



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

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Treaty Negotiations Update

By Steve Schultz

Earlier this year, we updated our coalition partners on the agreement between the State and five Michigan Tribes that has governed Tribal commercial and sportfishing in the northern Great Lakes for the last 20 years. (The map shows the Tribal areas.) That agreement was set to expire on August 8 of this year and negotiations for a new agreement were ongoing at the time we reported to you. Your Association is an active participant in a coalition of Sportfishing and conservation groups concerned about the Great Lakes fishery that is involved in the negotiations. Others in the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources (protectmiresources.com) are the MCBA and the MUCC, along with a dozen other groups. Recently, several new groups have joined the Coalition to support its efforts.

We reported in the spring that there was a real concern that the 20-year agreement would expire with nothing in place to define the relative rights of state and tribal fishers. Here's where things stand



today. Negotiations with the help of a Mediator are ongoing via Zoom meetings. This spring, negotiations had been ongoing for six months and not a single issue had been resolved. The parties then asked the Federal Court overseeing this issue to appoint a mediator. The Court did so, appointing former Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Michael Cavanaugh, to serve as the Mediator. Justice Cavanaugh has held several sessions with some or all of the parties. Negotiations have been made difficult, however, by the existence of the pandemic, which has prevented face-to-face meetings. To be frank, Zoom conferences are simply not the best way to discuss the complex biological, political and social

issues facing us. We have suggested to the State, a couple of the Tribes and the Mediator that we should try to hold in-person, small group meetings, with proper distancing, of course, so that the parties can have frank discussions that lend themselves to confidential give and take "across the table." So far, that suggestion has fallen on deaf ears.

"Treaty"
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Steelheaders Can Track Wild and Stocked Fish in Michigan Rivers

By Dan O'Keefe;
Michigan Sea Grant;
okeefed@msu.edu

MSUE News Category: Sea Grant, Natural Resources, Fisheries & Wildlife, Lakes, Streams & Watersheds
The fall steelhead run is just beginning in many Michigan Rivers. Anglers may notice an increase in the number of fin-clipped steelhead showing up in their catch this year due to the efforts of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Great Lakes Mass Marking Program. This program has been working with Michigan Department of Natural Resources hatcheries to ensure that all yearling steel-

head (and most, but not all, fall fingerling steelhead) stocked since 2018 have been marked. This means that the vast majority of stocked steelhead returning to Michigan Rivers after 1, 2, or 3 summers in the Great Lakes this fall will have an adipose fin clip. Most (but not all) will also have a tiny coded wire tag in their snout, and some will have additional fin clips. In Michigan, the most common combination clip will probably be an adipose clip coupled with a right ventral fin clip, which has been used for Manistee River Skamania (see <https://bit.ly/33TXnaa> for details on interpreting steelhead fin clips).

You can learn a lot about the health of your favorite river and what it takes to sustain your steelhead fishery by paying attention to the balance of clipped and unclipped fish. This year you can share your data with biologists and fishery managers by using a simple online reporting system called Great Lakes Angler Diary (<https://bit.ly/35U27yT>).

Why do we need this project?
Creel census clerks working for MDNR and biological technicians working for USFWS regularly sample catches from big

"Tracking"
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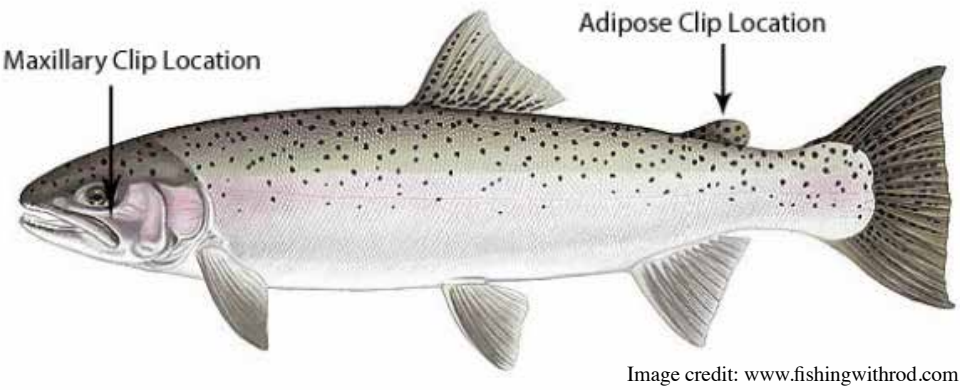


Image credit: www.fishingwithrod.com



Vets Acknowledge Appreciation for their Service

Trolling with the Troops

By John Matusak

STEVENSVILLE — The Trolling with the Troops free fishing outing for military veterans, was held Saturday, Aug. 22, and continues to ride a wave of support from the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, MI community
"It's rewarding," said "Coho" Bob Lausman, a boat captain and volunteer with the event. It's a way to say thanks to the veterans and give them a relaxing day and a chance to bond with other veterans, Lausman said. Lausman got the American Legion Post 568 in Stevensville and its women's auxiliary in-

involved, as well. The first year the event was held, in 2017, 17 charter boat captains and 68 veterans took part. Last year, 28 boats and 98 vets set sail from marinas around the Twin Cities.
Trolling with the Troops was the idea of Scott Mann, a Buchanan native and Michigan Steelheader who served in the Marines from 1997 to 2001. After the Sept. 11 attacks he enlisted in the Air Force and was injured in a construction accident during a Middle East deployment in 2005. Fishing was a big part of his re-adjustment to civilian life, and he wanted to share that opportunity with

other veterans. The project continues to be supported by the Southwest Michigan Steelheaders, a Chapter of the Michigan Steelheaders who are salmon fishing devotees. "The Steelheaders are always looking for ways to give back to the community," said Jim Marohn, president of the organization. "We love fishing, and we love doing something for the veterans."

"Veterans"
Continued on page 8



Search groups for MSSFA



In the fall, crankbaits are also very good bass-catchers.

BIG BAITS FOR FALL FISH

By Bob Jensen

There are so many reasons that an angler would want to go fishing at this time of year: First of all, the open water fishing season is winding down. The landscapes are alive with color. Migrating waterfowl can be a spectacle. But the best reason to go fishing now and until it's too cold to go fishing is that fish are very susceptible to our lures at this time. In addition to that, the truly big fish of most species in the Midwest and North America are looking for something to eat. The chance to catch the fish of dreams is very good now and for the next few weeks. And, if a trophy is your goal, big baits are the way to achieve that goal.

There are a couple of reasons why big baits are usually more productive in the fall. First, the days are getting shorter and the water temperatures are going down. This signals to the fish that it's time to put some fat on. Fish would rather eat one large meal instead of several smaller ones. It requires less energy for them to catch and eat one big meal than it does for them to catch several small meals.

Also, the baitfish that were spawned in the spring are at a larger size now, and some baitfish that are fall spawners are more accessible to the predator fish. It seems that the larger predators are more interested in eating the size baitfish that are most abundant.

If walleyes or smallmouth are what you're after, you can't beat a red-tail chub on a live bait rig. Redtails are expensive, but they're also pretty tough.

You can keep a couple dozen all day if you take care of them. If you can't get redtails, suckers will usually be an acceptable substitute. Start with a minnow in the four to six inch range. If the bite is on, move up in size.

If you're looking specifically for walleyes, a redtail on a jig is tough to beat. However, we got on a walleye bite in north central Minnesota a couple of years ago where Salmo Perch and Salmo Sting crankbaits in the largest sizes where what consistently put the larger-than-average walleyes in the net. We were trolling them in areas where fall-spawning baitfish were present.

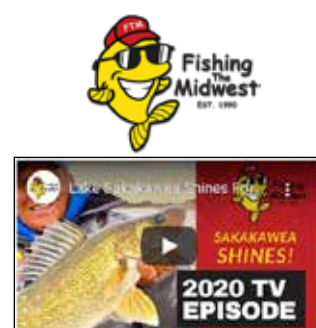
I so look forward to chasing largemouth bass in the fall. Largemouth are willing biters and there are so many places where the fishing is outstanding. When I'm having trouble deciding where to go bass fishing, I usually head for the Alexandria area of Minnesota. There are lots of outstanding lakes to choose from and lots of techniques that can be employed. When the bass are in the rushes as they will be on warmer, overcast days, I like to throw a spinnerbait or a swim-jig/plastic combo. The key here for big fish is to use a spinnerbait with a big blade. With both the spinnerbait and the swim-jig, use a bulky trailer. Big bass in the fall like bulky baits like a Rage Lizard or Rage Grub. I like the plastic to contrast in color with the skirt on the spinnerbait or jig.

If the bass are deeper or want a slower moving bait, tie on a rubber-legged jig with a big plastic trailer, maybe the just-mentioned

Lizard or Rage Craw. Again, use a trailer that contrasts in color with the skirt color. Green Pumpkin Craw and black/blue are good jig colors almost everywhere, but there are local favorites in most places also.

Now and for the next few weeks is a great time to be on the water. If you use the big bait theory(fact), you'll have the opportunity for an outstanding fishing experience.

To see new and old episodes of the Fishing the Midwest television, fishing video tips and updates, and fishing articles past and present, go to fishingthemidwest.com



"Treaty" Continued from page 1

No agreements, but some progress. As mentioned above, we reported in the spring that not a single issue had been resolved in six months. Unfortunately, the last six months has not provided much progress either. That said, it is fair to say that recently, the parties seem to be coming together on one of the fundamental issues that has to be resolved for a new agreement. With the exception of one Tribe, all of the other parties have agreed on what we think THE fundamental issue for a new agreement is. While we cannot disclose any proposals, responses to proposals or the substance of the parties' discussions, we can say that the parties are now actively engaged in negotiations over a management plan for State and Tribal waters. (Due to a confidentiality agreement between the parties, including the Coalition, we can't get into the specifics of the parties' discussions.)

We should also let you know that we have been actively working with the State, as well as having constructive discussions with certain Tribal representatives and the Mediator on issues facing the parties. Our relationship with the State has been a good one, and though we may not always agree, we have had the opportunity for constructive discussions and to suggest language for including in proposals or a new agreement.

The existing agreement has been extended by the Court.

The agreement that has governed Tribal and State fishing in the Treaty waters was set to expire on August 8. In late June and early July, the parties asked

the Federal Court to extend the agreement to avoid chaos. The State and Federal governments, along with 4 of the 5 Tribes in the agreement, and the Coalition, supported a request for the Court to extend the agreement until the end of the year, December 31. The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians filed its own request, asking the Court to extend the agreement only until November 8th but on the condition that any future extension would allow the Sault Tribe to fish in ANY waters open to tribal fishing including those "home waters" that were open only to a local tribe. For example, the Sault Tribe was asking the Court to allow it to fish the waters of Grand Traverse Bay, Hammond Bay, Little Traverse Bay and Little River Band respectively. We understood the Sault Tribe request to be a rejection of the current agreement.

The Court rejected the Sault Tribe request and granted the request sought by all of the other parties and the Coalition. The Court also directed that if additional time was needed after December 31, the parties should request that additional time by early December.

What is next?

The Court has directed the Mediator to report to the Court on September 15 as to the progress of the negotiations. The parties are continuing to meet and exchange proposals and we continue to stay involved. We discuss the negotiations with the Coalition's negotiating team on a regular basis.



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Shipwreck Life: How Fish and Other Aquatic Species Utilize Great Lakes Shipwrecks

By Kathy Johnson
greatlakesnow.org

This article is published in conjunction with PBS's "The Age of Nature" series which begins airing on Oct. 14.

All that remained of the schooner was a bit of its hull – a tightly-packed row of wooden planks stretching 40 feet across the bottom of Lake Huron. Sunbeams easily penetrated the 20 feet of clear lake water above the wreck.

The site appeared lifeless.

There were no schools of emerald shiners, black-striped minnows or yellow perch in sight. The wooden planks were not covered with algae nor encrusted with zebra or quagga mussels. So, the sudden appearance of a bass approaching at warp speed took the diver completely by surprise.

A 3-foot smallmouth bass was using the wreckage as a nest site, and the aggressive male was undeterred by the diver's larger size. It attacked at full speed, making direct contact with the diver's underwater camera.

Only when the diver slowly backed away did the smallmouth retreat to its nest at the far end of the wreckage having successfully deterred another visitor to the site.

That's just one example of the kind of interaction divers can have with the underwater wildlife around Great Lakes shipwrecks.

Shipmates

Together, the five Great Lakes contain upwards of 6,000 shipwrecks. These vessels are scattered across the entire Great Lakes from the Thousand Islands on the eastern end of Lake Ontario to Duluth on the western end of Lake Superior.

"Wrecks create little ecosystems because you've got all these little nooks and crannies," said Mike Thomas. "The structure supports arthropods and isopods at the bottom of the food chain. Those species attract small fish and the big fish come in to eat the little fish."

Thomas recently retired after 30 years as a Michigan Department of Natural Resources research biologist, so he's very familiar with the habits of Great Lakes fish.

"Smallmouths like

to nest near structures," Thomas said. "A lot of times you'll find they make their nests next to some bullrushes or a piece of wood. Something other than just a flat open bottom. They like that."

However, temperature is the primary factor that determines where fish go, Thomas said.

Coldwater species like whitefish and salmon spend the summer in deep water and the winter in shallower water, while species like freshwater drum and muskellunge prefer warmer, shallower water, he said.

"We see different fish at different depths," said Brian Bangert, former president of the Neptune Club in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Neptune is the oldest dive club in the state of Wisconsin and Bangert, like most of its members, is an avid Great Lakes shipwreck diver.

The Fleetwing (25 feet),

Lake Michigan

On Sept. 26, 1888, the schooner Fleetwing was running under full sail in a heavy fog. The ship was heading for the Death's Door Passage into Green Bay. Tragically, the captain misread a shoreline landmark and, thinking they had reached the expanse of Green Bay, he sailed the ship full-speed into tiny Garrett Bay and straight up onto the beach.

When the lake levels were lower, Bangert said a portion of the Fleetwing could be seen sticking out of the water nearshore. Today, the shipwreck is resting in 11 to 25 feet of water.

The quiet, shallow water in Garrett Bay is ideal for crayfish and the Fleetwing offers these freshwater crustaceans a wide variety of locations to hide out, catch prey and reproduce.

"There are tons of crayfish on the Fleetwing," Bangert said. "And gobies. And gold."

A few years back, Neptune Dive Club members threw \$40 worth of gold coins onto the Fleetwing wreck site as part of a charity fundraising treasure hunt. Only \$3 were recovered during the event.

"So, there's still \$37 worth of gold out there," Bangert said with a laugh.

The Frank O'Connor (70 feet), Lake Michigan

On Oct. 3, 1919, the bulk carrier Frank O'Connor



www.greatlakesnow.org

was nearing its destination of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with 3,000 tons of coal from Buffalo, New York. On a prior voyage, the ship had carried 100,000 bushels of grain which had left a thick layer of highly-flammable dust inside the ship.

At 4 p.m., a fire broke out in the bow.

The captain ordered the helmsmen to steer for shore. Two miles off the Door County shoreline, the steering mechanism burned

through, the lifeboats were launched, and the ship was abandoned. The vessel burned for several hours before sinking in 70 feet of water.

Thermoclines mark the point where warm surface waters meet colder, deeper waters. A thermocline can be as shallow as 5 feet like in a backyard pond where the surface feels warm but dangling feet feel cold. In the Great Lakes, shipwreck divers often pass through

two or three of them depending on how deep they go.

Seventy feet below the surface, Lake Michigan is perpetually cool.

"On the O'Connor, the salmon line up under the bow," Bangert said as he explained how a large group of salmon typically use the O'Connor's wreckage for shelter.

"And you usually see schools of whitefish and shad off in the distance," he

said.

The schools move away from the wreckage when the divers arrive, though they don't leave the area entirely, according to Bangert. Divers can usually see flashes of silver as the schools circle the shipwreck from afar.

Thomas is not surprised that fish, particularly schooling species, seem to

"Shipwreck"

Continued on page 8

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MSSFA PRESIDENT Tim Stegeman

For the Share the Resource campaign which covered a 13 week period, I shared with the chapter directors a ton of historical information researched over the last few months regarding Great Lakes fishery issues as well as chapter histories. Much of it was focused on tribal and hopefully the chapter directors and officers were able to share the information with you members. Major changes happened in the 60's, 70's, and 80's and now that we are in 2020, we need to remind ourselves of what a difficult struggle it was to create and sustain

the sport fishery we enjoy today.

One newspaper article of particular interest highlighted Abe LeBlanc, a tribal fisherman. In this article, he is quoted as saying, "The only reason the DNR has to plant fish is that the lake trout were wiped out by overfishing by white commercial fishermen and by the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, which let the sea lamprey into the lakes. The lamprey wiped out the trout. If they want to play that game, we should demand that they put those lakes back in the same condition they were in when we

signed those treaties. That means cleaning out all the pollutants, and getting rid of those salmon they introduced in the early 1960s".

Agree or not LeBlanc has a point. However, let's break it down decades later:

Cleaning out pollutants. Big effort being made towards this end since the 60's/70's right through to the current day.

St. Lawrence Seaway/Lamprey. Canada was the primary force behind this undertaking in the 1950's, not the sports angler.

Overfishing by white commercial fisherman. No argument here. But, I doubt

overfishing can be accredited only to the white commercial fishermen. Again, not the sports angler.

Get rid of salmon. This is the point of departure where the sport angler can take umbrage. Because of LaBlanc's first three indictments, the door was opened for the introduction of salmon. In what was an economic and recreational fishing experience flat line, the successful salmon plant established a world-renowned, biologically and financially beneficial sport fishery in the Great Lakes.

And now the tribes don't want to share the gamefish resource with sport anglers and the non-native commercial fishermen want to keep salmon as bycatch? Well, both of these litigants better start focusing on Canada, the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation and those U.S. interests who caused the pollution, the Seaway and the exploitation of the resource. Those are the parties that need to be funding the hatcheries and the management of the fishery, not the sport anglers.

We sport anglers are willing to fund the rearing and stocking practice because of the enjoyment of the sport, if the return on that investment begins to diminish to the point where the parties with access to the resource are no longer willing to share it once released, one of two things is going to happen. Either the party initiating the resource and sharing is going to not want to share any longer themselves or the party initiating the resource is not going to help produce the



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

resource any longer. No agreement to share and everyone loses.

We're just people who want to fish recreationally. The small money state hatchery system provides our entertainment. I guess in a sense, the big money tribal casinos provide entertainment too and that is where they want you to be instead of competing with them for fish you pay to have planted. Plenty of concessions have been made and continue to be made. Speaking along those lines, in 2006, then Governor Granholm signed an Economic Accord with the tribes. The press release states that "As sovereigns, both can agree that economic development is important for government and its citizens." I don't quite see how taking a stand not to share the resource with sport anglers contributes to the promulgation of the 2006 Economic Accord.

What is it going to take? If the tribes don't want to share the resource, do we just say "so be it" and force the state to get rid of the regulations on sport and commercial fishing? First come, first serve, while supplies last? Economic development accords are only important for governments and its citizens if both are receiving a benefit. We can't sell the fish we catch as sport anglers.

Our only benefit is the enjoyment of the sport. Take that away – when the angling hours are many and the catching few and far between...then there is no recreational benefit for us directly or indirectly. The State of Michigan, the gas stations, the bait and tackle suppliers, the boat manufacturers, the tackle manufacturers, etc., all lose.

Maybe, just maybe, if there is no sharing of the resource, the sport anglers should be looking at being able to sell their catches too. Fair is fair. After all, we keep hearing about how most of the gamefish caught are just "bycatch." Since that is the case, there really isn't any market competition to prohibit such a change. Fresh salmon and trout at all the port town restaurants (while supplies last), caught by local sports anglers for their neighbors and visitors in the most green sustainable way (hook & line). Now, that's PURE MICHIGAN! Unlimited, unselective tribal gill netting is not. That my sport angling friends, rather than being PURE MICHIGAN is just PURE GREED which you are helping perpetuate and condone if you remain silent.



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Dennis Eade, Executive Director
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The Commercial Fishing bills have struck a sandbar in the Senate. Senator Ed McBroom (Iron Mountain), has not brought them forward for a committee vote so it's time to mobilize anglers in Michigan to begin calling their local senators. We need your help in getting House Bills 4567, 4568 and 4569 to the governor's desk. The bills have already passed the Michigan House of Representatives with 70% of the vote of the House and are currently awaiting a vote in the Senate Natural Resources Committee. Call your state senator today, urge him or her to request that the bills be moved to the senate floor for a vote. You can identify your Michigan Senator and contact info at the following website: <https://www.senate.michigan.gov/fysb-yaddress.html>.

These bills address a long-needed statute update that would set parameters surrounding commercial fishing such as licensing fees, gear used and allowable species for harvest. Commercial fishers should be restricted from profiting off of game species that are managed and funded by hunters and anglers. The updates in these bills would protect gamefish, improve the fishery and clarify regulations for law enforcement. The Michigan Senate has had this package of bills in their chamber for eight months, held four committee meetings with substantial opportunity for public and stakeholder engagement and yet no action has been taken.

When calling or emailing your Senator, the following points can be stressed:

- You support House Bills 4567, 4568 and 4569 as passed by the House, which protect Michigan gamefish from commercial harvest and update decade's old statute.

- That they should request that the package of bills be passed through the Senate Natural Resources Committee and brought to the senate floor for a vote.

- That the package of bills has been in their chamber for eight months now, and the time for action is NOW.

More than 1.1 million recreational anglers directly support 35,422 jobs in Michigan and annually contribute \$2.3 billion dol-

lars to Michigan's economy. Additionally, most fisheries research and conservation work in Michigan is funded through hunter and angler dollars.

The Lake Michigan Citizen Fishery Advisors met this past month and discussed Lake Michigan survey results. In general, Lake Trout fishing this past season was good, Coho and Steelhead were fair, and Chinook salmon was poor. There was lower Chinook biomass and a slight in-

crease in alewife, which led to a stocking increase recommendation. Stocking has been increased since 2017, and there are talks to bump up stocking in 2021 and 2022.

Steelhead stocking was discussed and there will be a full egg take in spring of 2021 and we will get back on track for steelhead stocking. Because the DNR was unable to collect steelhead eggs because of COVID-19 in 2020, there is room in the predator cap. Chinook is easiest as a replacement. It was recommended to stock 225,000 Chinook in Michigan to replace the lack of steelhead stocking. Once the proposal is approved, DNR staff will recommend where to stock them and will seek

the committee's feedback. If there is an opportunity to work the proposal through the tribes in time for stocking, DNR fishery managers will do that.

The Lake Huron Citizen Fishery Advisors also met this past month and discussed increasing the survival rate of stocked fish. The committee considered the predation by cormorants, walleye and Lake trout as well as target period of release to enhance the survival rate. Offshore migration is critical to improved survival. Opportunities for increasing survival of Atlantic salmon hinges on getting them bigger before they are planted. Combination of size and higher water temperature at time of release suggests recom-

mending planting in June for optimal survival. More study is required and the committee agreed to continue working on the topic.

Coho stocking in Lake Huron led to more Coho being caught than Atlantic salmon from Alpena to Oscoda. Definitely an increase. Steelhead fishing in the northern Lake Huron was the best it's been in years. Steelhead are showing up without clips and it is speculated that cage culture escapement from Canada is the cause.

In September we produced a video message on Facebook and mssfafa.org explaining the status of the tribal negotiation, the importance of passing the commercial fishing bills in the Senate and support-

ing the Share the Resource Campaign. It received over 900 views with good comments. The Share the Resource Campaign is wrapping up now and raised a meaningful sum toward meeting legal team expenses associated with the consent decree negotiations. Results will be posted on MSSFA's Facebook page and website. Meeting our tribal funding goal is critical to preserving sport fishing as we know it today.

Covid-19 is preventing face to face meetings, but Zoom is keeping MSSFA on top of all the issues facing sport fishing during these unprecedented times. Stay safe out there on the water!



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THE MICHIGAN STEELHEAD & SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE QUALITY OF FISHING REFLECTS THE QUALITY OF LIVING!

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

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

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

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

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

THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS (GLSFN)

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

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

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

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

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

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2021 Tentative Print Schedule

Issue	Deadline	Print Date
1	12/11/20	01/04/21
2	02/12/21	03/03/21
3	04/13/21	05/03/21
4	06/14/21	07/02/21
5	08/13/21	09/01/21
6	10/08/21	10/29/21

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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

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 via Zoom meeting – 7:00 PM

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Citizens line the Channel to Salute the Vets Returning to Port

“Veterans”
Continued from page 1

State Rep. Pauline Wendzel joined the Southwest Michigan Steelheaders and area veterans this year. “I had an incredible time spending the day with our local veterans and charter boat captains,” Rep. Wendzel said. “We swapped fish stories, jokes, and had an all-around great morning fishing on Lake Michigan. Our state has some of the most precious natural resources in the world, and I’m glad I was able to spend the day taking advantage of everything Michigan has to offer with local veterans.” Rep. Wendzel continued, “This annual event has been a great way for our community to show their appreciation to our home-

town heroes. Returning from the trip and seeing so many people waving flags and signs really means so much. The Southwest Michigan Steelheaders hit it out of the park, and I was thrilled to be part of this event

Stacy Shaffer, with the American Legion auxiliary, designed T-shirts for the participants. Local busi-

nesses and restaurants are donating gift cards for the captains.

The Whirlpool Veterans Association and Lest We Forget are other groups that have come on board.

Jimmy Young, an Air Force veteran with the Whirlpool group, said he had taken part in fishing trips like this in Muskegon and Manistee, and thought

the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor area was perfect for such an event.

The relaxing setting out on the lake is the ideal place for veterans to share their experiences, said Young, whose father served in Vietnam and grandfather served during World War II and the Korean war.

“It’s the right atmosphere for them to tell their stories,” Young said.

Veterans go home with more than memories. The catch of the day is cleaned by volunteers and divided among the anglers.

At the end of the outing, the boats are escorted into the harbor by the Coast Guard, with people waving flags and signs lining the water and watching from bridges.

Rep. Wendzell:

“I can’t think of a better way to spend a Saturday morning than fishing on Lake Michigan with local veterans. The Southwest Michigan Steelheaders hit a home run with this event, and I was thrilled to be a part of it. Thank you so much to all of the charter boat captains, local volunteers, sponsors, and members of our community who helped make this day possible for our hometown heroes!”

Trolling with the Troops, Whirlpool, Schu’s Grill & Bar, The Inn at Harbor Shores and Post 568 American Legion Auxiliary - Stevensville, Michigan



Rep. Wendzel started the day by hauling in a Lake Trout with crew member 1st Mate Drew Waning



“Shipwreck”
Continued from page 3

avoid divers. He said fish have a lateral line that acts as a sensor and allows fish to detect the tiniest movements in the water. Schooling fish use their lateral lines to maintain tight formations.

When divers exhale, they release an explosion of bubbles into the water column. This disruption would likely be “very noisy” to fish, Thomas said, adding that species that prefer to travel in large schools might find the divers’ bubbles particularly annoying.

On Sept. 22, 1895, the schooner E.R. Williams was under tow near the mouth of Green Bay when a storm set in. Bangert said the tow line was cut and the Williams was left to flounder. It sank in 110 feet of water.

In addition to being perpetually cold, little sunlight penetrates 110 feet under Lake Michigan.

“It’s definitely dark,” Bangert said. “Cold and dark.”

Burbot or freshwater cod, sometimes called lawyer fish, are the most frequently seen deep-water shipwreck species in the Great Lakes. After 100 feet, “lawyers” are usually the only fish divers see, according to Bangert.

“On the Williams, the burbot line up along the gunnels. When they swim away, they leave little trails of silt,” he said. “It looks

really cool.”

On Sept. 22, 1917, the wooden freight barge W.P. Rend was carrying 2,300 tons of crushed limestone. The Rend was under tow by the tug Harrison. As they neared Thunder Bay a heavy surge of lake water pushed the Rend into shallow water where it floundered and sank.

Today, the Rend sits in 17 feet of water. The wreckage is mostly intact with the ship’s sides extending to within a few feet

of the lake’s surface.

Thunder Bay, on the northwest coast of Lake Huron, is a popular shipwreck diving destination. This area claims to have the highest concentration of wrecks in the Great Lakes, earning it the moniker “Shipwreck Alley.”

Thunder Bay was the first of 13 underwater preserves currently designated in the Great Lakes.

Joe Sobczak owns Thunder Bay Scuba in Alpena, Michigan. Sobczak

has been running shipwreck dive charters in Thunder Bay for 20 years.

“If you want to see fish, dive the Rend,” Sobczak said.

“If you get down there on a clear day, you’re like the little diver in the fishbowl,” Sobczak said. “The gravel bottom looks just like an aquarium and you’ve got fish swimming

“Shipwreck”

Continued on page 12



(Photo credit: Polka Dot Perch)

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EPA Floats Ballast Plan to Curb Invasive Species

By Hannah Northey,
E&E News

EPA proposed new national standards for cracking down on pollution from commercial ships and vessels that can spread invasive species like zebra mussels in the Great Lakes.

But some environmental groups are concerned about the fate of state protections that would be preempted under EPA's plan.

The agency's proposed rule which was published in the Federal Register and opened to public comment for 30 days, would set performance standards for incidental discharges from about 82,000 vessels.

The rule would affect discharges, including ballast water, from cruise ships and ferries, barges, tugs and tows, mobile offshore drilling units, tankers, bulk carriers, cargo ships, container ships and research vessels.

Ballast water is common in the hulls of cargo ships and provides stability for the vessels in rough conditions. But the water can also carry invasive species like zebra mussels, spotted jellyfish and Japanese shore crabs, as well as bacteria and viruses.

EPA in a press release yesterday said the proposed regulations would reduce the environmental effect of discharges that are incidental to the normal operation of commercial vessels. It would also streamline the current patchwork of federal, state and local requirements that apply to the commercial vessel community, EPA said.

Specifically, the proposed rule would apply to commercial vessels greater than 79 feet in length and include discharge-specific standards for 20 different types of vessel equipment and treatment systems, as well as general performance standards that would apply more broadly to the full range of incidental discharges.

The standards stem from the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018, which President Trump signed into law two years ago and included the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, or VIDA. Under the law, EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard must establish standards to control for marine pollution and prevent discharges.

Under VIDA, EPA by the end of the year must develop national standards for incidental discharges similar to that of the agency's 2013 vessel general permit. Two years after EPA's standards are finalized, the Coast Guard must develop regulations for implementing the standards.

EPA's proposed rule includes procedures for states to follow if they want to petition the agency to issue an emergency order; review a standard, regulation or policy; or request additional

requirements for discharges into the Great Lakes.

But some conservation groups are warning the rule leaves out critical state-led efforts to control for invasive species.

Howard Learner, executive director of the Chicago-based Environmental Law & Policy Center, said in an email that his group would be asking EPA to extend the comment period beyond 30 days and for the agency to hold public hearings. The Great Lakes, he said, have borne the brunt of huge economic costs and environmental harms from invasive species released in ballast water discharges by large overseas commercial ships.

Learner said he is concerned EPA's proposal "weakens previous standards even though Congress' 2018 VIDA legislation requires that the new standards be at least as stringent" as previous EPA rules.

"The Great Lakes Congressional delegation and states are stepping up in bipartisan ways to reduce pollution and the entry of invasive species into the Great Lakes, and the EPA proposed rule shouldn't move in the opposite direction," said Learner.

Julia Anastasio, executive director and general counsel of the Association of Clean Water Administrators, said EPA's proposal preempts all states from having their own ballast water rules and regulations but does include a carve out for Great Lakes states to work with EPA on ballast water standards.

Molly Flanagan, vice president of policy for the Alliance for the Great Lakes, agreed the preemption of state regulations under VIDA is a long-standing concern but said a larger focus for her group is the effect the proposed rule would have on "lakers," or commercial vessels

that don't leave the Great Lakes.

Under the rule, Flanagan said all ships that remain in the Great Lakes would be exempt from having to treat ballast water, whereas the current regulations only exempt lakers built before 2009. While in-

dustrial groups representing such vessels counter that they don't introduce new invasive species because they never leave the lakes, Flanagan said studies have shown the vessels move invasives around. She also said the alliance would be asking EPA to extend its

comment period.

"It would continue to expose the Great Lakes to risk of new aquatic invasive species," she said. "So they could take an invasive species in Lake Erie and move it to Lake Superior. This is actually weaker than the current vessel permit."



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“Tracking”
Continued from page 1

lake anglers at access sites around the Great Lakes. Rivers are much more difficult to sample adequately because there are so many more access sites, particularly for wading and shore anglers. The peak season for a given river can also be very short and difficult to predict, which makes it very hard to design an efficient and effective sampling schedule.

In short, anglers like you do a great job of figuring out when and where the fish are biting. This means that we can rely on you to provide important information on the balance of stocked and wild fish showing up in the catch. You can also provide useful information on the length of each fish, which relates to age and growth, along with some basic information on where, when, and how long you spent fishing.

There is a big difference between a properly designed creel survey and a voluntary program like this one, though. Due to the randomized sampling design, a creel survey would give us a much better estimate of the total number of steelhead caught by all anglers on the river, along with the total number of anglers fishing and hours fished. Our Michigan River Steelhead Project will not be able to estimate overall

catch and effort from volunteer data, but it will give us very important info on fish populations.

In fact, this information from volunteers will provide the only steelhead data available on many Michigan Rivers this year, so we could really use your help.

How do I participate?

Sign up for online reporting with the Great Lakes Angler Diary and follow these steps:

- **REGISTER** at GLanglerdiary.org or download the iOS app
- **RECORD** every river steelhead trip taken October-May
- **MEASURE** each and every steelhead caught
- **CHECK** for fin clips and other marks

At the end of the season, MSU Extension will send you a link to a short survey. It is very important to fill out the survey and verify that your information is complete. We will not be able to use incomplete data for some of the analysis because of the potential for bias. For example, if you only measure the biggest steelhead you catch, we would not get a true sense for the length of the average steelhead.

What if I didn't register until after the season started and missed recording some early season trips?

That will be accounted for when you fill out the



A heavily fished lake could mean you go home empty handed. Credit: Shutterstock

survey. For example, if you missed all of October and most of November because you registered in late November, we could still use your complete data set from December through May.

What if I can't measure every steelhead caught?

It is important for biologists to have the most detailed information possible on fish lengths. Fish length is related to both the age and the growth rate of the fish. We will not be taking scales from fish, which would provide an estimate of age, so the only piece of information we have that

can give us some indication of age and growth is the total length of the fish.

When you record data, Great Lakes Angler Diary asks for the total length measured to the nearest quarter-inch. We understand that wading anglers may have difficulty measuring some fish precisely, especially when fishing alone. If you can only report lengths to the nearest inch, then do the best you can.

If you cannot get any measurement on a fish, or if you forget to measure a fish or two over the course of the season, there is another option. When you enter length data you will see a scrolling menu of potential lengths for all types of fish including musky and sturgeon. If you scroll all the way past 80 inches you will see additional categories for <20, 20-28, and >28 inches. You can use these categories to estimate the size of the fish or enter NA if the length was not assessed.

In short, we are encouraging you to provide the most precise measurement of total length that is reasonable given your fishing methods.

Is this just a way for you

to figure out my favorite fishing holes?

Absolutely not. In fact, you are only required to report the river you fished on in most cases. For some larger rivers like the Grand and Muskegon the river is broken up into upper and lower sections, but we are interested in broad trends and not specific fishing spots.

We have also gone through human research protocols at Michigan State University to ensure the confidentiality of your data. This means that we will not share your catch data in a way that identifies you as the angler. Your name and email address will not be associated with the fish you catch in our database – instead you will be given a Volunteer Number that will help protect the confidentiality of your data.

Which rivers are included?

You can enter data from any river. Most major rivers appear in a dropdown menu for location entry within Great Lakes Angler Diary, and you can also enter “Other Tributary” for each lake and manually enter your location (see tutorial video at <https://youtu.be/7hgpwTXe6ps>).

[be/7hgpwTXe6ps](https://youtu.be/7hgpwTXe6ps)).

We are also building teams for several major rivers. The goal for each team is to have dozens of volunteers catching hundreds of steelhead per year on key rivers. These teams will provide us with a way to coordinate and promote the project, and they are not meant to exclude anglers on other rivers.

So far, teams include: Betsie River, Pere Marquette River, Grand River, St. Joseph River, Huron River, Lake Superior Tributaries

Each team has an agency partner from Michigan DNR, who will provide information on stocking history, river conditions, and previous research. Each team also has an angler to serve as a team leader who will provide fishing reports and promote the project to others. Agency partners and team leaders provide reports to all volunteers during periodic online meetings using Zoom.

Once you register for Great Lakes Angler Diary, you will automatically be invited to these Zoom meetings for a chance to learn more about steelhead and network with other anglers and biologists.

We are now looking for well-connected anglers willing to serve as team leaders for the Manistee River, Muskegon River, and one or more Lake Huron tributaries. Contact us at GLanglerdiary@gmail.com if you are interested in serving as a team leader.

The Great Lakes Angler Diary was developed by Brenton Consulting, LLC, in cooperation with Michigan State University and Michigan Sea Grant and funding from Detroit Area Steelheaders.

Check out the GL Angler Diary Overview video on YouTube to see just how easy it is to collect data on steelhead in Michigan rivers (<https://youtu.be/cLbo7doeF38>).

Great Lakes Angler Diary: STEELHEAD

By Jim Bedford

Fall is a special time, especially for hunters. It might be partly about shells, bullets, arrows, and bolts for the pursuers of game but it is also about bullets for anglers. Silver bullets that is, those wonderful anadromous rainbows, that for mysterious reasons run in the autumn even though spawning will not take place until next spring. It is because of this fact that these fish are such hard fighters and so revered by river anglers.

For the last three years all of our hatchery steelhead have had their adipose fins clipped. This has been made possible by the availability of mass mark-

ing trailers. This amazing technology allows us to clip the adipose fins of steelhead smolts at a rate of 2 to 3 fish per second with only a 0.5% rate of missing a clip. This will allow us to determine the contribution of hatchery and wild steelhead to our tributary streams. For us to learn this we need to “collect data” on returning steelhead and that is what the angler diary program is all about. Steelhead anglers will be critical data collectors.

All data collected and reported to the system will be “anonymous”. Anglers won’t have worry that their hotspot(s) will be “exposed” on the internet. But we will learn about the survival of hatchery and wild smolts in each river system.

And the data will shed light on the overall contribution of hatchery and wild steelhead to our fishery. We should be able to also answer the question about whether anglers selectively keep clipped steelhead.

Anglers will need to accurately measure the total length of their steelhead from the end of their closed mouth to the tip of their tail. This is easily done by anglers fishing from a boat and by wading anglers that are retaining their steelhead but more difficult for catch and release waders. I utilize my wading staff or rod to mark the length of steelhead when I am out in the middle

“Steelhead”
Continued on page 12


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“Steelhead” Continued from page 10

of a river and then measure the rod or staff after the fish is released. If you are close to the bank and have shallow water to turn the fish on its side, or vegetation or snow on a flat bank you can measure your steelhead without doing any harm.

The reason for measuring released fish is to estimate the year they smolted or hatchery steelhead were released. We have three years of released hatchery smolts but most steelhead runs are made up of four year classes of fish. Sadly, we won't have that fourth year class of marked steelhead because Covid cautions did not allow an egg take this past spring. But next season, 2021-2022, we will have marked steelhead that have been in the lake for four years. There will always be overlap but some general length guidelines for Lakes Michigan, Huron, and Erie would be in the teens for steelhead planted this spring, 21-25" for those planted in 2019 and 26-29" for those planted in 2018. Steelhead that are over 30" in length have likely spent 4 or more seasons in the lake. Lake Superior steelhead will have somewhat lower size ranges.

When you are fishing with partners you will want to include them and their catch. Fishing hours will also be part of your report. You will be able to make your reports via a mobile device or on your home computer. Details on doing this can be found at www.greatlakesdiary.org along with additional information including how to register. Questions can be directed to Dr. Dan O'Keefe of Michigan Sea Grant who is leading this program by contacting him via email at GLAnglerdiary@gmail.com.

In early September my daughter, Terri, caught a steelhead in a tributary of the Grand River on her ultra light trout tackle. This made dad mighty proud and because the fish's adipose fin was clipped we knew it was a hatchery summer run and, by its size, probably stocked in 2019. Because only its adipose was clipped it was probably a stray from a plant in the St. Joseph River as Michigan also clips the right ventral fin of the summer steelhead stocked in the Big Manistee.

So by joining this program you help the biologists manage the steelhead program and learn more about the fish you caught. A win-win for sure!



“Shipwreck”

Continued from page 8

all around the wreck with plants growing up through the gravel. It's a great dive."

Warm-water species like bass, perch and suckers spend their summers in shallow water, Thomas said. Many juvenile fish also hide in shallow-water grass beds. He said a shallow water shipwreck with native grasses would appeal to a wide array of warm-water species.

On Nov. 24, 1909, the

240-foot wooden steamer Oscar T. Flint pulled into Thunder Bay for some minor engine repairs. The ship was bound for Duluth with a load of limestone. The Flint was towing the barge Redington, which was also filled with limestone.

The following night, the Flint's captain was awakened from a sound sleep by the smell of smoke. He rushed from his cabin to find the entire bow engulfed in flames. The Flint's crew abandoned ship and was quickly rescued by members of the Thunder Bay Is-

land Lifesaving Station.

When the frigid lake water reached the ship's boilers the ensuing explosion scattered limestone and twisted pieces of metal in all directions and sent the ship to the bottom of Lake Huron.

"Twelve years ago, there were so many gobies on the Oscar it was like buffalos on the plain," Sobczak said. "As you swam along there were herds of them in front of you. But it's not like that now."

In many areas of the Great Lakes, round goby

populations have decreased. Round gobies – an invasive species – are now preyed upon by many native species including diving ducks, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, brown trout, walleye and whitefish, according to Minnesota Sea Grant.

"It's the same with the zebra mussels," Sobczak said. "We're not seeing the same numbers. We're hearing that when divers scrape them off wrecks, they're not coming back."

In September 1870, the three-masted sailing vessel Indiana left Buffalo, New York, bound for Cleveland, Ohio, with a load of paving stone. As the ship tacked across Lake Erie, the weather worsened. A sudden squall pounded the ship's hull and soon the vessel began to take on water.

The captain made a run for Erie, Pennsylvania, but the ship had already taken on too much water. The crew took to the life raft shortly before the ship went down. The waterlogged vessel, heavily loaded with limestone, sank straight to the bottom of Lake Erie.

Emily Anderson works at Diver's World in Erie, Pennsylvania. She said the Indiana is her favorite deep-water wreck because it's mostly intact. Video footage of the Indiana, side-scan sonar images and a 3D interactive mosaic of the wreck are viewable on the Regional Science Consortium website.

"We don't see a lot of fish on the deep wrecks," Anderson said. "Mostly just burbot."

But sections of the Indiana are covered with small patches of bright green and pale cream sponge. "Freshwater sponge grows on sturdy submerged objects in clean streams, lakes, and rivers," according to the National Park Service website.

Freshwater sponges filter food from the water, are highly sensitive to pollution and serve as a food source for a variety of macro-invertebrates including caddisflies, midges and lacewings, the park service website states.

"Underwater structures like shipwrecks support the entire food chain," Thomas said.

School of fish (Photo credit: Polka Dot Perch)



Carp Advance: Real and Potential Impacts of Invasive Fish Throughout the Midwest

By GLN Editor
greatlakesnow.org

Since their introduction years ago, invasive Asian carp have infested rivers and lakes around the United States.

But they’ve been kept out of the Great Lakes — so far.

Some steps have been taken to protect the lakes system, but many believe that more effective policies — and more substantial barriers — are needed to keep the fish from spreading and to reduce the numbers where they’re already established.

In a 20-minute documentary film just released, the National Wildlife Federation visits several sites and meets people who are — and could be — impacted by the fish.

Great Lakes Now partnered with the National Wildlife Federation for the “Carp Advance” segment that was part of our monthly show “River Influence.”

Drew YoungDyke, the federation’s director of conservation partnerships, spoke with Great Lakes Now about making the documentary and what some of its biggest messages are. Here is that conversation:

Great Lakes Now: How did doing a documentary about Asian carp, focusing on them as a national issue, fit with the National Wildlife Federation’s mission?

Drew YoungDyke: The mission of the National Wildlife Federation is to unite all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a changing world. Part of the change happening in our waters is the introduction of invasive species

like Asian carp. Our native wildlife — native fish — are being impacted as Asian carp outcompete them for food resources, resulting in less diverse aquatic ecosystems, and all the cascading effects that causes.

A film that educates people about the values threatened by Asian carp and the values already being impacted by Asian carp across the country is part of uniting Americans to ensure that our fisheries can thrive in this changing world. Additionally, our policy priorities as a national federation are set by our independent state affiliate organizations, which have passed policy resolutions addressing both keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes and reducing their numbers in the Mississippi River basin.

I’m proud that we were able to feature a few of our state affiliates working on the issue in the film — the Indiana Wildlife Federation, Prairie Rivers Network, and the Tennessee Wildlife Federation — from that national perspective.

GLN: Are there still common myths or inaccuracies you hear about the invasive carp? How did you work to dispel or correct them in this film?

DY: We tried to focus on both dispelling common misconceptions as well as highlighting aspects of the Asian carp issue that garner less media attention yet are critically important. We thought it important to hear the perspective of one of the federally recognized tribes with fishing treaty rights in the Great Lakes and how Asian carp might affect them.

Sometimes we hear

speculation that Asian carp wouldn’t be able to survive in the Great Lakes, so we included the perspective of a scientist who modeled food webs in the Great Lakes and how they would allow Asian carp to survive. And while a lot of attention is rightfully focused on sport fishing in the Great Lakes, we also wanted to highlight how the outdoor recreation and tourism industries would be affected by an Asian carp invasion as well as connected inland fisheries and the small business they support.

We also hear frustration sometimes that “nothing is being done about Asian carp,” so we highlighted the Eagle Marsh Berm project that was completed just a couple years ago to block a major potential pathway for Asian carp to reach the Great Lakes as well as the “block and tackle” method in Tennessee.

Finally, we wanted to focus some attention on what’s happening where Asian carp already are, because it’s not just a Great Lakes problem, it’s a national problem. We showed what it’s actually like to fish in waters invaded by Asian carp in Indiana and Tennessee, not the dramatic effect of agencies electroshocking the water but the very real feeling of trying to relax and fish with silver carp jumping randomly out of the water from all angles.

GLN: What were the biggest challenges in making this film?

DY: The biggest challenge was definitely shooting this film during the COVID-19 pandemic. To start, we delayed filming to comply with safety orders



The National Wildlife Federation’s Drew YoungDyke displays an Asian carp during the production of “Carp Advance,” a documentary film about the invasive fish. Photo courtesy National Wildlife Federation.

related to fishing guides and boat motors. We took safety precautions very seriously, both for the interviewees and the communities in which we filmed and because Jordan Browne, the filmmaker, and I both have little ones at home we want to keep safe.

National Wildlife Federation staff are under a no-travel, work-from-home policy so I had to submit and follow a detailed plan of social distancing to get travel approval to shoot the film. When I traveled to northern Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Tennessee for filming, I traveled alone, ate only takeout or outside, stopped only for gas, wore a mask everywhere, and kept a container of Mammoth Distilling hand sanitizer with me in the car

(they actually changed over their production in the beginning of the pandemic to produce hand sanitizer, the first distillery in Michigan to do so).

I also camped out everywhere so that I didn’t have to stay in any hotels and I also scheduled the shoots to fit within just a couple long road trips to minimize my time on the road. I camped out at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and Barnes Park on Lake Michigan in northern Michigan and Prophetstown State Park in Indiana. We also shot everything outside and the only people on set were Jordan, me, and whoever we were interviewing, so I was also the production assistant and sometimes holding up the light shade with both hands while conducting the interview through a mask.

GLN: What do you hope audiences take away from your film?

DY: I hope they take away the understanding that Asian carp is not just an issue that affects fishing in the Great Lakes, though they certainly affect that, too. Asian carp are a national problem affecting everything from property values and tourism economies to small businesses, inland rivers and lakes, and tribal fisheries. As such, we need national solutions to stop Asian carp from invading new waters and to recover waters they’ve already invaded. I want people in the Great Lakes to support funding to help stop Asian carp down south and I want people down south to support projects like Brandon Road to keep them out of the Great Lakes.

GLN: What’s another environmental, recreation or economic issue we’ve faced that is similar to Asian carp, and how is the carp issue unique?

DY: We’ve had invasive species contribute to the collapse of the Great

Lakes fishery before, with sea lamprey. It took a piscicide to be developed in the 1950s specific to sea lamprey just to somewhat control their numbers so that the fishery could recover, and then we had the stocking of non-native salmon to create the robust Great Lakes sport fishery we have now, though it’s great to see native lake trout making a comeback, too.

Still, we still have to spend millions every single year in controlling sea lampreys because once you have an invasive species, you never get rid of it. The best you can hope for is to dampen their numbers enough to let native species somewhat recover. So the experience is instructive in that it’s worth even the large short-term price tag for projects like the Brandon Road Lock and Dam because it can save us the much greater cost of a collapsed fishery and millions in annual controls, even if a piscicide specific to Asian carp is ever developed, which hasn’t been done yet.

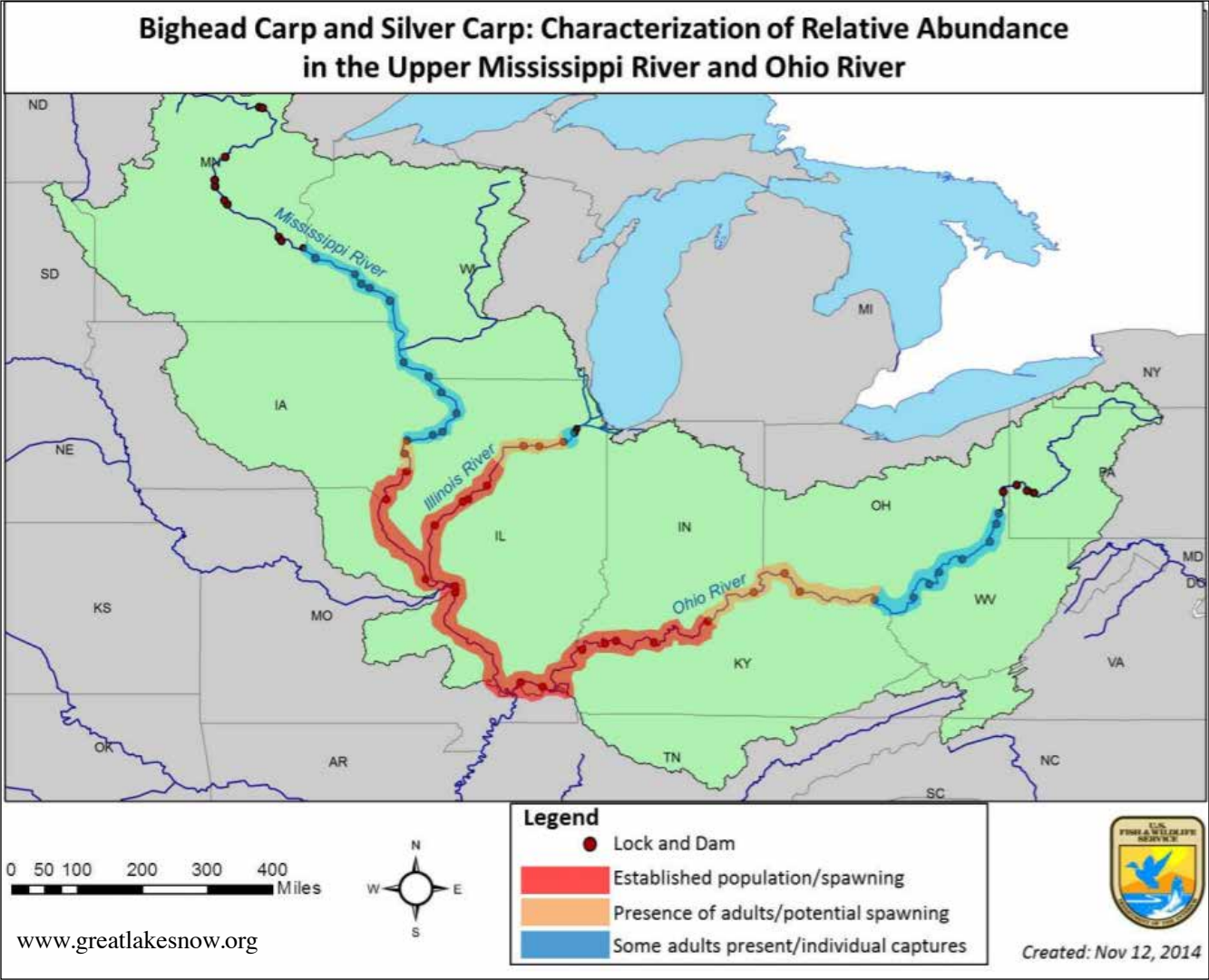
What’s unique about Asian carp is that sea lampreys don’t weigh 60 pounds and jump 10 feet out of the water. That makes Asian carp a risk not just to fishing, but to recreational boating, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding — surfing as we showed in the film — all the things that draw people to the small towns up north that rely on tourism to sustain them throughout the year.

GLN: What do you hope we are talking about relative to Asian carp and the Great Lakes in a decade?

DY: I hope by then the Brandon Road Lock and Dam will be completed. It was 10 years ago that I wrote a law review article about the lawsuits several states brought against

“Carp”

Continued on page 15



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service map of the spread of Asian carp.

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
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 – Joe Foy 269-303-1894
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	
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
November	2	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
November	7	Fishing Partners Manistee Contest	STC
November	23	Membership Meeting	7 PM (Social Hour 6 PM)
November	30	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
December	7	Chapter Family Christmas Party	6 PM, Diamond Hall

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

2020 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
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 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.
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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
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 Waxer1221@Yahoo.com

2020 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event / Location	Chair
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

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

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
November	12	Membership Meeting	Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
December	5	Winter Challenge Tournament		St. Joseph River

Membership Meetings Held at:
St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks 541, 601 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor MI 49022
Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM, Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM, Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784

2020 TCAS Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

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

2020 Thumb Chapter Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location / Information
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
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
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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or mssfamembership@charter.net**



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“Carp”
Continued from page 13

Illinois over Asian carp, and we’re still trying to get stronger protections in place in the Chicago Area Waterway System. My colleague Marc Smith has been working on it even longer.

A decade from now, I hope the Great Lakes and their connected waters will remain free from Asian carp, and that we’ve secured the funding necessary to keep them from moving into new waters in places like Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

I also hope we’ve started to recover those waters already invaded by knocking down their numbers. This won’t ever be a fight we can say is over, though. We’ll always have to remain vigilant to protect our waters from Asian carp.



Crappies In Deep Water

By Bob Jensen

Wherever people fish anywhere in North America, there are a good number of anglers that look forward to the fall months. At this time of year, if a fish sees your bait, there’s a very good possibility that it will eat that bait. Right now, fish are willing biters. They can sense a change in water temps and length of day and they know that things are going to change. From now until it’s too cold to be on the water, fishing can be really, really productive.

In different areas, some fish species get more attention than others. Across the Midwest, walleyes are very popular. In the south and mid-south, bass are boss. But almost wherever you live, crappies appeal to lots of anglers, and they seem to be getting more popular. Crappies, in most places, are abundant and they’re great on the table. Depend-

ing on the body of water, here’s how you can catch crappies right now.

In some lakes crappies will gather in the basin of the lake and behave much like a walleye would. In fact, on a sonar, it’s easy to mistake crappies for walleyes. They’ll hug the bottom in large schools. They might be near a point or some other underwater structure, but they might also be far from any structure. It’s not unusual to find them in twenty to thirty feet of water. The thing they’re looking for is food. It might be minnows, but it could also be bugs that live in the mud on the bottom. The fastest way to find these crappies is to cruise over the basin while watching your sonar. Occasionally they’ll be suspended, but often they’ll be on the bottom. When you see them, hover directly overhead and drop a jig/plastic or jig/minnow on them. You will almost always get bit.

Another place to find crappies is a short distance from the edge of the deep weedline. They’ll suspend within casting distance of the deep weedline looking for something to eat. The best way to find them is to watch for small dimples on the surface of the water. You need calm wind conditions for this pattern because you can’t see the dimples created as Mr. PaperMouth sucks a bug off the surface when it’s windy. Late afternoon and early evening are when this pattern is most productive. Again, a jig with plastic or a minnow is good, either slowly retrieved just a couple of feet under the surface or fished under a slip-bobber.

One last technique: Several times in the fall I’ve fished on reservoirs or lakes where anglers are permitted to “plant” brushpiles. They somehow connect logs and



Above:
This fall crappie was on the bottom in 22 feet of water when it decided to eat Travis Carlson’s bait.

limbs and such and sink these brushpiles near a dock. The best docks are those close to deep water, twelve feet or deeper. It takes some sonar work to find these brushpiles, but when you do find them, they can provide outstanding crappie action. You can cast to them with a jig and retrieve it, but what really works well is to employ a jig below a slip-bobber. Set the bobber so your jig is just above the brushpile. By using a slip-bobber, you can let the jig sit in place, or you can slowly reel it back in. It often works well to shake your rod tip to put a little action on the jig, then let it sit still for a few seconds. If a crappie is down there, you’ll know about it pretty quickly.

A sixteenth ounce jig with a minnow is the traditional crappie presentation, but more and more, plastic is taking the place of minnows. Plastic baits come in a variety of colors and shapes and doesn’t require care like minnows do. When swimming the jig, go with a Mr. Crappie Grub or Slab Slinger. Under a slip-bobber, a Mr. Crappie Thunder is hard to beat.

There’s probably a lake, pond, or reservoir near where you live that is home to crappies. Wherever you fish and however you fish, now is a good time to get after them.

To see recent and not-so-recent episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, fishing articles, and fishing video tips and updates visit fishingthemidwest.com



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