



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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Tom Baird (middle) accepting his award with MSSFA Executive Director Dennis Eade (left) and MSSFA President Tim Stegeman (right).

Tom Baird Honored With Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award

By Dennis Eade

Since the inception of the Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award in 2012, eight individuals have been honored for their outstanding contributions to Michigan's anadromous fish sport fishery. Patty Birkholz and Fred Upton were and are legislators whose dedication to protecting the Great Lakes is unequalled. Jim Johnson and John Dettmers are scientists whose contributions to the understanding of anadromous fish provides us with the prescription for managing the resource. Chuck Pistis and Dan

O'Keefe are ecological educators whose understanding of the system allows us to make educated choices in order to protect the resource. Denny Grinold and this year's honoree, Tom Baird are angler/advocates whose passion for fishing and commitment to stewardship of the resource has defined their careers. These honorees are a tribute to Dr. Tanner himself, who exemplified all these attributes as a pioneering fisheries scientist whose insights and work provide spectacular examples of innovative, transformative and effective fisheries management.

This year's awardee, Tom Baird, was born and raised in Grand Rapids, MI and received a bachelor of science degree from Grand Valley State University prior to receiving a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1978. He has practiced law in Lansing, MI since 1978, specializing in labor law and civil rights, as well as conservation and environmental law. He is currently a member of the Anglers of the Au Sable Board executive committee, and chair of

"Award"
Continued on page 7

Fishing Is Mathematics

By Roger Hinchcliff
Steelhead Manifesto

A long time ago I attended school like everyone else. I must admit Math was not my best subject. Especially when all I could think about was getting back on the river and fishing. But through the years I've often said fishing is mathematics and it's all about the angles. No matter what fish species you fish for or target. Fishing is just a series of math problems. Let's discuss and point out a few math problems you calculate every time you're out fishing.

Depth

The most important thing most great fisherman pay attention to is the depth to fish your lure, bait, fly or plug. I think we all can agree that depth is very crucial in getting bit and putting fish in the boat. The offering or bait needs to be in the strike zone to get strikes.

How deep should I be fishing? How deep is my float set? How much weight is needed to get the bait down to the strike zone based on the current flow or depth? How about the fall rate of the bait? So many times, I've fished lighter lures with a slower fall rate on spooky weary fish. Think about when Bass or Crappie fishing; contrary to belief, over half of the jig strike can occur on the fall.

So, thinking about fall rate can pay huge dividends

on some days. Sometimes a lighter finesse approach is needed to catch over fished fish.

When casting lures such as a spinner, getting close to the bottom is key to getting bit in the river. But so is how fast of a retrieve is needed to spin the

blade with the right amount of vibration. Especially in colder water temps when a larger spinner blade is required to wake up those lethargic fish. This is an algebra concept of slope and

"Mathematics"
Continued on page 20



Trophy Coho

By Jim Bedford

On a trip to the Little Manistee this past December I was fishing for steelhead when I started noticing small pods of fish cruising upstream. They were in groups of six or eight, were quite dark, and seemed to be around ten pounds in size. The few lures that I got in front of them were ignored as they were intent on moving. From past experience I was pretty sure they were wild coho salmon.

About half way through the stretch I was fishing I came upon some salmon spawning. They looked to be the size of average chinook. Normally I don't cast for spawning salmon but I was kind of shocked that chinook were still spawning. My goal was to catch one to verify the species. My first cast was grabbed by the largest salmon and I set the hook. Almost immediately I noted the red

"Coho"
Continued on page 19

Top 10 Reasons to Take Up Kayak Fishing



Mark Davis (left) named Metro West Steelheaders Kayak Fisher of the Year

By Dave Mull

To say kayak fishing has taken off around the Great Lakes is like saying that ducks enjoy water.

Fishing from a kayak offers a choice of solitude or camaraderie, daring adventure or placid relaxation.

I have become totally immersed in it. My addiction started one spring day when I took a Hobie kayak with its pedal drive on to a local lake to get pictures of a small Humminbird unit for

a magazine story. I needed to show it display depth, temperature and speed for some article that was to appear in Great Lakes Angler. So I installed the transducer the old fashioned way—with a glob of silicone on a flat part of the hull, rigged up the small battery and mounted the little unit on the port side. Putting that unit on was remarkably easy, and I was done in about an hour. The last time I tried putting electronics on a boat, well, it took a lot longer than an hour—like

days. I had temper tantrums before that boat was ready to go and I resolved to let professionals rig any boats I had going forward.

With the Humminbird working, I head to a small lake about five miles from

"Kayak"
Continued on page 10



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MSSFA PRESIDENT Tim Stegeman

The ice and cold are on the retreat which has caused angler hours to be on the advance. However, we still have some important meetings you won't want to miss before devoting all of your free time to being on the water.

There are 3 Sea Grant Fisheries meetings in April. Bay City meeting is April 9th for Saginaw Bay and Southern Lake Huron; South Haven meeting is April 18th for Lake Michigan; Houghton meeting is April 29th for Lake Superior. At these meetings, the fisheries and natural

resource managers will provide big-picture context to what's happening in the lakes and how it will affect fish populations. These meetings are a great opportunity to see the collected data and to ask questions. Be sure to attend one of these meetings in your area if you can.

Also of note for April, the Army Corps of Engineers will have an open house on Monday, April 8th about the Grand River project. The purpose of the open house is to discuss the proposed multipurpose restoration project in the

Grand River, in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan, eventually contributing to a draft Environmental Impact Statement. The intent of the project is to restore, enhance, and maintain the rapids in the Grand River from upstream of Ann Street to Fulton Street, and may include habitat, recreation and invasive species control features. I expect the Grand Rapids and Grand Haven Steelhead chapter members will be especially interested in attending this meeting.

Speaking of the Grand Rapids chapter, I want to

thank Don Remington and Bob Streck for the invitation to attend the Grand Rapids Ultimate Sport Show. I thoroughly enjoyed spending time in the chapter's exhibit booth and taking in the show. Bob did a great job in communicating to me all the activities the Grand Rapids chapter is involved throughout the year and I appreciated him taking the time to explain it all. Don also reported to me that the Grand Rapids chapter gained 14 new memberships from the show. Great job to these gentlemen and the 40 or so chapter mem-



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

bers who work the event! Another great job was the Metro-West Sportsmen's banquet in Livonia, MI. As a first timer, I wasn't sure what to expect. What I can tell you now is there is no doubt in my mind that this is the largest fundraising event any chapter of the MSSFA has. Plenty of good food and drink for a crowd that was easily 300+ and more door and raffle prizes than you can count. I want to thank Larry Tabaka for the invitation. Also, I want to thank Matt Lubaway (who was at the table with myself, Dennis and the MUCC folks) and Roger Hinchcliff

for taking some time to talk about their chapter and all the great activities they do. Now, if I can only find a fishing lure that holds the same power of desire for fish as does a Cannoli over people at their banquet! Guaranteed, when I do, I will name that lure the Livonia Cannoli. Those who were there will get it, those who don't need to find out for themselves next year by attending. The only comparison I can give to you is to visit Wolf Lake fish hatchery and throw some pellets into the demonstration fish pond. While both those events were on the grand scale of events to attend, I must say that I enjoyed my visit to the Thunder Bay chapter in Alpena just as much. This chapter is a hidden gem. (If you were there, you'll get that reference too). While small in number, they have a great majority group of young members from top to bottom who put on an excellent dinner and raffle. I wholly expect that those who fish the Northwest Lake Huron waters who aren't a member of this chapter soon will be. I'm sure our Executive Director Dennis Eade and Gerry Sickon our MSSFA Secretary who attended with me will agree. Thank you to Dan Bouchard and his chapter members for the hospitality they showed and for sharing what their chapter is all about. One last note on Thunder Bay:

If I lived in the Northeast Lower Peninsula I would become a member of the Thunder Bay chapter just to go to their annual meeting to have access to Dan's smoked fish dip. I would dare say his is a blue ribbon recipe that could compete with whoever you think has the best recipe.

Dennis Eade and I went to Lansing on March 5th to attend the Michigan Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus Advisory Council in order to meet with representatives about issues the MSSFA has concerns. Thank you to Senator Aric Nesbitt, 26th district and House Representative Jim Lilly, 89th district for taking extra time to meet with us. We truly appreciate their support for the MSSFA.

On Saturday, April 20th at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing we will have the annual MSSFA President's meeting. This is our organization's most important meeting of the year and I hope all the chapter presidents will be able to attend. Each chapter of the MSSFA is a little different and each chapter has a different take on what is important to them for their local fishery. It is only by meeting that we continue pursue that common thread of what is important to Michigan's fishery as it relates to the MSSFA as a whole.

I hope everyone has a happy, safe and productive fishing season.



2019 Annual MSSFA President's Meeting

Front Row (L to R): Ken Merckel (Thumb), Deb Shephard (MSSFA), Vicki Decker (GLBR), Dennis Eade (MSSFA), Walt Godzwon (Thumb), John Moore (GLBR), John Bibbings (Battle Creek), Jayme Frabe (South Haven)
Middle Row (L-R): Matt Whitney (Grand Haven), Bonnie Eade (MSSFA), Joe Montella (SW MI), Brian Eade (Holland), John Letts (GLBR), Mark Spann (Battle Creek), Gerry Sickon (Thunder Bay), Henry Nabors (TCAS)
Back Row (L-R): Joe Cruzen (TCAS), Clint Pollack (Wht River), Ray Schinler (Wht River), Tim Stegeman (MSSFA), Roger Hinchcliff (Metro West), Jim Marohn (SW MI), Dave Middleton (Battle Creek)

In memory of Bob Schultz...

By Jim Marohn,
President, Southwest
Chapter MSSFA

I am sorry to report the passing of long time Steelheader Bob Schultz who died peacefully in his home on April 2nd. Bob was a friend to all and always thought first of others and the club before he ever thought of himself. He was a humble man and rarely spoke of his own accomplishments.

Like all of us Bob loved to fish, especially for Great Lakes salmon and trout. He often spoke of trips to

Ludington targeting trophy King salmon. He maintained a 19' Alumacraft Trophy rigged for trolling up until his passing. In fact, in recent years he was struggling with some mechanical issues and finally had a local marine repair shop get things resolved which made him very happy.

Bob has been a member of the Southwest Michigan Chapter for over twenty five years. He served as the chapter's State Director from 2002 up until he stepped back from the role in 2018. Bob also served as the weighmaster for the Summer Challenge Tourna-

ment every May and leaves big shoes to fill as we move forward.

Not only did Bob share his time and talents, he also shared his treasure giving generously to the Tribal Negotiation Fund and our Salmon in the Classroom project. Just last year, the Southwest Chapter had the opportunity to start three new Salmon in the Classroom projects and Bob step forward with a leadership gift to personally fund half of the third project insuring it became a reality. For his many contributions, Bob received the chapter's Distinguished Service Award at our annual meeting in January 2019.

Not only was Bob active in the Southwest Chapter, he was also an associate member and active with the Grand Rapids Chapter. He volunteered his time at the booth in the Grand Rapids Ultimate Sports Show every year and attended meetings whenever he could.

A funeral or memorial service is not planned for Bob and he left no requests for memorial donations on his behalf. Bob will be greatly missed by MSSFA community of friends and fellow fisherman.



Bob Shultz (above, left) with long time South Haven Steelheader, Tom Stegeman at the SW Summer Challenge Tournament weigh in table

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

MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis Eade



It has been a busy spring in Lansing, MI as the 100th Legislature gets busy with its policy agenda. MSSFA is working closely with our coalition partners to get multiple bills introduced to support a new commercial fishing statute that protects our sport fish, regulates gear used to take fish and establishes penalties that will protect our sport fishery from being exploited. The legislation is expected to be introduced by the end of April.

The Michigan Legislative Sportsmen Caucus Advisory Council conduct-

ed a briefing for legislators on the importance of hunting and fishing on Michigan's economy. The recent study sponsored by MUCC shows that hunters and anglers add \$11.2 billion dollars annually to Michigan's economy. The National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses reports that hunters and anglers fund conservation efforts in the state by purchasing licenses and buying hunting and fishing equipment (Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts that return revenue to the state) which generate



Executive Director Dennis Eade asking Senator Gary Peters about funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Photo credit: Aric Nesbitt

another \$100.16 million. We also hosted a reception

afterwards encouraging the legislature to get more involved in Michigan's outdoor heritage and connect with members from the conservation community.

Locally, in West Michigan, a group of developers are proposing to dredge 23 miles of the Grand River from downtown Grand Rapids to Eastmanville to establish a seven foot deep channel so larger boats can navigate the river from Grand Haven to Grand Rapids. We are watching and assessing this proposal closely because river channelization can have serious detrimental effects on the ecology of the river and destroy shallow riffles and gravel bars that many fish species require for successful spawning. At this time many stakeholders, including municipalities, townships and other governmental units oppose the plan and are recommending against moving forward.

For the last four years, MSSFA and its SW Michigan Chapter have been championing the purchase of piece of property on the

St. Joe River at the junction of Pipestone Creek (a known spawning stretch for steelhead) as a public access to the river. The MDNR has reached out to SW Chapter for support and plans to apply for a Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to purchase the property and work with Sodus Township to manage the site. This is exciting news and a boon to anglers from all over southern Michigan who enjoy chasing steelhead in the St. Joe River.

The Presidents' Meeting was held on Saturday, April 20th at the Michigan Historical Library and Museum in Lansing, MI. The highlights included honoring Tom Baird, past president and general counsel to the Anglers of the Au Sable, with the Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award for his advocacy for the anadromous sport fishery on the Au Sable. With Tom's leadership, the Anglers of the Au Sable successfully settled the Grayling Fish Farm case, stopped the pollution and is returning the old hatchery to a tourist attraction and

educational facility. The presidents also received an Atlantic Salmon update from Roger Greil, Aquatic Reserch Labratory Manager at Lake Superior State University. He has played an active role in training hundreds of undergraduate students in fish culture and management and overseen the development of an Atlantic Salmon rearing program, which is the most successful in the Great Lakes and has resulted in creating a "world-class" fishery.

I had the opportunity to visit with the Thunder Bay Steelheaders, along with Tim Stegeman, our president and Gerry Sickon, our secretary and director from the Thunder Bay chapter. The annual banquet was truly impressive with more than forty in attendance all enjoying a great steak dinner and delicious sides.

That trip was followed shortly thereafter with attendance at Metro West Steelheaders Annual Sportsman Banquet at Burton Manor in Livonia. It was a fun filled night with prizes being awarded throughout the evening. Metro West has written the book on how to conduct a major fund raiser that moves along quickly and maximizes every opportunity to raise funds for their ambitious programming all year long. Thanks to Carmen Zirles and the Metro West Steelheaders Board of Directors for the invitation and to Matt Lubaway and Roger Hinchcliff who made us feel so welcomed.

With the onset of warmer weather lets get out there and chase some steelhead in the river, troll for browns in the shallow water of the big lakes or pier fish for those early spring coho. It's time to shake off the winter blues!

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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 the 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 its **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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Northern Michigan Man Convicted of Illegally Selling Lake Trout

By The Associated Press

Federal Judge Paul Maloney sentenced John Cross III, Cross Fisheries of Charlevoix, to one year in jail for trafficking in illegally transported and sold lake trout. He bought about 50,000 pounds of lake trout from a fisherman who was using trap nets. Those fish should have been thrown back into the water. Cross appeared in court Monday, April 1st, in Kalamazoo, MI., months after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor. He will serve his sentence intermittently during a five-year term of probation for his role.

Cross Fisheries was also sentenced to five years of probation as well and both defendants were ordered to pay joint restitution of \$1,032,132 to the National Fish Hatcheries, which stocks Lake Michigan with lake trout. Cross Fisheries, additionally pled guilty to one felony count of knowingly making a false record and account of fish that was intended to be sold in interstate commerce.

Between September 2011 and October 2013, Cross Fisheries purchased illegally harvested lake trout on 42 separate occasions from a fisherman that lacked the proper equipment to lawfully trap the fish.

“Purchasing illegally caught fish for interstate sale and then covering up the source of those fish by falsifying records is cheating, plain and simple,” said Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey Bossert Clark. “For three years, Cross Fisheries harmed law-abiding competitors and American taxpayers who fund the stocking of Lake Michigan with trout, but that conduct has now come to an end.”

The judgement is one of the final pending cases that stem from Operation Fishing for Funds, an undercover operation run since 2014 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The undercover operation involved busi-

nesses in both Michigan and Wisconsin and resulted in 21 convictions of which 7 were conducted in tribal courts and 14 in federal courts. \$1.6 million in restitution has been ordered to restock the lake due to losses from illegally harvested fish.

“We are pleased to see this long-term illegal commercialization come to an end,” said Edward Grace, assistant director of the Office of Law Enforcement. “This type of large-scale wildlife trafficking can significantly impact the sustainability of the resources we are charged to protect.”

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2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

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2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI – 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at MUCC Offices
2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI – 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at MUCC Offices
2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI – 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at MUCC Offices
2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI – 7:00 P.M.

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The most current information can be found on the MSSFA website: Mssfa.org

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4	Alpine Rent-All & Sales	1452 Alpine Ave NW	Grand Rapids	MI	49504	10% on Stihl & Toro Parts. www.alpinerent-all.com info@alpinerent-all.com
5	Ann's Custom Canvas	4414 Remembrance Rd	Walker	MI	49544	10% Discount, not valid on specials. Mention steelheaders before ordering
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8	Batteries Plus	2061 N-139 Suite B	Benton Harbor	MI	49022	10% & Member Discount 269-925-7374 www.batteriesplus.com
9	Batteries Plus	386 Bay Park Dr, Suite B	Holland	MI	49424	10% & Member Discount 616-396-9914 www.batteriesplus.com
10	Batteries Plus	5228 S. Westnedge Ave	Kalamazoo	MI	49002	10% & Member Discount 269-553-2355 www.batteriesplus.com
11	Batteries Plus	3031 28th Street SE	Kentwood	MI	49512	10% & Member Discount 616-575-0500 www.batteriesplus.com
12	Batteries Plus	5839 Hrvy Street, Suite 6	Norton Shores	MI	49444	10% & Member Discount 231-747-9168 www.batteriesplus.com
13	Berkfield & Co LTD	2625 Pontiac Lake Road	Waterford	MI	48328	5% Great Lake Sportsmens Program on personal Insurance, on home/auto.
14	Big Lake Outfitters of Saugatuck	640 Water St	Saugatuck	MI	49453	10% on fishing tackle (retail store) with membership card 269-857-4762
15	Big Papa Sportfishing	50642 Oregon Ave.	Novi	MI	48374	10% except on equipment
16	Black Dog Outfitters	4444 14 Mile Rd	Rockford	MI	49341	10% Discount on fly tying materials, hooks & lines. www.blackdog-outfitters.com
17	BoatU.S.	Statewide	www.bobsoutdoors.com			\$15 Annual Membership Dues - Use Membership # GA83723B
17	Bob's Outdoors					10% Discount (www.bobsoutdoors.com)
18	Brenner's Service	4765 W River Dr	Comstock Park	MI	46321	5% exclusions may apply. 616-784-9872 dawnbrenner@hotmail.com
19	Dayton, Rick R, DDS	169 Louis Campau Promenade Ste 2A	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	20% off all services (616)458-2545
20	Cascade Capital Funding	4251 Cascade Rd. SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49546	Free appraisal up to \$300.00
21	Dockside Marine, Inc	4320 State Rd	Glennie	MI	48737	15% Off Parts & Accessories (Excludes Electronics)
21	Dunham's Sports	Statewide				10% Discount # 50050/3
22	Firestone - Metro 25	19268 Middlebelt	Livonia	MI	48152	\$20 off on \$200 or more on service www.metro25firestone.com
23	Fish with Jim Outfitters	http://www.fishwithjimoutfitters.com/	248-252-1277			Discount \$50.00 off the total trip price.
24	Glacier Corporation	1021 Fuller St.	Santa Ana	CA	92701	Aquarium Chillers for "salmon in classroom" \$625 + 60 (s&h) = \$685
25	Great Lakes Angler Magazine	2526 Woodmeadow Dr SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49546	Use promo code MCLUB10 1yr/\$13, 2yr/\$25, 3yr/\$36
25	Health First Chiropractic Clinic	2399 Dam Rd	Grand Rapids	MI	49616	First Visit Free
26	Homestead Resort on Betsie River	20 Park Ave	Benzonia	MI	49660	10% In Season, 25% Off Season (homestead@crystal-rentals.com)
27	Insta-Launch Campground	824 Water St.	Manistee	MI	49727	Member Discount
28	Insurance Shop/Fremont Ins.	1146 S. State Rd	East Jordan	MI	48423	10% Discount off insurance for MSSFA Group Members
29	Jim Waldron Pontiac, Buick, GMC	1136 E Hughes Lake Road	Davison	MI	48654	Contact Nick Russloll for Sales, 10% off all parts not to exceed \$100.00
29	J Smith Custom Tackle	14990 Telegraph Rd	Rose City	MI	48239	15% - 20% off depending on rod. Customrodsbyjsmith.com 989-685-2819
30	K & M Marine	6467 Manistee St	Redford	MI	48239	10% off merchandise except sale items (www.kandmmarine.com)
31	Kamp Oil Inc	3650 Eastern Ave SE	Fredric	MI	49733	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
32	Kamp Oil Inc	4999 22 Mile Rd	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)	3556 Fort Knox Dr	Utica	MI	48317	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
33	Lapeer Boat Service	544 E. 8th St.	Lapeer	MI	48446	10% off parts and labor (810-245-6038)
34	Liberty Tax Service	5795 Balsam Dr	Holland	MI	49423	\$20.00 Discount on tax service
35	Life Family Chiropractic Centres	135 S. Linwood Beach	Hudsonville	MI	49426	Complimentary 1st visit (excludes medicare) 50% off 1st massage
36	Linwood Beach Marina & Campground	1648 Gardner St.	Linwood	MI	48634	10% off service work
37	Logan's Run Muskegon River Cottage Rental	11530 Mason Dr	Newaygo	MI	49337	10% Discount www.logansrun.us 616-485-4501
37	Mark's Sport Shop	2101 Wood Street	Grant	MI	49327	Member Discount
38	MUCC	1555 Phoenix Rd.	Lansing	MI	48912	\$18.00 Membership Dues
39	Ramada Lighthouse Inn	Statewide	South Haven	MI	49090	20% Discount 269-639-9900
40	Richfield RV	2502 E. Elm Avenue	Monroe	MI	48161	10% Discount
41	River Raisin Marina & Campground	Statewide				Buy 1 get 1 free - call 313-575-4367 (www.riverraisinmarina.com)
41	RX Optical	Internet Sales	www.slammertipup.com			Plan 308
42	Slamco	3535 Parks St, Suite 108	Muskegon Heights	MI	49444	10% Discount 231-737-4570 laura.szot@americanhearingsonus.com
43	Sonus	1172 68th Street	South Haven	MI		Member discount
44	Sun Coast Marine	2480 Duck Lane Rd	Whitehall	MI	49461	www.anglingoutpost.com 5% use coupon "steelheader" for online purchases
45	The Angling Outpost	435 N. Beacon	Grand Rapids	MI	49417	10% off parts and labor
45	Tuffy Muffler	4384 Kalamazoo SE	Grand Rapids	MI	48512	10% off parts and labor
46	Tuffy Muffler	610 28th St SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49507	10% off parts and labor
47	Tuffy Muffler	4315 Clyde Park SW	Wyoming	MI	49509	10% off parts and labor
48	Tuffy Muffler	1855 Alpine Ave.	Walker	MI	49544	10% Discount
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49	Warrior Lures	847 Ionia Ave. NW	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	10% Discount
50	West Michigan Propeller	5769 28th St. SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49512	10% Discount dine in/carry out (catering discounts available)
51	WG Grinders					

Pink Salmon in the Soo

By Richard A Smolarek
www.aa-fishing.com

Although the pink salmon is the smallest of the salmon family, being on the St. Mary's River for the Pink Salmon run is most exhilarating. Despite that the pink salmon have a normal spawning cycle of 2 years an annual spawning run has developed. The even year runs are greatest in number, we refer to this as the "ON" year. Most anglers will catch their limit during the height of the run during an ON year. The OFF years can be productive, but timing is critical. The pink salmon runs are about two weeks in length. The off years can be tough. As said previously these years have far fewer numbers than an ON year. My best estimation gives a 3 to 5 day window for the best fishing during the odd years. A reliable fishing report is critical before venturing to the Soo during the OFF years.

The arrival of the pinks depend on a number of factors: temperature of air and water being the priority determinants. The last 8 years have taught me that generally a week after Labor Day is a good time to circle the calendar. Like many of us I am at the mercy of my work schedule, but I am able to target the day after labor day and I return 2 weeks after labor day and have had great success. I am told that 15+ years ago that labor day weekend was the time to target, not so any more!

A medium action rod with 10lb test is my choice. 10 lb test is probably overkill for a pink salmon but you never know when you may hook up with an Atlantic or King that are also plentiful in the St. Mary's River. My choice lure is a #7 or #6 Swedish Pimple jigging lure. Hot pink is the color to use, although Fluorescent orange is a good second choice. The hot pink lure can be bought as a solid color, two toned pink and white, pink and chrome is also available. There is also a crushed ice variation that is solid pink with an iridescent decal on one side. I have also made a hobby of creating custom two tone variations of my own, pink and Fluorescent yellow has worked well for me.

Getting the right action on the lure is paramount no matter what the color. A smooth continuous jig is certain to entice a bite. The pink salmon will follow your lure a long ways before biting. I have caught many pink salmon by seeing the fish "follow up" close to the surface, then quickly opening the bale and allowing the lure to dive a little, continue your jig, and BAM! You got one! Watch the guy next to you, he'll get a follow up, the fish will lose interest break off and there you go. A good set of polarized sunglasses will give you a great advantage. Greater visibility will help you spot follow ups and maybe even a few football field length

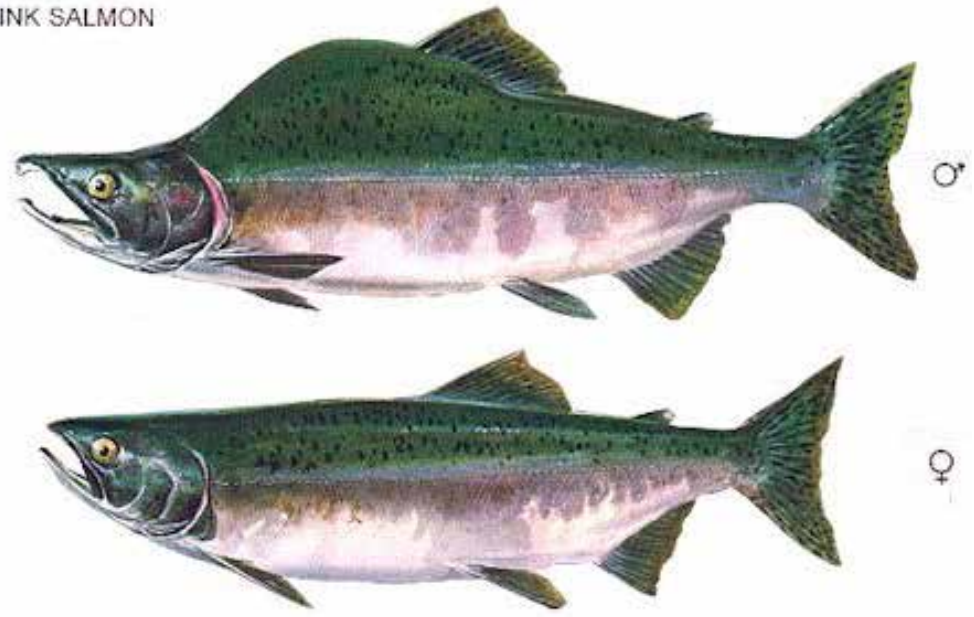
schools! A net with at least an 8 foot handle is necessary to net your fish and don't forget your stringer!

The cleaning station is at the marina just west of the Edison plant. The Soo has all the fixings for a great fishing trip in September.

Pinks average size is 17 inches, ranging from 15 inches to 21 inches.

Good spots for shore fishing are at the Edison plant or the public fishing area on the west side of the Valley Camp. Plenty of nice places to stay in Saulte Saint Marie. I like to stay at the Budget Host and feel free to call for fishing reports from Luke or Tony. Budget Host is clean quaint and caters to the fisherman crowd!

PINK SALMON



Below: Soo Locks, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan (photo credit: www.detroitnews.com)



2019 Tentative Print Schedule

Issue	Deadline	Print Date
1	12/12/18	01/03/19
2	02/15/19	02/28/19
3	04/12/19	04/26/19
4	06/14/19	06/28/19
5	08/16/19	08/30/19
6	10/11/19	10/25/19

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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

When To Use Mono, Braid or Fluorocarbon

By Craig Ritchie
www.lake-link.com

Buying fishing line used to be easy - you picked the brand, tint and breaking strength you like best, and head for the cash register. There wasn't much more to it.

Not so today, with fishing stores offering braided lines, fluorocarbon lines and monofilament lines in a huge range of sizes, colors, brands and styles - to the point that some anglers are starting to feel they need an engineering degree just to spool up a reel. Here's a simple guide to choosing line so that your next trip to the tackle store is a lot less stressful.

Monofilament

Mono line has been around forever and although it's taken a back seat to newer arrivals in recent years, it's still great stuff and in some situations, is the best stuff to use. Monofilament line floats fairly well and is stiffer than most braids, making it ideal when fishing with topwater baits - especially when using walk-the-dog or stop-

and-go presentations. It's also a top choice for fishing with reaction lures like crankbaits or spoons, since it has more stretch than either braid or fluorocarbon and better withstands the shock of a hard hit. By stretching under pressure, mono helps prevent your hook from tearing a hole in a fish's mouth. Mono is also super-easy to use, and it works extremely well with most common types of knots.

The disadvantages to

mono are its stretch, which can make long-distance hooksets less certain, and its tendency to dry out and coil when it gets old, at which point it becomes almost impossible to cast.

Braid

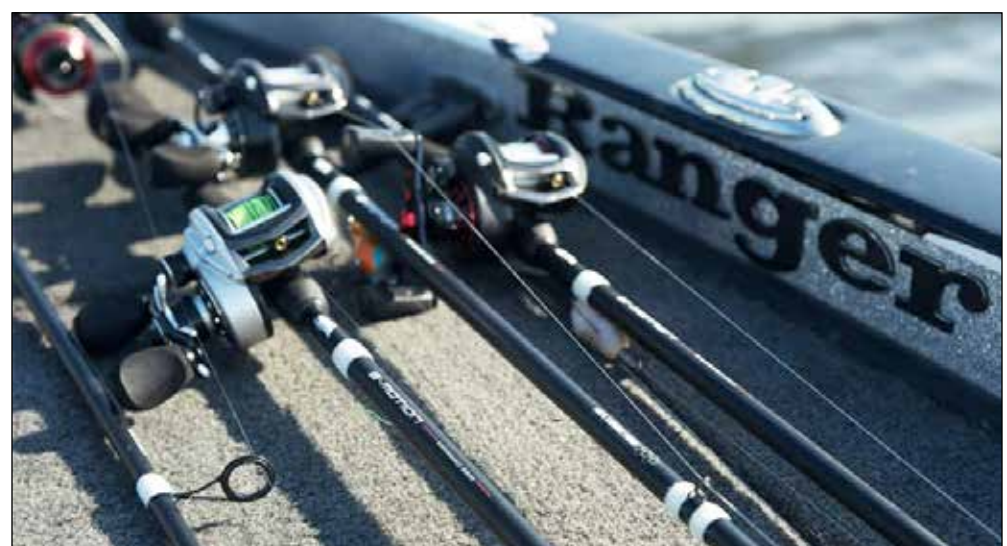
Although many anglers think of it as the new kid on the block, braided lines have actually been around longer than monofilament. Braid regained popularity in recent years with the introduction of new fibers

like Dyneema, which give it incredible strength for its diameter. It also doesn't stretch at all, so hooksets at long distances are a sure thing. It's also great for use in heavy cover, since it tends to saw its way through vegetation. Braid's lack of stretch also makes it a popular choice when sensitivity counts.

The downside to braid - and it's a huge one - is that

"Fishing Line"

Continued on page 18



Many anglers prefer to carry multiple outfits spooled with a range of lines, so they always have the ideal combination ready to go.

“Award”

Continued from page 1

its Legal and Government Affairs Committees. He also served on the Board of FLOW (For the Love of Water, Traverse City, MI), the Advisory Board of the League of Conservation Voters, and the Board of Trustees of the Hal and Jean Gassen Foundation.

He has fished since childhood but became a passionate fly fisher around 1980 when he joined the Lansing chapter of Trout Unlimited. He became active in the chapter and then

pollution will stop, and the hatchery will be returned to its prior status as a tourist attraction and educational facility.

The lessons learned from his accomplishments are: **Lesson #1:** State agencies will not always protect the resource. **Lesson #2:** there are powerful groups out there willing to sacrifice our natural resources just to make a buck, and they have friends in high places. **Lesson #3:** Sometimes you just have to sue; opponents are powerful, well connected, and used to getting their way.



Tom Baird and his dog Jack enjoy each other's company

in the state council of Michigan Trout Unlimited serving as general counsel for a period of time. In 1987 he got involved with Anglers of the Au Sable, a year after it was founded and quickly adopted the Au Sable River as his home water. Rusty Gates drafted him shortly after the Anglers were organized to provide legal support for keeping catch and release regulations on the Holy Waters.

He represented Anglers of the Au Sable in its battle against expansion of Camp Grayling, hydro dam relicensing at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, oil drilling on the Mason Tract of the South Branch, discharge of “remediated” oil spill water into Au Sable headwaters at Kolke Creek, water withdrawals for fracking on the upper Manistee River, state oil mineral leases within the Holy Waters corridor, the Grayling Fish Farm fight, expansion of aquaculture in Michigan waters where he joined forces with the Michigan Steelheaders, MUCC, Michigan Trout Unlimited, Michigan Environmental Council and Michigan League of Conservation Voters. He also has gone after PFAS at Camp Grayling and Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda.

Tom's most recent and truly remarkable accomplishment in protecting the anadromous sport fishery and indigenous stream fishery occurred this past fall when the Anglers of the Au Sable successfully settled the Grayling fish farm case. After five years and hundreds of thousands of dollars, the Anglers of the Au Sable were able to buy out the operator and take over the old fish hatchery. The

The courts are sometimes the best antidote for a sick political system. The judge's ordered mediation was what led to settlement. **Lesson #4:** To win these cases takes organization and money. The Au Sable is the number one trout fishing destination east of the Mississippi. In other words, people care about the river, and they are willing to give time and money to defend it. In the end, Anglers' was able to raise over \$600,000 for attorneys, expert witnesses, litigation costs, and settlement. **Lesson #5:** You can't do it alone. Tom was able to pool the collective resources of his coalition partners to educate the public and government leaders about the problem, and defeated the pro-aquaculture bills that had been introduced in the Michigan legislature.

In Tom's own words, “Clean water and sound management of our natural resources are the keys to our sport fishery and the recreational fishing industry. I can't stress this enough: conservation and environmental groups need to get better at working together. We'll have our differences, but they are far outweighed by our common interests in healthy sustainable natural resources. The Grayling fish farm case is proof positive of that.”

It is because of these accomplishments and his dedication and leadership while making outstanding contributions to Michigan's anadromous fish sport fishery, that MSSFA selected Tom Baird as this year's Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award recipient.



Tribal And Coalition History And Issues

By Jim Vander Maas

Brief history of the case:

In 1973 a lawsuit was filed in Federal District Court by the US Government and three Tribes stating the State of Michigan did not have jurisdiction to regulate Tribal fishing. In 1979 Judge Fox ruled in favor of the plaintiffs granting the rights to harvest any species of fish, of any size, in any season, in any amount and using any type of gear in the 1836 Treaty

waters. This was upheld by the US 6th Circuit Court of Appeals with the stipulation that the State would have to show irreparable harm to the resource to limit Tribal harvest.

In 1984 the Tribes filed a motion to have Federal Judge Enslin allocate the fishery and he refused. He said he wanted a negotiated settlement by the parties as Judge Enslin was known for using a dispute resolution process to resolve disputes. It was at this

time that MSSFA and other groups formed a coalition and applied for “amicus curiae” status in the case. Steve Schultz who had been working on Tribal issues for Grand Traverse Sport Fishing Assn was hired to represent the coalition as Judge Enslin granted the group litigating amicus curiae status.

Amicus curiae (latin for friend of the court) is a person or group who is not a party to an action, but has strong interest in the mat-

ter, will petition the court for permission to submit a brief in the action with the intent of influencing the court's decision. There was no legal precedent for litigating amicus curiae status but this did allow us to sit at the negotiating table rather than just filing briefs.

An agreement was reached known as the “1985 Consent Agreement” a 15 year agreement expired in

“Tribal”

Continued on page 9

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The Day My Dad Took Me Fishing

By Sally Zarafonetis

One of the earliest memories I had with my dad was the time, when I was about 6, that he took me fishing. It was a big event just for kids and dads called the "Fishing Derby". When he explained it to me and told me what we were going to do, I recall expressing something like, "Ick, Dad - I want to go but I don't want to put on the worm!" He might have said back to me, "Well, I'll help you so you don't have to touch the worm if you

don't want to." With that guarantee, I was in. Plus, he said that we would be having hot dogs and ice cream with all of the other kids, and I loved hot dogs and ice cream!

When the day finally came and we arrived at the event, my dad buckled me up in an orange life preserver as he said, "we are going to go out in a boat to some really deep water." I was scared, but also very exciting. We brought poles and worms and a pail into the boat and headed out as my

dad rowed away from the shore.

I remember when we finally got to a place in the lake. There were other boats all around us, some so close even the dads could talk. My dad put a worm on my fishing pole hook, but I couldn't watch. He then told me to dangle the worm into the water. After about a minute I asked, "when does the fish bite the worm?". He said, "Sometimes it takes a while, so we have to just wait and see." After what was probably several

minutes I asked him again, "when does the fish bite the worm?" He responded slightly differently this time. "I think it's going to happen pretty soon." That seemed like a good answer. As I looked at others in boats around us, I could see most of the other kids just sitting there waiting, while a few of the dads were yelling, "Fish On!" I thought, "My fish must be coming soon..." I was so envious of those kids who had fish, and I was wishing that my fish would appear.



All of a sudden there was a sudden jerk - a fish on my pole! I recall my dad yelling, "Don't pull!" All of a sudden there was no more pulling and the fish was gone. I was disappointed, but I thought maybe the fish just wanted my worm. Low and behold, the fish did want my worm and this time my dad urged me to try to put the worm on the hook by myself. I put my hand in the can and picked out a worm. It was dirty, slimy and gross! I didn't like it. I certainly didn't like that the worm was squirming and wouldn't let me get the hook poked through its body. Finally, after much consternation in hooking the worm, my dad took it and put it on. I told him, "I like fishing, but I don't want to put the worm on!" I may have started crying, I don't remember. But the rest of the day I wasn't asked to try to put the worm on my hook.

I finally did help my dad catch a little blue gill that day. I recall my dad saying, "It's hardly big enough to clean and cook, but let's take it in anyway." I was really happy! I remember all of the dads with their fishing knives cutting open the

fish and the fish wiggling wildly. They took out their guts, chopped the heads off and scraped the fish of all of their scales. After watching one or two of the fish getting cleaned, I'd had enough. I ran away to play with the other kids.

We ended up taking a few fish home for a little snack that my dad cooked up in a frying pan with some butter, salt and pepper. It smelled and tasted so good that we both wished there was more.

As I remember that fishing adventure now, I can still see that worm that I tried to put on that hook. But most of all, I recall my dad - his laughter and gentle finesse and us just rocking back and forth out in that boat. My dad's not around anymore, but that's one of the best memories I still have of him. Just him and me in the boat, and learning how to fish. It's something I'll never forget - the day my dad took me fishing.

If you want to make some memories happen with your kids or grand kids, find a fishing event like this one, taking place in Frankfort on June 21 & 22.



You're sure to catch just what you're fishing for in Benzie County. Our waters are rich with salmon, steelhead, brown trout, bass, pike, walleye, bluegill and yellow perch. Grab your rod and cast away on Lake Michigan, the majestic Betsie and Platte Rivers, or one of our 57 pristine inland lakes. Plus, Lake Michigan charters and guided river trips are available as are all of your fishing needs.

For information on visiting Benzie County, go to visitbenzie.com.

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There will be no entry fees and no licenses required for kids. No kid is turned away but every kid should be accompanied by an adult. For information about lodging and activities see the Make It Benzie website at visitbenzie.com or call (800) 882-5801.

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Collaborative Study Seeks To Find Out How Great Lakes Invaders Are Influencing Fish Diets

Daniel O'Keefe,
Michigan Sea Grant,
Michigan State University
Extension

Michigan State University is leading a comprehensive study of trout, salmon and walleye diets in Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. This far-reaching effort would not be possible

without the contributions of many partner organizations and individuals.

Fishing season is here, and anglers want to know where the fish are biting and what they are eating.

Exotic invaders like quagga mussel, spiny water flea, and round goby have

"Diet Study"
Continued on page 15

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"Tribal"

Continued from page 7

May of 2000. Negotiations for a new agreement started in the fall of 1998 and a 20 year agreement was reached on August 7, 2000. The Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources (CPMR) retained their "amici" status and were at the negotiating table playing a vital role in the process. The new agreement eliminated 14,000,000 feet of large mesh gill net effort in the 1836 Treaty waters and no large mesh gill nets were allowed below the 45th parallel in Lake Michigan. Large mesh gill nets are entanglement gear that kills any fish that gets entangled and these nets can deplete sport fish populations.

Who is the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources (CPMR)?

CPMR is a 501C3 organization made up of the following groups: Black Lake Association, Blue Water Sportfishing Association, Burt Lake Preservation Association, Grand Traverse Sport Fishing Association, Hammond Bay Angler's Association, Michigan Charter Boat Association, MSSFA and MUCC.

The coalition has a legal team of Steve Schultz and Chris Patterson. As mentioned earlier, Steve has been involved in Tribal issues since the late 1970s and I can honestly say that his knowledge and expertise has been a critical part of our success. Steve has been recognized by US News and World Report as a top 100 attorney in the US in municipal law and his law firm has received the same distinction. We have two attorneys because Steve Schultz is retiring after a new agreement is reached and Chris Patterson will be taking over after that.

What expenses does CPMR pay?

When CPMR receives a billing from the law firm, CPMR assesses each member an equal amount to cover those charges. Our involvement never ended with the 2000 Consent Decree because the Tribes continually create issues that CPMR has to be involved in. Legal fees make up 98% of the expenses and the other 2% goes to postage and regulatory filing fees. CPMR pays no expenses for member organizations as it is their responsibility to cover the expenses of their representatives. When both Chris Patterson and Steve Schultz are at a meeting or session together CPMR only pays for one attorney.

What does MSSFA'S Tribal Fund cover?

The Tribal Fund pays all assessments to CPMR. When MSSFA is billed an assessment the CPMR

"Tribal"

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“Kayak”

Continued from page 1

home, kayak in the bed of my pickup truck. Although I was still working for Great Lakes Angler Magazine at the time and had pretty much only trolled big water for the past umpteen years, I took along a bass rod I still had from another life, and rigged it with plastic worm that had somehow made it through the ages in a tub of old lures. After I

pedaled across the lake and got my picture, I decided to take a few casts.

The lake is rimmed with lily pads and I flipped the worm in a couple of times before I felt that significant “tick” of a bass bite. I set the hook, and whatever it was headed farther back in the pads, towing me and the 14-foot plastic boat behind it. It turned out to be a bass of about three pounds, a decent-sized fish but not a monster. I was hooked.

Soon after that, Great Lakes Angler got sold and operations moved from Chicago to Oregon, taking the best job I ever had west, but leaving me in Michigan. The Hobie was the only watercraft I had and I started using it more and more, and really liking it. Kayak bass tournaments were just starting in Michigan, and I got involved in those, too, finding them to be fun, cordial events. From just a few small events scattered

around the state, these contests have burgeoned. Four organizations now host several tournaments apiece in the state; an angler can

compete in a tournament nearly every weekend from late April through mid-September. These contests have entry fees that range

How to pick a kayak

A kayak shopper can easily get overwhelmed when shopping for that first little boat—tons of different styles are on the market with prices across the board. Several of them will probably fit you and make you happy, but you need to figure out which ones.

The best way is to spend some time in different kayakers on the water.

Keep your eye peeled for demo days where kayak dealerships offer customers the opportunity to take different kayakers out on the water.

Another good move is to go to a kayak tournament. There, you can see how different brands look in the water, and at the end of the contest, many of the folks who fished the tournament will allow kayak shoppers to take their rigs out for a spin.

To find kayak tournaments, go to Facebook and search for Michigan Kayak. You’ll have several organizations pop up, allowing you to look at tournament schedules and find a contest near you.



Top photo: Almost any vehicle can tow a kayak or carry one on top. This is a Toyota Prius towing a kayak on a trailer. Above: This kayaker had luck with a big Niagara River smallmouth.

METRO WEST STEELHEADERS		
2019 Kayak/SB & Beach/Pier Tournament Schedule		
• April 20	Muskegon Kayak Tournament	Chair: Eric Braden
• May 25	Bruin Lake Kayak/Small Boat	Chair: Chuck Davis
• Aug 24	Ludington Salmon	Chair: Eric Braden
• Sept 7	Kayak/SB/Beach/Pier Tourn – Frankfort	Chair: Eric Braden
• Sept 14	Muskegon Kayak Salmon	Chair: Keith Childs
• Sept 14	Manistee Pier Jamboree	Chair: Eric Braden
• Sept 21	Manistee Kayak Tournament	Chair: Eric Braden
• Oct 12	Ohio Steelhead Alley Kayak	Chair: Eric Braden
• Nov 2	Manistee Kayak/SB/Pier/Beach Tour.	Chair: Eric Braden

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from as little as \$25 up to \$75, with as many as 100 kayakers competing. Prize money is high (most are 100 percent payback and run by volunteers), and one circuit, the Michigan Kayak Trail, also gives away a new kayak with a big check to each winner.

So why is kayak fishing gaining so many new participants and growing in popularity? Here are 10 reasons.

- Not expensive. Sure, you could spend \$5000 or more on a fully rigged kayak with all the electronics, rod holders and you would ever need along with other accessories, but you can get into a kayak with some amenities for fishing for \$300 or less. Because kayak anglers often upgrade to pricier boats year to year, you can find good deals on used kayakers, often already rigged with electronics and other nice features.

- No big tow vehicle needed. This goes with the low expense. Chances are, whatever you drive now will carry a fishing kayak on its roof, in its truck bed or it will be able to tow a light trailer.

- Get to where most boats can't go. You can't believe the kind of fishing you can find in smaller rivers that have blowdowns that would stop almost any powerboat. Trips down these can be wet affairs of getting out and dragging your kayak over logs and such, but they are also the most memorable and often feature the best fishing.

“Kayak”
Continued on page 11



LUDINGTONTOURNAMENT.COM

“Kayak”

Continued from page 10

- Enjoy more nature. Sneak up on deer taking a drink. See ospreys and bald eagles unconcerned about your quiet presence. A silent kayak, low to the water can get you close to wild animals that often don't spook.

- Leave a smaller carbon footprint. You hear it all the time. Humans need to burn less fossil fuel. Kayaks achieve that without needing gas beyond what you put in your downsized tow vehicle. Ironically, they're made of plastic, which needs fossil fuels, so don't polish your halo too much.

- Socialize. I have made some of my best friends in the past five years through kayaking and participating in kayak tournaments. It's a way to fish with friends, yet not be beholden to whatever your friend wants to do.

- Solitary contemplation. Although it's always a good idea to participate in the “buddy system” and not kayak alone, you can almost always find some peace and solitude while out in your little boat.

- Be one with nature. Now, that isn't just an airy-fairy thing to say. When kayak fishing, you are almost always better off going with the flow, whether that's wind or current. To effectively fish in a lake, you can often use the wind to your advantage, deciding what structure you can fish by letting the wind take you there.

- Good exercise. Duh. Whether you pedal or paddle, you'll be out there burning some calories and improving your cardiovascular system.

- Safe. Many folks have reservations about the stability of kayaks and fear tipping over. That's a legitimate concern and can happen if you're not careful. Anecdotal evidence suggests that most kayakers who capsize aren't newbies—they've been doing it for several years and simply aren't careful. I personally rolled a Hobie PA 12 in Lake Michigan surf on a day I shouldn't have been out, and that was due to inexperience as I'd just started kayak fishing. Then four years later I tipped a smaller Hobie in a shallow

river when I was too lazy to get out of it one more time to pick up a rod holder that had slipped overboard. It was just so close and right in my fingertips—and the kayak tipped over with the thrilling speed of a mousetrap that you don't expect to snap.

I learned the Old Town Predator PDL kayaks that I

started using last year can tip over just as fast if you turn around and stick your butt ballast too far over the side. I capsized the second day of the 2018 Kayak Bass Fishing Championship at Kentucky Lake, losing about \$1,300 worth of equipment and getting pretty cold in the 52-degree water. Fortunately, Matt

Randolph of Pittsburg saw it happen—I'd been sure no one was around. I tried a few times to climb back in and couldn't do it. Matt took time out of his tournament day and towed my kayak with me hanging on the side all the way to shore.

That serves to show an example of the sportsman-

ship most kayak anglers exhibit.

Lest you think kayak fishermen only target inland species, many of us also go after salmon and walleyes on the Great Lakes. As long as you pick your day and watch the weather closely, you can have a lot of fun getting dragged around by a king salmon.

There you go. Kayaks have surged onto the fishing scene for several good reasons. Give kayak fishing a try sometime. I bet you'll like it!



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Grand Rapids Steelheaders Donation at the 2019 Ultimate Sports Show

Sportsman Against Hunger

By Bob Streck

The Grand Rapids Steelheaders donated \$1,700.00 to Gods Kitchen as their part to help alleviate hunger in Grand Rapids. The money the club donated is raised through the year from its share of 50/50 raffles to reach this amount. Gods Kitchen run by the Catholic Diocese is part of Catholic Charities and is open to the public severing meals at their location on South Division SW, in Grand Rapids. Gods Kitchen also provides meals on wheels for home bound people. These programs run by Catholic Charities are designed to help the most vulnerable in our community and touches over 21,000 individuals and families annually.

Starting in 2011 at the suggestion from our President, Steve Heintzelman, the club joined in contributing cans goods to Sportsman against Hunger on Thursday of the Ultimate

Sports Show. The Club contributed about 50 can goods the first year. By 2015 were up to 1,900 can goods and it was a logistical challenge. We were storing the can goods at the show in the back of trucks brought to the show by K & M Dodge and then delivered the can goods to Gods Kitchen.

In 2016, Don Remington, our new President decided to just give a check on Thursday of the show and this was welcomed by God's Kitchen. We had help in getting special pricing for can goods through Family Fare. Family Fare's pricing can not compare with the deals Gods Kitchen can get. For this years show the club faced a couple of new challenges. First was a heavy snow storm the day of our November meeting making for low attendance and a small 50/50 pot. Again the day before our January meeting was the start of the Polar Vortex and we canceled our meet-

ing. With luck were able to meet our goal for the show donation of \$1,700.00.

Representing the Steelheaders in the picture are

Bob Streck, Randy Van Der Hulst and Don Remington, accepting the check is Jeff Hoyh, supervisor of Gods Kitchen. Jeff explained

that this contribution of \$1,700.00 will buy about 10, 650 pounds at today's higher prices in purchasing food for Gods Kitchen. In

the last 4 years including this year we have donated \$6,700 and that purchased about 74,000 pounds of food.



Above: Can goods at the show in the back of trucks brought to the show by K & M Dodge and then delivered to Gods Kitchen.

Below: Representing the GR Steelheaders is Bob Streck, Randy Van Der Hulst and Don Remington, and accepting the check is Jeff Hoyh, supervisor of Gods Kitchen.



Go Slow For Spring Brown Trout

By Wisconsin fishing charter Capt. Jim Hirt

video fish reports at <http://www.jimhirt.com>

Spring can be Brown Trout a plenty with the right presentation. Allow me to break it down and offer some suggestions for tons of Browns wherever you fish. Let's discuss presentation, lures and location to jump start your spring. Should you have a question please e-mail me from my Website contact us page. Read all my articles and see

Smaller Is Better
The last several articles we covered some options for spring presentation with a focus on temperature, planer boards, lines, terminal tackle and lure selection. Let's continue with lure selection, colors, boat speed, and lure action

"Brown Trout"
Continued on page 13

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For Dock Space contact:

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

- ★ \$5000 First Prize Pro Division - based on 15 entries
- ★ \$450 early fee paid by August 1st, \$500 after
- ★ \$2500 First Prize Am Division
- ★ \$225 early entry fee paid by August 1st, \$275 after
- ★ 20 Places paid in the AM Division (35 Teams)

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

- ★ August 9th - Free Pig Roast at Captains Meeting
- ★ August 10th - 11th Free Hamburgers and Hot Dogs at Weigh-in and Awards Ceremony

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Registration: June 5th & 6th

East Park, Downtown Charlevoix

Entry fees: Adult Early Bird -by May 24th \$30

After May 24th \$35

Ages 6-14 \$10

Ages 5 & younger FREE (but must register)

Kids Fishing Pond
Saturday June 9th from 10am to 4pm
East Park, Trout Pond • \$5

Trout Tournament Dinner April 27th • Castle Farms, Charlevoix
Doors open at 5:30 - Buffet Dinner \$30 person (package deals available)
Catered by Matter of Taste
Appetizers • Prime Rib • Chicken Chardonnay • Baked Potato Bar • Ice Cream Bar

Deep Fried Pan Fish



- Ingredients:**
 30 Bluegill Fillets (approximately)
 2 Sleeves of Saltine Crackers
 1Tbs Black Pepper
 1Tbs Lawry's Seasoned Salt
 1tsp Onion Powder
 2 Eggs
 1/2c Milk
 Enough vegetable oil for your deep fryer

Step 1: Place crackers, black pepper, Lawry's seasoned salt and onion powder in a blender and run it until it is a powdery consistency; pour onto a paper plate.

Step 2: Place eggs and milk in blender and blend; pour in separate bowl.

Step 3: Place fillets in eggs mixture and coat well.

Step 4: Take individual fillets from egg wash and coat with cracker mixture and place on separate plate.

Step 5: Heat oil in deep fryer to 375 degrees and fry fish till they float. Drain on paper towel.



Terry Price, Holland Steelheaders

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"Brown Trout" Continued from page 12

for spring. The cold water slows down the metabolism of the fish; this in turn requires you to slow down your presentation. I select lures that are small and work well at slower than normal boat speeds.

Check the Temperature

Your adjustment to these variables is different depending on the preferred temperature of the target species. Brown trout like the warmest water of the five game fish in Lake Michigan. They are looking for above 60-degree water. When you find 60 plus water, fish them as you would in summer. Below 60 degrees the way you fish should be adjusted. Most Browns will be found in the top 20 feet of water where bright lures should be best.

Watch The Speed

I slow my boat speed to below 1.5 mph. The small lures become very effective and run well at this speed. Does your boat troll at 1.0 to 4.5 mph? If it doesn't, you will find it difficult to produce all the types of fish in all types of conditions. Most boats have trouble trolling slowly. When I purchased my new boat, the Blue Max with two 454 engines, trolling slowly was a problem for me. I then added a drift sock to slow down my presentation. Without this tool you will not be successful every trip out.

Caution: Too Slow May Be Bad

If you adjust the idle down too low on your

"Brown Trout" Continued on page 17



Launching a New Season of Sport Fishing and Lakeside Fun in South Haven

By Scott Reinert
 South Haven/Van Buren County Convention and Visitors Bureau

For 30 years, nothing has quite said “boating

season” in South Haven as the annual Pro-Am Tournament, hosted by the South Haven Steelheaders in conjunction with the South Haven Boating Foundation. Top salmon and trout fisherman from across the state

of Michigan will converge on this small town with the big hospitality May 17-19, 2019.

In 2019, South Haven celebrates our 150 year anniversary! While the superlative salmon fishing is the

reason many look forward to the tournament every year, a centrally-located marina overlooking Lake Michigan, beautiful beaches, a picturesque draw-bridge, the Kal-Haven hiking and biking trail, local

wineries, and short walks to shops and restaurants keep people coming back again and again.

Whether you’re angling for your next best catch or looking for a weekend the entire family will enjoy, es-

cape to South Haven for a most memorable getaway.



Mark your calendars now for these popular events:



Farm Market
 Huron Street Pavilion
 8:00 am-2:00 pm, Saturdays, May – October and Wednesdays, June – August

The popular Farm Market links the abundant local produce with people who look forward to the summer’s bounty of farm fresh food. There is nothing quite like the taste of vine-ripened berries and tomatoes, picked at the height of perfection by local farmers.



HarborFest hosting Mermaid MegaFest
 June 14-15, 2019

South Haven’s maritime history is celebrated with free live music all weekend, dragon boat races, a crafts fair, pancake breakfasts, classic boat show, and merpeople.



Classic Wooden Boat Show
 Michigan Maritime Museum
 June 15, 2019

This event celebrates wood, fiberglass and steel boats; power, sail, and paddle boats; large and small boats; models; radio-controlled boats; demonstrations and toy boat building for kids.



Light Up the Lake! Fireworks
 July 3, 2019

Make a whole evening of it! Enjoy the festive atmosphere in town and on the lakefront. And, whether you are watching the spectacular show from a boat or from the beach, the fireworks are launched from the pier, so the entire South Haven lakeshore has a great view.



61st Annual Art Fair
 June 29-30, 2019

A juried show that attracts a large Fourth of July crowd with high-quality and diverse works by artists from the region and across the nation.



Fish Boil by the South Haven Steelheaders
 Part of the South Haven Blueberry Festival
 Saturday, August 10th, 2019
 4:00 pm-8 pm

The Fish Boil is a Great Lakes culinary tradition and annual event for the Steelheaders that features fish caught by local sport fisherman and donated to the chapter. The group upholds the tradition of boiling whitefish, with the added twists of trout, salmon, red potatoes, onions, other side dishes, and a little (or a lot, depending on your cravings) of melted butter.



National Blueberry Festival
 August 8-11, 2019

A four-day festival features a kids’ blueberry pie eating contest, top-tier free evening entertainment, blueberry pancake breakfasts, parade on Saturday, arts and crafts fair on Saturday and Sunday, downtown sidewalk sales, blueberry cook off, 5k run/walk and Rotary Club fly-in, classic car show and pancake breakfast at South Haven Regional Airport.

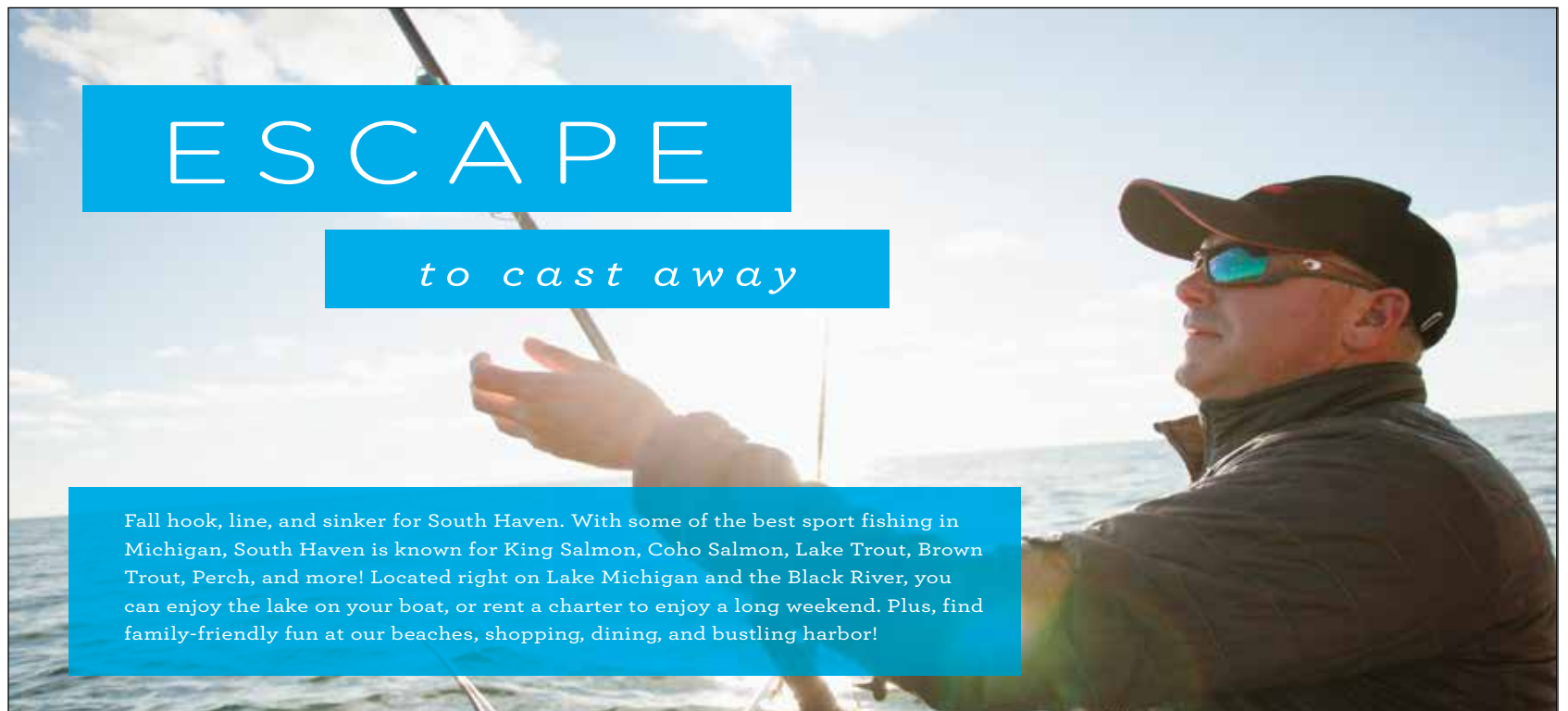
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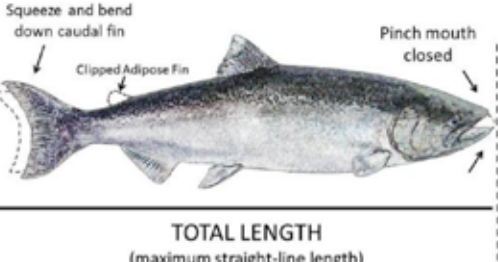
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to cast away

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VOLUNTEER DATA TAG	Date caught: <u>5-1-18</u>	
	Port fished: <u>St. Joseph</u>	
	Species: <u>COD</u>	
	Length (to 1/4 in.): <u>19 1/4</u>	
	Adipose Fin Clip (Yes/No): <u>No</u>	
Depth of Water(feet): <u>10</u> / <u>45</u> <small>Lure Water</small>		

Be sure to write clearly on data tags and measure fish carefully from the tip of the snout to end of the tail.

“Diet Study”

Continued from page 8

changed the Great Lakes, and gamefish are forced to adapt to resulting changes in forage fish abundance and composition. Anglers can help scientists to figure out how different fish species are adapting in different parts of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron by providing stomachs for the Huron-Michigan Predatory Fish Diet Study.

To submit stomach samples after a fishing trip, follow these four easy steps:

1. **Decide if you will collect stomachs from this fishing trip.** It is not necessary to collect stomachs from every fishing trip taken over the course of the year.

2. **Remove stomachs from ALL fish of each species that you are collecting.** It is not necessary to collect stomachs from all species, but if you collect

one stomach from a steelhead then collect stomachs from all steelhead caught during that trip. It is especially helpful to collect less-common species like steelhead, brown trout, and Atlantic salmon even if you do not collect more common species like Chinook salmon and lake trout.

3. **Place entire intact stomach into plastic bag with data tag.** Make sure to include only one stomach per plastic bag. Researchers prefer intact stomachs with no punctures or holes, and will not accept ripped, open, stomachs with large holes, or prey separated from the stomach. These stomachs might be missing small or heavily-digested food items that can bias the study.

4. **Freeze or ice stomachs immediately and deposit in freezer at drop site.**

Full instructions and freezer drop sites are available at MichiganSeaGrant.

org/diet. Diet study signs are also posted at access sites around Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. Data tags are available at some drop sites and can be printed at home.

Find a video and which provides helpful hints on stomach removal, as well as more information on this collaborative project and answers to frequently asked questions at this link: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/collaborative-study-seeks-to-find-out-how-great-lakes-invaders-are-influencing-fish-diets-msg19-okeefe19>

If you have questions about the study, stomach collection procedures, or drop sites contact:

Dan O’Keefe
Michigan Sea Grant
(616) 994-4572
GLanglerdiary@gmail.com



**“Tribal”
Continued from page 9**

treasurer also includes the latest financial statements for Dennis’ review. The fund also covers travel expenses for 2 MSSFA board members. Those members currently are Brian Eade and Mark Spann. Brian and Mark understand the effort it will take to raise funds so they are committed to not charging for meals and staying at moderately priced motels if an overnight stay is required. Thus far the only expenses has been mileage (\$.35) per mile while attending Executive Council meetings and Brian and Mark ride together.

How many attorneys are involved?

The Federal Government will have attorneys from Department of Justice, Department of Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Tribes will have their experienced attorneys plus the Sault Band has hired an attorney from Colorado who has had a highly successful career representing Tribes in various types of litigation. The Sault Band has also hired John Wernet who was Michigan’s lead attorney during the negotiation process that led to the 2000 Consent Decree.

We don’t know how many attorneys Michigan’s Attorney General will commit to the case but none of them will have experience in negotiating a Great Lakes agreement.

What will the tribes want?

We are not sure that all of the Tribes are on the same page but there is a chance that they may just continue fishing after the agreement expires because Judge Fox’s ruling is still the law of the land. Again, that ruling basically has few restrictions. I did hear a Tribal attorney say they will want more fish, more species, and unrestricted large mesh gill net fishing. Lake whitefish has been the main Tribal commercial harvest specie but populations and Tribal harvest are down 87% in Northern Lake Huron and 60% in Northern Lake Michigan.

How was the goal of \$50,000 for the MSSFA Tribal Fund collected?

To calculate a goal you need the hourly fee for attorneys, estimated expenses, where the negotiating sites will be to calculate expenses, how many negotiating sessions and the length of those sessions. The only thing we know is the hourly rate everything

else is an unknown. Plus, this case has the possibility of heading back to court and if it does we have no idea how long it would take to litigate. The legal fees for the coalition for the 2000 Consent Decree was a little over \$200,000 which ran from the fall of 1998 to August of 2000. So, this goal is a guesstimate. However, at the February 20th, 2019 MSSFA state board meeting, the amount of \$50,000 was set as a hard cap goal. If additional funding is needed beyond that goal, the board will discuss again and make a determination at that time.

Summary

CPMR has two basic functions, we have our legal team to provide expert legal counsel to us and to the State of Michigan plus experienced members who can provide insight, guidance and accountability.



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SAVE \$23 Reg. \$44.99 **\$21.99** Mahco Outdoors Green Hardarm Chair

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Enjoy Fast Action With Ice-Out Crappie

By Craig Ritchie
www.lake-link.com

While each of the four seasons has its own charms, it's tough to beat the surge of activity that comes in early spring as winter finally relaxes its icy grip. Fast-sliding streams across the Midwest attract big runs of powerful steelhead, open waters on the Great Lakes offer salmon close to shore, and warming shallow bays attract spawning pike in mass numbers. Yet I find one of the most enjoyable ways to wet a line is by exploring open shorelines for early season crappie.

Even as some of my friends are still ice fishing, I begin prowling open waters near shore in search of schools of crappie. Hit it right and the action can be furious, while the actual fishing is as easy as it gets. It's a nice way to get back into the swing of open water casting after a long winter lay-off.

Crappie begin heading to spring spawning sites

under the ice, so by the time open water appears along the shorelines there are usually a few fish sniffing around. I focus my time on shallow bays along the north and east side of rivers and lakes, which tend to get just a little more sun exposure and thereby warm up faster than anywhere else. The presence of inflowing streams that bring oxygen and still warmer waters make a good spot that much better, as are spots that butt up against hard structure that conduct and radiate the sun's warmth directly into the water. Canals, locks, docks and sea walls all contribute to warming the immediate area around them, and that's what you want for early-season action. As long as you have a bit of water depth (from four to 10 feet is perfect), some cover in the water and sun exposure, you stand a good chance of finding fish.

This is one time of year where it pays to sleep late, as the warming afternoon sun can really help increase



Big bluegill can be a really nice bonus!

fish activity levels. Calm, clear days tend to produce better than overcast afternoons for exactly the same reason. Forget about rising

before dawn and being on the water for first light - this

"Fast Action"
Continued on page 18

"Brown Trout"
Continued from page 13

motor, you will most likely have spark plug fouling or lubrication issues. Slow trolling is the way to go in spring or any time the water temperature is below the temp range of the fish you are after. In spring keep it slow, small and bright to increase your catch.

Hot spoons for spring

I keep talking about Vulcan spoons and more anglers are finding out that this spoon will out produce most spoons in their tackle box. Reasonably priced and nearly indestructible they just keep on producing. The regular size is a good bet for spring. Vulcan spoons are sold by <http://www.badgertackle.com>

Next Up

Note don't forget to sharpen those hooks. In a future article I will go into hook types, sharpening techniques and the pros and cons of trebles vs. singles. Jim charts out of Milwaukee, WI. with Blue Max Charters.

Daily Lake Trout Possession Limit on Grand Traverse Bay Reduced For 2019

by Michigan DNR

Anglers fishing for lake trout in the waters of Grand Traverse Bay this year need to be aware of a new regulation now in effect. At the last meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission in Lansing, the commission acted to reduce the daily possession limit of lake trout in these waters from two fish to one.

The lake trout season for the waters of the Management Unit MM-4 (covering the ports of Elk Rapids, Traverse City and Northport) runs Jan. 1 through Sept. 30. The previous daily possession limit was two fish with a 15-inch minimum size limit. Effective today, and for the rest of the 2019 season, the daily possession limit is one fish with a 15-inch minimum size limit. Most anglers at a March 6 public meeting in Traverse City preferred this change over other regulatory options.

This regulation change was necessary because the 2018 recreational harvest limit for lake trout in Grand Traverse Bay was exceeded. Lake trout harvest limits are required by the 2000 Consent Decree between certain tribal governments, the State of Michigan and the United States. The limits support population rehabilitation and maintain sustainable harvest.

"We would encourage anglers to keep the first lake trout they catch and then shift to targeting other species," said Heather Hettinger, a local DNR fisheries biologist. "Lake trout are not good targets of catch-and-release fishing, because about 40% of those that are caught and released won't survive to be caught again."

This specific regulation change is not listed in the printed version of the 2019 Michigan Fishing Guide; however, it is reflected in the electronic version of the guide found at Michigan.gov/Fishing. The change also is noted on the DNR's Fishing Regulation Hotline (888-367-7060).



Lake trout anglers in the waters of Grand Traverse Bay have a new daily possession limit (one fish instead of two), in effect starting April 12, 2019. (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)

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Its ability to float well makes monofilament the top choice for use with topwater baits.

“Fishing Line”

Continued from page 6

the stuff stands out in the water like a rope. Fish can see it easily, which means that unless you're fishing at night or in heavy cover, you will need to tie on a two-foot mono or fluorocarbon leader between the braid and your bait. The other major issue with braid is that many types of knots tied with it tend to slip easily (Palomar knots being the sole exception). Finally, its soft and supple construction means that when you get a backlash with braid, you usually get a whopper - one that can only be resolved with a fillet knife. Ironically, the backlash is one knot that never seems to slip.

Fluorocarbon

Fluorocarbon lines exploded onto the fishing scene in the 90s at the height of the finesse presentation era. The big plus to fluorocarbon is that it basically disappears underwater and is extremely difficult for fish to see, making it ideal for fooling heavily-pressured fish.

The problem with fluorocarbon is that it's stiff and it's really expensive. Pure fluorocarbon lines are so stiff they're almost impossible to cast, so pure fluoro is almost always sold as leader material (fluoro lines that come on spools big enough to fill your reel with are almost always a blend of fluoro and mono). It also

requires care when tying knots, since if you don't wet the line before pulling the knot tight, it will often fail. Fluorocarbon tends to sink at rest, making it a poor choice for topwater presentations.

Decisions, Decisions

So what do you buy? Each type of line has its strengths and weaknesses, which is why smart anglers usually carry multiple rods in the boat, some loaded with mono, others with braid or fluorocarbon. When they switch presentations or lures, they simply grab a rod that's loaded up with the kind of line they need so they're always getting the best advantage.



Craig Ritchie

Over a near 40-year career as a full-time outdoor writer, Craig Ritchie has fished all over the globe for a variety of freshwater and saltwater species. The author of *The Complete Guide To Getting Started In Fishing*, he has written thousands of articles for magazines, websites and newspapers worldwide, appeared as a guest on several television fishing programs and won numerous awards for his writing and photography. He lives in the Great Lakes region where great fishing is as close as his own back yard.



Braided lines offer tremendous strength, but are easy for fish to see in the water.



With their greater stretch and ability to absorb shock, both mono filament and fluorocarbon are better choices than braid when fishing with reaction baits.

“Fast Action”
Continued from page 17

is a much more civilized form of fishing.

After a long winter of staring down a hole in the ice, it's a pleasure just to use a normal rod and reel again. I keep it fun by selecting a light or ultra-light spinning outfit and light line - more often than not spooled up with simple monofilament in the four or six pound test range. Crappie fishing doesn't demand the brute strength of braids nor the stealth of fluorocarbon. This is old-school fishing at its finest.

The cooler weather would suggest live bait

might be the best way to go, and indeed it's hard to beat a tiny shiner minnow or a plump waxworm fished a couple of feet beneath a small bobber. But crappie are never especially fussy creatures, and even in the cold water, live bait generally isn't necessary. Small jigs can be fished under a bobber exactly as you would fish a minnow, and they tend to catch just as many fish. Small plastic-bodies grubs or twist tails are popular, as are simple hair or marabou jigs in the 1/8 to 1/16 ounce range. Small panfish jigs with white hair and a bit of silver tinsel in them are my favorites, especially those

with a contrasting pink or chartreuse head for a bit of added color.

Small inline spinners like the Mepps, Panther Martin or Vibrax are also excellent spring crappie catchers, and tend to skew the catch toward larger fish. I usually use these in conjunction with a short wire leader, for two important reasons. One, the swivel built into the wire leader alleviates the line twist problems that go hand-in-hand with using inline spinners, and two, they protect against losing lures every time a curious pike or muskie takes a swipe at the spinner. These toothy fish spawn in similar habitat to

crappie, and it's not unusual for them to occasionally chew on small spinners intended for something else. Using a short wire leader doesn't just save you money, it does the fish a favor too, since you can easily unhook and release them instead of leaving them with a mouthful of unwanted metal.

Tired of staring down an ice hole? Then enjoy an afternoon or two of casting or ice-out crappie. It's easy, it's fun, and few other species can match them on the dinner table.



2019 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

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“Coho”

Continued from page 1

side of the fish and was shocked that it was a coho instead of a chinook. The battle was not spectacular but I finally struggled to get the lanky fish into the net.

When it was safely in the meshes I took the large salmon to the edge of the river to weigh, measure, and photograph it. It pulled my Deliar down to the 17 pound mark and was almost a yard long. It was a bit gaunt, as spawning

male salmon often are, but was really “tall” from top to bottom as you can see from the photo. The 36” long net bag helps give you some size perspective on this trophy coho. These “chores” were accomplished quickly with an in between dunking

of the fish back in the river. It swam off strongly so I am rather certain it got to finish spreading its trophy genes.

I have been fishing for coho salmon from their beginning days in Michigan in the late 1960s and have made three trips to Alaska

and have never caught a coho as large as this one. While my primary target there have many days when cohos spiced up the action. They prefer the same holding water as steelhead.

Most coho run in September and October but I have caught them in the lower Platte River as late as the end of February. Probably the most consistent run of late coho occurs in the Little Manistee River and there is a solid reason for that happening. The weir that is used to block chinook salmon so their eggs and milt can be collected is in normally in place from late August until the end of October. While coho salmon are now passed over the weir, for many years they were harvested along with the spawned chinook. The result was the development of a run of wild coho that ran late so they could get past the weir and spawn. This was natural selection at work. These fish had the chance to feed in Lake Michigan for a couple of extra months and the net result was a run of coho of above average size. This run has been very strong for about ten years now but it will be interesting to see if the passing of earlier cohos affects the average size of these fish.

Most likely my trophy coho was a 4 year old salmon, living a year longer than an average *Onchorhynchus*

kisutch. I lament not collecting a scale sample from below the dorsal fin of the fish before releasing the salmon and having it read by the DNR to determine its age. If you catch an out-size coho this summer, say an eight pounder in May or a twelve pounder in July you might take a sample of scales and see if it was a fast growing coho or an older than normal salmon.



Coho Salmon

Photo credit:

www.salmonfishingnow.com

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“Mathematics”

Continued from page 1

rate of change that changes by the retrieval reel speed. Think of a fishing reel handle turning one time then the spool turns four, six or eight times. The difference in gear ratio is a mathematical equation.

Let’s look at back dropping plugs or forward trolling. The amount of line let out in feet out the back of the boat can also affect the depth. Not to mention the trolling speed in MPH. Some days they want the lure at a faster or slower trolling speed. Just another common math problem solved every day and most anglers never even realize it.

The Angle

Fishing is about the angle. Have you ever been on the bank or the boat and your buddy have the same set up and bait as you, but out fishes you? The first thing you think of in this scenario is he was fishing lighter leaders? That could be true, but a true buddy will tell you if he’s fishing lighter leaders to get bit. You would hope anyway, ha-ha. But more times than not he had the right angle, and you didn’t. For example, the most important factor is presentation. The angler who disturbs his presentation the least and mends his line less often catches more fish. If you’re at the back of the boat or



Above: Roger Hinchcliff lands nice steelhead fishing high water in the Big Manistee River.

standing further down the bank from your buddy at the wrong angle, it causes you to mend your line more often. This could be costing you fish without knowing it.

If you’re a wading angler you’re better off wading out further if the depth and flow permits. Further upstream just to the side of the run you suspect is hold-

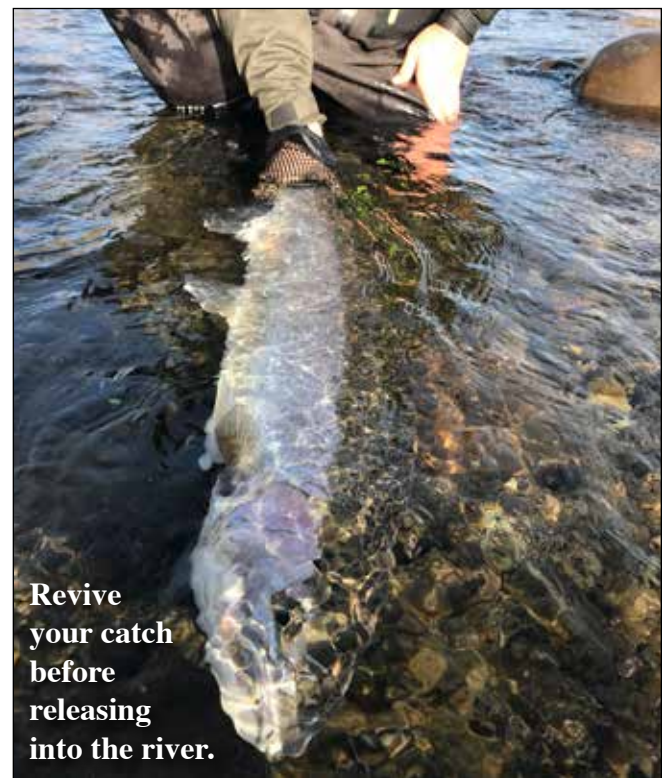
ing fish. So, your position or angle isn’t as severe and delivering your offering in a stealth like manner with fewer mends or disturbance to the bait. Even better if you’re in a boat anchor up stream in the run and go straight down the pipe. Take the angle right out whenever possible and you will catch more fish.

The last angle I will point out is the actual rod angle. Very critical when fishing and can really make a difference. When back dropping plugs the rod angle will affect how deep your plugs will dive. If they are too high, they inhibit the action of the plug. How about back bouncing or side drift fishing? A rod too high or low will affect the sensitivity of the tick you feel when drift fishing. A rod held at a 45-degree angle is the best angle. This results in a better feel of the bottom as you bounce along in the current. A rod angle too high will also result in a poor hook set costing you more fish.

Fishing Line

Many folks only pay attention to the pound test rating and what type of line they want to use for a specific technique. When they should also pay attention and consider line diameter and line type; fluorocarbon, hybrid, mono and braided lines all have different sink rates and breaking strengths. When running main line verses your leader.

We do math subtraction to insure leader will break first before the main line. Next, consider the sink rate of a line is based on how much line and type is on or in the water. Braided lines and mono can both tend to float slowing a lighter jig’s sink rate down for example.



Revive your catch before releasing into the river.

The line diameter can also affect the dive rate or how deep a crankbait or a plug runs. Where fluorocarbon line sinks the fastest. Many anglers will count the seconds it takes to get to the bottom. Through the years I’ve heard one foot per second. Which really isn’t true due to many factors, but we still do it.

We also check the weather for conditions on wind and the water flow rates. Which both can affect our presentations too. If I’m fishing dirtier water, I will check the visibility in feet and determine how I’m going to fish. Lots of numbers to look at every time we go fish. As you can see there are many variables and math problems to consider just on your fishing line and the water you fish.

Preparation

I saved this one for last. When thinking about more causes of fewer fish being caught compared to other

reasons this one comes to mind the most. The angler who pre-ties his rigs, leaders, beads, spinners or baits is ready when a snag takes his leader and hook. Just think if you lost 12 leaders a day while fishing on the river and took 5 minutes to re-tie every time. You lost a whole hour of fishing. The more time your bait is in the water and covering the water column results in more fish. Its simple mathematics you cannot deny. *Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.*

Let me be clear math is no fun, but fishing is. But you now must admit a True Fishermen is really a Mathematician. We just love and try to figure out the sport of fishing. We spend our whole life doing math problems and never even knew it. I wonder if Albert Einstein even fished?

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Walleye on Jigs

By Bob Jensen

Many walleye anglers consider early spring to be their favorite time of year to chase their favorite fish. Rivers across walleye country, and many lakes and reservoirs in the same region, are seeing lots of anglers after walleyes. There are

some states or areas where walleye season is closed, but there are plenty of places where we can get after walleyes right now. And, for many of those anglers, walleye fishing right now means jig fishing. Here are some ideas for catching walleyes on jigs during the next few weeks.

Walleyes can be caught using a lot of different bait types, and most walleye anglers take most of those bait types with them when they go fishing. But in the early part of the season, you're probably going to do okay if you just take your jig box, and in many places you'll only need sixteenth and eighth ounce jigs. Not everywhere, but in many places.

Walleyes are getting ready to spawn. They'll look for areas with a sand or rubble bottom. In lakes they'll seek out light current areas, in rivers they'll want to be in areas where the current isn't too strong. Many of the most successful walleye anglers will tie on a jig with a short shank and wide hook gap. Fire-ball Jigs are an outstanding example of this



Here's our fishing friend Bill Bunn with a jig-caught spring walleye from Clear Lake in north central Iowa. Clear Lake is an outstanding early season walleye lake.

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style jig. Walleyes prefer a smaller bait presentation this time of year, and with the Fire-ball you can provide that presentation. A minnow is usually the preferred addition to jigs for the first few weeks of walleye season. Put the hook in the minnow's mouth and out the back of its head. By doing so, the minnow's mouth will be right against the jig. This creates the image of a small presentation.

In water with light current that is less than five feet deep, go with the sixteenth ounce size. In heavier current or deeper water, size up to an eighth ounce. This time of year, in many lakes and rivers, the fish will be shallow. We take them frequently in water only two feet deep.

A slow presentation is usually best, and the lighter jigs allow for a slow presentation. If the fish are

finicky, try fishing your jig under a slip-bobber. Under a slip-bobber, you can let the jig wiggle right there in the fish's face, and a jig/minnow combo slowly wiggling can't be resisted by a walleye very often.

The line that you use is an important consideration. There are a lot of options. Some anglers like to go traditional and fish with monofilament. Mono is not a bad choice. Consider 6 pound test CX P-Line. It's really good with light jigs and stands up to rocks and other underwater obstructions well.

In the past number of years, more anglers have been using XTCB Braid in 15 pound test and then tying in a 6 or 8 pound test Tactical Fluorocarbon leader. The braid is super-sen-

"Jigs"
Continued on page 23



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2019 Battle Creek Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information
May	4	Trip Swap	They Come Here
May	18	Lake Michigan Spring Tournament	Benton Harbor
May 31 - June 1		Connie McGowan Invitational (Captain Must Be A Member)	Lake Erie
July	13	Portage Lake Panfish/Family Picnic	Vicksburg
August	3	Lake Michigan Memorial	South Haven
August	17	Veterans Outing	South Haven
September	28	Perch Tournament	Lake Erie
October	5	Kalamazoo River Salmon Slam	Allegan Dam
October	19	Kalamazoo River Memorial	Allegan Dam
October	26	Kalamazoo River Trout Quest	Allegan Dam
November	23	St. Joe River Fall Steelhead	I-94 Boat Ramp
December	7	St. River Chapter Challenge	Babes Lounge
December	14	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

2019 Grand Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Contact Info
January 1 - Nov. 30		Member Year Long Fishing Contest	
September	7	Sportsmen for Youth Day	Muskegon County Fairgrounds
September	14	Grand Haven Salmon Festival	KidZone Activity Area
November	30	Member Year Long Contest Ends	
December	TBD	Annual Meeting, Recognitions, Dinner	

Other Events TBD

For information on these events and other information on the Grand Haven Steelheaders contact Mary Jane Belter, mjbeltel@altelco.net or GHS President Matt Whitney, whitneycharters@charter.net or 616-402-6303 www.ghsteelheaders.com

2019 Grand Rapids Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information
May	4	Spring Big Lake	STC*
May	6	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
May	20	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
June	3	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
June	7-9	Lake Erie 3 Day Walleye Contest	
June	24	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
July	1	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
July	17	Chapter Family Picnic 6:00 PM at Johnson Park Shelter House **	
August	3	Fall Big Lake	STC*
August	5	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
August	26	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
September	9	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
September	30	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
October	1	Chapter Buck Contest Begins **	
October	14	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
October	26	Fall River Contest	STC*
October	28	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
November	4	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
November	9	Fishing Partners Manistee Contest	STC*
November	25	Membership Meeting	7:15 PM - Social Hour 6:15 PM
December	2	Board Of Directors Meeting	7 PM
December	10	Chapter Family Christmas Party	6:00 PM – Diamond Hall **

STC* = Date subject to change

** = Members and Family Only. (All other events open to the public)

2019 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Event
May	4	5:30a – 1:00p	Manistee
May	7	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Only VFW Hall
May	18	5:30a – 1:00p	South Haven
June	1	7:00a – 1:00p	Linwood Beach Walleye
June	4	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Only VFW Hall
June	15	7:00a – 1:00p	Sebawing Walleye (Kids Day Sat.)
June	16	7:00a – noon	Outing, Day Two
June	29	7:00a – 1:00p	Standish Walleye
July	2	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Only VFW Hall
July	13	5:30a – 1:00p	Manistee
July	27	5:30a – 1:00p	Ludington
August	7		No Board/Membership Meeting
August	10	6:00a – 1:00p	Ludington (day 1)
August	11	6:00a – noon	Ludington (day 2)
	24	6:00a – 1:00p	Manistee (day 1)
	25	6:00a – noon	Manistee (day 2)
September	3	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting VFW Hall
September	7	6:30a – 1:00p	Frankfort

Great Lakes Bay Region continued, next column

2019 Great Lakes Bay Region ...continued

Month	Date	Time	Event
October	1	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting VFW Hall
November	5	6:00 / 7:15	Board/Membership Meeting VFW Hall
November	9	Daylight -1:00	Big and little Manistee River / Bear Creek
December	3	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Only VFW Hall
December	7	Daylight -1:00	Big Manistee River / Bear Creek
December	14	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. Raffle follow after every Membership meeting.
 Board only meetings begin at 7:00pm.

We ask that you please call the Port Chairman no later than Monday prior to the event as to whether you plan on attending or not attending. On the day of the event call in on Marine Radio, Channel 72 or cell phone for the Port Chairman. Weigh-in follows each outing. Picnics follow weigh-in on Saturdays only.
 Outings: All Steelheader members pay \$5.00. All non-Steelheaders pay \$10.00 to participate.
 Children 16 and younger are free.

If interested in fishing with us please email: kathy@steel-headers.com. Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com

2019 Holland Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
May	6	Board Meeting
May	18	Holland Steelheaders Spring Challenge
May	21	Tuesday Night League Kickoff
June	3	Board Meeting
June	8	Holland Steelheaders All Species Tournament
June	22	Kids N Kings
July	8	Board Meeting
July	13	Veterans Fishing Outing
July	25	General Membership Meeting
July	27	Holland Steelheaders Summer Challenge
August	2-4	Big Red Classic
August	5	Board Meeting
August	17	Holland Steelheaders Ladies Tournament
September	3	Tuesday Night League Final Night
September	9	Board Meeting
October	7	Board Meeting
November	4	Board Meeting
December	2	Board Meeting
December	5	General Membership Meeting
December	7	Holland Steelheaders River Tournament

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 Waxer1221@yahoo.com



2019

Membership Drive



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



Let's get them to join!





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

Here's how it works!

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

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

2019 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Chair / Location
May	7	General Membership Meeting	
May	11	Toledo Beach Memorial Walleye Tourn. &Vets	
May	18	Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament Sat	
May	19	Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament Sun	
May	25	Maumee River Kayak/Small boat	
June	1	Kids Fishing Outing at Kensington Park	
June	4	General Membership Meeting	
June	8	Grand/Southhaven Salmon Pier Event	
June	15	Lake Erie Walleye Tournament - Sat	
June	22	Walleye Tournament (Saginaw Bay or L. Erie)	
June	29	Maumee River Kayak - Small Mouth	
July	6	Clinton River Cleanup Day	
July	9	Club Summer Picnic	
July	11	Erieau Tournament - Thur Erieau, Canada	
July	13	Erieau Tournament - Sat. Erieau, Canada	
July	20	Manistee River Cleanup Day @ High Bridge	
July	25	Ludington Salmon Tournament - Thu	
July	26	Ludington Salmon Tournament - Select LUREs only	
July	27	Ludington Salmon Tournament - Sat	
July	28	Ludington Salmon Tournament - Sun	
August	3	Salmon Tournament - Manistee - Sat	
August	4	Salmon Tournament - Manistee - Sun	
August	6	General Membership Meeting	
August	10	Salmon Tournament - Frankfort	
August	24	Ludington Salmon Jigging	
September	3	General Membership Meeting	
September	7	Lake/Pier & River Tournament - Frankfort	
September	14	Muskegon Kayak for Salmon etc	
September	14	Manistee Pier Jamboree Starts at 7 pm	
September	21	Manistee River Tournament	
October	1	General Membership Meeting	
October	5	Manistee River Tournament	
October	12	Ohio Steelhead Alley (include Elk Creek P.A.)	
November	2	River Tourn./Pier & Shore Outing Manistee w/ DS	
November	5	General Membership Meeting	
December	3	CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
December	7	Huron River Tournament	

**** 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@Ameritech.net or call 248 225 4964.

Contact: *President* Larry Tabaka 313-215-8979 / *Membership Director* Henry Nabors 248-225-4964

2019 South Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Chair / Location
May	16	Board and Membership Meeting Guest Speaker - Kevin Oles - Salmon in the Classroom Summit	
May	17	South Haven Tournament Captains Meeting	South Haven Moose Lodge
May	18-19	South Haven Tourney	
June	8	SHS Ladies Tournament	
June	8-9	Free Fishing Weekend	
June	20	Board and Membership Meeting	
July	18	Board and Membership Meeting	
August	10	SHS Fish Boil (Blueberry Festival August 8-11)	
August	15	Board and Membership Meeting	
August	17	SHS Operation Injured Soldier/SH Salute to Veterans	
August	24	SHS Merle Morris Tournament	
September	19	Board and Membership Meeting	
October	17	Board and Membership Meeting	
November	21	Board and Membership Meeting	
November	23	SHS River Tournament	
December	7	SHS Holiday Party 2019 (No Board or membership meeting this month)	

Note: All Board and membership meetings are held the third Thursday of each month.
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

2019 Southwest MI Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
May	9-11	Summer Challenge Tournament: www.fishthesummerchallenge.com
June	13	Membership Meeting
July	11	Membership Meeting
August	TBD	Trolling with the Troops
August	8	Membership Meeting
September	12	Membership Meeting
October	10	Membership Meeting
November	14	Membership Meeting
December	7	Winter Challenge Tournament
December	12	Membership Meeting

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

"Jigs"
Continued from page 21

sitive and tough, and the fluorocarbon is invisible, so you get the best of 2 worlds. Snags can be an issue in some rivers, and with the braid you might save a few jigs.

Last thing: Go with a sensitive rod. Early season walleyes are often light-biters, and a sensitive rod will reveal more bites. I'm sure

that the Lew's Custom Speed Stick Walleye Special that I've been using has added to my walleye catch. Team it with a Speed Spin CS200 and you're set.

However you like to fish, from a boat or in waders, walleyes are there to be caught right now. Maybe we'll see you in or on the water.



Above: The author's spring walleye jig box. The Lure Lock box with its sticky surface keeps the jigs easy to see and prevents spilling.

2019 TCAS Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
May	1	General Membership Meeting
May	4	Brown Trout Tournament Frankfort
May	18	Torch Lake Salmon Tournament
June	5	General Membership Meeting
June	15	Starvation Lake Tournament
June 29 - July 6		National Cherry Festival - NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING or Board Meeting
July	13	Lake Charlevoix Tournament
August	7	General Membership Meeting
August	10	Crystal Lake Tournament
August	24	Grand Traverse Bay Tournament (Elk Rapids)
September	4	General Membership Meeting
October	2	General Membership Meeting
October	5	Senior Center Fish Fry
November	6	General Membership Meeting
December	7	Christmas Party - Tentative date

Membership Meetings Held at: Traverse City Senior Center, 801 Front St., Traverse City, MI 49686

* Ice Fishing Tournaments will be cancelled if ice is deemed unsafe.

2019 Thumb Chapter Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location / Information
May	4	6:00 AM	Can2Can Fishing Tournament	Harbor Beach Marina - Need Workers!!
May	16	7:30	Ladies Night Meeting	Ubyl Foxhunters
June	1	6:00 AM	ProKing Fishing Tournament	Harbor Beach Marina
June	8	6:00 AM	Veterans fishing outing	Contact Kevin Ramsey for details
June	20	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubyl Foxhunters
July	18	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubyl Foxhunters
August	12	2:00 PM	Pig Roast	Harbor beach VFW
August	15	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubyl Foxhunters
September	19	7:30	Regular Meeting	Ubyl Foxhunters
October	17	7:30	Regular Meeting, Election of Board/Officers	Ubyl Foxhunters

November
December

Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries.

2019 Thunderbay Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Information
May	6	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
May	18	6:00 am	Alpena tournament
June	3	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
June	8	6:00 am	Presque Isle Tournament
June	22	6:00 am	Tournament location to be determined
July	1	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
August	5	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
August	24	6:00 am	Rogers City Tournament
September	2	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
October	7	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
November	4	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting
December	2	7:00 pm	Monthly Meeting

Contact Dan Bouchard at dan-bouchard@hotmail.com for inquiries.

2019 White River Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Event information	Location
May	2	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
June	6	6:30 pm	Meeting at Montague Boat Launch (weather permitting) - If raining, meeting at Montague VFW	
July			No meeting this month	
August	1	6:30 pm	Meeting at Montague Boat Launch (weather permitting) - If raining, meeting at Montague VFW	
September	5	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
October	3	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
November	7	6:30 pm	Meeting	Montague VFW
December	5	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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April 19th & 20th

FREE SEMINARS BY THE PROS ~ BIGGEST SALES OF THE YEAR ~ MANUFACTURER REPS

CHURCH TX-44 Tournament Series Planer Board

SALE \$44⁹⁹
Reg. \$49.99



Includes Lock-Jaw Clip, Stainless Steel Rear Pin and E-Z Store for quick and easy removal & storage.

ACME Little Cleo Trolling Spoons

Unique hump-backed shape results in a seductive, wiggling action.



Starting at \$4²⁹

STORM Hot 'N Tots

100+ STYLES AVAILABLE



TOP SELLER

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HUMMINBIRD Helix 7 Chirp Mega DI GPS G3N

\$599⁹⁹



Features: MEGA Down Imaging, Dual Spectrum CHIRP Sonar, ethernet networking capability, Bluetooth connectivity, AutoChart Live, GPS and Humminbird Basemap built-in



ATTWOOD Anchor Lift

SALE \$24⁹⁹
Reg. \$44.99

Convenient system drops anchor at the turn of a button and stores it in anchor mount housing when not in use.

CHURCH TX-22 Special Pro Pack

SALE \$99⁹⁹

Includes two boards, two flag systems and accessories.



Reg. \$109.99

MINN KOTA Trolling Motors

With Built-In MEGA DOWN IMAGING



The Built-in MEGA DI transducer provides both MEGA Down Imaging and 2D CHIRP Digital Sonar directly from the motor!



ARCTIC SPINNERS

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5" inline spinners weigh 5/16 oz and are a proven top producer for Steelhead, Chinook Salmon, Coho, Brown Trout, Lake Trout, Walleye, Pike, Muskie and Bass!



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OPTI-TACKLE Copper Supreme Coated Wire

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45 lb 300' 7-strand tin-coated Copper Supreme sinks faster than steel, with less kinking.

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\$6⁹⁹

Proven topwater bait features bright colors and internal rattle. Available in 12 colors.



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World-famous FlatFish action with a deep-diving lip design. Available in 3 sizes.



OKUMA Big Lake Tournament Series Trolling Rods

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E-glass blanks and graphite pipe reel seats with stainless steel hoods; double foot guides.

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