



# THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

Volume 67 May/June 2021 No. 3

## Steelhead — 2020-2021

By Jim Bedford

Most steelhead anglers will agree that the 2020-21 run was a very light one, especially in most Lake Michigan tributaries. As a long time avid keeper of a fishing log, I can definitely attest to this. I experienced my worst season in 39 years.

As I write this on April 23 there is still work to be done at the Little Manistee River weir to collect enough steelhead eggs to satisfy our hatchery needs including trades with Indiana and Ohio. Mark Tonello and Scott Heintzelman, our DNR fisheries biologists in Cadillac, told

me that they think they will have enough fish to provide the eggs needed, but barely. Interestingly the run in the Little Manistee this spring has been dominated by females, which is good for having enough eggs but not so good for having one on one fertilizing of them. Luckily the males have enough milt to fertilize the eggs of several females.

Another sign that this year's run was on the meager side was that the Grand Rapids Chapter canceled their spring river steelhead tournament, mostly for conservation reasons.

**"Steelhead"**  
Continued on page 9



Photo credit: Roger Hinchcliff

## Lake Erie Walleye and Perch Status 2021

By John Hageman,  
midwestoutdoors.com

As the 2020 season showed, biologists from Ohio and Ontario were correct to say that 2020 and the next several years was the best walleye fishing in Lake Erie in decades. Sorry Lake of the Woods—Lake Erie is indisputably the true "Walleye Capital of the World."

For Ohio residents and non-residents who purchased their licenses early, the walleye fishing on Lake Erie and the Maumee River in the spring was nothing short of phenomenal. The

weather was especially cooperative, with the calmest month of April in memory.

Outstanding catches were made by trollers and jiggers fishing familiar spawning locations all spring, but due to the number of walleyes inundating the lake, catches were regularly made outside their normal spawning structures.

Unfortunately, due to the Governor's pro-active approach to combating the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ohio Department

**"Lake Erie"**  
Continued on page 13

## A Big Fight in Lansing Over Fishing Rules on the Great Lakes



Crewmembers on Dana Serafin's boat, Independence, pour whitefish into containers on the fishing boat this week. Serafin was filling two orders from distributors in Northern Michigan, who would then sell the fish to restaurants and markets throughout the region. (Bridge photo by Kelly House)

PINCONNING — Dana Serafin still hauls in 20,000-pound boatloads of whitefish to supply regional restaurants and markets, but in recent years, the Saginaw Bay fisherman has found it more difficult to fill

his orders.

Native whitefish, the main livelihood for Serafin and other Great Lakes commercial fishers, have been in decline for years amid changes to the food web, replaced in Serafin's nets

by healthier populations of walleye and lake trout that he's not allowed to keep.

"We see the small fish coming up," Serafin said of whitefish as he piloted his newest boat, Independence, to check nets this week



Mark Lentz tosses back a walleye that turned up in a Serafin Fishery net earlier this week in Saginaw Bay. As whitefish numbers decline in the Great Lakes, Lentz and other commercial fishers argue they should be able to keep the walleye that swim into their nets. (Bridge photo by Kelly House)

in the shallow water near Point Au Gres, "but they never make it to adult size."

Chinook salmon, once a favorite of recreational anglers on lakes Michigan and Huron, have also plummeted in Lake Michigan, and all but disappeared from Lake Huron.

And for just about as long, Michigan's fishing interest groups and government regulators have been at loggerheads over how

to respond. State-regulated commercial anglers have long clamored for access to walleye and lake trout to offset the drop in whitefish, while regulators and recreational fishing groups favor increased fees and tighter regulations on the state's commercial fishing industry.

As negotiations drag into the new legislative session, things have taken a turn for the ugly: Following

a short-lived attempt by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to add new limits to where, when and how commercial operators could fish this year, an industry group is suing the

**"Fight"**  
Continued on page 6

 Find us on facebook

Search groups for MSSFA

The Quality of Fishing Reflects the Quality of Living!





# MSSFA PRESIDENT

## Tim Stegeman

Every article I write this year for the GLSN should be about Commercial Fishing and the Tribal Consent Decree because those items are that important to you, the engaged sport angler. These articles would highlight the importance of being not only a member of the MSSFA but also solicit you, the reader, to be actively engaged in adding your voice to our agenda to help protect and conserve the gamefish plants, which all of us fund and covet, from commercial exploitation. Myself and others have already done this many times in previous articles (especially refer to the Nov/Dec 2020 President's article).

However, about all I can add at this point is we are officially at the crossroads

and have started down the road less traveled. This is going to make all the difference in the world and not necessarily in the sport angler's favor at the rate of current progression. Unfortunately, and exactly like decades ago, the decision makers want to delay and stall while hiding behind closed doors calculating how to dictate to the sport anglers the way they are going to use to their advantage the sport angler funded gamefish resource; the very resource that the sport anglers have nurtured into existence with the support and cooperation of the MDNR.

In the end, I suppose, because the viable stock of commercial fish has been reduced to the point where

the only remaining option is to exploit game fish stocks, we will see those fish disappear as well. Then and only then will the Great Lakes commercial fishing industry truly realize what it has perpetrated. Seems to me, if the fish stocks commercial operations rely on for sustainability is suffering, maybe those businesses should lay off of them for a few years and let them rebound. Just saying. I seem to recall the sport anglers deferring to science in determining how many fish to stock in order to save the sport fishery for several years now. There could be a direct correlation between the reduction of plants and the desire of commercial interests to expand their "officially" allowable catch

if you think about it. Less plants = less bycatch? By the way, have you looked at the Canadian commercial fishing harvest take numbers lately? You always need to add the U.S. and Canadian numbers together to get a full picture because no governmental agency does it for you. Switching gears, last issue I mentioned that 2021 is the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of the MSSFA as we know it. Technically, this anniversary date is actually slightly off as the root Steelheader organization was formed in 1967 and it wasn't until 1971 (the date we officially recognize) that the group expanded by having localized chapters. This is a golden opportunity for us to



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

recall our history and at the last state board meeting we continued laying out some plans to do just that.

Each chapter director has a list of items that we would like to receive from each chapter or members at large which are:

- Current chapter description.
- Chapter individual histories both past and present (especially the chapters that are no longer active).

- Complete listing of State Board Presidents and Executive Officers (we have some years, but not all).
  - Past issues 1967-2010 of the GLSN/MSSFA magazine to be digitized and archived.
- If you can help with any of this information, please let one of your chapter officers/chapter state director know or contact myself or our Executive Director, Dennis Eade directly.

**TRAVERSE**  
*city*

# A SEASON FOR EVERY ANGLER

Discover four seasons of fishing in Traverse City. It's where steelhead, salmon, bass, and more offer challenges to novice and expert anglers alike. Where fly fishermen explore the rivers, charter boats roam the lakes...and where you'll find yourself in a pretty great place.

TraverseCity.com

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**

**Wednesday, June 23, 2021**  
via ZOOM  
7 PM

**Wednesday, August 18, 2021**  
via ZOOM  
7 PM

**Wednesday, October 20, 2021**  
via ZOOM  
7 PM

**Wednesday, December 15, 2021**  
via ZOOM  
7 PM

**Joke Time!**

Three priests were fishing on a boat when they ran out of bait. The first priest got up and walked across the water to get some more bait. After 2 hours they ran out of bait again and the second priest said he would go get more bait, so he got up and walked across the water. After 3 hours of fishing they ran out of bait again and the third priest said he would get more bait. So he stepped out of the boat and went straight to the bottom. The first priest turned to the second priest and asked, "Should we have told him where the rocks were?"





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

During the past two months, I have been involved in more Zoom meetings than I thought possible. It seems every fishery related agency, association or commission is relying on Zoom to engage stakeholders. The CPMR coalition negotiations team has held six meetings to review strategy in dealing with the state and the tribes regarding the consent decree negotiation.

The Michigan Legislative Sportsman Caucus Advisory Council met twice, first with Council officers to get acquainted with the two new co-chairs, Rep. Sarah Lightner (R) and Rep. John Cherry (D) and determine priorities in getting legislators involved in hunting and fishing activities this year. The second meeting was with the entire Council to elect new officers and put a preliminary activity agenda together to get legislators into the field.

I arranged a big lake fishing outing again this year for legislators on July 26th out of Grand Haven, MI.

No new movement regarding the commercial fishing bills has occurred, though we do expect the bills that passed in the House last year will be reintroduced with some amendments. Sen. McBroom introduced SB 251, a bill to restrict the MDNR director’s authority to issue rules without the oversight of the Natural Resources Commission. The bill has gone nowhere and the director so far has not appeared before his committee.

Both Lake Huron and Lake Michigan Citizen Advisory committees met and the minutes of those meetings can be found on MSSFA’s website. Cormorant control measures are returning as a result of the release of the Environmental Impact Statement (ESI)

by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). We expect Michigan DNR to request permits to remove 10,000 birds this year.

Two structured decision making (SDM) workshops were held virtually (via Zoom) for the FishPass project in Traverse City. Clear objectives were outlined and risk factors discussed. The MDNR has recommended the following models be evaluated:

- No Passage
- Passage for native Great Lakes Basin (GLB) species
- Passage for steelhead (800-1000) and native GLB species.
- Passage for steelhead (800-1000), Chinook salmon (500-800) and native GLB species
- Passage for all species except AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species)

The MSU’s Quantitative Fisheries Center will model the recommendations given the objectives/risks and provide analysis to determine what fish may be allowed to pass up the Boardman River in the years to come.

# MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis Eade



climate change, and dam removals. I encourage you to go to go to the Michigan House TV, video archive, and click on the House Natural Resources Committee meeting of April 22, 2012 and skip to the 26-minute mark on the recording bar to view the presentations. This is the hyperlink to use to open the committee hearing presentation: [qrco.de/hearing](http://qrco.de/hearing) or scan the QR code to the right to open the video file.

These are unprecedented times in the evolution of the Great Lakes ecosystem and we must adapt by agreeing on how to manage a fragile system plagued by

the aquatic invasive species.  
*Tight Lines!*



Michigan House of Representatives

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee

Agenda

Senate Concurrent Resolution 6: Urges the Michigan Natural Resources Commission and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to end the research study on the effectiveness of antler point restrictions in the chronic wasting disease core area.

House Bill 4470: Revises the penalty for illegal taking of sturgeon.

Presentations by:  
-Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association  
-Michigan Trout Unlimited

## MSSFA: It PAYS to belong! Here’s why:

|    | Name                                      | Address   | City   | State | Zip   | Discount Type  |
|----|---|---|--|-------|-------|--|
| 1  | Al & Bob's Sports                         | 510 68th St   | Grand Rapids   | MI    | 49548 | 10% Discount with Al & Bob's Card or Steelheaders  |
| 2  | All Auto Care                             | 1234 Ball Ave. NE   | Grand Rapids   | MI    | 49505 | Member Rates   |
| 3  | Ann's Custom Canvas                       | 4414 Remembrance Rd   | Walker   | MI    | 49544 | 10% Discount, not valid on specials. Mention steelheaders before ordering  |
| 4  | Auto Owners Insurance                     | 303 E. Monroe   | Durand   | MI    | 48429 | Rowe Agent Group #486  |
| 5  | Batteries Plus                            | 2061 N-139 Suite B  | Benton Harbor  | MI    | 49022 | 10% & Member Discount 269-925-7374 <a href="http://www.batteriesplus.com">www.batteriesplus.com</a>                              |
| 6  | Batteries Plus                            | 3082 44th Street  | Grandville   | MI    | 49418 | 10% & Member Discount  |
| 7  | Batteries Plus                            | 386 Bay Park Dr, Suite B  | Holland  | MI    | 49424 | 10% & Member Discount 616-396-9914 <a href="http://www.batteriesplus.com">www.batteriesplus.com</a>                              |
| 8  | Batteries Plus                            | 5228 S. Westnedge Ave   | Kalamazoo  | MI    | 49002 | 10% & Member Discount 269-553-2355 <a href="http://www.batteriesplus.com">www.batteriesplus.com</a>                              |
| 9  | Batteries Plus                            | 3031 28th Street SE   | Kentwood   | MI    | 49512 | 10% & Member Discount 616-575-0500 <a href="http://www.batteriesplus.com">www.batteriesplus.com</a>                              |
| 10 | Batteries Plus                            | 5839 Hrvy Street, Suite 6   | Norton Shores  | MI    | 49444 | 10% & Member Discount 231-747-9168 <a href="http://www.batteriesplus.com">www.batteriesplus.com</a>                              |
| 11 | Big Papa Sportfishing                     | 50642 Oregon Ave.   | Novi   | MI    | 48374 | 10% except on equipment  |
| 12 | Black Dog Outfitters                      | 4444 14 Mile Rd   | Rockford   | MI    | 49341 | 10% Discount on fly tying materials, hooks & lines. <a href="http://www.blackdog-outfitters.com">www.blackdog-outfitters.com</a> |
| 13 | BoatU.S.                                  |   |  |       |       | \$15 Annual Membership Dues - Use Membership # GA83723B  |
| 14 | Bob's Outdoors                            | Statewide   | <a href="http://www.bobsoutdoors.com">www.bobsoutdoors.com</a>                     |       |       | 10% Discount ( <a href="http://www.bobsoutdoors.com">www.bobsoutdoors.com</a> )  |
| 15 | Brenner's Service                         | 4765 W River Dr   | Comstock Park  | MI    | 46321 | 5% exclusions may apply. 616-784-9872 <a href="mailto:dawnbrenner@hotmail.com">dawnbrenner@hotmail.com</a>                       |
| 16 | Dayton, Rick R, DDS                       | 169 Louis Campau Promenade Ste 2A   | Grand Rapids   | MI    | 49503 | 20% off all services (616)458-2545   |
| 17 | Cascade Capital Funding                   | 4251 Cascade Rd. SE   | Grand Rapids   | MI    | 49546 | Free appraisal up to \$300.00  |
| 18 | Dockside Marine, Inc                      | 4320 State Rd   | Glennie  | MI    | 48737 | 15% Off Parts & Accessories (Excludes Electronics)   |
| 19 | Dunham's Sports                           | Statewide   |  |       |       | 10% Discount # 50050/3   |
| 20 | Firestone - Metro 25                      | 19268 Middlebelt  | Livonia  | MI    | 48152 | \$20 off on \$200 or more on service <a href="http://www.metro25firestone.com">www.metro25firestone.com</a>                      |
| 21 | Fish with Jim Outfitters                  | <a href="http://www.fishwithjimoutfitters.com/">http://www.fishwithjimoutfitters.com/</a> | 248-252-1277   |       |       | Discount \$50.00 off the total trip price.   |
| 22 | Glacier Corporation                       | 1021 Fuller St.   | Santa Ana  | CA    | 92701 | Aquarium Chillers for "salmon in classroom" \$625 + 60 (s&h) = \$685   |
| 23 | Great Lakes Angler Magazine               |   | <a href="http://www.glangler.com">www.glangler.com</a>                             |       |       | Discount 50% OFF 1 year subscription, members only! Use code MSSFA   |
| 24 | Homestead Resort on Betsie River          | 2399 Dam Rd   | Benzonia   | MI    | 49616 | 10% In Season, 25% Off Season ( <a href="mailto:homestead@crystal-rentals.com">homestead@crystal-rentals.com</a> )               |
| 25 | Insta-Launch Campground                   | 20 Park Ave   | Manistee   | MI    | 49660 | Member Discount  |
| 26 | Insurance Shop/Fremont Ins.               | 824 Water St.   | East Jordan  | MI    | 49727 | 10% Discount off insurance for MSSFA Group Members   |
| 27 | Jim Waldron Pontiac, Buick, GMC           | 1146 S. State Rd  | Davison  | MI    | 48423 | Contact Nick Russloll for Sales, 10% off all parts not to exceed \$100.00  |
| 28 | J Smith Custom Tackle                     | 1136 E Hughes Lake Road   | Rose City  | MI    | 48654 | 15% - 20% off depending on rod. <a href="http://Customrodsbyjsmith.com">Customrodsbyjsmith.com</a> 989-685-2819                  |
| 29 | K & M Marine                              | 14990 Telegraph Rd  | Redford  | MI    | 48239 | 10% off merchandise except sale items ( <a href="http://www.kandmmarine.com">www.kandmmarine.com</a> )                           |
| 30 | Kamp Oil Inc                              | 6467 Manistee St  | Fredric  | MI    | 49733 | Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.   |
| 31 | 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.   |
| 32 | 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 | Logan's Run Muskegon River Cottage Rental | 1648 Gardner St.  | Newaygo  | MI    | 49337 | 10% Discount <a href="http://www.logansrun.us">www.logansrun.us</a> 616-485-4501   |
| 36 | Mark's Sport Shop                         | 11530 Mason Dr  | Grant  | MI    | 49327 | Member Discount  |
| 37 | MUCC                                      | 2101 Wood Street  | Lansing  | MI    | 48912 | \$18.00 Membership Dues  |
| 38 | Patriot Custom Fishing Rods               | 35919 6th Ave.  | Gobles   | MI    | 49055 | 10% Discount 269-628-5227  |
| 39 | Richfield RV                              | Statewide   |  |       |       | 10% Discount   |
| 40 | River Raisin Marina & Campground          | 2502 E. Elm Avenue  | Monroe   | Mi    | 48161 | Buy 1 get 1 free - call 313-575-4367 ( <a href="http://www.riverraisinmarina.com">www.riverraisinmarina.com</a> )                |
| 41 | RX Optical                                | Statewide   |  |       |       | Plan 308   |
| 42 | Salmon Trout Steelheader                  |   | <a href="http://www.salmontroutsteelheader.com">www.salmontroutsteelheader.com</a> |       |       | Discount 50% OFF 1 year subscription, members only! Use code MSSFA   |
| 43 | Sun Coast Marine                          | 1172 68th Street  | South Haven  | MI    |       | Member discount  |
| 44 | The Angling Outpost                       | 2480 Duck Lane Rd   | Whitehall  | MI    | 49461 | <a href="http://www.anglingoutpost.com">www.anglingoutpost.com</a> 5% use coupon "steelheader" for online purchases              |
| 45 | Traxstech Corp                            | 14754 N Oakley  | Chesaping  | MI    |       | 989-845-5969 10%   |
| 46 | Van's Sport Center                        | 1855 Alpine Ave.  | Walker   | MI    | 49544 | 10% Discount   |
| 47 | Warrior Lures                             | 5915 Lillian La   | Traverse City  | MI    | 49684 | 10% Discount on all product ordered ( <a href="http://www.warriorlures.com">www.warriorlures.com</a> )                           |
| 48 | West Marine                               |   | Bay City   | MI    |       | 10%  |
| 49 | West Michigan Propeller                   | 847 Ionia Ave. NW   | Grand Rapids   | MI    | 49503 | 10% Discount   |
| 50 | * Your Business Here!                     |   |  |       |       |  |



***THE QUALITY OF FISHING REFLECTS THE QUALITY OF LIVING!***

**MSSEA** chapters have membership meetings with guest speakers to learn about all the aspects of sport fishing. **MSSEA** 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.

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.

# THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS (GLSFN)

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*".

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.

|  |   |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Executive Director</b><br/>Dennis Eade<br/>616-298-8842<br/>deneade@charter.net</p>  | <p><b>Grand Haven</b><br/>Paul Zelenka, President<br/>and State Director<br/>616-638-3273<br/>pbzfarms@gmail.com</p>  | <p><b>Great Lakes Bay Region</b><br/>Mark Trudell, President<br/>989-839-4920<br/>kathy@steel-headers.com</p>  | <p><b>Metro-West - Livonia</b><br/>Eric Braden, President<br/>419-344-2541<br/>esbraden630@gmail.com</p>  | <p><b>Southwest Michigan</b><br/>Jim Marohn, President<br/>269-983-7298<br/>jim.marohn@doubledayoffice.com</p>   | <p><b>Traverse City Area</b><br/>Jim Heengeman, VP<br/>231-495-1381<br/>jheengeman@aol.com</p>  |
| <p><b>Membership</b><br/>Deb Shephard<br/>269-655-4704<br/>mssfamembership@charter.net</p>   | <p>Website: <a href="http://www.ghsteelheaders.com">www.ghsteelheaders.com</a></p>  | <p>John Letts, State Director<br/>989-522-3074<br/><br/>facebook.com/Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheaders<br/><br/>Website: <a href="http://steel-headers.com">http://steel-headers.com</a></p>   | <p>Robert Schulz, State Director<br/>248-915-0043<br/>bobschulz7@gmail.com<br/><br/>Website:<br/><a href="http://www.metroweststeelheaders.org">www.metroweststeelheaders.org</a><br/><a href="http://facebook.com/Metro West Steelheaders">facebook.com/Metro West Steelheaders</a></p>  | <p>Joe Montella, Director<br/>616-283-4296<br/>joe-monte@comcast.net<br/><br/>Website: <a href="http://www.swmsteelheaders.com">www.swmsteelheaders.com</a><br/><a href="http://facebook.com/Southwestern Steelheaders">facebook.com/Southwestern Steelheaders</a></p> | <p>Ted Ewald, Secretary / State Director<br/>231-313-2032<br/>ewaldted@yahoo.com<br/><br/>facebook.com/Traverse City Area Steelheaders<br/><a href="http://www.traversacityareasteelheaders.org">www.traversacityareasteelheaders.org</a></p> |
| <p><b>Battle Creek</b><br/>Jeff Root, President<br/>269-370-8515<br/>jeffroot81@gmail.com<br/><br/>Frank Smith, Director<br/>269-908-6577<br/>fncsmith@comcast.net<br/><br/><a href="http://battlecreeksteelheaders.com">battlecreeksteelheaders.com</a></p> | <p><b>Grand Rapids</b><br/>Mike Mckian, President<br/>616-644-4864<br/>michaelgmckian@gmail.com<br/><br/>Bob Strek, Vice President<br/>and State Director<br/>616-723-1268<br/>rstrek@aol.com<br/><br/>Search on facebook: Grand Rapids Steelheaders OfficialPage</p> | <p><b>Holland</b><br/>Steve Weatherwax, President<br/>616-836-3809<br/>Waxer1221@yahoo.com<br/><br/>Alex Fergus, State Director<br/>616-610-2410<br/>afergus63@gmail.com<br/><br/>Website: <a href="http://www.hollandsteelheaders.org">www.hollandsteelheaders.org</a><br/><a href="http://facebook.com/Holland Steelheaders">facebook.com/Holland Steelheaders</a></p> | <p><b>South Haven</b><br/>Rich Chapman, President<br/>and State Director<br/>president@southhavensteelheaders.com<br/><br/>Website:<br/><a href="http://www.southhavensteelheaders.com">www.southhavensteelheaders.com</a><br/><a href="http://facebook.com/South Haven Steelheaders">facebook.com/South Haven Steelheaders</a></p> | <p><b>Thunder Bay</b><br/>Dan Bouchard, President<br/>989-255-7350 Cell<br/>dan-bouchard@hotmail.com<br/><br/>Gerry Sickon, Director<br/>734-624-4490<br/>gsickon@ford.com</p>   | <p><b>White River</b><br/>Clint Pollock, President<br/>231-893-0210<br/>aftereyes2@gmail.com<br/><br/>Terry Clark, Director<br/>231-730-6628<br/>dadshideout03@yahoo.com</p>  |
|  <p>Scan QR code or type <a href="http://www.mssfafa.org">www.mssfafa.org</a> in your web browser.</p>  |   |  |   |  |   |



Scan QR code or type [www.mssfa.org](http://www.mssfa.org)  
in your web browser.






# Sign up **ONLINE...**

## mssfa.org

Click on the **BECOME A MEMBER NOW!** button

### MSSFA State and Chapter Dues (Yearly)

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Battle Creek \$45.00                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Holland \$40.00                | <input type="checkbox"/> Thunder Bay \$40.00 (Alpena)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Haven \$40.00                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Metro West \$40.00 (Livonia)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Traverse City \$40.00           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Rapids \$45.00                     | <input type="checkbox"/> South Haven \$40.00            | <input type="checkbox"/> White River \$40.00 (Whitehall) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Lakes Bay Region \$40.00 (Midland) | <input type="checkbox"/> Southwestern \$45.00 (St. Joe) | <input type="checkbox"/> At Large Membership \$35.00     |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Thumb \$40.00 (Harbor Beach)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Membership \$5.00        |

For questions email: [mssfamembership@charter.net](mailto:mssfamembership@charter.net)

MSSFA ~ PO Box 423 ~ Paw Paw, MI 49079

**Battle Creek [www.battlecreeksteelheaders.com/membership](http://www.battlecreeksteelheaders.com/membership) • Holland [www.hollandsteelheaders.org](http://www.hollandsteelheaders.org)  
 Metro-West (Livonia) [www.metroweststeelheaders.org](http://www.metroweststeelheaders.org) • South Haven [www.southhavensteelheaders.com](http://www.southhavensteelheaders.com)  
 Southwestern( Saint Joseph) [www.swmisteelheaders.com](http://www.swmisteelheaders.com) • Traverse City [www.traversecityareasteelheaders.org](http://www.traversecityareasteelheaders.org)**





Convenient Location next to Manistee, Little Manistee and Bear Creek

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

Website:  
[www.brethrenbungalows.com](http://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](mailto:thundley@chartermi.net)  
[www.tntcharters.com](http://www.tntcharters.com)

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

## Freddie B

Sport Fishing Charters

Capt. Fred Bolton



USCG Licensed  
State DNR Inspected

Cell: 248.670.2479  
Email: [FreddieB@acegroup.cc](mailto:FreddieB@acegroup.cc)  
[www.FreddieBSportfishingCharters.com](http://www.FreddieBSportfishingCharters.com)

## MSSFA State Board of Directors, Officers and Committee Chairs

|                         |   |  |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Tim Stegeman</b>     | President   | <a href="mailto:tstegg@yahoo.com">tstegg@yahoo.com</a>                       |
| <b>Dennis Eade</b>      | Executive Director<br>Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Fishery Committee | <a href="mailto:deneade@charter.net">deneade@charter.net</a>                 |
| <b>Don Remington</b>    | Vice President  | <a href="mailto:donremington99@yahoo.com">donremington99@yahoo.com</a>       |
| <b>Gerry Sickon</b>     | Secretary<br>Lake Erie Citizens Advisory Fishery Committee              | <a href="mailto:gsickon@ford.com">gsickon@ford.com</a>                       |
| <b>Alex Fergus</b>      | Treasurer   | <a href="mailto:afergus63@gmail.com">afergus63@gmail.com</a>                 |
| <b>Kenneth Merckel</b>  | Lake Huron Citizens Advisory Fishery Committee                          | <a href="mailto:kenmerckel@yahoo.com">kenmerckel@yahoo.com</a>               |
| <b>Roger Hinchcliff</b> | Streams Committee   | <a href="mailto:RHinchcliff@mortgageone.biz">RHinchcliff@mortgageone.biz</a> |
| <b>Deb Shephard</b>     | Membership Coordinator  | <a href="mailto:mssfamembership@charter.net">mssfamembership@charter.net</a> |



# TOURNAMENT TRAIL

## 2021 Manistee County Event Schedule

### 2021 Tentative Print Schedule

| Issue | Deadline | Print Date |
|-------|----------|------------|
| 1     | 12/11/20 | 01/04/21   |
| 2     | 02/12/21 | 03/03/21   |
| 3     | 04/13/21 | 05/03/21   |
| 4     | 06/14/21 | 07/02/21   |
| 5     | 08/13/21 | 09/01/21   |
| 6     | 10/08/21 | 10/29/21   |

### GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

MSSFA, *Publisher*  
Stafford Printing, *Printing*  
Greenville, MI

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

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

Laura Kleinheksel, *Layout*  
[laura.glsfn@charter.net](mailto:laura.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 *th 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  
e-mail: [michigansteelheaders.org](mailto:michigansteelheaders.org)

Tim Stegeman, *President*  
Don Remington, *Vice President*  
Dennis Eade, *Executive Director*  
Gerry Sickon, *Secretary*  
Alex Fergus, *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](http://www.MSSFA.org)

presented by:



**Manistee County Sport Fishing Association**

**June 25-27, 2021**



**MCSFA**

**Budweiser Pro-Am**

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

**July 23-25, 2021**



[www.tournamenttrail.net/manistee-splash](http://www.tournamenttrail.net/manistee-splash)

**August 13-15, 2021**

**ONEKAMA**

**FISHING TOURNAMENT**

at  
**Onkama Marine**

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

**August 20-22, 2021**



**The Monster**

[www.tournamenttrail.net/manistee-monster](http://www.tournamenttrail.net/manistee-monster)

**All 2021 Events Have:**

**3X The CASH**  
in the



plus the all new  
**\$10,000 Guaranteed**



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

**Be Sure to check out these other MCSFA events:**

- Spring Banquet - Sat. May 1
- Small Boat Tournament - Sat. May 1
- Salmon Derby - May 29 thru Sept. 6
- Kids Fish - Wed. June 23

**Find Out More: [www.MCSFA.org](http://www.MCSFA.org)**



## "Fight" Continued from page 1

state as Sen. Ed McBroom, R-Vulcan, pushes a bill that would weaken the DNR's regulatory power.

Recreational fishing groups are decrying the McBroom bill as a stunt, and encouraging legislative allies to recirculate DNR-backed reforms that failed to pass last session.

And quietly in the background, confidential negotiations on a consent decree that determines how Michigan and five Native American tribes split up fishing rights in treaty-protected waters have repeatedly blown through deadlines.

The bottom line, said Bill Winowiecki, president of the Michigan Charter Boat Association, which represents boat captains who cater to recreational

anglers: "The pie is smaller and smaller, and everybody's fighting."

### Lakes Out of Balance

Today's Great Lakes have changed dramatically since the latter half of the last century, when Michigan and treaty tribes established existing methods of divvying up access to Great Lakes fish.

For decades, commercial operations, both state-regulated and tribal, have split most of the whitefish catch. Recreational anglers get most salmon, and tribes and recreationalists share access to lake trout.

The approach provided certainty and helped stabilize fish stocks that had been devastated by overfishing and invasive species. Then invasive zebra and quagga mussels made their way into the lakes, upending the food chain

— including the whitefish populations that commercial fleets depend upon.

"That's what has put people in conflict," said Dan O'Keefe, an educator with the Michigan Sea Grant Extension. "The balance that worked so well has just broken down."

Today, quagga mussels carpet much of the lakebottom in four of the five lakes (all but Superior). They have stripped lakes Huron and Michigan of nutrients and plankton. The tiny, shrimp-like diporeia that whitefish and other species like to eat have all but disappeared, and the damage has rippled upwards.

Whitefish are one of many victims of the changes. Alewives, an invasive baitfish beloved by salmon, also tanked, bringing predators down with them.

Some species, though, have found a niche in the

The green-tinted fish in a net pulled from Saginaw Bay are walleye, a fish that has grown abundant in the bay but that commercial fishers cannot keep when they swim into their nets. (Bridge photo by Kelly House)



new lake ecosystem. Walleye in Saginaw Bay have become so abundant they're suppressing the perch pop-

ulation. Lake trout have rebounded too, a result of aggressive government stocking efforts and other factors.

But even with those bright spots, said Annie Scofield, a life scientist at the Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office in Chicago, Lakes Michigan and Huron are now "generally lower production," supporting a lower volume of fish overall.

For state-regulated commercial fishers and Native American operators regulated by tribal governments, it is nearing the point of crisis. Whitefish make up almost three-quarters of their combined annual catch by volume, but harvests declined from 6.3 million pounds in 2001 to less than 4 million pounds in 2018 — a 37 percent reduction in less than two decades.

That's why Serafin and other commercial fishers are angling for something new to catch. At the very least, he said, he wants to be able to keep the walleye and trout that swim into his nets, instead of throwing them to the seagulls that swarm his boat.

Tribal fishing interests are also navigating the food chain changes as they renegotiate the 2000 consent decree.

If state-licensed commercial businesses go under, said Doug Craven, natural resources director for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, it could harm tribal operators, too: As small businesses in largely rural areas, they depend on one another to achieve economies of scale, making it easier to access to wholesalers, trucking services and other resources to get their product to market.

Craven said he believes there are enough walleye and trout in the waters to give commercial operators some limited access. But he also agrees with recreationalists and the DNR about the need to modernize and tighten Michigan's commercial regulations.

"We're trying to move away from a zero-sum equation," he said. Between the mussels, climate

change, pollution and other existential threats to the Great Lakes food chain, he said, "we're really going to need to work together, such that there's a fishery at all for any of us."

### New Battles Brewing

Both commercial and recreational interests pushed bills last legislative session that failed to pass: An industry-supported bill that would have entitled commercial operators to a share of the trout and walleye died in committee. A DNR and recreation-supported proposal to increase fines and fees while tightening regulations made it through the House, before dying in the lame-duck legislative session after November elections.

Backers of the recreation-supported package, which among other things would have raised annual license fees and fines for illegal harvest and required operators to share more data about what they catch and where they set nets, said the updates would add badly-needed oversight to an industry governed by outdated laws that don't reflect modern species management, while adding protections for fish prized by recreational anglers.

They blamed McBroom, who chairs the Senate Natural Resources Committee, for holding the bill until late in the session, then introducing more than 130 amendments.

"There was no time to read and discuss them," said Winowiecki, of the Michigan Charter Boat Association.

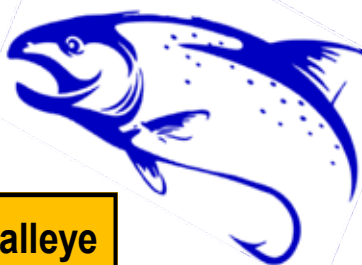
McBroom contends he was seeking compromise, but "the message back from the (Department of Natural Resources) was, we're not interested."

Fresh off legislative defeat, state fishery managers used their administrative power last winter to reduce the depth at which some commercial operators could set their nets and shorten the whitefish season by a month, among other changes.

Officials said they were merely bringing the com-

"Fight"  
Continued on page 7

## 36th Annual Charlevoix Area Trout Tournament June 11•12•13, 2021



**Brown Trout • Salmon • Steelhead • Lake Trout • Walleye  
Over \$17,500 Cash & Prizes!!**

**Registration: June 9th & 10th  
East Park, Downtown Charlevoix  
Entry fees:**

**Adult Early Bird by May 24th \$30  
After May 24th \$35  
Children 14 and younger \$10**

**Info: 231-675-7623 or 231-330-0867  
Register online  
[www.fishcharlevoix.com](http://www.fishcharlevoix.com)  
Like our Facebook page**

**Kids Fishing Pond  
Saturday June 12th from 10am to 4pm  
East Park, Trout Pond • \$5**

**Unfortunately due to Covid-19 there will not be a Trout Tournament Dinner this year.**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE **NEW COLORS! NEW PRODUCTS!**

# Moonshine Lures

Family-owned and operated. Each lure is hand-painted.

AGENT WALLEYE GOLD    HOT PERCH    DON'S DAGGER    KEMOS KRAW    GEEZER GOLD    GREEN SHORTS GOLD    MEL'S MINNOW    HULK 14

Visit our website to find your local retailer • Dealer inquiries welcome

## MoonshineLures.com

MADE IN THE USA



**"Fight"****Continued from page 6**

mercial fleet in compliance with state law. The way the DNR had long managed commercial whitefish operators, with deeper fishing depths and a longer season, conflicted with fishing regulations outlined in law.

Regulators said at the time that they had hoped to clear up the conflict with the bill package last session, but chose to act administratively after the legislation failed.

The Michigan Fish Producers Association, the commercial industry group, saw it as retaliation designed to put its members out of business.

As COVID-19 shut down many businesses, said Amber Petersen, secretary-treasurer of the association and operator of the Fish Monger's Wife in Muskegon, "we were told we were essential: 'Hey, please help us get some food.'" The DNR move to impose new fishing restrictions, she said, felt like "hypocrisy at its highest form."

The group sued, and the agency quickly dropped the new commercial limits.

But commercial groups say they're not dropping their lawsuit.

Unless the industry sends a clear message to state regulators, Serafin said, "they'll do it to us every year."

DNR officials declined to comment for this story, citing the pending lawsuit.

As the suit works through the legal system, commercial fishing advocates are working with McBroom and other allies to push a bill that would lock existing fishing practices into state law and weaken the DNR's ability to regulate.

Current law allows DNR officials to change fishing regulations whenever they deem it necessary. Under McBroom's bill, the agency would first need to get partisan appointees on the Natural Resources Commission to agree that there is scientific proof of "imminent danger" to the fishery.

McBroom called it a stopgap measure designed to "hold the status quo" until the two sides can reach a compromise. But agency officials warn of unintended consequences.

In a March 23 letter, DNR Director Dan Eichinger said the bill would hinder the agency's ability to respond to changing dynamics in the lakes. Moreover, he said, the bill "does not sufficiently address the need to modernize and simplify the regulatory framework for state-licensed commercial fishing."

Rep. Jack O'Malley, R-Lake Ann, who co-sponsored part of the DNR-backed package that died last session, said he expects similar legislation to emerge again this session, likely teeing up another long and contentious round of negotiations.

He has support from recreational groups, who say they're not obligated to share fish to keep the commercial industry alive.

Dennis Eade, executive director of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, a recreational group, compared the dwindling commercial fleet to the buggy whip industry that died when automobiles overtook horses as a preferred mode of transportation.

Given the dramatic changes in the Great Lakes, the backbreaking nature of the work, and technological advancements in aquaculture, he said, Michigan's Great Lakes commercial fishing industry is "not something that has a long shelf life."

Advocates for recreational fishing also argue they have a bigger impact on the state's economy: Between the gear they buy, the hotels they frequent, and other spending, recreational anglers contribute \$2.3 billion to the state's economy, according to the Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

Commercial fishing, recreationalist argue, pulls far more fish out of the Great Lakes while contributing far less economic value.

Last year, state figures show, state-licensed commercial boats sold about \$4.2 million worth of fish.

But Serafin, the Lake Huron fisherman, said those statistics don't account for the harder-to-quantify value he and Michigan's dozen other full-time commercial operators offer: Their industry, too, supports tourism. And it provides those without access to a fishing boat the opportunity to eat wild-caught Michigan fish.

**Legislative Loggerheads**

Legislators say they're hoping for compromise. But common ground appears scarce.

McBroom, who controls the Senate Natural Re-

sources Committee that any fishing bills would likely need to clear before reaching the Senate floor, said he supports raising fees and ramping up monitoring of "bad actors." But only in exchange for commercial access to trout and walleye.

Recreational anglers note that their fishing li-

censes and taxes on fishing gear help the government pay for trout stocking and habitat improvement efforts. Last year, according to DNR figures, 1.2 million recreational anglers fished in Michigan.

Winowiecki, of the Michigan Charter Boat Association, said he feels for

state-licensed commercial fishers who are struggling, but they're not putting any fish in the lake, and the lake trout population isn't yet robust enough to withstand more fishing pressure.

"Mother nature's trying to repair itself, but it's going to take a couple more (generations)," he said.

After decades of stocking, the fish have begun to naturally reproduce, but likely not at rates high enough to self-sustain the fishery, scientists said.

If the two sides can't

**"Fight"****Continued on page 10**

# SOUTH HAVEN STEELHEADERS

## 2021 Pro Am

### May 15th & 16th






**Modern Woodmen**  
FRATERNAL FINANCIAL

**Robert J. Keorkunian**







WWW.TEAMDREAMWEAVER.COM



**Guaranteed**  
**\$6,000 1st place PRO**  
*(based on 20 entries)*

**Guaranteed**  
**\$3,000 1st place AM**  
*(based on 25 entries)*



**\*\*Special tournament prize for highest scoring boat where all crew members are Michigan Steelheaders\*\***

**NEW Special Dock Rates!** Head to South Haven after the Schu's Summer Challenge to pre-fish all week! Buy 7 nights for \$80 (\$20 each additional night). CALL 269-637-3171 to book now!

**ENTRY FEES:**

*Received before*

**May 9, 2021:**

Pro: \$500  
Am: \$250

*Received May 9, 2021 or after:*

Pro: \$550  
Am: \$300

**DIVISIONAL:** All Species Big Fish Contest  
- \$50 entry fee

**RETURNING for 2021:**  
- Star of the Lake  
- Friday 5 Challenge  
- Dual Port Challenge

**For more information:**  
**Chad Bard**  
**269-214-6934**

**southhavensteelheaders.profightingtournaments.com**





Providing you with  
quality gear for more  
than 40 years!

Watch for new  
products and colors  
in 2021





# 2021 Grand Haven/Grand Rapids Net Pens

**By Paul Zelenka,**  
*President Grand Haven Steelheaders*  
**and Bob Streck,** *Vice President Grand Rapids Steelheaders*

As a kid growing up along the shores of Lake Michigan, I would stand at the end of our driveway waiting for my grandfather's old Chevy truck to pick me up. Then it would appear with the Sea Ray in tow. I would pile in and off to the launch we would go. Then the boat would be in the water, a short ride, lines set and then the wait. Most days it would not take long to hear the cry "FISH ON!". After an adrenaline filled battle a sleek King salmon would be gracing our cooler. After resetting lines Grandpa Zelenka would tell me about how "Chinooks" were planted in the Great Lakes.

Fast forward 45 years to spring 2021 and many "Fish On!" cries later we're placing the Net Pens into Slip #2 at the Grand Haven Municipal Marina. The Grand Haven and Grand Rapids chapters of the Michigan Steelheaders own and maintain 4- 8'x18' floating net pens. Earlier in March volunteers of both chapters hung the net pens and repaired any damages. High school students from the Careerline Tech Center also assisted with repairs and setting of the nets. The nets are placed every other year in the Grand River and the State of Michigan's Wolf Lake hatchery supply King Salmon fingerlings reared the previous fall. The young salmon are placed in the pens to help acclimate them to life out- side of the hatchery. Chapter volunteers feed 3x per day with a custom feed blend provided by the state. After approximately 2 weeks the pens will be opened and the salmon will make their way out to Lake Michigan.

In November, I received call from Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator, asking to bump our numbers up from 90,000 to 130,000. Then in January of 2021, he contacted me and asked to increase



Volunteers assist in mending tears in the nets.

the spring plant to 250,000. The increase was due to lack of Steelhead coming from the hatchery this year and not having a new Tribal Consent Decree in place. With the lack of an agreement with the tribes, additional plants would be south of Grand Haven for 2021. Hopefully a win-win agreement is reached in the near future. With hard work from both the Grand Haven chapter and the Grand Rapids chapter, we were able to accommodate the larger number of fish.

Over the years many things have changed as I learned speaking with Rog-

er Belter past President of the Grand Haven Steelheaders. About 40 years ago in the 1980's, Roger, a big lake Charter Captain, member of the Charter Boast Association, Grand Haven Steelheaders and a teacher initiated the change. A group made up of Grand Haven Steelheaders, Grand Rapids Steelheaders and the Charter Boat Association members held a meeting with John Trimberger, the Area Fishery Biologist from the DNR. The group wanted to move the planting of young salmon downstream from Grand Rapids due to high mortality rate



Credit goes to Karl Chapel, Grand Haven Custom Molding, for the use of their sky trac. He had his driver pick it up from another location, bring to the marina, for putting the nets in. Karl will then send it back when we pull the nets.

being experienced from predators along the journey to Lake Michigan.

The meeting did not go well but Roger and John had a later meeting at which John asked if Grand Haven would be interested in a new idea, a net pen project. Roger was amenable to the idea and John said he would research a plan. The hope was that the fingerlings would smolt during the rearing process in the net pens and eventually find their way back to the mouth of the Grand River when it was time to go up stream and spawn. Once the plan was in place, the first net pens for Lake Michigan were built in Comstock Park, MI. Two

Net Pens were initially built, smaller than what is used today but they sank dockside so it required re-engineering. The pens were located on the upper part of Chinook Pier and at the point by the canal. The pens were maintained by Grand Haven/Grand Rapids and for a few years received financial help from the Charter Boat Association.

The idea worked so well that net pens are now located in several ports on the Great Lakes. Over the years improvements were

made to the net pen program such as floats made from PVC pipe, feed program and other adaptations.

Three years from now, the salmon that survive the obstacles, like cormorants, gulls, predator fish, sport anglers, charter boat operators and Mother Nature's cruelties, will run the Grand River to spawn and validate the outcome of Dr. Tanner's challenge to create "Something Spectacular" and the world's largest freshwater sport fishery.

Students from Careerline Tech Center assist with setting the nets.



Nets are set at the end of the docks.



Jim Gretzinger from Michigan Out of Doors TV filming the MDNR truck filling the pens with fish.



Volunteers watch as fish acclimate to their new surroundings and adjust to the river waters.



# The Salmon Tournament to Catch

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



Doug & Shar Hekman  
Family Foundation



Jul 30 - Aug 1, 2021

Holland, Michigan



TAYLOR RENTAL



www.bigredclassic.com

resident trout have plenty of food to grow big.

Starting in 2018 all hatchery steelhead were mass marked with an adipose fin clip by the states bordering Lake Michigan. This will continue until we will be able tell with some certainty whether the steelhead we just landed was wild or of hatchery origin. The only reason we will not be able to tell with complete certainty is that Ontario will not be marking all the hatchery fish they stock in their Lake Huron tributaries. Not only will this affect the Lake Huron tributaries but also, possibly some Lake Michigan streams because we know that fish can freely move through the Straits of Mackinac. The Lake Erie and Ontario states and Ontario are not currently marking their hatchery steelhead but are studying the possibility of doing so in the future.

Steelhead are a fine table fish, whether eaten fresh or smoked and there are relatively few situations where releasing them is mandatory in the Great Lakes. Like coho, Atlantic and chinook salmon, brown and lake trout, and splake, steelhead are stocked for a put, grow, and take fishery. However, releasing some of your catch will help to maintain and improve the fine sport fishery in our Great Lakes. In fact when fishing for wild trout and steelhead or any large predator fish, releasing most or all of your catch is the best idea in my opinion. With the likely continued decline of salmon in Lakes Michigan and Huron and increased pressure on other species like steelhead, catch and release will be even more important for a good fishery.

When you do decide to keep fish for the table being selective can make for a better meal and help sustain a good fishery. Almost always smaller fish will taste better than the trophies. Let the big fish spawn and keep the smaller but legal fish for the pan. When harvesting steelhead, remember that the males can fertilize the eggs of several females. Producing the milt also takes less out of the fish than making the eggs so the flesh of the males will be firmer. So keep a small male for the table or smoker and let the females go.

Successful releasing of fish begins with the catching. Never fight a fish to exhaustion. Use sturdy enough tackle to subdue your quarry in a relatively short amount of time. Pressuring the fish from the side with your rod rather than lifting it to the surface will tire it faster and enable you quickly conquer large fish with relatively light tackle. When lifting fish with your rod, you are mostly fighting gravity and not tiring the fish.

Always keep the handling of the fish to a min-

## The Southwest Michigan Steelheaders



# SUMMER CHALLENGE

ST. JOSEPH, MICHIGAN - MAY 6-8, 2021



WWW.FISHTHESUMMERCHALLENGE.COM



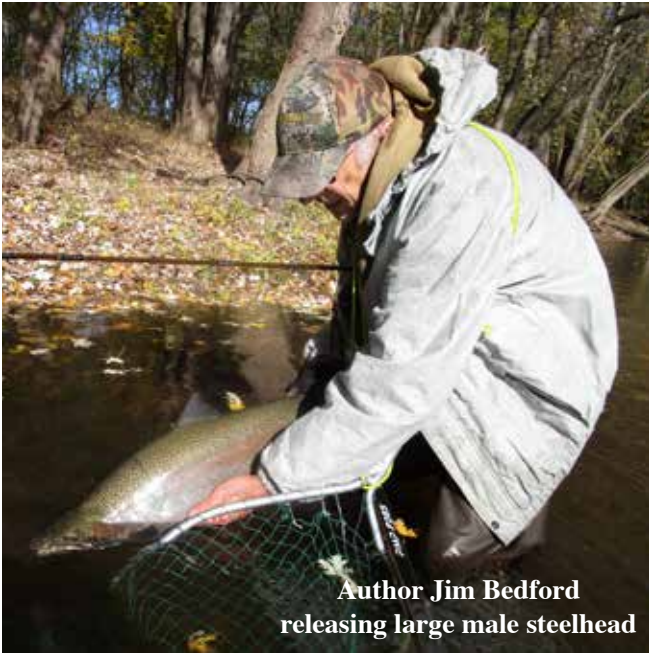
### "Steelhead" Continued from page 1

They are already working on plans to possibly switch the tournament over to a catch and release event next year so they can have their biannual tournaments even when the run is light. As I wrote in the January/February issue of the GLSFN, life has gotten tougher for steelhead in recent years. The explosion of Quagga and zebra mussel numbers have altered the food chain by greatly reducing phyto- and zoo-plankton levels in the lakes. These small creatures are the basis of life in the Great Lakes. Steelhead and salmon smolts feed primarily on plankton and larval bait fish when they arrive in the big lakes

on their spring migration. Alewives diet is primarily plankton throughout their lives so their numbers are very depressed right now. With baitfish or prey fish numbers down there are a lot of hungry predators at the river mouths when the smolts arrive in May and early June. And, guess what, adult steelhead and salmon have no problem becoming cannibals when bait fish are scarce. Naturally reproduced steelhead smolts are hugely better at dodging predators and finding food than the hatchery smolts. These fish have spent two or three years in their natal streams avoiding predators and finding enough to eat. Conversely, hatchery smolts are fed daily and usually protected from predators. This

easy life helps them grow to smolting size in just one year but has them woefully unprepared for survival in the wild. Hopefully we will be able open more streams through the removal of dams and other barriers in future years to steelhead. Some will argue that anadromous fish have an adverse affect on resident trout but that is rarely the case. There may be fewer small trout but the nutrients the anadromous fish bring the streams result in an increase in the numbers of large trout. The Pere Marquette and Little Manistee Rivers are prime examples where this has happened. Even Prairie Creek, a Grand River tributary where I fish often has benefitted from the steelhead that run it now. My log-book emphatically shows that for the 2020 trout season. There may be fewer 7 inch browns and brookies but they are replaced by 7 inch rainbows and when the rainbows smolt the

dams and other barriers in future years to steelhead. Some will argue that anadromous fish have an adverse affect on resident trout but that is rarely the case. There may be fewer small trout but the nutrients the anadromous fish bring the streams result in an increase in the numbers of large trout. The Pere Marquette and Little Manistee Rivers are prime examples where this has happened. Even Prairie Creek, a Grand River tributary where I fish often has benefitted from the steelhead that run it now. My log-book emphatically shows that for the 2020 trout season. There may be fewer 7 inch browns and brookies but they are replaced by 7 inch rainbows and when the rainbows smolt the



Author Jim Bedford releasing large male steelhead

"Steelhead"  
Continued on page 10



“Steelhead”  
Continued from page 9

imum. For small fish that you can control by lifting from the water or grabbing your line, simply grab the hook, fly, or lure with your forceps and shake the fish free. If you need to handle the fish wet your hand first and turn it upside down to quiet it before removing the hook. A net will greatly speed the landing of large fish. Use it as a corral and leave the net bag in the water to minimize any abrasion damage or protective slime removal. Nets are now available with mesh material that is really easy on the fish. If you must “beach” a large fish never drag it up on dry land. Find a shallow area where you can force the fish on its side but still have several inches of cushioning water. If you can’t get to the fish from a large boat, plan on having a large cooler half full of water to set the net bag and fish in when you plan to re-

lease it. Along with a net, a pair of forceps or needle nose pliers should be a mandatory part of every angler’s equipment. Trying to manually unhook a fish can be hard on the fish and, when fly fishing or using soft plastics, hard on your fly or lure. And, if the fish has sharp teeth like all members of the trout and salmon family, your fingers are likely to be scratched or punctured. Barbless hooks also help but even they can be stubborn at times and sometimes it is hard to pinch down those barbs after a big fish has prematurely dislodged a lure or weighted fly. Usually your fish will be ready to take off after being unhooked but if it needs some resuscitation always take time to do this. Gently cradling the fish facing into slow current is best. If you are fishing in a lake slowly move the fish forward until it recovers. Moving the fish backwards is counter-

productive as the fish can’t breathe when moved backwards. Releasing that steelhead of a lifetime can be tough to do, especially if you are fishing by yourself. The solution to being able to let trophy fish swim away is to shoot them first. A camera is always part of my gear, ready to capture a deer drinking at streamside, an eagle watching me fish, a sunrise or sunset on a lake, or a freshly caught beauty of a fish. Obviously, almost all of us are carrying a mobile phone with us now and, of course, they also take good photos. When taking a picture of a fish always have everything ready before you lift the fish out of the water. Of course, if you are taking a picture of yourself with the timer this will be automatic. Measuring the length and girth of the fish along with a clear side view photo will allow you to have a replica mount made of your trophy. While you



Paul Vogel releasing steelhead

can calculate an estimate of your fish’s weight with these measurements it is fun to know the actual weight. This is easy to do using your net. Simply hook your scales on meshes on the opposite sides of the fish and weigh it as your big steelhead is cradled in your net. Then just subtract the weight of the net or suspend the net rim with your other hand so that it is not being weighed. In recent years the style of hand-held scales with a gripper on one

end has become very popular. I think weighing fish this way is very hard on them, especially large specimens. Fish are normally horizontal in water that is approximately the same density that they are. They use their swim bladder to maintain neutral buoyancy. While I am not aware of any studies documenting the fact, I believe that suspending large fish vertically in the air could harm their internal organs. This would be especially likely when fish are on their spawning run and their sexual organs are near maturity. You can still use these grip scales to weigh fish supported by the net. As life gets tougher for steelhead in the Great Lakes, I think we should strongly consider releasing all of the wild fish we catch. In the states of California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska and the province of British Columbia, the release of wild steelhead is almost always mandatory and

virtually all hatchery steelhead are marked. On the few rivers where wild steelhead can still be retained, the daily limit is one and the season limit of wild fish in 3 or 4. Usually the daily limit on hatchery steelhead is two with a season limit of 20 or less. Obviously the limits on steelhead in the Great Lakes are much more liberal, usually 3 or 5 per day and no season limit. This angler is worried that our great steelhead fishery can’t continue with such liberal limits along with the tremendous pressure the environment and dwindling food supply is putting on these great fish. Releasing all the wild fish and keeping only the occasional male steelhead will go a long way toward preserving our steelhead fishery. Releasing a large, wild steelhead is one of the most satisfying things you can do as an angler! It is also an important to the future of our steelhead fishery.

“Fight”  
Continued from page 7

reach agreement, Eade of the recreational fishing group, said he is content to wait it out. The recreationists have the political upper hand, he said, and if McBroom gets re-elected next year, he’ll be term-limited out of the Senate in 2027. “We’ll get a new chair-

man of the Natural Resources Committee who’s willing to work with all sides,” he said. While negotiations remain at an impasse, the whitefish are showing no signs of a comeback. That makes Serafin nervous that the few remaining commercial vessels will disappear along with the fish. “How much more can

we give up?” he said as he watched his crew pull dozens of walleye out of the nets earlier this week, tossing them back to waiting seagulls. “If something keeps happening to the whitefish, we’re gone.”





## 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

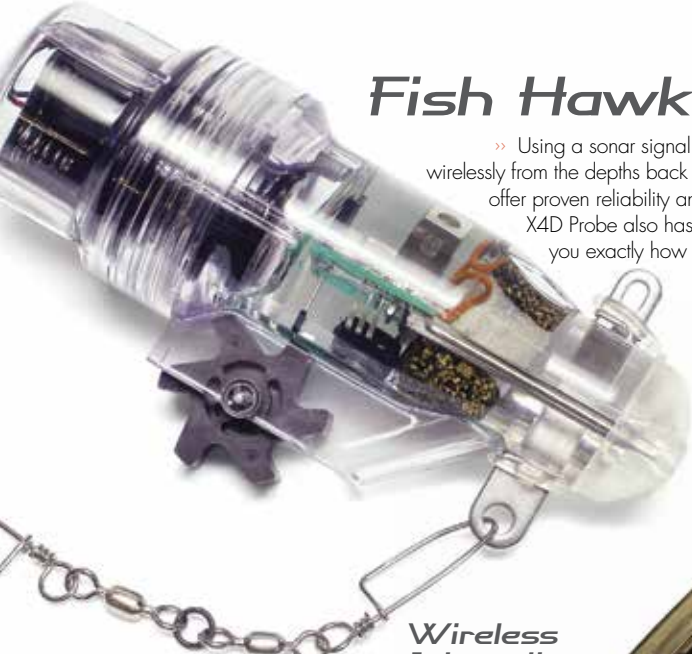


## Tools of the Trade

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

### Fish Hawk X4D

» Down speed, down temp, and true downrigger ball depth; the X4D gives you all three. Using the X4D, you’ll be able to find the preferred water temperature zone of target species, identify underwater currents, and repeat the most productive depth and trolling speed. An easy to read display and Bluetooth® sharing make the X4D the choice of top professional captains and serious anglers.





## Fish Hawk Probe

» Using a sonar signal to send speed and temp data wirelessly from the depths back to the boat, Fish Hawk Probes offer proven reliability and exceptional battery life. The X4D Probe also has a water pressure sensor to tell you exactly how deep it is in the water column.

### Wireless Integration

» Sharing information wirelessly puts information where you need it most. View data on Fish Hawk’s Mobile App or the Cannon Optimum™ electric downrigger.



fishhawkelectronics.com



# Early Season Fishing Ideas

By Bob Jensen

The early part of the open water fishing season can bring catching challenges. There are influ-

ences beyond an anglers control that make the catching part of fishing a little more difficult sometimes. Changing weather in the early season certainly af-

fects the catching. One day it can be 70 degrees, the next day it's snowing. That doesn't make fish hungry. Different species of fish spawning at different times

can also slow the bite a bit. However, there are some things that an angler can do to improve the catching. Following are partial details of 3 early season fishing trips that I've been part of. By keeping our options open, my boat partners and I were able to convert a difficult fishing day into a very good one.

We were fishing Rainy Lake on the Minnesota/Ontario border. It was shortly after the Walleye Opener. We wanted to catch walleyes, but reports indicated that walleye fish had been tough. Most of them were being caught in bays near where they had spawned or were still spawning. A jig/minnow combination is a productive way to catch walleyes early in the year, so that's how we started. Not much success.

We backrolled shallow

drop-offs near the spawning areas with live-bait rigs. Nothing.

We then trolled the same areas with crankbaits. We thought that if we covered enough water we could surely find some biters. We were wrong.

As a last idea, we started casting suspending jerkbaits, KVD style baits, to rocky points at the mouths of the spawning bays. Still no walleyes, but boy did the northern pike like these baits. Mostly 6-10 pounders with a couple of 12's thrown in. Our lack of walleye success turned into a memorable northern pike day.

Another early season walleye attempt. It was Opening Day for walleyes in Wisconsin. The walleyes again didn't want to get caught, and we just wanted to catch something. After

exhausting all of our wall-eye efforts, we saw a large stand of rushes in a nearby bay. "What the heck", we thought. Let's see what's in there. With some slip-bobbers and small Mr. Crappie style Tubes underneath, we caught a bunch of nice crappies. Not really big ones, but nice ones. A change to our fishing plans resulted in a good crappie catch instead of a no walleye catch. Good Deal!

Last one for now. Mike Frisch and I were fishing largemouth bass near Alexandria Minnesota shortly after the Minnesota Bass Opener. In the Alexandria area sometimes the biggest challenge to catching bass is deciding on which lake to start. The area is home to dozens of outstanding

"Early Season"

Continued on page 15

## Where History is Fun!



Pilot the Pere Marquette 22



Digital storytelling, fascinating exhibits, and authentic artifacts bring maritime history to life!

- Commercial Fishing
- Ghost of Captain Van Dyke
- 70 Years of Ludington Coast Guard
- Steaming into the Future - The SS Badger



PORT OF  
**LUDINGTON  
MARITIME  
MUSEUM**

[ludingtonmaritimemuseum.org](http://ludingtonmaritimemuseum.org) • 231-843-4808

## Pro-Troll's Latest Secret Lighted Flashers

**New models and finishes are now available**  
The water activated light blinks green red and white. The sealed battery lasts up to 80 hours. The entire light can be easily replaced



Famous Green Hornet

Top Winner Chrome Scale

Red Hot Herring Flash



[www.Protroll.com](http://www.Protroll.com)

## MSSFA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The first **80** first time new members to join the Michigan Steelheaders will receive a **FREE** one year subscription to the Great Lakes Angler Magazine.

Promotion starts - March 1, 2021

Sign up **ONLINE**

Go to <http://www.mssfa.org> and scroll down to click on the button: **BECOME A MEMBER Now!**

MSSFA State and Chapter Dues (Yearly):

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Battle Creek \$45.00                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Holland \$40.00                | <input type="checkbox"/> Thunder Bay \$40.00 (Alpena)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Haven \$40.00                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Metro West \$40.00 (Livonia)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Traverse City \$40.00           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Rapids \$45.00                     | <input type="checkbox"/> South Haven \$40.00            | <input type="checkbox"/> White River \$40.00 (Whitehall) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Lakes Bay Region \$40.00 (Midland) | <input type="checkbox"/> Southwestern \$45.00 (St. Joe) | <input type="checkbox"/> At Large Membership \$35.00     |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Thumb \$40.00 (Harbor Beach)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Membership \$5.00        |

For questions email: [acctsrecv@mssfa.org](mailto:acctsrecv@mssfa.org)







Here are 2 outstanding walleye baits: The Hornet on the left would be a better color for stained water, while the Lucky Shad on the right would usually be better in clear water.

## Small Details for Bigger Fish Catches

By Bob Jensen

Some anglers believe that a particular lure will enable an angler to catch the most or the biggest fish. It's almost like it's a magic bait. While it's certainly true that some baits are very good day-in and day-out, successful anglers understand that catching fish is usually a result of considering a few little things. Details that don't seem to

be real important are often very important. Some of those details follow. Line diameter can play a very important role in catching more fish, and even in getting more fish to bite. I remember a walleye tournament that I participated in many years ago. It was early August and the walleyes wanted jigs tipped with either a leech or a nightcrawler. The fish were on the bottom in 30-35 feet

of water. This depth typically calls for a jig in the quarter ounce range. However, the walleyes were hitting and spitting the quarter ounce size. That usually means that they want a lighter jig, probably one in the eighth ounce size. We were using 8 and 10 pound test line with the larger jigs. To get the smaller jig down to the fish effectively, we had to go to 6 pound test line. The 6 pound test had

smaller line diameter, so it had less water resistance, which enabled us to get the small jigs down to the fish. Going from 8-10 pound test line and quarter ounce jigs to 6 pound line and eighth ounce jigs enabled us to do very well in that tournament. Lure color can be a critical factor in angler success. It used to be thought that "color catches fishermen, not fish" and lure color

doesn't matter. It's true that sometimes lure color doesn't, but there are times, way more times than we might think, that a particular color can be the difference between a few bites and a memorable number of bites. Usually, start with a subtle, natural appearing color bait in clear water and a brighter color in stained or dirty water. Another color idea: When using jigs with plas-

tic bodies, use a jighead of 1 color and a plastic body of another color. By doing so, you're showing the fish 2 different colors, which increases the odds of showing them the color that they want on that day. An orange head/chartreuse body or a pink head/white body combination are time tested favorites for walleyes. When fishing with a spinner, either a spinnerbait for bass or a spinner rig for walleyes, again keep water clarity in mind. Go with a larger blade in water that has limited visibility and a smaller blade in clear water. The larger blade creates more flash and vibration and makes your bait easier for fish to find, which is helpful when visibility is limited. In clear water, the fish can see better, so additional flash and vibration often aren't as important and at times can actually reduce the number of bites. However, in clear water, use the largest spinner that the fish will hit. This will usually result in bigger fish, and will also get the fish's attention from further distances.

Last thing for now: A bait that makes noise will help fish find your bait when they need help finding it, as in stained water. Crankbaits that rattle will provide more noise. Also, try a crankbait that runs deeper than necessary. If you're fishing in water 5-7 feet deep, try a crankbait that runs 7-8 feet deep. It will be running into and bouncing off the bottom, which creates more noise and helps the fish find your bait. Usually there is no one factor that will enable you to catch more fish. There are lots of little things that you can do to be more successful on the water. If you keep that in mind, the chances of you catching more fish will improve greatly.

To see new and old episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, fishing articles and fishing videos, go to [fishingthemidwest.com](http://fishingthemidwest.com)

# SUBSCRIBE

**NOW TO** Great Lakes **Angler** MAGAZINE

**Sheathed Fillet Knife**

High-carbon stainless steel. 13 inches long, with 6-inch blade. Co-polymer, secure-grip handle; weighs just 5.6 ounces. Handy for boat, or tackle box.

**2 FREE ISSUES!**  
Only \$19.95 for a one-year GLA subscription (6 issues)! Newsstand price for 6 issues is \$30.00. Subscribe and you SAVE TEN BUCKS — and get two issues **FREE!**

**4 FREE ISSUES!**  
Only \$37.95 for a two-year GLA subscription (12 issues)! Newsstand price for 12 issues is \$60.00. Subscribe and YOU SAVE \$22.00 — and get four issues **FREE!**

**All for just \$49.95 Order Now!**

Call Toll FREE  
**1-800-541-9498**  
Monday- Thursday 9-4 PST

Receive 12 issues (2 years) of *Great Lakes Angler* magazine, PLUS a sheathed fillet knife — all for just \$49.95! Newsstand price for 12 issues is \$60.00, you receive SIX FREE ISSUES, and you also get an awesome Kershaw fillet knife (MSRP: \$29.00) for FREE!

In Canada: for 12 issues of GLA and the fillet knife send \$85.00 U.S. (extra postage to Canada included).

**GLAngler.com**

Check out our new website and all the great subscription deals:





**"Lake Erie"**

Continued from page 1

of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife (DOW) suspended sales of non-resident fishing licenses during April's stretch of fantastic jig fishing until early May.

After social distancing protocols were defined for charter boats, non-resident sales resumed in May. With unexpected spare time on the hands of many Ohioans, resident fishing license sales were up 11 percent

according to DOW Chief Kendra Wecker during a wildlife diversity meeting in August.

According to Travis Hartman, Ohio Division of Wildlife's Lake Erie Program Administrator, Lake Erie's walleye population for 2020 began at 116 million catchable fish. A staggering 151 million fish are expected to enter the fishery in 2021 as legal 15-inch quarry from the 2019 year-class.

While the outstanding

walleye hatches in 2015, 2018 and 2019 will sustain the fishery for years to come, other modest to good hatches in 2014, 2016 and 2017 add to the stockpile of older fish which provide numerous trophy opportunities.

An abundant but dwindling 2003 year-class may yet produce a record fish to replace the current Ohio record of 16.19 pounds which has been in place since 1999. State of the art aging techniques using the

otoliths (ear bones) instead of scale rings have revealed that Lake Erie walleyes sometimes reach 25 years of age.

### Walleye and Yellow Perch Total Allowable Catches (TAC) Set

On March 26, the Great Lakes Fish Commission's Lake Erie binational committee, comprised of fisheries managers from all of the jurisdictions that surround the lake, released the 2021

(TAC) limits for walleye and yellow perch. These are based upon current populations, fishing industry feedback and the overall goal to annually maintain sustainable harvests.

The Lake Erie TAC for walleyes rose from 8.531 million in 2020 to 10.237 million for 2021 and the perch TAC decreased from 8.552 to 7.805 million pounds from 2020 to 2021 due to rising and fall populations, respectively, of these two most important species.

Walleyes are managed by numbers and perch by weight.

**Walleye**

The walleye TAC is 20 percent higher than last year, with Ohio receiving 5.232 million, Ontario allowed 4.408 million and Michigan's quota is 597,000 fish respectively. Pennsylvania and New York set their harvest limits to fall in line with TAC objectives.

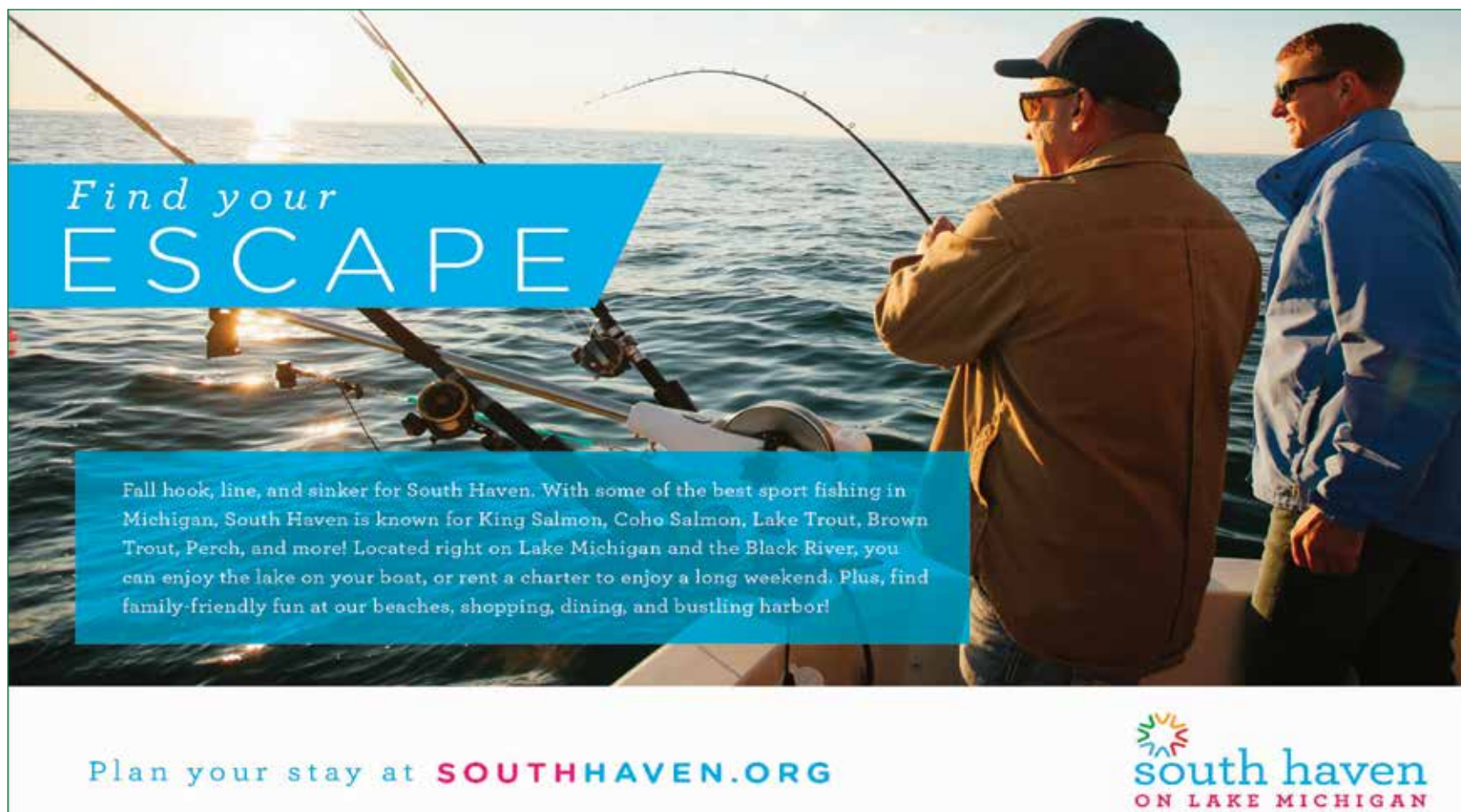
Last year's catch rates were 0.83 walleyes per hour, nearly double the harvest rates of the infamous 1980s walleye boom and represents the best fishing in the 40-year history of Lake Erie's creel surveys, boasts Hartman.

The increased catch rates, along with the daily limit increase to 6 walleyes year 'round this spring could result in Ohio closing in on its 5.2 million fish allotted quota. A rule change that now allows 3 rods per angler may boost catch rates and add to additional harvest.

The 2019 walleye fishing effort was estimated by creel surveys to be 2.4 million hours, with the harvest ending up at 1.972 million fish in Ohio. The 2020 Ohio harvest was the highest in 26 years, since 1993, with 2.560 million walleyes kept in 3.1 angler

**"Lake Erie"**

Continued on page 16



Find your  
**ESCAPE**

Fall hook, line, and sinker for South Haven. With some of the best sport fishing in Michigan, South Haven is known for King Salmon, Coho Salmon, Lake Trout, Brown Trout, Perch, and more! Located right on Lake Michigan and the Black River, you can enjoy the lake on your boat, or rent a charter to enjoy a long weekend. Plus, find family-friendly fun at our beaches, shopping, dining, and bustling harbor!

Plan your stay at **SOUTHAVEN.ORG**

**south haven**  
ON LAKE MICHIGAN



**Church Tackle Co.**

**Mini Lock-Jaw Clip**  
This clip may be mini but when it comes to holding power it's second only to its 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.)

**We didn't invent the planer board, we just perfected it!**  
A one-stop shop for planer boards, 7 different styles & ALL MADE IN THE USA

**TX-44 Super Planer** (14" x 4 1/4")  
**The Walleye Board** (10" x 3 1/2")

**FISH FILLET & GAME KNIFE**  
The only knife of its type, makes filleting a breeze even for beginners. Once you use this knife you won't go fishing without it!!  
New Style Fillet Knife  
The unique handle & flat blade makes it possible to work in the middle of the table or any flat surface no need to be at the edge of the table or using a block. Comes with blade protector for storage.  
(Blade made of high quality 440C stainless & carbon steel heat treated)

**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

**Size #1 - .7 oz**  
#40300 unpainted  
#40302 black

**Size #2 - 1.4 oz**  
#40303 unpainted  
#40304 orange

**Size #3 - 2.7 oz**  
#40305 unpainted  
#40306 chartreuse

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**



Find All Your  
**GREAT LAKES TROLLING**  
Needs & More at  
**FishUSA**  
AMERICA'S TACKLE SHOP

Buy  
**Stealthcore®**  
Lead Core  
exclusively  
at FishUSA

**STEALTHCORE**

**www.FishUSA.com • 800.922.1219**



6am - 9pm  
Open  
362 Days  
a Year!



# Northwoods Wholesale Outlet

*We Make the Outdoors Affordable®*

SHOP US ONLINE 24/7 [www.NorthwoodsOutlet.com](http://www.NorthwoodsOutlet.com)

R.V.  
& Boat  
Parking



## NORTHWOODS FREE PADDLE & JACKET w/ ALL KAYAKS



WORLD'S LARGEST SINGLE STORE RETAILER!





## NORTHWOODS solo stove

The World's most unique **SMOKELESS FIRE PIT**



Lifetime Manufacturer Guarantee

Michigan's Largest Retailer



## SPRAY PAINT

**3 for \$5**

while 117,000 cans last





## NORTHWOODS

**\$14<sup>99</sup>**

After \$5.00 Mail-In-Rebate



**THERMACELL**

**Mosquito Repellent Device**  
Includes holster & R-1 refill



## NORTHWOODS

Chairs starting at **\$19<sup>99</sup> each**



**CAMCO** **\$99<sup>99</sup> each**

**Rhino Heavy Duty 15 gallon Portable RV Waste Holding Tank**



**weber** Q1200  
**Portable Propane Grill**

**\$149<sup>99</sup> each**



**THETFORD**  
*Going Places*

**MICHIGAN'S LARGEST CAMPING HEADQUARTERS**



## NORTHWOODS

**\$99<sup>99</sup>**

reg. \$229<sup>99</sup>



**MEN'S SWAMP SERIES WADERS**

Lightweight Breathable



## NORTHWOODS

**\$4<sup>99</sup>**

WHILE 2000 LAST

Save \$30!

**Originals Handcuffs Adult Hooded Sweatshirts**

MED. - 3XL • BLACK, GREY CHARCOAL & NAVY



Roll them up or roll them down!



## NORTHWOODS

**Adams Adult Adirondack Chairs**



**\$14<sup>99</sup> each**

While supplies last



## NORTHWOODS

Save 1/2 on Lifesavers!

**YOUR CHOICE \$5<sup>99</sup> each**



**KENT**  
Foam Boat Cushions  
red, white, blue



**KENT**  
Type II Life Vest  
child to adult sizes



*We Make the Outdoors Affordable®*

# Northwoods Wholesale Outlet

SHOP 24 HOURS AT  
[WWW.NORTHWOODSOUTLET.COM](http://WWW.NORTHWOODSOUTLET.COM)  
**(989) 879-1110**



Open 6 am - 9 pm  
**362 DAYS A YEAR!**  
(Closed Easter, Thanksgiving, & Christmas Day)

**CASH AND CREDIT CARDS ONLY**  
Visa, Master Card, Discover, & American Express

**WHILE SUPPLIES LAST - NO RAINCHECKS -**  
Not Responsible for Printing Errors  
All products priced as marked.

**229 W. 5th St. • Pinconning, MI 48650**

M-3217

SALES END DATE: 5-23-21



# Quick Tip: How to Adjust Storage Compartment Latches

*Rattling hatches driving you crazy? Eliminate annoying noises with a quick latch adjustment*

Article and photo from [www.mercurymarine.com](http://www.mercurymarine.com)

The cam latches that secure the hatches on the storage compartments of many boats are simple, yet awe-some pieces of engineering. Exaggeration? Not at all. They hold securely and are fast and easy to open. They perform as intended for years or even decades with only regular freshwa-ter rinsing and a little peri-odic lubrication. They also sit virtually flush with the hatch surface to spare your bare feet.

However, if you hear a bit of thumping and rattling every time you traverse a wake or hit a modest chop, it probably means you’ve got a latch that needs ad-justment. A tight hatch also helps keep moisture out of storage areas. All it takes to make the adjustment is a hex key and a few minutes of trial and error.

## Here are the steps:

Determine if a latch needs adjustment by tug-ging on the handle with the latch still in the locked po-sition. If there is more than

1/8 inch or so of play, the latch is too loose.

Open the hatch and locate the set screw that holds the latch’s cam in place. The cam is the flat or Z-shaped piece of metal that hooks under the rim of the compartment to tighten the hatch. On most latch-es, it mounts on a thread-ed shaft and projects out perpendicular to the shaft.

With an appropri-ate-sized hex key, often called an Allen wrench, turn the set screw counter-clockwise to loosen it just enough so the cam will spin

by hand on the threaded shaft.

Spin the cam two or three complete revolutions clockwise then snug up the set screw. Note: It’s import-ant to turn the cam in full revolutions or the cam and the handle won’t synch up in the locked position at the same time.

Close the hatch and lock it to see if there is still play in the latch. Repeat Step 4 until the hatch snugs down how you want it. If the cam is hard to engage or disen-gage when you twist the

handle, loosen the set screw and turn the cam counter-clockwise a turn or two. Then test it again.

Once you’ve got the cam adjusted where you want it, tighten the set screw firmly and give the entire latch mechanism a light coat of a quality rust inhibitor/lubricant.

Watch the how-to video here:



Mike Frisch with an early season shallow bay bass.

## “Early Season” Continued from page 11

lakes. We made our choice and started working a shal-low bay in search of a bite. We caught some, but the action wasn’t as fast as we expected it to be. We con-tinued to cast spinnerbaits, buzz-baits, weedless jigs, topwater baits and plastics to the shoreline. We cast to the shoreline because that’s where the bass usually are at this time of year. In a couple of hours of fishing, we had little to show for our efforts. For some reason, one of us cast a weightless Shim-E-Stick type plastic toward the middle of the bay. Almost immedi-ately there was a bass in the boat. Another cast toward the middle of the bay and

another bass. This contin-ued for the rest of the day. For some reason, the bass had pulled off their shore-line locations and relocated in slightly deeper water for a brief period of time. The next week they had almost completely vacated that bay.

On your next early sea-son fishing trip, if the fish aren’t eating what you’re using, or if they’re not where you’re fishing, try something else or some-where else. Actually, that’s good advice whenever you go fishing.

To see new and old ep-isodes of *Fishing the Mid-west television*, fishing arti-cles and fishing videos, go to [fishingthemidwest.com](http://fishingthemidwest.com)

DW

Team Dreamweaver

DREAMWEAVER

ALWAYS ROOM FOR A SUPER SLIM

[WWW.TEAMDREAMWEAVER.COM](http://WWW.TEAMDREAMWEAVER.COM)

TRACKER®

boats

Linwood Beach

MARINA & CAMPGROUND

L I N W O O D , M I

135 S. LINWOOD BEACH RD.

LINWOOD , MI 48634

888-435-8085

WWW.LINWOODBACHMARINA.COM

THEY'RE HERE

TRACKER OFF ROAD

BUILT FOR LOVE OF COUNTRY

570

700EPS

800SX

Like

f



“Lake Erie”  
Continued from page 13

hours of fishing, according to Hartman.  
To ensure that the good fishing continues in the event that the lake sustains any years with poor recruitment, the daily bag limit of 6 will not be raised in these times of plenty.  
But, because of the

higher populations allowing Ohio’s TAC to eclipse the 3 million fish mark, the spring bag limit of 4 was raised until further notice to 6 year-round beginning in April 2020.  
Anglers who want to experience the lake’s fast fishing with trophy potential should be sure to visit Lake Erie for walleyes in the coming years while the

population enjoys astounding modern year highs. Their condition continues to remain excellent, with plenty of forage fish species still available.  
**Yellow Perch**  
The TAC for yellow perch dropped from 8.552 million pounds in 2019 to 7.805 million pounds for 2020. It allowed Ontario



Photo credit: /static.fishingbooker.com

to harvest 3.737 million pounds, with Ohio allocated 3.139, Michigan earmarked for 0.192, Pennsylvania assigned 0.534 and New York apportioned 0.203 million pounds respectively.  
Ohio’s TAC for each of its 3 perch management units are all set at approximately 1 million pounds. These are high enough to still allocate 35 percent of the perch quota to commercial trap netters, while the daily limit will remain at 30 lake-wide for Ohio sport anglers, according to Hartman.  
Despite favorable hatches in the Western Basin during most years since 2013, catch rates have slowed since 2017 as perch are shifting their diet to more invertebrate and zooplankton prey items.  
Stomach content analyses have determined that they are seasonally targeting midge and mayfly larvae, and lately more spiny

water fleas, a large European zooplankton during the summer.  
Spiny water fleas were introduced into the Great Lakes in the early 1980s and have exploded in numbers in recent summers, causing perch to suspend in the water column as they seek clouds of this zooplankton prey.  
Fortunately, the water temperatures climbed too high in July and August to sustain spiny water flea populations, which crash once water temperatures exceed 78 F. Anglers were able to cash in on limit catches of “Erie Gold” for several weeks, with occasionally good catches made later when still-hungry schools could be located.  
Central Basin perch spawning continues to disappoint, and numbers are much lower than those seen during the most recent higher catches occurring from 2013-2016. A modest hatch in 2018 will help in

2021 explained Hartman.  
Days of counting on limits of perch exceeding a ½-pound-per-fish average are a fading memory for those of us who fished from Conneaut to Ashtabula 5 to 10 years ago. The yellow perch bag limit remains at 30 fish for Ohio waters.  
**Other Considerations**  
The now annual harmful algal blooms affecting Lake Erie’s Western Basin during the summer gets a lot of press, but lower precipitation levels seen in the spring that reduced the nutrient concentrations in the Maumee River watershed spurred NOAA’s to predict smaller outbreaks of the toxic scum during 2021.  
Lake levels are at near-record highs, and especially during an east wind can cause localized flooding within the low-lying Western Basin marinas.

EVERYDAY LOW PRICES on RODS, REELS and Tackle for FISHING the Great Lakes. Shop Online at [www.tacklehaven.com](http://www.tacklehaven.com) or call us with your order. We ship Everyday!

JULY 12-18, 2021

LUDINGTONTOURNAMENT.COM



# F.A.F.Q. Frequently Asked Fishing Questions

By Bob Jensen

Since the 1980's, I've done lots of fishing seminars at sport shows and for outdoor clubs and fishing tackle retailers. It's been way over a year since I did my last fishing seminar. Gatherings like those got shut down in early 2020 and haven't really started up again yet. I have fond memories of those seminars. First of all, it was just fun to hang out with people who liked to go fishing. However, these events were also good opportunities to share fishing information, and boy is there a lot of fishing information to share. Some of the things that we talked about at those gatherings maybe weren't even fishing related, but they were fun and informative nonetheless. Wherever the gathering of anglers took place, many of the questions were the same. North or south, walleyes, bass, panfish, or whatever, there are a good number of similar questions that apply to almost all fishing situations. Following are some of the most frequently discussed topics pertaining to fishing that came up at those fishing events.

The question that I think came up the most was "How do I decide where in a body of water do I start fishing?" That's an outstanding question, and in my mind the most important factor in fishing success. We can have the best equipment, and we can be fishing from a boat with the newest electronics and the fastest motor, but if we aren't fishing where the fish are, we're not going to catch'em. It truly is that simple: Before you catch'em, you've gotta find'em.

My response to this question is the same every time. Early in the year, when the fish are getting ready to spawn, are spawning, or have just finished spawning, they'll usually be closer to shore than they will be later in the year. Not always, but almost always.

The rest of the year, after they've recovered from the spawning ritual, they'll

be wherever the food is. If they're eating shad, they'll be near shad. If they're eating shiners, they'll be where the shiners are. Find their food and you'll find the fish.

The second most asked question relates to color: Do I have a favorite color, and does color matter? My response is that I believe that color is an important consideration much of the time, but it's only one consideration. Lure shape, size, and speed are also equally important things to think about when selecting a bait.

I like smaller baits in the spring, larger baits in the summer and fall.

Longer, thinner baits seem to work better for longer, thinner fish like walleyes, pike and muskies. Shorter, fatter baits seem to appeal to largemouth bass better. Smallmouth bass like to eat crankbaits of any shape, but I know that I've caught more smallmouth on long, thin baits. Smallmouth bass just like to eat. I've caught many, many walleyes on short, fat baits, and lots of largemouth on long, thin baits. But if I was limited to one crankbait shape for walleyes it would be long and thin, something like a Lucky Shad. If I could only use one crankbait shape for largemouth bass it would be short and fat. A Pro Model XD shape is tough to beat.

In the spring, a slower presentation is usually better. In the summer you can go faster, and in the fall you can go faster than you would in the spring but usually not as fast as in the summer.

I used to get lots of other really good questions at these events, and many of the same questions still come up whenever anglers gather at the boat ramp or any other place where anglers gather. Some I can answer pretty confidently, some not as much. And that's one of the many fun parts of fishing. Just when we think that we've got the fish figured out, they do something that we don't expect.



River expert Jim Hunt caught this Mississippi River walleye on a long, thin crankbait.

## CATCH MORE FISH!

**OR12 Planer Board**  
(shown with optional HD Tattle Flag™)



**OR40 EZ Crankbait Tuner**



**OR1 Downrigger Release**



**OR8 Downrigger Release**





**OFF SHORE TACKLE LLC**

YouTube Facebook Twitter



*"Congratulations to The Chairman of the Boards, Bruce DeShano, on his 2020 Freshwater Hall of Fame Induction!"*

**Your Leader In Trolling Technology**  
[www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com)

**SAUGATUCK/ SOUTH HAVEN DUAL PORT CHALLENGE**



## SAUGATUCK BIG LAKE CLASSIC

**PRO DIVISION**

Observers  
Required

**Both PRO & AM  
DIVISIONS**

**9 Trout Max**  
Catch 15 fish, weigh 5

### Pro/Am Fishing Tournament

### August 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 2021

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

**JOIN US IN AUGUST FOR THIS EXCITING TOURNAMENT**

*4th Annual "Denny Allen Memorial" Big Fish Tournament*

**1st Place \$1000 guaranteed**

*Sponsored by Jets Pizza*

**FRIDAY AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup> - PRE-TOURNAMENT SHOOTOUT**

## THE TOURNAMENT

**DENNY ALLEN MEMORIAL** *Sponsored by* **Saugatuck Sport Fishing Association**

- ★ Entry Fee: \$50
- ★ Guaranteed 15 Places Raffle, 50/50, Fun

For early entry or pre-tournament shootout go to  
[www.saugatucksportsfishing.com](http://www.saugatucksportsfishing.com)

**To contact us:**  
John Watson at [1137watson@gmail.com](mailto: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
- ★ \$500 early fee paid by August 1st, \$550 after
- ★ \$2500 First Prize Am Division
- ★ \$250 early entry fee paid by August 1st, \$300 after
- ★ 20 Places paid in the AM Division (35 Teams)

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

- ★ August 6th - Free Pig Roast at Captains Meeting
- ★ August 7th - 8th Free Hamburgers and Hot Dogs at Weigh-in and Awards Ceremony

**All Provided by Coral Gables Restaurant**



**MP**  
MIDWEST COMPANIES



**Coral Gables**  
SAUGATUCK, MI



**ADVENTURE**  
COMPANY



**Peterman**  
Concrete



**Engel's**  
Nursery



**Van Laan**  
Construction  
Supply



**DREAMWEAVER**  
[www.teamdreamweaver.com](http://www.teamdreamweaver.com)



**CANNON**



**Liz Engel**  
21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY 21  
AFFILIATE



**JET'S**  
PIZZA  
of Holland  
616-395-5200



Event Calendar Disclaimer:

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

| 2021 Battle Creek Steelheader’s Calendar of Events  |      |  |                  |
|---|------|--|------------------|
| Month   | Date | Event  | Location         |
| May   | 22   | Lake Michigan Spring Tournament                        | Benton Harbor/SH |
| June  | 4-5  | Connie McGowan Invitational (Captain Must Be A Member) | Lake Erie        |
| July  | 17   | Portage Lake Panfish/Family Picnic                     | Portage Lake     |
| August  | 7    | Lake Michigan Memorial                                 | South Haven      |
| August  | 21   | Veterans Outing  | South Haven      |
| October   | 30   | Kalamazoo River Salmon Slam                            | Allegan Dam      |
| November  | 13   | Kalamazoo Trout Quest                                  | Allegan Dam      |
| November  | 20   | Kalamazoo River Memorial                               | Allegan Dam      |
| November  | 27   | St. Joe River Fall Steelhead                           | I-94 Boat Ram    |
| December  | 4    | St. River Chapter Challenge                            | Babes Lounge     |
| December  | 11   | Christmas Party  | Kalamazoo Eagles |
| <p>Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting<br/> Meeting Location: Travelers Cafe and Pub, 5225 Portage Rd. Exit 78 off I-94.<br/> FOR MORE INFORMATION:<br/> River Tournament - Joe Foy at 269-303-1894 / Lake Tournament - Dan Foster at 269-370-3693<br/> battlecreeksteelheaders.com</p> |      |  |                  |

| 2021 Grand Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events  |      |                                |              |
|--|------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Month  | Date | Event                          | Contact Info |
| May  | 1    | Event TBD                      |              |
| June   | 3-6  | Grand Haven Offshore Challenge |              |
| July   | 31   | GH / GR Silver Spoon Event     |              |
| August   | 12   | Summer Picnic                  |              |
| December   | 2    | Christmas Party                |              |
| <p>Other Events TBD<br/> 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<br/> www.ghsteelheaders.com</p> |      |                                |              |

| 2021 Grand Rapids Steelheader’s Calendar of Events  |       |                                       |   |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Month   | Date  | Event                                 | Information                             |
| May   | 1     | Spring Big Lake                       | STC                                     |
| May   | 11    | Board of Directors Meeting            | 7:00pm STC                              |
| May   | 24    | Membership Meeting                    | Social Hour 6:00pm, Meeting 7:00pm      |
| June  | 5     | Steelheaders Free Kids Fishing Derby  | STC                                     |
| June  | 8     | Board of Directors Meeting            | 7:00pm STC                              |
| June  | 11-13 | Lake Erie 3 Day Walleye Contest       | STC                                     |
| June  | 28    | Membership Meeting                    | Social Hour 6:00pm, Meeting 7:00pm      |
| July  | 12    | Chapter Family Picnic                 | 6:00pm at Johnson Park Shelter House ** |
| July  | 13    | Board of Directors Meeting            | 7:00pm STC                              |
| August  | 7     | Fall Big Lake                         | STC                                     |
| August  | 10    | Board of Directors Meeting            | 7:00pm STC                              |
| August  | 30    | Membership Meeting                    | Social Hour 6:00pm, Meeting 7:00pm      |
| September   | 14    | Board of Directors Meeting            | 7:00pm STC                              |
| September   | 27    | Membership Meeting                    | Social Hour 6:00pm, Meeting 7:00pm      |
| October   | 1     | Chapter Sponsored Buck Contest Begins | **                                      |
| October   | 12    | Board of Directors Meeting            | 7:00pm STC                              |
| October   | 24    | Fall River Contest                    | STC                                     |
| October   | 25    | Membership Meeting                    | Social Hour 6:00pm, Meeting 7:00pm      |
| November  | 6     | Fishing Partners Manistee Contest     | STC                                     |
| November  | 9     | Board of Directors Meeting            | 7:00pm STC                              |
| November  | 22    | Membership Meeting                    | Social Hour 6:00pm, Meeting 7:00pm      |
| December  | 6     | Chapter Family Christmas Party        | 6:00pm - Diamond Hall **                |
| December  | 14    | Board of Directors Meeting            | 7:00pm STC                              |
| <p>STC* = Date subject to change<br/> ** = Members and Family Only. (All other events open to the public)</p> |       |                                       |   |

| 2021 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader’s Calendar of Events   |       |                               |  |
|--|-------|-------------------------------|--|
| Month  | Date  | Event                         | Location / Time  |
| May  | 1     | Linwood Beach Walleye         | 7:00am – 1:00pm  |
| May  | 4     | Board Meeting                 | VFW Hall 7:00pm  |
| May  | 15    | Manistee Salmon               | 7:00am – 1:00pm  |
| May  | 29    | Linwood Beach Walleye         | 7:00am – 1:00pm  |
| June   | 1     | Board Meeting                 | VFW Hall 7:00pm  |
| June   | 12    | Sebewaing Walleye Kids Outing | 7:00am – 1:00pm  |
| June   | 26    | Augre Walleye                 | 7:00am – 1:00pm  |
| July   | 6     | Board Meeting                 | VFW Hall 7:00pm  |
| July   | 10    | Manistee Salmon               | 6:00am – 1:00pm  |
| July   | 24    | Ludington Salmon              | 6:00am – 1:00pm  |
| August   | 14-15 | Ludington Salmon (2 day)      | 6:00am – 1:00pm/12:00pm  |
| August   | 28-29 | Manistee Salmon (2 day)       | 6:00am – 1:00pm/12:00pm  |
| September  | 7     | Board Meeting                 | VFW Hall 7:00pm  |
| September  | 11    | Frankfort/Manistee TBD        | 6:00am – 1:00pm  |
| October  | 5     | Board Meeting                 | VFW Hall 7:00pm  |
| November   | 6     | Big/Lil Man. Bear Creek       | Daylight – 1:00pm  |
| November   | 9     | Board Meeting                 | VFW Hall 7:00pm  |
| December   | 4     | Big Man., Bear, Betsie, P.N.  | Daylight – 1:00pm  |
| December   | 7     | Board Meeting                 | VFW Hall 7:00pm  |
| December   | 11    | Annual Christmas Banquet      | Cocktails 5:00pm/Dinner 6:00pm<br>K of C Garfield Rd. Auburn, MI |
| <p>Membership meetings held at:<br/> 3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642<br/> 989-496-3410</p> <p>Board meetings begin at 7:00pm<br/> Please call the Port Chairman no later than Monday prior to the outing whether you plan on attending or not attending.<br/> On the day of the outing, call in on Marine Radio, Channel 72.<br/> Weigh-in follows each outing. Picnics follows weigh-in on Saturdays only.<br/> Outings: All Steelheader members pay \$5.00. All non-Steelheaders pay \$10.00 to participate.<br/> Children 16 and Under are free. Picnic is \$5.00 for everyone.</p> <p>If interested in fishing with us please contact: Gary Decker at 989-859-7472<br/> Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com</p> |       |                               |  |

| 2021 Holland Steelheader’s Calendar of Events  |       |                                     |
|--|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Month  | Date  | Event                               |
| May  | 3     | Board Meeting                       |
| May  | 11    | Tuesday Night Fishing League Starts |
| May  | 20    | Membership Meeting                  |
| May  | 22    | Spring Challenge                    |
| June   | 7     | Board Meeting                       |
| June   | 12    | All Species Tournament              |
| June   | 26    | Kids and Kings Tournament           |
| July   | 10    | Fishing with Veterans               |
| July   | 12    | Board Meeting                       |
| July   | 22    | Membership Meeting                  |
| July   | 24    | Summer Challenge                    |
| July   | 30-31 | Big Red Classic Fishing Tournament  |
| August   | 1     | Big Red Classic Fishing Tournamennt |
| August   | 2     | Board Meeting                       |
| August   | 14    | Ladies Tournament                   |
| September  | 7     | Fishing League Final Night          |
| September  | 13    | Board Meeting                       |
| October  | 4     | Board Meeting                       |
| November   | 1     | Board Meeting                       |
| November   | 6     | River Tournament                    |
| December   | 2     | Membership Meeting                  |
| December   | 4     | River Tournament                    |
| December   | 6     | Board Meeting                       |
| <p>Board meetings held at: Turks of Holland, 977 Butternut Dr., Holland MI 49424 7:00 PM<br/> General Membership: Bayshore Yacht Club, 1862 Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland MI 49424.<br/> Doors open at 6 pm., Dinner at 7 pm, speaker to follow</p> <p>For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jeremy Erdman 616-510-9405, or email Steve Weatherwax at Waxer1221@Yahoo.com</p> |       |                                     |



WORKING FOR AN AGREEMENT TODAY FOR THE FISHERY OF TOMORROW.

Your donation will have a HUGE and IMMEDIATE impact on our ability to continue to serve your fishery interests.

**DONATE NOW!**

Donations are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

To help save the recreational fishing experience you are accustomed to today, we need you to support our grassroots "Share the Resource" campaign that will be used to protect Michigan’s sport fishery.

Donate by going to <http://www.mssfa.org/> Click on DONATE now!

You can’t save the recreational fishery alone, but together with MSSFA, we can save it with your help! Scroll down to Join the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen’s Association today! Click on BECOME A MEMBER Now!



| 2021 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader’s Calendar of Events   |      |   |                                     |
|--|------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Month  | Date | Event   | Chair / Location                    |
| May  | 1    | Benton Harbor Coho Tournament                   | Dave Zawacki/Kirk Traver            |
| May  | 2    | Benton Harbor Coho Tournament                   | Marc & Kirk Traver                  |
| May  | 4    | General Membership Meeting                      |                                     |
| May  | 8    | MWS Banquet                                     | MWS Board                           |
| May  | 15   | Bruin Lake Kayak/Small Boat                     | Chuck Davis                         |
| May  | 22   | Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament Sat             | Chris Thompson/Kruszewski           |
| May  | 23   | Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament Sun             | Brad Allan/Mark Platt               |
| May  | 29   | Toledo Beach Walleye/Pt Moule’ SM Bass/ Walleye | Bob Schulz & Braden/Childs          |
| June   | 1    | General Membership Meeting                      |                                     |
| June   | 5    | Kids Fishing Outing at Kensington Park          | Brad Allan                          |
| June   | 5    | Lake Erie Brest Bay Walleye Tournament          | Len Wood                            |
| June   | 5    | Sterling St Park SM Bass & Walleye              | Eric Braden                         |
| June   | 12   | Grand/South Haven Salmon Pier Event             | Eric Braden                         |
| June   | 19   | Muskie Tourney at lake Hudson Kayak/SB          | Michelle Braden                     |
| June   | 26   | Walleye Tournament (Saginaw Bay or L. Erie)     | Fabian Sepulveda                    |
| June   | 26   | Island/Kent Lakes Kayak                         | Jason Jones                         |
| July   | 6    | Club Summer Picnic                              | Jim Robertson/Dave Zawacki          |
| July   | 10   | Flint River Kayak                               | Jason Jones                         |
| July   | 15   | Erieau Tournament – Thur. Erieau, Canada        | Clyde Schoen                        |
| July   | 17   | Erieau Tournament – Sat. Erieau, Canada         | Ron Bellemore/Henry Nabors          |
| July   | 17   | Huron River Kayak (Hudson Mills to Dehli)       | Catherine Withrow                   |
| July   | 24   | Manistee River Cleanup Day @ High Bridge        | Roger Hinchcliff                    |
| July   | 29   | Ludington Salmon Tournament – Thu               | Gale Frazee/Tom Abdelnour           |
| July   | 30   | Ludington Salmon Tournament – Fri               | Marc Traver/Dave Hutton             |
| July   | 31   | Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sat               | Dave Zawacki                        |
| August   | 1    | Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sun               | Dennis Kelley                       |
| August   | 3    | General Membership Meeting                      |                                     |
| August   | 7    | Independence Lake Kayak/Small Boat              | Chuck Davis                         |
| August   | 7    | Clinton River Cleanup Day                       | Jay Labban                          |
| August   | 14   | Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sat              | Henry Nabors/Dave Hutton            |
| August   | 15   | Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sun              | Marc Traver/Kirk Traver             |
| August   | 21   | Lake Tournament – Frankfort                     | Robert Grech                        |
| August   | 22   | Salmon Tournament – Frankfort                   | Bill Dodge                          |
| September  | 7    | General Membership Meeting                      |                                     |
| September  | 11   | Frankfort River/Kayak/SB                        | Phil Bustos/Keith Childs            |
| September  | 18   | Muskegon Kayak Salmon                           | Eric Braden                         |
| September  | 18   | Manistee River & Pier Tournaments               | Jordan Pontoni/Eric Braden          |
| September  | 20   | Captain/Crew/River Angler 2021 Calendar Mtg     | Kelley/P. Bustos/Nabors/Zawacki     |
| October  | 2    | Manistee Lake/River (Steelhead) Tournaments     | Dodge/Hutton/Sepulveda              |
| October  | 5    | General Membership Meeting                      |                                     |
| November   | 2    | General Membership Meeting                      |                                     |
| November   | 6    | Manistee River/Pier/Shore Tournaments w DS      | Dave Zawacki/Eric Braden/Adam Trenz |
| November   | 20   | PM River or Betsie River Tournament             | Phil Bustos                         |
| December   | 7    | CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS                |                                     |
| December   | 11   | Huron River Tournament                          | Hinchcliff/Brown                    |
|  |      |   |                                     |
| ** ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  |      |   |                                     |
| 7:00 PM at The New Livonia Seniors Center at the Southeast Corner of Farmington Road and Five Mile Road                |      |   |                                     |
| WEB Site: Go to <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.                                 |      |   |                                     |
|  |      |   |                                     |
| Contact: <i>President</i> Eric Braden, <a href="mailto:esbraden630@gmail.com">esbraden630@gmail.com</a> , 419-344-2541 |      |   |                                     |
| <i>Membership Director</i> Henry Nabors 248-225-4964   |      |   |                                     |

| 2021 South Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events  |       |   |                         |
|--|-------|---|-------------------------|
| Month  | Date  | Event   |                         |
| May  | 13    | Membership Meeting  | 7:00 pm                 |
| May  | 14    | South Haven Tournament Captains Meeting                             | South Haven Moose Lodge |
| May  | 15-16 | South Haven Pro Am Tournament                                       |                         |
| June   | 12    | SHS Ladies Tournament   |                         |
| June   | 17    | Membership Meeting  | 7:00 pm                 |
| July   | 15    | Membership Meeting  | 7:00 pm                 |
| August   | 14    | SHS Fish Boil (Blueberry Festival August 12th -15th )               |                         |
| August   | 19    | Membership Meeting  | 7:00 pm                 |
| August   | 21    | SHS Operation Injured Soldier/SH Salute to Veterans                 |                         |
| August   | 28    | SHS Merle Morris Tournament   |                         |
| September  | 16    | Membership Meeting  | 7:00 pm                 |
| October  | 21    | Membership Meeting  | 7:00 pm                 |
| November   | 3     | Pro Am Tournament Committee Kick-off meeting                        |                         |
| November   | 18    | Membership Meeting  | 7:00 pm                 |
| November   | 27    | SHS River Tournament Invitational (must be a member to participate) |                         |
| December   | 11    | SHS Holiday Party 2021  |                         |
| December   |       | no regular meeting due to Holiday Party                             |                         |
|  |       |   |                         |
| Membership Meetings Held at 7 pm at: South Haven Moose Lodge, 1025 East Wells Street, South Haven, MI 49040                |       |   |                         |
| For more information email: <a href="mailto:president@southhavensteelheaders.com">president@southhavensteelheaders.com</a> |       |   |                         |

| 2021 Southwest MI Steelheader’s Calendar of Events  |      |                             |  |
|---|------|-----------------------------|--|
| Month   | Date | Event                       | Information  |
| Due to uncertainty of public meetings as a result of CV19 please check online for the latest information.<br><a href="http://www.swmisteelheaders.com">www.swmisteelheaders.com</a><br><a href="http://www.facebook.com/southwestmichigansteelheaders">www.facebook.com/southwestmichigansteelheaders</a> |      |                             |  |
| May   | 6-8  | Summer Challenge Tournament | <a href="http://www.fishthesummerchallenge.com">www.fishthesummerchallenge.com</a> |
| June  | 10   | Membership Meeting          | Check online for latest information (see above)                                    |
| June  | 18   | Trolling with the Troops    | <a href="http://www.trollingwiththetroops.com">www.trollingwiththetroops.com</a>   |
| July  | 8    | Membership Meeting          | Check online for latest information (see above)                                    |
| August  | 12   | Membership Meeting          | Check online for latest information (see above)                                    |
| September   | 9    | Membership Meeting          | Check online for latest information (see above)                                    |
| October   | 14   | Membership Meeting          | Check online for latest information (see above)                                    |
| November  | 11   | Membership Meeting          | Check online for latest information (see above)                                    |
| December  | 4    | Winter Challenge Tournament | St. Joseph River   |
|   |      |                             |  |
| Membership Meetings Held at:<br>St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks 541, 601 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor MI 49022<br><b>Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM, Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM, Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM</b><br>Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784  |      |                             |  |

| 2021 TCAS Steelheader’s Calendar of Events  |      |       |
|---|------|-------|
| Month   | Date | Event |
|   |      |       |
| All events are TBD  |      |       |
|   |      |       |
| TCAS meets the first Wednesday of each month except July (Cherry Festival) and December (Christmas Party)<br>Meetings begin at 7 pm at the Traverse City Senior Center, 801 Front St., next door to the Maritime Academy. |      |       |

| 2021 Thumb Chapter Steelheader’s Calendar of Events |      |        |  |  |
|---|------|--------|--|--|
| Month   | Date | Time   | Event  | Location / Information                     |
| May   | 1    | 6:00am | Can2Can Fishing Tournament                   | Harbor Beach Marina - Need Workers!        |
| May   | 20   | 7:30pm | Regular Meeting                              | Ubly Foxhunters                            |
| June  | 12   | 6:00am | Veterans Fishing Outing                      | Harbor Beach Marina - Contact Kevin Ramsey |
| June  | 17   | 7:30pm | Regular Meeting                              | Ubly Foxhunters                            |
| July  | 15   | 7:30pm | Regular Meeting                              | Ubly Foxhunters                            |
| August  | 19   | 7:30pm | Regular Meeting                              | Ubly Foxhunters                            |
| September   | 16   | 7:30pm | Regular Meeting                              | Ubly Foxhunters                            |
| October   | 21   | 7:30pm | Regular Meeting - Election of Board/Officers | Ubly Foxhunters                            |
| November  |      |        | TBD  |  |
| December  |      |        | TBD  |  |
|   |      |        |  |  |
| Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries. |      |        |  |  |

| 2021 Thunderbay Steelheader’s Calendar of Events  |        |         |                                      |
|---|--------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Month   | Date   | Time    | Information                          |
| May   | 3      | 7:00 pm | Monthly Meeting                      |
| May   | 15     | 6:00 am | Alpena tournament                    |
| June  | 12     | 6:00 am | Presque Isle Tournament              |
| June  | 25, 26 | 6:00 am | Tournament location to be determined |
| July  | 5      | 7:00 pm | Monthly Meeting                      |
| August  | 9      | 7:00 pm | Monthly Meeting                      |
| August  | 28     | 6:00 am | Rogers City Tournament               |
| September   | 13     | 7:00 pm | Monthly Meeting                      |
| October   | 4      | 7:00 pm | Monthly Meeting                      |
| November  | 1      | 7:00 pm | Monthly Meeting                      |
| December  | 6      | 7:00 pm | Monthly Meeting                      |
|   |        |         |                                      |
| Contact Dan Bouchard at <a href="mailto:dan-bouchard@hotmail.com">dan-bouchard@hotmail.com</a> for inquiries. |        |         |                                      |

| 2021 White River Steelheader’s Calendar of Events  |      |      |                   |          |
|--|------|------|-------------------|----------|
| Month  | Date | Time | Event information | Location |
| All events are TBD   |      |      |                   |          |
| Note: Meeting dates and times are subject to change – Any questions or to verify dates/times please call Clint Pollock at (231) 893-0210 or Terry Clark at (231) 893-6805. |      |      |                   |          |

*Join a Chapter, Join the Fun!*

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



**mssfa.org**  
We'll *HOOK YOU UP* with the latest news!





# START THINKING SPRING!

WE ARE RECEIVING SHIPMENTS WEEKLY OF FIREARMS, AMMO AND FISHING GEAR, AND ARE DOING OUR BEST TO KEEP OUR SHELVES WELL STOCKED FOR YOU!



## New Addition

We are nearly finished with our addition, and will then move onto remodeling the existing store! We've added nearly 10,000 square feet of shopping space and will be adding dozens of new product lines.

**We can't wait for you to see the new store!**



**Welcome to THE HOUSE OF VANDAM**

**FAMILY-OWNED AND PROUDLY SERVING CUSTOMERS SINCE 1982!**

**Did you know that we have an online store?**

We are constantly adding products that we carry in our retail store for you to conveniently shop from home.

**vandamwarehouse.com**



**Manufacturers have limited inventory, place your order soon to ensure you'll have a boat this year!**

**D&R SPORTS CENTER INC.**

8178 W. MAIN STREET, KALAMAZOO, MI 49009

1-800-992-1520

269-372-BASS

www.dandrsports.com

**OPEN 7 DAYS**

Mon. & Tues. 9-6;

Wed., Thurs. & Fri. 9-8;

Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4