



# THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

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## Sport Fishing Is Clearly A Better Value Proposition

By Dr. Bryan Burroughs,  
Executive Director,  
Michigan Trout Unlimited

*Editors Note: The debate in the Senate Natural Resources Committee hearings on the House Bills HB 4567, 4568, and 4569 is whether commercial fishers should have the right to harvest game fish like lake trout, walleye and perch.*

The latest national survey data revealed that Michigan hosts nearly 650,000 anglers who utilize

the Great Lakes in pursuit of a number of species. These individual anglers are just a part of the total 1.4 million licensed anglers in the state – a very large proportion of the whole. Each of these anglers stimulate \$2.3 billion of Michigan's outdoor recreation economy, but of course, angler spending varies considerably by the type of fishing and the duration of the trip.

According to a survey of Michigan anglers conducted by researchers at Michigan State University, approximately 63% of

the estimated fishing-trip spending occurs within a 35-mile radius of the fishing site – meaning that most of the money spent stimulates our coastal Great Lakes communities. For all types of fishing, multiple day trips averaged close to \$557 spent per trip (\$184 spent per day on the trip), and single day trips \$187; Fishing for trout, steelhead, and/or salmon out of a boat on the Great Lakes for

“Sport Fishing”  
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## Summer's Fishing Bounty

By Bob Jensen

The summer of 2020 is here. For most anglers, spring fishing success has ranged from “pretty darn good” to “outstanding” to quote many. Summer fishing is different than spring fishing. Some people who fish refer to fishing in July and August as the “Dog Days”, and they're not saying that in a complimentary way. However, fishing in the summer can be out-

standing if we keep a few things in mind. Following are some of those things.

In the spring, fish are mostly interested in spawning, or reproducing. They crowd into the areas that they spawn in. Walleyes spawn in particular areas, bass in another, pike in another, and so on.

In the summer, the fish are interested in one thing: Eating. Now they spread out in search of food. In one body of water, the

walleyes might be chasing perch or suspended baitfish or crawdads, and they'll be in different areas to do so. Same with all the other species.

It's good when you hit the water to have a plan. First, determine what species of fish that you want to target. We'll have a different approach for the various species.

Let's say you want to catch some walleyes. You probably have some knowledge of how walleyes respond on the body of water that you're fishing. Maybe you decide to start off trolling with crankbaits or spinners. That presentation will enable you to cover water and hopefully find some active fish.

After trolling an hour or two, you should develop an idea of the walleye's interest in getting caught. If you're happy with how things are going, keep doing that thing. But if action isn't what you'd like it to be, it's time for a change. Tie on a live-bait rig and slow down. Keep a very close eye on your sonar for signs of life. With the electronics that we have access to now, we can get a pretty



Author admires late August chinook

## Summer Run Chinook

By Jim Bedford

About ten years ago I was fishing the upper Little Manistee River with minnow plugs for brown trout with modest success. The browns were mostly between 10 and 17 inches and were great sport on my ultra light spin tackle. I retrieved my small Rebel Minnow along a bush lined bank when a huge fish emerged from the cover and chased down the crank bait. I set the hook but I am not sure the fish noticed. We

managed to stay connected for awhile but once the chinook found a log to swim under my line parted. Later in the outing I got a second chance and with more room to fight a somewhat smaller fish and I outlasted a female chinook of about 12 pounds.

When the Michigan DNR was looking for a chinook salmon strain in the late 1960s they were primarily interested in providing an open lake fishery. There were even thoughts of commercially harvesting

all the salmon at the river mouths with no stream angling opportunities. Because of their availability and tendency to stay in the ocean until they are almost ready to spawn, the Tule (or “toolie”) strain was chosen for introduction into Lake

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Search groups for MSSFA

“Bounty”

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Summer fish can be found almost anywhere.  
This early summer walleye was in shallow water.

The Quality of Fishing Reflects the Quality of Living!



“Chinook”

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Michigan.

Thus, we started with a relatively poor river sport fish in our Great Lakes tributaries. And, at the time, it was easy for some to rationalize snagging of the dark, ripe fish. There was also a lucrative market for the eggs which became another incentive for some to snag these fish. It was a dark time for river fishing for salmon but luckily nature took over to produce a better “Michigan” strain of king salmon.

Following the initial introductions, chinook runs have spread to a bunch of unplanted tributaries due first to straying and then to subsequent natural reproduction. When the river is a cool trout stream, the salmon have been returning to them earlier and earlier. The Pere Marquette and Betsie Rivers are good examples of trout streams which have never been planted with chinook salmon yet now host some of our best runs of these great fish.

The salmon begin running the cool rivers in July with fishable numbers almost always present by mid-August. I think that the smolts from the earlier spawners from the first strays to these rivers enjoyed a competitive advantage because the main runs of wild kings certainly migrate much sooner now. It seems logical that early spawning salmon would produce either larger smolts or earlier migrating ones and these young salmon are likely to enjoy a competitive survival advantage both during out-migration and as they start life in the big Lakes.

The earliest run of chinook salmon occurs in the Little Manistee River. While this river is stocked with salmon and serves as our brood stock river it also supports a strong run of wild fish. Since the weir on this river is closed near the end of August to stop fish for the egg take for the hatcheries, the wild fish had to migrate earlier. This extra incentive to run early plus the coolness of the river has resulted in fishable numbers of king salmon in the stream by mid-July just about every summer.

Relatively bright, fresh-run chinook salmon in the summer are super game fish and offer a great challenge to the river angler. Anyone who has hooked one of these runaway freight trains while trolling in the Great Lakes knows what the first run is like. Now, picture the same brute in a log infested river making the same run and you have instant excitement.

Even though upon entering the tributary rivers the salmon have stopped feeding and the irreversible process leading to spawning and death has begun, they will remain in fine conditions for several weeks. These fish have stored up

large amounts of energy for the rigors of moving up the rivers and spawning and will use their impressive power against your rod.

While these salmon have ceased being able to digest food for some reason they continue to be very catchable on large spawn bags or chunks of spawn still in the skein or ovary. Many anglers back bounce spawn through deep runs and holes. The scent seems to attract the salmon and then the bait feels and tastes right in their mouth. Even though they rarely try to swallow the bait, the salmon hold on long enough for anglers to set the hook.

Tactics that excite, aggravate, or anger the chinook into striking a lure that has invaded their space are also great ways to get hooked up to these very strong fighters. It is also likely possible to trigger a reflex feeding reaction from the memory of the fish even though they have no longer have a feeling of hunger and cannot ingest food. Obviously this was the case for the two chinook described earlier that chased down fleeing minnow lures in the Little Manistee. Choosing lures that appeal to both responses is obviously a good plan for river chinook.

The weighted spinner is an excellent lure because its flash is reminiscent of the bright sides of the alewives, smelt and other forage that the salmon fed on in the big Lakes and the vibrations the revolving blade emits along with the flash and fluorescent colors excite the salmon into striking. Spoons and high action plugs will also infuriate a chinook into hitting. Stickbaits or minnow plugs will appeal more to any of their feeding instinct that remains. If you are a drift angler, try using gaudy lures that wobble or spin rather than those types that have no action.

When selecting lures for king salmon pick ones with highly polished metallic finishes combined with fluorescent colors. Chinook

seem to have a preference for fluorescent green, yellow and chartreuse colors in most situations. When the river is stained or turbid, the superior reflecting qualities of real silver will put more fish on your line. Conversely, if the sun is out and the water is clear, copper and brass spoons and spinners are usually better.

River run chinook tend to rest in the deeper runs and holes on their upstream migration. Having just left the deep confines of the Great Lakes they are quite spooky in the shallower water. They spend little time between holes and their wakes are often apparent as they rush to the next deep water. Overhead cover such as an undercut bank or log jam will also be utilized by the resting salmon. They will stick close to the bottom but since they are looking forward and up you don't need to be right on the bottom with your lure.

Sweeping your lure across the current is a prime presentation. This allows your offering to hang in the salmon's face as it slowly moves across. You may need to allow spinners and spoons to sink a bit before sweeping while plugs will dig down on their own. With the metallic lures be alert as the spinners and spoons swing down directly below you and start to rise as often this is when the strike occurs from a following salmon.

Letting your lure sweep under logs or log jams is almost a sure bet to bring action but the battle can end quickly with the brute salmon so close to cover. Fairly often, though, they will make their first run upstream and give you a chance to gain some control. If a big salmon does go around or under a log you should slack off on the rod pressure immediately or you will have a quick break off. Sometimes you can free your lines and other times, with the rod pressure off, the king will just swim back out the way it

entered.

It should be fairly obvious now that it is wise to use fairly stout tackle for these behemoths in a snaggy river. My rods are built from graphite blanks that have a relatively light tip for casting but taper rapidly to a very substantial butt section. I spool my open face spinning reels with 14 to 17 pound test monofilament. With this set up I can accurately cast ¼ to

3/8 ounce lures, pull the majority of them off the snags, and have a reasonable chance of keeping the salmon out of the logs and brush.

The best summer river chinook fishing is found in the cooler northern Lake Michigan tributaries such as the Manistee, Little Manistee, Betsie, and Pere Marquette Rivers and Bear Creek. Warmer water temperatures seem to delay the

runs in many rivers until early September. Chinook can survive for periods in water up in the low 70s but will be reluctant to enter rivers at those temperatures.

Chinook seem to be most active and eager to strike in the morning. Thus, after you have picked your

“Chinook”

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## “Sport Fishing” Continued from page 2

multiple days averaged the highest spending at \$767 per trip. This value increases greatly when anglers fish with a charter boat captain, as well as when they travel from outside the state of Michigan to recreate in our robust fisheries. From this trip average, researchers teased out that Great Lakes salmon and trout anglers spend about \$280 per day of fishing.

According to research conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the average angler (including Great Lakes, coastal, and inland) spends around \$38 per day in direct expenses. This means that Great Lakes anglers have direct expenses of over seven times that of the average angler. Of that \$280/day, roughly, 25 percent is for transportation, 15 percent is for restaurants, 17 percent for lodging, 10 percent for boats, 16 percent for groceries, 10 percent for tackle, 3 percent for entertainment, and 5-13 percent for guides. Anglers who utilize charter boat services tend to spend above this \$280 average. There are over 570 charter businesses in Michigan that own and operate more than 650 boats on the Great Lakes. In 2019 alone, these businesses took more than 77,000 people fishing on almost 20,000 trips. This makes up a huge number of recreational anglers, all of whom opened their pocketbooks in support of the businesses in our districts.

To avoid a potential “apples to oranges” comparison, I have worked with stakeholder groups to gain a more universal understanding of the econom-

ic value of each sector. On average, using the calculations utilized by the Department of Natural Resources, the economic value of the commercial fishing industry is estimated to be a little less than ten times the dockside value. This means that a liberal estimate of the economic value of the entire state-licensed commercial fishing industry in Michigan is \$50 million. Sportfishing as a whole represents \$2.3-2.4 billion in direct expenditures in this state and supports more than 35,000 jobs. These figures come from two distinct economic studies commissioned at both the state and federal levels. Both of these exclude ripple effects of the industry, which are estimated to be roughly \$4.3 billion. Again, this is clearly a better value proposition than the commercial fishing industry. Importantly, more than 90 percent of this sportfishing industry is made up of small businesses – including manufacturers of tackle and boats to retailers and charter boat captains. A letter of support for this legislation from the American Sportfishing Association, on behalf of the members of the industry community, was submitted in the official committee record.

It is also important to make it clear that offshore fishing on the Great Lakes is not an elite, privileged pursuit, as it is sometimes characterized. According to these data, 58 percent of offshore, Great Lakes anglers have an annual income between \$35,000 and \$99,999. Everyday people are using these resources and would benefit from the greater conservation of this fishery.

## “Bounty” Continued from page 1

good idea if there are any fish down there. When you see a group of fish, and you suspect they’re walleyes, really slow down and let that live bait work. Usually you can get at least a couple to bite.

If the walleyes are playing really hard-to-get, consider switching species. Most bodies of water across North America have multiple species. Here in the Midwest, the go-to species that I prefer when I’m looking for action is the largemouth bass. These guys don’t mind getting caught most of the time. I’ll start off looking for a weed-bed in eight to fifteen feet of water depending on the lake and start throwing a crankbait, probably a Strike King Pro Series in the 3, 4, or 5 size. Use the smaller number for shallow water, larger number for deeper water. You can usually get bit along the weedline doing this. Largemouth bass will make up most of your catch, but you’ll also catch walleyes and northern pike along the weedline with crankbaits.

If the crankbaits aren’t producing, tie on an eighth or three-sixteenths ounce jig head and thread a four or

five inch Ocho worm onto it. This set-up will produce when the fish are finicky. If that doesn’t work, try a Ned Rig. If that doesn’t work, the fish are being awfully selective. Last choice is a jig/minnow. If they won’t eat that, it’s time to try a different body of water.

Almost all the time, you can get some sort of predator fish to eat a jig/minnow combination.

Fishing in the summer can be rewarding. It’s good to be out enjoying the warm weather, and it’s even more fun to catch a few or a bunch of fish. If you keep

the previous ideas in mind, your chances of catching some fish are very good.

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## MSSFA PRESIDENT Tim Stegeman

### Why join a chapter of the MSSFA or renew my membership?

I am asked this on a regular basis. If you were asked that question, what would you say? This is the question that chapter officers, membership chairs and committees seem to wrestle with year after year. Unfortunately, I don't know why this question brings such a wide range of responses.

To even attempt to answer the question, the plain and simple truth is you have to understand why the MSSFA exists. What is the historical background of the organization? My guess is if you are around 50 years or so old or younger, the answer to the question may be elusive.

For folks of all ages, being a member of the MSSFA these days seems to revolve more around directly tangible individual benefits such as fishing tournaments, holiday parties, banquets with prizes, membership meetings with guest speakers, etc. If a chapter can check these boxes off, member-

ship stays steady and even grows. Miss some of these perquisites or be forced to cancel due to weather or the added 2020 Covid pandemic, membership stalls and falls.

How many times this year in particular have you heard someone say, "Why should I pay membership dues? The chapter is not having any events. What do I get out of my membership other than the Great Lakes Sport Fishing News six times a year?" This is a dangerous thought process.

This is where we circle back to the real historical context of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association and not the trappings of the local chapter entertainment event schedule. Starting in 1966, salmon were successfully introduced in the Great Lakes which signaled the beginning of a new sport fishery after the collapse of the commercial fishery. A new, infant fishery paid for by sportsmen and women but threatened on all sides by perils in all shapes and sizes. It was quickly deter-

mined by the leadership of the Department of Natural Resources, and specifically Wayne Tody, Fisheries Chief, and Stan Lievense his close ally in the department, that without an advocacy group (the collective is stronger than the individual) the new fishery could very well be over before it had a real chance to begin.

Hence, the MSSFA was formed to be a reputable organization and the leader in the advocacy of the sport fishery. That is the cause it stands for and embraces and is why there are membership dues. The MSSFA derives the majority of its income from membership dues that are in turn used primarily to fund the organization's effort to not only track and educate on sport fishery issues but also to lobby on behalf of sport fishery issues. Access to the most up-to-date information, weighing the pros and cons, and developing a position that we believe benefits all involved with the sport fishery is why we fund the MSSFA through our dues. Having member-

ship access to a tournament or holiday party is a distant second. Or, at least should be a distant second.

By having the MSSFA, state board of directors and an Executive Director, it makes our members' jobs easier. You can depend on the MSSFA to take the task of sifting through all the sport fishing issue information distilling it down to what you absolutely need to know and be concerned about. Issues like preserving and gaining access to fishing sites, protecting game fish from exploitation by commercial or private interests, threats to our lakes and streams from polluters and developers, regulations that go too far in restricting the ability to sustain an avid angler base and a multitude of other issues that threaten our enjoyment as sport fishermen and women.

The MSSFA also provides members with a group of peers with whom they can share ideas and learn new ones.

The value of the MSSFA as a state organization is the dedicated individuals who year after year are



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

the watchdogs of the sport fishery and its surrounding issues that threaten its sustainability. That is its mission. It was formed in those early days of the sport fishery to advocate for the sport fishermen, especially when issues involved the commercial fishermen and the tribes. Those were very turbulent times. Then there were a few decades of relative calm. So much calm that there is complacency among sport fishermen in 2020 when it comes to the exact same issues that caused the organization to be formed in the first place.

Here we are again in 2020 facing off with the tribes and the commercial fishermen. This is one of those unique points in time which will have a major historical impact. Of all the years to be a member of the MSSFA, to contact

your local legislators and decision makers regarding the commercial fishing bills and helping to support your chapter reaching its tribal negotiation fund goal, this is the year! No lie. This is one of those JFK moments. You know the one, ask not what the MSSFA can do for you, but what can you do for the MSSFA.

Others did the heavy lifting for us 50 years ago by creating the MSSFA. Will you do what it takes to keep the MSSFA viable to be an advocate for you and other sports fishermen in 2020 and beyond?

**Q:** Why should I join a chapter of the MSSFA or renew my membership?

**A:** Because if you don't, the fishery you think you have now will no longer exist. The collective is stronger than the individual.



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Dennis Eade, Executive Director  
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As we begin to see the curve flatten for Covid-19 and the State of Michigan begins reopening, fishing activity is picking up. Charter boat bookings are coming back and recreational anglers are getting out on the water while honoring social distancing as much as is possible. I have received no reports of ticketing by Conservation Officers among our member group. Chief Dexter is conducting Zoom meetings with stakeholder groups every four weeks and keeping us apprised of how his staff has been affected and what priorities are being addressed in this difficult time. The latest Fishers Update is included in the Mail Chimp communication I sent this week.

The consent decree

negotiations have continued during this time, but there has not been enough progress to be able to get an agreement with the five tribes by the deadline of August 8, 2020. At the very least we need the State to file for an extension of the decree through the end of the year. The Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources is going to update coalition member group representatives on a Zoom meeting during the week of June 22nd (date and time not set as yet). Directors need to discuss what our position is going to be relative to the funding of the negotiations during our board meeting on June 17th at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

The commercial fishing bills HB 4567-4569 have received a hearing before

the Senate Natural Resources Committee chaired by Senator Ed McBroom. The hearing was held on Thursday, June 11th at 8:30 AM in the Capitol Building. Rep. Jim Lilly, (R) Holland, MI., introduced the bills to the committee along with Rep. Pauline Wendzel (R) Watervliet, MI., and the legislative director for Rep. Jack O'Malley (R) Lake Ann, MI. Rep. Lilly did an outstanding job of positioning the bills as a workable regulatory framework to regulate commercial fishing without taking anything away from commercial fishers that isn't compensated for with a fair market return and at the same time protecting sport fishing. Sen. Mc Broom dominated the questioning of Lilly trying to find holes in the arguments supporting the legislation that could be perceived as unfair to the commercial fishing industry, but Lilly handled every question with a reasoned response deferring to the

MDNR for specific statistics and to the sport fishing groups for economic data supporting sport fishing's overwhelming value to the state's economy. On Wednesday, June 17th the hearing will resume with testimony from myself, representing MSSFA, Amy Trotter from MUCC, Bryan Burroughs from TU, Floyd Dropps from the Upper Peninsula Sportsmen Alliance and Bill Winowiecki of the Michigan Charter Boat Association. The tribal fishers have requested the opportunity to testify as well, which presents an interesting dichotomy since they fall under a separate treaty agreement that is not governed by what is proposed in these bills. The hearing can be viewed at: <https://misenate.viebit.com/player.php?hash=ADOGArPd-v6G6> for those of you who are interested.

I anticipate that the when the Commercial Fishing Bills' initial hearings are concluded in the Senate,

a work group will be established, composed of the interested parties to see if any additional compromises can be identified. However, it is difficult to see how further compromise can do anything but weaken the regulatory framework that has been put forward in this statute. The bills will then return to the Senate Natural Resources Committee for consideration and hopefully be sent to the senate floor for a vote in the fall.

We need to continue to call or write to Senators Bumstead, Outman, McCann, and Schmidt encouraging their support for these bills.

I participated in a tele-conference presser regarding the EPA's mercury emissions rule change. The Clean Air Act has been adversely impacted by this rule change which the coal industry has been lobbying for. More mercury in the air means more acid rain and mercury entering our lakes and streams impacting the

safety of fish consumption.

With the number of event cancellations, Steelheader chapters are having a difficult time signing up members or renewing memberships. The life blood of our organization is the dues paid by members and we need to redouble efforts to get membership dues into the state so we can continue to advocate for our positions at the state and federal levels of government and with the department.

As always, should you have questions about the management of the fishery or efforts to protect, promote and enhance sport fishing in the state, please call the MSSFA office at 616-298-8842.



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

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

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

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

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

## THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS (GLSFN)

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

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


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

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

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

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Deb Shephard	Membership Coordinator	mssfamembership@charter.net

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Wednesday, August 19, 2020  
at MUCC, 2101 Wood Street,  
Lansing, MI – 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 17, 2020  
Presidents’ Meeting  
Michigan Historical Library & Museum  
701 Kalamazoo St.  
Lansing, MI – 10:00 AM

Wednesday, December 16, 2020  
at MUCC, 2101 Wood Street,  
Lansing, MI – 7:00 PM

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2020 Tentative Print Schedule		
Issue	Deadline	Print Date
1	12/12/19	01/03/20
2	02/14/20	03/03/20
3	04/14/20	04/29/20
4	06/15/20	06/29/20
5	08/14/20	08/28/20
6	10/09/20	10/27/20

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MSSFA, *Publisher*

Stafford Printing, *Printing*  
Greenville, MI

Dennis Eade, *Managing Editor*  
Tel: 616-298-8842  
Cel: 616-836-0037  
deneade@charter.net

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

Laura Kleinheksel, *Layout*  
laura.glsfn@charter.net

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MICHIGAN STEELHEAD AND SALMON FISHERMEN’S ASSOCIATION

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

Tim Stegeman, *President*  
John Letts, *Vice President*  
Dennis Eade, *Executive Director*  
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The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen’s Association (MSSFA) is a multi-state, non-profit organization dedicated to educating the general public on improving, preserving and promoting sport fishing, the Great Lakes and their tributary streams and rivers. Commonly referred to as *The Michigan Steelheaders*, or simply *Steelheaders*. MSSFA represents sport fishing families in the Great Lakes region. MSSFA encourages the strictest observances of sport fishing laws and ethical fishing practices. [www.MSSFA.org](http://www.MSSFA.org)

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# Peters, Stabenow Help Senate Pass Bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act That Will Benefit Michigan

*Legislation Would Permanently and Fully Fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Protect Michigan Public Lands and Waters That Are Critical to Economy*

FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE  
June 17, 2020

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senators Gary Peters (MI) and Debbie Stabenow (MI) today helped pass bipartisan legislation that would guarantee funding towards public lands maintenance and renovation



projects in Michigan and across the country. The Great American Outdoors Act would both permanently and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million dollars annually. The LWCF has helped promote outdoor recreation and has established and expanded parks and wild areas across

the country. Over the past five decades, LWCF has provided \$342.4 million in funding to hundreds of projects to protect, preserve, and expand cherished public lands across Michigan. This is critical to both conservation efforts and the state's economy.

"Our National Parks, public lands, lakeshores and waters in Michigan and across the country are not just unique natural resources and drivers of economic growth – they are defining aspects of the American experience," said Senator Peters. "This bipartisan bill would ensure we have the annual funding needed to protect these national treasures now and for generations to come. I've seen firsthand how Michigan has benefited thanks to support from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and I'm pleased that we were able to come together and pass this bipartisan bill."

"In Michigan, hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation are part of

our way of life. The Great American Outdoors Act will ensure that Michigan's national treasures like Sleeping Bear Dunes and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore remain protected for our children and grandchildren. In addition to protecting our public lands, this bill supports thousands of good paying jobs that are part of our Pure Michigan tourism economy," said Senator Stabenow.

By guaranteeing \$900 million in yearly funding for LWCF, the Great American Outdoors Act will finally ensure the necessary resources to protect and

preserve many of Michigan's natural treasures such as the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Huron, Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forests, and the North Country National Scenic Trail. This funding helps protect the lands and waterways that are important to Michigan's economy. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, the outdoor recreation industry generates \$26.6 billion in consumer spending and 232,000 jobs throughout the state. The U.S. Census Bureau recently reported that 4.9 million people hunt, fish, or take part in

wildlife-watching in Michigan every year, which contributes over \$5.1 billion annually to the state's economy.

The bill would also establish a \$9.5 billion "National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Fund" to address the backlog of maintenance projects at federal lands managed by the National Park Service, United States Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service, among other agencies. This fund will help address the \$19 billion backlog of de-

**"Legislation"**  
Continued on page 9

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News from  
Michigan's U.S. Senators

**Debbie Stabenow & Gary Peters**

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### "Legislation"

Continued from page 8

ferred maintenance projects at national parks and other public lands, including the \$50.3 million in overdue projects to improve facilities and visitor experiences throughout Michigan's national parks.

Peters and Stabenow were joined by 57 of their Senate colleagues as co-sponsors of this bipartisan bill. Various environmental conservation and outdoor sportsmen groups at the federal, state and local levels have also endorsed the bill, including the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, the National Parks Conservation Association and the Nature Conservancy.

"The climate crisis threatens our land, natural resources and communities, which is why now, more than ever, we need to dedicate resources to funding land and water conservation and our public parks," said Lisa Wozniak, Executive Director for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters. "Covid-19 has reminded us of how important our parks and public lands are for our health, recreation and solace. The outdoors are part of who we are as Michiganders, from city parks in Detroit to national forests in the U.P. We applaud Sen. Peters and Stabenow for their leadership on the Great American Outdoors Act and call on the House of Representatives to work to swiftly pass this important legislation."

"We commend Senators Peters and Stabenow for their commitment to ensuring our national parks and public lands like Isle Royale National Park and Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge can continue to welcome millions of visitors every year," said Theresa Pierno, President and CEO of the National Parks Conservation Association. "Our parks face billions of dollars in needed repairs, from aging water systems and visitor centers to crumbling roads and

trails. But today, because of the dedication of park advocates across the country and the leadership of our champions in Congress, we are one step closer to fixing our parks, preserving America's legacy and providing jobs in communities that desperately need them."

"Today, Senators Stabenow and Peters joined with their colleagues in the U.S. Senate to deliver a major win for Michigan's outdoors," said Helen Taylor, State Director, The Nature Conservancy in Michigan. "The Great American Outdoors Act will not only help rejuvenate the outdoor-based economy in Michigan, it will aid in our state's recovery from several of the economic, health and social challenges we are facing. We are grateful for the leadership shown by Senators Stabenow and Peters in this effort to create jobs, expand recreational access for all and protect our treasured landscapes for the future. We urge the House of Representatives to quickly pass this important investment in Michigan's and our nation's natural resources."

"Michigan consistently ranks as one of the top five states in the country in the number of recreational fishermen and their economic impact," said Glenn Hughes, President of the American Sportfishing Association. "The recreational areas, trails and waterways supported by the Land and Water Conservation Fund are critical to providing recreational fishing opportunities in Michigan and across the country. In addition, better maintaining our national parks, forests and refuges will greatly improve outdoor recreation experiences at these areas. The sportfishing industry is grateful to Sens. Peters and Stabenow for supporting the Great American Outdoors Act, which will support these important programs for the benefit of anglers today and for generations to come."

Peters and Stabenow

have led numerous efforts to bolster environmental conservation and lands and waters that are vital to Michigan's economy. In February 2019, the Senators helped pass the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act, which was signed into law in March 2019. This bill included over 100 provisions that provide protections for our national parks and wild rivers and permanently authorizes the LWCF. Last month, the senators fought for and secured the inclusion of numerous bipartisan provisions that would directly strengthen environmental and water quality efforts in Michigan within the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020 that advanced to the full Senate. These measures include a \$375 reauthorization of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, an assessment on shoreline protection and resiliency in areas affected by the recent rises in Great Lakes water levels, an increase in funding for projects working to prevent invasive Asian Carp from entering the Great Lakes and a requirement to direct the EPA to establish drinking water standard for PFOS and PFOA chemicals.

**Peter Ross Dickow**  
West Michigan Region Director  
110 Michigan, NW Suite 720  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Peter\_Dickow@peters.senate.gov

**Nirmeen Fahmy (Peters)**  
Media@peters.senate.gov

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# Panfish Where it all Began

**Roger Hinchcliff**  
From Steelhead Manifesto

If we were to ask many anglers what was your first fish? Most would more than likely say the Bluegill. Panfish are the number two species of fish targeted in the United States. Why is that, you may ask? That's easily answered with many reasons. Pound for pound a nice blue gill will turn sideways when caught and fight like the dickens and on ultralight tackle that's big fun. No fancy equipment needed to chase these

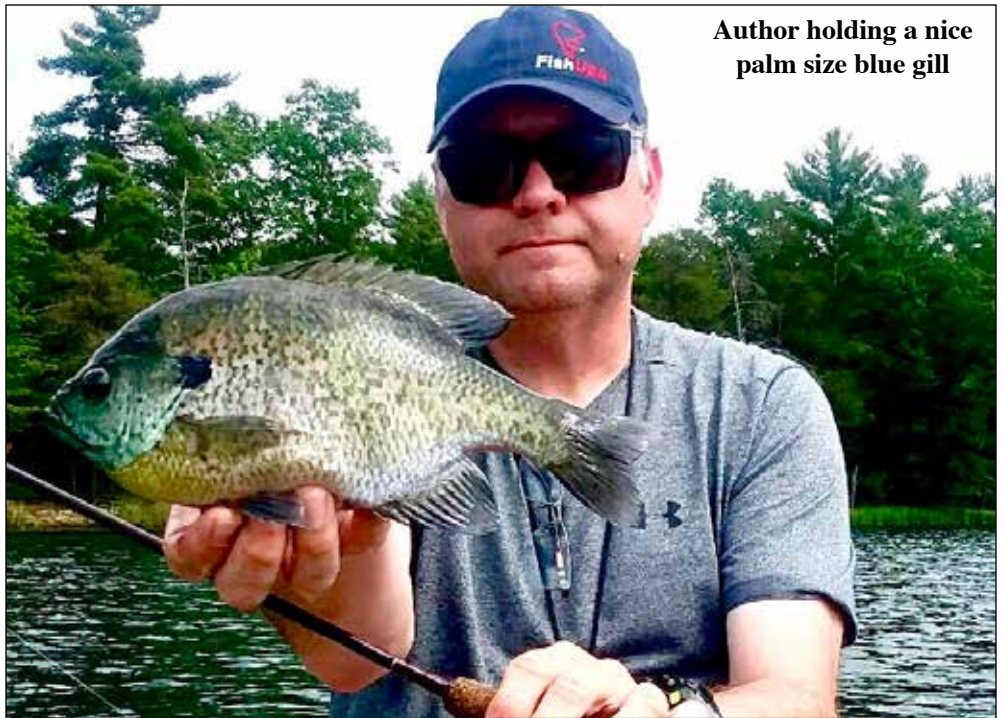
fish either. They are found everywhere very close to everyone's home in lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. So, if you're looking for that tug and lots of action, the panfish answers the call. Not to mention it's a great way to introduce kids to fishing. Lastly let's not forget these fish are very tasty deep fried.

I must say I'm not hung up on lengths, weights, and numbers of fish anymore. I've found as I've gotten older those same little fish and the tug help feed my addiction and connection

with the out of doors. So, if you want to reconnect with those childhood memories or just become a better panfish angler read on as we discuss my beloved bluegill.

## Tips on Finding Fish

Anglers who are in search of gills sometimes have fits on trying to locate them within any given body of water after the spawn. During the Hot summer months. Big gills move to deep this time of year and suspend in open water where they suspend just below the surface



Author holding a nice palm size blue gill

## 2020 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

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**MCSFA**

**JUNE 26-28**



**Pro-Am**

**Salmon & Trout Derby: May 23 - Sept. 7**  
**Ladies Classic: June 26**  
**Pro/Am/333: June 27 - 28**

### Presented by:

The Manistee County Sportfishing Association  
PO Box 98, Manistee, MI 49660

[mcsfa98@gmail.com](mailto:mcsfa98@gmail.com)

231-887-4474

[www.mcsfa.org](http://www.mcsfa.org)

**AUGUST 14-16**



**Onkama Tournament**

**Ladies: August 14**

**Main Event/333: August 15-16**

### For info call:

Carrie Paxton @ 231-889-5000

[carrie@onekamamarine.com](mailto:carrie@onekamamarine.com)

Scott MacDonald @ 231-690-1102

[smac54@gmail.com](mailto:smac54@gmail.com)



**The SPLASH is back in July for 2020!**

**Ladies: July 24**

**Splash/Big Fish/333: July 25 - 26**

Call Scott MacDonald @ 231-690-1102

[smac54@gmail.com](mailto:smac54@gmail.com)

[www.tournamenttrail.net](http://www.tournamenttrail.net)



**JULY 24 - 26**

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**August 28 - 30**

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and feed on plankton and other aquatic creatures and go deep during the day and to lounge on the bottom. The bluegill tries to spend most of their time in water in temp ranges from 60 to 80 °F. Contrary to belief blue gills enjoy the heat, but shy away from direct sunlight - they typically love deeper water but will linger near the water surface in the morning to stay warm after a cold night. Example: early and late in the day, the school may move up to 8 to 10 feet deep, but as the day goes on, they go deep.

A school size of 10 to 20 fish or more are pretty typical and will use all of the water column and structure to their advantage. *Tip:* Aquatic insects mostly live in vegetation. Coontail and milfoil weeds are my favorite weeds to target for big gills. They can hide and hunt for food at the same time. Blue gills love cover so I look for wood such as sunken trees or brush piles and undercut banks. Or differences in cover like thinner patches, or points. They love Boat Docks too. Locate deep water weed edges and you should connect with the biggest gills the lake has to offer. When the sun gets high and the temps go up look for fish in deeper water.

When the fish are on beds early in the season it's easy to locate them, and catch them. You just cruise the shallows with some polarized glasses and look for beds and fish. Not so easy when the fish choose to go deep right? Finding them can be easier than you think. But the right equipment can make all the difference in the world. Such as the use of a good depth finder. Whether it's fixed or a portable model its indispensable in helping you find these fish. First look for the right depth and structure. Such as deep-water humps, sunken islands, and deep weed edges. Use of your spot lock trolling motor, anchor or even a simple marker buoy can help you stay on fish once located. Once fish have been found, the action can be fast and furious. Now that we covered some biology of the fish and how to find them let's talk different baits and techniques.

## Stealth

Big Gills can be very spooky and wary of anglers. Hence why I love a longer rod for several reasons. Any length rod from 7-10 feet has many advantages. Your able to cast further out and this can be a huge advantage when casting super light jigs. Plus, you have a less of a chance of spooking big gills from a distance. Not to mention you are covering more water. The longer rods will also help you protect super light leaders when fishing 2-4 lb. test.

Consider the use of at least a fluorocarbon leader in your presentation. This was the best gift given to the modern-day angler. Its nearly invisible underwater and I think it makes a huge difference in my catch rates. This is just my opinion on fluorocarbon but trust me many anglers feel the same way I do. Just by practicing some more stealth with your presentations will pay huge dividends.

## Baits and Lures

When it comes to live bait it doesn't get simpler than a blue gill bobber bite. I personally love redworms, crawlers, wax worms, beetles, grass hoppers, crickets, small leeches and tiny small jigs like a 1/64 oz. My favorite hooks for live bait are a red Tru-Turn #8 hook. Try a micro twister tail, weighted flies and soft plastics can be deadly on finicky panfish. Tip for Big Gills try larger baits such as a whole night crawler. Big gills can swallow larger baits easily.

If you're a fly-fishing angler using small poppers or ants and flies can be an absolute riot on a fly rod. I have spent many evenings after work with my trusty fly rod catching gills until the sun goes down. You must learn to be versatile when pan fishing some-days. Best Time for gills in my opinion is in the evenings the last 3 hours of daylight. As the day and light begins to cool off the fish can see things better on the surface. Its because of this reason the fly angler is successful at this time.

If what you're using is not working try something else. If the bite slows

## "Panfish"

Continued on page 12





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## Princess of Ludington

By Dennis Eade

Legendary Charter Captain, and patriarch of the Finpower Charters family, Al Laaksonen, has embarked on a new venture in Ludington, MI.

Captain Al is now the owner of HARBOR TOURS, LLC which operates the Princess of Ludington, a 65', 40 ton tour vessel that accommodates up to 149 passengers for cruises on Lake Michigan from the port of Ludington, MI. The ship itself has spent the last several years named the Island Princess and a part of the Apostle Island Cruises in Lake Superior

in Wisconsin. Before that, it served as a Mackinac Island ferry, used by Straits Transit and then Arnold Transit from its christening in 1973 in Bay City until 1988, according to a post on the company's website.

Ludington provides some spectacular views and has a rich maritime history. The tours highlight the history of lumbering, salt works, and railroads in the Pere Marquette Lake and River and the site of the Pere Marquette Shrine; along with FINN TOWN. There is a more in-depth tour on Lake Michigan along the sand dunes south to the Pumped Storage Proj-

ect. Guests can get a close up view of a facility that provides power to millions of people and half of Chicago. Another excursion features the Lake Michigan shoreline to the north past Epworth Heights, Sargent Sands and the sandy beaches of the largest State Park in Michigan where you can get an up close view of the Big Point Sable Light-house. You can sign up for 90 minute tours, 2 hr. tours, or 3 hr. tours or 2-3 hour private party cruises.

If you are, or know someone who has a captain's license for operating a 50 ton vessel, Captain Al is looking to hire part

time Captains for July, August, and September of this year. This is a start up business and could become a busy full time opportunity. Contact: laak1938@gmail.com, Phone: (231) 690-3587

While you are in Ludington, don't miss the opportunity to visit the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum, 217 South Lakeshore Drive. Digital storytelling, fascinating exhibits, and authentic artifacts bring maritime history to life... and piloting the Pere Marquette 22 makes history Fun!





“Chinook”  
 Continued from page 2

stream and used your thermometer to verify that its temperature is cool enough, be sure and get on it early. These fish seem to be very light sensitive and once the sun hits the water they tend to quit striking. For this reason cloudy, rainy days are much better than the bright, bluebird ones. The one exception occurs when the dark weather puts the salmon on the move as they will ignore your offerings when they are in a hurry to move upstream.

This summer, plan to intercept these great game fish in the lower reaches of their natal rivers and be prepared for some great battles. While fresh fish will still be great table fare plan to release the majority of your catch, especially the females, so the “Michigan strain” will be perpetuated.

“Panfish”  
 Continued from page 10

change color or the bait. Fresh bait always catches more fish. Have several different baits and plastics to

give them what they want. Even changing to a lighter leader can pay huge dividends on catching finicky

fish that are line shy. Make sure you adjust your float and try different depths when delivering your presentations. Sometimes they don’t want to move up very far to bite and times you have to bump them on the nose. Slow your roll when it’s comes to Bluegills, they are not a large predator and don’t hunt and chase things down like a Bass or Pike. Let’s be frank sometimes you just have to wait them out for the bite to happen. Sunrise and sunset are peak times for the bite to happen. But I have crushed them during a midday bite too.

Conclusion

If you’re on a budget and want to have some fun

pan fishing is tough to beat. It’s an activity that was made for the whole family young or old. Help the sport you love and carry on the tradition. Take a kid fishing and pass this lifestyle on if you truly love the sport of fishing. We all should pass on the outdoor lifestyle to the next generation. Let’s not forget these fish belong in a cornmeal jacket and are so tasty. My whole family loves a good ole fashioned fish fry.

If you are burned out on a certain species of fish or a certain technique of fishing, discover the mighty bluegill again. You will soon rediscover what fishing is meant to be – relaxing and just lots of fun.



Author Roger Hinchcliff with another bluegill beauty!



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# CATCH FISH IN THE SUMMER

By Bob Jensen

For many anglers, the fishing this past spring has been very good. Some even describe the fishing and catching in the spring of 2020 as outstanding. Now it's starting to feel and look like summer, and the calendar indicates that the summer of 2020 has arrived. The places and techniques that provided memorable fishing for the past few weeks will be changing. Fish behave differently in the different seasons, and if we want to catch fish in the different seasons, we need to change our lure presentations and how we go about catching fish. Following are some ideas for catching fish during the summer months.

A weedline will often be a good place to start. Several species of fish will hang out along the weedline. You'll find largemouth bass, walleyes, panfish, and northern pike

The angler in the front of the boat should throw the crankbait until the fish show a preference. The angler in the back of the boat will be presenting a bait to fish that maybe weren't interested in the faster moving crankbait, but they'll respond to a slower moving bait, something like a jig/plastic combination. Plastic baits come in so many shapes and sizes. Most anglers have favorite shapes for certain situations. When you're just looking to get bit, start with an eighth ounce jig-head on eight or ten pound test line. Thread an Ocho onto it. These baits come in a variety of sizes. Start with a five incher. If the action is good, go bigger. If the action is a little slow, size down. In the past few years, when the bite is really tough Ned Ocho's have caught'em when nothing else does. These Ned's don't look like much, but when the fish don't want to get caught, Ned's catch'em.

tions of fish. On deeper structures, a rockpile or a corner on a large flat will hold schools of walleyes, bass, or crappies.

Summer fish like to eat. In fact, that's pretty much all that they do. There will be times when they'll be more likely to eat than oth-

ers, but if you put the right bait in the right place, Mr. or Mrs. Fish will probably eat it. Most of us go fishing to get bit. In the summer you can get bit a lot.

To see all things Fishing the Midwest, go to fishingthemidwest.com

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It was mid-summer when this big guy ate an Ocho fished on a jighead. Simple baits catch big fish much of the time.

on the weedline. If two anglers are fishing, it works well to have one angler throw a crankbait and the other a slower presentation, maybe a jig tipped with plastic. 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.

If you employ this technique, the crankbait angler will do well to match the shape of the crankbait to the baitfish that the target usually eats. Largemouth bass eat mostly shorter, fatter baitfish like bluegills and shad. KVD crankbaits are thicker in shape and a good choice for largemouth.

Long thin predators like walleyes, pike, and muskies prefer perch and suckers, so a crankbait that's longer and thinner, will be preferred. For walleyes and pike try a Lucky Shad. Go even longer for muskies. Regardless of target species, start with a natural appearing bait in clear water and a brighter, gaudier bait in stained water.

Sometimes the fish are spread out along a structure, sometimes they're schooled tightly on a specific spot on the structure. On the weedline, look for points or pockets in the weeds to hold concentra-

## SAUGATUCK/ SOUTH HAVEN DUAL PORT CHALLENGE



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Sergeant Marina at 269-857-2873

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

2020 Battle Creek Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
July	18	Portage Lake Panfish/Family Picnic	Vicksburg
August	1	Lake Michigan Memorial	South Haven
August	15	Veterans Outing	South Haven
October	10	Perch Tournament	Lake Erie
October	24	Kalamazoo River Salmon Slam	Allegan Dam
October	31	Kalamazoo River Memorial	Allegan Dam
November	14	Kalamazoo River Trout Quest	Allegan Dam
November	28	St. Joe River Fall Steelhead	I-94 Boat Ramp
December	5	St. Joe River Chapter Challenge	Babes Lounge
December	12	Christmas Party	Kalamazoo Eagles
Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting <b>NEW Location:</b> Travelers Cafe and Pub, 5225 Portage Rd. Exit 78 off I-94.			
FOR MORE INFORMATION: River Tournaments – Ice Tournaments – Justin Kling 491-2980 Lake Tournaments – Greg Peck 998-9407 <b>battlecreeksteelheaders.com</b>			

2020 Grand Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Contact Info
January 1 - Nov. 30		GH Steelheaders' Year Long Fishing Contest	
January 1 - Nov. 20		GH Steelheaders' Youth Fishing Contest	
July 31 - Aug. 13		Weeklong+ member fishing contest	
August	13	Chapter Member Picnic, Rycenga Park, Spring Lake Township	
September	12	Sportsmen for Youth Day, Muskegon County Fairgrounds	
September	19	Grand Haven Salmon Festival, KidZone Activity area	
December	TBD	Annual dinner, recognitions	
Other Events TBD			
For information on these events and other information on the Grand Haven Steelheaders contact GHS President and State Director Paul Zelenka at pbzfarms@gmail.com www.ghsteelheaders.com			

2020 Grand Rapids Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
July	6	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
July	15	Chapter Family Picnic**	6 PM, Johnson Park Shelter House
August	1	Fall Big Lake	STC
August	3	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
August	31	Membership Meeting	7 PM (Social Hour 6 PM)
September	14	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
September	28	Membership Meeting	7 PM (Social Hour 6 PM)
October	1	Chapter Sponsored Buck Contest Begins**	
October	12	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
October	24	Fall River Contest	STC
October	26	Membership Meeting	7 PM (Social Hour 6 PM)
November	2	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
November	7	Fishing Partners Manistee Contest	STC
November	23	Membership Meeting	7 PM (Social Hour 6 PM)
November	30	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
December	7	Chapter Family Christmas Party	6 PM, Diamond Hall
STC* = Date subject to change			
** = Members and Family Only. (All other events open to the public)			

2020 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
July	11	6:00am - 1:00 pm	Manistee Salmon	
July	25	6:00am - 1:00 pm	Ludington Salmon	
August			NO Board/Membership Meeting	
August	8	6:00am – 1:00pm	Ludington Salmon (Day 1)	
August	9	6:00am – 12:00pm	Ludington Salmon (Day 2)	
August	22	6:00am – 1:00pm	Manistee Salmon (Day 1)	
August	23	6:00am – 12:00pm	Manistee Salmon (Day 2)	
September	8	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
September	12	6:30am – 1:00pm	Frankfort Salmon	
October	6	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
November	3	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
November	7	Daylight – 1:00pm	Big Man. Little Man. Bear Cr.	
December	5	Daylight – 1:00pm	Big Man., Bear Creek	
December	1	6:00 / 7:15	Board meeting only	VFW Hall
December	12	Cocktails 5:00 Dinner 6:00	Christmas Awards Banquet K of C Hall, Auburn 4760 Garfield Rd. Auburn, Mi 48611	
Membership meetings held at: 3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642 989-496-3410				
All Board/Membership meetings begin with Board at 6:00 pm. Membership meetings follow at 7:15 pm. Board only meetings begin at 7:00pm.				
We ask that you please call the Port Chairman <b>no later than</b> Monday prior to the event as to whether you plan on attending or not attending. On the day of the event call in on Marine Radio, Channel 72 or cell phone for the Port Chairman. Weigh-in follows each outing. Picnics follow weigh-in on Saturdays only.				
Outings: All Steelheader members pay \$5.00. All non-Steelheaders pay \$10.00 to participate. Children 16 and younger are free. Picnic is \$5.00 for everyone.				
If interested in fishing with us please email: kathy@steel-headers.com. Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com				

2020 Holland Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
July	6	Board Meeting
July	11	Veterans Fishing Outing
July	23	General Membership Meeting
July	25	Holland Steelheaders Summer Challenge
<del>July 31</del>	<del>August 2</del>	<del>Big Red Classic</del> <b>Event Canceled</b>
August	3	Board Meeting
August	15	Holland Steelheaders Ladies Tournament
September	1	Tuesday Night League Final Night
September	14	Board Meeting
October	5	Board Meeting
November	2	Board Meeting
December	3	General Membership Meeting
December	5	Holland Steelheaders River Tournament
December	7	Board Meeting
Board meetings held at: Turks of Holland, 977 Butternut Dr., Holland MI 49424 7:00 PM General Membership: Bayshore Yacht Club, 1862 Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland MI 49424. Doors open at 6 pm., Dinner at 7 pm, speaker to follow		
For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jeremy Erdman 616-510-9405, or email Steve Weatherwax at <a href="mailto:Waxer1221@yahoo.com">Waxer1221@yahoo.com</a>		

2020 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event / Location	Chair
July	7	Club Summer Picnic	Jim Robertson/Dave Zawacki
July	11	Flint River Kayak	Jason Jones
July	16	Erieau Tournament – Thur. Erieau, Canada	Clyde Schoen
July	18	Erieau Tournament – Sat. Erieau, Canada	Ron Bellemore/Henry Nabors
July	18	McCollum Small Boat/Kayak	Catherine Withrow
July	25	Manistee River Cleanup Day @ High Bridge	Roger Hinchcliff
July	30	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Thursday	Gale Frazee/Tom Abdelnour
July	31	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Format tbd	Marc Traver/Dave Hutton
August	1	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Saturday	Dave Zawacki/Dennis Henderson
August	2	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sun	Dennis Kelley
August	4	General Membership Meeting	
August	8	Clinton River Cleanup Day/Betsie River Kayak	Jay Labban/Eric Braden
August	13	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Thu	Richard Spangler
August	15	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sat	Henry Nabors/Dave Hutton
August	16	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sun	Marc Traver
August	22	Lake/Pier/River/Kayak Tournament – Frankfort	Robert Grech / Eric Braden / P. Bustos
August	23	Salmon Tournament – Frankfort	Bill Dodge
September	1	General Membership Meeting	
	12	Frankfort River/Kayak/SB	Phil Bustos/Eric Braden
	19	Muskegon Kayak Salmon	Keith Childs/Eric Braden
	19	Manistee River & Kayak Pier Tournaments	Adam Trenz/Eric Braden
	21	Captain/Crew/River Angler 2021 Calendar Mtg	Kelley/P. Bustos/Nabors/Zawacki
October	3	Manistee Lake/River (Steelhead) Tournaments	Dodge/Hutton/Sepulveda
	6	General Membership Meeting	

Metro West calendar continued on page 15

# Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen’s Association

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If you agree or disagree with this guide’s rules, **become a member** to influence the next printing.

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2020 Metro West - Livonia ...continued			
Month	Date	Event / Location	Chair
October	10	Ohio Steelhead Alley (River & Kayak) (incl Elk Creek P.A.)	Phil Bustos/Eric Braden
November	3	General Membership Meeting	
	7	Manistee River/Pier/Shore Tournaments w DS	Dave Zawacki/Eric Braden/ Adam Trenz
	21	PM River or Betsie River Tournament	Jordan Pontoni
December	1	CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
	12	Huron River Tournament	Hinchcliff/Brown
<p><b>** ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**</b></p> <p>7:00 PM at The New Livonia Seniors Center at the Southeast Corner of Farmington Road and Five Mile Road WEB Site: Go to <a href="http://www.metroweststeelheaders.org">www.metroweststeelheaders.org</a> If you have questions, contact Henry Nabors - HHNabors@gmail.com or call 248 225 4964.</p> <p>Contact: President Larry Tabaka 313-215-8979 / Membership Director Henry Nabors 248-225-4964</p>			

# 2020 South Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events

## 2020 Calendar of South Haven Steelheaders Chapter Events

August	8	SHS Fish Boil (Blueberry Festival August 6-9th)
August	15	SHS Operation Injured Soldier/SH Salute to Veterans
August	22	SHS Merle Morris Tournament
November	28	SHS River Tournament
December	5 or 12	SHS Holiday Party 2020

## 2020 South Haven Steelheaders Membership Meeting Dates

Note: All membership meetings are held the third Thursday of each month except for March (4th Thursday). Meetings are held at the South Haven Moose Lodge, 1025 East Wells Street, South Haven, MI 49090  
 Membership meetings start at 7:00pm. For more information email: [president@southhavensteelheaders.com](mailto:president@southhavensteelheaders.com)

July	16	Captain's Meeting
August	20	Captain's Meeting
September	17	Captain's Meeting
October	15	Captain's Meeting
November	4	Pro Am Tournament Committee Kick-off meeting
November	19	Captain's Meeting

NO DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING, due to Holiday Party

2020 Southwest MI Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Date	Day	Event	Information	Location
May	7-9	Summer Challenge Tournament		<a href="http://www.fishthesummerchallenge.com">www.fishthesummerchallenge.com</a>
July	9	Membership Meeting	Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
August	13	Membership Meeting	Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
August	22	Trolling with the Troops		<a href="http://www.trollingwiththetroops.com">www.trollingwiththetroops.com</a>
September	10	Membership Meeting	Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
October	8	Membership Meeting	Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
November	12	Membership Meeting	Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
December	5	Winter Challenge Tournament		St. Joseph River
<p>Membership Meetings Held at:  St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks 541, 601 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor MI 49022  <b>Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM, Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM, Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM</b>  Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784</p>				



# 2020 Membership Drive

There are thousands of fishermen, women and children who need to join in taking care of the Great Lakes and its fishery!

*Let's get them to join!*



**This is a year-long contest. You need not be present to win! For new membership sign-up only!**

**Here's how it works!**

- You (current member) are the sponsor.
- Have the new member fill out the application.
- On the bottom of the application, put your name in "Sponsored By" section.
- For each member signed up by you, you get a ticket.
- Your ticket(s) are put into a pot for a drawing.
- The drawings are held at the April Presidents' meeting.
- There are between 15 - 25 drawings.
- The more tickets in the pot, the more chances to win prizes.

**For more information, contact your Chapter Membership Director or [mssfamembership@charter.net](mailto:mssfamembership@charter.net)**

2020 TCAS Steelheader’s Calendar of Events	
TCAS meets the first Wednesday of each month except July (Cherry Festival) and December (Christmas Party) Meetings begin at 7 pm at the Traverse City Senior Center, 801 Front St., next door to the Maritime Academy.	

2020 Thumb Chapter Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Event	Location / Information
July	16	7:30	Ladies Night Meeting - Painting with a twist	
August	20	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
			Dave Fielder-MDNR Saginaw Bay Walleye Models	
August	23	2:00 PM	Pork Roast	Harbor Beach VFW
September	17	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters, Nominations for board members and officers
October	15	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters, Election of Board/Officers
November			No Meeting	
December			No Meeting	
Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries.				





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2020 Thunderbay Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Time	Information
July	1	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting
July	11	6:00 AM	Presque Isle Tournament
August	3	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting
August	22		Rogers city Tournament
September	7	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting
October	5	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting
November	2	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting
December	7	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting
Contact Dan Bouchard at <a href="mailto:dan-bouchard@hotmail.com">dan-bouchard@hotmail.com</a> for inquiries.			

2020 White River Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Event information	Location
July			No Meeting	
August	6	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
September	3	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
October	1	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
November	5	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
December	3	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
Note: Meeting dates and times are subject to change – Any questions or to verify dates/times please call Clint Pollock at (231) 893-0210 or Terry Clark at (231) 893-6805.				





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