



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

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Brett Hartford
and his 16 pound steelie.

Lake Michigan Big Fish Mystery

By Jim Bedford

Most anglers that fished Lake Michigan last summer and its tributaries this past fall would agree that numbers of salmon and steelhead were well down but there were a bunch of fish that were larger than average. This was especially true for chinook salmon in the lake and steelhead and chinook in the tributaries. It is a good bet that taxidermists that specialize in fish have been very busy mounting these trophies.

I was fishing with Brett Hartford, a former student in my community college angling class and now a good friend and regular river fishing partner, this past

December. As usual we fished adjacent stretches of stream, spotting the car between us. When we met up at the end of the day I could tell that Brett was really excited. He had landed a 17.5 pound male steelhead, his personal best (see photos). Maybe even more impressive, he had put three other steelhead in his net and they were all big. The average size of his catch was 15 pounds and also included a 16 pounder. I also hooked four steelhead but only landed two and, of course, the big one got away. I searched my records of

“Mystery”
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Michigan Coronavirus Prevention Measures Could Mean Fewer Fish In Years Ahead

By Joe Boomgaard
MiBiz.com

A series of measures intended to curb the spread of the coronavirus could have implications for Michigan's recreational fishery in the coming years.

As a result of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's stay-home order and general social distancing guidelines, the Department of Natural Resources had to cancel its spring egg-take operations that supply stock for its fish hatcheries. In particular, the move affects hatcheries that raise prized game fish species including walleye, muskellunge and steelhead, a variety of rainbow trout that provides a sport fishery in both the Great Lakes and many tributaries across the state.

As a result, the DNR hatcheries will be left without a hatchery year class of those species, said Jay

Wesley, the agency's Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator.

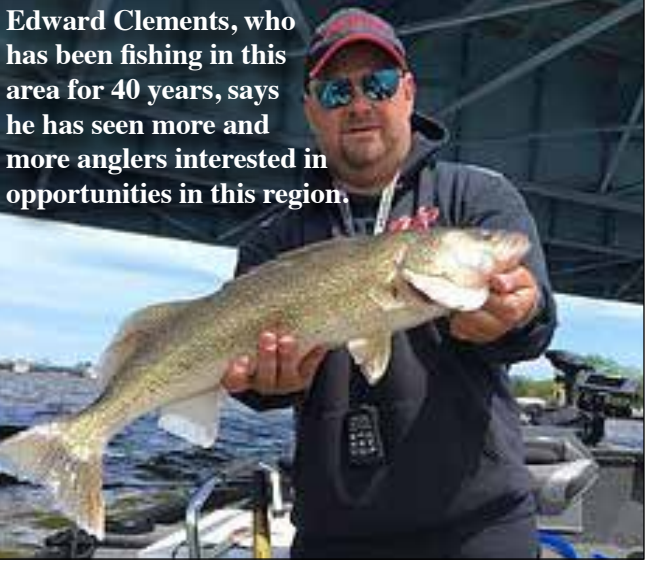
That lack of a year class could affect the quality of Michigan's \$2.3 billion recreational fishing industry over the next two to three years or so.

“As much as I'm distraught that this had to occur, I don't believe that the ecosystem is going to crash as a result,” said Dennis Eade, executive director of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, commonly known as the Michigan Steelheaders. “It will reduce the size of the runs coming back to rivers in 2-3 years, but I don't think we're going to be dramatically harmed by the decisions that were made.”

Wesley said about two-thirds of the DNR's staff

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Edward Clements, who has been fishing in this area for 40 years, says he has seen more and more anglers interested in opportunities in this region.



Conservation Efforts From The Past Are Creating A Booming Fishing Economy In The Saginaw Bay

By Kaitlyn Farley
Route Bay City
secondwavemedia.com/
baycity/

Just a few years ago, very few walleye swam through the Saginaw Bay and Saginaw River. Now, the Great Lakes Bay Region is one of the premier walleye fishing destinations in the nation.

The Saginaw Bay is now the “walleye factory of Lake Huron,” said Mi-

chael Kelly, director of the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network, one of The Conservation Fund's longest-running watershed restoration and sustainability programs.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources estimates the Saginaw Bay's recreational fishery economic worth at \$30 million.

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COVID-19 Catches: Social Distancing Doesn't Stop Great Lakes Fishing

By James Proffitt
GreatLakesNow.org

While schools and non-essential businesses are all closed to some extent by various governors' orders, the outdoors is still open and early spring fishing is a great way to get out of the house and grab some fun, fresh air and of course some fish.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine ordered all bars and restaurants to close more than two weeks ago, and on Monday he also ordered Ohioans to stay home and remain home unless absolutely necessary.

Residents are allowed to grocery shop, make medical appointments, travel to and from work at essential businesses and engage in other “essential” activities, which includes going outdoors and getting exercise.

It's the same in most of the Great Lakes region.

“Our governor did issue a stay at home order, but under that order you're still able to go outside and engage in activities,” said John Pepin, deputy public information officer with Michigan Department of Natural Resources. “And fishing is one of those activities.”

Pepin recommends proper social distancing, of course, and being mindful of others' health and welfare. On streams and banks, that would require being at least a fishing rod's length

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The Quality of Fishing Reflects the Quality of Living!

“Mystery”

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50 plus years of hardcore Michigan steelhead fishing and could not find a day where my best four steelhead weighed 60 pounds. Once, I did make the 15 pound average with three steelhead that weighed a little over 46 pounds. But it should be noted that that included my Michigan best steelhead, 21.3 pounds on a certified scale. This special day for me was “only” 36 years ago.

Big fish were showing up on the Internet all sum-

mer and fall. A long time fishing friend landed a 35 pound king in the Manistee River, another personal best. It certainly won't be a surprise if a record number of chinook and steelhead end up in the DNR's master angler rolls for 2019. While my best fall steelhead was “only” 16 pounds I have noticed that the large steelhead always seem to be either extra “girthy” or “tall” or both. I also noticed that steelhead numbers appear to be well down in the streams that I fish.

This situation seemed to continue through the



Brett Hartford and his 17.5 pound steelie.

spring season although the steelhead were not quite as heavy and the numbers were not as depressed. Of, course there is a good reason for the somewhat smaller weight. These fish don't feed much in the lake when the water gets cold and those that ran the rivers in the fall rarely feed at all while burning calories swimming upstream. The conversion of body fat and other nutrients to eggs and milt is not 100% efficient so weight is lost during this lengthy process. And, of course, lots of energy is expended when spawning

along with the obvious loss of the weight of eggs and milt.

While all these big fish have been landed, the news from the research fisheries biologists is that scientific surveys of Lake Michigan show that the lake wide alewife population is still way down from the long time average. And the quagga mussel population is still way up and growing. The increasing clarity of the lake shows that the mussels are still taking a big bite out the plankton population which is the principal food source for alewives. We also know that the salmonids grow best when their main diet is made up of alewives.

At the Lake Michigan Citizen Fisheries Advisory Committee meeting last fall many captains reported frequently seeing “balls of baitfish” on their sonar screens and expressed doubt that the alewife population could be as depressed as the research data seems to indicate. But they also reported that their salmon catch rates were down and stated their desire for increasing stocking. I am pretty sure that planting more fish will not be the answer with the overall limited forage base.

The mystery or enigma of our Lake Michigan fishery is how we can

“Mystery”

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The Michigan Department of Natural Resources suspended all egg-take operations for prized game fish like steelhead, walleye and muskellunge, which means hatcheries will go without a year class of the species. Above, angler Chris Schnell of Portage shows off a steelhead. MIBIZ PHOTO: Joe Boomgaard

“Michigan”

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are working from home, with only hatchery personnel considered as essential under the state’s stay-home order. That limited personnel, coupled with social distancing guidelines that recommend people remain 6 feet apart at all times, led the DNR to call off egg-take operations for steelhead at the Little Manistee River Weir near Manistee, as well as for walleye on the Muskegon River near Newaygo and on Little Bay De Noc in the Upper Peninsula.

In the case of the Little Manistee River, the weir — a low-head dam where grates are lowered in place to block the passage of fish — was reopened on March 30 to allow all steelhead to migrate up the river. Sections of the river opened to fishing April 1.

“Having those fish go upriver and spawn is important because that’s our

future broodstock,” Wesley said.

Nearly all hatchery steelhead stocked in Michigan waters originate from eggs harvested from the Little Manistee River. The remainder are a strain of steelhead called Skamania that are planted in the Manistee River near Wellston. The Skamania strain, which run up the Manistee River in the summer as opposed to the fall or winter for most Michigan steelhead, are sourced in a trade with Indiana’s fisheries division.

Wesley said that trade was cancelled this year, meaning the Manistee River will not get a plant of Skamania steelhead. He said the DNR adjusted its stocking by planting additional Michigan hatchery steelhead in the St. Joseph River, which flows through Southwestern Michigan and into Indiana.

While the DNR’s actions with steelhead are “certainly not desirable

(and) likely to be felt negatively in some places in the future,” Michigan Trout Unlimited Executive Director Bryan Burroughs hopes the state “can learn something valuable from it.”

“Perhaps the upside, long term, is a better understanding of where we are at with wild fisheries, their capacity, and better understanding of just how important it is to stock certain ones,” Burroughs said in an email to MiBiz. “While the downsides are real, perhaps in 5 years or so, maybe this along with other research might help focus steelhead management further. I can only hope for the upsides of them having to do this.”

Mitigation efforts

Currently, the DNR has no backup plan to source eggs or hatchery stock from another location.

“We’ll have to figure out if we can do something like that,” Wesley said. “On Lake Michigan, we

have predator caps, and we mix and match species to stay within that cap, so we could stock extra chinook salmon. There are ways we could mitigate (the lack of a year class of steelhead).

“One thing with steelhead is that some of our rivers are not stocked and get 100-percent wild runs, and where we do stock, about 30 percent of the runs are a result of natural reproduction. Every run also has fish from age 2-6, so there will still be some year classes available. ... We often see year-class failure because of lake conditions or river conditions. Yes, this is widespread, but a lot of these rivers have poor year classes anyway. Nature adjusts and we might not even notice a missing year class.”

Other fish stocking adjustments took place at the federal level, Wesley said. In recent years, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has had good results stocking

native lake trout at various mid-lake reefs in Lake Michigan by using its vessel, the Spencer F. Baird, to transport the fish for planting. Given the coronavirus mitigation measures, using the Baird was not an option this year, so the USFWS instead opted to stock the lake trout plants at the port closest to the reefs, albeit miles away from their intended locations.

The DNR also has had to put on hold its annual survey efforts during the course of the stay-home order, Wesley said. Typically, the agency starts conducting creel surveys in April that help estimate fish harvest and catch rates on the Great Lakes, as well as conducts a spring lake trout population survey. It also called off various inland lake studies across the state.

Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the state’s largest conservation organization, said it was “disappointed” in the cancellation of the spring egg-take operations while “we simultaneously understand the challenges that come with a mandated stay at home order for non-essential business,” Ian FitzGerald, policy and special events assistant at MUCC, said in an email to MiBiz.

“Ultimately, it is the department’s responsibility, and in their best interest, to protect the health of their employees,” FitzGerald said.

According to Wesley, reactions to the DNR’s efforts have been a study in “polar opposites.”

“Some people are really accepting and appreciate what we’re trying to do given the circumstances, and then you have some people saying ridiculous things like the DNR doesn’t like steelhead or it was done to save money or that they’d volunteer to do the egg take and get it done,” Wesley said. “Some people are throwing out all kinds of nasty stuff, and it’s been tough on certain members of our staff.”

Get outdoors

One silver lining resulting from the recent crisis has been the number of people across the state who are getting out fishing, Wesley said. The stay-home order allows only essential people to leave home to go to work, but makes an exception for people to leave for recreational purposes, including fishing.

“It’s crazy: We have more people fishing right now than we’ve had in years,” he said. “We just need people to remember to spread out.”

That lack of adherence to social distancing guidelines led the state to shut down the popular Tippy Dam Recreation Area on the Manistee River, where anglers flock every spring to try for steelhead on their spawning run. The site is closed until further notice, with violations resulting in civil infractions and fines up to \$500.

Wesley said DNR conservation officers continue to monitor heavy-use sites around the state and give warnings when people are not practicing proper social distancing, although they often “bunch back up” soon afterward.

“Then you get people taking pictures of all these people not following the guidelines and they send it to politicians telling them to do something about it. And then we get political pressure to stop all fishing,” Wesley said.

Other states that have instituted stay-home orders have restricted sport fishing. For example, Washington banned all fishing activity during its order, and the state of Illinois closed all of its Department of Natural Resources access points to fishing.

Wesley said the goal is to avoid having those scenarios play out in Michigan, but keeping fishing open requires people to comply with state orders.

“We’re doing our best to get people to spread out, but it’s really a waste of first responder resources,” Wesley said.

Pain ahead?

Another step taken as a result of the coronavirus also affected a key project that aims to protect the Great Lakes from the spread of invasive species.

In a move supported by a bipartisan coalition of state Legislative leaders, Whitmer also used line-item veto powers in a supplemental budget bill to direct \$150 million to the coronavirus response. That included an \$8 million budget item to support a beefed up barrier to block Asian carp at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet, Ill.

The funds would have gone toward Illinois’ share of state matching funds needed for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a preliminary analysis and scoping of the project.

“Michigan”
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MSSFA PRESIDENT

Tim Stegeman

Asian Carp or Covid-19? Which impacts you more? I think the answer is obvious, but it isn't a choice of one or the other, they both need to be dealt with.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed and along with it some major budget changes at the state and federal levels. We now will experience the failure of the federal government since the 1980's to fully fund the prevention efforts of keep-

ing Asian carp out of the Great Lakes and specifically enhancing the barriers at the Brandon Road lock and Dam in Illinois. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic Michigan rescinded eight million dollars in matching funding for the completion of the engineering plans. Commercial fishers removed an alarming 1.5 million pounds of big head and silver carp out of the Chicago Waterway System as a result of control measures in 2019. The work needs to begin now if we are going

to be successful in preventing Asian carp from getting into the Great Lakes. At the current rate the Army Corp of Engineers are looking at 2027 as expected date for completion. This is not acceptable.

Covid-19 on the other hand has received lightning action from our state and federal government with the usual partisan fan-fare that is better suited discussion in another forum. However, and related to that fanfare, we have been receiving communications asking to

pressure local, state and federal authorities to lessen restrictions especially when it comes to allowing anglers to get back on the water in motorized boats. I don't need to tell you that the MSSFA prides itself on supporting decisions based on science for the health of the fishery. Therefore and by extension our position is the same for human health. Our helath is not something to gamble with. One unfortunate example is that fellow Steelheader and Battle Creek chapter Membership



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

Chair David Shingledeck, aged 49 just succumbed to Covid-19. That really hits home and that is why, the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association fully supports the closures and restrictions being implemented to slow and shorten the spread of Covid-19.

Moving forward, The governor, legislators and their staffs need to go to work and make common sense, non-partisan revisions to the new stay-at-home order that makes health the top priority while recognizing different geography, different business types, and responsible distancing when recreating. Restricting the number of

anglers in a motor boat is common sense and limiting the number of boats able to access a boat launch site at one time also accommodates anglers. We don't need any more excuses of why we can't do this or that. We need the plan we are all going to abide by of what is safe and unsafe to go back to normalcy. Being shut-in is not a viable plan.

The new normal is going to require all of us to change our mind-set and adopt more rigorous protocols to prevent Covid-19 from continuing to endanger our fellow citizens or the disease returning once the pandemic has subsided.

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

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The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association (MSSFA) is a multi-state, non-profit organization dedicated to educating the general public on improving, preserving and promoting sport fishing, the Great Lakes and their tributary streams and rivers. Commonly referred to as The Michigan Steelheaders, or simply Steelheaders. MSSFA represents sport fishing families in the Great Lakes region. MSSFA encourages the strictest observances of sport fishing laws and ethical fishing practices. www.MSSFA.org



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

MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis Eade



During this time of economic lock down and "stay at home" executive orders, I wish I could share some good news about the sport fishing season other than, if you are a stream angler, (without a motor boat), you're probably still able to get out and chase steelhead. The rest of us are stranded in place and relegated to using Zoom and conference calls to stay on top of developments that will seriously impact our sport fishery.

The consent decree negotiations, or lack thereof, are evoking images of what may happen if we are unsuccessful in getting an agreement with the five tribes by the deadline of August 8, 2020. At the very least we need the State to file for an extension of the decree through the end of the year. With-

out an agreement that describes the tribal rights and describes how the State and tribes will cooperatively allocate and manage the fisheries resources in the tribal waters, we regress to a time when gill nets killed thousands of fish indiscriminately and threatened the very existence of a sport fishery in the 1836 Treaty Waters.

What we do know is that a mediator has been selected. Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice, Mike Cavanaugh has been tasked with the job and comes to the negotiations with exceptional credentials. Our coalition partners, CPMR, submitted a brief on behalf of sport fishers that puts forth a strong argument for "constructive involvement in the mediation process, using its experience and expertise to help the parties

reach an equitable allocation and reasonable successor decree." The brief concludes by stressing the importance of "any successor decree must conform to the principles provided within the brief to avoid social conflict, resentment, and noncompliance with a successor decree."

The commercial fishing bills have stalled in the senate. The Natural Resources Committee chair, Senator Ed McBroom, who is on record as sponsoring opposing bills offered by commercial fishing proponents, has decided not to hold hearings but instead meet independently with the groups supporting the legislation to see if he can detect ways to break their collective support for the bills. He is advocating for special research permits for commercial fishers in Lake Superior to target lake trout. Well, that is not going to happen. The sport fishing community stands united in support for the bills as passed by a 70% margin in the House. Given the postponement of senate gatherings because

of the Covid-19 pandemic and "Stay at Home" executive orders, we don't see these bills coming to the floor this year.

Still no response from Preston D. Cole, Secretary of Wisconsin's Natural Resources Board on his decision to disregard the agreed upon system of stocking by the Lake Michigan Technical Committee. The Great Lakes Fish Commission's Committee of Advisors, both the U.S. Committee and now the Canadian Committee, have sent letters to Cole emphasizing the extreme importance of the process and the dangerous precedent it sets to disregard science when managing the Great Lakes. Cole has chosen not to respond.

The onset of Covid-19 has caused concern for adequately treating the sources of lamprey reproduction in the Great Lakes. The health and safety of the technicians is paramount so the earliest we can expect the treatment sessions to resume is in June and July and then only the larger rivers which have been the

major sources of the lamprey reproduction.

Cormorant Regulations are expected to be issued by the U.S.F.W.S. by year end. Public meetings have been conducted and 1,400 comments received. A new environmental impact statement is to be promulgated soon and a deliberative process is going forward to offer the opportunity to mitigate the number of cormorants with a commercial harvest of up to fifty birds per permit. The legislation is drafted but held up in deliberation.

It is the season of renewal and renewing your membership in the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon

Fishermen's Association is more important than ever if we are to preserve our sport fishing heritage. Please renew your membership and keep MSSFA a strong voice for the preservation of our sport. Our board of directors has not been able to meet since February and the presidents meeting had to be postponed until October. Tournaments have been cancelled, activities altered, and access restricted. Many chapters have been impacted financially and now we have to adapt and find new ways to protect, promote and enhance sport fishing.

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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 he largest organized groups of fishermen in the Midwest. There are chapters throughout the entire state. You too can help protect and preserve this world-class sport fishery for you, your children and generations to come.

THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS (GLSFN)

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

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

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

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

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

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"Conservation"
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The fact that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources estimates the Saginaw Bay's recreational fishery economic worth at \$30 million is, for Kelley, the greatest testament to the work of not only his organization, but also that of other conservation-minded Michiganders.

"Walleye in the Saginaw Bay were 'extirpated.' They were nearly extinct, so to speak," he said. "This was because of a number of factors, including commercial netting and habitat changes. The comeback of walleye was started by sev-



Efforts to improve the fisheries in this region continue. Pollution, climate change, overfishing, and habitat destruction all affect the health of fish in the area.

eral conservation groups, including walleye clubs working alongside natural resources groups. They

released walleye into the bay, so the population of walleye was augmented by walleye that were raised in



Anglers from throughout the Midwest come to the Great Lakes Bay Region to fish for walleye both from boats and the shoreline.

ponds."

The economic impact of fishing goes beyond the

direct costs associated with the sport. Anglers spend money in gas stations, restaurants, retail stores, hotels, campgrounds, boats, and bait and tackle shops.

Kelly, who grew up near the Kawkawlin River, witnessed the change during his 40 years of fishing. He recalled growing up with few to no walleye in the area.

"We fished bass, pike, really whatever was biting," he said. "In the early 70s, there weren't many walleye there, so that wasn't really something people targeted."

Edward Clements, who has been fishing in this area for 40 years, says he has seen more and more anglers interested in opportunities in this region.

Today, walleye are a staple fish that draw anglers from all over the Midwest to the Great Lakes Bay Region. "It's something that came along in my lifetime that has exploded to become a really important fishery and part of the regional economy," Kelly said.

Kelly said this change was a direct result of years of effort by conservationists to develop this walleye population. These groups were so successful that beginning in 2004, Kelly said walleye were no longer planted in Saginaw Bay.

"That's a naturally reproducing population there right now," he said. "The Saginaw Bay walleye fishery restoration is one of the greatest restoration stories in Michigan history. It's really an amazing thing that we have the amazing fishery that we have now, particularly since it didn't exist at all a few years ago."

Fishing has always been an important to the economy and environment in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Business has boomed, Kelly said, even more after the introduction of walleye. In fact, because of the walleye's migration trends, the fish from the bay and river also help other local Michigan towns and cities.

"It's an economic boom to all of these communities along the river," he said. "Later on in the spring, these fish will exit the river. So that becomes an economic boom for communities like Pinconning and Essexville that are catering to boat fishermen who are fishing offshore. It's a year-round fishery that contributes to the economy of cit-

ies along the river and the bay."

Besides walleye, Kelly noted there are other great local fisheries.

"Walleye really are the biggest gamefish these days," he said, "but there continues to be a limited perch population. The perch are extraordinarily low right now. It may be a cyclical event, or it may be an angling and netting pressure that is on them as well."

Kelly said small mouth bass are another popular local fishery.

"That's something that is more of a summertime fishery," he said, "but it's been ranked nationally for fisheries with small mouth bass. It's really getting to have a reputation as a fishery with a wide variety."

Learn more about efforts to revitalize the lake sturgeon population in the Saginaw Basin Watershed.

While walleye season on the Saginaw River is closed now, Edward Clements said he believes it's always a great time to look for other fish in this area. The Bay City Public Schools teacher and Bay City commissioner has been fishing for over 40 years and says he understands exactly why the Saginaw Bay Area is a top five fishing destination in the country.

"The fishing has been very consistent over the last 10 years here," he said. "There are definitely more people fishing than ever because the fishing is so good."

Kelly agreed that the ability to cast from shore or boat to catch walleye and other fish in the Saginaw Bay Area is "unparalleled" anywhere else in the nation.

"It's an opportunity that everyone should go out and try," he said. "See what all the excitement is about because it's something you can't do anywhere else in the country the way you can here."

Like Kelly, Clements not only is drawn to fishing for the sport, but also for the economic impact it has on his community.

"Fishing is important to me and all other anglers because our dollars restored and maintained the fishery," Clements said. "Buying a fishing license directly sends dollars to the fishery. Buying fishing tackle, boat and motors sends dollars directly to the fishery through excise taxes created by the Dingell-Johnson Act. The fisheries we have in the state of Michigan are directly due to sport fishermen through license and equipment purchases."

The Dingell-Johnson Act provides federal aid to Michigan for managing and restoring fisheries. The money comes from taxes on specific fishing equipment.

"Tourism is so important to our area," Clements said. "What brings people here? The world-class

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fishery we have. If this fishery is depleted, there is no reason to come here. I look back 10, 15 years ago, and you never saw full boat launches, never saw so many boats on the Saginaw River. Now it is crowded, which is good. All of those people coming here are spending money.”

Clements and Kelly cautioned that while the current local fishing economy is strong, it is important to continue protecting the environment.

“Protecting sport fishing rights, conservation of fisheries, conservation and restoration of habitat and fish stocks are more important than ever before,” Clements said. “There are enormous pressures on our fishery that we must be aware of and do all we can to counter them. Pollution, climate change, commer-



Communities all along the waterway benefit from a strong fishing economy.

cial overfishing, and habitat destruction must be on the front burner of local government, state government, federal government, and conservation clubs.”



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GET READY FOR FISHING

By Bob Jensen

For many of us, it's been too long between the last ice-fishing trip and the first open water fishing trip of the year. If you haven't been fishing on open water yet this year, you'll want to be ready to go when the opportunity presents itself. Following are some things that you can do now to increase your odds of success when you go fishing.

The first one is an easy one: Make sure that you start the season with fresh line. Old line will hook just as many fish as fresh line, but fresh line will allow you to land more of those fish.

Back in the day, fifty plus years ago when I developed an interest in fishing, I spent a lot of time in the back yard practicing

casting. I practiced with baitcasting equipment mostly, because back then it was easy to get overruns on baitcasting reels. Today's baitcasters are so much better, but a little practice certainly doesn't hurt.

I also practiced my casting accuracy, and that for sure helps put more fish in the boat. When you can cast your bait where you want it, especially when fishing visible cover for bass or panfish, you're going to increase the number of fish you catch. If you splash your bait right down on a stump, any bass that's there will probably leave. Same thing with a crappie. But if you place your cast a little beyond the target and bring it to the suspected fish hide-out, you're chances of getting bit are so much better.

Practice your knot-tying. That sounds basic, but many of us are fishing differently now than we used to, and tying the proper knot quickly and effectively will help us get our bait to the fish quicker. Here's what I mean.

Drop-shotting has become a very effective way to catch fish, but we tie the hook on differently for drop-shotting than we do for, say, jigging. Now is a good time to learn how to do that.

Along those same lines, many of us are using fluorocarbon line attached to braided line. Fluoro and braid both offer advantages, and when we team the two together, the advantages are really apparent. However,

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away from others.

In fact, Pepin chuckled, fishing any closer would by all accounts be considered fairly rude angling etiquette.

The state’s public boat ramps are open and ready for use, Pepin said, though there is no guarantee that restroom facilities will be open. While MNDR’s campgrounds had remained open, the state decided to shut them down in the past several days. Ohio has followed suit.

Boat ramps in Ottawa County have been packed in recent days with anglers from more than a dozen states including Iowa, Arkansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and elsewhere, and fishing reports on websites are rife with information about where and how to catch limits.

Where there are anglers,
 there are bait shops
 Jeff Frischkorn, an out-

door writer and avid angler from Mentor-on-the-Lake, Ohio, said he’s found Pennsylvania shops closed and some Ohio shops open.

Great Lakes Now contacted more than two dozen shops across Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York and Minnesota. A few answered the phone and were open, others went to voicemail with no coronavirus message or online updates on their situation, which could mean they’re closed or dipping minnows and waiting on customers. Many were closed and planning on staying closed for weeks or longer.

Safe Harbor Bait and Tackle in Buffalo, New York, is closed – but it does have a vending machine out front with salted minnows, waxworms, spikes and other bait. Here’s a tip: if you head there, take \$1 bills.

“There are shops open in my area,” Frischkorn said. “And no, the stay at home order hasn’t kept me home from fishing, certainly not steelhead and definitely not

farm pond fishing.”

Frischkorn said he’s seen more than a few anglers on northeast Ohio streams on the prowl for steelhead, which is often a solitary pursuit. When people fish together on streams, they generally give their angling buddies a wide berth. Nonetheless, some creeks are at capacity for anglers.

“At a couple parks near where I fish there have been plenty people out,” he said, going on to cite some parking areas overflowing with vehicles. “At Headlands Beach State Park, on Lake Erie, I found the bathrooms were locked and the portable toilets were secured shut with zip ties.”

Will travel far for
 Lake Erie walleye
 Despite the worldwide coronavirus pandemic, people are still traveling far to fish the Great Lakes.
 Hunter Faust, his younger brother and friend drove more than six hours from Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, to hit the lake early Wednesday morning.



Jerry Floro with a yellow perch.
 He said he’ll be fishing as long as he’s allowed.

“They got us shut down at work and so we figured, why not?” Faust said. “We’re used to catching them on the Susquehanna River, but this is whole new ballgame. We’re not exactly set up for it, but why not try? It was a last-minute thing. We knew we wanted to go fishing but we weren’t sure if we wanted to stay local or what.”

After catching a sin-

gle 22-inch walleye in the morning, the trio headed back to shore for some tackle and advice. At a Marblehead-area bait shop that was “coronavirus closed,” they were able to finagle the owner to come in and slip them a few goodies out the back door – just like in the old Prohibition days.

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have trophy fish but not enough food to support good numbers of salmon and steelhead. My theory, as an aquatic scientist and extremely avid river angler, is that plankton has been somewhat concentrated near shore. The mussels, especially the zebra variety, have declined near shore and the influence of nutrient rich rivers is most pronounced near shore. The result is an increase in plankton levels relatively close to shore and the alewives found this higher concentration and took advantage. And, of course, a portion of the salmon and steelhead populations found this concentration of alewives and other bait fish and really “made hay”. In addition, it should also be noted that we’ve been planting fewer salmon and that natural reproduction has been negatively impacted by the scarcity of food greeting the smolts when they transition to Lake Michigan. So there were fewer fish competing for the concentrations of bait fish.

Jay Wesley, the Lake Michigan Basin coordinator for the DNR, thought that my theory made sense. He especially agreed with the thought that nutrients were concentrated in the near shore waters and that any fish that found the near shore bait balls were going to do very well. He also noted that DNR research biologists have recently found that young alewives have a patchy distribution, with numbers concentrated in the southeastern and south central parts of the lake and absent in most of the rest of Lake Michigan.

Perhaps our only hope is that the quagga mussels follow the pattern of the zebra mussel and soon reach their peak and then begin to decline. When that happens we need to hope that there will be enough plankton to keep a decent number of alewives going as they are the preferred forage fish, especially for chinook salmon. The good news is that Lake Huron has gone through this change and a good lake trout, Atlantic salmon, and steelhead fishery endures. These fish have expanded their diet and are taking advantage of the explosion of round goby numbers. I also think chinook salmon will also adapt to dining on gobies as the coho salmon have already done. There are strains that eat bottom dwelling fish in the ocean so why not the Great Lakes?

As we enter the 2020 season on Lake Michigan it will be interesting to see if the fishing mirrors the 2019 season, trophy fish but lower numbers. Time will tell.....

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“COVID”

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Traditional fishing hotspots may be wary of outsiders

Some Great Lakes go-to angling hotspots every spring have become wary of visitors, according to Joe Henry, tourism director for Lake of the Woods, Minnesota.



Anglers practice social distancing on the shoreline.

“We’re entering a very weird time,” he said. “As we speak today the City of Baudette has shut down both public access ramps because they don’t want tourists coming and there are meetings tomorrow about some other river access ramps being shut down. The locals are very concerned about the coronavirus.”

Henry described northern Minnesota residents as preferring that the region lay low, especially in light of declining supplies of basic necessities in many

stores. Hopefully, he said, the region can jump back on the tourism train come summer.

For now, as a tourism official, Henry said he takes a neutral stance. He’s neither promoting nor discouraging anglers heading to northern Minnesota.

However, he said, Minnesota is open for anglers. And getting outdoors, any-

Lake Superior.

States’ rules begin to look more the same

There are no plans to close boat launches in state parks, according to Raechelle Belli, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources public affairs manager. And while she said Gov. Tony Evers has ordered closures for many state businesses and activities, like Ohio and Michigan, fishing is not one of them.

“As long as people practice social distancing, which is what our news release said on Saturday,” she said. “Currently all of our state park facilities, like visitors centers and other buildings, are closed, except for some restrooms.”

Belli said she couldn’t say exactly which, if any, boat ramps or parks did not have bathrooms open. And as far as bait and tackle shops being considered essential businesses, she declined to speculate.

“I do know a lot of convenience stores are open because they sell groceries,” she said.

According to Sarah Wickham, Ohio Department of Natural Resources chief of communications, the state’s parks and boat ramps should remain open throughout the region’s closures, so long as people can utilize them and remain safe.

“We are closely moni-



Some Bait shops, like Herb’s on Catawba Island, will remain open because they are considered essential businesses if they sell food and groceries.

toring the situation and will make any changes that conditions warrant,” she said. “Fishing on boats would be considered an outdoor activity as long as it otherwise complies with social distancing guidance.”

Wickham said wildlife and parks and watercraft officers are still on duty and patrolling the same areas they always have, including responding to calls and enforcing laws.

“But they are practicing social distancing, so they won’t be going to club meetings, events or routinely checking fishing licenses or otherwise approaching individuals in non-emergency situations,” she said.

Likewise, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation officials say it’s still a great idea to go fishing.

“Anglers can continue to fish throughout New

York state, including Lake Erie,” said TJ Pignataro, NYSDEC spokesman. “Get some fresh air and recreate locally to the fullest extent possible.”

Like all officials, Pignataro emphasized safety first, including seeking less-crowded fishing areas and keeping distance between others. Boating, though, could provide a problem when it comes to safe social distancing. And in New York, bait and tackle shops and marinas could be closed.

“Bait shops and marinas would be subject to any of the governor’s COVID-19 directives. Anglers should contact these businesses to ascertain their status,” he said.

Michigan, Ohio charters told to hold off

“The official stance is that we are a non-essential

business and we cannot keep the six-foot social distancing, and so we have been asked to stand down until April 6,” said Paul Pacholski, president of the Lake Erie Charter Boat Association. “I was told don’t look for it either way, since they can’t tell you how the re-evaluation’s going to go.”

He said that although no one likes the just-announced charter boat rules, it’s reassuring to know that states who didn’t enact the strictest measures the soonest are seeing the worst COVID-19 issues. For Pacholski, that means Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine’s measures should help create a healthier state sooner and help minimize COVID-19 illnesses in the state.

“If this is a couple weeks thing, people have

“COVID”

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Roger Hinchcliff with a beautiful Steelie

Finding Steelhead

By Roger Hinchcliff

The Great lakes is Home to the World's Largest steelhead Population on Planet Earth. Annually we stock in the region 5.2 Million Steelhead every Year. If you're a veteran steelhead angler or just getting started you should know catching these amazing Game Fish 10 months out of the year in Michigan is possible. Knowing and understanding we have such an amazing fishery is great but if you do not possess the skills or knowledge in helping you find these fish you can spend many days on the river scratching your head.

Many veteran steelhead anglers already know that water temperature and flow dictates where steelhead will rest and lie. But through the years I've noticed some characteristics about their behavior that can really increase your odds of putting more fish in the net. No one will disagree an angler must find where the fish are in order to catch them. Common sense says you can't catch something that's not there. We will discuss some obvious places and point out some that many anglers might not be aware of.

Migration

The first thing any angler targeting steelhead needs to know is that these fish are always on the move and very nervous creatures. They have more of a sense of urgency than any fish I've seen. Remember these fish arrive sometimes 6 months (or longer) ahead of schedule and stay while they wait to spawn. They are constantly on the move. An angler must divide a river system into 4 sections. The Lower, Middle, Upper and Head water sections. These fish always are moving to the Middle and Upper river sections so you automatically have better odds of finding some fish in those sections.

Steelhead tend to always move up stream when the river is on the rise or on the fall. There are usually only 2 things that will make these fish put on the brakes. Colder Water temperatures and low water conditions.

Most anglers do not realize that these fish, just as other species, are somewhat predictable. If you familiarize yourself with the fish's habits and some biological facts, these fish are just like white-tail deer during the winter. Deer will always pick the easiest route when traveling. These fish will always pick the path of least resistance if unpressured and not spooked.

So, we must pay attention to how the section of river looks for migrating fish. Maybe slower or deeper water for the fish to pass through rather than a raging rapid. These fish are genetically programmed to conserve energy while in the river for the upcoming spawn. Hence, they always are looking for current breaks and places to rest for the journey up river. A distance of 30 miles in one day with no obstructions for a healthy adult steelhead is not a problem. As you can see these fish can cover some serious water in a short amount of time if they want to.

So, if you're 2 or 3 days behind a high-water event you better head up river to find fish instead of down river. Those pods of fish will be up river by then.

Please keep in mind there are many factors that affect this strategy. At the end of the day they are steelhead and we will never completely figure them out. One thing is for sure, if more arriving fish come up the river from behind, those holding fish will move up river. Its Mother Nature's way of spreading the fish out. That is why November is such a hot month to catch steelhead in Michigan. Lots of fish have arrived to the party by then and have spread out through the system. Not to mention many guys are away at deer camp.

Low light or night time is when these fish move the most. In my opinion that's not always the case with these fish. If the right flow and barometric pressure exists on an over cast day they will certainly push in daylight. When these conditions exist pray for a bright sunshining day. This will

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"COVID"

Continued from page 11

got to think about more than themselves," Pacholski said, citing the need to keep from spreading the virus to parents, grandparents and other older Americans. "I think the temptation though, with this amazing walleye fishing on Lake Erie, will be great. But once people get up here, where are you going to send them to stay or where are they going to go to eat?"

Unfortunately, he said, some charter captains may vote with their wallet instead of their conscience. And enforcement of the order falls to the Ohio Department of Health, not law enforcement agencies.

The Michigan DNR announced through a press release that "charter and fishing guide operations that involve boats, canoes and other marine vessels are not currently permitted" until at least April 13.

The DNR law enforcement division, Michigan State Police and local law enforcement agencies have full authority to enforce the order, according to the press release.

Meanwhile, if the Ohio order should be extended, LECBA will be pushing for

some form of government relief for its members and all Lake Erie charter operations, Pacholski said. And on a positive note, he said, the early spring trips are not widespread and most captains don't begin book-

ing charters in earnest until later in April.

On anecdotal reports that angling is good for you, he was emphatic.

"How many days can you be locked in the house and feel like you're

trapped?" Pacholski said. "To get out and actually go fishing with another person - you're not being irresponsible. Going out, getting some fresh air, I don't know of any better mood elevator in the world."

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slow the migration down and these fish will park in the deeper holes or broken water to hide and then under the cover of darkness continue their journey.

Structure
Structure is a beautiful thing when it comes to fish-

ing. No question fish will orient to structure for security from other predators and to set up ambush points for bait fish or food. Logs are the most visible structure above the water line that an angler can see most of the time. This structure can be great to find fish and offer current breaks and create seams for steelhead to hold and rest. Downside

of this type of structure is sometimes the log isn't big enough to anchor itself. One good blow out and Mother Nature will send that log on its merry way. In past articles I have written about how the river is an ever-changing place. It can vary from year to year. One hole that produced fish and was great can change. Some rivers I've fished for



Author Roger Hinchcliff navigating the river last summer.

years have logs that have been there for as long as I can remember. Structure can also create pocket water which can be fish magnets as well for migrating steelhead. My favorite structure, if you can find it, is boulders. The beauty of boulders is they are always there. Once that structure has been located you can go back year after year and find fish there. Same goes for cement pilings or retaining walls, another overlooked structure

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

Many well-known rivers that have famous names for runs or holes have structure and that's why most are so good.

Reading Water
I could fill a book on this subject since the mechanics of rivers and their run clocks are so different. They can vary based on the state, size of river, water temperature and flow. So,

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OPEN WATER FISHING IDEAS

By Bob Jensen

Fishing has been on my mind a lot lately. I've been thinking of past trips and future trips. Many past days of fishing were learning experiences. What I learned on those fishing trips of the past will be applied to trips of the future. Following are some ideas that might help you catch more fish the next time you go fishing.

Many of us fish in rivers. River fish are less affected by weather than lake fish, so river fish are often willing to eat when lake fish are being finicky. River fish have to contend with current, so they use up more energy, which means

they need to eat more often. Current is a very important consideration when fishing in a river. Keep in mind that river fish generally face upstream when they are interested in eating. They instinctively know that wounded bugs or minnows will be washing downstream with the current, so they face upstream so they can see their prey coming. When possible, present your bait so it's moving downstream in a natural manner and can be easily seen by fish facing upstream. There are times when we present our bait by moving it upstream, but when you can, present your bait so it's moving downstream.

A good rule-of-thumb for many anglers is to use the largest bait that the fish will take. That will usually result in larger fish. There are times when fish will prefer a smaller bait, especially when they're in a mood where they're not real interested in eating. They'll ignore a big bait, but they'll eat something small. Start small and if they're biting, go a little bigger. Keep going bigger until they quit biting. It's interesting: In the cold waters of the spring season, fish generally like smaller baits, but in the cold waters of autumn, they'll go for bigger baits.

Consider color. I've had the good fortune to fish

with some of the most successful anglers anywhere, and when the topic of lure color came about, they all agreed that color was a very important consideration. Water clarity, season, and conditioning were a few of the reasons that lure color will impact your catches.

In clear water, natural appearing baits are what many of the best anglers reach for, and when the water is stained or dirty, they like brighter colors. Usually, not always.

Sometimes a new color, something the fish haven't seen before can be very good. They'll attack a new color readily and ignore the colors that they've been seeing. The next year of



This largemouth wanted a 4 inch, natural appearing Ocho plastic worm on this clear water lake in mid-summer.

METRO WEST STEELHEADERS



Featured Recipe - Blackened Salmon

This method of preparation is one of my favorites, if not my ABSOLUTE favorite method of preparing salmon. Although it is listed as a salmon recipe, I use it just as frequently on steelhead, and even occasionally on walleye. However, I do find that the flavors complement the oil content of salmon or trout species best.

I will describe the preferred method of grilling, followed by a cast iron skillet sear. Alternatively, baking followed by a quick broil can create a similar result in winter months, or when a grill is not available. I have also prepared this several times utilizing a "George Foreman" style of in-home grill with excellent results. The only difference when utilizing the in-home grill is that cooking times are typically reduced, and the cooking/searing occurs simultaneously.

Ingredient list:

Salmon, or other desired fish fillet, skin-on

- 2 Tablespoons of Paprika
- 1 Tablespoon of Cayenne Pepper
- 1 Tablespoon of Onion Powder
- 2 Teaspoons of Salt
- 1 Teaspoon of Tomato Powder (May be difficult to come across, a substitute could be a fish seasoning with a tomato powder content)
- 1/2 Teaspoon of White Pepper
- 1/2 Teaspoon of Black Pepper (Fresh Ground Preferred)
- 1/4 Teaspoon of Thyme
- 1/4 Teaspoon of Basil
- 1/4 Teaspoon of Oregano
- 1/4 Teaspoon of Brown Sugar

Juice of 1/2 Lemon
Olive Oil

Begin by preheating the grill to approximately 375°F. Place a cast-iron skillet on the grill to pre-heat as well.

In a mixing bowl, thoroughly mix all dry ingredients listed above to create the blackened rub, and pour into a shaker-type of container.

Lightly coat the fillet with olive oil. I use either the spray product, or a brush/paper towel to rub over the meat.

Apply the rub to the meat liberally. In my opinion this rub is not over powering, and as such, I apply until the meat is just barely visible through the layer of rub.

Lightly drizzle the lemon juice over the rub-coated fillet. Remember that the lemon juice is not the "star of the show", and is applied merely to complement the flavors presented by the fillet and the rub.



Turn the grill off, and apply a generous amount of olive oil to the grill. I caution that the grill is turned off for this step as to avoid any flare-up when the oil is applied to the hot grill!

Re-light the grill, and allow a minute or two to re-establish the temperature.

Place the fillet, skin-side down on the grill, and close the grill cover. Cooking time will vary dependent upon the thickness of the fillet which is being prepared. Thinner steelhead or trout fillets may take as little as 7-8 minutes. Thicker fillets such as Chinook may take as long as 14 minutes. The idea is to allow the cooking to progress JUST until the meat begins to flake apart with a fork.

Once the meat appears to be approaching this point, carefully apply a small amount of oil to the cast iron skillet. Again, mind the flare-up risk!

Flip the fillet meat-side down onto the cast iron skillet, and allow the rub-covered meat to sear for approximately one minute. This allows the flavors of the rub to mend together, and "caramelize" of sorts. This brings out the full flavor of the ingredients, and is the key to this recipe. The goal is not to scorch the meat, but rather "crisp" the rub, the results of this explanation are shown in the photo above.

This pairs well with a grilled vegetable, and your starch of choice. I hope that you enjoy as much as me!

Submitted By: Adam Trenz

the next trip, the fish will show a preference for another new color.

Often, when baitfish numbers are high, a bait that looks nothing like the abundant baitfish will be better. When baitfish numbers are low, a bait resembling the lake's primary baitfish will be very productive.

If you're fishing from a boat and there are several anglers in the boat, everyone should be trying a different color bait until the fish reveal what they want on that day. Sometimes there will be a preference, sometimes not.

Last thing: I use the heaviest line that I can get away with. If I can get as many bites on eight pound test as I can six pound test, I'll use the eight pound test. However, some presentations lend themselves to lighter line, and lighter line usually works better in clear water. Nonetheless, heavier line usually allows us to land the fish a bit quicker, and that's better for the fish if it is going to be released.

There are lots of little things that we can do to increase the number of bites we get. Keep these ideas in mind and you'll increase your odds for fishing success.



To see new and old episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, fishing articles and fishing videos, go to fishingthemidwest.com



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let’s just cover some good nuggets of info that any angler can use.

Walking speed water that flattens is always a

good spot to look for when locating steelhead. This spot is a telltale sign of a pool. Consider fishing the head and the tail out of any pool. Always look for the softer edge of any seam and usually it’s the deeper side.

Keep in mind most steelhead are caught in 4-8 ft of water always. Exception to this rule would be during the spring run when fish are spawning in 2ft of water of ten times.

Holding lies are typi-

cally when a main current seam is broken. You can usually find some active fish there most times. Best water temps for steelhead are 42-58 degrees. At these temps the fish are happy and most active and you

can expect to get them to bite. At these temps faster water is the normal rule. Once water gets below 42 degrees or less start looking for slower deeper pools. These conditions are typical winter time here in the Great Lakes. Caution do not discount faster water in the High 30’s temp. range. I’ve seen steelhead hold in much faster water when you think they would be in slow deeper pools. Remember they are steelhead, make sure to fish it all. Bottom line once you find fish and see what water they are preferring that day you should be able to replicate throughout the system.

If your faced with higher water conditions steelhead will always hold in slower water closer to the shoreline and they absolutely love the inside or outside bends. Corners and V’s where 2 currents meet are steelhead magnets. Also look for ledges and drop offs; steelhead love them. During times of high angling pressure look in the tail outs other holding water near a well-known hole or lie. Pressured fish will push back or scatter around the run and temporally hold to get away from anglers. These are areas to try different colors and baits that fish have not seen. If the bite slows always change colors before leaving. Every river steelhead angler out there fishes a pink spawn bag something different puts

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

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

Conclusion

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

Good Luck!



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“Michigan”
 Continued from page 3

Illinois had budgeted \$2.5 million for its portion of the match.

MUCC’s Fitzgerald warned that additional budget cuts as a result of the coronavirus response and loss of state revenue were likely to affect every state

department. He called on the DNR to “reassess the top priorities within divisions of the department” along with groups like MUCC “to determine what method will be best for the resource moving forward.”

While acknowledging that the Great Lakes and tributary fisheries will not be decimated by the hatch-

ery reductions, Eade at the Michigan Steelheaders said he was worried about the effect fewer fish could have on fishermen who rely on harvesting a part of their catch, as well as charter fishing operations’ ability to attract customers.

He’s also concerned what could happen if the current social distancing

guidelines and stay-home order remain in effect during this year’s Lake Michigan fishing tournament season, which often helps fuel tourism travel to various ports up and down the lakeshore.

“These measures may require those tournaments to be closed, restricted or in some other way impact-

ed. This is where our local chapters make their revenue,” Eade said, noting the Grand Rapids chapter “took a serious financial hit” with the cancellation of the Ultimate Fishing Show in Grand Rapids last month. “The economic impact of this is yet to be understood.”

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Smoked Fish Recipe

Works best for Coho or Salmon, but can be used for any type of fish.

Art Dittmar Recipe submitted by Alice Dittmar Kitson

Ingredients:

- One gallon Ziplock bag full of Fish cut into pieces
 - cut slab in half- length wise and then smaller pieces
- 2 Cups of Brown Sugar
- 1 Cup of Kosher Salt

Directions:

Place Sugar and Salt in a bowl and mix together.

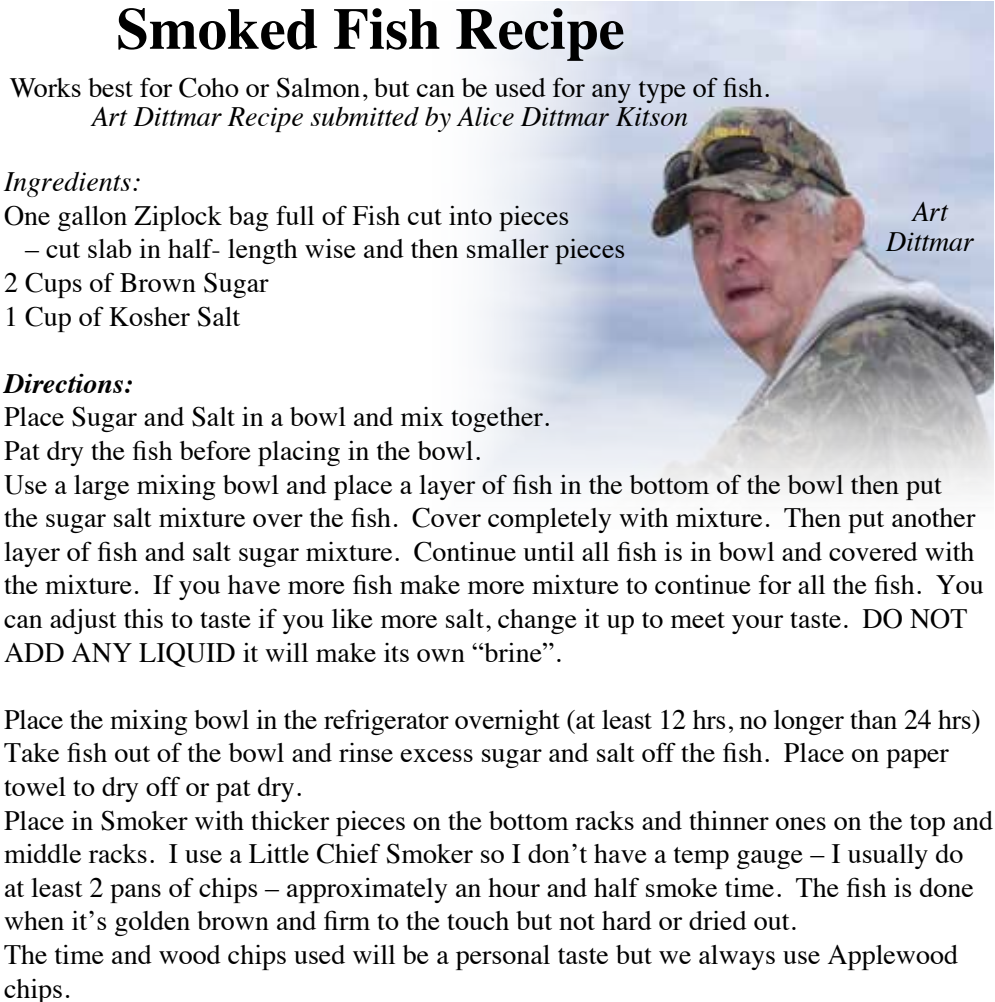
Pat dry the fish before placing in the bowl.

Use a large mixing bowl and place a layer of fish in the bottom of the bowl then put the sugar salt mixture over the fish. Cover completely with mixture. Then put another layer of fish and salt sugar mixture. Continue until all fish is in bowl and covered with the mixture. If you have more fish make more mixture to continue for all the fish. You can adjust this to taste if you like more salt, change it up to meet your taste. DO NOT ADD ANY LIQUID it will make its own “brine”.

Place the mixing bowl in the refrigerator overnight (at least 12 hrs, no longer than 24 hrs) Take fish out of the bowl and rinse excess sugar and salt off the fish. Place on paper towel to dry off or pat dry.

Place in Smoker with thicker pieces on the bottom racks and thinner ones on the top and middle racks. I use a Little Chief Smoker so I don’t have a temp gauge – I usually do at least 2 pans of chips – approximately an hour and half smoke time. The fish is done when it’s golden brown and firm to the touch but not hard or dried out.

The time and wood chips used will be a personal taste but we always use Applewood chips.



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For tournament information go to **Tournament Trail**

To contact us:

John Watson at 1137watson@gmail.com
 Or Call Tournament Director at 616-218-6686

For Dock Space contact:

Tower Marine at 269-857-2151
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- ★ \$5000 First Prize Pro Division - based on 15 entries
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August 7th - Free Pig Roast at Captains Meeting

- ★ August 8th - 9th Free Hamburgers and Hot Dogs
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All Provided by Coral Gables Restaurant



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Put some time in now getting ready for fishing and you'll be more ready when it's time to go fishing!

"Get Ready"

Continued from page 9

tying them together can be a bit tricky. Spend some time practicing tying braid to fluoro or monofilament now so you can do it quickly when you're fishing.

In the winter months many anglers get new electronic equipment such as sonar for their boat. Modern sonar is amazing stuff. Much of it offers a lot of fish-catching features, but some of us get confused when it comes time to put

those features to use. Now is an outstanding time to research how to use the various features on your new sonar. If the equipment has already been installed on your boat, a just-as-good and maybe even better plan is to go out in the garage, get in the boat, put the sonar unit in the "simulation" mode, and get familiar with it.

A flasher depth-finder was the first piece of fishing related electronic equipment that I used. At some point, I acquired an even newer type of depth-finder that had a feature called Loran-C. Loran-C was the predecessor to GPS. I wanted to learn how to use Loran-C, but there was no "simulator" mode. No problem: I simply hooked my boat and trailer to my truck, turned on the Loran-C mode, and had my brother pull me around town. It didn't take long to figure out how Loran-C worked. Disclaimer: I lived in a very small town and this was at least thirty five years ago. Thanks to tutorials on the internet and "simulator" mode in our electronics, this means of instruction is no longer necessary or advised.

We'll get to be on the water soon. If you do some of the things just mentioned, you'll be much more ready to fish effectively at that time.



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

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

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

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

Join a Chapter, Join the Fun!

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

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

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

| 2020 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader’s Calendar of Events | | | |
|--|------|---|----------------------------|
| Month | Date | Event / Location | Chair |
| May | 2 | Benton Harbor Coho Tournament | Dave Zawacki/Kirk Traver |
| May | 3 | Benton Harbor Coho Tournament | Marc & Kirk Traver |
| May | 5 | General Membership Meeting | |
| May | 16 | Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament Sat | Chris Thompson/Kruszewski |
| May | 17 | Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament Sun | Roger Parlett |
| May | 16 | Bruin Lake Kayak/Small Boat | Chuck Davis |
| May | 30 | Toledo Beach Memorial Walleye/Muskegon Lk Kayak | Bob Schulz & Braden/Childs |
| June | 2 | General Membership Meeting | |
| June | 6 | Kids Fishing Outing at Kensington Park | Brad Allan |
| June | 6 | Lake Erie Brest Bay Walleye Tournament | Len Wood |
| June | 13 | Grand/South Haven Salmon Pier Event | Eric Braden |
| June | 27 | Walleye Tournament (Saginaw Bay or L. Erie) | Fabian Sepulveda |

Metro West calendar continued on page 19

| 2020 Metro West - Livonia ...continued | | | |
|---|------|--|--|
| Month | Date | Event / Location | Chair |
| June | 27 | Big Rapids Kayak | Jason Jones |
| July | 7 | Club Summer Picnic | Jim Robertson/Dave Zawacki |
| July | 11 | Flint River Kayak | Jason Jones |
| July | 16 | Erieau Tournament – Thur. Erieau, Canada | Clyde Schoen |
| July | 18 | Erieau Tournament – Sat. Erieau, Canada | Ron Bellemore/Henry Nabors |
| July | 18 | McCollum Small Boat/Kayak | Catherine Withrow |
| July | 25 | Manistee River Cleanup Day @ High Bridge | Roger Hinchcliff |
| July | 30 | Ludington Salmon Tournament – Thursday | Gale Frazee/Tom Abdelnour |
| July | 31 | Ludington Salmon Tournament – Format tbd | Marc Traver/Dave Hutton |
| August | 1 | Ludington Salmon Tournament – Saturday | Dave Zawacki/Dennis Henderson |
| August | 2 | Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sun | Dennis Kelley |
| August | 4 | General Membership Meeting | |
| August | 8 | Clinton River Cleanup Day/Betsie River Kayak | Jay Labban/Eric Braden |
| August | 13 | Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Thu | Richard Spangler |
| August | 15 | Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sat | Henry Nabors/Dave Hutton |
| August | 16 | Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sun | Marc Traver |
| August | 22 | Lake/Pier/River/Kayak Tournament – Frankfort | Robert Grech / Eric Braden / P. Bustos |
| August | 23 | Salmon Tournament – Frankfort | Bill Dodge |
| September | 1 | General Membership Meeting | |
| | 12 | Frankfort River/Kayak/SB | Phil Bustos/Eric Braden |
| | 19 | Muskegon Kayak Salmon | Keith Childs/Eric Braden |
| | 19 | Manistee River & Kayak Pier Tournaments | Adam Trenz/Eric Braden |
| | 21 | Captain/Crew/River Angler 2021 Calendar Mtg | Kelley/P. Bustos/Nabors/ Zawacki |
| October | 3 | Manistee Lake/River (Steelhead) Tournaments | Dodge/Hutton/Sepulveda |
| | 6 | General Membership Meeting | |
| | 10 | Ohio Steelhead Alley (River & Kayak) (incl Elk Creek P.A.) | Phil Bustos/Eric Braden |
| November | 3 | General Membership Meeting | |
| | 7 | Manistee River/Pier/Shore Tournaments w DS | Dave Zawacki/Eric Braden/ Adam Trenz |
| | 21 | PM River or Betsie River Tournament | Jordan Pontoni |
| December | 1 | CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS | |
| | 12 | Huron River Tournament | Hinchcliff/Brown |
| ** ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** 7:00 PM at The New Livonia Seniors Center at the Southeast Corner of Farmington Road and Five Mile Road WEB Site: Go to www.metroweststeelheaders.org If you have questions, contact Henry Nabors - HHNabors@gmail.com or call 248 225 4964. Contact: President Larry Tabaka 313-215-8979 / Membership Director Henry Nabors 248-225-4964 | | | |

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

| 2020 Southwest MI Steelheader's Calendar of Events | | | | |
|---|-----|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Date | Day | Event | Information | Location |
| May | 7-9 | Summer Challenge Tournament | | www.fishthesummerchallenge.com |
| June | 11 | Membership Meeting | Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM | |
| July | 9 | Membership Meeting | Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM | |
| August | 13 | Membership Meeting | Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM | |
| August | 22 | Trolling with the Troops | | www.trollingwiththetroops.com |
| September | 10 | Membership Meeting | Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM | |
| October | 8 | Membership Meeting | Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM | |
| November | 12 | Membership Meeting | Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM | |
| December | 5 | Winter Challenge Tournament | | St. Joseph River |
| Membership Meetings Held at: St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks 541, 601 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor MI 49022 Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM, Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM, Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784 | | | | |



2020 Membership Drive

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

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

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- 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

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

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

| 2020 Thunderbay Steelheader's Calendar of Events | | | |
|---|------|---------|-------------------------|
| Month | Date | Time | Information |
| May | 4 | 7:00 PM | Monthly Meeting |
| May | 16 | 7:00 PM | Monthly Meeting |
| June | 1 | 7:00 PM | Monthly Meeting |
| June | 13 | 6:00 AM | Presque Isle Tournament |
| July | 1 | 7:00 PM | Monthly Meeting |
| July | 11 | 6:00 AM | Presque Isle Tournament |
| August | 3 | 7:00 PM | Monthly Meeting |
| August | 22 | | Rogers city Tournament |
| September | 7 | 7:00 PM | Monthly Meeting |
| October | 5 | 7:00 PM | Monthly Meeting |
| November | 2 | 7:00 PM | Monthly Meeting |
| December | 7 | 7:00 PM | Monthly Meeting |
| Contact Dan Bouchard at dan-bouchard@hotmail.com for inquiries. | | | |

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



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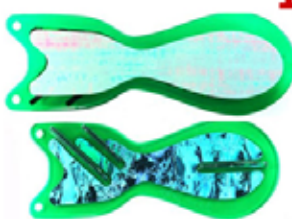
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We are so grateful for your support during these crazy times. Although our retail store is currently closed, our online store is still available to you for your fishing needs. For updates on when we'll be reopening, visit our Facebook page or DandRSports.com. Thank you!