



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

Volume 50 July/August 2018 No. 4

Michigan Steelheaders Support Huron-Michigan Predator Diet Study

By Katelyn Brolick and
Dan O'Keefe, Michigan
State University Extension,
Michigan Sea Grant

The task of dissecting stomachs is well under way for Katie Kierczynski, a Fisheries and Wildlife graduate student, and a team of undergraduate student researchers. Under the

lead of Dr. Brian Roth at Michigan State University, the team has been busy at work looking into the stomachs of over 850 predatory fish from Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, so far. With over 2,000 trout, salmon, and walleye stomachs on hand and 2018 specimens starting to come in there is a lot of work yet to be done.

Kierczynski and her team use many methods to determine what is inside the fish. They carefully remove all contents from the stomach and then identify prey items to species. It can get very tricky navigating the contents of the stomach

"Diet Study"
Continued on page 13



Cormorant with fish. Photo credit: Andrea Westmoreland, www.commons.wikimedia.org

Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award 2018



Dr. John Dettmers (left), Fishery Management Program Director with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission receives the Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award Plaque from Bob Lamb, Executive Secretary, GLFC.

By Dennis Eade

As stewards of our fisheries since Dr. Howard Tanner introduced Pacific salmon to the Great Lakes in 1966, MSSFA's mission has been focused on protecting, promoting and enhancing anadromous sport fish in the Great Lakes and connecting waterways. Annually since 2012 we have recognized one individual whose accomplishments, dedication and leadership has made outstanding contributions to Michigan's anadromous fish sport fishery. This year we honored Dr. John Dettmers.

As the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Fishery Management Program Director, John Dettmers is responsible for ensuring the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries is carried out concordantly. He is responsible for facilitating cooperative governance across borders. John's task is to make sure they do work together and on his watch we have seen the jurisdictions reach consensus on significant decisions affecting the Great Lakes. This function is essential to existence of the Great Lakes fishery,

including the anadromous sport fishery. For most of the Great Lakes basin's history, the eight states, the Province of Ontario, and the tribes did not promulgate management policies or conduct science in a unified fashion. That parochial approach was nonsensical given fish do not observe political boundaries. Moreover, policies in one jurisdiction—stocking cuts or generous harvest quotas, for example—would affect the fishery other jurisdictions would

"Award"
Continued on page 3

Cormorant Consumption Levels Threaten Balanced Fishery

*"Allowing cormorant consumption of fish
to remain unmanaged is irresponsible"*

By Randall Claramunt,
MDNR

The expansion of cormorants and their nesting colonies in the Great Lakes region has raised concerns over the years that there are impacts from their predation on Michigan's fisheries. Specific to the Great Lakes, there is concern that these impacts will be focused on sensitive island, coastal, and nearshore habitats which also tend to be the same areas that the support local communities and our fisheries.

In response to the need for cormorant management, the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Natural Resources, held an oversight hearing on June 11, 2018, at the Alpena Community College. The hearing was led by Congressman Bruce Westerman from Arkansas along with Michigan's Congressman Jack Bergman. Testimony was provided by Randy Claramunt from MDNR, Dan Eichinger from MUCC, Mark Engle from LCI, and Tom Cooper from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Much of the evidence in the witness testimony supported the need to reinstate the previous cormorant management program, in support of a proposed bill (H.R. 4429) for cormorant control, and protection of the Great Lakes fisheries. The testimony provided by the USFWS detailed the reasons for not including free swimming fish in the recent Environmental Assessment, which has allowed some management of cormorants where there are concerns for human health, public safety, property damage, or terrestrial threatened or endangered species. In response to the concerns about cormorant impacts on fisheries, the USFWS is planning on holding agency to agency talks on August 16, 2018, in East Lansing. At that meeting natural resource agencies from the Great Lakes states will be asked to provide information to the USFWS on fisheries impacts from cormorants.

So, why have cormorants in the Great Lakes region expanded so far beyond historic levels? Once released from the limiting

effects of DDT, which was banned in 1972, cormorants began to reproduce and grew in capacity to the available food resources and nesting habitat. During the latter half of the Twentieth Century in both the Great Lakes and Gulf States, food resources for cormorants increased substantially. In the southern U.S., fish from the easily accessible pond-reared aquaculture facilities increased the overwinter survival of the birds and in the northern region, there was a growing abundance of near-shore invasive prey fish in the Great Lakes, namely alewives and rainbow smelt. Alewives and smelt invaded the Great Lakes and reached extremely high levels in the 1970s and 1980s because predator fish populations had been decimated by the invasion of sea lamprey a

"Cormorant"
Continued on page 2



Search groups for MSSFA

Invasive Species Threaten Chinook Population

By Rick Bramwell
www.heraldbulletin.com

In the early 1970s, the Hoosier Outdoor Writers were having their annual meetings at Michigan City so we could experience and scribe about the fantastic new salmon fishery, especially the king or chinook. The chinook numbers peaked in 2012 when they ran out of food to eat. That year, they were hitting any lure that flashed by. It is difficult to put a handle on it, but the following is what I have researched:

In the 1940s, a herring type baitfish called alewives invaded the Great Lakes. Soon to follow were lamprey eels that began killing lake trout and other predator fish. By the time the Great Lakes Committee (Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin) figured out how to control the lampreys, the alewives population exploded.

In 1966, a controversial plan was launched to stock coho salmon into Lake

Michigan to control the alewives which were having massive die-offs and polluting the beaches. Two years later chinook were added to the mix. A few more years gone and steelhead were thrown in with a re-introduction of lake trout.

It is oft said nothing ever remains the same, and that goes for the Great Lakes ecosystem. In about 2010, Lake Huron and Lake Michigan were invaded again; this time by a mass of quagga mussels. The quagga greatly reduced nutrients, phytoplankton and other sources of fish food.

In portions of Lake Michigan, this mussel numbers 35,000 per-square-meter. This has caused a drastic drop in the small Diporeia shrimp from 5,200 psm to 82 psm.

Michigan Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter said, "The mussels are absolutely at the core of the issue. They are basically sucking all the energy out of system so there is no forage avail-

able for other critters that feed the entire food chain."

There is one more charlatan to enter the Lake Michigan ecosystem — the round goby, a small prey fish that hugs the bottom.

Today, the Lake Michigan chinook population has dropped 75 percent. And 70 percent of the existing population is wild fish that are successfully spawning.

The chinook could eat the goby, but they are not bottom feeders. Their prey of choice, the alewives have lost 75 percent of their population and are down to two-year classes.

We know what the future holds if we keep stocking historic numbers of chinook. Lake Huron did, and now the alewives and chinook are gone.

Indiana has quit stocking chinook. Overall, chinook stocking in Lake Michigan is down 650,000 annually. The cuts are being made not to cut cost, but to save the resources.

To compensate, Indiana is stocking an additional

50,000 Skamania (summer run) steelhead and they are being held to a larger size for better survival. Michigan is stocking an additional 200,000 steelhead.

The stocking of lake trout by the four states has been cut by 550,000 until if and when the alewives make a comeback.

Coho, steelhead and lake trout rely less on alewives and more on insects, gobies, shiners and smelt.

Shifting focus to other predator species has resulted in a year-class or two of lake trout in the 18-pound range. Also, the deep water summer steelhead fishing has turned hot.

Going in yet another direction might be the answer as fishery biologists are considering stocking Atlantic Salmon.

I have a feeling this once \$7 billion fishery is not done yet. Salmon and trout fishing aside, I am getting reports of nice perch and big smallmouth bass being caught in the shallows of this great lake.

"Cormorant" Continued from page 1

decade earlier. The alewives and smelt provided a new high-energy, easily accessible food resource for cormorants that was not available historically. Under these conditions, cormorants expanded to record numbers in the Great Lakes region.

During the same period of the rapid expansion of cormorants in the Great Lakes, state, federal, and tribal fisheries managers instituted extensive fish stocking programs to restore a better balance in the food web through restoration of native lake trout populations and stocking of Pacific salmonines. The goals were to control alewife and smelt populations while restoring Great Lakes fisheries. During the late 1970s and through the 1980s, predator fish populations and cormorant populations expanded, but were headed for a collision course. In addition to record high salmon and trout levels, by the early 2000s every uninhabited island had some level of nesting

cormorants and even many man-made structures, such as navigation buoys and break walls, also hosted nests.

The concept that predators like cormorants can be allowed to fluctuate naturally is based on the idea that they will not likely cause the collapse of a fish population. The Great Lakes, however, have very complex food webs, often undergoing severe disruptions, and have changed the way predators interact with prey. Cormorants have caused some prey fish to decline, especially ones favored by them or at a disadvantage because of the food web changes (e.g., mussel filtering the water thereby increase water clarity). Overall, cormorant abundance increased because of the once highly abundant invasive prey fishes (e.g., alewives and smelt), but after those prey declined, then cormorants contributed to a secondary impact of declines for other prey and sport fish such as yellow perch.

In response to growing concern by anglers, the aquaculture industry, and natural resource professionals, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) developed an Aquatic Depredation Order (AQDO) in 1998 to provide for state level management of cormorants to benefit the Aquaculture Industry (13 southern states) and in 2003, a Public Resource Depredation Order (PRDO) to provide for state level management for the benefit of free-swimming fishes (in 24 northern states). These authorities were necessary because cormorants are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which held management authority at the federal level. The PRDO empowered the northern states, federally recognized Native American Tribes, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services Division to work with the USFWS on management of cormorants in the Great Lakes.

Because cormorants are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, ultimate management authority rests with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The depredation orders allowed states and other management agencies to share in the management of cormorants to better protect fish, wildlife, and sensitive habitats across the country. However, in May of 2016, these depredation orders were rescinded by the U.S. District Court until the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can reissue an Environmental Assessment that more adequately takes in to account the effects of the depredation orders on the cormorant populations. The removal of the federal authority and the ability of the state to co-manage cormorants at the local level had an immediate and sig-



SURE STOP PRO FOR ELECTRIC DOWNRIGGERS

The sure stop turns off your electric Downriggers auto stop at the same spot every time. The tuna cord provides a secure hold for your self-locating snap and is easier on your hands when pulling your gear to the boat. The Scotty Snubber absorbs shock, provides electrical insulation and helps prevent snags (model's 377 & 378). The stainless steel split ring prevents your 3025 weight retriever from sliding off your cable (3025 sold separately) Tubing has been added to provide protection against abrasion in high wear areas.



375 for 30" Downrigger boom.

376 for 60" Downrigger boom.

377 for 30" Downrigger boom. Snubber included.

378 for 60" Downrigger boom. Snubber included.

Reminders For Summer Fishing

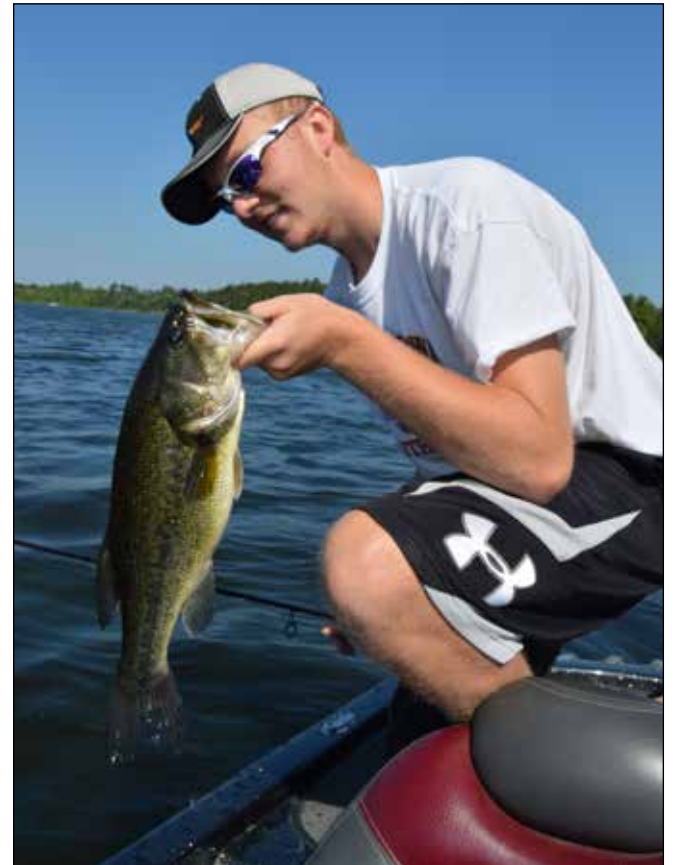
By Bob Jensen

Summer 2018 is here: It arrived with gusto, and kind of earlier than usual, but it seems like, more and more, summer arrives earlier and stays later. It could be that our world is changing, at least for now. One thing that hasn't changed yet is that fish like to eat in the summer, and that means if we keep a couple of things in mind, we can catch more fish. Following are some of those things.

When it comes to fishing, regardless of season, the key thing to keep in mind for fishing success it that you've got to find the fish. We've said it before and will probably say it again: You can have all the best rods, reels, boats and lures, but if the fish don't see your lure, they can't bite it. We've got to figure out what lure is best for the situation, then we've got to put it where it will do some good.

In the spring, most freshwater fish will be in the shallows where they spawn. Now that the spawn has been completed, they will be where the food is. That could be pretty much anywhere in the water system you're fishing.

Weedlines are often a good starting point. Several species of fish will hang out along the weedline. You'll find largemouth bass, wall-



Sam Amsbaugh took this large, bulky bass on a weedline a couple of summers ago.

eyes, panfish, and northern pike on the weedline. If two anglers are fishing, it works great to have one angler throw a crankbait and the other a jigworm. This way you're showing the fish two very different presentations. If the fish are hitting one bait better than the other, both anglers should throw that style of bait, but they should also continue to experiment.

Here's a good way to start. The angler in the bow of the boat should tie on a Strike King Pro Model Series 4 crankbait. This is an outstanding crankbait that will allow an angler to cover water quickly. Cast it along the weedline. It will catch any fish that works the weedline.

"Summer"
Continued on page 8



"Award"
Continued from page 1

experience.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission, starting in 1965, began facilitating cross-jurisdictional cooperation pursuant to the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, which charged the commission to "establish and maintain working arrangements." The commission was not given the authority to compel a jurisdiction to take action, but the commission was told to make sure the jurisdictions work together. John has demonstrated his ability to lead the program by:

- Facilitating discussions at the technical level (among field-level biologists). Fishery managers need unbiased information based on science and biological assessments so that the management decisions they make are realistic and have the best interests of the fishery in mind. John ensures that this work, at the lake level occurs.

- Ensuring fishery managers from all jurisdictions meet on a regular basis and reach consensus on management decisions. The Joint Strategic Plan process through Lake Committees, which John oversees, makes sure management decisions:

- o are based on science and input from the technical committees.

- o take the needs and goals of stakeholders into account.

- o will lead to sustained and improved fisheries, including anadromous fisheries.

- o are defensible
- o are based on consensus.

Some of John's specific accomplishments related to anadromous fish:

- John was pivotal in helping the jurisdictions reach consensus on fishery management decisions related Pacific salmon stocking reductions in Lake Michigan. The forage base for Chinook salmon (alewife) reached historic lows in recent years and fishery managers needed to respond. Too much stocking and the fish would starve. Too little stocking and managers would not be realizing the fishery's potential. Importantly, all decisions about stocking levels of anadromous fish in Lake Michigan depended on all jurisdictions agreeing to a shared course of action and honoring their commitments. This process was extremely difficult given the value of the salmon fishery to the people of Lake Michigan. John, at a constant pitch for several months, kept the jurisdictions talking, helped them understand the science, and, ultimately, helped them reach a consensus.

Although the outcome might not have fully satisfied everyone, the result was reflective of forage base realities and consensus based. The sound management of the Lake Michigan fishery, in these times of great change and uncertainty, would not have been possible without John's commitment to collaboration and his dedication to the future of the resource.

- John is responsible

for ensuring the U.S. Geological Survey collaborates with the states in the delivery of forage base assessment work. The survey, through the use of large vessels on each lake, carries out assessment work that is the foundation for fishery management decisions, including decisions related to anadromous fish.

- John leads a "connectivity" initiative for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, which aims to open up more streams (where appropriate) to anadromous fish. Dams, culverts, and other obstructions throughout the Great Lakes basin, inhibit anadromous fisheries, by definition. Currently, more than a quarter million major obstructions created disconnections throughout the basin. John is working with scientists, policy makers, and NGOs to create more connectivity throughout the basin, thus opening up more habitat for fish. John does this work while keeping the paramount need to block sea lampreys in mind.

- John has been instrumental in bringing mass marking of fish to the Great Lakes basin and is working hard to expand the practice to all species of trout and salmon stocked.

- John co-chairs the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committees' Monitoring and Response Work Group, which protects all Great Lakes fish (anadromous or otherwise) from an Asian carp invasion. Asian carp pose one

"Award"
Continued on page 10

glow-in-the-dark lures

from Bay de Noc Lure Company

It's all about the action of the lure when trying to grab the attention of a fish. Now, you can attract more fish with the bright flash of our glow-in-the-dark Do-Jiggers®, Laker Takers and Flutter Laker Takers.

Avid fisherman know the secret of a glowing lure. Our glow-in-the-dark lures even shine bright in dark, murky waters. Made with polished nickel or brass and coated

with durable phosphorescent material with photoluminescence qualities, our lures pull fish in from further distances.

All three lures come in nickel, gold and white pearl. The Do-Jiggers® also come in a variety of bright colors for added flash. Once your lure hits the water, the ultraviolet light makes it come alive. Add a little glow to your tackle box.

Contact Bay de Noc Lure Company to offer this product to your Customers

P.O. Box 71
Gladstone, Michigan 49837
www.baydenoclure.com



MSSFA PRESIDENT

Dr. Ken Merckel

During the May 2018 meeting of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in Toronto, I met with John Jackson a Canadian Advisor who is co-chair of the toxic free Great Lakes Network.

We discussed the concerns of the nuclear waste repository at Goodrich, Ontario. I was told that in March 2016 the members of their advisory group submitted an application under the Bi-National Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to designate radionuclide as a chemical of mutual concern, (CMC'S) under annex of the agreement. Canadian and U.S. Federal Agreement is required to make the designation as of next month. It will be two years since they submitted the application, and the Government has not even decided whether to put the application forward for consideration by a group of scientist representing all sectors, not just governmental people.

What the Government has done is sent their application to each country's regulatory agency for comment. Both the Canadian and U.S. Nuclear agencies have recommended that radionuclide NOT be designated a chemical of mutual concern for GLWQA.

The U.S. NRC stated that the letter did not provide sufficient technical basis to show the NRC regulations are not adequate for protecting the public and the environment. Therefore there is no practical benefit for designating radionuclide as a chemical of concern.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) statement, based on the extremely well developed radiations health science, stated that there is no evidence to indicate radionuclide currently within the Great Lakes is posing an unreasonable risk to the environmental or the health and safety of persons. This was reaffirmed by a letter from the Canadian Agency in September 2017. I hope this helps those individuals who asked me about the repository at Goodrich, Ontario.

During the meeting, I was informed that a fish kill had happened in a commercial aquaculture net pen on the Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron. I asked Randy Claramunt (MDNR) if he had heard anything. Randy contacted the OMNRE and received this report. Approximately 23,000 Rainbow Trout died in a cage at Shesheganwaning, FN on

Manitoulin Island. This is its first winter of operation using a large submersible cage. In mid- December, when ice was beginning to form, they sank the cage for an extended period of time until the ice was safe. Upon surfacing the cage weeks later, all the fish were dead. Likely caused by prolonged submersion. The operator used an aquaculture monitoring and inspection device (ROV) for the next several months to monitor the animals. They will be implementing their mortality removal plan this week. They will be removing the carcasses to a nearby composting facility on the island. The larger question is what did the fish die from? Was it loss of oxygen, or a virus? A post mortem cannot be done on decomposed fish.

The good news on the commercial aquaculture front is that on Thursday, March 22, 2018, Governor Jay Insler, of Washington State signed a bill to phase out fish farming by 2025. The bill was filed in response to a massive net failure that caused the release of a quarter of a million Atlantic salmon into State waters. Across the water from Washington State, the Government of

Church Tackle Co.

Mini Lock-Jaw Clip

This clip may be mini but when it comes to holding power it's second only to it's big brother, the original Lock-Jaw!
Holds mono, super braids, power pro, lead core or copper lines **without damaging the line!** The Mini Lock-Jaw fits The Walleye Board, TX-44, TX-22, TX-12 & TX-6 planer boards, but we recommend the full size Lock-Jaw for the TX-44. The Mini Lock-Jaw is designed to fit other side planers, drop weights and works for many other applications.
Part# 40620, 2pk Color - yellow Replacement Pads part# 40701 6/pk

TX-007 Stern Planer & TX-005 Mini Stern Planer

An all new type of planer!
Available in 2 sizes

Effective for all species. Great for trolling congested areas and for more effective contour trolling along drop offs, contour lines, reef edges and weed lines in rivers, lakes or the ocean. Run more lines off the back of the boat by staggering the Stern Planers. Run any distance from the boat, yet maintain desired depth. Easy to attach and remove.
(Pros suggest the ideal distance is a minimum of 200' behind boat.)

Original Lock-Jaw

Weights 17 grams & 2 3/4" long
3/4" wide

30#test monofilament

For heavy to extremely heavy applications

Mini Lock-Jaw

Weights only 11 grams
1 7/8" long, 1/2" wide

30#test power pro

For light to heavy applications.

Holds 10# plus!!

NEW! Stingray Diving Weight

Unique error-proof design allows anglers to put more fish in the boat! Water strikes top surface, forcing Stingray downward. A fish on forces the nose upward & Stingray to the surface. Unpainted or painted
2 snaps for each weight included

EZ Store! For Your Planer Board

Allows for easy planer storage! Change tow-arm & clips in a snap!
(Board sold separately)

Optional E-Z Store device easily attaches to the Walleye Board, TX-44 & TX-22 side planers. Slide the tow-arm off for storage or change to another tow-arm & clip then slide back on when you're ready to fish again.
Part# 40519 sold 2 per package 1 left & 1 right

Please visit us at www.churchtackle.com to view all of our great American made fishing gear or call us at 269-934-8528 to request a catalog. **Like us on facebook**

FLUOROCARBON. FLUOROCLEAR. THE LEADERS IN STEALTH.

P-LINE FLUOROCARBON

100% Pure Japanese Fluorocarbon with the extreme invisibility, low stretch and soft feel you've come to expect. Its ultra low water absorption means superior knot strength.

P-LINE FLOROCLEAR

Fluorocarbon coated and extruded to be extremely soft. Virtually invisible with amazing castability Floroclear glides through the guides effortlessly. Hands down the most fisherman friendly line on the market.

British Columbia is very interested in moving open net Fish Farms onto land. The Atlantic salmon fishery, on the sunrise part of Michigan, from the St. Mary's River south to the Lexington and further south to the North Channel in Lake St. Clair has been excellent. If you catch an A-D clip Atlantic please recover the head, place it into a plastic bag with a note which includes your name, depth of water, date of capture, length and weight. Place note in bag and freeze. Give to creel clerk, or drop off at any MDNR office. Have a great summer!

CORRECTIONS from previous issue of Great Lakes Sport Fishing News May/June 2018

We regret to inform you, the previous issue of Great Lakes Sport Fishing News contained a couple of errors. Please receive the following corrections:

From page 4: President's Message incorrectly stated that zooplankton eat "chlorophyll" but rather, they eat phytoplankton that usually contain some chlorophyll.

From page 7: **Editors note:** Funding for the diet study published in the last issue by Matt Kornis and Ben Turschak was provided by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust (diet and stable isotope analysis) and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (sample collection through the Mass Marking Program). Collaborators on the study include the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, University of Illinois, Purdue University, State University of New York-Brockport, Michigan DNR, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

From page 27: Caption for the photo incorrectly stated this fish as a spring steelhead. Caption should instead read: **Terri Bedford admires a wild Prairie Creek chinook.**

What Does A Changing Forage Base Mean for Lake Michigan Salmon and Trout?

Diagrams showing the relationship between forage base and salmon/trout populations, including a bar chart of average salmon and trout diet percentages by weight in Lake Michigan, 2015.

Steepest Lake Michigan

Diagram showing the relationship between forage base and salmon/trout populations, including a bar chart of average salmon and trout diet percentages by weight in Lake Michigan, 2015.

Lake Trout Steepest Lake Michigan

Diagram showing the relationship between forage base and salmon/trout populations, including a bar chart of average salmon and trout diet percentages by weight in Lake Michigan, 2015.



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

MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis Eade



I attended the Great Lakes Fish Commission Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario on May 10th to present Dr. John Dettmers with the Howard A. Tanner Award at its annual awards luncheon. John received the award for his dedication and outstanding contribu-

tions to Michigan's anadromous fish sport fishery in the presence of his peers at the Commission's Annual Awards Luncheon. I was also able to sit in on the U.S. Advisors meetings and the joint meeting with the Canadian Committee. The Joint Committees passed resolution 18-01: Double-Crested Cormorant Management endorsement and encouraged the GLFC to formally endorse it as well. The resolution calls for the support of Bergman Bill, H.R.4429 and removal of the unnecessary protection afforded to double-crested cormorants under Ontario's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act and removal of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Mississippi Flyway Council, the Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and other relevant agencies to work together in moving forward with prompt action for Great lakes-wide cormorant control. The joint committee also passed Resolution 18-03: Support for Funding the National Sea Grant College Program.

When the U.S. Advisors provided their report to the commission on Thursday, May 10th, Chairman Denny Grinold shared the advisors' concerns for a verifiable lamprey barrier for the Grand River Restoration Project. The Grand Rapids Whitewater Project, which is being designed to restore nearly two miles of whitewater rapids downtown, requires the removal of numerous dams and the creation of a special hydrologically controlled barrier to stop sea lamprey from migrating upstream to spawn along a potential 1900 miles

of river system that is the largest in Michigan. If the barrier fails to work as expected there is no possible way the Great Lakes Fish Commission can afford to chemically treat the system properly. The advisors are withholding endorsement until they are confident the barrier will block lamprey from going up stream regardless of potential meteorological events that could threaten its ability to block lamprey migration.

On May 15th, we filed the organization's tax return keeping MSSFA in good standing with IRS and the audit committee composed of Jim Vander Maas, Ken Merckel, Jack Kelly, Vicki and Gary Decker met to review the Great Lakes Sport Fishing News transactions, disbursements, and documentation for fiscal year 2017. The committee's report will be presented to the board on June 20th.

The South Haven Steelheaders Chapter hosted the National Waterways Symposium Tour Group at the City's Marina on May 16th and feedback from participants suggests it was the highlight of the tour for the group. Dr. Dan O'Keefe, Sea Grant Educator, Rich Chapman, chapter president and myself, explained the significance of developing the sport fishery fifty one years ago with the introduction of Pacific Salmon and what it has meant to shoreline communities like South Haven, MI.

The Michigan Sportsman Caucus' Afternoon Outdoors & Wild Game Dinner was held on May 22nd at the Capital Area Sportsmen's League in Lansing, MI. Eighteen legislators participated in activities including trap

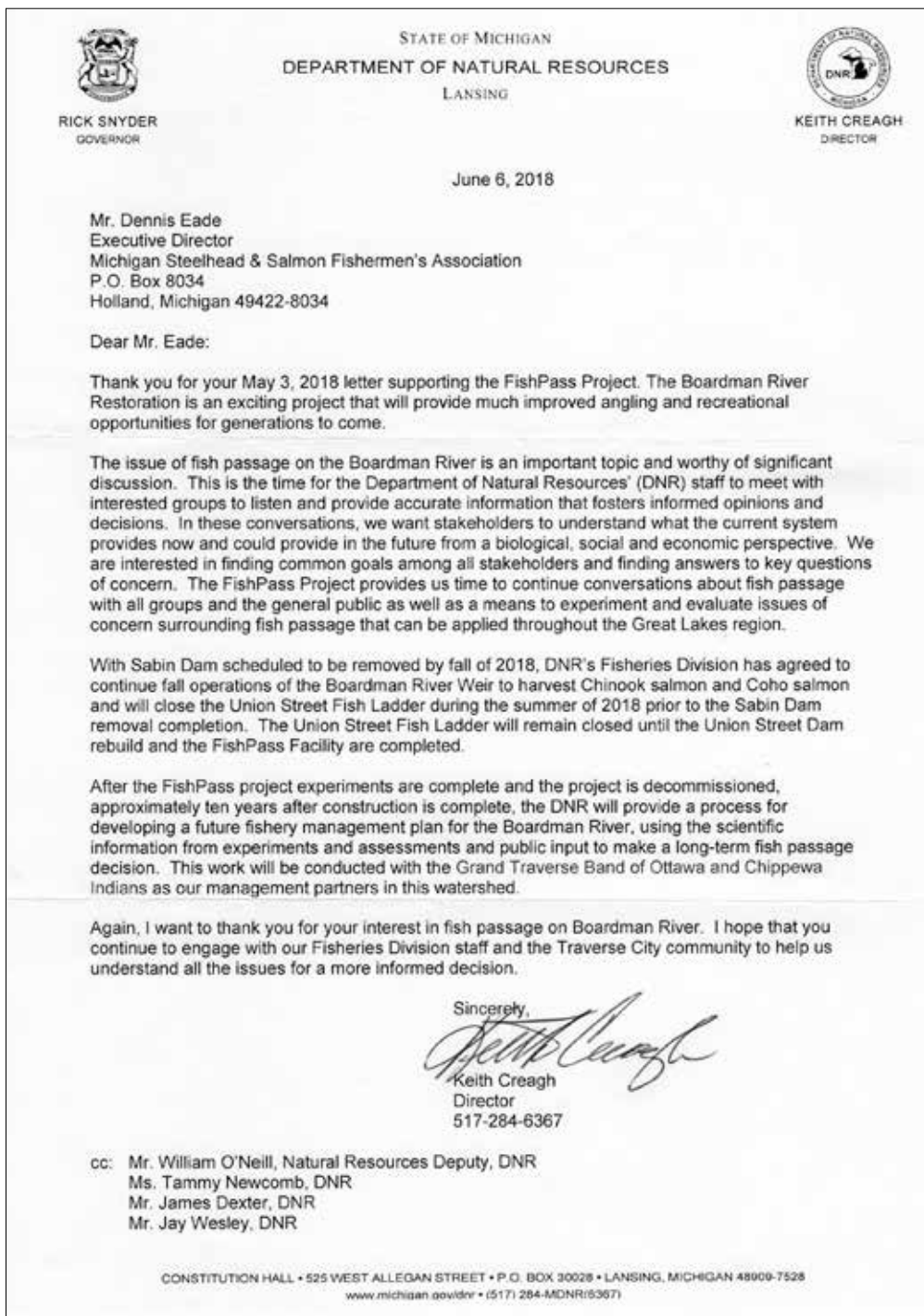
shooting, pistol shooting, archery, fly casting, trapping, duck calling and other forms of demonstrations. Following the activities, assorted wild game dishes were served, along with a program from Gourmet Gone Wild, and numerous door prizes, sponsored by the Caucus Advisory Council.

The hearing, scheduled for June 6th, on the Commercial Fishing Statute Bill, S.B. 925 was canceled at the eleventh hour before it was scheduled to take place. Fortunately, we were victimized by the Senate leadership canceling all hearings on that day in order to complete the leadership list of last minute business items. The hearing will be rescheduled this fall and we will notify all of you when we have a date. The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) was amended to provide an additional avenue for submitting a water withdrawal assessment, to regulate the calculations for determining streamflow depletion and was passed but with accommodations that were acceptable to our coalition of fishing and conservation groups. There are sufficient cautionary requirements to satisfy our fears of having an adverse impact on the environment and the water levels in our rivers and streams.

MSSFA joined with the Greater Traverse Area Sport Fishing Association and the Michigan Charter Boat Association, in support of the passage of steelhead into the Boardman River which would allow connectivity with the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Fish Commis-

"MSSFA"

Continued on page 8



Eighteen legislators, Representatives and Senators, participated in activities including trap shooting, pistol shooting, archery, fly casting, trapping, duck calling and other forms of demonstrations during Afternoon Outdoors & Wild Game Dinner at the Capital Area Sportsmen's League facilities in Lansing, MI on May 22, 2018.



THE MICHIGAN STEELHEAD & SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE QUALITY OF FISHING REFLECTS THE QUALITY OF LIVING!

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

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

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

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

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

THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS (GLSFN)

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

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

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

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

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

Membership Deb Shephard 269-655-4704 mssfamembership@charter.net	Grand Haven Roger Belter, President 616-842-0877 mjbelter@altelco.net	Great Lakes Bay Region Mark Trudell, President 989-839-4920 kathy@steel-headers.com	Metro- West - Livonia Larry Tabaka, President 517-546-2824 LarryTabaka@comcast.net	Southwestern Michigan Jim Marohn, President 269-983-7298 jim.marohn@doubledayoffice.com	Traverse City Area Joe Cruzen, President 741 Indian Trail Blvd. Traverse City, MI 49686 248-563-0302
Executive Director Dennis Eade 616-298-8842 deneade@charter.net	Rich Wilson, Director 517-676-2920 rtwilson42@yyahooo.com Website: www.ghsteelheaders.com	Vicki Decker, Director 989-859-7472 John Letts, Sr., Alternate Director maintenance@stjohn23.net facebook.com/Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheaders Website: http://steel-headers.com	Roger Hinchcliff, Director 734-657-6535 steelheadmanifesto@gmail.com Henry Nabors, Membership Dir. 248-225-4964 HHNabors@gmail.com Website: www.metroweststeelheaders.org facebook.com/Metro West Steelheaders	Robert Schultz, Director 616-450-4849 bob_schultz9259@att.net Website: www.swmisteelheaders.com facebook.com/Southwestern Steelheaders	Dick Hartrick, Membership Director 231-536-2271 Dick758@aol.com facebook.com/Traverse City Area Steelheaders www.traversecityareasteelheaders.org
AuSable Gene Kirvan, President 3842 S. Cruzen Dr., Mikado, MI, 48745 989-739-2313 or 989-739-2313 calypsocharters@yahoo.com Michael Kovach, VP/Treas. 3746 N US 23, Unit 20 Oscoda, MI 48750 989-739-1182 mijo2095@charter.net	Grand Rapids Don Remington, President 616-329-3520 donremington99@yahoo.com Nich Hamadanchi, VP 616-401-6080 nick.hamadanchi@gmail.com Bob Strek, VP/Treasurer 616-723-1268 Rob Schroeder, Director robertjschroeder@yahoo.com Website: www.grsteelheaders.org facebook.com/Michigan Steelheaders (Grand Rapids Chapter)	Holland Steve Weatherwax, President 616-836-3809 Waxer1221@yahoo.com Brian Eade, Director 616-836-4071 brian.eade@live.com Website: www.hollandsteelheaders.org facebook.com/Holland Steelheaders	South Haven Rich Chapman, President/Director president@southhavensteelheaders.com Tim Stegeman, Alternate Director 269-208-4235 statedirector@southhavensteelheaders.com Website: www.southhavensteelheaders.com facebook.com/South Haven Steelheaders	Thunder Bay Dan Bouchard, President 989-255-7350 Cell dan-bouchard@hotmail.com Gerry Sickon, Director 734-624-4490 gsickon@ford.com Thumb Chapter Scott Stanke, President 989-553-0972 scottstanke@gmail.com Bob Golochowicz, Director 586-242-1548 rgoloch@comcast.net Website: thumbsteelheaders.org facebook.com/Thumb Chapter Michi-gan Steelheaders	Clint Pollock, President 231-893-0210 whpollock@netzero.net Jim Vander Maas, Director 616-644-4023 jvmaas@charter.net
Battle Creek Greg Peck, President 269-998-9407 Mark Spann, Director 269-207-6411 Battlecreeksteelheaders.com					



M.S.S.F.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION		
Todays Date:	Method of Payment: Check ____Cash ____Credit Card____	Check Membership Type Below
(check one) Visa ____ MC____ CC Exp. Date:_____ 3-Digit Code_____		Renewal: _____
Credit Card Number:		New Member: _____
Membership Expiration Date:	Phone#:	Associate: _____ (Home Chapter required below) List Home Chapter if Associate
Members Name:		Other: _____
Address:		Membership Payment:
City, State, Zip		Tribal Negotiations Fund
e-mail Address:		Total:
Sponsored By:		
MSSFA State and Chapter Dues (Yearly)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Au Sable \$60.00 (Oscoda) <input type="checkbox"/> Battle Creek \$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Haven \$40.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Rapids \$45.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Great Lakes Bay Region \$40.00 (Midland)	<input type="checkbox"/> Holland \$40.00 <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
Mail to: MSSFA PO Box 423 Paw Paw, MI 49079		

The following Chapters accept online payments via Credit Card and/or PayPal.
A PayPal account is not needed-use the option credit card. Note: some Chapters charge a small fee for processing.

Holland www.hollandsteelheaders.org • Metro-West (Livonia) www.metroweststeelheaders.org
South Haven www.southhavensteelheaders.com • Southwestern(Saint Joseph) www.swmisteelheaders.com
Traverse City www.traversecityareasteelheaders.org

MSSFA State Board of Directors, Officers and Committee Chairs		
Dr. Ken Merckel	President Lake Huron Citizens Advisory Fishery Committee Legislative Committee	kenmerckel@yahoo.com
Dennis Eade	Executive Director Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Fishery Committee Legislative Committee	deneade@charter.net
Eric Braden	Vice President	esbraden630@gmail.com
Gerry Sickon	Secretary Lake Erie Citizens Advisory Fishery Committee	gsickon@ford.com
Nick Hamadanchi	Treasurer	nick.hamadanchi@gmail.com
Jim Vander Maas	Tribal Negotiations Committee Co-Chair	jvmaas@charter.net
Brian Eade	Tribal Negotiations Committee Co-Chair	brian.eade@live.com
Roger Hinchcliff	Streams Committee	RHinchcliff@mortgageone.biz
Deb Shephard	Membership Coordinator	mssfamembership@charter.net
Renee Davis	Pays to Belong Coordinator	mssfapaays@gmail.com

New Hi Tech
Flashers



Win Big
with Pro-Troll

Lighted ProChip
8 flashers

Flashing lights
attract more
fish. Two types,
embedded and
stick ons

New Strike-Lites
with adhesive back



www.Protroll.com Mail@protroll.com

2018 BOARD OF
DIRECTORS
MEETINGS

Glassen Shooting
Center
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
14500 Peacock Road
East Lansing, MI

Wednesday
August 15, 2018

*

MUCC
Headquarters

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

Wednesday
October 17, 2018
and
Wednesday
December 19, 2018



There's
a little
Devle in
everything
we do.



It may not look like the
original Eppinger Dardevil®,
but our Red Eye® Wiggler is
every bit a Devle when it comes
to consistently catching fish. To
see more of the 17,000 different
lures made by Eppinger, contact
us for a free catalog or log on to
our web site at www.eppinger.net.
Dardevil and Red Eye are
available at your local retailer.



Eppinger Mfg. Co.
6340 Schaefer
Dearborn MI 48126
Phone: 313/582-3205
Email: dardevil1@aol.com
www.dardevil.com
www.eppinger.net

IDEAL FOR:


PAY\$\$\$ TO BELONG

A list of participating retailers is below. The most current information can be found on the MSSFA website: Mssfafa.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	BoatU.S.					\$15 Annual Membership Dues - Use Membership # GA83723B
17	Bob's Outdoors	Statewide	www.bobsoutdoors.com			10% Discount (www.bobsoutdoors.com)
18	Brenner's Service	4765 W River Dr	Comstock Park	MI	46321	5% exclusions may apply. 616-784-9872 dawnbrenner@hotmail.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)
21	Dunham's Sports	Statewide				10% Discount # 50050/3
22	Firestone - Metro 25	19268 Middlebelt	Livonia	MI	48152	\$20 off on \$200 or more on service www.metro25firestone.com
23	Fish with Jim Outfitters	http://www.fishwithjimoutfitters.com/				Discount \$50.00 off the total trip price.
24	Glacier Corporation	1021 Fuller St.	Santa Ana	CA	92701	Aquarium Chillers for "salmon in classroom" \$625 + 60 (s&h) = \$685
25	Great Lakes Angler Magazine					Use promo code MCLUB10 1yr/\$13, 2yr/\$25, 3yr/\$36
25	Health First Chiropractic Clinic	2526 Woodmeadow Dr SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49546	First Visit Free
26	Homestead Resort on Betsie River	2399 Dam Rd	Benzonia	MI	49616	10% In Season, 25% Off Season (homestead@crystal-rentals.com)
27	Insta-Launch Campground	20 Park Ave	Manistee	MI	49660	Member Discount
28	Insurance Shop/Fremont Ins.	824 Water St.	East Jordan	MI	49727	10% Discount off insurance for MSSFA Group Members
29	Jim Waldron Pontiac, Buick, GMC	1146 S. State Rd	Davison	MI	48423	Contact Nick Russlolf for Sales, 10% off all parts not to exceed \$100.00
29	J Smith Custom Tackle	1136 E Hughes Lake Road	Rose City	MI	48654	15% - 20% off depending on rod. Customrodsbyjsmith.com 989-685-2819
30	K & M Marine	14990 Telegraph Rd	Redford	MI	48239	10% off merchandise except sale items (www.kandmmarine.com)
31	Kamp Oil Inc	6467 Manistee St	Fredric	MI	49733	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
32	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.
33	Beebe Oil Co (aka Kamp Oil)	4999 22 Mile Rd	Utica	MI	48317	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
33	Lapeer Boat Service	3556 Fort Knox Dr	Lapeer	MI	48446	10% off parts and labor (810-245-6038)
34	Liberty Tax Service	544 E. 8th St.	Holland	MI	49423	\$20.00 Discount on tax service
35	Life Family Chiropractic Centres	5795 Balsam Dr	Hudsonville	MI	49426	Complimentary 1st visit (excludes medicare) 50% off 1st massage
36	Linwood Beach Marina & Campground	135 S. Linwood Beach	Linwood	MI	48634	10% off service work
37	Logan's Run Muskegon River Cottage Rental	1648 Gardner St.	Newaygo	MI	49337	10% Discount www.logansrun.us 616-485-4501
37	Mark's Sport Shop	11530 Mason Dr	Grant	MI	49327	Member Discount
38	MUCC	2101 Wood Street	Lansing	MI	48912	\$18.00 Membership Dues
39	Ramada Lighthouse Inn	1555 Phoenix Rd.	South Haven	MI	49090	20% Discount 269-639-9900
40	Richfield RV	Statewide				10% Discount
41	River Raisin Marina & Campground	2502 E. Elm Avenue	Monroe	Mi	48161	Buy 1 get 1 free - call 313-575-4367 (www.riverraisinmarina.com)
41	RX Optical	Statewide				Plan 308
42	Slamco	Internet Sales	www.slammertipup.com			10% Discount
43	Sonus	3535 Parks St, Suite 108	Muskegon Heights	MI	49444	10% Discount. 231-737-4570 laura.szot@americanhearingsonus.com
44	Sun Coast Marine	1172 68th Street	South Haven	MI		Member discount
45	The Angling Outpost	2480 Duck Lane Rd	Whitehall	MI	49461	www.anglingoutpost.com 5% use coupon "steelheader" for online purchases
45	Tuffy Muffler	435 N. Beacon	Grand Rapids	MI	49417	10% off parts and labor
46	Tuffy Muffler	4384 Kalamazoo SE	Grand Rapids	MI	48512	10% off parts and labor
47	Tuffy Muffler	610 28th St SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49507	10% off parts and labor
48	Tuffy Muffler	4315 Clyde Park SW	Wyoming	MI	49509	10% off parts and labor
49	Van's Sport Center	1855 Alpine Ave.	Walker	MI	49544	10% Discount
49	Warrior Lures	5915 Lillian La	Traverse City	MI	49684	10% Discount on all product ordered (www.warriorlures.com)
50	West Michigan Propeller	847 Ionia Ave. NW	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	10% Discount
51	WG Grinders	5769 28th St. SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49512	10% Discount dine in/carry out (catering discounts available)

“MSSFA”

Continued from page 5

sion held a public meeting on May 30th and a subsequent focus group issues meeting with associations both in favor and opposed to passing all Great Lakes Fish into the Boardman River once the FISHPASS Project is completed. My take away from participating in both meetings, and receiving a letter from Keith Creagh, Director, Department of Natural Resources (which appears in GLSFN in July) is that this decision is far into the future and could be as long ten years before it is resolved.

The Michigan Legislative Sportsmen Caucus summer fishing outing will again be out of Ludington, MI on July 16th . Rep. Curt Vander Wall will be the host for the event and there will be a legislative reception on Sunday evening before the event for senators and representatives. MDNR Fisheries Division will have a biologist or manager on board each vessel to discuss invasive species and the factors affecting the fishery. A Catch and Cook luncheon will follow the event at Jamesport Brewing Co., one of Ludington’s premiere restaurants.

Minutes of the Lake Committees and Cold Water Resources Steering Committee are posted on MSSFA’s website and I encourage you to visit the site and read the minutes. I know all of you are pleased with the early season salmon fishing. I know I am. Invite a neighbor or relative to become a Steelheader. Tight lines to everyone!



Rigged and Ready for Live Bait

By Jerry Carlson

Live bait rigging for walleyes is about as classic a walleye presentation as anyone can find. It is a standard for catching fish on just about any body of water anglers choose to visit. However, there are subtle tweaks to this presentation that can make something great even better.

One of the first recommendations I have is to always take advantage of the low visibility of fluorocarbon leaders. If this means tying your own, than do it. My standard is six-pound Sufix with a light wire number six red hook. Depending on the conditions

and mood of the fish, I will use a leader that is from four to six feet long.

Four feet is a good length to start with. It gives separation between your sinker and the hook. Bait can move freely and entice interested fish. For really finicky fish, a six foot leader will get more attention, it’s just harder to deal with.

One may not think much about the weight, but it is one of the most important parts of the rig. Depth, wind and bottom structure all come into play when choosing the correct weight.

Most anglers I know go too light with the weight. I prefer a weight that will

keep me fishing relatively straight down. This allows me to touch bottom and lift the weight up off of the bottom a few inches. I do not drag the weight as this is frequently a recipe for snags. Dragging can also stir up excess silt that can negatively impact your presentation.

If the conditions are extremely snaggy, I switch to a long, pencil type weight that is easier to keep out of the rocks. These longer weights are very effective in snag infested waters.

Although I typically fish with mono as my standard line on my spool, there are times I find braids to be very beneficial. Again, this



The author, Jerry Carlson, with his catch of the day

is in rocky and snaggy situations. feel you as much as you feel them. However, when

I believe that when live bait rigging with the super sensitive braids, the fish

“Live Bait”
Continued on page 11

The Salmon Tournament to Catch

Online Signup!
Real-time Scoring!
Friday Womens Tourney!

Doug & Shar Hekman
Family Foundation

Aug 3 - Aug 5, 2018
Holland, Michigan

www.bigredclassic.com

“Summer”

Continued from page 3

The angler in the back of the boat should thread something like a Strike King Finesse Worm onto a Slurp! Jig. I would probably start with an eighth ounce head and a five inch worm. This set-up will catch the fish that weren’t aggressive enough to hit the faster moving crankbait.

Now, let’s say the crankbait is really producing fish. The angler in the back of the boat wants to get in on the action, understandably so. Instead of tying on the exact same crankbait, try a different shape, maybe a Lucky Shad, or try a different color. What we want to do is key in on the exact bait that the fish are most likely to eat on that day.

However, maybe the plastic is producing better than the crankbait. Try a larger worm, or go to a plastic with a bulkier body. Larger and bulkier bodies will often tempt larger and bulkier fish.

In the summer, along the weedline or on deeper structures, sometimes the fish will be scattered, sometimes they’ll be tightly schooled. You might catch

one here and one there, or you might discover that you have to be very precise as to where you put your bait. On the weedline, look for points or pockets in the weeds to hold concentrations of fish. On deeper structures, maybe a rock-pile or a corner on a large flat will hold schools of walleyes, bass, or crappies.

In the summer, the fish have to eat. If you put your bait where they are, often-times they’ll eat it. For most of us, getting bit is why we go fishing. If you keep these ideas in mind this summer, you’ll get bit a lot.

To see new and older episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, new and older fishing articles, and fishing videos, go to fishingthemidwest.com



INTRODUCING THE EZ CRANKBAIT TUNER

- Properly tuned crankbaits catch more fish
- Easy to use, won’t damage bait
- Works for baits with the eye in the bill or coming out of the nose
- High-strength Nylon construction
- Lanyard included
- Patent # 9,807,992

Adjustable tension knob prevents over-tuning



ALL NEW, OR38
Awesome Crappie Board

Your Leader In Trolling Technology
www.offshoretackle.com



By Michigan DNR

Catch-and-release fishing has been an important part of recreational angling for many decades, but the practice has approached critical mass in recent years. As anglers have come to value many fish species more for their sporting qualities than as table fare - including trout, bass, and muskellunge - catch-and-release angling has grown immensely in popularity. With the addition of catch-and-release only seasons, anglers fishing those waters have to practice catch-and-release if they want to enjoy some of the best fishing opportunities available in Michigan.

The purpose of catch-and-release angling is to allow fish to survive so anglers can catch them again or so the fish can live to reproduce. By taking a few simple steps to ensure fish are released properly, anglers can maximize survival and improve fishing.

Sport-caught fish typically die for one of two reasons during catch-and-release: wounding and/or stress. Although some wounding may be unavoidable, the use of proper equipment and careful handling can keep this to a minimum. The following tips showcase what anglers can do to be successful at catch-and-release with success equating to survival.



Hooks

Single hooks are more easily removed than multi-point hooks, such as trebles. In addition, barbless hooks can be more easily removed from fish and cause smaller puncture wounds. Small hooks can be rendered barbless simply by crushing the barb with a pair of pliers. Barbs can be removed from larger hooks with files or side-cutters.

Fish caught in the lips, jaws, mouth roofs or cheeks are more easily released than those that are more deeply hooked - say in the gullet or in the gills. Anglers who use artificial lures generally hook fish more superficially than those using live bait - when a fish takes bait, it may swallow it immediately which can lead to gut- or gill-hooking. If a fish has swallowed a hook, cut the line and leave it. The hook will generally deteriorate over time and the fish has a better chance

of survival than if its organs are torn in the unhooking process.

Hooks should be removed quickly; needle-nose pliers or hemostats allow anglers to release fish with minimal handling. Simply grasp the hook with the tool, hold the fish in or over the water, and twist the hook to remove it.

Landing

In many cases, it is better to not net fish that are going to be released. An alternative is to bring the fish up to the side of the boat, grasp the hook, and shake it free while the fish is still in the water. Some fish, such as bass, are easily handled by the lips. Toothy fish - such as pike, muskellunge, or trout - can perforate your thumb if you try to grasp

them by the mouth. If you use a landing net, make sure it is large enough to capture the fish without battering it with the net frame. Neoprene rubber net baskets are easier on the fish than traditional twine baskets.

Handling

If you wish to photograph the fish before you release it, please handle it carefully. Wet your hands before handling a fish to prevent removing the protective mucus (aka slime) from the fish. Make sure you support the fish properly while holding it; do not squeeze the fish. For larger fish, gloves may help you hold on to them while removing the hook. Do not let the fish batter itself against the boat or the ground.

Other Tips

Stress is caused by a variety of factors, including taking too long to land a fish or catching a fish during periods of warm water temperatures (particularly cold water species like salmon and steelhead). Make sure you use line of sufficient test-strength so you do not have to prolong the fight. Bring the fish in to shore or to your boat directly and release it quickly.

Please note, fish caught from deep water will often die unless they are brought to the surface slowly.

When releasing a fish, slide it gently back into the water. If the fish appears stressed, hold it in the water and gently move it back and forth to force water through the gills. This will help to revitalize it. If you are in a river, face the fish into the



current - but avoid extremely fast-moving water.

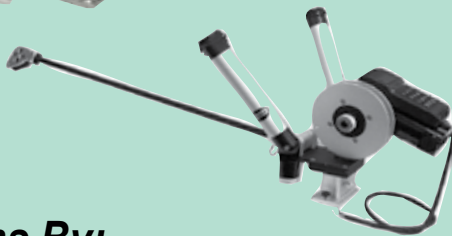
In some cases, if fish are badly hooked (for instance, in the gills) or are obviously stressed, you may not be able to successfully release them. However, in many cases - such as during

closed seasons or with fish that do not measure more than the minimum length required - you must release them anyway.

The Ultimate Fishing System!



- Rod Holders • Gimbals • Electronic Mounts • Rod Storage • Rail Clamps
- Ratcheting Rod Holder • Mounting Tracks
- Aluminum Planer Reels • Lots of Accessories



Fishing Systems By:



For our full product line or to find a dealer visit
www.traxstech.com or call 989-845-5969





Michigan's Largest Hewes Craft Dealer

616-997-8888

LyndenSportsCenter.com



“Cormorant”
 Continued from page 2

nificant negative impact on Michigan’s natural resources.

Following the court order in 2016 and no action to resolve cormorant management in 2017, the stakeholders in the Great Lakes region took to action by working through Michigan’s Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee’s, Michigan Steelheaders, Michigan’s United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), the Les Cheneaux Islands (LCI) stakeholders and other various fishing organizations to bring resolution to cormorant management. Specifically, concerned citizens from Michigan’s

First Congressional District worked with their Congressman, Jack Bergman, on a proposed bill (H.R. 4429) to reinstate cormorant control measures in the Great Lakes. Also, by formal resolution from the U.S. and Canadian Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (May 2018), the advisors provided support for cormorant management in the Great Lakes and are in support of H.R. 4429.

On February 15, 2018, Michigan DNR provided testimony at the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Natural Resources, in support of H.R. 4429. The Michigan DNR supports moving toward collaborative management

with its partners, the USFWS and the USDA’s Wildlife Services, along with other state and tribal governments to establish cormorant population targets under a new PRDO. Under the authority of a PRDO, management agencies and stakeholders will work to reduce, not to eliminate, cormorants in key locations to better balance bird numbers with sensitive fish populations and rebuild important fisheries. Testimony can be found at: <https://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=106850>

As cormorants reached all-time high levels in the Great Lakes, a new threat occurred through the invasion of zebra and quagga

mussels thereby limiting the production of the Great Lakes food web through their high filtering rates. Fish stocking levels have been reduced to try to bring fish predation in balance with prey fish production. In most of the Great Lakes, alewife and smelt populations are now at very low levels, salmon and trout fisheries are severely reduced, and cormorant predation on fish is an exacerbating stressor on Great Lakes fisheries.

The testimony provided by the USFWS detailed the reasons for not included free swimming fish in the recent Environmental Assessment that has allowed some management of cormorants where there are concerns for human health, public safety, property damage, or terrestrial threatened or endangered species. In response to the concerns about cormorant impacts on fisheries, the USFWS is planning on holding agency to agency talks on August 16, 2018, in Lansing. The Great Lakes states will be asked to provide information on fisheries impacts to the USFWS at that meeting.

Fisheries managers and MDNR fully understand the challenges of managing our fisheries as prey fish levels have declined substantially, especially in lakes Huron and Michigan. Along with our stakeholders, we have had to aggressively manage fish stocking and regulations because of the prey limitations. Stakeholders have voiced concern, however, that allowing cormorant consumption of fish to remain unmanaged is irresponsible and is a de facto allocation of limited fisheries resources to cormorants at the expense of our fisheries. We jointly managed the delicate balance of the predator-prey relationship through comprehensive efforts, fisheries models, and coordination with stakeholders to balance predator demand with prey fish production. Cormorants are an important predator and their management is also needed and should be applied in the same collaborative way. Our goal, which we believe is also the goal of the USFWS is to base cormorant management on the right information, similar to management of our

fisheries, so that cormorant management can be balanced with the impacts on free swimming fish and will not be vulnerable to court challenges again. It is time to get this right.



Fishing The Lake Michigan Waters
Off Manistee, Michigan For
Salmon and Trout



Capt. Fred Bolton

USCG Licensed
State DNR Inspected

Cell: 248.670.2479
Email: FreddieB@acegroup.cc

www.FreddieBSportfishingCharters.com



SPORTSMAN'S LODGE

Brother's Bungalows

231-477-5588

Convenient Location next to Manistee, Little Manistee and Bear Creek

4544 Amick Street
Brethren, Michigan 49619
Phone: 231-477-5588

Website:
www.brethrenbungalows.com



TNT CHARTERS

LAKE MICHIGAN FISHING AT ITS FINEST
Over 25 Years Experience

For reservations or information call or email.
CAPT. TODD HUNDLEY (231) 723-9907
USCG Licensed & DNR Inspected Email: thundley@chartermi.net
www.tntcharters.com

“Award”
 Continued from page 3

of the greatest threats to the Great Lakes fishery and must be kept out. John co-leads the team that conducts continuous monitoring of the carps’ movement in the Chicago Waterway and that developed emergency protocols for action should the carp be detected in places where they should not be. This work, though not the end solution that is needed, is, nevertheless, essential until that solution can be achieved. Without


John’s work, hundreds of thousands of tons of Asian carp would be in the system, threatening the Great Lakes.

It is because of these accomplishments and his dedication and leadership while making outstanding contributions to Michigan’s anadromous fish sport fishery, that the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen’s Association selected John Dettmers as this year’s Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award winner!



Yacht Basin

FULL SERVICE MARINA, CONFERENCE CENTER & VACATION RENTALS



1866 OTTAWA BEACH RD. HOLLAND, MI 49424

YACHTBASINMARINA.COM 616.786.2205

Five Bass Fishing Philosophies

By Andrew Ragas
www.northwoodsbase.com

Philosophy is the study of general and fundamental problems concerning matters that encompasses knowledge, values, and reason. I don't believe Pythagoras was a fisherman himself, but his thoughtful teachings are still being applied to scholars of all subjects, including fishing.

We read to absorb information, and therefore we are all scholars of fishing. In today's informational age, we learn and absorb every piece of information and guidance that we can to help make us more successful at our craft and specialties. For my success in bass fishing, I have identified and applied a set of important values that I operate by on the water that have evolved me into the angler I have become. Take into consideration these few philosophies of mine, that they could help make you a better bass angler as well.

#1 – Camping Out For Bites

Some of my partners give me grief for fishing too slow and methodical. There is a reason for this madness, which has been developed over several years of patterning big bass and understanding their locations, feeding times, and behavior on many of the specific waters I fish. A strategy I sometimes employ is camping on spots. I focus on precise locations for long periods of time because I seek big bites, and the largest specimens in the lake that they attract.

Big bass are intelligent creatures, and the smallmouths I catch from Wisconsin's inland lakes have been around for 20 years or more. During their lifetime they've seen a lot of lures, and have potentially been caught and released dozens of times. Outwitting their behavior and tendencies requires savvy skill and fishing methodology. Identifying and locating big fish spots doesn't happen over-

night, or by the quick study of a lake map.

From nesting, to feeding, homing and wintering, big bass historically revisit and use the same specific locations of a lake for every year of their lifetime. Learning of a fish's behavior and tendencies can require several years of patterning a lake and learning the lake's history. More often than not the same patterns re-establish every season.

Big fish spots can be considered as high-percentage locations used annually by big bass. They may home on them for the duration of a season, or are revisited by that same specimen annually. These prime locations include complexes, humps, spawning flats, feeding areas, and pieces of structure such as rocks, boulders, and fish cribs that individual specimens would relate to. These are the types of locations I repeatedly fish for several minutes, or to an extreme, for hours at a time.

My camping philosophy often takes place during



Patience is one of fishing's greatest acquired skills.

Seek big bites by fishing slow and methodically.

Knowing when a big fish will visit and use a location and camping on these high percentage locations will result in big bites like this 5 and a half pounder.

peak feeding and lunar periods, as well as spring staging and fall schooling

scenarios when fish can be found in mass concentrations. It will also be done

on specific locations that have yielded big bass annually.

For example, a year ago I hosted one of my best friends for a trophy hunt. We visited one of our favorite low density trophy fisheries and our strategy for the afternoon was to seek one bite. Most days at this fishery it is a smallmouth surpassing 5 lbs. or more. Our intentions were to target a minimal amount of spots, and to focus on high percentage areas that consistently yield big fish. We positioned my boat along the perimeter and drop-off of a mid-lake gravel hump topping off at 3 feet. On our first slow circle of casting around the 30 yard wide hump, I hooked and lost an estimated 5 pounder on a football jig. After losing that fish, I decided to camp us on that spot for 30 more minutes with hopes that same fish would strike again.

Most anglers would choose to return to that spot again in the day, or during a peak phase, weather change, or in altering conditions. That's a wise alternative strategy, and if the plan is to spend a full day on the water, even better. But if fixated on one single bite like we were, and if the presence of a trophy is nearby, camp on that spot for however long it takes. We made 3 more passes around the hump, and my follow-up paid off. The same fish I lost minutes before struck a second time, a

“Bass”

Continued on page 19

“Live Bait”

Continued from page 8

working rocky areas that like to eat tackle, the braid will give better feel and help you adjust your depth more easily to stay out of trouble.

My standard braid is 10 pound-test-Sufix in low vis green. It has a very thin diameter and the extra strength helps get my tackle back when I do hang up in the rocks.

Since walleyes have an abundance of green color receptors in their eyes, I try to take advantage of this. I often place a chartreuse bead just above the hook for a little added attractant. Some days it helps and some days it doesn't. Orange is worth trying, as well.

Because conditions can change quickly, I always have several rigged rods in my boat. One always has braid on it and the other two will have different configurations of weight and leader length.

Live bait rigging is definitely a proven presentation. Whether you are using leeches, crawlers or minnows, a little tweaking can make this classic presentation even more productive.

SHIMANO

NASCI

SHIMANO NASCI Spinning Reel

Shimano NASCI Spinning Reels are powerful, durable, stylish, and available at a price any angler can afford. These reels are perfect for anything from light freshwater to medium saltwater applications.

Featuring:

- X-ship and Hagane Gearing
- 4+1 Bearings
- 7 - 24 (lb) Drag
- Coreprotect

This reel and other Shimano products available at
800.922.1219 | FishUSA.com

FishUSA
AMERICA'S TACKLE SHOP

Guide to Fishing on the St. Mary's River in Michigan

By Richard Corrigan,
Leaf Group, USA TODAY

One of Michigan's top fishing destinations, the St. Mary's River is a 75-mile waterway that connects Lake Superior's Whitefish Bay to the North Channel of Lake Huron. The river passes between the Michigan city of Sault Ste. Marie and the Ontario city of the same name, and is a productive walleye fishing ground as well as Michigan's premier Atlantic salmon fishery. The St. Mary's River covers a wide variety of fishing habitats, ranging from deep

channels and fast rapids to wide-open bays and lakes.

Walleye

Walleye in the St. Mary's River enjoy almost any type of habitat they could ever need, including shallow reefs, rocky points, sandy flats and deep, boulder-strewn channels. For this reason, the fish are abundant but can also prove difficult to find. Various tactics can be effective, and your success depends on a combination

"River"

Continued on page 14



The Grand Rapids Steelheaders Were Honored by Bass Pro Cabela's

The Grand Rapids Steelheaders were honored by Bass Pro Cabela's.

Bass Pro Cabela's is selecting Organizations who work with kids and promote fishing.

On June 7th the Grand Rapids Steelheaders were invited to the Grandville Cabela's Store to receive recognition for the work they have done and are doing with kids. Representing Grand Rapids was Bob Streck and he received 100 Zebco combo poles. The combo's were donated to the Ray Park Foundation for use in June 9th, Kids Fishing Derby. These poles will be used again on July 14th, the Re-Scheduled Ray Park Kids Fishing Derby. Grand Rapids also received two pairs of turned in used fishing reels.

Presenting the award

are; John Woniewski Cabela's Store Manager, Marlene Baker Assistant Store Manager and Terry Klavitter Store Marketing Manager.

Grand Rapids earned the recognition for the following work;

Awarding a trophy to each entrant in the Grand Rapids Steelheaders Small Fry yearlong fish contest.

At the 2017 Christmas Party it donated \$400.00 in gift cards to the D.A. Blodgett - St John's Foster Home.

During the Christmas break at D.A. Blodgett, bringing the Steelheader Salmon simulator to entertain the residents.

Teaching a year long Fishing Class at Sacred Heart Academy for the 9th grade students.

Taking kids fishing on Saturday and Sunday during

the Ultimate Sport Show in lake Ultimate.

Bringing the Steelheader Salmon Simulator to Cabela's and talk to the public while entertaining children.

At the Northview Salmon release working with Dan O'Keefe PhD and discussing what equipment is generally used in the Fall of the year for river fishing for Steelhead and Salmon. It worked one of the five work stations and talked to five groups of High School students.

Working with schools, (St Anthony Wealthy Elementary, Northview High School, Lake Michigan Academy and Murray Lake Elementary), and also helping with the Salmon in the Classroom program and salmon releases in the Spring of the year.

Taking the students

from Lake Michigan Academy fishing at Riverside Park. This could not have happened without Cabela's giving Grand Rapids about sixty-five turned-in fishing rods, most with reels.

On June 6th, taking the Steelheaders Salmon Simulator to Lake Michigan Academy for the Students to catch a salmon.

June 16th, taking the Steelheaders Salmon Simulator to the Berlin Raceway for Lori's Voice Walk for the Challenged.

July 14th, and helping at the Ray Park Kids Fishing Derby at Whistle Stop Park.

July 24th, bringing cheer to the children patients at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

September 8th, helping at the Sportsmen for Youth day.

Grand Rapids Steelheaders at Lori's Voice Walk

It was a fantastic day and our first time at this great, great event. Lori is a brave leader in helping children physically challenged. Lori's Voice 501 c 3 raises money to help where insurance does not cover a physically challenged individuals needs.

This event was held at the Berlin Raceway on June 16, 2018. The rain didn't keep away the volunteers, vendors or people that came to walk. Lori was also there in the walk, despite the rain.

Don Remington, Ron Larsen, Zack Streck and Bob Streck are Steelheaders who came to help set up and run the Steelheader Salmon Simulator. Their device simulates a realistic catch of a salmon, the fight that is involved in reeling in; all while watching the event on a TV. Lots of children, a few adults and several TV personalities took part in the fun.

We look forward to coming to this event again next year!



The Best Place to FISH in the Midwest?
Manistee, Michigan

STEELHEADERS Get 10% OFF the Best Selection Of Tackle In Manistee!

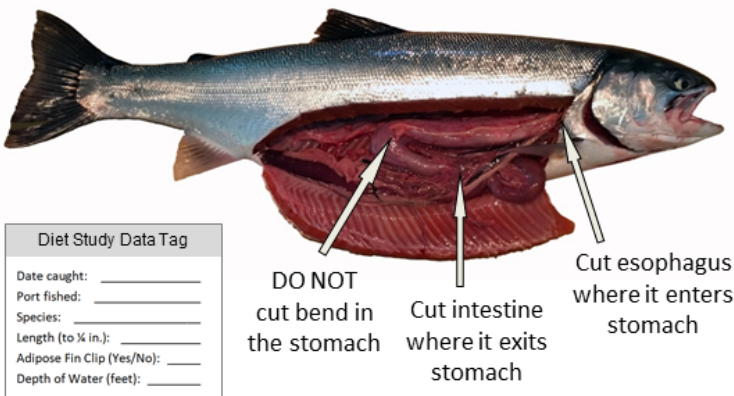
The Best Place To Stay & Play In Manistee?
Insta Launch Campground & Marina
Cabin & Trailer Rentals • Rustic To Full Hook-Up

20 Park Avenue, Manistee, MI 49660 • 231.723.3901 • www.instalaunch.com

Huron-Michigan Diet Study

WANTED! Lake trout, steelhead, brown trout, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, Atlantic salmon and walleye stomachs from Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

REASON: Researchers are trying to better understand where and when these predatory fish are eating gobies, alewife, smelt, and other food items in Lake Huron and Lake Michigan.



- 1 – Decide if you will collect stomachs from this fishing trip.
- 2 – Remove stomachs from ALL fish of each species that you are collecting.
- 3 – Place stomach and ALL contents into plastic bag with data tag.
- 4 – Freeze or ice stomachs immediately and deposit in freezer at drop site.

Data tags, list of freezer drop sites, video, and full instructions at: MichiganSeaGrant.org/diet



“Diet Study” Continued from page 1

after the digestion process is advanced. Researchers identify prey species most commonly using fish bones and other hard structures including vertebra, cleithra, and otoliths. They take careful data on prey species found inside the gamefish. The goal is to understand a better predator-prey relationship within both of the lakes.

Anglers have been extremely helpful with the collection of stomachs, and some have made donations to the Huron-Michigan Diet Study CrowdPower funding page. Donations have aided in hiring part-time student workers to help with the stomach examinations. Nick Green has been working on Lake Huron stomachs throughout the year. Nick Yeager and Mark

Hamlyn were volunteering their own time to work in the lab, and thanks to crowd funding efforts Mark was hired during the school year to work on the project. Jasmine Czajka is new to the team this summer. Czajka is working on a Zoology degree and is funded through a Michigan Sea Grant internship. Brok Lamorandier, a senior in Zoology with a focus on Marine Biology, is also new to the team and will be funded on a summer internship with MSU Extension.

The Huron-Michigan Diet Study is truly a collaborative effort. Dr. Ed Roseman, a Research Fishery Biologist with U.S. Geological Survey states, “The current diet study was initiated in 2017 by the U.S. Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center as part of Lake Huron’s Cooperative Science

and Monitoring Initiative. USGS established a cooperative agreement with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University to continue sample processing and collections on Lake Huron in 2018.” In addition to MSU, collaborators include U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Sea Grant, Michigan Sea Grant, and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. These agencies have contributed greatly to study design, outreach, collection of stomachs, and expansion of the study to include Lake Michigan.

More than 30 individuals have contributed to the crowd-funding effort, in addition to several fishing organizations. The Grand Rapids Steelheaders Foun-

dation donated \$2,000 toward student research, and the Grand Haven Steelheaders Foundation, Detroit Area Steelheaders, and Pentwater Sportfishing Association also made generous contributions. All donations go directly toward funding MSU student researchers (to donate visit <http://bit.ly/2ALNSJy>).

The study is helping to show what gamefish are eating in Great Lakes waters. The findings will help to inform stocking and management decisions in the future. Kierczynski and her team will be attending many fishing tournaments this summer to collect stomachs and spread the word about the diet study.

Follow the “Huron-Michigan Diet Study” team on Facebook and Instagram to see what they have been finding. One of the strangest posts was



Upper Left: Team pictured in the fisheries research lab at MSU. Back Row: Nick Green, Mark Hamlyn, Nick Yeager, Dr. Dan O’Keefe, Dr. Brian Roth, Brok Lamorandier. Front Row: Katie Kierczynski, Jasmine Czajka
(Michigan Sea Grant photo)



Robin leg found in the stomach of a Lake Huron lake trout.
(Katie Kierczynski photo)

a picture of an American Robin leg that was found in the stomach of a Lake Huron lake trout!

Grant website: www.MichiganSeaGrant.org/diet.



If you would like to donate fish stomachs to the study, you can find instructions, data tags, and a short video on the Michigan Sea

“We found a huge round goby in a lake trout stomach! (Photo above) We also looked at the goby’s stomach and found a crayfish!” (Photo below)
(Photos and quote from Huron-Michigan predator Diet Study Facebook page)



Research at the MSU Lab

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

MICHIGAN Stinger
SPORTFISHING PRODUCTS

**The legend continues...
In 2018, we promise to bring you
even more fish catching products
you'll come to love.**

WWW.MISTINGER.COM PHONE 231.549.3640
MICHIGANSTINGER@YAHOO.COM

An advertisement for Michigan Stinger Sportfishing Products. It features a man, Terry Weber, holding a large fish. The text includes his name, dates (4/26/47 - 12/16/16), the company name 'MICHIGAN Stinger SPORTFISHING PRODUCTS', and a promotional message: 'The legend continues... In 2018, we promise to bring you even more fish catching products you'll come to love.' At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'WWW.MISTINGER.COM PHONE 231.549.3640' and 'MICHIGANSTINGER@YAHOO.COM'.

TEKOTA
TALORA®

fish.shimano.com

SHIMANO

TEKOTA REELS AND TALORA RODS ARE THE COMBO THAT MAKES EVERY BATTLE A VICTORY ON THE GREAT LAKES. CHOOSE YOUR WEAPON FOR DOWNRIGGING, DIPSY DIVERS, WIRELINE, PLANER BOARDS, LEADCORE AND COPPER RODS

CHECK THEM OUT AT THESE DEALERS:

Al and Bob's.....	3100 S Division.....	Grand Rapids, MI.....	616-245-9156
Anderson Pro Bait.....	2731 Pine Grove Ave.....	Port Huron, MI 48060.....	810-984-3232
Broadlov's Fishin Hole.....	1127 Main Street.....	St. Joseph, MI 49085.....	269-982-3474
Clear H2O Tackle.....	69037 Christiana Lake Road.....	Edwardsburg, MI 49112.....	269-414-4131
D & R Sports.....	8178 West Main Street.....	Kalamazoo, MI 49009.....	269-372-2277
Fish On Bait and Tackle.....	13664 Cleveland Avenue.....	Nunica, MI 49448.....	616-935-6985
Fishing Tackle Grab Bag.....	5521 N. State Rd.....	Davison, MI 48423.....	810-653-477
Franks Great Outdoors.....	1212 N. Huron Road.....	Linwood, MI 48634.....	989-697-5341
Goldcoast Outfitters.....	6755 Butternut Drive.....	West Olive, MI 49460.....	616-786-9314
Jay's Sporting Goods.....	8800 S. Clare Ave.....	Clare, MI 48617.....	989-386-3475
Jay's Sporting Goods.....	150 Dale Drive.....	Gaylord, MI 49735.....	989-705-1339
Johnson's Great Outdoors.....	8603 Water Street.....	Montague, MI 49437.....	231-893-6688
Lakeside Fishing Shop.....	25110 Jefferson Ave.....	St. Clair Shores, MI 48081.....	586-777-7003
Northwoods Wholesale Outlet.....	229 W. Fifth Street.....	Pinconning, MI 48650.....	989-879-1110
Outdoorsmen Pro Shop.....	678 Baldwin Plaza.....	Jenison, MI 49428.....	616-457-3630
Tackle Haven.....	741 Riverview Drive.....	Benton Harbor, MI 49022.....	269-925-0341

“River”

Continued from page 12

of finding the right spot and choosing the best presentation on any given day. Perennial walleye hotspots include Munuscong Bay, where jigging in shallow water can be effective, and the deep waters around Neebish and Sugar Islands, which frequently reward trolling and deep-water jigging with significant catches. Walleye fishing in the St. Mary’s River peaks in May and June, and again from late August through October.

Northern Pike and Muskellunge

Pike and muskies are the apex predators in the St. Mary’s River, and their numbers are boosted by abundant habitat and prey fish species. The best time to target these fish is during the first few weeks after the season opens in mid-June, and they can usually be found around shallow weed beds. Large minnow-imitating surface baits, in-line spinners and soft plastic jerk-baits are all productive lures. Be sure to attach them to strong line and durable fishing rods, because these fish can make short work of flimsy rods and light line. Steel leaders will help keep these toothy fish from biting through your line. Some of the most productive areas for pike and muskellunge include Waishka Bay, Izaak Walton Bay, Munuscong and Lake George.

Salmon and Steelhead

Several types of trout and salmon make annual spawning runs up the St. Mary’s River, and almost any time between May and October can be productive for one species or another. Steelhead show up first in May, followed by Atlantic salmon from mid-June into August, and then Chinook and pink salmon from August into October. Steelhead make a second run in October, along with coho salmon. The St. Mary’s rapids is the place to be for these species, and fly fishing with wet flies like nymphs and streamers is often the tactic of choice. You can also troll in deeper waters like the mouth of the Garden River and the deep channel across from Sugar Island with spoons and diving crank baits.

Other Species

The St. Mary’s River has an abundance of whitefish, and the best fishing is in water 20 to 30 feet deep during early to midsummer. The deep waters of the upper river are usually productive, and the area near the power plant in the lower river is another top spot. Fishing for whitefish requires light line and tackle, and flies and small spinners make good bait choices. The St. Mary’s River also has a substantial small-mouth bass population, and

“River”

Continued on page 16

Poor Man’s Crab Cakes



This recipe came from the Chesapeake Bay area during the depression. You can use any cooked fish in this recipe, if fish has batter on it remove batter and follow recipe. I use this for my salmon patties.

Equivalent to a pint of cooked fish, if fish is fresh I cook in microwave till done, then flake.

Ingredients:
• 1 small minced onion
• 1 egg
• ½ package of crackers, crushed. Use any type of cracker, stale or fresh doesn’t matter
• Season as you like with Old Bay, garlic powder, salt and pepper etc.

• 3 tablespoons of mayo •
1 tablespoon of mustard
We like dijon, but any mustard will do.

Mix all ingredients. If mixture doesn’t hold together, add an additional tablespoon of mayo and a teaspoon of mustard.

Form into patties. Dip patty in bread crumbs and fry slowly.

Makes four nice size patties. Serve with cocktail sauce.
I have used laketrout, steelhead ,salmon and amber jack in this recipe.
If you want to use as dip, omit egg.



Recipe gatherer:
Lenore Merckel





Michigan Department of Natural Resources

DNR is Continuing a Year of Exciting Developments

By CASEY WARNER
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 (Original article edited for length and content unrelated to Fishing)

Just like many of us embarking on the new year with excitement about plans and goals for 2018, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is looking forward to continue what's in store for the coming year.

Here's a snapshot of some of the DNR's planned efforts to manage and protect Michigan's world-class natural resources and improve outdoor recreation opportunities in 2018.

Efforts to manage chronic wasting disease – a fatal neurological disease that affects white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk and moose – will continue in 2018. As of Dec. 27, a total of 50 deer in the Lower Peninsula have tested positive, or are suspected to be positive, for the disease.

In response, the DNR continues to follow steps mapped out in Michigan's comprehensive CWD response and surveillance plan.

An additional firearm deer hunt, Jan. 4-7 and Jan. 11-14, has been added in Ionia and Montcalm counties to help with chronic wast-

ect as part of Michigan's Arctic Grayling Initiative, a statewide partnership effort focused on restoring self-sustaining populations of this native fish. This is the third grant awarded to support the initiative.

"We are so honored to have the philanthropic support of several organizations who believe in the mission of Michigan's Arctic Grayling Initiative," said DNR Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter. "We cannot complete this project without the financial and technical support of partners. This unique public-private partnership is a hallmark of the Arctic grayling reintroduction that we hope will be considered in future programs involving Michigan's invaluable fishery resources."

For more information or to contribute to the reintroduction of Michigan's Arctic Grayling Initiative, visit migrayling.org.

Improving outdoor recreation opportunities

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.

Protecting Michigan's natural resources

The DNR Law Enforcement Division will significantly bolster its conservation officer ranks in 2018. Under a two-pronged initiative, the DNR will strategically use these additional officers to enhance its ability to provide effective natural resources enforcement

of general law enforcement training and more specialized training that is unique to the duties of a conservation officer.

The infusion of new officers will enable the Law Enforcement Division to accomplish its second initiative, increasing the strength of its Special Investigations Unit and Great Lakes Enforcement Unit. A total of 10 current conservation officers will join the ranks of these units, both essential to the division's vigorous enforcement work, and the resulting field vacancies will be filled with Recruit School graduates.

Detectives assigned to the Special Investigations Unit, highly trained and skilled investigators who come from the ranks of uniformed conservation officers, work in plain clothes and have a wide range of responsibilities, including investigating complaints of the illegal commercialization of fish, wildlife or other natural resources; syndicated poaching organizations, and threatened or endangered species.

Members of the Great



Recruits training to become Michigan conservation officers.

Lakes Enforcement Unit, also highly specialized officers, enforce regulations pertaining to commercial fisheries on Michigan's four Great Lakes. They conduct on-water patrols to board commercial fishing vessels and inspect the gear used to take fish.

Other duties include inspecting docked vessels and onshore commercial fishing facilities, enforcing

regulations regarding the wholesale fish industry, and working closely with the Special Investigations Unit to prevent aquatic invasive species from entering Michigan's waterways.

Preventing the spread of invasive species, both aquatic and terrestrial, is a continuing priority for the DNR as a whole.

"DNR"

Continued on page 19



The new Michigan elk license plate.

Managing Michigan's fish and wildlife

This year marks 100 years since elk were reintroduced to Michigan, and the DNR will celebrate the anniversary – and a century of successful elk management – throughout 2018.

The new Michigan elk license plate. Once common in Michigan, elk had disappeared from the state in the 1800s due to unregulated take and lack of habitat. In 1918, seven elk were brought from the western United States to Wolverine in Cheboygan County.

The healthy and abundant elk population of nearly 1,200 animals in the state today is a result of intentional land management and increased law enforcement.

A new wildlife license plate featuring an elk, which replaced the former loon plate, is now available from the Secretary of State. The wildlife plate has raised \$2.6 million for wildlife habitat since 2001 and will continue to raise money for the nongame fish and wildlife fund.

The DNR also offers Elk University, an opportunity for high school teachers to bring Michigan's unique elk success story into the classroom and teach students about how the DNR manages and maintains a healthy elk herd. Educators can register for this free program by Jan. 30 for the spring semester and Sept. 30 for the fall semester. The elk management story continues with an aerial population survey set to begin next week in the northern Lower Peninsula.

ing disease surveillance.

"We are counting on hunters and their willingness to harvest deer to support our surveillance efforts," said Chad Stewart, DNR deer specialist. "Better, broader surveillance of deer herd health is critical to better understanding this wildlife disease. Increased harvest and subsequent testing will help inform our decisions on CWD management this year."

To learn more about CWD – and the current known distribution of CWD in Michigan – visit michigan.gov/cwd.



New efforts are under way to restore Arctic grayling to Michigan waters.

Philanthropy continues to have a prominent role in the historic reintroduction of the Arctic grayling to Michigan, with the recent award of a \$180,000 gift from the Henry E. and Consuelo S. Wenger Foundation to the DNR. New efforts are underway to restore Arctic grayling to Michigan waters.

The funds will support a three-year research proj-

and protection across the state.

The ninth Conservation Officer Recruit School is tentatively scheduled for July through December. The new officers who graduate the 23-week academy will help the DNR provide even greater natural resources and public protection statewide. The rigorous school provides a mix

Torpedo Divers™

EXPLOSIVE FISHING

Trolling for Walleye, Salmon & Trout

The shape of the Torpedo Divers gives it great efficiency in water achieving depths far deeper than would be expected for its weight. The Torpedo Diver allows for extreme stealth with next to zero turbulence.

Torpedo Downrigger Weights
16 lbs & 12 lbs

Reach greater depths on your downrigger with our Torpedo design.

www.torpedodivers.com

Dealer inquiries: 226-504-2265 or visit our website for our full selection of product

2018 Lake Michigan Fishing Forecast

Article from <http://www.fishdoubletrouble.com>

What a ride it has been for Lake Michigan anglers over the last several years. Ups, downs, and a lot of in between have occurred as the Lake Michigan fishery continuously evolves. As that evolution takes place, fisheries biologists are forced to adapt their studies and recommendations on the fly, while state officials and managers are required to re-adjust stocking levels. At the bottom of that ladder you'll find fishermen, who are left to adapt new ideas and tactics in order to be successful.

But after all isn't that what fishing is all about? Isn't it about the never-ending challenge of trying to break the code of another species all while trying to tame and understand mother nature?

Despite the doom and gloom that has surrounded the last decade on Lake Michigan, there has actually been some pretty great fishing in all 4 states that border this huge body of water. The key these days seems to be a combination of networking with other fishermen, patience, and being opportunistic, all while managing your expectations.

As we've done before

"River"

Continued from page 14

these fish tend to receive little angling pressure because so many fishermen overlook them in favor of other species. Early-season fishing peaks in June, but late August through early October are also productive. Try tossing deep crank baits, jigs and live nightcrawlers in Waika Bay, Munuscong and Lake Nicolet, or around Sugar and Neebish islands.

Considerations

You'll need a valid Michigan fishing license to fish the St. Mary's River. You can purchase a license online through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (michigan.gov/dnr) or at most bait shops and sporting goods stores across the state. When fishing the St. Mary's River, be careful not to cross the Canadian border, because an Ontario fishing license is required in those waters. A complete guide to Michigan's fishing seasons, limits and other regulations is available through the DNR website or in print form at most places where licenses are sold.



we'll try to take a short glimpse into the past, in an effort to make an educated guess about what the future might hold.

Was 2017 the year of the Coho Salmon?

April has always been a Coho Salmon month in the southern ports of Lake Michigan, but 2017 seemed to be better than most. There was a twist though, the way anglers are catching them was a little different than it used to be. It wasn't too long ago that most fishermen would target the shallow nearshore depths along the beach using shallow diving crankbaits, small dodgers, and spoons for these silvery escape artists.

The last few years have found the majority of fishermen targeting the offshore waters in the early season, with a portion of their spread dedicated to traditional springtime Coho Salmon lures in the top 30'

off the water. These shallow fish are very likely to be preying on small bugs that are hatching near the Lake's surface.

Another portion of an-

glers' spreads have been devoted to the deeper parts of the water column from 75' down to 200' or even more. Most would think those deep fish would have to be

Lake Trout or even immature King Salmon, but on many days those fish were actually Coho Salmon.

But what the heck were they doing down there?



Crew from Double Trouble Sportfishing Charters show off their days work.



The reason was simple once you start investigating the stomach contents of these fish. Coho Salmon, much like fishermen, are opportunistic and typically will take the easiest meal they can find. The deep water Coho Salmon were normally gorged with Bloody Red Mysid, a small invasive shrimplike crustacean that has seen its population drastically increase in Lake Michigan over the past several years.

There may be another reason anglers caught so many Coho Salmon in the offshore waters during the 2017 season, and it may have less to do with Coho Salmon or those little shrimp they've been feeding on.

"2018"

Continued on page 23



TROLLING WITHOUT A FISH HAWK IS CALLED BOATING

WIRELESS SPEED, TEMPERATURE, AND DEPTH AT THE DOWNRIGGER BALL.

Visit fishhawkelectronics.com to read stories from real Fish Hawk customers and learn why Fish Hawk is one of the most important pieces of marine electronics you can own.



HOLLAND, MI...

great fishing for you -
great fun for everyone!

.....
White Sandy Beaches, Summer Street Performers,
Waterfront Concerts, Boutique Shopping
Open-Air Farmer's Market,
Pier Fishing, Charters & Tournaments
.....

Free fishing brochure & visitors guide
800.506.1299



78 East 8th Street,
downtown Holland
holland.org



Holland Chapter Steelheaders Kids-N-Kings Annual Fishing Tournament



Left: Aiden Pathuis won the 2018 Kids N Kings Tournament sponsored by the Holland Steelheaders. The winning fish (a King salmon) weighed 18.46 pounds and "netted" him \$500.

Right: Raffle items were donated by many generous local sponsors.

Right inset: Main event sponsor Advantage Marine's Dave Lamer and co-chair, Kevin Lacey.

Below: Eighty nine kids from age six to sixteen participated in the event on Saturday June 23rd affording fishing on the Big Lake or inside on Lake Macatawa in Holland, MI.



Feed the Fish What They Want

By Bob Jensen

Summer is here: It came quickly this year. Fishing in the summer can be very productive. However, on that day when you're on the water, fishing conditions might not be the best for the species of fish that you want to catch. We might really want to catch walleyes, but in reality, in some bod-

ies of water, the largemouth bass might be biting better. It's a good idea to keep your options open when you go fishing in the summer. If you do, you'll catch a lot more fish.

When you start out your day of fishing, it's important to have a plan. If, for instance, walleyes are to be the quarry, you should have a rod rigged with a live-bait

rig. Live bait is almost always a good summertime bet for walleyes. Check out some deeper water structure. Keep a close eye on your sonar for fish activity. When you find some walleyes, work your rig through them. Maybe you'll get a bite, but maybe you won't.

If you work your bait through several schools of fish with no action, try

something else. Try pulling a spinner/nightcrawler through the fish. That might get them to go, and if it doesn't, tie on a crankbait and pull that through them. Show the fish lots of options and let them decide what they want to eat.

And then, maybe they just don't want anything right then. If you've just gotta' catch walleyes you



Travis Carlson got this Kabetogama Lake walleye to eat a crawler on a live-bait rig. Kabetogama is a world-class walleye lake, but you still need to give the fish what they want to eat.

Fishing Benzie County IS Catching!

Fish on some of Michigan's finest waters, in Benzie County, Michigan!

Enjoy Lake Michigan from our port city of Frankfort or try your luck on one of our over 57 inland lakes, two rivers and several streams. Our waters are rich with **Coho Salmon, Steelhead, Brown Trout, Bass, Pike, Walleye, Bluegill and Perch.** Every fishing enthusiast will find just what their fishing for. **Crystal Lake, Big & Little Platte Lakes, the Betsie and Platte Rivers** and of course, **Lake Michigan** are the most well-known, but you will also discover hidden gems like **Turtle Lake, Long Lake or Herring Lake** that may just be the experience you're looking for.

Lodging choice abound and area sporting shops sell all your fishing needs and provide tips on the "hot spots". Great local shopping and dining options make for a well-rounded trip to Benzie County. For more information, call our office or visit our website.

Benzie County
Visitors Bureau
www.visitbenzie.com
800-882-5801
Northern Michigan Preserved®

f/benziecounty.cvb #PureBenzieMI

Proud sponsor of the
**Benzie Fishing Frenzy
Tournament
August 24-26, 2018**



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

can keep trying, but you might be limiting yourself to the amount of action you'll experience. If it were me, I would go after another species of fish. When I go fishing, I like to catch fish. Many of the best walleye lakes are also good for bass or bluegills or pike. If something pulling on the end of your line is the goal, tie a different bait on your line and head to a different area of the lake. A weed-line would be a good place to head to. The weedline is home to all species of fish, and often the fish on the weedline will be aggressive biters.

Throw a crankbait or jigworm along the weed-line. You'll probably have at least some action from a variety of fish species.

If that doesn't do the trick and there's some wind, rig up a slip-bobber and head to a point or sunken island, or find a concentration of fish on deeper structure. Attach a leech to your hook, adjust the bobber stop so that your bait is within a foot or two of the bottom, and give it a go.

If the fish still don't want to bite, and if you have the option, head for an area river. River fish of-

ten will bite when lake fish don't want to.

Remember that food sources are at a season high in the summer. The predator fish are seeing all sorts of bugs, crawdads, and young of the year baitfish. Some anglers feel that it works well to "match the hatch". That means that they want to use a bait that resembles what the predators are feeding on. That works well sometimes, but sometimes it works really well to show the predators something completely different than what they've been feeding on.

The key to summer fishing success is this: If what you're doing isn't working, do something else. In reality, that's a good philosophy for fishing at any time of the year. Employ it and you'll catch more fish.

To see the newest and older episodes of Fishing the Midwest Television, recent and older fishing articles, and fishing videos, go to fishingthemidwest.com



LYNDEN
SPORTS CENTER

EXIT 16 COOPERSVILLE
1016 OMalley Drive

1650 Retriever Jon Deluxe
\$11,995 \$99/mo
25 HP MERC

616-997-8888
LyndenSportCenter.com

“Bass”

Continued from page 11

tube jig, and was captured. Thanks to similar experiences, I’ve learned a big bite can return at any time. It all depends on the boat’s patience, the fishes mood, and how willing you are to invest in extra time.

My camping strategy doesn’t pay off handsomely like this each time. It could prove to be futile, and there have been some occurrences I’ve died by it, especially if fish aren’t around.

There are times and scenarios when camping on spots won’t work. If the intentions are to catch several fish, it’s by far the worst to employ during major feeding windows in which several producing locations throughout the lake could have active fish. Another situation could be for practical time management purposes. Not every angler can afford spending hours on water. Therefore if short on time, speed fishing would be the better strategy. Lastly, if learning and breaking down a new fishery, especially large water, you cannot break down that fishery or a specific region of the lake by camping out on spots and fishing slow.



Live the moment and only look ahead if the bite ever slows and dissipates. Never leave a good bite and area of active bass to seek greener pastures elsewhere on the lake. Guide customer, Andrea Luszczak with one of over 60 bass we boated in July of 2017. Our strategy that day was not to leave active fish!

While camping out on spots annoys some of my partners and those who are impatient, the positives from my experiences outweigh the negatives of this philosophical tactic and fishing fundamental. This philosophy has resulted in lots of big bass and success over the years.

#2 – Don’t Leave Fish to Find Fish

What’s that old expression we’ve often heard? Don’t leave fish to find fish. It’s one of the most important values one could ever learn in fishing.

As a part time fishing guide, I’m often faced with this scenario. Should we leave active fish in favor of repeated success at other similar areas and locations?

Of similar philosophy to camping on spots, this philosophy has helped shape my trip planning and execution while out on the water. If the fishing is good, and you want to keep the

momentum going, the best strategy is to do nothing. Don’t leave the area, and don’t adjust tactics. Bass move in and out of locations often. If a bite slows, my anticipation is the bite will eventually resume once again. If the spot isn’t conditioned, over-pressured, or exhausted, don’t leave the fish that are using it.

Leaving fish in order to find more fish is an uncalculated risk that can potentially be a big mistake. This strategy never comes with a guarantee. It can also potentially ruin or slow down what originally started out as a day’s successful outing. You might not be able to replicate the same rate of success by leaving fish to find others elsewhere on the lake.

When hosting my guests, I am paid to put them on fish, deliver their money’s worth, and to follow through on my routine of providing an educational and productive fishing experience for the duration of time they have booked my services and expertise. How I cater fishing trips is done according to my guest’s preferences though. Some anglers want to catch fish and care for nothing else, while others have ob-

terns quicker than usual.

Not every bass angler needs up to 10 rods on their casting deck like I sometimes do, but each rod rigged with something different at first can help identify and establish patterns quickly, in addition to quickly altering presentations.

We can only use one rod at a time though. And when bass are only showing interest in a general lure category, I immediately experiment with other specific baits and similar presentations within that category. I then branch off into experimenting with variations of that lure type and the presentation that’s been working. For example if it’s a suspending jerkbait fish are showing an interest for, I may then tie on different variations of that lure category on 4 different rods to truly capitalize on a jerkbait bite. These variations may encompass different models, lengths, sizes, weights, diving depths, and color styles. Then, I will put all other unnecessary gear away because I’ve found what the fish want.

At this point, the process of elimination has taken place. I have established a pattern successfully. I then put away everything else into storage.

Many bass anglers tend to get carried away and overwhelmed with gear and tackle overload atop their front decks, in addition to prioritizing the wrong things in their fishing approach rather than focusing on tactics and approach. My process of tackle elimination during the establishment of a pattern reduces clutter and confusion, and makes me more successful. I have learned I am a more practical and efficient angler when I only have 4 or 5 rods on deck with baits that are working rather than 10 or more rods and dozens of lures scattered on deck that overcomplicates and would otherwise might not be working.

#4 – Running and Gunning is Overrated

Many of the best fisheries inhabited by smallmouth bass throughout the north are clear oligotrophic and mesotrophic lakes with high transparency. As a result, fish tend to spook more frequently, and their sensory organs that include a lateral line and eye sight are more sensitive and responsive to disturbances and loud noise. On the clear waters I frequently fish, smallmouths can see for great distances, and will feel everything atop the surface above them. For these reasons, running and gunning from spot to spot isn’t the wisest of strategies.

The noise from outboards tears up the water, and shadow of a boat scares fish, driving them down to the sanctuary of greater depths increasing the probability of them being uncatchable.

Not only am I a slow fisherman, but I operate my boat in similar manners

by idling and drifting into spots with stealth. By doing so, the wary and curious smallmouths remain catchable, and mostly unaware of invaders atop their spots.

Many bass anglers who practice run and gun tactics don’t efficiently fish spots the way they should be. Rather, quick travel and coverage of a spot is prioritized over dissecting it to ensure its potential and determining whether fish are actually there or not. Many anglers also don’t know how to use their electronics properly; neglecting electronics usage that includes mapping, charting, and marking fish. An adept angler would first slowly idle around the area to scan for fish with side imaging, then drop waypoints and icons on fish and pieces of structure, make reference of the boat’s distance away from the icons, and only then proceed to fish by casting to those icons and waypoints.

I preach anglers to have a purpose on every spot fished and pulled upon. Have a strategy, run a track and course between waypoints and along contours. Always map and scan over a spot prior to making your first cast. This leads to angling efficiency rather than being victimized by the thundering scare tactics of the run and gun.

#5 – Don’t be a Bank Beater

“I’m a shallow water guy. If I can’t catch them beating the bank, I’m probably not going to catch them. I just can’t make myself to fish offshore.”

I get angry every time I hear it. But then I realize the fish I focus on catching most often are the least pressured. So I will usually have them mostly to myself.

One of the biggest mistakes bass anglers make is their reliance and dependence on fishing shorelines, docks, and near-shore habitats. Don’t be a bank beater.

Old habits are hard to break. Most of the fishing pressure bass receive is near shorelines. Look over the shoulder, and you will learn the better smallmouth fishing in the entire lake is out towards that direction.

Smallmouth bass are primarily offshore and deep structure-oriented fish year-round, only to be found shallow, up on some shorelines, in spring and during specific summer and fall scenarios when food availability and water temperature is ideal. Smallmouths spend majority of their lives in deep water, away from shorelines. While smaller members of the population are least educated and tend to favor living in the shallows until they reach a certain age and homing preference, the largest members of most smallmouth populations will usually live deep where they will be least pressured and exploited.

Bank beating is imprac-

“Bass”

Continued on page 23

There's a little Devle in everything we do.

Sure, it's a little flashier than the original red & white Eppinger Dardevle®, but our Firetiger design is every bit a Devle when it comes to consistently catching fish. To see more of the 17,000 different lures made by Eppinger, contact us for a free catalog, or log on to our web site at www.eppinger.net. Dardevle and other Eppinger lures are available at your local retailer.

Eppinger
America's Fishing Lures

Eppinger Mfg. Co.
6340 Schaefer
Dearborn MI 48126
Phone: 313/582-3205
Email: dardevle1@aol.com
www.dardevle.com
www.eppinger.net

***IDEAL FOR:**

- Smallmouth Bass
- Rock Bass
- Walleye
- Yellow Perch
- White Bass
- Striped Bass
- Brook Trout
- Atlantic Salmon

**“DNR”
Continued from page 15****Increasing focus on healthy Michigan water resources**

The Office of the Great Lakes, which plays a central role in advising the governor and other state departments on policy and actions regarding the Great Lakes, moved to the DNR from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in late 2017 per an executive order issued by Gov. Rick Snyder. Great Lakes waters continue to be among Michigan’s most vital natural resources.

“The Great Lakes are one of Michigan’s most prized natural resources. Proper protection and management of the lakes is critical to our future,” Snyder said. “This move will ensure the long-term ability of the Office of the Great Lakes to better protect, restore and sustain the Great

Lakes watershed into the future.”

In 2018, the Office of the Great Lakes will continue its foray into supporting Great Lakes autonomous vessel research, expand opportunities for people to enjoy Michigan water trails, celebrate 40 years of positive impact by Michigan’s Coastal Management Program and partner with other organizations on the Michigan Water Heritage Project, connecting communities to their water resources alongside the Smithsonian’s Water/Ways exhibit.

This glimpse at what’s on the horizon to continue for 2018 only scratches the surface of the breadth and volume of work the DNR will undertake this year. To keep up with the latest developments, visit the DNR website – which itself will be getting a makeover this year – at www.michigan.gov/dnr.



Great Lakes waters continue to be among Michigan’s most vital natural resources.

2018 AuSable Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
<p align="center">Information TBD. Contact Gene Kirvan at calypsocharters@yahoo.com for inquiries.</p>			

2018 Battle Creek Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
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
<p align="center">Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting Location: Moonraker West Battle Creek</p>			
<p align="center">FOR MORE INFORMATION: River Tournaments – Ice Tournaments – Justin Kling 491-2980 Lake Tournaments – Greg Peck 998-9407 battlecreeksteelheaders.com</p>			

2018 Grand Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	Contact Info
Jan.1 - Nov.30		GH Steelheaders’ Year Long Fishing Contest		
Jan.1 - Sept. 5		GH Steelheaders’ Youth Fishing Contest		
July 27 - August 9		Member week-long fishing contest		mjbelter@altelco.net
August	9	Sportsmen for Youth Fundraiser/ Dinner		https://sportsmenforyouth.com/
August	9	Chapter member picnic, week-long 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	Sons of the American Legion Salmon Festival Fish Boil	Grand Haven Municipal Marina area	www.ghsalmonfest.com/
September	15	Grand Haven Salmon Festival KidZone activity area	Grand Haven Municipal Marina area	www.ghsalmonfest.com/
September	15	GH Steelheaders - Salmon Festival Big Fish Contest	Grand Haven Municipal Marina area	www.ghsalmonfest.com/ mjbelter@altelco.net
December	5	Annual dinner, recognitions, fund raiser		
<p align="center">For information on these events and other information on the Grand Haven Steelheaders contact Mary Jane Belter @ mjbelter@altelco.net www.ghsteelheaders.com</p>				

2018 Grand Rapids Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
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*
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
<p>STC* = Date subject to change ** = Members and Family Only. (All other events open to the public)</p>			

2018 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Comments / Contact Info
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
<p align="center">Membership meetings held at: 3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642 989-496-3410</p> <p align="center">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.</p> <p align="center">If interested in fishing with us please email: kathy@steel-headers.com. Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com</p>			

2018 Holland Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
July	9	Board Meeting
July	14	Veteran’s Fishing Outing
July	26	General Membership Meeting/Captain’s Meeting
July	28	Holland Steelheaders Summer Challenge
August	3-5	Big Red Classic
August	6	Board Meeting
August	18	Holland Steelheaders Ladies Tournament
September	4	Tuesday Fish League Final Night
September	10	Board Meeting
October	1	Board Meeting
November	5	Board Meeting
December	1	River Tournament
December	3	Board Meeting
December	6	General Membership Meeting
<p align="center">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.</p> <p align="center">For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jeremy Erdman 616-510-9405, or email Steve Weatherwax at <i>Waxer1221@Yahoo.com</i></p>		

2018 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
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: Jay Labban
July	26	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Thu w TCAS	Chair: Gale Frazee/Tom Abdelnour
July	28	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sat w TCAS/HV	Chair: Dennis Kelley
July	29	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	15	Manistee Pier Jamboree	Chair: Adam Trenz
September	17	Captain/Crew/River Angler 2019 Calendar Mtg	Chair: Kelley/P. Bustos/Nabors/Grech
September	22	Manistee River Tournament w/TCAS	Chair: Adam Trenz
September	29	Detroit River Kayak/Small boat	Chair: Eric Braden
October	2	General Membership Meeting	
October	6	Ohio Steelhead Alley (include Elk Creek P.A.)	Chair: Phil Bustos
October	13	Manistee River Tournament	Chair: Fabian Sepulveda
October	27	Huron Walleye Tournament w HVS	Chair: Jim Robertson
November	3	River Tourn./Pier & Shore Outing Manistee w DS	Chair: Dave Zawacki/Eric Braden
November	6	General Membership Meeting	
December	4	CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
December	8	Huron River Tournament	Chair: Hinchcliff/Davis
<p align="center">** 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.</p> <p align="center">Contact: <i>President</i> Larry Tabaka 313-215-8979 / <i>Membership Director</i> Henry Nabors 248-225-4964</p>			

2018 South Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
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
<p align="center">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</p>		

4th Annual Manistee River Clean Up



WHERE:
HighBridgeBoat Launch
4311 N High Bridge Rd
Brethren, MI 49619

DETAILS:
On Saturday, July 21st from 9am-2pm, volunteers will meet for the annual Manistee River clean-up hosted by Steelhead Manifesto and On The Ground. Volunteers are encouraged to bring waders if they have them, however a limited number of them will be available for use at

the event. Personal boats are welcome as well, and would be very helpful! All other necessary supplies will be provided. Come join Steelhead Manifesto and OTG for a great afternoon! Lunch and drinks will be provided, and all volunteers will get a free T-shirt!



Visit mucc.org/on-the-ground/ for details and to register online.



Truck stocked with Rainbow Trout, provided by Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery



Approximately 1,000 rainbow trout are restocked in fishing pond.

Rainbow Trout Restock

Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Marissa McIntyre, a junior at Lake Superior State University, helps shuttle upwards of 1,000 rainbow trout into the Sault Kid's Fishing Pond at Rotary Park Friday morning. The fisheries and wildlife student unloaded the fish from a fish hatchery truck into the pond for kids to angle for throughout the summer.

Two more deliveries are expected to bring a total of 3,300 trout, between eight ounces to one pound and up to 15 inches long, to the pond. The truck was driven by John Shuman with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The fish were provided by Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery.

2018 SCHEDULE MANISTEE COUNTY TOURNAMENTS & EVENTS



Ladies
Shake Down
May 25

Onekama Marine Inc.
Memorial Weekend "Shake Down"

Shake Down
Main Event
May 26-27



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

MCSFA Events
Salmon & Trout Derby:
May 26 - Sept 3
Ladies Classic: June 22
Budweiser Pro/Am: June 23-24



Presented by:
The Manistee County Sportfishing Association
PO Box 98, Manistee, MI 49660
email: mcsfa98@gmail.com
www.mcsfa.org • 231-887-4474

Salmon Splash
July 27-29

Ladies Splash, Pro/Am,
Big Splash Cash & More!
www.tournamenttrail.net



Call Scott MacDonald 231-690-1102
email: smac54@gmail.com

Little River Casino
Resort Presents



Monster Mania: Sept. 8-9
Find out more at www.tournamenttrail.net



Manistee County has the most
Tournaments on the Trail!

Multiple Divisions – Fun For All!
Catch 1 fish, 3 fish, 5 fish, 10 fish & more!
333 Only available at all events.



MANISTEE COUNTY
VISITORS BUREAU

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	05/04/18
4	06/22/18	06/29/18
5	08/24/18	08/31/18
6	10/19/18	10/26/18

GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

MSSFA, Publisher

Barbara Aalderink, Editor in Chief
Cell: (616) 724-7191
barb@fusiongraphicconsultants.com

Laura Kleinhessel, Layout
laura.glsfn@charter.net

Stafford Printing, Printing
Greenville, MI

Dennis Eade, Advertising & Sales

Tel: 616-298-8842
Fax: 616-298-8847
deneade@charter.net

Bonnie Eade, Accountant
Tel: 616-298-8842
Fax: 616-298-8847
Cell: 616-928-8970
bonnie.glsfn@charter.net

The Great Lakes Sport Fishing News (GLSFN) is the official publication of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association (MSSFA). Subscription to the GLSFN is through membership in MSSFA. The GLSFN publishes six issues per year. Permission for reprint from this publication is normally permitted, unless otherwise stipulated by the article, and proper credit is given to the author and the publication. The GLSFN or MSSFA does not necessarily agree or support the contents of articles within this publication. The views expressed are those of the author(s) of the articles.

MICHIGAN STEELHEAD AND SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Business Office
P.O. Box 8034
Holland, MI 49422
Tel: 616-298-8842 / Fax: 616-298-8847
e-mail: michigansteelheaders.org

Ken Merkel, President
Eric Braden, Vice President
Dennis Eade, Executive Director
Gerry Sickon, Secretary
Nick Hamadanchi, Treasurer

The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association (MSSFA) is a multi-state, non-profit organization dedicated to educating the general public on improving, 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

2018 Southwest MI Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Location / Contact Info	
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
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 MSSFA Membership Drive

is a year-long contest! Keep telling others about joining and in turn, enter to win prizes! Contact your Chapter Membership Director or mssfamembership@gmail.com



The two grand prize winners in MSSFA’s Statewide Membership Drive for 21017 were **Henry Nabors, Metro West Steelheaders** and **Jason Mika, Holland Steelheaders** (pictured here receiving his new Okuma Aventa Float Rod paired with an Okuma Float Fishing Reel). **Congratulations men, and thank you for encouraging new members to join!**

2018 Thumb Chapter Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	Location
July	19	Regular Meeting	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
August	12	Pig Roast	2:00 pm	Stafford Park
August	16	Ladies Night	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
September	20	Regular Meeting w/ Tackle Swap	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
October	18	Regular Meeting - Election of Board/Officers	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
November	TBD			
December	TBD			
Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries.				

2018 Thunderbay Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
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 Dan Bouchard at dan-bouchard@hotmail.com for inquiries.			

2018 White River Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
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.			

DW

Team Dreamweaver



DREAMWEAVER

ALWAYS ROOM FOR A SUPER SLIM

WWW.TEAMDREAMWEAVER.COM



HUMMINBIRD/CANNON

SAUGATUCK BIG LAKE CLASSIC

PRO DIVISION

Observers Required

Both PRO & AM DIVISIONS

9 Trout Max

Pro/Am Fishing Tournament

August 11th & 12th, 2018

This a non-profit tournament put on by sportsmen for sportsmen

JOIN US IN AUGUST FOR THIS EXCITING TOURNAMENT

1st Annual “Denny Allen Memorial” Big Fish Tournament

1st Place \$1000 guaranteed

Sponsored by Jets Pizza

FRIDAY AUGUST 10TH - PRE-TOURNAMENT SHOOTOUT

THE TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by Cowhill Yacht Club

DENNY ALLEN MEMORIAL

- ★ Entry Fee: \$50
- ★ Guaranteed 15 Places

Raffle, 50/50, Fun

For early entry or pre-tournament shootout go to www.cowhill.us

To contact us:
 John Watson at 1137watson@gmail.com
 Or Call Tournament Director at 616-218-6686

For Dock Space contact:
 Tower Marine at 269-857-2151
 Sergeant Marina at 269-857-2873

- ★ \$5000 First Prize Pro Division - based on 15 entries
- ★ \$450 early fee paid by August 1st, \$500 after
- ★ \$2500 First Prize Am Division
- ★ \$225 early entry fee paid by August 1st, \$275 after
- ★ 20 Places paid in the AM Division (35 Teams)

Location of Captains Meeting, Weight In, and Awards:
 Coral Cables in downtown Saugatuck

- ★ August 10th - Free Pig Roast at Captains Meeting
- ★ August 11th - 12th Free Hamburgers and Hot Dogs at Weigh-in and Awards Ceremony

All Provided by Coral Gables Restaurant













“2018”

Continued from page 16

It has been well documented that the alewife population of Lake Michigan has declined in recent years and with it so has the amount of King Salmon in the Lake Michigan. So, with an overall lower population of Kings, less fishermen are seeking out the shallows in the spring searching where they would typically find them. Because after all who would pass on a fast paced limit of Coho Salmon in the deep water to pry the shallows for a crack at a few King Salmon in the shallows along the beach?

For now, the days seem to be gone where anglers would flock to those shallows during the spring months and fill coolers to the brim with King Salmon. But that doesn't mean there isn't great fishing opportunities on Lake Michigan throughout the season and even some great action on big Kings. Again, it just means that you have to be opportunistic and choose the right time to strike.

Maybe those Coho have always been out in the deep blue waters during the spring months and fishermen were just too busy pulling those big tackle busting Kings out of the shallows to know or even care about it. Regardless of how many factors were involved, the 2017 season saw the best fishing and weir returns for Coho Salmon since 2002, which was certainly a welcome sight for anglers across the lake.

What about King Salmon in 2017?

Fishing for kings across Lake Michigan in 2017 was similar to what it has been in recent seasons, fishing was good on some days and tough on others and limit catches were certainly not the norm. More than ever it seems important to network with other trusted anglers to see what's happening around the lake and to target other species when the King bite just isn't on fire in your port.

Despite the inconsistent fishing, there have been some positives in recent seasons.

First off, since the highly debated stocking cuts of King Salmon in Michigan waters in 2013 and 2016, the size of mature Kings has increased significantly and master angler sized fish have been more common. In 2017 there were a few fish weighed in the upper 30 pound range across the lake and even one from Muskegon that tipped a certified scale past the 41 pound mark! That shows that despite the disagreement surrounding the stocking cuts, they may indeed have produced the desired effect of bringing the King Salmon population more in balance with their desired forage fish (Alewife).

Also, over the past few seasons the weir returns have rebounded slightly off their lows from 2015. No, that certainly doesn't mean that they are back at their

heyday levels, but at least they have improved slightly. The 2015 weir returns were the lowest on record, so any rebound we can get is a step in the right direction.

On another bright note, Lake Michigan's Alewife population has had a few decent hatches over the past few seasons. The Alewife classes of 2015, 2016, and 2017 were all enough to have a reasonable impact on the population. While far from bumper crops, they were still enough to offer hope of sustaining the forage population into the coming years.

Finally, there is some evidence that the Quagga Mussel population has begun to decline in different areas across the lake. Since invading Lake Michigan in 1998, these mussels have wreaked havoc on the food web lake wide. As they have taken hold, they have all but eradicated their cousins the Zebra Mussel, while making Lake Michigan much less biologically productive than in the past. Perhaps this new data is a sign that they have reached or even exceeded their carrying capacity. If this decline continues, it should free up some nutrients and make Lake Michigan more productive in the coming years. Let's hope that's the case.

Summing it all up

So, what does it all mean for the fishing this year? As always predicting the future of a fishery as complex as Lake Michigan is never an exact science nor a guarantee. But it's likely a fairly safe bet that the fishing should be similar to the way that it has been in recent seasons. A slight bump in the Alewife crop and natural King Salmon recruitment may even lead to slightly more productive season.

But those expectations must be kept in check.

As we've warned in the past; if you are only to going to be satisfied when you break the hinges off your cooler because it is stuffed with mature King Salmon, you're likely going to be very disappointed on most days. That's not to say that there won't be some great fishing for Kings from many ports this season, just choose your time-frame and location wisely. Listen to fishing reports from trusted sources, talk to locals and friends, call the local bait shop to get the scoop, When the time is right don't wait. Get out there and make it happen. Because there is no telling how long that action will last.

On the days where it seems like a healthy cooler of Kings just isn't in the cards, you're likely better suited to think outside the box. Maybe hitting some clay or rocky bottom structure and targeting Lake Trout is the best way to fill the bucket. Or maybe you'd be better off to load up your best Steelhead and Coho baits and make the long trip offshore on a calm day.

Who knows you may even find decent mess of immature King Salmon mixed in with the other species.

The point is that Lake Michigan isn't a one-dimensional fishery, so why sell yourself short as a one-dimensional fisherman? We should never stop striving to learn more and become better today than we were yesterday. And this nonstop learning and adapting process has never seemed more important to Lake Michigan anglers as it does today.

As usual we never know for sure what the future will bring, but Lord willing we all be right in the middle of another fun and action packed season on the big pond.

We'll see you out there.



“Bass”

Continued from page 19

tical to consistent small-mouth bass success and limits the growth and evolution of an angler. What bank fixated anglers fail to understand is majority of the shorelines that are fished and beaten is mostly dead, unproductive water.

The biggest bass often utilize big fish spots, which tends to be deep structure and cover. In addition, they will roam open water to follow food. How do these traits and behavioral characteristics lead anglers to believe that bank beating is the solution? I often observe bank beaters on my lakes, in \$80K boats equipped with state of the art technology and equipment. Sadly, I feel most shoreline anglers don't have a comfort level, of exploring out into the open, beyond the shallow banks.

Don't be a bank beater. Throughout the year, majority of the smallmouths my boat catches are from offshore mid-lake locations, located nowhere near shorelines.

While actual philosophers such as Pythagoras, Aristotle, Socrates and gang would pose more practical questions pertaining to life, bass anglers would be wise to examine similar values or different ones so they may establish their own philosophies to use as a personal handbook to angling success. Consider these fundamental fishing values of mine to help make you a more successful bass angler for seasons to come.



Fishing Laws for Michigan

By Jonita Davis, Travel Tips - USA Today

Making that epic catch in Michigan is not a problem on the state's numerous lakes, streams and ponds. In fact, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) boasts 146 types of fish that living in these waters, including trout, salmon, sturgeon and, of course, bass. When trying for that fish of choice, the DNR urges anglers to adhere to Michigan's fishing laws. Failure to do so can mean a fine or even jail time after you hook “the big one.”

Licensing

Anyone over the age of 17 -- residents and nonresidents -- must have a fishing license when fishing in Michigan's streams and lakes, including the Great Lakes. The DNR awards different kinds of licenses for state residents and out-of-state visitors; some licenses limit the types of fish you may catch, or the length of fishing time. State residents need a valid Michigan driver's license or state identification to obtain a fishing license;

nonresidents must have a DNR Sportcard issued by a license dealer.

Methods

Michigan anglers are allowed to use up to three rods per licensed person. Legal bait options include live fish, except lamprey, carp and goldfish; frogs if legally obtained, as well as tadpoles and larvae; and crawfish. The use of gaffs, hooks, hand nets and lines are subject to varying rules. The DNR allows limited use of fishing bows and dip nets. “Drop-shotting” can be used in lakes and ponds, while spear fishing is allowed only for certain species. Violating these rules can result in fines and/or tickets.

Strictly Illegal

The state outlines specific acts that are against the law when fishing in Michigan waters. For example, transporting nonnative or genetically engineered fish within state lines is illegal and subject to a \$10,000 fine. Catching fish for their roe only is also illegal, as is taking any mussels from Michigan waters. Licensed

anglers have a specific limit of fish -- set each season -- they may catch. Trading, selling or disturbing reptiles and amphibians is also forbidden, and you cannot snag, shoot or dynamite fish, catch endangered species or use a net within 100 feet of a dam.

Time Frame

The fishing season begins the first day of March each year, with periodic “spawning closures” based on location and type of fish. Licenses issued beginning March 1 are valid through March 31 of the following year.

Other Laws

Michigan even has laws for shanties built for ice fishing if they aren't removed from the ice each day -- they must have the angler's name and address written on all exterior walls, using letters at least two inches high. It is against Michigan law to interfere with an angler while fishing. Depending on the size of your boat, laws govern the amount and type of U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices.

269-925-0341

Customer Service open 8am-5pm Mon-Sat (est)

Shop Online or Stop by the Store

Internet orders call: 269-281-1951

www.tacklehaven.com

Shop Online

- Archery Supplies
- Fishing Clothing, Boots, & Waders
- Ice Fishing
- Lures
- Rods & Reels
- For the Boat
- Fishing Tackle
- Fishing Fillet Knives
- Shop Popular Brands
- Okuma
- Berkley
- Bert's Custom Tackle
- Frogg Toggs
- Barnett
- Horton
- Shimano
- Church Tackle
- Carbon Express
- Rapala VMC Corp.

GEAR UP & GET OUT THERE

Shop Online or Stop by the Store

Internet orders call: 269-281-1951

Shop Online or Stop by the Store

Internet orders call: 269-281-1951

Shop Online or Stop by the Store

Internet orders call: 269-281-1951

Tackle Haven

741 Riverview Drive

Benton Harbor, MI 49022

269-925-0341 or 269-208-6482

sales@tacklehaven.com

phil@tacklehaven.com

nate@tacklehaven.com

Open 7 days a week 7am-6pm

During peak season May-September

FREE

SHIPPING

on all online purchase
of \$50 or more

Some Exclusions Apply



Your Leading
Outdoor Authority

8178 West Main Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
800-992-1520

SHOP ONLINE
www.DandRSports.com

MON & TUE 9 - 6 | WED, THUR, FRI 9 - 8 | SAT 9 - 5 | SUN 10 - 4

Jackson

kayak

Coosa FD

Length12' 7"

Width35"

Total Capacity450 lbs.

Weight102 – 115 lbs.

ONLY \$2,999

NOW IN-STOCK!

Cruise FD

Length11' 10"

Width33"

Height15"

Capacity400 lbs.

ONLY \$2,399

BLUE SKY

BOATWORKS

360 Angler

Length13' 4"

Width48"

Total Capacity500 lbs.

Weight140 – 170 lbs.

ONLY \$3,499

HUGE Selection of kayak fishing accessories from Yak Attack, Propel, Yak Gear, Scotty, Bending Branches, and MORE!

Jackson – Ascend – Evoke – NuCanoe – Bonafide – Sun Dolphin

Current Specials!

Attwood Anchor Lift

SAVE \$15

Reg. \$44.99

SALE \$29.99

Storm Hot 'N Tots

HUGE SELECTION

ONLY \$3.99 ea.

Rapala Fishing Lures

10% OFF

Attwood Kayak Paddle

7.5' Long

11757-2

Reg. \$49.99

SALE \$24.99

ALL IN-STOCK LIFE VESTS

Onyx, Kent, Stohlquist, and MORE!

15% OFF

Humminbird Helix 5 DI GPS G2 w/ Navionics Lake Maps

Includes \$200 Nav. Bundle

410220-1NAV

Reg. \$399.99

SALE \$369.99

Humminbird Helix 9 DI GPS G2N

410080-1

Reg. \$899.99

SALE \$799.99

Garmin Striker Plus 5cv

000-01872-010

ONLY \$299.99

Church Tackle Co. The Walleye Board

30110/40110

ONLY \$24.99

Attwood Stainless Steel Rod Holder

50% OFF

66970-7

Reg. \$54.99

SALE \$27.49

TRAC Deckboat 40 Auto Deploy Anchor

Reg. \$239.99

T10219-40AD

SALE \$199.99

Minn Kota Endura 38

HUGE TROLLING MOTOR SELECTION!

Reg. \$169.99

SALE \$149.99

SENSATIONAL

SUMMER

BOAT SALES

EVENT

FREE GIFT CARD

VALUED UP TO \$500

W/ SELECT MODEL PURCHASES

HURRY! Offer Ends July 5th

\$500 Gift Card Included!

2018 Tracker Targa V-19 WT w/ Mercury 150 XL FourStroke

\$31,995*

*Plus Frt, Prep, Tax, Reg.