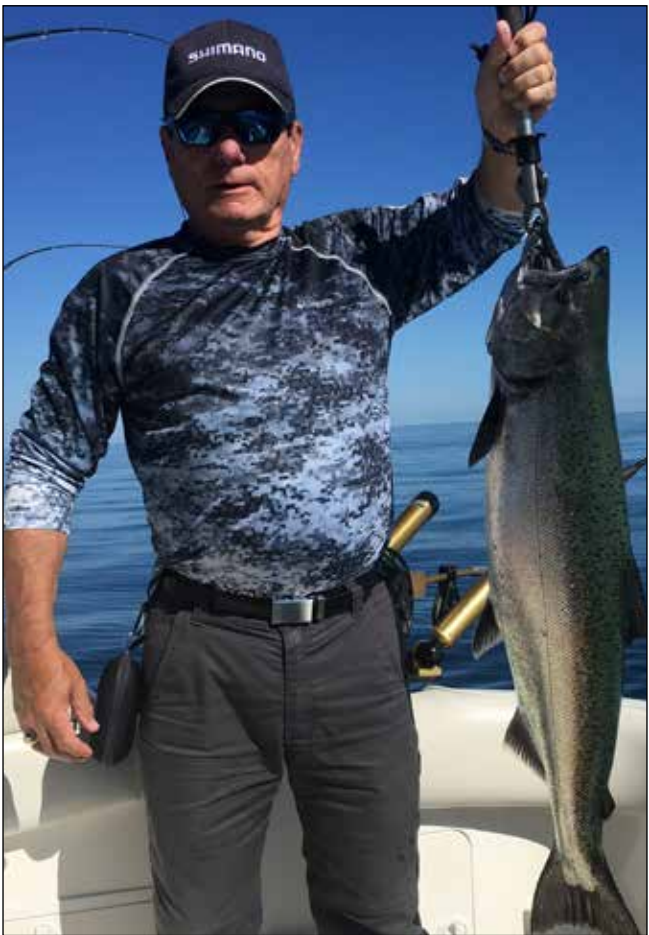
A bill to conserve endangered species — from the red-cockaded woodpecker to the snuffbox mussel — was passed by the U.S. House in a 231-to-190 vote on Tuesday, June 14, 2022. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) would create an annual fund of more than \$1.3 billion, given to

states, territories, and tribal nations for wildlife conservation on the ground. If passed in the U.S. Senate, the bill will bring \$27 million dollars into the state of Michigan MDNR budget over the next few years which will be used to hire additional biologists and free up both time and funding for the other fishery division projects going forward.

There has been an alewife die off in the Great Lakes but it isn't necessarily a bad thing. It indicates that we have more alewife completing their life cycle than we have previously estimated. Given the number of smaller salmon being caught this year, it bodes well for big lake fishing in the coming years. Steelhead fishing in rivers and streams this spring and early summer was exceptionally good and we did not get serious blow back as a result of the change in steelhead bag limit (one fish daily bag limit) on the eleven streams that were affected

by the NRC's amendment to the fish order. I am getting some complaints from anglers about lake trout abundance and having to go much deeper to catch them. I am sure Jay Wesley and Randy Claremont are hearing about it as well and hopefully it will be addressed in stocking scenarios next year. Charter fishermen are being impacted by the rising cost of fuel and blow days. Trips are down by 20% on average.

All tax filings for the association were completed in May and submitted to the IRS by our CPA. As an association we need to continue to recruit new members so please invite a friend, relative or neighbor to your chapters next meeting or event. Fishing is sport enjoyed even more with friends and family — let's take advantage of it! License sales overall are slightly down in 2022 after a record year in 2021. Baby-Bloomers are still the highest demographic with 223,000 licenses sold



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

to age 55+ anglers. The MDNR will be announcing a new mobile app shortly on which you can store your license on your phone, buy a license, do auto renew-

als, participate in harvest reporting, etc. Stay tuned for more on this innovative development coming from the marketing and outreach division.



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

The Consent Decree negotiations have been dragging on for the last four years with the five tribes of Michigan intent on gaining significant commercial fishing advantages over the sportfishermen who they share the waters of the Treaty of 1836. Basically, those near shore waters from north of Grand Haven, MI around the northern lower peninsula eastward to

Rogers City. No one contests the rights conferred by the Treaty of 1836, but those rights are not unlimited. The resources of the Great Lakes covered by the treaty are shared roughly equally between those with rights under the treaty and the citizens of the state of Michigan. And the biological principles underpinning the existing 2000 Consent Decree are now being ig-

MSSFA PRESIDENT

Tim Stegeman

nored by the parties.

In my view this debacle originated because the State of Michigan failed to put a team of negotiators together who actually knew how to negotiate. Good biologists and administrators, but not negotiators. I am a business man and I can tell you from experience that if you don't know how to demand what you need to succeed in business and be willing to compromise only when it's the last resort you won't remain in business

very long. The fishery is at a stress level we have never experienced before with quagga mussels attacking the food web and changes in the environment affecting sustainability.

Then there is ineptitude the State has shown in not considering the input of the CPMR representatives who were there to offer strategies and approaches to gaining agreement on biological factors and social issues that would support a fair and equitable

agreement. There is a very good reason why the phrase "good cop/bad cop" or the situation in which two people try to achieve something together, by one of them being friendly and pleasant and the other using threats or force works in negotiations. It works because social unrest could easily result from an agreement that creates bitterness and deviousness. After reviewing the available options going forward, Dennis and I decided to have the CPMR



file a motion to intervene in the negotiations, which basically means to request the judge to allow us to participate directly and have the ability to defend and assert the rights of recreational users for the enjoyment of the Great Lakes waters and its resources. We will keep you advised as to the court's decision.



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“RAWA”
Continued from page 1

Service, but state agencies have identified more than 7 times that number in need of conservation assistance in their wildlife action plans.

“The bottom line is, when we save wildlife, we save for ourselves,” said

Collin O’Mara, CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, which supports the bill. He said species loss threatens everything from the insects that pollinate plants in the food chain, to sea life that helps to insulate coastlines from storm surge.

The bill would amend a 1937 law, the Pittman-Robertson Act, which was passed in response to dwindling game and waterfowl species. That law allows states to tax hunting supplies to pay for wildlife and habitat restoration, but that money is not enough to do the same for non-game species, according to the Pew Charitable Trusts.

The act would also invest more in conservation than the existing program for threatened non-game species, called the State Wildlife Grant Program, which awarded states a total of \$56 million this year.

One major stumbling block remains: how to pay for this investment.

Supporters continue to hash out the details, while critics such as Rep. Bruce Westermann (R-AR) called the current draft “regretably flawed” because it would create a new permanent spending program. He urged members to vote against it.

The bill would require that 15% of all conservation money go to restoring populations of federally-listed endangered species.

The White House released a statement saying it “strongly supports” the goals of the bill.

Companion legislation in the Senate has 16 GOP co-sponsors.



**Legislative
Action Alert**

Take Action Now!

The administration’s proposed MDNR’S budget for the coming year is a once in a lifetime opportunity to finally modernize the aging DNR hatcheries and other infrastructure along with replacing the fifty four year old Research Vessel, the R/V Steelhead. These improvements will increase efficiency and productivity along with reducing energy costs. Comprehensive upgrades to the six hatcheries and survey equipment have not been done in decades. An overview of the proposal improvements are covered in a separate article.

The budget recommendations will be reviewed by both the State House and Senate Appropriation Committees. The House Appropriation Committee is chaired by Representative Tom Albert and the Senate Appropriations Committee is Chaired by Jim Stamas. You are encouraged to contact your state legislators to support the proposed budget and submit comments to both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Both committees will be scheduling hearings to review the budget so for your convenience, links are included below for you to be notified of future Appropriation Committee hearings. Also for your convenience, are links (QR codes) to contact information for the State Senators and Representatives.

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THE MICHIGAN STEELHEAD & SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE QUALITY OF FISHING REFLECTS THE QUALITY OF LIVING!

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

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

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

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

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

THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS (GLSFN)

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

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

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

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

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

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Southwestern(Saint Joseph) www.swmisteelheaders.com

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Issue	Deadline	Print Date
1	12/09/21	01/03/22
2	02/11/22	03/02/22
3	04/15/22	05/04/22
4	06/15/22	07/06/22
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6	10/07/22	10/31/22

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

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“CPMR”
Continued from page 1

created a structure for the usage, times and places of gear types and effort. Finally, it protected Great Lakes spawning areas and refuges.

The 2000 Consent Decree has continued in existence by order of the Court for the last two years. During this time, the parties have been negotiating toward a new decree. Over the last 3 months, the Coalition and the parties have increased their time and effort on a new agreement. The Coalition has been allowed

to be present in this process but our participation has been significantly limited. We have not enjoyed the same cooperative relationship with the State as we have had in the past. Over the past two years, our relationship with the State has deteriorated, so much so, that in the past two months involving the most intense negotiations between the parties, the Coalition has been shut-out of the process at times and our efforts to consult with or to discuss strategies and approaches have been rejected or on some occasions, our efforts have been undermined.

Our relationship with the State has gotten to the point that the Coalition believes that the Great Lakes fishery resources are threatened. We have a serious concern that sound biological principles are not being followed and the past sharing of the fishery at a roughly 50-50 allocation is being abandoned. This risks undoing the terms that have allowed tribal commercial and state recreational fisheries to coexist for decades. On this basis the Coalition submitted a request to the Court in support of a Motion to Intervene. A brief also filed with the

Court also says, “The Intervenor seeks intervention to protect the natural resources of the state of Michigan and to defend and assert the rights of recreational users of the Great Lakes to their full and fair enjoyment of the natural resources that the Great Lakes provide to the residents and visitors to those waters and resources.”

Judge Paul L. Maloney of the United States District Court, Federal District of West Michigan, will rule on the motion. We’ll let you know how it comes out.

Metro-West Steelheaders’
American Heritage Girls Fishing Clinic

By Karen Westphal

I was recruited about a year and a half ago by our Metro-West Steelheaders past president Eric Braden, to teach a fishing class to the American Heritage girls club. Due to covid concerns it was postponed until this year, May 14th. Originally it was to be about 20 girls, ages 6 to 12. I was really looking forward to getting involved with this venture. Just last month, I was informed that the group had grown to about 50 girls! Still up for the challenge, I recruited some help from some friends I have fished with in the past, along with our very own knot tying expert Mark Davis and Terri Davis (not related), another MetroWest member who offered to help.

We had a beautiful day working with these girls. We took them in shifts of 12 to 15 girls. We started with the basics, including knot tying and identifying the different fish they were likely to catch at Independence Oaks Park up near Clarkston.

We taught casting and how to bait a hook, then each girl got to try their hand at fishing. Several fish were caught, mostly sunfish and a few largemouth bass. Unfortunately, fishing time was limited, and the girls who didn’t catch any fish were disappointed. We dried some

tears and moved on to the next group.

I lost count of the numbers, but all told it wasn’t a bad day on the lake. Lots of happy girls (who caught fish), and a few sad ones who didn’t. We got the job done with teamwork and lots of laughs!

Special thanks to my friends Lisa Obinour, Pam Morrison, and Pam Sutton, along with Mark Davis and Terri Davis.

A big shout out to fellow MetroWest members Jim Robertson and Ron Witte for prepping rods,

along with Bob Olari, the Traver Brothers and all the others who donated rods!! Thanks to Gary Towns who made great suggestions on how to pull this off. Special thanks to Bob Thomas and my friend Ace Devillez for donating money for the cause, which covered bobbers, split shot, snelled hooks and snap swivels.

Dicks sporting goods and Dunham’s donated Michigan fishing guides. My Coworker Brooke

“Clinic”
Continued on page 8



Karen Westphal identifies Rock bass

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“Clinic”

Continued from page 7

stuffed all the goodie bags, that was a big help!!
I should also mention Rachael Korn from the American Heritage girls club, who reached out to Metro West for our help. She was a trooper in organizing the groups and the overall logistics for the event. It was truly a group

effort! It was a success because of all the help! Thanks again to all who gave time, equipment, and money to support this project! I am truly honored to be a part of MetroWest Steelheaders fishing club! Wishing you all tight lines!



Right: MetroWest Steelheader Leaders of the Fishing Clinic

Below: AmericanHeritage Girls Club



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“Fishing Line”
Continued from page 1

fisherman presenting a dry fly on top of the water or a float fisherman presenting a bait, the current speed is affected by the line’s drag on top or below the water surface. Therefore, you are causing the rejection by the fish.

Remember, someone else could have spooked that fish or even caught it and released it before you. They are now educating the fish and putting it on high alert before you get there. That’s why I often say an angler is fishing for overfished fish. Certain fish species have different personality traits depending on the species. Some fish are bolder, and some are shy.

I will note that different fish species respond differently to lures and baits depending on their sensory levels and the ambient conditions, such as water clarity, sky, sunlight, etc.

In my opinion, clear conditions cause most fish species to be more nervous and cautious. But, on the other hand, fish are more investigative and apt to strike when dealing with darker conditions. Hence, why low light periods be the best fishing sometimes, such as mornings or evenings, catch my drift?

So, when I fish in high sun and clear conditions, I prefer to go deeper or near cover or structure that may be slightly darker, giving the angler an edge. I know I think way too much about these things. Maybe so, but when you think about it, it makes total sense and will help you catch more fish.

The type of line being used can affect the lure. The larger the diameter of

“Fishing Line”
Continued on page 15



Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Bird Die-Off in Muskegon Park Likely Avian Flu

By Byron Tollefson

The state believes that avian flu was the cause of the deaths of dozens of cormorants at Dune Harbor Park near Muskegon.

Megan Moriarty, a wildlife disease specialist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, told News 8 Friday that wildlife disease biologists collected four birds from the park in Norton Shores a couple of weeks ago. They were brought to the DNR's wildlife disease lab, where samples were collected and submitted to the diagnostic lab.

Earlier this week, the DNR sent the samples to a national laboratory in Ames, Iowa. On Friday, the DNR received confirmation one of the birds had highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

Another bird had tested negative for bird flu.

Still, Moriarty said it's "highly likely the outbreak is due to the virus."

"The fact we've had one positive animal of the two we've tested, I think it's highly likely this outbreak

is due to HPAI," Moriarty said. "There have been other outbreaks of mortality events of cormorants and Caspian terns and gulls as well that have also tested positive for HPAI and have had relatively large numbers of die-offs."

"Given those circumstances, plus our positive tests, plus the fact we know HPAI is circulating in wild birds in Michigan and has been for the past several months, I think it's highly likely the outbreak is due to this virus," she continued.

In early June, a News 8 viewer, Jodie Diehl, reported a growing number of bird deaths at the park. She had found more than a dozen dead cormorants scattered for miles surrounding the lake. She also found several birds that were in the process of dying.

"They were just hanging on," Diehl said at the time. "Their necks were wobbling. They were just swimming on the shoreline. Eyes looked kind of cloudy. They weren't well."

News 8 went to the park on June 4 and found three dead birds within 100



Photo Credit: WoodTV.com video screenshot, Dune Harbor Park

yards. News 8 alerted the DNR and the department ordered tests.

Based on calls received from the public, Moriarty believes at least 40 cormorants had died as of Friday.

Dune Harbor Park was partially opened to the public in March. The DNR is not recommending it be closed, but the department says people shouldn't touch the birds.

"Our message with the DNR has been to limit interactions between the general public and direct contact with wild birds and wildlife in general," Moriarty said. "Particularly if sick or dead birds are found, we certain-

ly don't recommend people handling them, picking them up.

"People should really not be handling any sick or dead birds," she said. "That is the riskiest activity that someone could do, really."

As long as people don't touch the birds, the DNR does not believe there is any danger to the public or those who have been to the park.

"People are susceptible although the risk is low," Moriarty said. "Part of what keeps that risk low is maintaining some distance between yourself and sick or dead wild birds."

"The risk is low as long as people are using common-sense," Moriarty con-

cluded.

The DNR is continuing to urge people to report any sightings of dead or sick birds to the Eyes in the Field website.

"That data can really help track the movement of this disease in wild populations," Moriarty said.

Moriarty said the DNR doesn't plan to euthanize the rest of the birds in the park. In May, tens of thousands of turkeys at a Muskegon County farm that had an avian flu outbreak were killed to prevent the spread of the illness.

"In the wild environment, it's really not fruitful and not something we have an interest in doing mostly because it won't

do much to stop the spread and we want to give birds a chance," Moriarty said. "The best thing to do is to have people maintain their distance."

Diehl, who previously told News 8 about the dying birds, said she has seen hundreds of cormorants gathered on an island at Dune Harbor Park. Moriarty said behavior like that makes cormorants particularly susceptible to bird flu.

"Any time that a large number of birds congregate, that just gives an opportunity for this virus to spread amongst them. Unfortunately, there's a lot of virus out there in the wild bird population right now."

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Summertime Crappies


By Bob Jensen

Crappies are one of the most popular fish species across North America. Because they're usually a schooling fish, when you find them action can be fast. They'll respond to a variety of presentations,


and they're great on the table. And according to Mr. Crappie Wally Marshall, crappie fishing in many areas is getting better because of regulations that protect the fish a bit. In some areas a crappie has to be ten inches to keep, in other areas they must be twelve inches



before you can take them home. No doubt, crappies deserve some attention in the summer. Following are some ways that you can give them that attention. Earlier in the year, anglers were chasing crappies in shallow water where they were spawning. As we get

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Mr. Crappie with a summertime friend.

into the summer months, crappies will move out of the shallows. If we want to keep catching them, we need to fish where they are. In different bodies of water, they can be found in different places. In the spring when the crappies were shallow, oftentimes you could see them. Many anglers just cruised the shallows looking for slab-sided fish. When one is spotted, a bait is put near it. After it's

caught, you move along to the next one. In the next few months, you're probably not going to be able to locate them with your eyes, but in some situations you can see where they might be, such as under docks. In other situations a sonar unit will reveal the brushpiles that they'll be over and around. And, in some lakes they'll head to the basin of the lake and spend the summer and fall there.

One of Mr. Crappie's favorite ways to catch crappies in the summer is by "shooting" a jig under a dock. "Shooting" is usually done with a sixteenth ounce jig tipped with plastic and fished on a spinning rod. Hold the jig between your thumb and forefinger. Open the bail on the reel, pull the jig back so the rod loads, then release the jig so it "shoots" under the dock. This requires some practice, but you'll quickly get the hang of it. Shoot the jig into the shaded areas of a dock that's in deeper water and you'll quickly learn if there are crappies present. A Shadpole plastic works well for this technique because it skips well. It will skip several times on the surface before it sinks, which allows it to get farther into the shade. Mr. Crappie has some videos on the internet that show how to shoot a jig.

In other lakes and especially reservoirs, summertime crappies will be found near sunken brushpiles and flooded timber. Determine

how far down the top of the brushpile or timber is, then swim a jig over the top of it. Again, a jig/plastic combo will work well, but if the fish are being stubborn, try a hook or a jig with a live minnow under a slip-bobber. If the crappies don't eat that, try another spot. In many natural lakes across the Midwest, crappies will spend much of the summer along deep weed edges or they might move to deeper water. Those deeper areas can be points extending from the shoreline, sunken islands, or just the basin of the lake. If there appears to be no bottom structure that's holding the fish, they're probably there because that's where their food is. In the summer, fish of any species will be wherever food is available. Again, for most crappie anglers, a jig/plastic will be the first choice of presentation, a jig/minnow will be tried if the fish are finicky. In deeper water, go with an eighth ounce jig, and when you catch one, get your bait back down to the fish as quickly as possible. Last thing: As is usually the case, Mr. Crappie suggests a natural looking plastic for clear water and brighter colors in stained water. Hot Chicken dot com and Refrigerator White are two of his go-to colors. For the next few weeks, if you put this set-up near a crappie in the summer, your chances of getting bit are very good.

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Board with Salmon

Mike Gnatkowski,
Great Lakes Angler

The first in-line planer board I saw was after a group of Ludington, MI charter captains made a trip across Lake Michigan to fish a tournament in Wisconsin. They returned with a device called a Yellow Bird. It was the first commercially made planer that I could ever recall seeing. It was made by a couple of Sheboygan, WI entrepreneurs Ken Stegemeyer and Eddie Vasselos. Yellow Birds are still manufactured today although the company has changed hands several times. www.yellowbirdproducts.com

The original Yellow Bird planers were made of hard Styrofoam and came in port and starboard versions. The planers worked well for pulling spoons and crankbaits and performed exactly as they were designed. Their function was to pull the lure out away from the boat to cover more water and get the lure in front of fish that weren't spooked by the boat. The planers only required a rod holder and a rod and were much less complicated and trouble than full-sized planer boards.

Ironically, about the same time the Yellow Birds hit the market was when anglers discovered the mother lode of steelhead in the middle of Lake Michigan. Curious anglers began to explore the extreme depths of Lake Michigan and found places current, temperature breaks and scum lines converged and where the entire lake's population of rainbows spent the summer.

The Yellow Bird side planers were ideally suited

for presenting the smaller spoons and crankbaits to steelheads cruising the surface in hundreds of feet of water. The steelhead would crush lures trailing the Yellow Birds and I can remember having five recalcitrant rainbows cavorting across the surface at one time. Because of the Yellow Birds, the steelhead grounds in the center of Lake Michigan were referred to as "Bird Land" by charter captains.

At the same time brown trout numbers were flourishing at ports around the Great Lakes. Fishing for brown trout was a ritual in the spring. Anglers would target the browns from break walls and small boats. The browns would cruise the shallows and in-line boards were perfect for tempting the trout.

Eventually the salmon numbers on Lake Michigan rebounded and recreational anglers and charter boats stayed closer to shore working structure and shallower depths with more traditional tackle and saving on gas. Lead-core line experienced a resurgence. Captains rediscovered the action and sinking motion lead core imparted to a lure couldn't be duplicated in any other way.

My favorite in-line planer for targeting brown trout was a Yeck in-line planer made by Yeck Lures (<http://fishyecklures.com>). The hard plastic board was lightweight, cut the waves unlike any other board, was reversible and came with a jettison release that produced sure hook-ups. For whatever reason, the spring brown trout fishing in Michigan has all but disappeared, but the Yeck boards still work great for a variety of applications including

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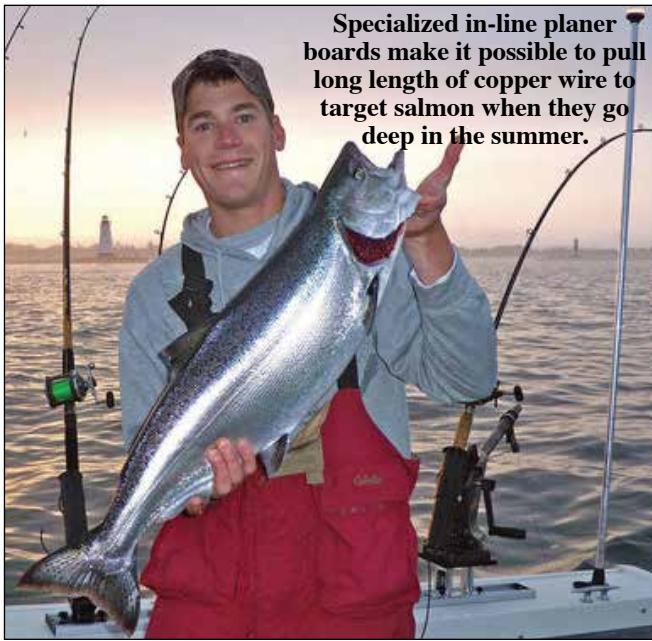






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Specialized in-line planer boards make it possible to pull long length of copper wire to target salmon when they go deep in the summer.

walleye. Initially, anglers would run a couple of core rods off the transom of the boat, but captains quickly figured out that if two were good, more would be even better. A great way of facilitating that was to use in-line planer boards, but it would take a new kind of board to accomplish the feat.

Off Shore Tackle planer boards hit the market in 1993-94. "The PWT was just starting to hold tournaments on big-water destinations," said Off Shore Tackle (www.offshoretackle.com) president Bruce DeShano. "It was a natural for us to come out with a board the pros could use for trolling." Since then the iconic yellow boards have become a staple for walleye anglers.

Off Shore's OR-12 board would easily pull anything a walleye angler would want to use. The board has pinch-pad clips on each end and a unique flag system to detect bites. The OR-12 board would pull moderate lengths of lead core and snap weights, but a 10-color lead core caused the board pulled too far back. So DeShano went back to the drawing board.

"Board"
Continued on page 13

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“Board”

Continued from page 12

The result was the Off Shore Tackle OR37L SST Pro Mag Planer.

“The Off Shore Tackle OR37 SST Pro Mag Planer is twice the size of the OR-12 and is thicker, deeper and more buoyant. The OR-37 will easily pull a 2-pound weight or 600 feet of copper,” claimed DeShano. “If you’re using a shorter cores or 150 to 200 feet of copper the OR-12 planer will work perfectly fine. When you start using longer lengths of copper



The requirements of boards used for walleye fishing are very different from those used for trout and salmon.

the SST Pro Mag is the way to go.”

One big difference between a planer board used

for walleye fishing and a board used for salmon is the release. “It’s ironic, but what we did with the re-

lease on the SSR OR37 was to cycle back to what we did years ago. The whole release thing has come full circle.” The SST OR37 uses one OR18 release on the arm of the board and one OR16 on the back. Unlike an indolent walleye, a rampaging king can cause trouble if you can’t quickly release the board.

For more information on Off Shore Tackle’s com-

when at rest in the water,” said Bill Church, inventor of the Church planer board. “Once you attached the lead-core line to the board and drop it in the water it will sit upright so you can immediately begin letting the board out.” It’s a simple matter then to put the rod in a holder with a light drag and let the board pay out while you’re setting other lines. The TX-22 is

able Super Clip. The Adjustable Super Clip is made of stainless steel. The Super Clip will hold the ultra thin braids, lead core, and monofilament lines. The Adjustable Super Clip can be easily adjusted to any diameter line by tightening a setscrew. Replacement pads are available for the Adjustable Super Clip.

One thing the TX-22 couldn’t do was pull long



Wire and copper has required anglers to use bigger in-line planers to pull long lengths of the heavy metal.

plete line of boards and releases and the OR37 board go to <https://www.offshore-tackle.com/OR37L.html>.

Church Tackle’s (churchtackle.com) foray into the planer board market paralleled Off Shore Tackle in that they originally designed an in-line board intended for walleye and then modified the board for trout and salmon. Great Lakes anglers though found the Mr. Walleye board to be a huge improvement over other options because of the release and the pin at the back of the board. Rather than fumbling with tough pinch pads while you were battling a frolicking king you could simply pull the pin and compress the release and have the board off in a flash.

The Church Tackle TX-22 Special is an improvement over the Mr. Walleye board for using lead core. “One reason a lot of guys prefer the TX-22 board is the TX-22 sits upright

reversible, too so there’s no need for port and starboard boards.

The leading edge of the Mr. Walleye is a catamaran-style, which provides stability. The TX-22 planer has a sharper cut leading edge that lends itself to slicing the water and pulling its cargo out at a maximum angle.

The original Board Clip on the TX-22 board does a good job of holding lead core and monofilament. It’s advised to not clip lead core directly to the Board Clip because if the lead core is pinched or bent repeatedly in one location it will eventually break so it’s advisable to clip the board to the mono or braid backing. The Board Clip is also reversible. If you don’t want the board to release simply turn the release around so the line is pulling into the Board Clip instead of out of it. Problem solved.

An alternative to the Board Clip is the Adjust-

lengths of copper wire so Church came up with a bigger brother- the TX-44 Super Planer. “The TX-44 Super Planer is 14 inches long and a little over 4 inches wide and has more ballast to pull heavier loads,” claim Bill Church. “It’s a little thicker than the other boards and is 30% glass. Captains report the TX-44 Super Planer is a workhorse for pulling long lengths of copper.”

The TX-44 Super Planer comes with the stand Board Clip that holds with mono or braid and can be reversed so it doesn’t release. An alternative is the TX-44 Tournament Series board that comes with a stainless steel pin and a Lock-Jaw Clip. The Lock-Jaw Clip functions like a pinch-pad type release with one exception. Instead of pinching the pad together to open it the Lock-Jaw uses a lever to open the release. I don’t know about you, but my arthritic fingers have a hard time opening super strong pinch pads. The lever on the Lock-Jaw makes it easy. The Lock-Jaw Clip holds mono, super braids, wire or copper without damaging the line. It’s adjustable for finer tweaking to change the clamping pressure. The Lock-Jaw Clip can be purchased separately in a Tournament Upgrade Kit for use on the Mr. Walleye Board, TX-22 and TX-44 Super Planer and there’s a min-version.

When I asked Shan Ruboyanes of Dreamweaver Lures (www.dreamweaverlures.com) what he saw as the shortcomings of other in-line planer boards that prompted Dreamweaver to design their Ninja Board he said there were a couple of things.

“Board”

Continued on page 15

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August	6	LAKE MICHIGAN MEMORIAL	SOUTH HAVEN
August	20	VETERANS OUTING	SOUTH HAVEN
October	29	KALAMAZOO RIVER SALMON SLAM	ALLEGAN DAM
November	12	KALAMAZOO TROUT QUEST	ALLEGAN DAM
November	19	KALAMAZOO RIVER MEMORIAL	ALLEGAN DAM
November	26	ST.JOE RIVER FALL STEELHEAD	I-94 BOAT RAMP
December	3	ST.JOE RIVER CHAPTER CHALLENGE	BABES LOUNGE
December	10	CHRISTMAS PARTY	KALAMAZOO EAGLES
Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting Meeting Location: Travelers Cafe and Pub, 5225 Portage Rd. Exit 78 off I-94. FOR MORE INFORMATION: River Tournament - Joe Foy at 269-303-1894 / Lake Tournament - Dan Foster at 269-370-3693 battlecreeksteelheaders.com			

2022 Grand Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Contact Info
July 29 - Aug 11		Grand Haven Steelheaders' Weeklong+ Contest	
August	6	Grand Haven and Grand Rapids Steelheaders' Chapter Challenge	
August	6	Double D Tournament	
August	11	Chapter Picnic	
September	10	Sportsman For Youth Day	
December	7	Annual dinner, recognitions, fundraiser	
Other Events TBD For information on these events and other information on the Grand Haven Steelheaders contact GHS President and State Director Paul Zelenka at pbzfarms@gmail.com www.ghsteelheaders.com			

2022 Grand Rapids Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
July	11	Board Meeting	
July	**	Membership Picnic	at Millennium Park
August	1	Board Meeting	
August	6	GR/GH Chapter Challenge	
August	29	Membership Meeting	Elks #48, 917 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids MI
September	12	Board Meeting	
September	26	Membership Meeting	Elks #48, 917 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids MI
October	3	Board Meeting	
October	31	Membership Meeting	Elks #48, 917 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids MI
November	5	Chapter Fall Fishing Event	
November	7	Board Meeting	
November	28	Membership Meeting	Elks #48, 917 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids MI
December	5	Board Meeting	
December	**	Christmas Party	
STC* = Date subject to change. Please watch newsletter or facebook page. ** = Members and Family Only. (All other events open to the public). Speakers will be listed in the monthly newsletter, and on facebook.			

2022 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Location / Time
ALL EVENTS - TO BE DETERMINED			
Membership meetings held at: 3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642 989-496-3410			
Board meetings begin at 7:00pm Please call the Port Chairman no later than Monday prior to the outing whether you plan on attending or not attending. On the day of the outing, call in on Marine Radio, Channel 72. Weigh-in follows each outing. Picnics follows weigh-in on Saturdays only. Outings: All Steelheader members pay \$5.00. All non-Steelheaders pay \$10.00 to participate. Children 16 and Under are free. Picnic is \$5.00 for everyone.			
If interested in fishing with us please contact: Gary Decker at 989-859-7472 Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com			

2022 Holland Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	
July	9	Fishing with Veterans	
July	11	Board Meeting	
July	21	Membership Meeting	
July	23	Summer Challenge	
July	29-31	Big Red Classic	
August	1	Board Meeting	
August	13	Ladies Tournament	
August	23	Tuesday Night Fishing League Final Night	
September	12	Board Meeting	
October	3	Board Meeting	
November	5	River Tournament	
November	7	Board Meeting	
December	1	Membership Meeting	
December	3	River Tournament	
December	5	Board Meeting	
Board meetings held at: TBD Locations General Membership: Bayshore Yacht Club at the Yacht Basin Marina Doors open at 6 pm., Dinner at 7 pm, speaker to follow			
For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jeremy Erdman 616-510-9405, or email Steve Weatherwax at Waxer1221@Yahoo.com			

2022 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Chair / Location
July	5	Club Summer Picnic	Jim Robertson/Dave Zawacki
July	9	Tippy Dam Back Water Kayak/SM	Eric Braden
July	14	Erieau Tournament – Thur. Erieau, Canada	Clyde Schoen
July	16	Erieau Tournament – Sat. Erieau, Canada	Henry Nabors
July	16	Huron River Kayak (Hudson Mills to Dehli)	Keith Childs
July	16	Manistee River Cleanup Day @ High Bridge	Roger Hinchcliff
July	28	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Thu	Gale Frazee/Tom Abdelnour
July	29	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Fri	Marc Traver/Dave Hutton
July	30	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sat	Dave & Kim Zawacki
July	31	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sun	Marc/Kirk Traver
August	2	General Membership Meeting	
August	6	Independence Lake Kayak/Small Boat	Chuck Davis
August	13	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sat	Henry Nabors/Dave Hutton
August	14	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sun	Marc/Kirk Traver
August	20	Lake Tournament – Frankfort	Robert Grech/C Christoph
August	21	Salmon Tournament – Frankfort	Bill Dodge/C Christoph
September	6	General Membership Meeting	
September	10	Manistee River & Pier Tournaments	Adam Trenz River Chair/Eric Braden
September	17	Muskegon Kayak/SB Salmon	Eric Braden
September	19	Captain/Crew/River Angler 2023 Calendar Mtg	Kelley/Adam T/ River Chair/Nabors/ Zawacki
September	24	Manistee River Tournaments	Fabian Sepulveda
October	4	General Membership Meeting	
November	1	General Membership Meeting	
November	5	Manistee River/Pier/Shore Tournaments w DS	Dave Zawacki/Eric Braden/Adam Trenz
November	19	PM River Tournament	Marc Traver/Adam Trenz
December	6	CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
	10	Huron River Tournament	Hinchcliff/Brown
** ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** 7:00 PM at The New Livonia Seniors Center at the Southeast Corner of Farmington Road and Five Mile Road WEB Site: Go to www.metroweststeelheaders.org If you have questions, contact Henry Nabors - HHNabors@gmail.com or call 248-225 4964. Contact: <i>President</i> Bob Schulz, bobschulz7@gmail.com, 248-915-0043 <i>Membership Director</i> Henry Nabors 248-225-4964			

2022 South Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
July	21	Membership Meeting
August	11	Membership Meeting *Prior to the Annual Fish Boil
August	13	SHS Fish Boil (Blueberry Festival - August 12-14th)
August	20	SHS Operation Injured Soldâier/SH Salute to Veterans
September	15	Membership Meeting
October	20	Membership Meeting - and Board meeting to finalize next year’s events and set calendar
November	2	2023 Pro Am Tournament Committee Kick-off meeting
November	17	Membership Meeting - and Board Meeting to finalize budget and calendar
November	26	SHS River Tournament Invitational (<i>must be a member to participate</i>)
December		No membership meeting in lieu of Holiday Party
Dec	10	South Haven Steelheaders Holiday Party 2022
Membership Meetings Held at 7 pm at: South Haven Moose Lodge, 1025 East Wells Street, South Haven, MI 49040 For more information email: president@southhavensteelheaders.com		

2022 Southwest MI Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
Membership meetings and board meeting are held the second Thursday of each month but we are still determining our schedule for 2022 due to the lingering effects of covid. Please check online for the latest information. www.swmisteelheaders.com www.facebook.com/southwestmichigansteelheaders			
Decemberr	3	33rd Annual Winter Challenge Tournament	
Membership Meetings Held at: St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks 541, 601 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor MI 49022 Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM, Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM, Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784			

2022 TCAS Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
All events are TBD		
TCAS meets the first Wednesday of each month except July (Cherry Festival) and December (Christmas Party) Meetings begin at 7 pm at the Traverse City Senior Center, 801 Front St., next door to the Maritime Academy.		

2022 Thumb Chapter Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Event	Location / Information
July	21	7:30pm	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
August	18	7:30pm	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
August	TBD	2:00	Pig Roast	Harbor Beach VFW Hall
September	15	7:30pm	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
October	20	7:30pm	Regular Meeting, Election of Board/Officers	- Ubly Foxhunters
Novmber				
December				Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries.

2022 Thunderbay Steelheader's Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Time	Information
July	11	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
August	8	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
August	27		Rogers City Tournament
September	5	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
October	3	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
November	7	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
December	5	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
Contact Dan Bouchard at dan-bouchard@hotmail.com for inquiries.			

2022 White River Steelheader's Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Event information	Location
Note: All meetings will be held at 6:30 pm at the VFW, any changes in location will be decided a couple of days before the meeting. -- Any questions or to verify dates/times please call Clint Pollock at (231) 893-0210 or Terry Clark at (231) 893-6805.				
July	7	6:30	Member meeting	VFW
August	4	6:30	Member meeting	VFW
September	8	6:30	Member meeting	VFW
October	6	6:30	Member meeting	VFW
November	3	6:30	Member meeting	VFW
December	1	6:30	Member meeting	VFW

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For more information,
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or mssfamembership@charter.net



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“Board”

Continued from page 13

“The other boards on the market do a great job of pulling 500 or 600 feet of copper, but if you want to use 100 or 200 feet of copper they’re overkill,” said Ruboyianes. “The other boards are bigger and heavier than our Ninja Board. The Ninja Board can pull everything from 100 to 600 feet of copper and is 3 inches longer than a standard Mr. Wall-eye board, but it’s similar in weight. You don’t want more board than what you need out there. The Ninja Board has been a great addition to our arsenal and its ability to tow is unsurpassed.”

Another shortfall Roboyianes noticed was it requires two people, or at least two hands, to release the larger competitors boards. “It’s a two-step process versus a one-stop process with the Ninja board.” The Ninja Board uses a tab that when depressed releases both the clip release and the rear pin at the same time. It’s an ingenious design and

eliminates a lot of problems and consternation. To set the board, simply press the tab and the clip and pin open to insert the line. You can wrap the line around a pin on the clip to make sure the board doesn’t release or simply put the line in the pad.

Dreamweaver also has a 9.5-inch version of the Ninja Board that features an easy to use flag that’s perfect for walleye. The smaller board has the same simple tab release and easy to use clip.

Just as a carpenter has more than one saw, trout and salmon anglers really need more than one in-line planer. Smaller boards excel when fishing shallow or when pulling clean crank-baits or shorter lengths of lead core. The smaller boards are the ticket when targeting steelhead on the surface over deep water, too. As near-shore waters warm and fish go deeper and longer lengths of lead core are required medium-sized boards, like the OR-12, TX-22 or Dreamweaver’s 9.5-inch version

of the Ninja planer are preferred. More specialized in-line planers are required when it comes time to drag extremely long lengths of heavy copper core.

Truth is, there’s no one in-line planer that can do it all when it comes to trout and salmon.

“Fishing Line”

Continued from page 8

the line, the more water it absorbs, which can negatively affect the presentation and action. Common sense tells us that the thicker the line requires more surface area to go through the water.

When this occurs, it most certainly will affect the speed, depth, and action of a lure. Not to mention this will have effects on hook setting and fighting the fish as well.

Do not just use line Breaking strength as the reason for the purchase. I believe the pound test is a marketing gimmick but can be used as a guide to match the tackle to the target species.

Instead, it would help if you focused on line diameter; it is the most crucial factor in getting bit. Focus on finding the correct line diameter that matches your lure, buoyancy, action, and depth you’re fishing.

This is why fishing in the stream with a buddy that’s getting bit more than you when you’re both using the same bait and set at the same depth. It’s more than likely he’s using a smaller line diameter than you. Or it could be his angle of the drift is better than yours, but more than likely, use a smaller diameter line and see what happens. Thinner lines cut through the water column better, giving you more control over the presentations.

When considering line choices, look no further than the lines from Japan. They indeed are far more superior than most. With today’s technology, we have the best fishing lines we have ever had. Which is fantastic, don’t you think? We have so many species to target, and the way we fish for them, it is impossible for me to cover it all in this article.

A quick rule of thumb would be the heavier the lure increases the line diameter size you can get away with. When dealing with super wary educated fish, consider a smaller diameter to ensure your catch results go up.

The trolling game is a whole other animal here and can affect the depth and speed charts you are accustomed to, and you must experiment and come up with the perfect program.

Experiment on the water next time and find what works best for you and your setup. That’s what makes fishing fun. You will never know it all; no one will. So, let’s share and enjoy this lifelong journey together.

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