



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

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Catch More Fish This Year

By Bob Jensen

The open water fishing season of 2022 has arrived. In some areas across the Midwest regulations limit us to the fish species that we can catch, but in other areas most species are fair game. In areas where seasons are open year 'round, anglers are already out there chasing walleyes, northern pike, bass, and panfish. The next few weeks are very popular and productive times for an angler to get on the water in search of fishing action. If those anglers keep the next few ideas in mind, they will be more successful in that search.

Fish of any species that I know of have two priorities in life: They spawn and they eat. The spawn for some species is just starting and is a couple of weeks or months away for other species. When the fish complete the spawning ritual, they go through a period of recuperation, and after that, all they think about is eating. They'll spend much of their time looking for the next meal. The predator fish will be near baitfish or crawdads or bugs or whatever they eat in the body of water being

fished. Fish where the food is and you'll be fishing near the predator fish.

Next thing to keep in mind: Don't get locked into one particular technique. There are lots of ways to catch fish. You can use live bait or artificial bait. You can cast, troll, or drift. You can move your lure fast or slow. The key is, try different things until the fish show you what they want.

Also, be willing to chase different species of fish. Most lakes and rivers are home to several types of fish. There are times when some species of fish are more willing to bite than others. If the walleyes aren't willing to play along, tie on a bass bait or a panfish bait. It's important to have a plan in place when you hit the water, but it's also important to switch to Plan B if Plan A isn't working. If the type of fish you're after isn't cooperating, try catching something else. It's a lot more fun to catch a bunch of bass than to not catch walleyes.

Remember that river

"Catch"
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Kabetogama Lake guide Travis Carlson with an early season walleye. Kab produces big walleyes and lots of eaters early in the year.



Photo from Google image search: Summer Steelhead

Summer Steelhead & Water Temperature

By Jim Bedford

The spring steelhead run is winding down when you receive this issue of GLSFN and it's time to think about the next run of fish. Summer steelhead can run as early as late May and usually begin their migration in earnest in mid to late June.

A thermometer is an important tool for Michigan river anglers, especially those that chase trout and salmon. It is put to use during all four seasons as we try to find water temperatures best suited to our quarry and the time of year. In the winter and spring we are usually looking for warmer water while in the summer and early fall the reverse is true. There is no season or species where knowing the water temperature is more important than when you are after summer steelhead.

Many years ago a friend told me about encountering a summer steelhead in a very small trout stream in southern Allegan County. We returned to explore the stream that the trout brook emptied into, the Middle Branch of the Black River. On an August afternoon with the air temperature in the low 80s we found the Middle Branch to be a cool 65 degrees. We eagerly

split up to fish adjacent sections from bridge to bridge. A mix of summer steelhead and large northern pike hammered our lures and we had a great time even though we landed less than half the fish we hooked.

No summer steelhead have ever been planted in this Black River or in the South Haven harbor where it joins Lake Michigan. Water temperature may have been one of the reasons they show up in this stream periodically. Indiana plants a large numbers of summer steelhead in the St. Joseph River because it is the state's only large tributary to Lake Michigan. The fact that for much of the summer this river is too warm for steelhead and the characteristic that Skamania strain steelhead don't seem to home in on their planted stream as well as other steelhead explains why these summer runs stray into other streams.

When the water temperature in the St. Joseph stays in the 60s you can have good success fishing below each of the dams. Berrien Springs usually provides the best fishing but you can also have good success below the Niles and Buchanan dams as well. At normal low summer water levels you can wade below each of the dams. How-

ever, launching a boat will always give you access to water you can't reach in your waders.

With the inevitable rise in the water temperature the steelhead that have run the St. Joe in July or August will seek cooler water. Tributary streams provide these respites. If the feeder creek is small often the steelhead will hold off the mouth of the creek or just enter the first pool or two if there is sufficient depth. Love, Lemon, and Farmer's Creeks and Big Meadow Drain are examples of the small cool inflows below Berrien Springs.

There are two cold tributaries that join the St. Joseph below Berrien Springs that are large enough to draw steelhead well upstream into them. Hickory Creek joins the St. Joe from the south just few miles upstream from Lake Michigan and Pipestone Creek, which joins the St. Joe about three river miles up from I-94 are both designated trout streams with resident browns present. Summer steelhead will remain in the lower reaches of these creeks until the weather cools in September. Fishing in the St. Joseph off the mouths of these streams can also be very productive.

The Dowagiac River is a

good sized trout stream that joins the St. Joe in Niles. A dam about two miles north of Niles no longer blocks the fish from moving further upstream. There is plenty of room for all styles of fishing in this river.

Nearby cool rivers also receive summer steelhead that stray from their stocked river. The Galien River joins Lake Michigan in New Buffalo, about 25 miles south of the St. Joe. The mainstream of this river is not a lot colder than the St. Joe but its south branch definitely is cooler. Resident brown trout are present in the South Branch of the Galien and most of the summer steelhead that enter the Galien make a right turn at the forks. About the same distance to the north the aforementioned Black River flows into Lake Michigan at South Haven. This river also branches a short distance upstream from its mouth and the Middle Branch attracts most of the steelhead.

The same cool weather

"Summer"
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Search groups for MSSFA

Grand Haven Steelheaders Support Girl Scouts Fishing Education



In July 2019 the Grand Haven Steelheaders gave a donation of \$250 to the Michigan Shore to Shore Girl Scout Council. The funding was designated to help the Council’s program coordinator develop a program for girls and troop leaders to learn to fish. Activities took place at Girl Scout properties including the Betsy Cutler House in Muskegon and Camp Anna Behrens in Greenville. The funds were enabled the purchase equipment to be used by girls and troop leaders with varying skill levels. The expanded fishing program began in spring 2020.

Early October, 2020 the Council hosted a fishing program for about 20 girls. The girls had a great time! The Council also purchased a Backyard Bass Angler Education Set for use by girls and leaders.

The Council recently spent the last \$50 of the donation from the Grand Haven Steelheaders. They purchased gear and bait for girls to ice fish on Lake Lester (the lake by their camp in Greenville) during a Winter Fun Day event. Ice fishing received high marks from the scouts on the event’s evaluation.



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MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dennis Eade



The proposed state supplemental budget appropriation which 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) and another \$652,000 to hire four staff for the Tribal Coordination Unit, has run into a road block in the house appropriations committee with Chairman Tom Albert (517-373-0846) and Rep. Sue Allor (517-373-0833) not on board. I testified at the Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing in Lansing on March 15th and it went well. Unfortunately, we need to reach out to Rep. Albert and Rep. Allor to make sure they get behind this historic investment in needed infrastructure improvements within the department. This will set us up for the next forty years of research, rearing and effective management of the resource. Calling your own representative will help as well so refer to the Legislative Action Alert notice on page 13 of March/April issue of GLSFN or look for it in the new edition to use the quick response code link to find your legislator's phone number.

The tribal negotiations are continuing with in person meetings scheduled for April 19th and 20th in Lansing. Our attorneys are participating within the guidelines of the "Friend of the Court" requirements. There is a status conference scheduled for later in April with Judge Maloney.

The Lake Huron Citizens Advisory Committee met February 1st on Teams. The minutes are posted on our website. The state was over the allowable harvest level for lake trout in MM-4 (Grand Traverse) in 2018 that resulted in a 2019 penalty. Lake Trout jigging continues to be popular, and anglers are concerned that the allowable harvest could



Capt. Hunter Engel explains the importance of speed and presentation when trolling for big kings on Lake Michigan.

be exceeded again because of the 41% hooking mortality that is applied. 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. I personally believe that regulations aren't the answer to wild trout recruitment; improving habitat, investing in dam removals to restore trout habitats and lower stream temperatures, en-

couraging 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. However, the duration of the regulation isn't consequential and the regulation will do no harm. The broader question is what effect will be limiting the bag limit to one steelhead per day have on effort? Will steelhead fishers travel any distance to these streams only to be able to harvest one steelhead? We are going to see how this plays out.

The Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Committee met April 5th in Clare, MI and on Teams. My take

aways were that adult alewife abundance continues to be low but stable for the past 6 years, there was a better alewife year class, which may be like the 2016 class and Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, and Walleye are all increasing in the nearshore areas while yellow perch continue to be low in numbers. Steelhead mass marking data show 33 to 45% wild fish in Lake Michigan. Average movement of a steelhead is 158 miles. Whitefish continue to decline in 1836 Ceded Waters while Green Bay populations continue to increase due to the nutrient runoff coming from farms in the lower Fox River basin. In 2023, Michigan will pursue a stocking increase of Chinook up to 1 million.

Salmonid effort was down to 556,000 angler hours, which is significantly lower than the goal of 1 million, and the catch rate for Chinook salmon was up in 2021 to 0.083 Chinook per hour.

Kudos to the organizers of the Steelhead Spectacular Seminar Event at D&R Sports Center in Kalamazoo, MI on February 19, 2022. Four great presenters, door prizes, excellent raffle prizes, delicious barbeque luncheon and tons of useful information. All the proceeds went to MSSFA program underwriting. Special shout out to Paul Zelenka, Don Remington, Joe Montella, Alex Fergus, Dave Middleton, Jeff Root and Becky Goettl for all the planning and hard work

putting it together. It's time to think about recommissioning our boats for the spring Coho and Chinook run in the southwest portion of Lake Michigan or the walleye run in Lake Erie. We have a great article in this issue of GLSFN to guide you through the process.

Meetings are recommending and tournaments are right around the corner. The Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources is having a summer-long raffle to help offset the cost of being at the table for the Tribal Negotiations. Look for their table set up at the Tournament Trail Events and get in on the action.



Legislative Action Alert

The administration's proposed MDNR'S budget for the coming year is a once in a lifetime opportunity 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 upgrades to the six hatcheries and survey equipment have not been done in decades. An overview of the proposed 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.

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Opinions...

Editor's Note:

In the March/April issue GLSFN published an article in support of using regulation changes to address the decline in Steelhead numbers from the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council. GLSFN welcomed counter opinions as to whether regulation change should be the tool used to address the decline in Steelhead numbers. Two knowledgeable contributors offered their opinions.

New Steelhead Limits

By Don Calhoun

The last GLSFN issue solicited additional input regarding the State of Michigan's new Lake Michigan steelhead limits. As a former State President of MSSFA (1982-84), it's prior Stream Committee Chairperson, a big lake troller and a river rat angler, the following is my perspective on the crisis facing our Lake Michigan steelhead fishery. This writer's views only address the new limit.

Regardless who is to blame for the present dilemma, there is plenty of user/special interest groups who share in where we are today. The crux of the problem is not limiting the stream catch in specific streams/month(s), but limiting the entire steelhead catch. Where were the NRC, DNR, Fisheries Division personnel and specific user groups when it did not also consider the big-lake catch? Why should there be different season/limit if we are concerned about the steelhead fishery? What is the difference between steelhead being harvested in the big lake or in the stream? Why wasn't the total catch addressed?

The management of the steelhead fishery is inter-dependent upon both river and big lake waters. Arbitrarily, selecting one body of water and not taking into the account the other seems short-sighted.

In the early 1980's the Michigan Steelheaders Stream Committee and its State Board of Directors proposed and supported a 3 fish-specie total of a 5 fish limit instead of the previous 5 any-fish limit. This was supported by many, including Lake Michigan charter boat captains. Even at the height of our fishery we realized then that the resource was not unlimited.

Today, we have a number of big lake trollers and captains targeting spring and late- fall steelhead waters. One cannot watch a television fishing show, You Tube or social media platform without noticing the numbers of steelhead on fish boards/coolers. During summer months there are a few captains who venture out to the scum line and target steelhead by plying their fly tackle or trolling their flat lines in these highly productive steelhead waters.

If and when we have another salmon big lake fishery collapse, the only choice for the boat troller/captain is to target the lake trout or steelhead again. Our steelhead population cannot afford another salmon collapse.

Where were the special interest groups (MSSFA, MUCC & TU) when this proposal was submitted? Why didn't these organizations/leaders see the whole picture regarding the health and future of our steelhead fishery? I know that the river guides of Michigan supported this new season/limit, but why should we view only these specific river waters.

These new NRC limits refer only to the Muskegon River and a handful of rivers north. Why not the Grand and Betsie River and additional northern rivers? Is natural reproduction able to sustain the steelhead fishery in the non-designated rivers? The decline of the steelhead fishery is not just in the northern half of the big lake, but also the hatchery steelhead plants of southern Lake Michigan.

The men and women of our fishery division are respected professionals, but like all interested user groups, we have all been slow to address the declining steelhead population. The anadromous fishery is a complex and multi-facet resource that the department is trying to manage, but in my opinion, the steelhead is not receiving the attention it needs. This may be as a result of funding, facilities, or personnel, but without updated/current data, the fisheries division is playing catch up. With limited scientific data the above three-mention government agencies came up with this new steelhead season limit. This alone will not have a big impact on the returning numbers.

Another concern I have is that the NRC, DNR and Fisheries Division will spend time, energy and monies on selective niche fishery projects (Grayling, Coasters, Splake and Atlantic Salmon), but continues to not embrace a Skamania summer steelhead fishery.

Steelhead Regulations in Perspective

By David P. Borgeson

In order to put today's steelhead regulations in perspective, it is important to reflect on some history. From 1950 to 1965 invasive sea lampreys were abundant throughout the Great Lakes, commercial gill-netting was at high levels, the size limit on trout was 7-inches, the creel limit was 15 or 10, and, on all but a few streams, the season was the last Saturday in April to the week-end after Labor Day. There were well-worn paths along the heavily fished trout streams of the state and juvenile steelhead over 7-inches were routinely harvested.

Once juvenile steelhead smolts left their native streams and entered the Great Lakes, steelhead were hard hit by lamprey predation and commercial netting so that adult spawning runs were dominated by fish under 20 inches. Five pounders were unusual and ten pounders news-worthy. 1965 marked the completion of the first round of lamprey control on Great Lakes tributary streams and in 1966, the year I was recruited from the West Coast to become Michigan's Trout and Salmon Specialist, the first coho salmon plants were released. By then commercial netting had been cut back and the invasive alewife dominated the Great Lake fish populations. This meant that the young salmon, as well as the 1965- and 1966-year classes of steelhead smolts, were under much reduced mortality at sea and had a bountiful food supply.

In 1967 salmon returns caused an instantaneous and explosive transformation to open-water fishing on the Great Lakes. The 1968 steelhead run that sprung from the 1965 and 1966 smolt production was a modern-day record as spectacular and unprecedented as the salmon runs themselves both in size and numbers. Steelhead adults ranged from 10 to 19 pounds as did the salmon, sizes twice that commonly reached in the Pacific. It is important to note that these fish came from eggs deposited by adults that had been decimated by lampreys and gill-netting and juveniles that were legal game for trout fishermen.

After 1968 many trout fishermen switched to salmon and steelhead fishing and the streamside paths began to disappear. Trout size limits were soon increased to ten-inches for rainbows and the creel limit reduced to five with no more than 3 over 15-inches thus reducing fishing mortality on juvenile steelhead. With the increase in size and abundance of adult spawners, eggs deposited and potential recruitment increased substantially. Most spawning areas remained closed until the last Saturday in April but seasons on lower reaches of rivers were liberalized. Michigan and all other Great Lakes agencies began rapidly increased stocking of steelhead and salmon. This resulted in lake-wide increases in the open-water catch and in-stream harvest.

After 1970 the implementation of The Clean Water Act greatly reduced nutrient input into the Great Lakes. Reduced nutrient levels and invasive mollusks increased the lakes clarity and, along with non-native alewives and gobies, acted to greatly alter its food chain by reducing or eliminating native invertebrates, whitefish chubs, smelt, emerald and spot tail shiners, ciscoes and perch. Cycles of abundance and growth of salmon and steelhead began to occur and were met with adjustments in stocking rates.

Considering how dramatically the Great Lakes ecosystem has been altered, it is a wonder that steelhead and salmon populations have held up as well as they have. It is important to note, in contrast to these disturbing environmental forces, that sport fishing regulations for steelhead, and daily catch limits in particular, have changed relatively little during this entire period. It is therefore safe to say that they have had little to do with the fluctuations in steelhead abundance that have occurred. It is also safe to say, but impossible to measure, that the impact the recent one-fish limit for two months in the spring will have an equally insignificant impact.

The lower limit has a slight theoretical advantage of distributing the catch among more fishermen but it also has the disadvantage of discouraging distant travelers and those that don't like the idea of one-and-done. The one-fish lim-

it isn't needed to protect steelhead. Fortunately, fishing effort and catch rise and fall proportionately with fluctuations in fish abundance so, when abundance is low, reduced effort provides protection against over-fishing.

This is not to say that creel limits, size limits and seasons are unimportant to fishermen because they are important. In the case of steelhead, in addition to daily limits and seasonal restrictions, ethical regulations of fishing methods, lures, and baits play an important role in realizing the potential value of the

"Regulations"
Continued on page 7

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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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2022 Tentative Print Schedule		
Issue	Deadline	Print Date
1	12/09/21	01/03/22
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

GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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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

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS - 2022

Via Teams – 6:00pm

Wed. June 22	Wed. October 19
Wed. August 17	Wed. December 21

“Regulations” Continued from page 5

steelhead resource. In my experience fishermen support regulations that protect the resource but they also want them to be simple, reasonable and ethical. The 2-month-long one-fish limit contributes little based on those criteria. Discussions and debate over steelhead

fishing regulations are a good thing that should continue. In that spirit, I will venture the opinion that a basic 2-fish limit for steelhead might be just as reasonable and acceptable to fishermen as the current 3-fish limit.



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Finding The Correct Depth Catches More Fish

By Roger Hinchcliff

Spring has sprung, and there is still time to get in on some great Steelhead in the Great Lakes Streams. Most anglers know finding the correct depth helps them catch more fish. But many don't know or get complacent while out fishing. The first thing any angler should do when fishing a new run is determine the depth. Unfortunately, many are so eager to fish they just start casting and fishing. I have seen many fishermen fish at the same depth all day through the years because they hooked up on a fish in the previous run at a certain depth.

Remember, a river is an ever-changing place with moving water with currents, higher water levels, different velocities, etc. Your fish finder may say four feet deep or waist-high while wading. This information gives you a great idea of the depth. However, a stronger current may lift the bait or even your weights higher in the water column taking you out of the strike zone.

Instead, if an angler would take a moment to determine where the float should be based on that run and the present river conditions, instead of just the actual depth reading, he'd be much more likely to get bit.

For example, the river is four feet deep, but the depth should be set at 6 feet due to the current and stream velocity at that particular section of the river. Remember, if your float fishing correctly, the offering will swing out ahead of the split shots and float, presenting just the bait to the fish's nose.

Making Adjustments

Some anglers do the opposite; start out at 6 feet, and work their way up, getting shallower. Or they start at four feet and make minor six-inch adjustments until hitting bottom. Then, once the base has been determined, make those more minor adjustments at two or three inches at a time. The goal is to keep the bait within eight to twelve inches of the river bottom.

You decide which method to use; just put it into practice and make it a habit. The process should be repeated throughout the day at every run, especially new runs or water you have never fished before.

Once you have determined what the run will do to the presentation and set the depth accordingly, based on the conditions, cover the water thoroughly and efficiently and change depth often, this will result in more hookups. Ninety percent of all Steelhead will be caught in four to eight-foot feet of water in most streams, depending on the water conditions.

Float Stutter

For the angler who has his depth set correctly and in the bite zone, the float



should stop or slow ever so slightly displaying a stutter. Then keep on going and tracking along the seam perfectly and at the right current speed.

The float should only stutter every so often. This alerts the angler that they are close to the bottom. Make another micro-adjustment shallower if the float stops and doesn't continue tracking or leans sideways.

Another tip is to keep in mind certain baits, such as spawn sacks, or natural bait has a tendency to be buoyant. Hence, I recommend a micro shot on the leader when fishing bait for Steelhead.

Water Temps

Colder water temps affect the fish and its sight cone and bite zone. For example, when I'm jig fishing in the Great Lakes, the water can be super cold; near freezing, those fish become so lethargic that it's a game of inches. Those fish are 8 inches off the bottom; therefore, I would like to present the bait at 10-12 inches off the bottom so the fish only has to rise up a few inches to sip bait or offer at it. Unlike when water temps are 48-50 degrees, when they will hunt something down and crush it.

As you can see, water temps can dictate the fish's mood and how far they are willing to move or travel to get something.

Float Control

A presentation delivered at the correct depth and controlled correctly puts the bait in the strike zone

more frequently. Its simple mathematics that results in more fish. As I write, it may seem very technical, and maybe in theory it is, but I believe more time on the water and this will become second nature to you.

Use the longer float rod to steer the float around the cover, trees, boulders, or seams. Mend the line only when necessary. Mending the line means you're keeping the line behind the float at all times and never letting the line get ahead of the float. This will result in a more natural presentation and the right current speed.

If you have a big bow in your line, reel the slack up or stop the spool. This trick will cause everything to straighten out and keep the presentation on the right track. However, this also has a significant side effect. It causes the bait to lift up due to current flow, and once the line is released, it causes the bait to slowly drop back down, resulting in a strike.

The long rod and float are tools...use them! Lastly, controlling the float and the speed of your presentation, slowing it down or stopping the float resulting in that lift, is money on Steelhead.

Practice depth and float control every time while out on the stream, and you will see results. The greatest barrier fish will have to overcome before they can rule the water is you if you fish right!

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Above: It's not big, and it might not be the right flavor, but Rex Clark had a good time catching a bunch of these guys last year. Rex is one of those guys that prefers action to size.

Open Water Fishing Ideas

By Bob Jensen

Different anglers have different ideas of what fishing success is. To some, fishing success is catching a bunch of fish: Size doesn't matter, they just want to catch something.

To other anglers, fishing success means you caught a big one. Size is more important than numbers.

Some anglers consider it a successful day on the water if they catch the species of fish that they're after. Others target a particular specie, but if that specie isn't cooperating, they adapt and try to catch another type of fish. They consider it a successful day on the water if they have a few fish of any specie pull back. Youngsters are particularly happy with just having something pull back. They're as happy with bullheads as they are bass. They don't have to be big ones, they just have to provide some excitement. I like that.

And then there are those who just enjoy being outside with a fishing pole in their hand and sharing a boat with a friend or family member and savoring the entire experience. I enjoy those folks, but I also really like to catch fish. I usually don't care what kind, and I like to catch big ones, but most of all, I just like to get bit. Following are some ideas for getting bit more in this open water fishing season.

First of all, don't fish memories. By that I mean, don't assume that because we had good success on the last trip with a Yellow Perch Lucky Shad or a Mr. Crappie Shadpole in Osage Orange Glow or whatever doesn't mean that that bait will be good on this trip. It might be, and if you want to start with the previously productive bait go ahead, but if the fish don't eat it, and if you really think you're around fish, give something else a shot. Try a different color, or maybe tie on a slip-bobber rig. If

they're not eating what you think they should be eating, give them another choice. More and more, many successful anglers are putting plastic trailers on their jigs. The Rage Swimmer in particular has become a favorite plastic of many walleye anglers. Just remember, if they're not eating what's on the end of your line, tie something else onto the end of your line.

In that same vein, just because you caught'em good in a certain spot on your last trip or last year doesn't mean they'll be there on this trip. Good spring spots aren't necessarily good summer or fall spots. So many things factor in to where a fish will be. We need to be aware of what fish need at a particular time of year and then we need to be fishing at that location. It sounds so simple, but it's such an important concept of fishing: Fish where the fish are.

Go fishing on lakes, rivers, and ponds that you haven't tried before. So many of us get comfortable on a certain body of water and that's where we always go, and if that's what you enjoy, keep going there. Fishing is supposed to be fun and you should do what is fun for you. But many anglers discover that they enjoy exploring new places. You never know what you might find in that little lake that you always drive by on the way to your favorite fishing lake. Do some research and find out what lives there and give it a shot. You never know.

There are lots of things we can do that we might not think of that will help us catch more fish. We only know what we know, but if you keep these ideas in mind, your chances of catching more fish and having more fun when you go fishing will be increased.



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Spring Commissioning: How to Ready Your Boat for the Water

Time to get your boat out of storage and prepped for the season

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Finally. As winter gives way to spring and temperatures begin to rise, feelings of anticipation and excitement take hold of boaters and make them all but forget the long months of cold they've just endured. Finally, it's time to get the boat out and ready for the season.

If you live in an area with any sort of sustained winter weather, chances are your boat is just sitting for at least a few months each year. Which means you've got a little work to do in the form of spring commissioning before you can drop your boat in the water and hit the throttle. If you took the time to service, clean up and winterize your boat properly in the fall, spring commissioning should be pretty fast and simple. But in any case, this is the time to take a good look at all aspects of your rig and address any issues that might have been missed at the end of the previous season.

The process will vary with different sizes and types of vessels, but in general spring commissioning should include the following:



1. Check the air in your tires with a pressure gauge; the recommended pressure will be printed on the sidewall of each tire. Also look for signs of cracking and excessive tread wear. Don't forget about the spare (and if you don't have one, go get one).

2. Ensure that your wheel bearings are in good condition and have plenty of grease.

3. Assuming you took your batteries out of the boat and kept them charged in a protected storage area over winter, you'll need to reinstall the batteries. It's good practice to label your cables before removing the batteries to ensure everything gets put back on the correct post later. If you see any corrosion in the cable ends or battery terminals, treat it with a wire

brush and a little dielectric grease to keep it from getting any worse. If you haven't charged your batteries all winter, you may need to charge them before use.

4. Inspect your propeller for any major dings and remove it to check for fishing line and other debris around the prop shaft. If you're not familiar with the process of removing and reinstalling a prop,

scan this QR code on your smartphone to learn how:



If you have a trolling motor, you should also remove that motor's propeller to make sure it's free of fishing line.

5. Hopefully you remembered to change your gear lube as part of your winterization process. If you didn't change it in the fall, go ahead and do it now.

6. For a four-stroke outboard, the same rules apply for the engine oil: It should have been changed in the fall, but if not, do so now. Assuming you changed the engine oil and filter at the end of last season, you'll just need to check the fill level on the dipstick. Be sure the engine is trimmed straight up and down to get an accurate reading.

7. Under the cowl you should see a label that details the maintenance intervals on things like your spark plugs and fuel filter (if not, your owner's manual will have this information). Check to see if any such items are getting close to needing changed. It's likely a lot more convenient to take care of any pending maintenance as part of your spring commissioning than in the middle of your boating season. (If you own a stern-drive- or inboard-powered boat, consult your owner's manual for maintenance information.)

8. Again, your trim fluid and hydraulic steering fluid reservoirs should have been topped off in the fall but check them anyway to ensure they are still full. If any grease fittings were missed in your winterization, go ahead and give them a few pumps with a grease gun now.

9. Fill your fuel tank all the way up and treat it with

the appropriate Mercury Fuel Care System product to ensure your fuel stays fresh and your fuel system is clean and free of buildup for optimal performance and reliability. Adding Mercury Quickare® Fuel Treatment is recommended with every fill-up since it cleans your fuel system and guards against the harmful effects of ethanol-blended fuel. It's great for your tow vehicle as well.

10. Take inventory of your safety gear and ensure that everything is in good working order. This equipment will include life jackets, a fire extinguisher, flares and other required items, as well as some combination of a first-aid kit, paddle, VHF radio or satellite phone, flashlights, spare batteries, air horn, whistle, rope bag and the like. This is merely a sample list. For a complete list of required safety gear, check out your state's department of natural resources website. Note: Flares and fire extinguishers may have expiration dates, so make sure yours aren't past their useful lives.

11. Inspect the rest of your trailer to make sure nothing is amiss. Suggested areas of interest:

- a. Coupler, including the latch, locking pin and the bolts that attach it to the trailer tongue
- b. Safety chains
- c. Lights, including blinkers and brake light functionality
- d. Jack, which will need to be greased
- e. Lubricate the shafts and gears of the winch and inspect the strap for any signs of wear or rot
- f. Tie-down strap functionality and condition

If you have any reason to believe that any part of your boat or trailer is suspect, don't hesitate to contact your local Mercury Authorized Dealer. Not only is this the safest course of action, it will be easier to get something fixed in a timely manner before the boating season begins in earnest.

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Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources jaw tagged 3,000 walleye across multiple Saginaw Bay tributary rivers, beginning in April. As the DNR adds more tagged walleye to Michigan waters, anglers are asked to report tagged fish to assist data collection efforts.

Anyone catching a tagged fish is asked to report the following information using the tag return form at Michigan.gov/Eye-InTheField:

Species.
Length.
Weight (if known).
Tag location
(where tag was attached).
Identification number (the larger of the two sets of numbers).
Tag return address (for example MICH DNR MM-1)
Capture date and location.

In the notes box of the form, please list time of capture and sex of fish (if known). Each tag is stamped with a unique identifying number. Once a fish has been successfully reported, the angler will receive a letter detailing the fish's history.

"The information reported is essential to measuring the health of the population and is critical data for planning the future management decisions needed to protect and enhance this important fishery," said David Fielder, PhD, research biologist out of the DNR's Alpena Fisheries Research Station. "Besides ensuring the walleye fishery remains sustainable, we also annually estimate the population size with the aid of these tag reports."

The DNR has tagged more than 100,000 walleye in the Saginaw Bay area since 1981. Jaw tagging is part of a long-term research project to monitor survival and harvest rates and to learn about walleye movement.

About 10% of the tags include a \$100 reward for reporting. To be eligible for a reward, photos are required of the flattened tag. Anglers can keep or release the fish. If anglers are not interested in a reward, please do not remove the tag before releasing the fish.

Tagging occurs each spring on the Tittabawassee River and other Saginaw Bay tributaries during the walleye spawning run. Walleye are collected with electrofishing boats that temporarily stun the fish to allow fisheries biologists and technicians to collect vital statistics, tag the fish

and release them back into the river after the fish have recovered. After spawning, walleye migrate back into Saginaw Bay and a large number migrate out of the bay into Lake Huron. The fish that migrate out of the bay have been found ranging to the Straits of Mackinac to the north and Lake Erie to the south.

A second study will take place in Saginaw Bay this year in which 150 walleye will be implanted with acoustic transmitters that allow researchers to track the fish and learn more about their movement. Those walleye will have belly tags and will also include a \$100 reward for the return of the transmitter.

To learn more about marked and tagged fish, visit Michigan.gov/TaggedFish.



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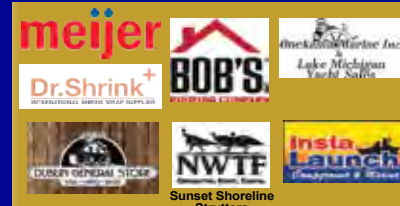
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Scotty Mac - (231) 690-1102



Mary Jane Belter shared a photo.
April 14 at 2:58 PM · 🌐



Michigan Sea Grant
April 14 at 9:21 AM · 🌐

Have you ever texted a buoy? These floating data stations are being redeployed for the season, and they're ready to send you weather data on request: <https://buff.ly/3xrcjwS> #yeahbuoy

Ideas For Spring Fishing Success

By Bob Jensen

The days, too slowly, are getting warmer and longer. These warmer, longer days are getting more anglers in the mood to visit a lake, river, or pond to see if anyone in that lake, river, or pond wants to get caught. Fish are cold-blooded. Being cold-blooded, they respond to different stimulus in different ways. Sometimes they like to eat larger, faster moving prey, other times they prefer prey that is

smaller and slower moving. Here are some ideas for fishing in the spring.


Spring is the time of year when most fish like their food to be smaller and slower moving. Since they like their natural food that way, it's usually a good idea to offer the fish that we're after baits that resemble their natural prey. In this case, smaller and slower moving. Small is relative though. A small bait to a largemouth bass is probably going to be too big for a

bluegill, a perch, or a crappie. We as anglers need to tailor our bait presentation to the species of fish that we want to catch.


In many areas, walleyes are a popular target at this time of year. Actually, in many areas, walleyes are a popular target at any time of year. But if we fish for walleyes with the same bait in the same way in the same location every time we go fishing, we're going to be limiting our success. For instance, a jig tipped with

a minnow can be very good early in the year. In some places a fathead minnow will be good. In the lake just down the road, a shiner will be preferred. That's early in the year. A few weeks later when the water has warmed and the walleyes are in more of a chasing mood, a jig tipped with a Rage Swimmer plastic will be better. The jig/Rage Swimmer combo is more effective fished faster, so we can show our bait to more fish, which usually increases the

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Kevan Paul caught this shallow water walleye on a slow moving jig a couple of springs ago.

chance to get bit.

Another thing regarding minnows and jigs in the spring. Some folks like to hook the minnow through the lips, others like to put the hook in the minnow's mouth and poke it out through the back of the minnow's head. By doing the in-the-mouth and out-the-back of the head deal, the minnow will usually stay on the hook longer, and it will also appear to be a smaller presentation. Cold water, smaller presentation,

usually more fish.

Now about lure speed. Slower moving lures will usually be better in the spring, but it's also good to cover water quickly and efficiently. There are a couple of ways that you can do this.

First, and if you're fishing in a state that only allows one line, try starting with an eighth ounce jig. Work it kind of quickly, but when you catch one or two in quick succession, slow down. Tie on a six-

teenth ounce jig and really work the area thoroughly. You'll probably catch a couple more. If you go five or ten minutes with no more catching, tie the larger jig back on and start moving again. When you find the fish, slow down and work'em over good.

Here's something that works well in states that allow multiple lines. Cast the jig, but put a slip-bobber rig out there also. I've even had success hanging a rod with a jig/minnow directly over the side of the boat. This is often referred to as a "dead rod". Make sure the jig is near the bottom. You might be surprised how many walleyes you can catch on the slip-bobber rod, and at times that dead rod can get pretty lively. Usually it's worth the effort to get those extra lines in the water.

The same concept is true if you're fishing for crappies or bass. Move the bait slowly, but work the area quickly until you find the fish. Then slow down and make them bite.

Depending on where you're fishing the next few weeks, if you keep the small and slow idea in mind, you'll increase your odds for catching more fish.

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"Summer" Continued from page 1

that results in a run in the St. Joseph will also trigger smaller runs in the Kalamazoo and Grand Rivers. Like the St. Joe these are large warm water rivers that will be too warm for summer steelhead most of the time from late June to early September. Swan Creek is a cool tributary to the Kalamazoo and will attract steelhead when the weather warms up the main river. It flows in from the south about two river miles downstream from the Allegan Dam.

Even though there is a ladder at the Sixth Street Dam this is the most likely spot to find some stray summer steelhead in the Grand River. Buck Creek is a brown trout stream that joins the Grand downstream from the dam and

will attract summer steelhead when conditions are right. When a cool spell is prolonged the summer runs will ascend the ladder and be attracted to the Rogue River. I've caught them as far upstream as Prairie Creek but this is not something you can count on.

Michigan plants all of its summer steelhead in the Manistee River. This river also gets too warm in the summer below Tippy Dam. Pine Creek is always cold when it joins the Manistee and attracts summer runs at its mouth in the Udell Rollways campground. Bear Creek may draw fish but often it is as warm as the big river at their confluence.

Casting and retrieving spinners is a very effective technique for summer steelhead and is my favorite. The stream size and clarity and the brightness of the day influence my

choice of spinners. Real silver is the choice on dark days and when the water clarity is low while tarnished brass and black are at the other end of the spectrum when the creek is low and clear and the sun is out. Fluorescent orange tape will always be on the back of the blade and often I will use a spinner with a fluorescent orange painted blade. A spinner with a polished copper blade has become a very good summer steelhead spinner for me in recent years. Its effectiveness may be due to the reddish orange component of its flash.

Minnow plugs also work well for summer runs. Those that dive to a moderate depth like the Kinchou Minnow seem to be ideal when fishing small streams for steelhead. They get down to the fish on upstream casts but don't dive

so deep as to get hung up.

Summer steelhead orient to cover just like their cousins running in the cooler seasons. Retrieving your lure close to logs, overhanging brush, undercut banks, and big rocks is a key to success. These steelhead also have a strong affinity to deep riffles and you should fish this type of water hard when you find it. The choppy water surface keeps them from view just like more solid cover. Summer steelhead will hit right away when they are in the mood so it pays to move right along and cover lots of water.

Hope for some cool weather and keep your stream thermometer handy. Summer steelhead are aggressive strikers when the water temperature drops to the low to mid sixties.



Terri Bedford with a bright summer run.

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Shared from Facebook:

South Haven Steelheaders
April 14 at 3:56 PM

Buoy is in and ready to help you safely plan for a day on the water!

South Haven Area Emergency Services
April 14 at 8:40 AM

Today's gale warning from the National Weather Service is a good opportunity to report that the Lake Michigan weather buoy off of South Haven is now operational for the season. Link to buoy website — <https://limnb.lq/station/45168/>

South Haven Steelheaders are the main local sponsor of the buoy which provides real-time meteorological data and a video look. Before heading out on the lake, boaters and swimmers are encouraged to check the buoy for conditions.

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2022 Michigan Fishing License Season And New Regulations

Great Lakes Basin Report
www.great-lakes.org

As spring draws closer, Michigan anglers are en-

couraged to purchase a 2022 fishing license which went on sale Tuesday, March 1. The new license season begins April 1, and

the 2022 fishing licenses are valid through March 31, 2023. Licenses can be purchased at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses. By purchas-

ing a fishing license online, anglers will have the opportunity to sign up for auto-renewal through the DNR eLicense system.

Anglers also are encouraged to review the upcoming regulations changes adopted by the Michigan Natural Resource Commission that will go into effect April 1, unless noted otherwise.

Lake St. Clair and St. Clair River – Walleye Size Limit

The Lake St. Clair and St. Clair River walleye minimum size limit has been increased from 13 inches to 15 inches, which is the same as the statewide regulation. The change will result in uniform walleye regulations throughout the connected waters of the St. Clair-Detroit River system, which includes Lake Erie, the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River.

Lake Michigan and Lake Huron – Underwater Spearfishing Regulations

Underwater spearfish-

ing opportunities for walleye, northern pike and lake trout have been added for Lake Michigan (waters south of the southernmost pier at Grand Haven) and Lake Huron (waters south of the southernmost pier of the Thunder Bay River, extending south to the mouth of the St. Clair River [Fort Gratiot Light]). This opportunity requires a new underwater spearfishing license along with monthly effort and harvest reporting requirements. The underwater spearfishing license is complimentary, unless a DNR Sportcard is needed, and will be available only online at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses.

Torch River and Rapid River – Special Hook Fishing Regulations

Special hook regulations have been put into effect on the Torch River from the Crystal Beach Road Bridge downstream to Lake Skegemog including the Rapid River up to Aarwood Road Bridge from May 1 to July 1, where it is unlawful to use fishing gear other

than a single-pointed hook measuring one-half inch or less from point to shank. This regulation replaces the fishing closure on these waters and allows anglers to fish while maintaining the desired protection to the resource.

Inland Waters – Rainbow Trout (Steelhead) Possession

A new daily possession limit of one rainbow trout (steelhead) has been put into effect on some Type 3 and Type 4 streams and will be effective from March 15 to May 15, inclusive. This regulation went into effect March 15, 2022.

All regulation changes will be acknowledged in the 2022 fishing guide, which became available March 1 at Michigan.gov/DNRDigests. Anglers are encouraged to periodically review the digital version of the fishing guide for any regulation updates throughout the 2022 fishing season.

The DNR manages Michigan's fisheries resources for current and future generations by making scientific, research-based decisions and regulatory recommendations. Regulations are one tool the DNR uses to implement management strategies to protect, conserve and improve Michigan's fisheries. Learn more at Michigan.gov/Fishing.



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“Catch”
Continued from page 1

fish are often more aggressive when weather conditions are not the best for fishing. When the fish in the lake are reluctant to bite, the fish in a nearby river might be easier to catch. River fish are constantly fighting the current, so they expend more energy. That means they have to eat more often, and that means they will be more willing to take your bait.

Here's the big one: Go fishing whenever you get the chance. Even when conditions aren't very good for fishing, if you get the chance, to go, go. And when conditions are good, make the time to go. Time is a precious commodity to many people. We let things like mowing the yard take priority. Every now and then, go fishing even if you have to sacrifice something else. If you go fishing more often, you're going to catch more fish. Catching fish isn't the only reason we go fishing, but it sure adds to the experience. If you keep the previous ideas in mind, you'll add to your fishing experience almost every time out.



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Church Tackle’s TX-12 Mini Planer Board

By Captain Ken Clark

The TX-12 mini planer from the Church Tackle Company, although having quietly gained in popularity, is still an underutilized tool by today’s fisherman. The smaller size and modest price of the TX-12 make

many serious fishermen question how functional of a planer board the TX-12 can really be. “The TX-12 does every single thing you need a side planer to do” says Captain Ken Clark of Fishmas Charters, a 26-year charter captain and tournament winning angler.

“No matter the conditions or what I am pulling, the TX-12 is the only board I need” says Clark. The TX-12 is one of seven (7) boards sold by Church. The TX-44 is the largest board and used primarily for trout, salmon and muskie. The Walleye

Board is also used for trout and salmon however, many walleye anglers like the versatility of the Walleye Board, as well. The TX-22, originally designed for Striper fishing, is a favorite of many walleye fishermen. The TX-6 is another underrated and underutilized board. Although used by crappie fishermen for years, the TX-6 is gaining momentum by shore fishermen fishing rivers or walking from shore. The TX-007 and TX-005 are the Stern Planers. They come in two (2) different sizes to accommodate personal preference. The TX-12 is inexpensive in comparison to the vast majority of boards being sold and simple to use. The board is easy to put out and easy to bring in. Although a flag system is available to detect light

bites, the TX-12 is so sensitive that many anglers run the TX-12 with no flag. The smaller board size makes even the slightest change noticeable. A perch, white perch, white bass, weed, zebra mussel, etc. are much easier to detect. Again, due to the size and pull of the board, reeling in and clearing the other boards, without tangling, is easier with the TX-12. “The patented pin system on the Church board is one of the innovations that attracted me to Church” added Clark. “If you use other boards, eventually you will have to pick up and run back to pick one up. Not with Church’s pin system”, says Clark. The pin system refers to is standard on the TX-44, Walleye Board, TX-22, TX-12 and TX-6. If for some reason the board comes off the

clip, the pin system keeps the board on the line and runs down to the weight, avoiding a time-wasting retrieve and run back for the board. The TX-12 from the Church Tackle continues to gain in popularity. The only skeptics are folks who haven’t tried it. Yet! Sold at most tackle shops, the TX-12 typically sells for less than \$35 and can be used right out of the package. In calm or rough water, with no weight or 3 ounces, with crank baits or harnesses, at .5 mph or 3.5 mph the TX-12 from Church is up to the challenge. From beginners to serious professionals, the TX-12 mini planer deserves to part of your presentation.



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2022 Battle Creek Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Location
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:

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
June	2	Bill Rodgers Memorial Fishing Contest	
June	3-5	Grand Haven Offshore Tournament	
July 29 - Aug 11		Grand Haven Steelheaders' Weeklong+ Contest	
August	6	Grand Haven and Grand Rapids Steelheaders' Chapter Challenge	
August	6	Double D Tournament	
August	11	Chapter Picnic	
September	10	Sportsman For Youth Day	
December	7	Annual dinner, recognitions, fundraiser	

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 pbzfarm@gmail.com
www.ghsteelheaders.com

2022 Grand Rapids Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information
May	2	Board Meeting	
May	23	Membership Meeting	Elks #48, 917 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids MI
June	6	Board Meeting	
June	27	Membership Meeting	Elks #48, 917 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids MI
July	11	Board Meeting	
July	**	Membership Picnic	at Millennium Park
August	1	Board Meeting	
August	6	GR/GH Chapter Challenge	
August	29	Membership Meeting	Elks #48, 917 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids MI
September	12	Board Meeting	
September	26	Membership Meeting	Elks #48, 917 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids MI
October	3	Board Meeting	
October	31	Membership Meeting	Elks #48, 917 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids MI
November	5	Chapter Fall Fishing Event	
November	7	Board Meeting	
November	28	Membership Meeting	Elks #48, 917 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids MI
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			
<p>Membership meetings held at: 3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642 989-496-3410</p> <p>Board meetings begin at 7:00pm</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Weigh-in follows each outing. Picnics follows weigh-in on Saturdays only.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If interested in fishing with us please contact: Gary Decker at 989-859-7472 Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com</p>			

If interested in fishing with us please contact: Gary Decker at 989-859-7472
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2022 Holland Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
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 Waxer1221@yahoo.com

2022 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Chair / Location
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 Moulle' 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
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	
	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: *President* Bob Schulz, bobschulz7@gmail.com, 248-915-0043
Membership Director Henry Nabors 248-225-4964



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2022 South Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
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 49040 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.swmisteelheaders.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
May	7	6:00AM	Can2Can Fishing Tournament Need Workers!	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.				

CHASE THE BITERS

By Bob Jensen

Here’s a memory: I was in high school and had developed an interest in fishing. A friend told me that the walleyes were biting on a nearby river. My friend had caught several a few days earlier, and was willing to share the ex-

act location of the action. That next day found me on the river with a bucket full of minnows and some jigs. My friend and I had fished this spot many times in the past, so I knew that I was fishing the right area. I caught zero walleyes that day. They had moved out, but smallmouth bass had

moved in. Lot’s of ‘em. Although I started the day thinking walleyes, I encountered one of my most memorable days of fish catching ever. Disappointed in not catching walleyes: No way. Super glad for the small-mouth memory: Absolutely.

2022 Thunderbay Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Time	Information
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.				
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



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