



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

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2020 Consent Decree Negotiations

By Dennis Eade, MSSFA

Let me begin by explaining what the Great Lakes Consent Decree is: In 1979, the U. S. District Court ruled that the five northern Michigan Indian Tribes that are signatories to the 1836 Treaty of Washington had a valid treaty right to fish in the Great Lakes. As a result of this ruling, the State of Michigan, the United States, and the tribes (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Bands

of Odawa Indians and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians) entered into Consent Decrees in 1985 and again in 2000 to implement the court's ruling. The agreement is a legal document which defines the extent of tribal rights and describes how the State and the tribes will cooperatively allocate and manage the fisheries resources in the 1836 Treaty-ceded waters of the Great Lakes. Most notably waters from Alpena on Lake Huron north and around into Lake Michigan south to Grand Haven, Michigan. The DNR co-manages Michigan's resources based

on scientific management along with the tribes and the USF&W Agency in the affected waters. That means the parties review one another's fish stocking proposals and collaboratively develop harvest limits for species such as lake trout and whitefish. Species that do not have specific harvest limits are managed with seasons, area closures, depth restrictions, gear restrictions, daily possession limits and size limits. Why the agreement is so important to sport fish-

"Negotiations"
Continued on page 10

Try the Bronze Colored Trout!

By Roger Hinchcliff,
Steelhead Manifesto

Ask any Trout Angler if he or she doesn't love catching a hard-pulling fish on a fly? The answer will be a resounding yes! The warmwater species fishing has grown in popularity among Fly Anglers through the years due to everyone is near or has access to these species of fish. Not everyone lives near Trout waters and or can go after work every day. But Carp, pan-fish and bass do and this opens up angling opportunities.

Nothing will replace my beloved trout but the smallmouth bass is a hard fighting, great biting fish and loves to get air during the fight. The Great Lakes region is home to some of the best smallmouth fishing on planet earth.

And people from all over the world come here to catch them every year. Springtime is a busy time of year for many, from the fishing, morel mushroom picking, and spring gobbler hunting.

Many that can find some time will tell you pre-spawn smallmouth bass fishing can be phenomenal. The weather, temps, and winds play a huge role in your success. Knowing what to look for will be

key. When water temps climb from the 30's and start reaching the 40's usually late March, early April, the fish will start to move in shallower and be ready to bite. Peak spawning occurs late May to early June and when water temps reach between the mid-40's and 50's the fish will put on the feed big time before the spawn. Giving the wading angler a chance at some quality fishing. No boat is needed here folks and some say the wading angler have it even better than a person with a boat. Due to the fact, they have access to water that a boat cannot get to. Kayakers love this type of fishing.

Places to fish are harbors, marina docks, piers, islands, boulders, beaches. My favorites are wind protected bays with sand or rock piles these will attract the smallies like a magnet. Did I mention this structure usually goes nowhere? So, every year once these key places are found you can come back

every year and catch fish. The baitfish are also attracted to the warmer water and if you find the warmer water you will strike the bronze gold.

Typically, if temps are dropping and the wind is blowing hard with the waves into shore or out into the big lake, the fish will move out to deeper water with depths between 10-20 feet and school up. When those bays start to warm and calm again, they will be right back in the shallows and will spread out.

Flies to use

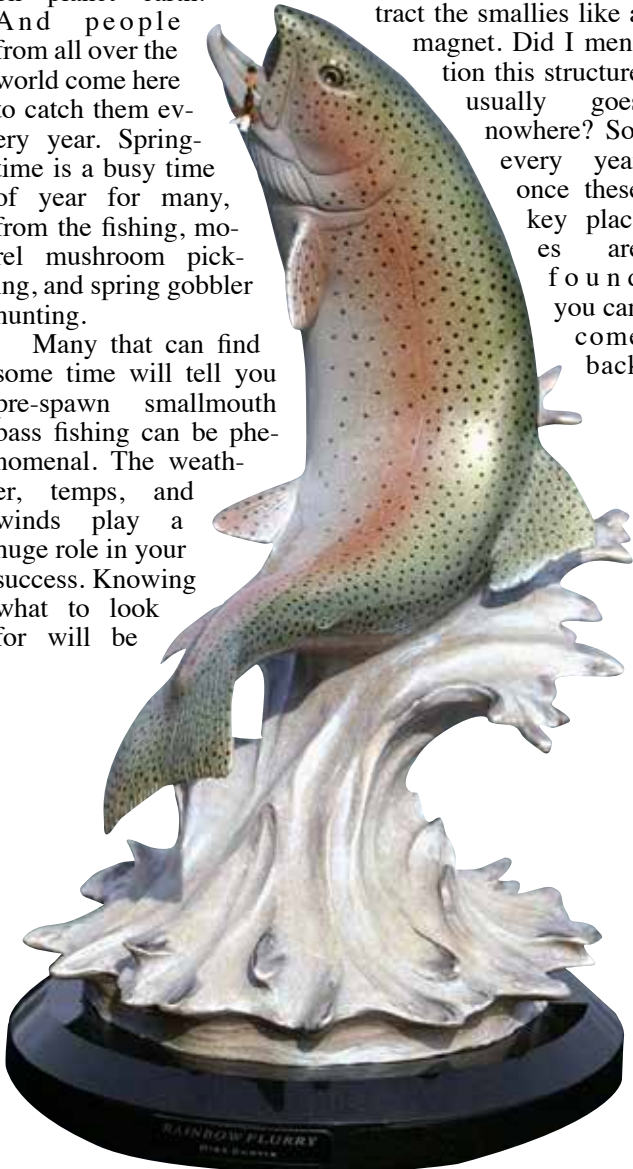
When the temps reach the 50's pretty much any fly will catch you fish. But by paying attention to your surroundings and matching the hatch is key. If you see gobies, or schools of alewives, smelt or shiners that's what they are feeding on. Any leech or crawfish patterns always produce. It's just tough to beat a streamer or clouser minnow pattern this time of year. Try to match the presentation to the bait you're seeing and you will not believe the numbers you can put on the board in a day on a fly. Once it happens to you, it's over. Vacation time will be planned every year in the early spring.

My favorite sizes flies are in the 2 1/2 - 4 1/2-inch range for smallies. However, bigger baits do take bigger fish sometimes, so leave nothing on the table here. Let's not forget surface flies. This action can be exciting. Anytime a fish comes up and crushes the fly on topwater.

Gear and Tips

I use a 7-weight rod mostly with a RIO Outbound Short or floating fly line. Long leaders are not needed here, folks. A long leader is going to hinder your casting distance when

"Bronze"
Continued on page 11



Rainbow Flurry
Bronze Trout Sculpture by Mike Curtis

"Commercial"
Continued on page 10

Commercial Fishing Bills Move to the Senate

By Mark Sak
Owner of Great Lakes
Sportsman LLC

If the facts of what commercial netting does to fisheries around the state and country were known, this would be an easy decision for most involved. Since commercial fishing bills have been introduced in Michigan, (one pro-netting bill in the Senate would allow netters to harvest 20-30 percent of Michigan's game fish, and

the three bills voted out of the House (by a 2 to 1 majority vote) would not allow the netting of game fish and updates netting rules), many conservation groups have been researching and watching the hearings and social media posts very closely. Sportsmen groups have been listening to the angles netters are attempting to use to widen (and justify) their take to include game fish on the Great Lakes. Several very interesting things have surfaced that should be in-

cluded in this debate. First, the fish in our Great Lakes are part of the public trust. They belong to the people of the state and should not be given to anyone to be sold. This can be compared to selling sand in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park so we can provide a few aggregate companies a living. It's not too smart. We could easily say that Lake Michigan has an endless supply of



Search groups for MSSFA

Fishing Tackle Company Gibbs Delta acquires Michigan Stinger

www.glangler.com
British Columbia, BC

Gibbs Acquisition Co. Inc. (dba Gibbs Delta or “Gibbs”) strengthens its position as a national multi-environment tackle company through the acquisition of Great Lakes-based Advance Tackle Inc. (dba Michigan Stinger or “Stinger”).

With the strategic acquisition of Stinger, customers of Gibbs and Stinger have access to a broad assortment of fishing tackle specifically tailored to ocean, river, and lake environments.

Whether the application is trolling, casting, jigging, bottom, float, and/or ice fishing Gibbs has unique and regionally relevant products and knowledge. The acquisition also lends Gibbs a physical presence in the heart of the Great Lakes region that allows for local expertise, innovation, and customer connections.

“Through this acquisition, 112-year old Gibbs is acquiring a customer-centric company that has a rich history of personal service, high trust, and proven tackle,” said Rob Campbell, President of Gibbs Acquisition Co. Inc. “With the added horsepower of Gibbs’ time-tested innovation, sales & marketing,



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and logistics expertise we look forward to continuing to grow our collective customer base and relentlessly focusing on the fishing lifestyle.”

“The ability for all customers to purchase tackle for fresh and saltwater, across multiple applications and species within

one purchase order is a key focus for us. The addition of Stinger products and their Great Lakes customer base is truly exciting”, stated Rob Alcock, COO of Gibbs.

Stinger will maintain its presence in Michigan.

Rob Bellmore, who will continue to lead the day-to-

day operations as General Manager said,

“I’m extremely excited about this new partnership. After the last couple years of extremely good seasons, we wanted to see just how much larger Michigan Stinger can get and we are confident we will collectively bring it to a new level

of product availability and development.”

Gibbs is quickly expanding its footprint in freshwater based fishing products, specifically in North America through both strategic acquisitions of established brands and, organically via key sales personnel. Building on

over a century of success, entrepreneurial spirit and flexibility, Gibbs remains focused on meaningful partnerships with customers and employees.

Those that are seeking partnership with Gibbs, email info@gibbsdelta.com.



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Advance Tackle Inc.

Advance Tackle Inc. started in the basement of a house 40 years ago with a passion for Salmon fishing.

Today, the family business of Stinger has become a household name in the Great Lakes with over 5,000 options of trolling spoon combinations and over 400 flasher patterns. The Company primarily sells within the United States but have also sold to trolling markets worldwide.

Advance Tackle Inc. is based in Traverse City, Michigan, USA.

More information on Advance Tackle Inc. can be found at www.mistinger.com



Gibbs is a 112-year old fishing tackle manufacturer with sales across the United States, Canada, and parts of Western Europe and Russia.

Wholesale customers range from large distributors, national retailers ("big box"), specialty and independent retailers. The

Company offers over 5,000 SKUs of fishing tackle across 6 wholly owned brands (Gibbs, Delta, O'Ki, Rhys Davis, Zak, Stinger) and is the Canadian distributor for Silver Horde and Yamashita.

The Company is based in Delta, British Columbia, Canada.

More information on Gibbs can be found at www.gibbsdelta.com as well as on Facebook and Instagram under Gibbs Delta.



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

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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



MSSFA PRESIDENT

Tim Stegeman

It's political season. You want a slogan? How about "Make Sport Fishing Great", "Feel the Fish/Not Commercial Fishing, Us", "A Fresh Start for the Great Lakes", "Let's Get to Fishing" or even "MSSFA has a plan for that".

As Americans, we volunteer or donate to campaigns, attend meetings or protests and contact officials to express our views. Ours is a democracy calling for citizen participation. That is the big picture for us Americans. We have the right to participate in governing our state and nation. 2020 is a presidential election year and political

opinion is everywhere we turn. So much so, that it is easy to just decide to "turn off" or "tune out" and not participate.

However, as American sportsmen and sportswomen we still need to stay "turned on" and do the same things in whatever political climate we find ourselves; but, focused on an agenda. That agenda is contained in the mission statement of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fisherman's Association which is, "educating the general public on improving, preserving and promoting sport fishing in the Great Lakes and their tributary streams and

ivers."

Our natural resources are worth fighting for so we need to engage our local council members, state representatives and senators. We have the right to participate in governing our natural resources and we need to continue to exercise that right to its fullest potential in ALL of 2020.

As you know, the Consent Decree expires in August of this year and the Commercial fishing Bills 4567-4569 have passed the House. The bills are sponsored by Reps. Jim Lilly, R-Park Township, Pauline Wendzel, R-Watervliet and Jack O'Malley, R-Lake

Ann. You need to continue to support the bills and their sponsors now that the bills are in the Senate where they are subject to amendment or non-passage.

Non-passage should really concern you because there is also a group of Senate bills sponsored by Senators Ed McBroom, R-Waucedah Township, and Curtis VanderWall, R-Ludington along with a House sponsor, Rep. Sara Cambensy, D-Marquette. These bills are aimed at legalized commercial fishing of game species subject to an annual quota.

Between the Consent Decree and the Commercial fishing bills, you and your fellow chapter members should be on high alert, fired-up and engaged. Don't let McBroom, VanderWall and Cambensy dictate to you what your sport fishery should be. Don't let the other political news of the day overshadow our sport fishing-minded focus.



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

I know many of you will read this and not even think twice about contacting your representatives because you just don't want to be bothered. Well, guess what? That line of thinking is like using 2lb test line to catch a 10 pound steelhead in a hole filled with overhanging/submerged trees and boulders. It can be done, but not easily and you are probably going to have to get wet. No excuses, you need to contact your representatives. These are two of the most important prerequisites in protecting sport fishing in the Great Lakes of your lifetime and this time around, most especially, you are only going to get what you are willing to fight for. Yearly dues to the MSSFA and volunteer boards

are not going to be enough. Your individual voice is what needs to be heard. So, don't delay --- contact your reps today and tell them you support the bills as passed in the House!

Read the above paragraph twice for good measure.

If contacting your representatives seems like a difficult task, it is not. If you need help, that is why we have chapter boards and the state board of directors. They are all just a phone call or email away to help you.

Gear up with the right tackle for this fight and let's get it done!

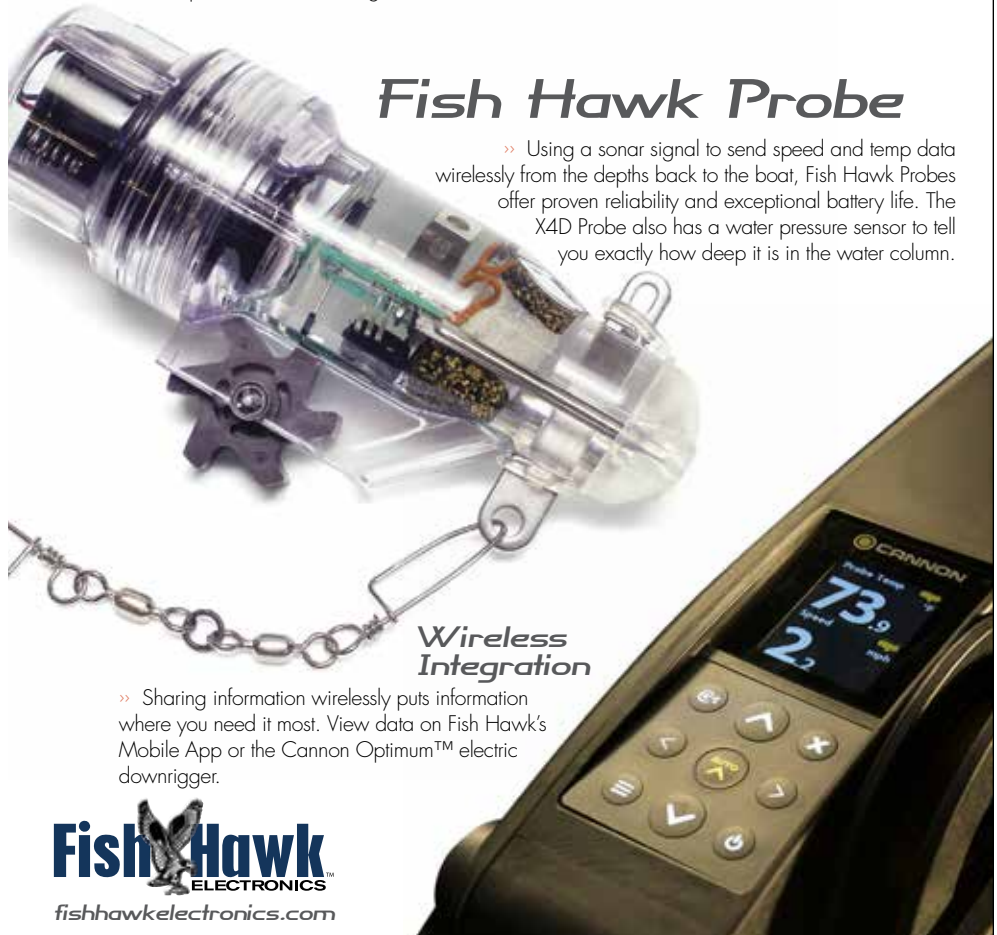


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Dennis Eade, Executive Director
Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen's Association

The Michigan House of Representatives passed the first update to Michigan's commercial fishing statutes in over sixty years. Thanks to the hard work of Representatives Pauline Wendzel, Jim Lilly, and Jack O'Malley, Michigan has finally taken the necessary steps to modernize our antiquated regulations, protect game fish, and establish best practices amongst the commercial fishing industry. The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association was proud to be a strong voice in this process, and I cannot stress enough how important this legislation will be to sportsmen in Michigan.

The bills are expected to be sent onto the senate for consideration and Speaker Chatfield will assign them to a senate committee to be considered. It is expected that the bills will go to the Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Senator Ed McBroom (Iron Mountain), a dairy farmer from the Upper Peninsula, who's on record as sponsoring opposing bills offered by commercial fishing industry proponents. However, the other members of the committee include Senators Jon Bumstead (R-Newago), Rick Outman, (R-Six Lakes), Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City), and Vice Chair, Sean McCann (D-Kalamazoo) who are potential "yes" votes and we need to contact them and encourage them to support the bills when and if they are assigned to the committee.

Michigan citizens have established laws that require fisheries and wildlife of the state be managed scientifically, not politically. On Thursday, February 13th, a very large dose of politics was inserted into that process. Anna Mitterling was appointed by Governor Whitmer in December 2019, to serve as a Natural Resources Commission member. The next day, Senate Republicans voted along party lines (with the exception of Sen. Jon Bumstead (Newaygo)), to disapprove of her appointment, on what was the last session day before their 60-day window expired.

Mitterling in all regards represented a highly qualified candidate for the Natural Resources Commission. She has a graduate degree in Fisheries & Wildlife from Michigan State Uni-

versity, and teaches Environmental Science at the college level. She is a young professional, active hunter, and mother. Her educational background is particularly well-suited to the NRC, whose statutory charge is to ensure the scientific management of our State's fisheries and wildlife.

No rationale was offered for the vote of "disapproval" by the senate.

Other issues were the cause. Unrelated to Mrs. Mitterling, a variety of other issues became sufficient motivation for the Senate Republicans to play politics, and use her appointment either as attempted leverage, or simply to make a point to the Governor's office.

In Michigan, the Senate has 60 days to overturn an appointee. They can hold an advise and consent hearing, and they can vote to disapprove of an appointee, but do not need to approve of them. Historically, NRC appointments have been relatively "quiet" often with the Senate not holding advise and consent hear-

ings at all in the past. What happened is unique and surprising. It is also disheartening that some lawmakers did not hesitate to use a well-qualified citizen's appointment as political leverage in making a purely political statement. Unfortunately, it represents an unprecedented new manner of introducing politics into scientific fish and wildlife management.

MDNR is still seeking clear title to the Happy Landing property in Sodus Twp. before moving on the purchase of the property at Pipestone Creek along the St. Joseph River. Legislative approval is still needed and the funds will not be

available until May 2020.

We have received three exceptionally qualified nominees for the Dr. Howard Tanner Award for 2020 and I am in the process of preparing a formal recommendation to the board for consideration. We plan to honor the award recipient at the Presidents' meeting on April 4, 2020 at the Michigan Historical Library & Museum in Lansing, MI.

The Show Edition of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing News was distributed to show-goers at the Ultimate Fishing Show in Detroit on January 9th - 12th. Copies will be distributed at Outdoorama February 27th - March 1st and the Ultimate

Fishing Show in Grand Rapids, March 19th - 22nd. Finally, I have submitted an article to the Tournament Trail Magazine covering the Consent Decree negotiations and the commercial fishing statue legislation being considered in the senate.





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THE MICHIGAN STEELHEAD & SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE QUALITY OF FISHING REFLECTS THE QUALITY OF LIVING!

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

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

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

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

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

THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS (GLSFN)

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

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

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

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

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

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* Not really, I just made that up because I fish way more than I exercise.

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2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Saturday, April 4, 2020

at the Michigan Historical Library and Museum,
701 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

at MUCC, 2101 Wood Street,
Lansing, MI – 7:00 PM

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

at MUCC, 2101 Wood Street,
Lansing, MI – 7:00 PM

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

at MUCC, 2101 Wood Street,
Lansing, MI – 7:00 PM

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

at MUCC, 2101 Wood Street,
Lansing, MI – 7:00 PM

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 www.batteriesplus.com
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11	Berkfield & Co LTD	2625 Pontiac Lake Road	Waterford	MI	48328	5% Great Lake Sportsmens Program on personal Insurance, on home/auto.
12	Big Papa Sportfishing	50642 Oregon Ave.	Novi	MI	48374	10% except on equipment
13	Black Dog Outfitters	4444 14 Mile Rd	Rockford	MI	49341	10% Discount on fly tying materials, hooks & lines. www.blackdog-outfitters.com
14	BoatU.S.					\$15 Annual Membership Dues - Use Membership # GA83723B
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16	Brenner's Service	4765 W River Dr	Comstock Park	MI	46321	5% exclusions may apply. 616-784-9872 dawnbrenner@hotmail.com
17	Dayton, Rick R, DDS	169 Louis Campau Promenade Ste 2A	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	20% off all services (616)458-2545
18	Cascade Capital Funding	4251 Cascade Rd. SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49546	Free appraisal up to \$300.00
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21	Firestone - Metro 25	19268 Middlebelt	Livonia	MI	48152	\$20 off on \$200 or more on service www.metro25firestone.com
22	Fish with Jim Outfitters	http://www.fishwithjimoutfitters.com/	248-252-1277			Discount \$50.00 off the total trip price.
23	Glacier Corporation	1021 Fuller St.	Santa Ana	CA	92701	Aquarium Chillers for "salmon in classroom) \$625 + 60 (s&h) = \$685
24	Great Lakes Angler Magazine		www.glangler.com			Use promo code MCLUB10 1yr/\$13, 2yr/\$25, 3yr/\$36
25	Homestead Resort on Betsie River	2399 Dam Rd	Benzonia	MI	49616	10% In Season, 25% Off Season (homestead@crystal-rentals.com)
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32	Kamp Oil Inc	3650 Eastern Ave SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49508	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
33	Beebe Oil Co (aka Kamp Oil)	4999 22 Mile Rd	Utica	MI	48317	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
34	Lapeer Boat Service	3556 Fort Knox Dr	Lapeer	MI	48446	10% off parts and labor (810-245-6038)
35	Liberty Tax Service	544 E. 8th St.	Holland	MI	49423	\$20.00 Discount on tax service
36	Linwood Beach Marina & Campground	135 S. Linwood Beach	Linwood	MI	48634	10% off service work
37	Logan's Run Muskegon River Cottage Rental	1648 Gardner St.	Newaygo	MI	49337	10% Discount www.logansrun.us 616-485-4501
38	Mark's Sport Shop	11530 Mason Dr	Grant	MI	49327	Member Discount
39	MUCC	2101 Wood Street	Lansing	MI	48912	\$18.00 Membership Dues
40	Richfield RV	Statewide				10% Discount
41	River Raisin Marina & Campground	2502 E. Elm Avenue	Monroe	MI	48161	Buy 1 get 1 free - call 313-575-4367 (www.riverraisinmarina.com)
42	RX Optical	Statewide				Plan 308
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
47	Warrior Lures	5915 Lillian La	Traverse City	MI	49684	10% Discount on all product ordered (www.warriorlures.com)
48	West Marine		Bay City	MI		10%
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Brian Schoolcraft, Metro West Steelheader

Scallops O'Brian

Recipe submitted from Brian Schoolcraft,
Metro West Steelheader

Ingredients:

- Olive Oil
Butter
2 Onions
Bell peppers
Hot peppers (optional)
Celery
Garlic one half a bulb
Creole Seasoning (a lot)
Old Bay (A little)
Bay Leaf
Tomato Paste
White Wine 1/2 cup
- Worcestershire sauce
Hot Sauce
Juice of one lemon
1 Qt canned tomatoes
Pint shrimp or chicken stock
Shrimp 1- 2 lbs
Scallops whole or pieces 1 - 2 lbs
Fish , Any kind 1-2 lbs for a total of 3 -4 lbs of seafood.
White Rice

Heat pan add olive oil and butter 2 tsp each
Saute the trinity, garlic and add a tablespoon or two of creole Seasoning
Add a bay leaf or two
Make a hot spot in the pan and roast the tomato paste
De-glaze with the wine
Add a quart of canned tomatoes
Add Worcestershire 10 shakes
Add hot sauce to taste
Squeeze in lemon juice
Bring to a boil
Add more creole Seasoning
Let it reduce a little if you want it thicker
Add seafood, cook just until done
You can make the rice on the side and serve the creole over the top or incorporate the rice into dish as shown.
We like to garnish with lemon, green onion and fresh parsley or cilantro

You can adjust, add or subtract. This is just a guide.

Enjoy!
Brian Schoolcraft



The skies were blue and cloudless and the air temperature was frigid, but this South Dakota perch was willing to eat a tiny jig.

FACTORS IN FISHING SUCCESS

By Bob Jensen

Across much of the Midwest, it's ice-fishing season. However, across much of the Midwest, we've experienced inconsistent weather in the past few weeks, which has led to inconsistent success on the ice. When it comes to ice-fishing or open water fishing, as different as they may seem, weather is a consistent factor in either situation.

Most anglers understand that weather is a major factor in open water fishing, but are surprised to

learn that fish under the ice are also affected by weather conditions. It has to do with things that we can't see, but that the fish can feel, even through a layer of ice. In the summer, when there are several days in a row of warm weather, the fish bite pretty good. The weather is consistent. Then a front goes through. It rains and thunders and there's lightning. The next day the skies clear, the temperatures drop, and the fish catching really slows

"Success"
Continued on page 13



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“Negotiations”

Continued from page 1

ermen in the state is that it protects game fish like salmon and steelhead trout, walleye and perch from being targeted for commercial harvest by approximately 250 licensed tribal fishermen. This has resulted in the development of a \$2.3 billion sport fishery in Michigan and a \$7.1 billion sport fishery in the Great Lakes Regional Basin.



On August 8, 2020 the Consent Decree expires unless current negotiations are successful in renewing or amending it going forward. There have been a number of formal meetings so far among the parties which include our advocacy group, Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources. CPMR has been granted amici-curia status by the

court to sit in and listen only while consulting with the MDNR in side sessions so sport fishermen’s concerns are seriously considered in the negotiations. All parties have entered into a confidentiality agreement so I cannot talk about what is specifically being discussed.

The key issues include how the available fish, including lake trout, walleye, and salmon stocks are managed and how many fish of a particular species are available to be caught. Reporting requirements, gear restrictions and use of electronic reporting to provide instantaneous harvest information so quotas are not exceeded are being negotiated as well. Finally there are law enforcement concerns and a dispute resolution process that is fair and with meaningful penalties if violations occur that need to be agreed upon.

Should the negotiations not result in an agreement by the expiration date, it is in all parties’ interest to keep talking. The Decree

has served as a valuable tool to manage the fisheries for all concerned. It would be a serious setback to return to the uncertainty that persisted back in the 1980’s when local disputes arose between tribal commercial fishers and sport fishermen in the treaty waters.

The tribal alliance needs to be maintained to avoid fracturing the ability to come to a common resolution. Negotiating five separate agreements doesn’t make sense and would lead to enforcement issues. We need to support the negotiating process by contributing to the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources or its individual partners like the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen’s Association. The website is: <http://protectmiresources.com/>

Concurrent with the tribal consent decree negotiations, Michigan is considering the first update to Michigan’s commercial fishing statutes in over sixty years. Thanks to the hard work of Representa-

tives Pauline Wendzel, Jim Lilly, and Jack O’Malley, Michigan has finally taken the necessary steps to modernize our antiquated regulations, protect game fish, and establish best practices amongst the commercial fishing industry. The bills (HB 4567, 68,69) have passed in the Michigan House of Representatives and are now onto the senate for consideration. The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen’s Association was proud to be a strong voice in this process, and I can speak first-hand about how important this legislation will be to sportsmen in Michigan.

In the 1960’s decades of overharvesting, a lack of coherent regulations, and the impact of invasive species led to the collapse of the Great Lakes Fisheries. Since that collapse, Michigan’s fisheries have been managed with the monies collected from recreational anglers and hunters. Thanks to the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars from Michigan

sportsmen, our recreational fishing industry has grown to over \$2.3 billion and supports thousands of jobs all across our great state.

Michigan has some of the most precious natural resources in the world, and thanks to this legislation, our thriving recreational fishing industry will continue to grow and support thousands of jobs and local communities. With these changes, our Great Lakes will be protected from commercial harvesters, and our fisheries will be better managed so future generations can enjoy angling for decades to come.

The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen’s Association is proud to partner with conservation and sportsmen’s clubs alike, as well as the Department of Natural Resources and the Legislature. We look forward to swift action in the Senate and seeing this bipartisan and common-sense legislation signed into law.

“Commercial”

Continued from page 1

sand and the shoreline will soon replenish what was taken, but we all know that is false.

It’s the same with commercial netting. Sportsmen and women built the current fishery in this state with money raised through fishing licenses sales, as well as the Dingell-Johnson Act of 1950 and the Pittman-Robinson Act of 1937, which places an excise tax on hunting and fishing gear. Sportsmen and women are responsible for bringing the fisheries back from a very dark place where fisheries crashed due to invasive species, pollution, and overfishing from commercial netters. Right now, commercial fishers are telling us all they would not over fish the lakes again because it would hurt their own future. The problem is they are over fishing right now.

The perch population is not doing well on Saginaw Bay or Lake Erie, but according to the netter’s social media page, they continued to net perch in the fall of 2019 knowing that perch numbers are at a low point. That is a far cry from being stewards of the Great Lakes. Netting perch while the population is already low and telling us they would never over fish is nothing more than double talk and it’s something they are good at.

This scenario is really no different than the Nestle water issue. Most in the state now realizes that our resources are not as renewable as many had believed and now everyone is trying to stop Nestle from removing water to sell to the public. Do we want to make the Nestle waters mistake again?

Another huge concern many sportsmen immediately noticed on the commercial netting company’s social media sites is that they do a great deal of business in out-of-state markets. If we play this through, we will see that the sport anglers of our state will be funding these companies so they can sell game fish to New York and Chicago. We are giving virtually millions of dollars or our public trust to several small companies so they can make millions and ship the product out of state all while sportsmen and women continue to foot the bill and pay millions of dollars to provide the mandatory oversight that the commercial industry has proven time and time again it requires.

The latest evidence of the need for oversight is charges that were handed down by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to a Great Lakes fishing operation. This guilty verdict and sentence came in April of 2019 when Cross Fisheries was convicted of unlawfully trafficking lake trout and

“Commercial”

Continued on page 12

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Michigan Department of Natural Resources

More than 21 million fish stocked in 2019 means great fishing opportunities

Brown trout, coho salmon, steelhead, walleye and nine other species and one hybrid were among the 21,281,411 fish stocked in Michigan's public waterbodies so far this year. These fish weighed a combined total of 311 tons.

DNR staff made 449

stocking trips to 857 stocking sites, including Great Lakes, inland lakes and rivers. Eighteen specialized stocking trucks travelled 106,000 miles over the course of 2,693 hours to get the job done.

The number and type of fish stocked varies depending on stocking requests, hatchery rearing assign-

ments, and the source and temperature of each facility's rearing water. In Michigan there are six state and two cooperative hatcheries that work together to produce the species, strain and size of fish requested by fisheries managers. These fish are delivered at a specific time and location to ensure their survival and

success.

Each hatchery has stocked the following fish:

Harrietta State Fish Hatchery (west of Cadillac) stocked 916,630 brown and rainbow trout that in total weighed 92,037 pounds. This hatchery stocked 263 sites (the majority located inland).

Marquette State Fish Hatchery (near Marquette) stocked 377,076 yearling lake trout, brook trout and splake (a hybrid of lake trout and brook trout) that in total weighed 51,901 pounds. This hatchery stocked a total of 107 inland and Great Lakes sites.

Oden State Fish Hatchery (near Petoskey) stocked 647,699 brown and rainbow trout that in total weighed 120,211 pounds. This hatchery stocked 168 inland and Great Lakes sites.

Platte River State Fish Hatchery (near Honor) stocked 3,090,753 fish that included yearling Atlantic and Coho salmon, spring fingerling Chinook salmon and walleye fry that in total weighed 155,696 pounds. This hatchery stocked 46 sites (the majority located on the Great Lakes).

Thompson State Fish Hatchery (near Manistique) stocked 6,944,722 fish that included yearling steelhead, spring fingerling Chinook salmon and walleye fry. These fish weighed 80,833 pounds in total. This hatch-



Technicians from the state Department of Natural Resources stock juvenile Atlantic salmon at Lexington State Harbor. (Photo from 2014: TIMES HERALD)

ery stocked 58 sites (the majority located on the Great Lakes).

Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery (near Kalamazoo) stocked 6,233,314 fish that included yearling steelhead, spring fingerling Chinook salmon, Great Lakes strain muskellunge, walleye fry and channel catfish obtained from the Ohio DNR, that in total weighed 110,657 pounds. This hatchery stocked 84 sites (the majority located on the Great Lakes).

A cooperative teaching hatchery at Lake Superior State University (in Sault Ste. Marie) stocked 19,894 Atlantic salmon weighing 2,206 pounds into the St. Marys River.

Included in this year's total fish stocked were 3 million walleye spring fingerlings. These fish are reared in ponds by the DNR and tribal partners, with extensive support provided by local sporting organizations. These fish were stocked at 110 inland lakes and rivers and Great Lakes sites.

Also included are 14,544 Lake Sturgeon fingerlings reared at stream-side hatcheries and released in various inland and Great Lake tributary streams.

To find out where many of these fish were stocked, check out the DNR's Fish Stocking Database at michigandnr.com/fishstock.

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"Bronze" Continued from page 3

wading chest deep. A 3-5-foot leader is the ticket. Its simple mathematics if you can get more distance with your cast you cover more water equals more fish.

One more tip is to pay attention to your stripping cadence. Sometimes this will pay huge dividends. Sometimes it's just a strip, pause or a strip, strip pause. It's very important to take note how those fish want it. If they fly has been inhaled then you know your dialed in. Smallmouth Bass are very sensitive to Fall rate on lures and Flies. Pay attention to how fast your fly is sinking and this tip alone can pay huge dividends.

This time of year, produces some big smallies and 3-5lb's are very common. Don't miss out on this fishing. Spring is my favorite time of the year; nature begins a new life.

From the winters of the Great Lakes brings a new season that shall be woken, a bronze back beauty from the shallows, will give a man a renewed spirit that was broken.



“Commercial”
 Continued from page 10

falsifying records to cover it up.

There is a significant record of commercial fishing operations being bad players. Netters need to pay for this oversight. Why in the world should sportsmen and women have to pay to check commercial netters’ bad behaviors?

Another major problem is the economic devastation that happens to small towns when these areas are no longer fishing destinations for recreational anglers af-

ter netters move in. How many anglers are driving up from metro-Detroit to fish perch in Saginaw Bay now? Economically, when areas get over fished and the state begins to drop the creel limit on sport anglers, anglers then plan their vacations and days off in different places.

Small towns close their doors and become ghost towns. Au Gres saw this firsthand during the salmon crash on Lake Huron in the early 2000’s, but will be completely devastated if 30% of the total allowable catch of walleyes is given

to commercial netters.

A recent study in Ontario revealed that one Atlantic salmon was worth \$200 to the economy of the state when caught by a recreational angler while the same salmon is only worth \$10 to the state’s economy when harvested commercially.

Many restaurants initially were for more commercial netting until they discovered they weren’t going to have any customers eating breakfast or dinner during a fishing trip any longer. Finally, the Senate bill to expand commercial

netting in Michigan will greatly expand commercial licenses in Michigan up to 65. This would be a drastic increase in the number of nets in the Michigan waters of the Great Lakes. We have seen deaths from recreational boaters getting tangled in poorly marked nets. Markers are almost impossible to pick up in some conditions. We just saw a death in Monroe in October 2019 of a 51 year old gentleman who merely wanted to go fishing for the afternoon. The motor got tangled in the net and watercraft sunk quickly. The



authorities still have not found the man’s body.
 HB 4567 – 4569, as

passed in the House, will not allow commercial netters access to Michigan’s coveted game fish and will mandate commercial netters to mark nets better and provide GPS coordinates. This will save lives on the Great Lakes. It just makes sense.

A very small percentage of people want the expansion of commercial netting in Michigan. We simply cannot afford to devastate the Great Lakes again and turn our backs on the towns that share in the \$2.3 billion that recreational fishing brings to Michigan.

Let’s do the right thing and get House Bills 4567, 4568 and 4569 passed as is in the Senate and House and to the Governor’s desk. Let’s throw Senate Bill 0389 out with the garbage where it belongs.

We will be a much better Michigan for it.

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HIGH WATER TACTICS FOR SPRING STEELIES

By Jim Bedford

In late March and April you can usually count on high water from snow melt and spring rains. This might be especially true this spring since the flows were higher than normal through most of the winter. You can also figure that there will be lots of competition for our premier river sportfish, the mighty steelhead. Real keys to being successful are getting your offering to the steelhead in the high water and finding areas where the steelies are relatively undisturbed.

Mobility is obviously important. Right away you might think that a boat is the best and only way to negotiate the high water of spring and get to the steelhead. However, there



Flooded creek where the steelhead was caught

“Success”
Continued from page 9

down. The weather has the fish in a funk.

The same thing, with some changes, takes place in the winter. Several warm days followed by colder weather seems to damper the fishes hunger: They aren’t interested in eating, but if we present a bait just right, maybe they’ll take it.

Compare the fish in this mood to your mood after you’ve had a big meal. You don’t feel hungry, but you’ll nibble on something if it looks just right. You don’t feel like a whole cheeseburger, but you’ll take a sliver of pie.

When a weather front goes through and dampens the fish’s appetite, we need to give them a sliver of pie.

In open water or through the ice, when conditions get tough, we generally need to slow down. In open water, that often means that we need to go to live bait rigs worked slowly, and sometimes live bait below a slip-bobber will be even better.

Through the ice, we’re usually fishing pretty slow anyway, but we need to slow down even more. I’ve experienced situations when hand tremors put too much action on the bait. We had to rest our elbow on our knee to reduce the natural shaking that most people have if we wanted to catch fish. That was extreme, but it was real.

The most important thing to do to increase our odds for success when

are many fine steelhead streams that are too small to float. In addition, once you launch your boat you are usually committed for a fair amount of time on a particular stretch of river. This is fine if you have found the steelhead but not so hot if the angling is slow due to lack of fish. In the final analysis a floating craft is great for many situations but the wading fisherman can also negotiate the swollen rivers of spring very successfully.

Before we further discuss ways to negotiate the rivers by floating and wading let’s talk about where to find the steelies in the high water. In April these fish have only one thing on their mind and that is procreation of the species. Thus they will either be

the fish are skittish is scale down. Go to smaller baits. Genz Drop-Kick jigs tipped with live spikes or waxworms are the way to go. These jigs look tiny, but they fish big due to the tungsten they’re made of. Sometimes it works well to add just one piece of bait, sometimes several do a better job.

Also experiment with color. When the fish are finicky, a particular color can be the difference between a few bites and no bites. Vexilar sonar units operate in real-time, so you can see fish come in and look at your bait as it’s actually happening. If they look but don’t eat a couple of times, try a different color jig. Real-time is important. You want to put a different color jig down there while the fish is still in the area.

Last thing: Use a line that is invisible as possible but that you have confidence in. Ice is hard on line, so you want to be sure that, once a fish is hooked, you can get it on top of the ice. 3 pound test Floroice is tough stuff, but it’s also hard for the fish to see.

The catching part of fishing can be more difficult after a weather change, but if you keep these ideas in mind, your chances for success will increase.

To see the most current and some older episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, fishing articles and fishing videos, and to enter to win a Vexilar depth-finder, go to fishingthemidwest.com

spawning, resting near the spawning gravel, or traveling to the bedding areas.

As steelhead make their way upstream they orientate to the main flow but often swim at the edge of it in order to conserve energy. They also dodge the heavy current by hugging the bottom. When the water is real high steelhead may swim very close to the bank as they migrate.

There is a spot close to shore about a half mile downstream from the Sixth Street Dam where I have consistently hooked fish in high water. Several times steelhead have taken off in the wrong direction after making the mistake of grabbing my spinner and temporarily beached themselves. It is easy to see how this might happen when you are standing ten feet out in the river and the fish hits less than five feet from the bank.

It is important to not get locked in to thinking that steelhead will rest in the same holes and runs in high water that they do in normal flows. That perfect, five foot deep gravel run that held fish in the late fall and winter may be devoid of fish now that it is eight feet deep and the current much, much faster. As you try to intercept steelhead on their way upstream constantly watch for slack water areas right adjacent to fast flows. Keep trying these areas until you connect with a fish and then be on the watch for spots that look similar.

The traditional spawning gravel may also be empty of fish when the water is flowing through the woods. The water will just be too fast over these riffles. Sometimes the steelhead will utilize deeper gravel where the flow is slower. Fishing for these fish is very difficult because you

can rarely see them. It is best just to fish these areas blind as if they were just fishy looking runs. When you do catch a ripe fish note the exact location and make many more casts to it because there is probably an active deep redd.

High water may also

cause steelhead to spawn in areas that may end up being high and dry when the water level drops. These shallow water spawners are likely to be very spooky and hard to approach so be sneaky and keep a low profile.

Wading in high water is often difficult and there

is always the possibility of an unwelcome early spring baptism in your favorite river. However, there are a number of things that you can do to make sure you stay dry and still get into

“High Water”
Continued on page 17

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LATE ICE-FISHING ACTION

By Bob Jensen

The groundhog in Pennsylvania that predicts an early spring or extended winter recently emerged and didn't see his shadow. That would suggest that spring will arrive early this year. Statistics indicate that Phil the Groundhog is right about 40 percent of the time. If recent weather is any indicator, it would appear that the groundhog is going to be right this year. Some of us look forward to late ice-fishing because it can be so good. I think that March in the upper Midwest is my favorite month for ice-fishing. The days are longer, the weather isn't as cold, and the fish become willing biters. Following are some things to keep in mind to catch more fish through the ice until the end of the ice season.

First, be safe. Ice conditions can change quickly. Ice that was safe on Monday might not be safe on Friday. It might not even be safe later that day. I remember a day a few years ago on a large Minnesota lake when we had to improvise on our exit strategy. The ice at the landing where we drove on in the morning was no longer safe late in the day and we had to use another landing several miles away. Pay attention to ice conditions.

Also keep close tabs on the regulations. Some

states close walleye season in February, some states let you fish walleyes year 'round. Some areas of some states allow walleye fishing all year while other areas of the state close the season for a while. Know where you are and what is allowed.

Early and late in the day will be when the bite is often best, but plenty of fish can be taken at mid-day. Often though, presentations will need to be altered.

If perch, walleyes, or crappies are the goal, start off with larger baits, something like a Pinhead Mino or Leech Flutter Spoon in an appropriate size: Eighth ounce and bigger for walleyes, and smaller for perch and crappies: Start with the eighth ounce size, but expect sixteenth to be most productive much of the time.

As the day progresses, the bite can get tougher. The additional light can shut fishing off a bit, but some very successful ice-anglers believe that the noise as more anglers get on the ice pushes the fish away from structure or just shuts them off. If you're seeing fish on the sonar, try down-sizing. For perch or crappies, tie on a little Drop-Kick Jig tipped with a waxworm or spike. I like to have a rod spooled

"Action"

Continued on page 16



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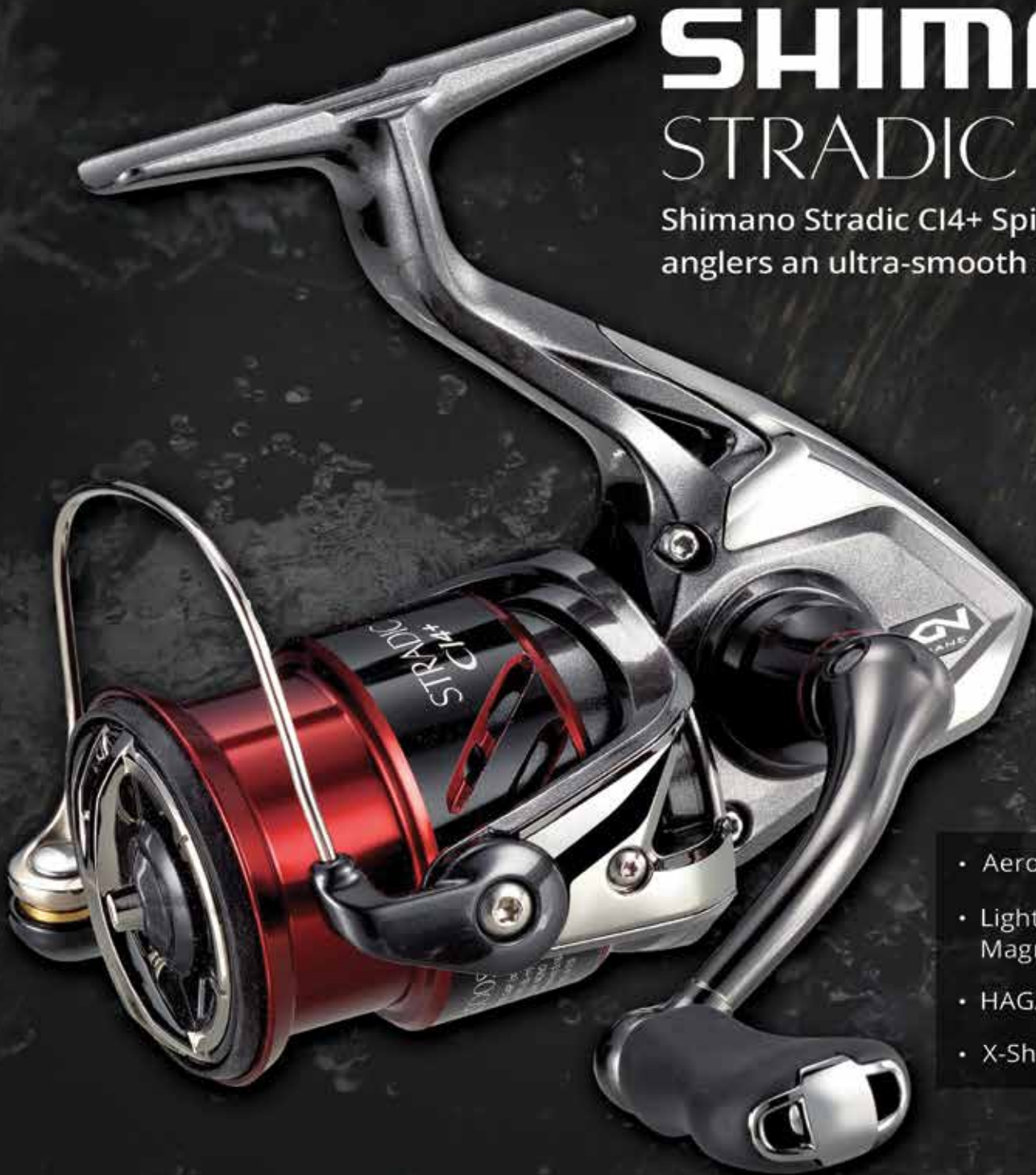
Chris Scholl caught this channel catfish through the ice on Clear Lake in north central Iowa in March a couple of years ago.

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“Action” Continued on page 16

up with two or three pound test Florioce line for these finesse presentations. If walleyes are acting uninterested in the spoons, try a hook/splitshot/minnow under a slip-bobber on one rod and an eighth ounce jig with a minnow on another rod. Six pound test line will often get more bites than eight pound test for walleyes.

One of my very successful ice-fishing friends says that in March there are lots of bugs and worms hatching on the bottom of the lake, and that we should use baits that mimic those food sources.

Another very successful ice-fishing friend confirms that bug-life is hatching on the lake bottom, and the fish see so much of that bug-life that they like something that looks different.

The month of March signals to most of us that the end of another ice-fishing season is in sight. It also signals some of the best ice-action of the year for many of us. Find out for yourself how good ice-fishing can be in March.

To see recent and older episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, fishing video tips, and fishing articles from the past, visit fishingthemidwest.com

"High Water"

Continued from page 13

position to catch the king of the river.

First, proper fit should be a high priority when you don a pair of waders. Try to find a pair that is long enough in the leg so that they don't bind when you step over logs and the like. Maximum freeboard is also important which means that they should extend all the way to your armpits. Neoprene waders usually provide lots of freeboard and they also have the advantage of less water resistance. The lowered drag is accomplished by a much tighter fit which is

possible because the material stretches. They are also much warmer than regular canvas or breathable models and their buoyancy is an added safety factor if you happen to take a tumble.

Obviously keeping a firm grip on the bottom of the river is necessary when maneuvering in the high waters of spring. For sandy bottoms the regular rubber cleated boots are the first choice. If slippery rocks are involved you may want to consider felt soles or cleats.

When wading in high water always remember the cardinal rule for staying dry--have one foot firmly planted before taking

each step. If the current is strong keep sideways to the flow in order to minimize the water resistance. Wade slowly with a shuffle step so that your legs never become crossed. Don't underestimate the power of the current and don't wade past your center of gravity, which is usually just up from your hips. Only wade deeper than your waist when the water is slow moving.

For me, a wading staff is essential for negotiating our steelhead rivers in the spring. It acts as both the third leg of a tripod for stability and as probe to find obstacles and measure water depth ahead. With

a wading staff the cardinal rule is extended to always having at least two parts of the tripod firmly planted on the bottom. You won't need your staff all the time so attach it to your wading belt with a strong cord and just let it float in the water behind you when not in use.

When you are going to cross a strong flowing stream try to plan a path that angles downstream. This will keep you from having to fight the current as you cross the river and in some instances the flow can actually help you get to the other side. Use your wading staff to aid your crossing and keep it on your upstream side and lean into it.

If you put it downstream of you the current tends to lift it up off of the bottom.

For medium and large streams the answer to the high waters of spring is often a boat. This can be a simple cartopper, a specialized drift boat, or on the larger rivers, a jet sled. The motorized craft have the advantage in that they can be run upstream against the current. It must be remembered though, that there are lots of hazards under the water that will be difficult to see in stained or turbid water. So, the watch word is slow when motoring up a steelhead stream in spring flood.

When floating or drifting it is important to preplan the trip so that you get to your destination in the day light. An easy way to do this is float the stretch with a guide first so that you can learn some check points and the timing between them. You will also learn a lot about where the fish lie in that piece of water.

A good anchoring system is important when floating a river anytime and can be especially critical to success during high water periods. The savvy boat fisherman employs both the typical bottom anchors and some brush clips. This way you will be able to get your boat in the proper position in just about any possible situation.

Near the mouths of some of our steelhead rivers it is possible to combine waders with a floating craft. If the current is very slow, which it often is often the case when the rivers spread out into marsh before entering a drowned rivermouth lake or a Great Lake, then a personal water craft can get you to the fish. It is critical that you scout the water first before using one of these outfits because they have no place where there are strong currents combined with log jams.

In addition to providing a way to get from point A to point B on a river a boat enables you to usually get close to the holding water. An exception might occur when strong currents prevent you from anchoring the boat.

The wading angler, however, frequently must make long casts to reach the fish. Smaller line diameter, either through a lighter test or one of new super thin polymers will help you

cast farther. Heavier lures or more sinkers can also help but these modifications may make it hard to make a good presentation once your offering makes it to the holding water.

Both floaters and waders must contend with getting their offerings down to the bottom hugging steelhead in high flows. For the drift angler this usually means more split shot or longer pencil lead. Another way to get your spawn sack or drift lure down in deep water is to cast farther upstream so that it will have more time to get down to where the steelies are lurking. Slip floats will allow you to reach the depths while still being castable.

Lure tossers can also anticipate the deep holding runs and cast well upstream. As the lure is slowly retrieved with current it will keep getting deeper. Another tactic is to allow the lure to sink for a moment before beginning the retrieve.

Plug pullers will want to get out their deeper diving models when the water is high. It is also important to select plugs that will wobble and track well in very strong currents.

Regardless of which type of lure or bait you present to the steelhead make sure it is highly visible. Select lures with real silver plating and bright fluorescent colors. Add glow yarn to your spawn sacks or skein spawn to make it more visible as well. For artificial drift lures and flies and for plugs held in the current adding scents will often help the steelhead zero in on your offering.

Cover is usually very important to migrating steelhead but it becomes less critical when the water is high and colored. However, the logs and boulders that provide cover also block the current flow. Thus, accurate casts that present your lures or baits close to these obstacles will still pay off in silver bullets on the end of your line.

Steelhead remain very catchable when the water is high. It is you, the angler, that must adapt to these different conditions and make the right presentation of your offering. So be prepared for the high water this spring and have a great time tangling with our most exciting river game fish, the steelhead.



Tony Pagliei admires high water spring steelhead.

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2020 Battle Creek Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
March	7	St. Joe River Chapter Challenge	Sand Bar
March	21	Kalamazoo River Spring Steelhead	Allegan Dam
April	4	Lake Michigan Coho Blast	Benton Harbor
April	18	Trip Swap	We Go Over There
May	2	Trip Swap	They Come Here
May	23	Lake Michigan Spring Tournament	Benton Harbor
May	29-30	Connie McGowan Invitational (Captain Must Be A Member)	Lake Erie
July	18	Portage Lake Panfish/Family Picnic	Vicksburg
August	1	Lake Michigan Memorial	South Haven
August	15	Veterans Outing	South Haven
October	10	Perch Tournament	Lake Erie
October	24	Kalamazoo River Salmon Slam	Allegan Dam
October	31	Kalamazoo River Memorial	Allegan Dam
November	14	Kalamazoo River Trout Quest	Allegan Dam
November	28	St. Joe River Fall Steelhead	I-94 Boat Ramp
December	5	St. Joe River Chapter Challenge	Babes Lounge
December	12	Christmas Party	Kalamazoo Eagles
Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting NEW Location: Travelers Cafe and Pub, 5225 Portage Rd. Exit 78 off I-94.			
FOR MORE INFORMATION: River Tournaments – Ice Tournaments – Justin Kling 491-2980 Lake Tournaments – Greg Peck 998-9407 battlecreeksteelheaders.com			

2020 Grand Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Contact Info
January 1 - Nov. 30		GH Steelheaders' Year Long Fishing Contest	
January 1 - Nov. 20		GH Steelheaders' Youth Fishing Contest	
April	16	Spring meeting and program, Grand Haven VFW; 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. program	
July 31 - Aug. 13		Weeklong+ member fishing contest	
August	13	Chapter Member Picnic, Rycenga Park, Spring Lake Township	
September	12	Sportsmen for Youth Day, Muskegon County Fairgrounds	
September	19	Grand Haven Salmon Festival, KidZone Activity area	
December	TBD	Annual dinner, recognitions	
Other Events TBD For information on these events and other information on the Grand Haven Steelheaders contact GHS President and State Director Paul Zelenka at pbzfarms@gmail.com www.ghsteelheaders.com			

2020 Grand Rapids Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
March	2	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
March	14-21	Spring River Week Long Contest	STC
March	19-22	Ultimate Sports Show	DeVos Place
March	19-21	Ultimate Sports Show Fishing Contest	DeVos Place
March	30	Membership Meeting	7 PM (Social Hour 6 PM)
March	31	2019 Year Long Fish Contest Ends	
April	1	2020 Year Long Fish Contest Starts	
April	6	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
April	27	Membership Meeting	7 PM (Social Hour 6 PM)
May	2	Spring Big Lake	STC
May	4	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
May	18	Membership Meeting	7 PM (Social Hour 6 PM)
May	30	Steelheaders Free Kids Fishing Derby	
June	1	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
June	5-7	Lake Erie 3-Day Walleye Contest	
June	29	Membership Meeting	7 PM (Social Hour 6 PM)
July	6	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
July	15	Chapter Family Picnic**	6 PM, Johnson Park Shelter House
August	1	Fall Big Lake	STC
August	3	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
August	31	Membership Meeting	7 PM (Social Hour 6 PM)
September	14	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
September	28	Membership Meeting	7 PM (Social Hour 6 PM)
October	1	Chapter Sponsored Buck Contest Begins**	
October	12	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
October	24	Fall River Contest	STC
October	26	Membership Meeting	7 PM (Social Hour 6 PM)
November	2	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
November	7	Fishing Partners Manistee Contest	STC
November	23	Membership Meeting	7 PM (Social Hour 6 PM)
November	30	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
December	7	Chapter Family Christmas Party	6 PM, Diamond Hall
STC* = Date subject to change ** = Members and Family Only. (All other events open to the public)			

2020 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
March	3	6:00/7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
March	21	Setup 8:30am Viewing 11:00am Auction 12:00pm	Annual Auction Fund Raiser	VFW Hall/Mid-land
April	4	Daylight - 1:00 pm	Big Man, Bear Creek	
April	7	6:00/7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
May	2	7:00am – 1:00pm	Linwood Beach Walleye	
May	5	6:00/7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
May	16	5:30am-1:00pm	South Haven Salmon	
May	30	7:00am – 1:00pm	Linwood Beach Walleye	
June	2	6:00/7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
June	13	7:00am – 1:00pm	Sebewaing Walleye Kids Outing	
June	14	7:00am – 12:00pm	Outing Day 2	
June	27	7:00am – 1:00pm	Standish Walleye	
July	11	6:00am - 1:00 pm	Manistee Salmon	
July	25	6:00am - 1:00 pm	Ludington Salmon	
August			NO Board/Membership Meeting	
August	8	6:00am – 1:00pm	Ludington Salmon (Day 1)	
August	9	6:00am – 12:00pm	Ludington Salmon (Day 2)	
August	22	6:00am – 1:00pm	Manistee Salmon (Day 1)	
August	23	6:00am – 12:00pm	Manistee Salmon (Day 2)	
September	8	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
September	12	6:30am – 1:00pm	Frankfort Salmon	
October	6	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
November	3	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting	VFW Hall
November	7	Daylight – 1:00pm	Big Man. Little Man. Bear Cr.	
December	5	Daylight – 1:00pm	Big Man., Bear Creek	
December	1	6:00 / 7:15	Board meeting only	VFW Hall
December	12	Cocktails 5:00 Dinner 6:00	Christmas Awards Banquet K of C Hall, Auburn 4760 Garfield Rd. Auburn, Mi 48611	
Membership meetings held at: 3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642 989-496-3410				
All Board/Membership meetings begin with Board at 6:00 pm. Membership meetings follow at 7:15 pm. Board only meetings begin at 7:00pm.				
We ask that you please call the Port Chairman <u>no later than</u> Monday prior to the event as to whether you plan on attending or not attending. On the day of the event call in on Marine Radio, Channel 72 or cell phone for the Port Chairman. Weigh-in follows each outing. Picnics follow weigh-in on Saturdays only.				
Outings: All Steelheader members pay \$5.00. All non-Steelheaders pay \$10.00 to participate. <i>Children 16 and younger are free. Picnic is \$5.00 for everyone.</i>				

2020 Holland Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
March	2	Board Meeting
April	6	Board Meeting
April	23	General Membership Meeting
May	4	Board Meeting
May	12	Tuesday Night League Kickoff
May	16	Holland Steelheaders Spring Challenge
June	1	Board Meeting
June	6	Holland Steelheaders All Species Tournament
June	13	Kids N' Kings
July	6	Board Meeting
July	11	Veterans Fishing Outing
July	23	General Membership Meeting
July	25	Holland Steelheaders Summer Challenge
July 31 - August 2		Big Red Classic
August	3	Board Meeting
August	15	Holland Stelheaders Ladies Tournament
September	1	Tuesday Night League Final Night
September	14	Board Meeting
October	5	Board Meeting
November	2	Board Meeting
December	3	General Membership Meeting
December	5	Holland Steelheaders River Tournament
December	7	Board Meeting
Board meetings held at: Turks of Holland, 977 Butternut Dr., Holland MI 49424 7:00 PM General Membership: Bayshore Yacht Club, 1862 Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland MI 49424. Doors open at 6 pm., Dinner at 7 pm, speaker to follow		
For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jeremy Erdman 616-510-9405, or email Steve Weatherwax at <i>Waxer1221@Yahoo.com</i>		

2020 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event / Location	Chair
March	3	General Membership Meeting	
March	12 – 15	Novi Boat Show	Bob Schulz
March	14	SPORTSMAN’S BANQUET – Burton Manor	MWS Board
March	28	MI Steelhead Challenge Manistee River/Pier w DS	Adam Trenz/Eric Braden
April	4	New Buffalo Coho Tournament	Dave Hutton/Dennis Cheshure
April	4	Muskegon River Tournament	Phil Bustos
April	7	General Membership Meeting	
April	18	Clinton River Clean Up	Jay Labban
April	25	Detroit River/Lake Erie & St Clair Walleye Invitational	Bill Gagnon/Eric Braden
May	2	Benton Harbor Coho Tournament	Dave Zawacki/Kirk Traver
May	3	Benton Harbor Coho Tournament	Marc & Kirk Traver
May	5	General Membership Meeting	
May	16	Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament Sat	Chris Thompson/Kruszewski

2020 Metro West - Livonia ...continued			
Month	Date	Event / Location	Chair
May	16	Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament Sat	Chris Thompson/Kruszewski
May	17	Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament Sun	Roger Parlett
May	16	Bruin Lake Kayak/Small Boat	Chuck Davis
May	30	Toledo Beach Memorial Walleye/Muskegon Lk Kayak	Bob Schulz & Braden/Childs
June	2	General Membership Meeting	
June	6	Kids Fishing Outing at Kensington Park	Brad Allan
June	6	Lake Erie Brest Bay Walleye Tournament	Len Wood
June	13	Grand/South Haven Salmon Pier Event	Eric Braden
June	27	Walleye Tournament (Saginaw Bay or L. Erie)	Fabian Sepulveda
June	27	Big Rapids Kayak	Jason Jones
July	7	Club Summer Picnic	Jim Robertson/Dave Zawacki
July	11	Flint River Kayak	Jason Jones
July	16	Erieau Tournament – Thur. Erieau, Canada	Clyde Schoen
July	18	Erieau Tournament – Sat. Erieau, Canada	Ron Bellemore/Henry Nabors
July	18	McCollum Small Boat/Kayak	Catherine Withrow
July	25	Manistee River Cleanup Day @ High Bridge	Roger Hinchcliff
July	30	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Thursday	Gale Frazee/Tom Abdelnour
July	31	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Format tbd	Marc Traver/Dave Hutton
August	1	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Saturday	Dave Zawacki/Dennis Henderson
August	2	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sun	Dennis Kelley
August	4	General Membership Meeting	
August	8	Clinton River Cleanup Day/Betsie River Kayak	Jay Labban/Eric Braden
August	13	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Thu	Richard Spangler
August	15	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sat	Henry Nabors/Dave Hutton
August	16	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sun	Marc Traver
August	22	Lake/Pier/River/Kayak Tournament – Frankfort	Robert Grech / Eric Braden / P. Bustos
August	23	Salmon Tournament – Frankfort	Bill Dodge
September	1	General Membership Meeting	
	12	Frankfort River/Kayak/SB	Phil Bustos/Eric Braden
	19	Muskegon Kayak Salmon	Keith Childs/Eric Braden
	19	Manistee River & Kayak Pier Tournaments	Adam Trenz/Eric Braden
October	21	Captain/Crew/River Angler 2021 Calendar Mtg	Kelley/P. Bustos/Nabors/ Zawacki
	3	Manistee Lake/River (Steelhead) Tournaments	Dodge/Hutton/Sepulveda
	6	General Membership Meeting	
	10	Ohio Steelhead Alley (River & Kayak) (incl Elk Creek P.A.)	Phil Bustos/Eric Braden
November	3	General Membership Meeting	
	7	Manistee River/Pier/Shore Tournaments w DS	Dave Zawacki/Eric Braden/ Adam Trenz
December	21	PM River or Betsie River Tournament	Jordan Pontoni
	1	CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
	12	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: President Larry Tabaka 313-215-8979 / Membership Director Henry Nabors 248-225-4964			

2020 South Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
2020 Calendar of South Haven Steelheaders Chapter Events			
March	26	Best Chance Fishing Seminar	South Haven Moose Lodge
April	16	Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop	South Haven Moose Lodge
May	15	South Haven Tournament Captains Meeting	South Haven Moose Lodge
May	16-17	South Haven Pro Am Tournament	
June	13	SHS Ladies Tournament	
August	8	SHS Fish Boil (Blueberry Festival August 6-9th)	
August	15	SHS Operation Injured Soldier/SH Salute to Veterans	
August	22	SHS Merle Morris Tournament	
November	28	SHS River Tournament	
December	5 or 12	SHS Holiday Party 2020	
2020 South Haven Steelheaders Membership Meeting Dates			
Note: All membership meetings are held the third Thursday of each month except for March (4th Thursday). Meetings are held at the South Haven Moose Lodge, 1025 East Wells Street, South Haven, MI 49090 Membership meetings start at 7:00pm. For more information email: president@southhavensteelheaders.com			
March	26	Best Chance Fishing Seminar	South Haven Moose Lodge
April	16	Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop	Dr. Dan O’Keefe presenting
May	14	Prior to SHS Pro/Am - Captain’s Meeting	
June	18	Captain’s Meeting	
July	16	Captain’s Meeting	
August	20	Captain’s Meeting	
September	17	Captain’s Meeting	
October	15	Captain’s Meeting	
November	4	Pro Am Tournament Committee Kick-off meeting	
November	19	Captain’s Meeting	
NO DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING, due to Holiday Party			

Join a Chapter, Join the Fun!

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

2020 Southwest MI Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Date	Day	Event	Information	Location
March	12	Membership Meeting	Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
April	9	Membership Meeting	Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
May	7-9	Summer Challenge Tournament		www.fishthesummerchallenge.com
June	11	Membership Meeting	Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
July	9	Membership Meeting	Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
August	13	Membership Meeting	Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
August	22	Trolling with the Troops		www.trollingwiththetroops.com
September	10	Membership Meeting	Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
October	8	Membership Meeting	Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
November	12	Membership Meeting	Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
December	5	Winter Challenge Tournament		St. Joseph River
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				

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

2020 Thumb Chapter Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Event	Location / Information
March	19	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
April	16	6:00 PM	Michigan Sea Grant Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
May	2	6:00 PM	Can2Can Fishing Tournament	Need Workers!
May	21	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
Rossman-USGS Prey Study for Lake Huron				
Tentative date	May 30	5:30 PM	Fish Fry	Ubly Foxhunters
June	13	6:00 AM	Veterans fishing outing	Harbor Beach Marina, Contact Kevin Ramsey for details
June	18	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters, President from MSSFA coming to meet club
Jill Wingfield-Great Lakes Fishery Commission				
July	16	7:30	Ladies Night Meeting - Painting with a twist	
August	20	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters
Dave Fielder-MDNR Saginaw Bay Walleye Models				
August	23	2:00 PM	Pork Roast	Harbor Beach VFW
September	17	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters, Nominations for board members and officers
October	15	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubly Foxhunters, Election of Board/Officers
November			No Meeting	
December			No Meeting	
Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries.				

2020 Thunderbay Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Time	Information
TBD			
Contact Dan Bouchard at dan-bouchard@hotmail.com for inquiries.			

2020 White River Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Event information	Location
March	5	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
April	2	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
May	7	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
June	4	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
July			No Meeting	
August	6	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
September	3	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
October	1	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
November	5	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
December	3	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
Note: Meeting dates and times are subject to change – Any questions or to verify dates/times please call Clint Pollock at (231) 893-0210 or Terry Clark at (231) 893-6805.				



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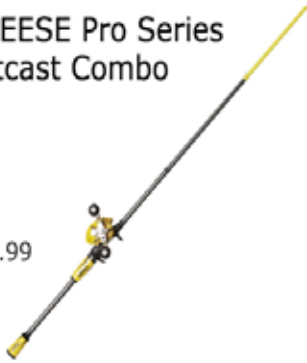
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