



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

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NRC Adopts New Steelhead Limits

A Once in a Lifetime Opportunity to Improve Michigan Fisheries

Great Lakes Basin Report, a publication of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) reduced bag limits on several sections/streams in Michigan at its December 9, 2021 meeting. According to Commissioners, the existing steelhead management plan for Michigan needed to be revised to reflect current trends, conditions, and annual adult spawning migrations. They are not opposed to people having the opportunity to harvest a fish even though they practice catch and release. The request for change had nothing to do with gear restrictions and by no means should dictate how people can legally fish for steelhead. Steelhead populations are in decline and have been on a long slide for over the past decade. Which raised several questions and highlighted a need to address and discuss the future of Steelhead management in the state.

Data gaps and changing environmental conditions have muddled the waters,

but indicators are everywhere. Anyone who has spent any amount of time on the water can see the changes that have occurred. Which posed several questions. What is the current status of spawning steelhead in our streams? Does the current management scheme reflect what anglers are currently experiencing in their catch rates? Can a declining steelhead population survive added angling pressure with today's current harvest allowance?

The MDNR has admitted there is a problem with returning steelhead, but currently there has been a failure to act even though there are plenty of red flags. The Little Manistee River Weir boasts the best available data for returning spring Steelhead. This little river is the sister river to the Big Manistee. Albeit smaller in size, it can still shed light on the current trend of Steelhead returns in the Big Manistee River. Since 2002 there has been a significant reduction in Spring Steelhead in the Little Man-

"Limits"
Continued on page 12

By Dennis Eade

The administration's proposed DNR budget for 2022-2023 is an extraordinarily good budget proposal which will allow most of Fisheries Division's aging infrastructure to finally be upgraded to accommodate the next forty years of research and fisheries management for anglers across the state.

Fishery Survey Equipment and Related Items

Since much of the survey and monitoring equipment currently in use is old and worn-out, efforts will be made to upgrade or replace boats, motors, trailers, electronics, shop tools monitoring equipment, nets, and other items needed for field and lab work. Normally, each year Fisheries Division only receives about \$100,000 for such infrastructure up-

grades so this proposal is guaranteeing an investment (\$1.5 million) in the future by making significant upgrades that will serve the needs of biologists and managers for coming decades.

Replacement of the Lake Michigan Research Vessel, RV Steelhead

\$4 million has been allocated to build and outfit a research vessel, to be ready by 2026, which will completely modernize the gathering of research data. The general fund expenditure will not require matching funds and will have a lifespan of over 50 years.

Hatchery Upgrades

\$30 million has been designated for infrastructure upgrades of the six fish hatcheries. This would modernize the aging systems resulting in more reliable fish production at less

energy costs.

Improvements proposed include:

The cold-water facilities at Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery will be separated from the cool-water operations. New feeders for steelhead. Each section will have separate water supplies that will reduce the chances of disease transmission between the two sections of the hatchery. Wells to be upgraded, concrete raceways will be sealed with epoxy coatings to prevent growth of disease organisms, the ponds will be upgraded, relined and there will be more room to raise minnows to feed fall fingerling walleyes. (Fall fingerling walleyes have an 8 to 1 better chance of survival than spring fingerlings.) These upgrades will

hance walleye and muskellunge rearing production.

Electrical systems upgrade include replacing underground wiring (some of which is antiquated aluminum wiring from scores of years ago), solar power installs with back up gas generators to insure against any service interruptions.

Heaters and heating systems will be upgraded. This is in addition to separate ongoing \$3 million project to install solar panels at several hatcheries to save energy costs. Replace the old pumps with new pumps that can be throttled to deal with changing demands. Effluent system upgrades, pond maintenance and sediment removal are included. Roof upgrades and parking lot upgrades are part of the plan and the legislature is planning to include funding for cost

"Improve"
Continued on page 13

Locating Steelhead Made Easy

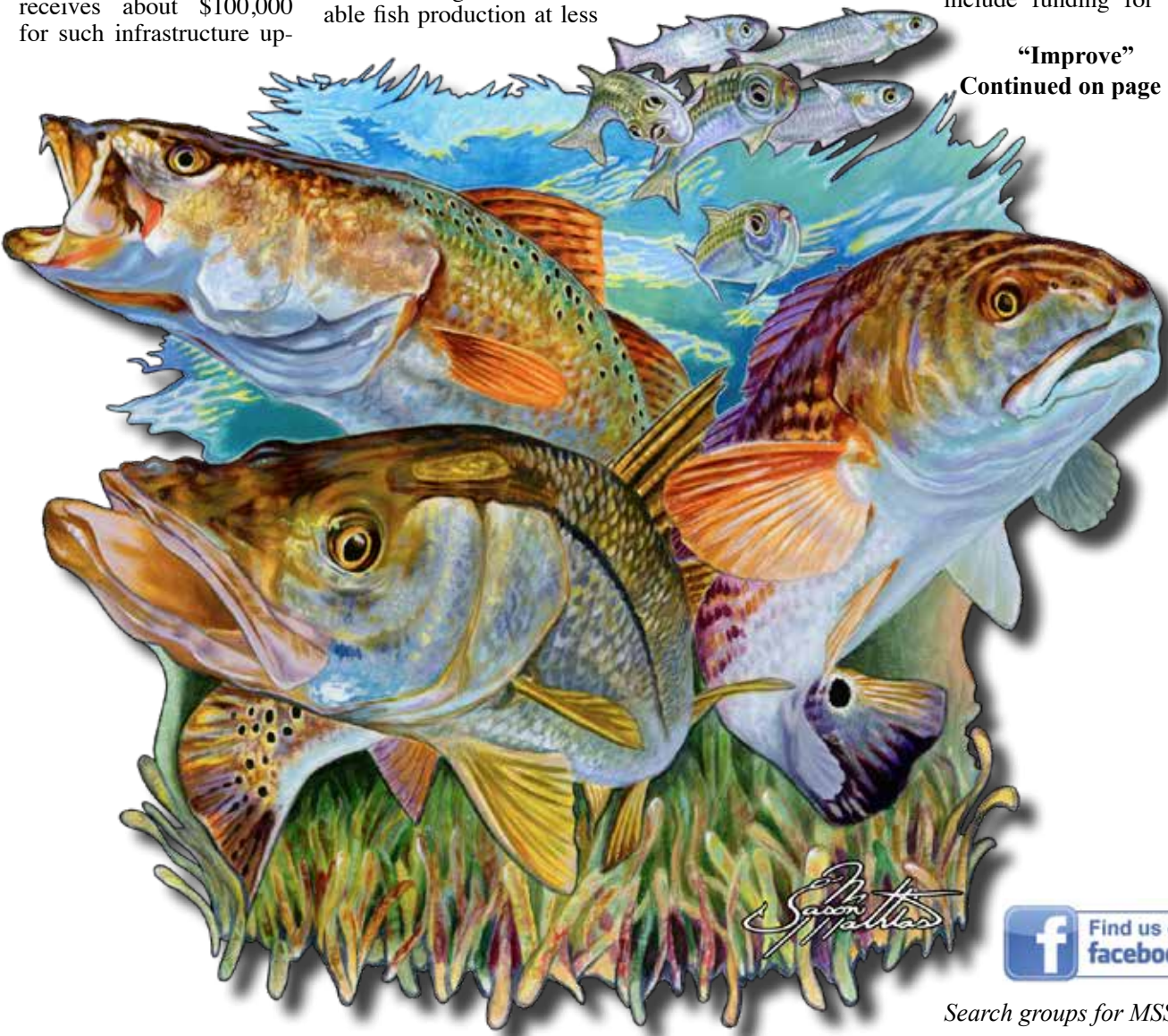
**By Roger Hinchcliff
Steelhead Manifesto**

The Great lakes are Home to the World's Largest steelhead Population on Planet Earth. Annually we stock in the region 5.2 million Steelhead every Year. So, if you're a veteran steelhead angler or just getting started, you should know catching these excellent Game Fish 10 months out of the Year in Michigan is possible. Knowing and understanding, we have such a fantastic fishery, but if you do not possess

the skills or knowledge in helping you find these fish, you can spend many days on the river scratching your head.

Many veteran steelhead anglers already know that water temperature and flow dictate where Steelhead will rest and lye. But through the years, I've noticed some characteristics about these fish's behavior that can increase your odds of putting more fish in the net. No one will disagree

"Locating"
Continued on page 6



Search groups for MSSFA

The Quality of Fishing Reflects the Quality of Living!

Remembering “Doc” Ken Merckel, Lake Huron Sport Fishing Advisor

By Jill Wingfield with
Marc Gaden and John
Dettmers
Great Lakes Fishery Commission

“Merckel here.” The 989 area code would pop up on the caller ID and I knew it was Doc calling to tell me his thoughts on an issue and, more than likely, give me a task or two. Since Ken was appointed to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission’s Committee of Advisors in 2013, those calls were a regular part of my week and became more and more welcome as Ken, Lenore and I developed a

friendship. I was not the only one to receive Doc’s regular calls so I asked two of my colleagues, Dr. Marc Gaden and Dr. John Dettmers—also on Ken’s speed dial—to help me put together this piece to honor and remember Dr. Ken Merckel and all he did for the Great Lakes.

Although Ken did not formally join the Commission’s advisory committee until 2013, he regularly attended lake committee and annual meetings for nearly two decades before his appointment. In Governor Snyder’s letter nominating

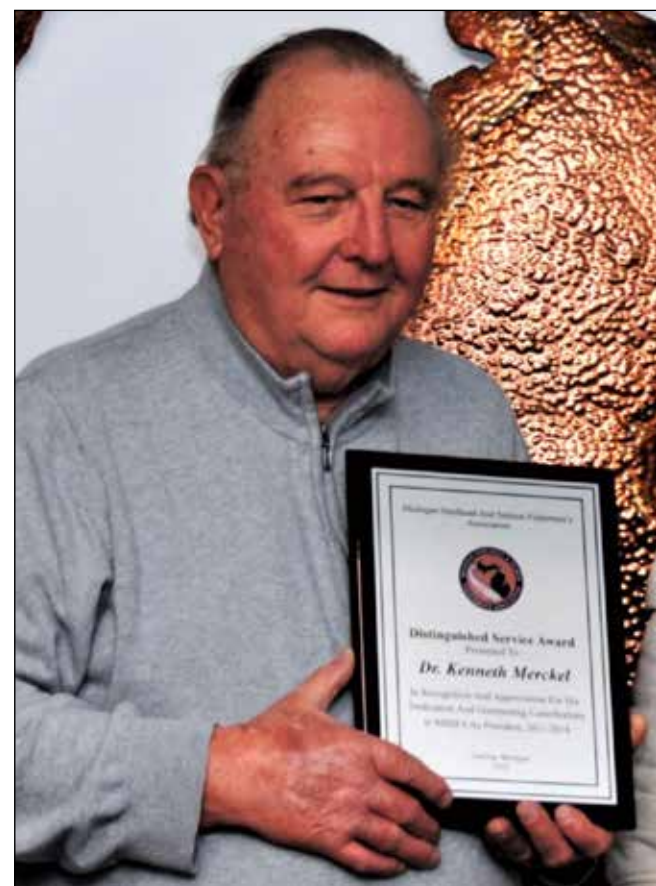
Ken to serve as Michigan’s sport fishing advisor on Lake Huron, he cited Ken’s myriad fisheries-related affiliations, including:

- His active engagement as a member of the Thumb Chapter of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen’s Association (MSSFA) since 1982;
- His active engagement His leadership as a board member of the State MSSFA organization since 1990, including his time as president of the State MSSFA organization from 2012 through 2018;
- His service as a mem-

ber of the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee since 1992; and

- His membership on the Michigan Sea Lamprey Funding Task Force from 1996 to 1999.

Ken was always keen to talk with elected officials, mostly with suggestions to reach a positive outcome, not merely to vent frustrations. Marc Gaden serves as the Commission’s legislative liaison; it is his job to communicate with elected officials and he and Ken often combined forces to seek shared objectives. That was not always the case, Marc reflects: “I first met Ken in 1998 and I remember vividly that that first encounter did not go well. At the time, the St. Marys River was producing an endless supply of sea lampreys, though the Commission did not have the money to remove the lampreys. During our meeting, he blasted me left, right, and center about how the Commission’s inaction was ruining his beloved Lake Huron. I told him I agreed with him, but that did not change the fact that the money was simply not there. Ken was not the slightest bit sympathetic and cut me no slack. I walked out of the meeting thinking this guy was going to be a thorn in my side for the foreseeable future. Ken must have reflected on my predicament as well because he called the next day to say he had set up meetings with then Governor Engler’s people and, next thing you know, the state had pledged funds for the St. Marys River sea



lamprey treatment. He and I leveraged our connections from that point forward.”

Indeed, Ken knew how to push the envelope and used his position as an advisor to the Commission to bring attention to a gamut of issues threatening the sustainability of Great Lakes fisheries. From his first year as an advisor to his last, Ken authored or coauthored resolutions passed by the Committee of Advisors calling for action from the Commission and partner agencies on issues relating to: the Line 5 pipeline running through the Straits of Mackinac; netpen aquaculture; coregonine restoration; and, lake trout

stocking in Lake Huron. His passion for the lakes knew no bounds and his drive to enact change was limitless. While attending an industry-led demonstration on an oil spill response should Line 5 rupture, I saw first-hand how Ken would first quietly absorb information, then ask the hard questions, and finally, refuse to back down until he was satisfied with the response or he had made it clear there was a flaw in the logic (usually the latter).

Many of Ken’s efforts led to important actions within the management community. For example, in 2017, Ken led the Committee of Advisors to pass a resolution supporting coregonine restoration in the Great Lakes. Following the resolution, the Lake Huron Committee began a 10-year effort to restore cisco to southern Lake Huron by stocking those fish in Saginaw Bay. The resolution also encouraged the Council of Lake Committees to adopt its Coregonine Restoration Framework in May 2018, which, today, is helping guide discussions about possible restoration of coregonines throughout the Great Lakes and which led to the formation of a new partnership between the Commission and the U.S. Geological Survey-Great Lakes Science Center.

Just last year, in the midst of the pandemic and while his health was worsening, Ken worked with members of the Commission and the Lake Huron Committee to initiate a review of the lake trout stocking strategy and its implementation in southern Lake Huron. Although Ken was no longer fishing the lake, he continued to voice the concerns and frustrations he had heard from his fellow anglers. He knew his platform as an advisor would enable him to ensure that managers were aware of the angling communi-

“Merckel”

Continued on page 13

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

I am pleased to report that the New Year is starting out in historic proportions as the proposed state budget contains \$30 million for Fish Hatchery Infrastructure, \$4 million to replace the RV Steelheader with a new state of the art research vessel and \$12.4 million to replace equipment within the entire department (Forestry, Parks,

Law, Fish, and Wildlife). Another \$652,000 to hire four staff for the Tribal Coordination Unit.

This means a new cool water rearing facility at Wolf Lake Hatchery including new feeders for steelhead, replacing the forty-five-year-old worn-out wells and the installation of new underground electrical upgrades. A new

research vessel equipped with the latest electronic sensor technology for greater accuracy in trawl reporting data and research into the patterns developing in pelagic species like steelhead and salmon. We still have a long way to go and lots of challenges ahead but this is really a great beginning.

The tribal negotiations are still dragging on with little tangible progress. In the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources (CPMR) view, the almost 2½ years that the parties have been negotiating show that negotiations are difficult due to the issues and the effects of the pandemic on negotiations. There is deep concern that the negotiations may be at odds

with biological reality and the foundations of sustainability. For these reasons, the Coalition has found it nearly impossible to work proactively with the parties as it had hoped. For clarity, the CPMR is delineating the principal elements of a working starting point for negotiating a sustainable and equitable agreement. The outline of these three criteria have always guided the Coalition and will continue so in future negotiations. This paper can be viewed on MSSFA's website, mssfa.org under the Conservation tab.

The Lake Huron Citizens Advisory Committee met February 1st on Teams. The minutes are posted on our website. The Natural Resources Commission

(NRC) passed an amendment opening the Saginaw lower river mouth to harvest during the spawning period beginning in 2023 at its meeting on the December 9th, however it should not pose any harm to the walleye fishery in the bay. The NRC approved and adopted an amendment to restrict the rainbow trout (steelhead) bag limit to one fish as of 2022 on type 3 & 4 streams. Chief Dexter had made it clear in his presentation to the commission that regulations aren't the answer to wild trout recruitment; improving habitat, investing in dam removals to restore trout habitats and lower stream temperatures, encouraging reforestation and streambank protection of riparian areas to maintain temperature regulation, and streamlining streambank restoration permitting processes to ensure projects advance in a timely fashion is the answer. We need to remove the obsolete dams and improve spawning runs. We continue to monitor and remind commissioners that the process of involving advisors in the consideration of regulation changes is important and ultimately in its own best interest. I attended the NRC meeting on February 10th and other than the governor's unprecedented budget announcement, the business coming before the commission, including proposed regulation changes from various agency sections, was considered without controversy.

With an aim toward maximizing both angler satisfaction and the ecological benefits of the state's walleye fisheries, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has finalized a plan to guide the department's management of the popular species in inland waters.

Although walleye reside in the Great Lakes, rivers and inland lakes, the plan focuses on inland waters – mostly inland lakes – because walleye management in Great Lake waters is primarily addressed in various other department-approved management or rehabilitation plans.

The new walleye management plan can be viewed at Michigan.gov/Walleye to learn more about walleye and management efforts and review the final plan.

This year is an election year in Lansing so not much legislation is going to get passed if history tells us anything about an election year. Appropriations and Budget items will get top priority. We need to support the MDNR budget requests before the appropriations committees. It secures the future for fisheries and hatchery success. We will still need to be vigilant during the lame duck session to make sure bad bills don't get passed at the eleventh hour in December.

We have strong Republican and Democratic allies in the Senate that will assure bi-partisan support beginning in 2023. Another good reason to use this year wisely will be to focus on providing MSSFA (myself and state board members) and other fishing associations to begin drafting positions on legislation which deal with the effects of climate change on the fishery. Removing obsolete dams is critical in reducing stream temperatures and saving our cold-water species like steelhead, brown trout, Coho and wild Chinook salmon. Getting comprehensive legislation drafted to make decommissioning dams much easier will be very important. I will be working with our coalition partners in the Changing Seasons Work Group to make this happen in 2022.

MSSFA's past president, Kenneth "Doc" Merkel's funeral service was held in Mayville, MI on January 15th and was well attended including representatives from the Great Lakes Fish Commission staff (Jill Wingfield and Marc Gaden), retired member of the Michigan Charter Boat Association, Jim Fenner, Thumb Chapter representatives and myself. Friends, former patients, and relatives filled the funeral home and saluted Doc with stories of his accomplishments, encounters, and loving family memories. It truly was a celebration of his life. We all will miss him and the lifelong contributions he made to our Great Lake's fishery.



MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis Eade

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THE QUALITY OF FISHING REFLECTS THE QUALITY OF LIVING!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Issue	Deadline	Print Date
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2	02/11/22	03/02/22
3	04/15/22	05/04/22
4	06/15/22	07/06/22
5	08/15/22	09/01/22
6	10/07/22	10/31/22

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20	Firestone - Metro 25	19268 Middlebelt	Livonia	MI	48152	\$20 off on \$200 or more on service www.metro25firestone.com
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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		www.glangler.com			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 (homestead@crystal-rentals.com)
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 Pontaic, Buick, GMC	1146 S. State Rd	Davison	MI	48423	Contact Nick Russlolf 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. Customrodsbyjsmith.com 989-685-2819
29	K & M Marine	14990 Telegraph Rd	Redford	MI	48239	10% off merchandise except sale items (www.kandmmarine.com)
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.
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41	RX Optical	Statewide				Plan 308
42	Salmon Trout Steelheader		www.salmontroutsteelheader.com			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	www.anglingoutpost.com 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
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“Locating”
Continued from page 1

an angler must find where the fish are to catch them. Common sense says you can’t catch something that’s not there. We will discuss some obvious places and point out some that many anglers might not notice.

Migration
Any angler targeting Steelhead needs to know that these fish are always on the move and very nervous creatures. They have a sense of urgency like any other fish I’ve seen. Remember, these fish sometimes arrive six months or longer ahead of schedule and stay while waiting for the spawn. They are constantly on the move. An angler must divide a river system into four sections. The Lower, Middle, Upper, and Headwater sections. Due to these fish always moving, the Middle and Upper River sections automatically give you better odds of finding some fish.
Steelhead tend to move upstream when the river rises or falls constantly. There are usually only two things that will make these

fish put on the brakes: colder water temperatures and low water conditions. Most anglers do not realize that these fish are somewhat predictable, just as other species. Suppose you familiarize yourself with the fish’s habits and some biological facts. These fish are just like white-tailed deer during the winter. Deer will always pick the most accessible easy route when traveling. These fish will always choose the path of least resistance if unpresured and not spooked. Not to say the fish won’t jump or go through barriers that you wouldn’t expect a fish to go through. They always will find a way, but they will take it if there’s an easier way.

So, we must pay attention to how that section of the river looks for migrating fish. Maybe slower or deeper water for the fish to pass through rather than a raging rapid. These fish are genetically programmed to conserve energy while in the river for the upcoming spawn. Hence, they are always looking for current breaks and places to rest for the journey upriver. A

distance of 30 miles in one day with no obstructions for a healthy adult steelhead is not a problem. As you can see, these fish can cover some serious water in a short amount of time if they want to.

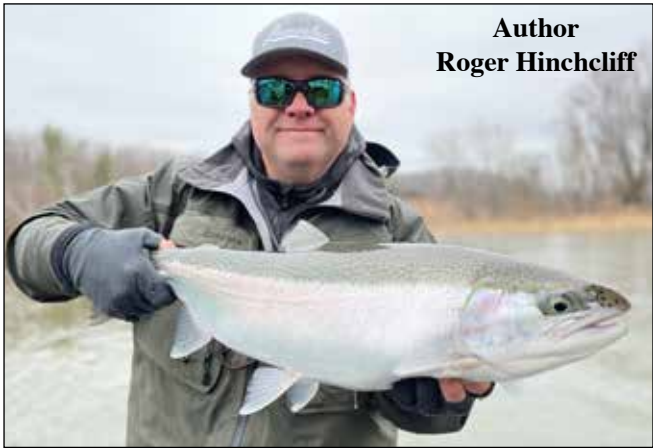
So, if your 2 or 3 days behind a high-water event, you better head upriver to find fish instead of down low. Those pods of fish will be upriver by then based on water temps and flow.

Please keep in mind many factors affect this strategy. They are Steelhead. We will never completely figure them out. One thing is for sure: if more arriving fish come up the river from behind those holding, that first wave of fish will push up the river. Its mother nature’s way of spreading the fish out. Hence, November is such a hot month to catch Steelhead in Michigan. Many fish have arrived at the party by then and have spread out through the system. Not to mention many guys are away at deer camp.

Low Light or Night-Time is when these fish move the most many anglers think. In my opin-

ion, that’s not always the case with these fish. If the proper flow and barometric pressure exist on overcast days, they will undoubtedly push in daylight. When these conditions exist, pray for a bright sunny day. The extra light will slow the migration down, and these fish will park in the deeper holes or broken water to hide and then continue their journey under cover of darkness.

Structure
The structure is a beautiful thing when it comes to fishing. No question, fish will orient to structure for security from other predators and to set up ambush points for baitfish or food. Logs are the most visual above the water that an angler can see most of the time. This structure can be great for finding fish, offering current breaks, and creating seams for Steelhead to hold and rest. The downside to this type of structure is sometimes, if the log isn’t big enough to anchor itself, one good blow out of the river and mother nature will send that log on its merry way. I have written about how



Author
Roger Hinchcliff

a river is an ever-changing place in past articles. It can vary from Year to Year. One hole that produced fish and was great can change. Some rivers I’ve fished for years have logs that have been there for as long as I can remember.

The structure can also create pocket water which can be fish magnets for migrating Steelhead. My favorite structure, if you can find it is boulders. The beauty of boulders is they usually are always there. So once that structure has been located, you can go back Year after Year and find fish there. The same goes for cement, pilings, or retaining walls. These are overlooked items that attract fish.

Terrain features above the water lead you to clues to find more fish. Any on-off exit ramps of terrain are great clues. Most flat water has a flat bottom that has a spot tilting upwards. Also, look for drop-offs and depressions on your electronics. Small depressions and drop-offs are overlooked by many anglers within a river system and are sometimes missed. Look for the darker areas if you do not own some electronics.

Many well-known rivers with famous names for run or holes have structure, which is why most are so good, no doubt.

Reading Water
In this section alone, I could fill a book on this subject because all rivers’ mechanics and their run clocks are so different. They can vary based on the state, size of the river, water temperature, and flow. So, let’s cover some good nuggets of info that any angler can use.

Walking speed water that flattens is always an excellent spot to look for when locating Steelhead. This spot is a telltale sign of a pool. Consider fishing the head and the tail out of any pool. Always look for the softer edge of any seam, and usually, it’s the deeper side. Keep in mind that most Steelheads are most likely caught in 4-8 ft of water. The exception to this rule would be during the spring run when fish are spawning in 2ft of water often.

Holding lies are typically when a main current seam is broken. You can usually find some active fish there most times. The best water temps for Steelhead are 42-58 degrees. At these temps’ the fish are happy and most active, and you can expect to get them to bite. At these temp’s faster water is the usual rule. Once water gets below 42 degrees or less, start looking for slower, deeper pools. These conditions are the typical wintertime spots here in the Great Lakes. Caution do not discount faster water in the High 30’s temp. Range. I’ve seen steelhead hold in much faster water when you think they would be in slow deeper pools. Remember, they are Steelhead; make sure to fish it all. Bottom line: Once you find fish and see what water they prefer that day, you should be able to replicate it throughout the system.

Steelhead will always hold in slower water closer

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Additional Angling Opportunities Created By Successful Fall Fish Stocking Season

Great Lakes Basin Report

Eight different species, 672,478 fish, weighing in at nearly 13.5 tons – those are the totals from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' fall 2021 fish stocking efforts at 123 locations across the state.

"It was another outstanding fall fish stocking season that will provide

enhanced opportunities throughout Michigan," said Ed Eisch, DNR fish production manager. "When added to our successful spring and summer stocking efforts, that brings the total for 2021 to more than 18.2 million fish put into Michigan's waters."

The number and type of fish stocked vary by hatchery, as each facility's ability

to rear fish differs because of water supplies and temperature. In Michigan, there are six state and three cooperative hatcheries that work together to produce the species, strain and size of fish needed by fisheries managers. These fish must then be delivered at a specific time and location for stocking to ensure their success. Most fish in Michigan are

stocked in the spring.

Fall fish stockings in 2021 consisted of eight species that included: brook trout, brown trout, channel catfish, coho salmon, lake trout, Eagle Lake and steelhead strain rainbow trout, walleye and muskellunge.

• Marquette State Fish Hatchery (near Marquette) stocked 38,003 fall fingerling and adult brook and lake trout that weighed a combined 8,018 pounds. These fish were stocked at 46 locations, both in the Upper and Lower peninsulas.

• Oden State Fish Hatchery (near Petoskey) stocked 37,000 Wild Rose brown trout and 113,863 Eagle Lake rainbow trout fall fingerlings that weighed a combined 4,093 pounds. These fish were stocked at four locations.

• Platte River State Fish Hatchery (west of Traverse City) stocked 70,194 fall fingerling coho salmon weighing 2,999 pounds. These salmon were stocked in the East Branch of the AuGres River located in Iosco County.

• Thompson State Fish Hatchery (near Manistique) stocked 349,213 fall fingerling steelhead that weighed 3,810 pounds at four locations. In addition, the first year of musky production was a success at Thompson, stocking 20,037 fish at 12 locations.

• Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery (west of Kalamazoo) stocked 9,850 Great Lakes strain muskellunge

fall fingerlings that weighed 1,083 pounds and were stocked at 13 locations.

• Several fisheries management units (Northern Lake Michigan, Southern Lake Michigan, Central Lake Michigan, Lake Erie and Southern Lake Huron) also stocked fall fingerling walleyes in 2021. The Northern Lake Michigan management unit stocked 4,927 Bay De Noc strain fall fingerlings weighing 730 pounds, while the Lake Erie and Southern and Central Lake Michigan management units stocked 23,133 Muskegon strain fall fingerlings weighing 2,108 pounds.

• Three sites were stocked with a total of 5,035 channel catfish from Ohio, with a total weight of 1,014 pounds. These fish were part of an annual agreement that includes Michigan providing Ohio with steelhead eggs in exchange for fall fingerling channel catfish.

• Also as part of an annual cooperative exchange, 2,123 Northern strain muskellunge from the Wisconsin DNR weighing 685 pounds were stocked at four locations in both the Upper and Lower peninsulas. The Michigan DNR provided Wisconsin with Great Lakes strain muskies in exchange for these fish.

In general, fish are reared in Michigan's state fish hatcheries anywhere from one month to one and a half years before they are stocked.

The DNR welcomes vis-

itors to its state fish hatcheries and interpretative centers to witness firsthand the fish rearing process and to learn about Michigan's waters. For more information, visit Michigan.gov/Hatcheries. For everyone's safety, masks are recommended for all visitors entering public buildings.

To find out if any fish were stocked in your favorite fishing spot, visit the DNR's fish stocking database at MichiganDNR.com/FishStock/.

Jump on the burbot bandwagon! That's right, many anglers seek out and enjoy catching burbot. These fish are known as very good table fare that can have a consistency similar to lobster. The state record burbot was a 19 lb., 10 oz. fish caught in 2016 on Lake of the Woods. Burbot are no longer considered rough fish in the Minnesota fishing regulations and the species will be listed as a game fish in the 2022 Minnesota fishing regulations booklet available this March. Please remember that if you are not planning to use the burbot you catch, release it for others to enjoy – the same goes for any other fish you catch. It is illegal to leave fish on the ice. Also remember to check for any special regulations that apply to burbot on the water where you're fishing.



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"Locating"

Continued from page 6

to the shoreline if you have higher water conditions, and they love the inside or outside bends. Corners and V's where two currents meet and are steelhead magnets. Also, look for ledges and drop-offs. These fish love them. During high angling pressure, look in the tail outs other holding

water near a well-known hole or lie. Pressured fish will push back or scatter around the run and temporarily hold to get away from anglers. These are areas to try different colors and baits that fish have not seen. If the bite slows, always change colors before leaving. Every river steelhead angler out there fishes a pink spawn bag. Something different puts

fish in the net. In most cases, being different is a good thing, yet many anglers stick to the norm. Colors such as blue or red can pay huge dividends.

As you can see, an angler has to stop, slow down and assess the water and read the water and pay attention to all details. Break the run into sections or use a grid pattern landmarks and structure. I like to be very thorough. This way you don't miss fish. Thinking like a fish, where would I be the most comfortable based on the current conditions? You will catch fish many anglers miss and don't find.

Conclusion

Analyzing weather, water flow, and temps before you go fishing will help big time with your success. Once on the river, using a careful, methodical approach, looking for the proper structure, and reading the suitable water based on the seasonal conditions will help you find fish. Once you find them, it's up to you to deliver them to the right bait, lure or fly and get them to bite. Warning catching the mighty Steelhead can be very addicting. The only way to get your fix is to catch more fish.

Good Luck!

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Project To Keep Asian Carp Out of Lake Michigan Closer To Becoming A Reality

Great Lakes Basin Report

A \$226 million boost from the federal infrastructure package will allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to finish design and start construction on the Brandon Road Lock and Dam. The barrier in the Des Plaines River, downstream of Chicago, will use smart technology in an effort to keep the carp that have infested the Mississippi River Basin out of the Great Lakes.

A recent study on the harm Asian carp could do to the Great Lakes lent urgency to plans to construct an effective barrier to carp entering the lakes. In a key step aimed at keeping invasive carp out of the Great Lakes, the Corps is pegging \$226 million for pre-construction, engineering and design on a lock-and-dam project 50 miles downstream of Chicago.

The Corps also included initial federal funds needed to begin construction at the completion of the project's design and engineering work. Adding urgency to the project, a 2019 U. of Michigan study found that Asian carp could survive in much more of Lake Michigan than scientists previously believed. The findings ramped up pres-

sure on Congress to fully fund a barrier to prevent the invasive fish from wreaking havoc across the Great Lakes and threatening its \$7 billion annual fishing industry.

Natives of China, silver and bighead carp have already spread across the Mississippi River Basin and into the Illinois River near Chicago. Some of the most destructive species to invade North American waters, they crowd out native fish by gobbling up their food, and can overconsume shoreline plants and degrade water quality. According to the U-M study, the entire extent of Lake Michigan has habitat suitable for bighead carp somewhere in the varied depths of the lake.

Funds for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project in Joliet, Ill., are coming from the \$1.2 billion federal infrastructure bill signed into law in November.

According to the Corps, the total cost of the project will be around \$858 million, and is estimated to take six to eight years to complete. The project is slated to install acoustic fish deterrents, an air bubble curtain, an electric fish barrier and other provisions to keep the carp from reaching Lake Michigan and

spreading throughout the Great Lakes.

Michigan has pledged

\$8 million toward early phase funding, as Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in De-

cember joined seven other Great Lakes governors in calling for full federal

backing of the project.

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‘Old Fish Did Great’: Study Finds Some Lake Trout Get Older Without Aging

By Bob Weber
www.timescolonist.com
Canadian Press

Research in a set of unique Canadian lakes is backing up a strange consequence of evolutionary theory often predicted but never before shown.

Given the right circumstances, fish get old — decades old — but they don’t age.

Research in a set of unique Canadian lakes is backing up a strange consequence of evolutionary theory often predicted but never before shown.

Given the right circumstances, fish get old — decades old — but they don’t age.

“Theory predicts for samples like ours that there should be little aging,” said Craig Purchase of Newfoundland’s Memorial University. “That’s exactly what we found.”

Purchase, co-author of a paper published by England’s Royal Society, was studying lake trout in Ontario’s Experimental Lakes Area, a series of isolated watersheds set aside as an

open-air biological laboratory. Scientists have been working in those lakes since 1968, yielding uniquely detailed long-term data sets.

“They have been catching the same individual fish for decades,” Purchase said.

As well, the simplified food web in the small lakes means the old fish are eating the same things as the young ones. That rules out any effects from changing diet.

It all made for a perfect opportunity to study how the trout age.

The researchers caught fish that had been previously tagged and measured their length and weight — an index of overall health. They measured sperm quality from male fish.

Then they took blood samples to measure telomeres, the caps on DNA strands that protect chromosomes when they divide. Telomeres are generally longer and stronger in young cells.

Finally, they combined that data

with the long-term records that allowed them to compare young fish and old fish.

“The old fish did great,” Purchase said. “As they age across decades, there is a minor increase in mortality but they maintain their reproductive performance perfectly. An old adult male is just as capable as a young one.”

Here’s why: Lake trout don’t stop growing as they mature, meaning an older adult will be larger and more reproductively capable than a young adult. That’s not the case for mammals, for whom — reproductively — an adult is an adult.

“There’s value in being old because you are big,” said Purchase. “Evolution should reward that.”

As well, for animals subject to predation, it doesn’t make sense to spend a lot of energy

maintaining their bodies in youthful condition.

“Trying to protect your body to be old is a cost that doesn’t pay off if something is going to kill you before you can be old,” Purchase said.

Lake trout, which live in cold deep water, don’t have that problem.

“In the bottom of these deep lakes, there’s basically no predators that can eat an adult lake trout. There’s much more advantage in being old if you’re a lake trout than if you’re a mammal.”

It’s all unfolding as evolutionary theory predicts it should, said Purchase.

“Theory predicts aging should be minimal in spe-

cies where they increase their reproductive potential as they get

older because they get bigger and they decrease their likelihood of predation as they get older, because they get bigger.

“What we found does pretty much what theory predicts.”

In fact, said Purchase, theory goes one better. At a certain point, fish should — in a sense — get younger.

“We think if you sampled other lake trout populations where they continue to grow to enormous sizes, there should be signs of negative aging.”

That may exist among the lunkers living in the big, deep lakes of the North, he said. But it would be tough to prove because food webs are such that big trout eat different things than little trout in those lakes.

Sadly, none of this helps

humans, doomed to cease growth with maturity.

“We might get fat, but we don’t continue growing.”

Nor did humans evolve in the predator-free world of the lake trout.

“For the vast majority of our time on this planet, you were very unlikely to live to be old. Some lion would have eaten you,” Purchase said.

“Evolution has shaped us to do really well as young adults. If doing well as a young adult has some consequence that creeps in as an old adult, in the vast time span we’ve been on this planet, it didn’t matter.”

Purchase said the findings do open up interesting avenues.

“Knowing that the patterns of aging in mammals is not universal really makes one think harder about what underlines the causes of aging. If you can figure out how things might be different, that potentially opens up how aging in humans happens in general.”

But don’t get your hopes up. “No cure for death just yet.”

Ice Cover Could Help Lake Erie’s Struggling Yellow Perch

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Great Lakes Basin Report

Declines in yellow perch caused Ohio to cut daily limits for anglers last year, while this year’s limits should be announced in the coming weeks.

Prized by both commercial netters and hook-and-line anglers, yellow perch these days could use help.

A year ago Ohio was forced by a prolonged decline in yellow perch to cut daily limits to 10 fish from 30 for recreational anglers from Huron to Fairport Harbor, and netters took a commensurate hit.

Historically, the abundance of yellow perch was a big reason to fish at Lake Erie. This was true long after important species such as lake herring, whitefish and blue pike vanished or nearly did so. Daily catches of 100 yellow perch were legal, and not altogether unusual, for decades.

And while walleye have produced prodigiously in recent years, the numbers of perch in the shallower western basin have merely held steady while showing losses in the deeper central basin.

Trawl surveys done in the western basin last summer found 380 spring-hatched yellow perch per hectare, a measure equal to 2.47 acres. Results fell just below the 34-year average of 398 perch.

Results in the central basin, which is divided into a central zone and an eastern zone, were not encouraging.

Fall surveys in the central zone turned up 11 spring-hatched perch per hectare, much fewer than the average of 39. The survey of year-old perch netted 18 per hectare, again below the average of 33.

East of Fairport Harbor, survey results showed two first-year perch per hectare, the long-term average being five. The numbers for year-old fish were five per hectare, considerably fewer than the average of 29.

Evidence suggests when perch hatches do well in the western basin, they tend to fare poorly in the central basin and vice versa.

One suspect for that is climate change. Ice cover on the Great Lakes has diminished in duration by a couple of weeks from the old normal, records indicate. Continued warming could make regular ice cover on Lake Erie less likely in the coming decades.

A study by researchers from Ohio State University published several years ago suggested Lake Erie yellow perch hatches are more robust after winters that produce longer and later periods of ice cover. The findings were intriguing but, as even the authors acknowledged, not conclusive.

Nutrient runoff could be another factor, triggering large plankton blooms that serve as a food source for tiny, growing fish in the shallow western lake but which suck needed oxygen out of the deeper central waters.

Research is ongoing, said biologists.

Ohio anglers should learn their 2022 limits sometime in March.

\$1B Investment in Toxic Pollution Clean-up a ‘Game-Changer’ for Great Lakes and Communities

By Lindsey Bacigal
Press Releases, Washington Update

ANN ARBOR, MICH. The Biden Administration’s plan to invest an additional \$1 billion to clean up toxic pollution in the Great Lakes region, announced today, will be essential to restore the Great Lakes and to protect the drinking water, public health, and jobs of millions of people in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, New York, and Wisconsin, according to the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition.

“This investment will be a game-changer in the effort to clean up pollution that has poisoned local drinking water and threatened the health of communities,” said Laura Rubin, director of the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition. “This investment will benefit millions of people, provide a shot in the arm to Great Lakes restoration efforts, and support local economies. We thank President Biden, his administration, and the members of Congress who supported this funding for recognizing the urgent need to address this serious threat.”

The Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition pushed for increased Great Lakes investments in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The bill contains an additional \$1 billion for Great Lakes restoration actions.

The Environmental Protection Agency is directing that funding to clean up the most polluted sites in the region. These sites – called Areas of Concern – contain high levels of cancer-causing and health-threatening pollution, such as PCB’s, mercury, and other chemicals, that have poisoned the water and led to drinking water restrictions, fish consumption advisories, and beach closures.

“The clean-up of these toxic hot-spots will benefit communities most impacted by pollution, which tend to be low-income, Black, Latino, Asian and Indigenous communities,” said Brenda Coley, co-chair of the Coalition and co-executive director of Milwaukee Water Commons. “We thank EPA Administrator Michael Regan for his leadership in tackling the biggest pollution problems in the region and confronting environmental injustices that continue to plague our communities. As these projects move forward, it will be essential to engage and partner with local communities, as we strive to achieve the common goal of access to clean, safe and affordable drinking water.”

The U.S. and Canadian governments, in the 1980s, identified 43 contaminated sites, which they deemed

Areas of Concern. To date, six sites have been remediated on the U.S. side. The Biden Administration anticipates Infrastructure Investment and Job Act funding will clean up 22 additional sites by 2030, including:

Illinois: Waukegan;

Indiana: Grand Calumet River;

Michigan: Clinton River, Detroit River, Manistique River, Muskegon Lake, River Raisin, Rouge River, St. Clair River, St. Marys River, and Torch Lake;

Minnesota/Wisconsin: St. Louis River;

Ohio: Black River, Cuyahoga River, and Maumee;

New York: Buffalo River, Eighteenmile, Rochester Embayment, and Niagara River;

Wisconsin: Fox River, Milwaukee Estuary, and

Sheboygan.

“This funding will accelerate vital restoration efforts,” said Marnie Urso, co-chair of the Coalition and senior policy director for Audubon Great Lakes. “Many of these polluted sites are in communities along the Great Lakes shoreline that contain important habitat for birds. Federal investments to remediate these sites benefit people and wildlife —and these investments have been doing wonders to help recover populations of threatened and declining species such as the Piping Plover and Black Tern. Thanks to this investment in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative their future is brighter.”

The \$1 billion in the bipartisan infrastructure bill was directed to support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which has supported the restoration of

fish and wildlife habitat, clean-up of toxic pollution, reduction of farm and city runoff, and management of invasive species. Increasingly, restoration investments have been heralded as a way to help communities prepare for and adapt to climate change.

“Investments to restore the habitat, wetlands and natural areas around these toxic hotspots will be vital to restore the Great Lakes and help communities deal with the impacts from a changing climate,” said Mike Shriberg, co-chair of the Coalition and regional executive director of the National Wildlife Federation’s Great Lakes Regional Center. “The region is already experiencing more erratic weather and increased rain due to climate change. These investments will help communities combat flooding, sewage

overflows, and other problems that are being exacerbated by global warming.”

Federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative investments over the last 12 years have helped clean up long-standing legacy pollutants. The infusion of an additional \$1 billion will allow more sites to be remediated more quickly.

“This funding will help close the book on one of the most infamous pollution episodes in our nation’s history,” said Lynn McClure, co-chair of the Coalition and senior regional director of the National Parks Conservation Association. “The EPA’s goal is to use these funds to clean up and restore highly polluted areas, including the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern—the same river that caught fire and sparked a national environmental movement. Cleaning up this corridor, which extends for 100

miles through northern Ohio and Cuyahoga Valley National Park, will be good for the people and wildlife that visit and call this area home.”

The bipartisan infrastructure bill, passed by the Senate and the House in the fall, contains significant federal investments to update the nation’s water infrastructure and address other clean water priorities in the Great Lakes region and across the country. Read more about the EPA’s Area of Concern program.

Since 2004, the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition has been harnessing the collective power of more than 170 groups representing millions of people, whose common goal is to restore and protect the Great Lakes. Learn more at HealthyLakes.org or follow us on Twitter @HealthyLakes.



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Photo: www.flickr.com

"Limit"

Continued from page 1

istee River. The 6-year average from 2009-2014 was 3,433 returning adults and from 2015 to present it was 2,389 returning adults (excluding 2020). In the last 6 years there has been a 30% reduction in average spawning adults. If this trend continues, then what? The spring 2021 returns were the lowest since 1970. More importantly, every

year since 2003, the spring steelhead counts have been below the 53-year average of 4,648 adults.

Are we just going to stand by and watch our Steelhead populations decline to the point of no return? It's not farfetched to consider the outcome of 10 more years of decline. The consequences could ultimately exceed the ability of the population to recover. There is a cost to no action! Steelhead catch rates

are declining statewide as well. Right now, this state has a Steelhead catching issue. The rule changes will probably not boost the overall population size, but a declining Steelhead population will not promote productive fishing. These rule changes are a good start to a long overdue conversation. Catch rates, harvest and angler satisfaction are currently out of balance. We can't afford to wait for things to get any worse! Now is the time to have a serious discussion regarding harvest limits. What should our annual harvest look like based upon today's current steelhead population trend? We need to bring the Harvest and Catch Rates back to the middle and rebalance Angler Satisfaction.

The close proximity of the Little Manistee River to the Big Manistee River also raises parallel questions. Is there a similar population trend occurring in the Big Manistee River? What about the rest of the Lake Michigan Basin? Is this trend occurring throughout the Great Lakes Region? We believe it is! How can we continue the "Business as Usual" model? To say there isn't a biological reason to consider a regulation change is a dangerous claim. Just because you have an inherent lack of data doesn't excuse you from responding to the problem. Changing the regs is a short-term fix that will allow more time for data collection. Fully understanding the complexities surrounding the Steelhead population decline will take time. How long will "the data collection" take, 5-10 years? Can we justify waiting that long without taking action? Is it worth risking this popular fishery? Just a little food for thought.

Editor's Note:

This article addresses only one side of the argument in support of using regulation changes to address the decline in Steelhead numbers. GLSFN welcomes counter opinions as to whether regulation change should be the tool used to address the decline in Steelhead numbers. In our next issue we will cover the need to address habitat and changing environmental conditions as a means of addressing declining Steelhead numbers.

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FRIDAY	11 am – 9 pm
SATURDAY	10 am – 8 pm
SUNDAY	10 am – 5 pm



**“Improve”
Continued from page 1**

overrides in the of event of
inflationary impacts.

**Tribal Coordination
Unit Staffing**

\$650,000 has been re-
quested to add up to 4 staff
including 2 biologists and 2
technicians to the tribal co-
ordination unit.

As you can see by the
scope of this proposal, the

MDNR Fisheries Division
stands to receive a once in a
lifetime opportunity to bet-
ter serve anglers across the
state for decades to come.



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Tower Marine at 269-857-2151
Sergeant Marina at 269-857-2873

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- ★ Reserve your slip early

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

- ★ August 5th - Free Pig Roast at Captains Meeting
- ★ August 6th - 7th Free Hamburgers and Hot Dogs
at Weigh-in and Awards Ceremony

All Provided by Coral Gables Restaurant



The King Co.



“Merckel”

Continued from page 2

ties’ experiences.

John Dettmers, direc-
tor of fishery management
at the Commission and

one of Ken’s fishing bud-
dies mused, “I will always
remember Ken as hard
charging and passionate
in his desire to improve
fishing opportunities in
the Great Lakes. He was
always full of ideas, will-
ing to push them, but also
willing to listen and discuss
the complexities. His gruff
exterior was just that – once
you got to know him, his
love of fishing and family,
especially Lenore, showed
through more than any-
thing.”

As I spoke with Marc
and John about our indi-
vidual relationships with
Ken, we were delighted to
realize one commonality
in our recollections: most
of the calls Ken made to us
were while he had a patient
in his chair! What a testa-
ment to his dedication that
in his few “free” moments
between teeth drilling and
repairs, Ken was thinking
about the Great Lakes. So,
to Ken’s former patients,
thank you for tolerating
a few extra minutes with
your dentist for the good of
the fishery.

All of us at the Great
Lakes Fishery Commis-
sion will miss Ken dearly.
He leaves a lasting legacy
within our organization and
with us as individuals.



Legislative Action Alert

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

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

Contact information
of Michigan State Senators

https://senate.michigan.gov/senatorinfo_complete.html



Contact information
of Michigan State Representatives

<https://www.house.mi.gov/AllRepresentatives>

Link to Michigan the Senate
Appropriations Home Page, *see bottom
left to email subscribe to hearing notices*
<https://committees.senate.michigan.gov/details?com=APPROPS&sessionId=14>



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Event Calendar Disclaimer:

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

2022 Battle Creek Steelheader's Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Location
March	5	ST.JOE CHAPTER CHALLENGE	SAND BAR
March	19	KALAMAZOO RIVER SPRING STEELHEAD	ALLEGAN DAM
May	21	LAKE MICHIGAN SPRING TOURNAMENT	BENTON HARBOR/SH
June	3-4	CONNIE McGOWEN INVITATIONAL	LAKE ERIE DBBC
July	16	ORTAGE LAKE PANFISH/FAMILY PICNIC	PORTAGE LAKE
August	6	LAKE MICHIGAN MEMORIAL	SOUTH HAVEN
August	20	VETERANS OUTING	SOUTH HAVEN
October	29	KALAMAZOO RIVER SALMON SLAM	ALLEGAN DAM
November	12	KALAMAZOO TROUT QUEST	ALLEGAN DAM
November	19	KALAMAZOO RIVER MEMORIAL	ALLEGAN DAM
November	26	ST.JOE RIVER FALL STEELHEAD	I-94 BOAT RAMP
December	3	ST.JOE RIVER CHAPTER CHALLENGE	BABES LOUNGE
December	10	CHRISTMAS PARTY	KALAMAZOO EAGLES
Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting Meeting Location: Travelers Cafe and Pub, 5225 Portage Rd. Exit 78 off I-94. FOR MORE INFORMATION: River Tournament - Joe Foy at 269-303-1894 / Lake Tournament - Dan Foster at 269-370-3693 battlecreeksteelheaders.com			

2022 Grand Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Contact Info
April	TBD	Members Meeting	
June	2	Bill Rogers Memorial Tournament	
June	3-5	Grand Haven Offshore Challenge	
July 29 - Aug 11		Weeklong Plus Tournament	
August	6	Chapter Challenge Tournament	
August	11	Chapter Picnic	
September	9	Sportsman For Youth Day	
December	1	Christmas Party	
Other Events TBD For information on these events and other information on the Grand Haven Steelheaders contact GHS President and State Director Paul Zelenka at pbzfarms@gmail.com www.ghsteelheaders.com			

2022 Grand Rapids Steelheader's Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
March	7	Board Meeting	
March	10-13	Ultimate Sports Show	at DeVos Place
March	19	Club Spring Outing	
March	29	Membership Meeting	
April	4	Board Meeting	
April	25	Membership Meeting	
May	2	Board Meeting	
May	23	Membership Meeting	
June	6	Board Meeting	
June	27	Membership Meeting	
July	11	Board Meeting	
July	**	Membership Picnic	at Millennium Park
August	1	Board Meeting	
August	6	GR/GH Chapter Challenge	
August	29	Membership Meeting	
September	12	Board Meeting	
September	26	Membership Meeting	
October	3	Board Meeting	
October	31	Membership Meeting	
November	5	Chapter Fall Fishing Event	
November	7	Board Meeting	
November	28	Membership Meeting	
December	5	Board Meeting	
December	**	Christmas Party	
STC* = Date subject to change. Please watch newsletter or facebook page. ** = Members and Family Only. (All other events open to the public). Speakers will be listed in the monthly newsletter, and on facebook.			

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

2022 Holland Steelheader's Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	
March	7	Board Meeting	
March	26	Annual Banquet	
April	4	Board Meeting	
May	2	Board Meeting	
May	17	Tuesday Night Fishing League Begins	
May	19	Membership Meeting	
May	21	Spring Challenge	
June	6	Board Meeting	
June	11	All Species Tourney	
June	25	Kids n Kings	
July	9	Fishing with Veterans	
July	11	Board Meeting	
July	21	Membership Meeting	
July	23	Summer Challenge	
July	29-31	Big Red Classic	
August	1	Board Meeting	
August	13	Ladies Tournament	
August	23	Tuesday Night Fishing League Final Night	
September	12	Board Meeting	
October	3	Board Meeting	
November	5	River Tournament	
November	7	Board Meeting	
December	1	Membership Meeting	
December	3	River Tournament	
December	5	Board Meeting	
Board meetings held at: TBD Locations General Membership: Bayshore Yacht Club at the Yacht Basin Marina Doors open at 6 pm., Dinner at 7 pm, speaker to follow For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jeremy Erdman 616-510-9405, or email Steve Weatherwax at <i>Waxer1221@yahoo.com</i>			

2022 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader's Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Chair / Location
March	1	General Membership Meeting	
March	10-13	Novi Boat Show	Bob Schulz
March	19	MWS Sports Banquet	MWS Board
March	26	I Steelhead Challenge Manistee River/Pier w DS	Adam Trenz/Eric Braden
April	5	General Membership Meeting	
April	9	New Buffalo Coho Tournament	Bob Schulz
April	9	Clinton River Clean Up	Jay Labban
April	23	Detroit River/Lake Erie Walleye	Robert Grech/Chris Christoph
April	30	Benton Harbor Coho Tournament	Dave Zawacki/Kirk Traver
May	1	Benton Harbor Coho Tournament	Marc/Kirk Traver
May	3	General Membership Meeting	
May	14	Toledo Beach Walleye	Bob Schulz
May	14	Bruin Lake Kayak/Small Boat	Chuck Davis
May	21	Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament Sat	Chris Thompson/Kruszewski
May	22	Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament Sun	Brad Allan/Mark Platt
May	28	Pt Moule' SM Bass/Walleye	Keith Childs
June	4	Kids Fishing Outing at Kensington Park	Brad Allan
June	4	Lake Erie Brest Bay Walleye Tournament	Len Wood
June	4	Sterling St Park SM Bass & Walleye	Eric Braden
June	7	General Membership Meeting	
June	11	Sterling SP Walleye Tournament	Fabian Sepulveda
June	11	Grand/South Haven Salmon Pier Event	Eric Braden
June	18	Muskie Tourney at lake Hudson Kayak/SB	Michelle Braden
June	25	Silver Lake Kayak/SB	Keith Childs
July	5	Club Summer Picnic	Jim Robertson/Dave Zawacki
July	9	Tippy Dam Back Water Kayak/SM	Eric Braden
July	14	Erieau Tournament – Thur. Erieau, Canada	Clyde Schoen
July	16	Erieau Tournament – Sat. Erieau, Canada	Henry Nabors
July	16	Huron River Kayak (Hudson Mills to Dehli)	Keith Childs
July	16	Manistee River Cleanup Day @ High Bridge	Roger Hinchcliff
July	28	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Thu	Gale Frazee/Tom Abdelnour
July	29	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Fri	Marc Traver/Dave Hutton
July	30	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sat	Dave & Kim Zawacki
July	31	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sun	Marc/Kirk Traver
August	2	General Membership Meeting	
August	6	Independence Lake Kayak/Small Boat	Chuck Davis
August	13	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sat	Henry Nabors/Dave Hutton
August	14	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sun	Marc/Kirk Traver
August	20	Lake Tournament – Frankfort	Robert Grech/C Christoph
August	21	Salmon Tournament – Frankfort	Bill Dodge/C Christoph
September	6	General Membership Meeting	
September	10	Manistee River & Pier Tournaments	Adam Trenz River Chair/Eric Braden
September	17	Muskegon Kayak/SB Salmon	Eric Braden

2022 Metro West - Livonia ...continued			
Month	Date	Event	Chair
September	19	Captain/Crew/River Angler 2023 Calendar Mtg	Kelley/Adam T/ River Chair/Nabors/ Zawacki
September	24	Manistee River Tournaments	Fabian Sepulveda
October	4	General Membership Meeting	
November	1	General Membership Meeting	
November	5	Manistee River/Pier/Shore Tournaments w DS	Dave Zawacki/Eric Braden/Adam Trenz
November	19	PM River Tournament	Marc Traver/Adam Trenz
December	6	CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
December	10	Huron River Tournament	Hinchcliff/Brown
** ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** 7:00 PM at The New Livonia Seniors Center at the Southeast Corner of Farmington Road and Five Mile Road WEB Site: Go to www.metroweststeelheaders.org If you have questions, contact Henry Nabors - HHNabors@gmail.com or call 248-225 4964. Contact: <i>President</i> Eric Braden, esbraden630@gmail.com , 419-344-2541 <i>Membership Director</i> Henry Nabors 248-225-4964			

2022 South Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	
March	17	Best Chance Fishing Seminar	South Haven Moose Lodge
March	17	Membership Meeting	
April	21	Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop	South Haven Moose Lodge
April	21	Southern Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop - Dr. Dan O'Keefe presenting	
May	12	*prior to SHS Pro/Am – Membership meeting and set up for Captain's Meeting	
May	13	South Haven Pro Am Tournament Captains Meeting - South Haven Moose Lodge	
May	14-15	South Haven Pro Am Tournament	
May	28	Erle Morris Tournament & So. Haven Chapter Picnic - River Bend Boat Club	
June	11	South Haven Steelheaders Ladies Tournament	
June	16	Membership Meeting	
July	21	Membership Meeting	
August	11	Membership Meeting *Prior to the Annual Fish Boil	
August	13	SHS Fish Boil (Blueberry Festival - August 12-14th)	
August	20	SHS Operation Injured Soldäier/SH Salute to Veterans	
September	15	Membership Meeting	
October	20	Membership Meeting - and Board meeting to finalize next year's events and set calendar	
November	2	2023 Pro Am Tournament Committee Kick-off meeting	
November	17	Membership Meeting - and Board Meeting to finalize budget and calendar	
November	26	SHS River Tournament Invitational <i>(must be a member to participate)</i>	
December		No membership meeting in lieu of Holiday Party	
Dec	10	South Haven Steelheaders Holiday Party 2022	
Membership Meetings Held at 7 pm at: South Haven Moose Lodge, 1025 East Wells Street, South Haven, MI 4904 For more information email: president@southhavensteelheaders.com			

2022 Southwest MI Steelheader's Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
Membership meetings and board meeting are held the second Thursday of each month but we are still determining our schedule for 2022 due to the lingering effects of covid. Please check online for the latest information. www.swmsteelheaders.com www.facebook.com/southwestmichigansteelheaders			
May	5-7	Schu's Summer Challenge Tournament	
June	17-18	Trolling with the Troops	
Decemberr	3	33rd Annual Winter Challenge Tournament	
Membership Meetings Held at: St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks 541, 601 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor MI 49022 Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM, Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM, Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784			

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

2022 Thumb Chapter Steelheader's Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Event	Location / Information
March	17	7:30pm	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
April	21	7:30pm	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
May	7	6:00AM	Can2Can Fishing Tournament <i>Need Workers!</i>	Harbor Beach Marina
May	19	7:30pm	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
June	11			
June	16	7:30pm	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
July	21	7:30pm	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
August	18	7:30pm	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
August	TBD	2:00	Pig Roast	Harbor Beach VFW Hall
September	15	7:30pm	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
October	20	7:30pm	Regular Meeting, Election of Board/Officers - Ubly Foxhunters	
Novmber				
December				
Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries.				

March/April 2022 Great Lakes Sport Fishing News Page 15

Join a Chapter, Join the Fun!

For more information,
contact your Chapter Membership Director
or mssfamembership@charter.net



mssfa.org

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

2022 Thunderbay Steelheader's Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Time	Information
March	5	4:00pm	Annual Meeting/Dinner
April	4	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
May	2	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
May	14	6:00am	Alpena Tournament
June	11	6:00am	Presque Isle tournament
June	25-26	6:00am	Presque Isle tournament
July	11	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
August	8	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
August	27		Rogers City Tournament
September	5	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
October	3	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
November	7	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
December	5	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
Contact Dan Bouchard at dan-bouchard@hotmail.com for inquiries.			

2022 White River Steelheader's Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Event information	Location
Note: All meetings will be held at 6:30 pm at the VFW, any changes in location will be decided a couple of days before the meeting. – Any questions or to verify dates/times please call Clint Pollock at (231) 893-0210 or Terry Clark at (231) 893-6805.				
March	3	6:30	Member meeting	VFW
April	7	6:30	Member meeting	VFW
May	5	6:30	Member meeting	VFW
June	2	6:30	Member meeting	VFW
July	7	6:30	Member meeting	VFW
August	4	6:30	Member meeting	VFW
September	8	6:30	Member meeting	VFW
October	6	6:30	Member meeting	VFW
November	3	6:30	Member meeting	VFW
December	1	6:30	Member meeting	VFW



Church Tackle Co.®

Mini Lock-Jaw Clip

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

Locking Arm
easy to open & close

Hole for drop weights or other applications

Adjustment Screw

Release Prevention

Replaceable Pad

Locator holes for attaching to side-planers

2 3/4" Long x 3/4" Wide

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")

Original Lock-Jaw

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

30#test monofilament

For heavy to extremely heavy applications

10#

Mini Lock-Jaw

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

30#test power pro

For light to heavy applications.

Holds 10# plus!!

10#

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

Size #2 - 1.4 oz

Size #3 - 2.7 oz

#40300 unpainted

#40302 black

#40303 unpainted

#40304 orange

#40305 unpainted

#40306 chartreuse

FISH FILLET & GAME KNIFE

The only knife of it's 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)

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

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