



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

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Appeals Judges: FishPass Doesn't Require Public Vote

By William T. Perkins
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TRAVERSE CITY — Plans to replace the existing infrastructure at the Union Street Dam do not require a vote from the public, three appeals court judges said. Their decision reverses that of Thirteenth Circuit Court Judge Thomas Power, who, in April 2021, determined the so-called "FishPass" project fundamentally changes the property's use from that of a park to something more akin to a laboratory.

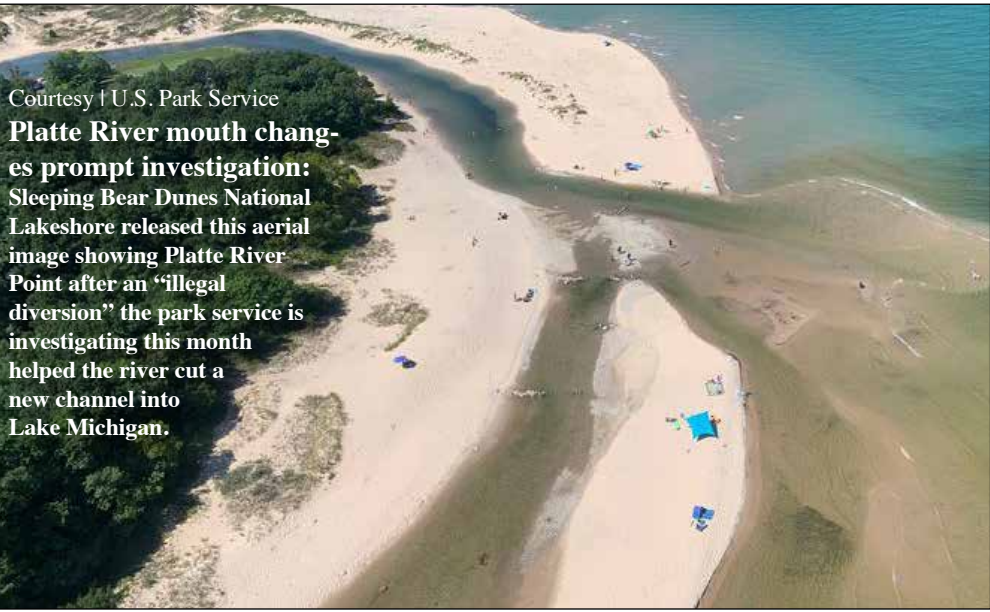
The project, which replaces the current dam and fish ladder with a new type of fish-sorting passage, is intended to reconnect the Boardman/Ottaway River for migratory fish while blocking invasive species from entering the watershed. It also would serve as something of a pilot project for similar fish management technologies to be used in other parts of the region. But opponents say the change would run afoul of a section of the city charter which requires that any "disposal" of city parkland

be put to a vote by citizens. That's what city resident Rick Buckhalter argued when challenging the project in court. There has been some legal contention over whether the area surrounding the dam, which serves as a popular fishing spot, constitutes a "park" in the first place — the city hasn't ever formally dedicated it as one. According to the judges' decision Thursday, that doesn't matter. The project

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Brian and Dennis Eade, one shy of a two-man limit.



Courtesy | U.S. Park Service
Platte River mouth changes prompt investigation: Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore released this aerial image showing Platte River Point after an "illegal diversion" the park service is investigating this month helped the river cut a new channel into Lake Michigan.

'Illegal Diversion' at Platte River Dredges Up Big Public Safety Problem

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HONOR, MI — Eco-system protections are colliding with public access and safety concerns at the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, where an investigation into the "illegal diversion" of a river outlet has dredged up a thorny debate about balancing uses of public land. In mid-August, the National Park Service began investigating a surprise reconfiguration of the Platte River mouth; a manmade effort which federal officials say was illegal, and, depending on how the in-

vestigation unfolds, could result in criminal charges. But state and township officials, as well as local business owners and angler groups, aren't so gung-ho about bringing the hammer down on whoever altered the river mouth. They say changes created by adjusting the outflow have benefitted the river elsewhere and the outflow diversion has made it easier for boats to access Lake Michigan. The resulting investigation has focused attention on underlying tensions around competing land management philosophies at the purest of Pure Michi-

gan destinations. At the local level, township officials want the river mouth dredged; arguing that its shallowness impedes access to Platte Bay for rescue boats — a public safety concern in a high-use area frequented by throngs of beachgoers, kayakers and tubers each summer. At the federal level, the Park Service wants the river to run wild; returning to its natural state before dredging began after a deadly 1967 storm that wreaked havoc on the bay.

"Safety"
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Why You Need to Book a Charter Trip

By Dennis Eade, GLSFN

The majority of fishers, including me, ply the waters of the big lake and inland water bodies on our own or with family and friends. We've learned enough to be confident that we can catch what we target be it salmon, trout or walleye and bass. We get use to our tried-and-true methods and are satisfied with the results even if we have an unproductive day of fishing. Well, I think it's time you consider getting out of your comfort zone and get serious about upgrading your skills as a fisherman and book a charter with an established professional. I did just that this past September and booked a walleye trip on Lake Leelanau with Captain Bryan Buist, 2B Caught Charters. Bryan presented at the Steelheaders' Steelhead Spectacular Event last February at D&R Sports Center in Kalamazoo and I had the chance to benefit from his insights as an accomplished professional walleye tournament fisherman. It was staying dark longer in the mornings so we arranged to meet at the launch site in Leelanau at

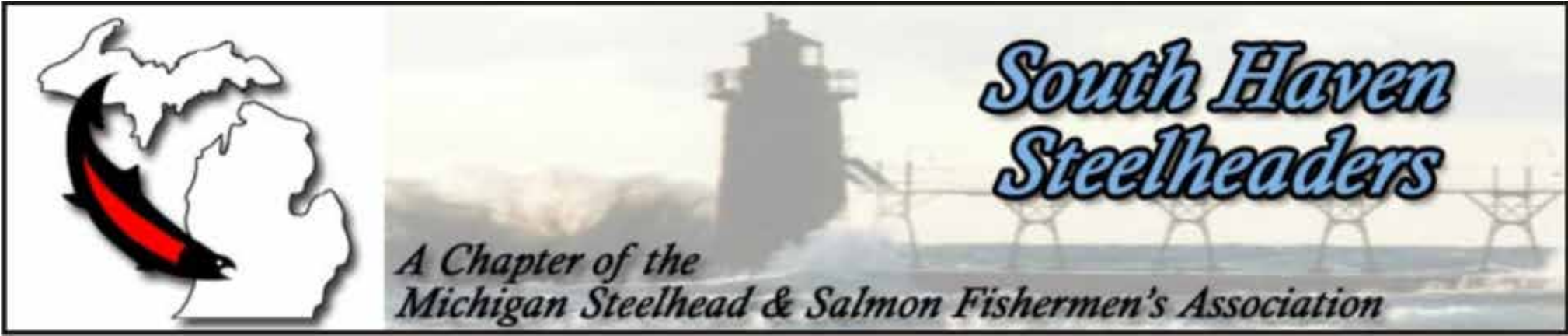
6:00 AM on Saturday, September 10th. The weather forecast went back and forth from possible chance of rain to sunny with light winds. Fortunately for us it turned out to be the latter. My son Brian Eade was up North with his wife Sara as well and I commandeered him to join me on the charter since he and I have fished Lake Michigan together for the last twenty years with good success. To our pleasant surprise Captain Bryan Buist had also invited Jason Julien, the new owner of Church Tackle to be his first mate for the day. Both of them had a walleye tournament on Mullet Lake near Cheboygan, MI. within a few days of our charter trip. After spending twenty-seven years in the sand and gravel business Jason Julien had the chance to purchase Church Tackle Co., best known for their innovative trolling planer boards, and pursue his passion for fishing in a demonstrable way. He now has the opportunity to continue Bill Church's legacy of quality first and localized sourcing. Captain Bryan headed south on the lower section of Lake Leelanau to

our first setup. We were fishing in eight to twelve feet of water and casting Rapala Shadow Rap Shad #11's (deep divers) in the purplish and olive-green colors. (Bryan also suggests on sunny days trying the clown color or on cloudy days going with natural colors like the perch pattern.) The thing I noticed right away is that he uses longer rods than most of us. He went with the Okuma 7' 4" medium/extra fast rod with a 2500 reel. He says he gets better "castability" and sensitivity with this combination and the rod still has the backbone to keep the fish hooked. I also observed that he doesn't use a swivel but instead ties his leader directly to the main line using a blood knot. He uses a six-foot leader of 8 lb. Berkley Fireline to a 15 lb. Fluoro-Shield™ mainline. Bryan says in order to maximize the length of your casts

"Charter"
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South Haven Salute to Veterans

By Rich Chapman

On August 20th, South Haven Steelheaders held its annual Salute to Veterans Fishing Outing with great weather and throng of local supporters. After receiving their instructions at the River Bend Boat Club, the vets boarded their assigned boats and fished from 6am to 11:45. The boats then gathered at the end of South Haven's piers. The boat parade up the South Haven channel started at noon. The 31 boats, with 4-5 of those from the Battle Creek Chapter, returned to port with the Vets waving to a throng of well-wishers who lined the banks to welcome them back to port. Bruce Thatcher and Jeff Dehn coordinate the event and the fish cooperated this year with the biggest fish caught weighing in at 24 lbs.

Special recognition goes to the South Haven Area Emergency Services' fire boat and boom truck, Van Buren County Sheriff's Dept. Marine Patrol, and a Defender Class B 5597 from Coast Guard Station St. Joseph, MI. Additional recognition goes out to Cam Wilson, owner of the Terrapin, for transporting our VIP's including Medal of Honor recipient James McCloughan originally from Bangor and South Haven.



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The Southwest Michigan Steelheaders

Our Favorite Event of the Year



By Ryan McCartney
Southwest Michigan Chapter

Shortly after opening the Veteran's signup page for our 6th Annual Trolling with the Troops event, we quickly recognized that this popular event is not only a favorite of our Veterans

but also our local captains, many of which say, "this is our favorite event of the year".

With close to thirty (30) boats and one hundred (100) Veterans, traveling from Washington, Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, this event was sure to be one to remem-

ber. The weekend began with a Veterans appreciation dinner the night before our day of fishing, which was held at the Stevensville American Legion – Post 568, where our Veterans were paired with their respective captains and other fellow fisherman. Each participant was provided a

gift bag that was filled with products donated by our sponsors, including Whirlpool, Church Tackle and Buck Knives. Each Veteran was also provided with a raffle ticket, which could be used to claim a prize such as a Kitchen Aid mixer or a custom-made fishing rod. After several hours of shar-

ing stories, receiving words of encouragement from local representatives, and enjoying a catered meal with dessert provided by the Women's Auxiliary, it was time to begin preparing for our day of fishing, which would begin at 6:00 AM the following day.

As the sun rose upon Lake Michigan and the port of St. Joseph, we could soon tell that the lake conditions were going to be perfect and that we would now just need the fish to cooperate. After approximately six (6) hours of fishing, the thirty (30) boats reconvened around the mouth of the St. Joseph River, where many began raising American flags and honking their horns in celebration of a successful day fishing. The boats would now fall in line, being led by a ceremonial boat, which is the boat that caught the largest fish the previous year, as we began our parade through the North and South Piers. As we approach the railroad bridge, we can begin to see the crowd of spectators greeting our veterans from the shoreline and feel the mist from the fire hose cannon being projected

over the river. It is at this time where you begin to see emotions of gratitude and appreciation run high, both from the Veterans as they reflect on the day, but also from the captains, crew members and the spectators, as they try to comprehend what this group of veterans and the millions of other service members sacrificed for us and our families. It's a very humbling 1-2 minutes of the two-day event, but for most, it's the moment that keeps calling all of us back year over year.

As the day begins to come to an end, each boat drops off their single largest fish at the Inn at Harbor Shores, where it's weighed and returned to the lucky Veteran. This year's largest fish was a Chinook Salmon, weighing in at over 20 pounds. As previously mentioned, the boat that caught this beautiful fish will lead the boat parade in next year's event, which will most certainly again be "our most favorite event of the year".



Jimmy Van Brocklin hosts vets off Holland.



“Charter”

Continued from page 1

nothing should impede the line flying through the guides on your rod.

Now we come to the part where I learned to upgrade my game. Bryan’s retrieval technique was different than mine. He held his rod almost parallel to the water and jerked the bait from side to side with a downward thrust while reeling at the same time. The lures darted 4 to 8 feet below the surface. He carefully continued the cadence as the bait approached the boat because he has learned that walleye tend to follow the bait right up to the boat before striking. Sure enough he hooked the first walleye of the day just off the bow of the boat.

Once I accomplished this new skill, I was able to hook up as well. In fact, after fishing two more spots I had landed four nice eater

walleyes (16 inches to 18 inches) and lost only one fish. My son Brian was now having similar luck off the stern; however, he was getting bit by some nice size small mouth bass as well and had to dart around the back of the boat before Jason was able to net them.

We didn’t end the day without covering some spots on the upper section of Lake Leelanau and trying another technique that Bryan has mastered, snap jigging. However, the fish were not where they typically are on the north end on this day so we returned to lower section to continue the pursuit.

Captain Bryan makes use of his electronics to up his game for catching fish. He has livescope fish finders at both the front and rear of the boat and he and Jason referred to their screens throughout the trip to make sure we were on fish. In fact, at one point Bryan

pointed to a spot 40 feet in front of me on my right and told me to cast to the spot. After casting close to the spot, I began the erratic retrieve and “Fish On”, a nice walleye hit the Shadow Rap giving me my limit for the day.

I realize that not every charter trip is going to result in the kind of day we enjoyed with Captain Bryan and Jason but these days don’t happen unless you book a charter. I know I’m happy I made the decision to learn something new about walleye fishing and try to up my game. You should too!

Right:
Captain Bryan Buist (left)
and Jason Julien (right)
help celebrate the
author’s first fish
of the trip!



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“FishPass” Continued from page 1

doesn’t transfer ownership of the property from the city to any other entity, nor would it curtail any existing “park” uses, they said.

“There will be no meaningful deviation in the usage of the Property as a park such that a vote of the electorate is necessary to execute the Project,” the judges said in their unpublished opinion.

City Attorney Lauren Tribble-Laucht said the city was “pleased with the decision and hopeful that we can get started on this important project soon.”

Following Powers’ 2021 decision in favor of Buckhalter, the city and its intervening defendant, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, appealed. They made their case to judges Jane E. Markey, David H. Sawyer and Mark T. Boonstra at a hearing in Petoskey

two weeks ago. All three of those judges signed the opinion Thursday in favor of the city.

“It was as good an outcome as we could have expected,” said Marc Gaden, spokesman for the Fishery Commission.

The commission would be in charge of research efforts on fish migration following the installation of the new fish sorting system. In legal arguments, Zelenock pointed to that fact to support the claim that the project would constitute a “disposal” of parkland.

In addition to the claims that the research would be used for “proprietary and commercial purposes,” he argued that the agreement between the city and the commission functioned essentially as a lease.

But the judges noted that fish research and management has already been conducted on the dam for many years, ever since the

construction of a fish ladder in 1987. The research also is directly tied to the site’s function as a park, the judges stated.

Both the city and the Fishery Commission, in prior legal arguments, rejected claims that the research would be used for the benefit of private enterprise.

FishPass would entail the construction of a 400-foot concrete channel, with a gantry crane on top, but the judges said improvements to the area associated with the project extend beyond just the dam and research applications. It would, in fact, result in an increase in public space, by offering access to more shoreline, more park areas, and more amenities.

Despite the go-ahead from the appeals court, it remains unclear what the next steps will be for the project.

Buckhalter and his lawyer have 42 days to decide if they want to appeal the case to the Michigan Supreme Court. That decision is still pending, said Jay Zelenock, Buckhalter’s attorney.

“It’s a disappointing decision,” he said. “I remain convinced that Judge Power decided these issues correctly.”

But if there are no more legal delays, the city and GLFC will likely have to regroup in the wake of the lawsuit, Gaden said. Although the court’s opinion was “pretty clear and unequivocal,” some of the plans for the project are now nearly two years old. That likely means contracts and cost estimates for materials will need to be updated.

From there, both the city and the commission also will need to find new funding sources.

“We’ll have a better sense in the coming days and weeks how quickly we can get back to construction,” Gaden said.

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

The CPMR Amici group's motion to seek direct intervention into the Consent Decree negotiations has failed to convince Judge Maloney. He issued a ruling dismissing our motion to intervene. CPMR will have to decide whether to appeal the ruling to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, OH. CPMR has made numerous requests to see the draft of the new consent decree which has supposedly been agreed to by the parties but to date we have not received a copy from the state or the court.

CPMR's executive board members, MSSFA, MUCC, MCBA, and HBAA (Hammond Bay Anglers Association), placed a limit on the amount of money to be spent on legal fees associated with the motion to intervene. The board must now consider the expected cost of an appeal to the 6th Circuit Court. We need to be careful here since it's analogous to "the dog that chased the car" ... what are the legal costs associated with "catching the car" or in this case funding an appeal. This will be the discussion for CPMR's board of directors when the final agreement is made public. If I had to guess when that will be, I'd say it will be dragged out until probably November 14th when the majority of sportsmen are

on their way to deer camp. We will brief all of you on the specifics of the new agreement as soon as it is made public.

MSSFA is part of the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition Oversight Committee, and MHRC has been attending the MMAC meeting with Consumers and Public Sector Consultants. The meetings are focused on the thirteen major dam projects that Consumers owns across the state and their future. The meetings have gone well. PSC gave the Hydropower Future presentation to the MMAC Team which provided a good forum for discussion (questions, issues, recommendations). A lot of information was exchanged.

It's a bit of a mixed message. On one hand Consumers is expressing their concerns with the age of the dams and associated capital investments for dam safety, and the cost of producing hydro energy versus wind and solar. On the other hand, the local public meetings for each project seem to be oriented towards building strong local community support for the projects. While the MHRC and the Resource Agencies will certainly be providing input to Consumers, our real leverage may subsequently be with the Michigan Public Service Commission

MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dennis Eade



if Consumers pursues rate increases for cost recovery.

(See article on page 12 for more on dam projects.)

The MDNR'S Tribal Coordination Unit will be doubling in size and cover both inland and Great Lakes issues in a much larger area across the state. At the October 4th Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee meeting, MDNR Research Biologist, Dave Caroffino mentioned he is assuming a new post as section head for the expanded Tribal Coordination Unit.

"We received a substantial increase in funding which will enable our staff to be doubled. I will become the head of the section and filling my vacant position will be newly hired Ben Rook, a research biologist who will be focusing on Lake Superior and Whitefish Modelling. He will also be working with the wholesale program and will be based in Charlevoix. We will be hiring a biologist and technician who will be based in Marquette to expand the coverage in the Upper Peninsula to help with the Treaty issues in the western part of the Upper Peninsula along with working with Emily Martin on inland issues. To complete having a crew in both the Upper Peninsula and Lower Peninsula another biologist and technician supervisor will be hired and work from Charlevoix assisting Biologist Emily Martin so she can expand her coverage to much of southwestern Michigan in the 1821 Treaty of Chicago area and on the east side of the State

in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw area", said Caroffino.

I attended the MCBA annual business conference in Lansing, celebrating its 50th Anniversary as an association. It was both informative and well attended. MDNR managers were in attendance and I had an opportunity to talk with Ed Eisch, Fish Production Manager (oversees all the state hatchery operations). Ed is leading a team responsible for planning and implementing the hatchery upgrades approved and funded by the \$30 million dollar appropriations bill which recently passed the house and senate. Even though there is some funding for cost over runs, I stressed the need to move as quickly as possible since supply chain issues and inflation are having major impacts on projects like these. Ed assured me that the project is progressing well and we could see requests for information (RFI's) on specific items by November and requests for proposals (RFP's) by February 2023. He also indicated that the team is looking at hiring an outside project manager to coordinate the sub-contracting activities and adhere to a rigid schedule for completion.

Dan O'Keefe reported on the results of the recent Lake Michigan Stocking Strategic Decision-Making Workshop in St. Joseph, MI which I also attended. The modeling algorithms, given the current biomass estimates, are alarming with 77% risk of a crash without a 50% reduction in stocking for all species. That being

said, the participants still recommended supporting the increase in Chinook stocking for 2023 because it has an insignificant impact on the outcome in the overall scheme of things. The issue is with wild fish recruitment and the impact that it is having on the system.

Finally, the Steelhead Spectacular Committee is

planning on holding another Seminar Event in February of 2023! Last year's event was really well received though we may tweak the registration fee to make it available to more folks who would have otherwise attended in 2022. More information on the Spectacular as speakers are determined and logistics are confirmed.



Michigan Late Fall Fishing Trips

Fall fishing in Michigan offers something for everyone! Some of Michigan's rivers are filled with steelhead trout and brown trout offering exciting trips for these beautiful fish while other rivers offer fantastic fall walleye options for those anglers wanting to fill a cooler. Open water fishing on our lakes and bays include opportunities for walleye, perch and ciscos. Fishing with our Captains and Guides gives you the advantage of their knowledge and expertise gained from years of fishing in Michigan, and the use of the best fishing electronics and equipment available.

Whether you're new to fishing and interested in learning how to fish, or an experienced angler looking for a Captain or Guide to take you to the best fishing locations, Sport Fish Michigan will create the perfect fishing trip tailored to your interests. We take pride in

providing the highest level of customer service and Michigan's best fishing experiences!

Fall fishing in Michigan offers a large variety of species to target using multiple techniques to fit every angler's preference. Now is indeed a wonderful time to be on the water with a Sport Fish Michigan Captain. Rivers like the Manistee River, Betsie River, Muskegon and Grand Rivers are filled with steelhead and brown trout. For anglers seeking incredible walleye fishing, rivers like the Detroit River, Saginaw River and St. Clair rivers are hard to beat. Walleyes, perch, and even ciscos all begin their late fall feeding binge and bite aggressively all fall long on both inland waters as well as waters like Grand Traverse Bays, Lake St. Clair, Saginaw bay, and the mighty Detroit River.

Article and photos source: sportfishmichigan.com



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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.

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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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Via Teams – 6:00pm
Wednesday, December 21

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2	02/13/23	03/03/23
3	04/14/23	05/05/23
4	06/14/23	07/07/23
5	08/14/23	09/01/23
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The *Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association (MSSFA)* is a multi-state, non-profit organization dedicated to educating the general public on improving, preserving and promoting sport fishing, the Great Lakes and their tributary streams and rivers. Commonly referred to as *The Michigan Steelheaders*, or simply *Steelheaders*. *MSSFA* represents sport fishing families in the Great Lakes region. *MSSFA* encourages the strictest observances of sport fishing laws and ethical fishing practices. www.MSSFA.org

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“Safety” Continued from page 1

At the state level, Michigan officials want to create a new access point nearby; but the park, which owns the land, says doing so might trample endangered species habitat.

Nature is the boss at Sleeping Bear, say park officials.

“Boater access will have to adapt to nature,” said Scott Tucker, superintendent of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. “That’s one of the goals of the National Park Service; is to restore natural processes. And once we restore the natural processes, boaters and recreation will have to adapt to nature rather than adapting nature to recreation.”

If that approach puts the public at greater risk, so be it.

“We let people climb Mount McKinley. We let people climb Half Dome and we don’t alter nature for those incidents,” said Tucker. “Taking risk is part

of participating in public lands.”

“Access to the bay will depend on conditions,” Tucker continued. “That’s the same if you’re climbing Denali or you’re fishing in the Everglades.”

Dredging Dates Back To Infamous Storm

At Platte River Point, conditions since the federal government took ownership of the surrounding land amid establishment of the park in 1970 have been managed by dredging.

The Lower Platte River is one of the only remaining undeveloped river or large creek outlets on the state’s Lake Michigan coast. The mouth has historically migrated down the beach but has not wandered too far since the onset of dredging in 1968, according to historic aeri

Dredging began after the infamous “coho fever” storm of 1967, in which seven people died when fishing boats were unable to enter the shallow river

mouth.

The work took place after Labor Day. Sand and gravel from the river mouth was piled on each bank. The Park Service stopped dredging in 2013 for budgetary reasons and the state, which operates a fish hatchery upriver, stepped in for a few years. The effort cost about \$10,000 annually and involved an excavator mechanically digging out the mouth.

Dredging stopped entirely in 2016 when the Park Service decided it wanted the spoils removed from the beach and the mouth restored to a natural state. A \$500,000 project to remove the spoils was set to finally launch this fall before the diversion forced its postponement.

Before the diversion, park officials had largely gotten what they wanted. Tucker said sediment build-up “reset” the outlet, pushing it nearly 1,000 feet east down the beach this summer, creating a long sand spit similar what 1950s satellite photos in the park’s

restoration plan show.

The new topography expanded habitat for piping plover nesting adjacent to areas already restricted to protect habitat for the tiny endangered bird — which is making recovery strides across the region. Beachgoers frolicked on the long spit. But the long, meandering river mouth was too shallow for anything beyond small boats and kayaks to navigate.

It also functioned as a kind of drain plug, helping trap water upstream where state officials say it was over-saturating marshlands and exacerbating erosion in some areas.

Heather Hettinger, a fisheries biologist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in Traverse City, said the newly cut channel helped alleviate upstream pressure in the river, which dropped by a foot once the flow cut through the sand spit.

“If anything, the resource impacts were positive,” she said.

“We saw some pretty

good things happen upstream that will hopefully change the way people are using the river for the better,” Hettinger said. “We’re seeing better flow and sediment transport.”

“We didn’t feel like the sky was falling.”

Tragedies in Platte Bay on High-Use Holidays

The DNR has been fielding lots of flak since dredging ceased.

At the end of Lake Michigan Road in Benzie County, boaters put into the Platte River about 900 feet from the mouth at a county launch next to Lake Township Park.

It’s the only launch between Empire and Frankfort and the most direct access point to Platte Bay for boat anglers targeting salmon during their annual fall spawning runs.

“Locals and anglers that used to fish there have been very vocal that they’d like to see it dredged,” said Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan basin coordinator for the

DNR. “We get calls every fall asking why we aren’t dredging it.”

The launch is the only immediate access for water response craft in the event of an emergency, which is not unheard of on Platte Bay’s sometimes unruly waters. Since dredging stopped seven years ago, two people have died in the bay. In 2020, a teenager from Holt drowned swimming in Lake Michigan on the Fourth of July. In 2016, 21-year-old Tyler Spink capsized while on a Labor Day kayak trip. His body was found two years later.

In June, those deaths were referenced in a plea for help made by Lake Township officials concerned about public safety. The township sent requests to help spur dredging this summer to Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, U.S. Rep. Jack Bergman, R-Watersmeet, state Rep. Jack O’Malley, R-Lake Ann, and state Sen. Curt VanderWall, R-Scottville.

“Due to the current status of the river mouth, emergency vessels would have a very difficult (if not impossible) time launching to offer aid,” wrote Anna Grobe, Lake Township supervisor.

That was on June 8. Three months later, Grobe said the response has been underwhelming. In late August, prior to Democratic U.S. Sen. Gary Peters’ stop in Traverse City as part of a statewide motorcycle tour to talk-up infrastructure funding, Grobe called the senator’s office several times for the itinerary so she could raise the issue with him. No luck.

“It’s basically been radio silence here,” Grobe said.

Across M-22 from the township offices, Kyle Orr, owner of Riverside Canoe Trips, said there’s a lot of local frustration with the diversion investigation and the park’s position on dredging.

The park is supposed to maintain boater access in high-use areas in accordance with its management plan, Orr said, and many locals question why it won’t dredge the Platte River mouth but will dredge the North Manitou Island ferry docks.

“The general local sentiment is that the Park Service has blown this way out of proportion,” said Orr. “We’re all like ‘what are we doing here?’”

When emergencies arise, it’s usually on the lake — not the river, he said, and “it would be nice for a rescue boat to be able to get out there in a timely fashion,” Orr said.

“We lost someone two summers ago and there was no way a boat could get out.”

“Can we please find a compromise?” he asked.

Habitat Concerns Derail Alternative Launch

“Safety”
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“Safety”

Continued from page 8

A potential solution was studied in the park’s 2016 assessment. To maintain boater access absent dredging, the DNR proposed a new boat launch directly onto Platte Bay about a mile-and-a-half east of the river mouth at the end of Tiesma Road. Although parts of the park are federally designated wilderness, the proposed launch area is not.

The Park Service studied the idea, which would involve some improvements to the road and creation of a small parking lot to support a removable launch ramp. However, it was rejected over concerns about potential impact on piping plover habitat and other threatened or endangered species like the Pitcher’s thistle and Pumpbelly’s brome grass dune plants.

A new launch site could actually be a safety issue of its own, argued the Park Service, writing in its 2016 assessment that “impacts to boater safety at the new ramp may be adverse as boaters would have unprotected access similar to other accesses around Lake Michigan.”

Tucker said that because the alternative launch was directly onto Lake Michigan, it was seen as “a huge safety issue.”

“And, two, it was through that same critical dune piping plover habitat,” Tucker said.

The Michigan DNR does not share those concerns.

“Piping plover numbers in the park are stable and good,” said Hettinger. “From a plant standpoint, we have so much shoreline in the park and it’s in such good shape. You’re talking about one tiny area within the national lakeshore where we’re trying to maintain access so people can enjoy it.”

Hettinger said the DNR is very concerned about safety issues created by the lack of boater access. Beyond rescue craft, should conditions worsen while a boat is on Platte Bay, the nearest refuge is now either Frankfort, which is 10 miles south, or Empire, which is six miles north.

The depth in parts of the bay is 200 feet — which is great for salmon and hiding long lost shipwrecks but not so great for someone caught in rough weather. Much would depend on the direction and severity of the wind, Hettinger said. Any rescue would be at least 20 minutes away for someone in trouble — and that’s the best-case scenario.

“If the weather turns up in Platte Bay and you need to leave, the odds are good you’re going to have problems getting back to Empire,” Hettinger said.

“You may have a problem getting back to Frankfort.”

The DNR feels responsible for the fishery in Platte Bay, which is a byproduct of introducing coho salmon

on in the 1960s as a way to combat invasive alewives.

The fish were reared and first introduced in the Platte

River, which is still an important spawning stream

where coho eggs are collected.

On the investigation front, Tucker said the Park Service is still soliciting tips and trying to determine exactly what happened on Aug. 14 and 15 when the river breached the spit. Nobody has been detained or arrested, he said. Once completed, the park will consult with the U.S. District Attorney’s office in Grand Rapids on any potential charges.

At minimum, Tucker said what happened would likely result in some violation of a federal code which prohibits digging or disturbing natural, cultural and archeological resources.

Going forward, Tucker said the park will also step-up public messaging around the river mouth, which is heavily frequented by beachgoers who like to move rocks around.

In the meantime, state officials are expecting Lake Michigan to erase any evidence of man’s tampering this fall. A couple good storms out of the

north-northwest and the lake will reconfigure the Platte outlet in whatever way it sees fit, Hettinger said.

Unfortunately, thorny access concerns will remain.

“It’s the coolest thing in the world to launch a boat on the Platte in the dark, motor out and when the sun comes up, you’re catching these gorgeous coho salmon in this beautiful wilderness area,” Hettinger said. “It’s really sad to see that’s an experience that’s being compromised because we can’t maintain access for the public.”

Wesley and Hettinger said the DNR would be willing to help pay for a new access point, either using state Natural Resources Trust Fund or Great Lakes Fisheries Trust money. Park natural resources, such as wildlife, are jointly managed, but Hettinger said the DNR has little leverage to force a reluctant property owner to build something it doesn’t want to.



Courtesy | U.S. Park Service: A National Park Service diagram showing the location of dredge spoils at the Lower Platte River mouth in Benzie County, Mich. The Park Service is investigating an “illegal diversion” of the river mouth that occurred in August. The river is located within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

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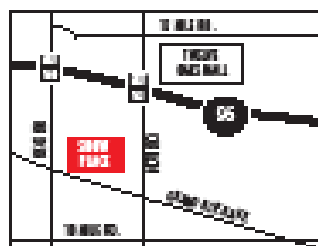
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Juvenile Coho Salmon will be stocked in greater numbers in Lake Huron.

Coho Stocking Proposal for Lake Huron

Since the data are showing that that more Coho can be stocked, it was decided at the last Lake Huron Citizens Fish Advisory committee meeting that an additional 100,000 yearling

and 150,000 fall fingerling Coho Salmon could be stocked in Lake Huron.

This is actually somewhat less than the data are showing but it was agreed that a conservative ap-

proach is the best choice at this time. In addition, because Coho Salmon have very short lives compared to Lake Trout and even Chinook Salmon, if issues result, the program can be

terminated very quickly. The production of yearling Coho Salmon is more reliable than fall fingerlings that depend on extra fish being produced because of good survival in the hatch-

ery during a growing season.

Currently up to 100,000 Coho Salmon are being stocked at two locations per year, with half going in Northern Lake Huron and

half in the Southern part of the lake. During a year for example, 50,000 Coho Salmon are stocked each at Thunder Bay and Port Sanilac and the alternate year 50,000 fish are stocked in the Au Sable River and Harbor Beach.

A comparison was done, and the growth rates of the Lake Huron stocked Coho Salmon have been comparable and at times even slightly better than Coho Salmon in Lake Michigan. This shows that these fish in Lake Huron are performing well and have adapted to the food web.

The goal was for the Advisors to determine where these additional Coho Salmon should be stocked. There are several possibilities;

1. Stocking the yearlings at new sites also in alternate years.
2. Stock the yearlings every year at the current sites.
3. Experiment with the fall fingerlings by trying new sites.
4. Other? The Lake Huron Citizens Fish Advisory Committee met on October 4, 2022 and a poll of the advisors unanimously voted to in the affirmative to a coho stocking scenario for 2023.

The Coho Stocking Proposal is straight forward: *Stock the existing yearling sites every year at the Au Sable River, Harbor Beach, Port Sanilac, and Thunder Bay River with 50,000 yearling Coho Salmon per site per year. Stock fall fingerling Coho at the existing sites of East Au Gres River and Port Hope, and add Harrisville, Grindstone, and Rogers City to the fall fingerling stocking site list. Stock fall fingerling sites up to 75,000 per site per year when they are available.*

The result of the vote was unanimous; adopt the proposed stocking proposal as presented.



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3 Late Fall Fishing Tips To Catch You More Fish



Layer up put on the wool socks, and stash a few hand warmers in your pockets. It's time to go fishing! But where do you start? If you follow the three tips below, you will undoubtedly put more trophy bass in the boat this fall.

Timing It Right While Late Fall Fishing

When you go fishing, you want to make the hours you spend on the water count. This couldn't be truer for this time of the year. The beauty of fishing in the late autumn is it is better to go fishing during the middle of the day when the

sun and temperature are at their highest. This ensures the water is the warmest it will be all day and gives the bass a chance to warm up. Typically 11 or 12-noon are a good time to start fishing.

Additionally, keep an eye on your favorite weather app (I love Weather Underground) for the forecast. During the late fall, even one afternoon of low 60-degree air temperatures can make the fish bite like crazy. Typically, the best late fall fishing days are surrounded by days with highs of low to mid-40s. So, while impromptu fishing trips can be fun, it pays

to plan in the fall.

Go Big or Go Home In The Fall

Big baits catch big fish. You've probably heard this too many times in your fishing days. However, it remains true, particularly in fall when bass are preparing for winter. Fish know hardwater is not far off and once the ice forms a bass' metabolism slows down, enabling them to eat less often. During this late fall period, bass want to make their energy count. Instead of chasing numerous smaller meals they would much prefer to chase one larger

meal. Large profile baits like spinnerbaits and bulky jigs are go-to's for this time of year.

Late Fall Fishing: Slow Your Roll

This goes along with "going big" when it comes to late autumn lure presentations. Because bass want to optimize their energy spent on a larger meal, they would prefer these large meals move slowly. A big meal moving slowly equals a happy trophy largemouth. Again, baits like spinnerbaits and jigs are perfect because they can be fished super slow




and maintain a large profile. Try slow-rolling a spinnerbait on the tops of existing green vegetation. The key this time of year is being able to make slight contact with fish-holding cover like weeds, rock, timber, and


docks. These slower presentations allow the angler to keep the bait in the strike zone longer and increase their chances of getting bit.



Article source: shopkarls.com

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The Future of Hydro-Electric Dams in Michigan

By Bryan Burroughs

Consumers Energy (CE) announced a process whereby they will review the long-term future of the thirteen hydro-electric dams they own around the state. They conducted local “townhall” meetings by each of their dams and opened their website for the public to leave comments. The timing of this is partly due to the CE planning process and partly due to a requirement from the Michigan Public Service Commission to set depreciation

rates for the hydro projects used in customer rates. Recently, it was announced that CE would be closing the public comment period on October 21, 2022 but as a member of the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition, MSSFA will have until December 31, 2022 to make final comments. MHRC has been working to research critical information relevant to the future of these dams and will be involved in this process through this CE public comment period, and well beyond in other relevant

comment processes. However, we would like to share the following key points to consider:

- Many of these dams continue to violate state water quality standards, and Clean Water Act provisions of their FERC licenses, by warming water temperatures and effecting coldwater fisheries.
- Water temperatures and compliance standards are provided here, for Croton Dam (Muskegon R.), Tippy and Hodenpyle dams (Manistee R.), Mio, Foote, Alcona dams (Au Sable R.).

- This results in warmer water temperatures downstream of these dams and inhibits the populations of coldwater fish species present downstream.
- These thirteen hydro-dams now produce approximately 50 MW per day, which represents approximately 1% of CE’s electricity portfolio.
- These thirteen dams generate electricity valued at \$12.9 million per year, however routine operations & maintenance costs for the thirteen projects average \$12.6 million per year, for a net gain of only \$300,000 per year.
- As dams age, and the probability of flood levels increasing, the level of required capital investment to maintain these dams have risen. CE has noted that they will need to invest an

average of \$165 million dollars per year into the dams through 2026.

- CE generates only 1% of their electricity from these hydro dams, which is more costly than other forms of electricity generation, and with large capital investments needed, CE reported that 1 MW of hydroelectricity is now approximately thirty-one times more expensive than 1 MW of wind produced electricity.
- The significantly elevated costs of hydroelectricity will be passed onto to all CE customers, if the MI Public Service Commission (MSPC) continues to approve these expenditures.
- The MPSC has obligations to rate payer fairness and affordability; and despite any ancillary ben-

efits of these dams, they no longer represent a wise economical investment for electricity provision. We believe that the MPSC will also need to decide about the future of these dams. However, for now, CE is requesting public comment relevant to their own internal decision making on the future of them. The local townhalls held next to the impoundments, not surprisingly resulted in heavy bias towards to local uses and benefits of the dams. That venue did not foster widespread public input from different perspectives, including those who live with the detriments or impacts of the dams, or the equitability for rate payers funding these into the future.

Photo credit: lostinmichigan.net

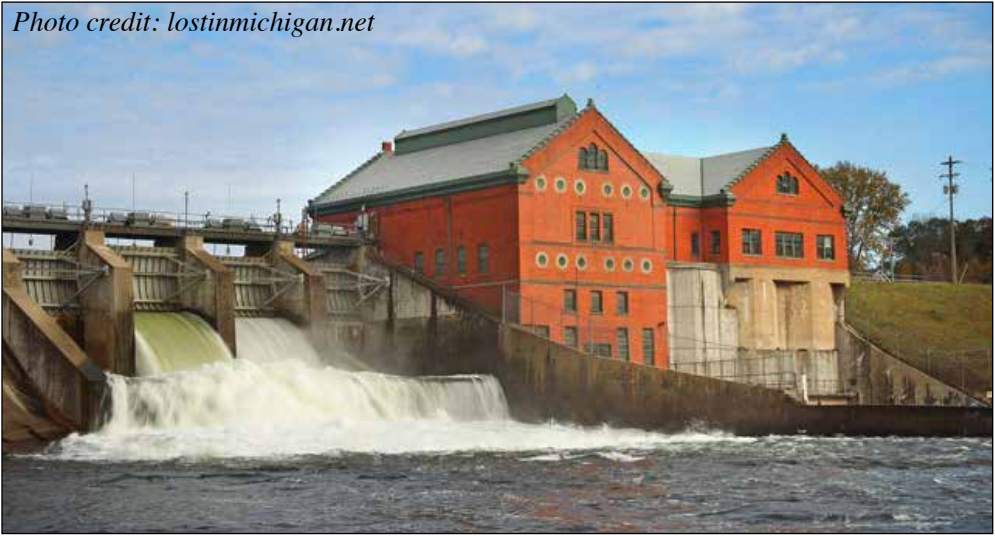


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Michigan Department of Natural Resources

DNR Donates Over 460 Pounds of Poached Fish to Manistee County Families; Out-of-State Group Faces Over \$4,000 in Restitution

An angler's tip helped Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officers recover more than 460 pounds of illegally taken salmon from an out-of-state fishing group on the Manistee River this week. The group went away with far less than they caught, while the officers were able to safely donate the poached fish to local families in Manistee County.

"There is a large amount of coho and Chinook salmon running the local rivers this time of year, attracting anglers from across the country to be a part of one of Michigan's finest fishing adventures," said the DNR's Sgt. Grant Emery. "While we've seen a decrease in illegal fishing activity over the years, unfortunately, we still run into illegal and unconventional methods."

Conservation Officers Josiah Killingbeck, who patrols Lake County, and Scott MacNeill, who patrols Manistee County, were conducting a fish patrol Tuesday along the Manistee River, near the Tippy Dam in Dickson Township when an angler approached and informed them about a group downriver using illegal methods and equipment to take fish.

The officers located and observed the group, confirming the tip.

When Killingbeck and MacNeill contacted the group, several of them attempted to break off their fishing lines so the officers wouldn't see the illegal

fishing gear they were using.

Officers interviewed the group and determined that the anglers, who had traveled from Colorado, did not have valid fishing licenses, were using illegal tackle and possessed 17 salmon taken by an illegal method.

The group willingly admitted their illegal activity and led Killingbeck and MacNeill back to their vehicles in the parking lot, where they had an additional 40-50 fish in coolers – some of the fish had already been filleted.

The group, if properly licensed, legally would have been allowed to possess 30 fish total; the total amount of illegal fish in the group's possession weighed 463 pounds.

"It's a shame that this group invested so much time and money to travel all the way to Michigan only to illegally take these salmon, a valuable, public natural resource," Emery said. "We are grateful for the angler who approached Killingbeck and MacNeill, which allowed them to recover the fish with enough time to safely donate to local families in need."

The individuals received citations for using illegal methods to take an over limit of salmon and fishing without a fishing license. Combined, they face more than \$4,630 in restitution and additional costs.

They have until Oct. 21 to contact the 85th District Court in Manistee County for arraignment. The DNR is not releasing names prior



Tuesday in Manistee County, an angler approached Michigan DNR Conservation Officers Scott MacNeill (left) and Josiah Killingbeck about a group of people illegally fishing the Manistee River, near Tippy Dam in Dickson Township. The officers retrieved 463 pounds of salmon from the suspects, visiting from Colorado, and donated the fish to local Manistee County families the same day.



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to arraignment. Michigan conservation officers are fully commissioned law enforcement officers who provide natural resources protection, ensure recreational safety and protect citizens by providing general law enforcement duties and lifesaving operations in the communities they serve. Learn more at Michigan.gov/ConservationOfficers.



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2022 Battle Creek Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Location
November	12	KALAMAZOO TROUT QUEST	ALLEGAN DAM
November	19	KALAMAZOO RIVER MEMORIAL	ALLEGAN DAM
November	26	ST.JOE RIVER FALL STEELHEAD	I-94 BOAT RAMP
December	3	ST.JOE RIVER CHAPTER CHALLENGE	BABES LOUNGE
December	10	CHRISTMAS PARTY	KALAMAZOO EAGLES
<p>Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting Meeting Location: Travelers Cafe and Pub, 5225 Portage Rd. Exit 78 off I-94. FOR MORE INFORMATION: River Tournament - Joe Foy at 269-303-1894 / Lake Tournament - Dan Foster at 269-370-3693 battlecreeksteelheaders.com</p>			

2022 Grand Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Contact Info
December	7	Annual dinner, recognitions, fundraiser	
<p>Other Events TBD</p> <p>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</p>			

2022 Grand Rapids Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
November	5	Chapter Fall Fishing Event	
November	7	Board Meeting	
November	28	Membership Meeting	Elks #48, 917 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids MI
December	5	Board Meeting	
December	**	Christmas Party	
<p>STC* = Date subject to change. Please watch newsletter or facebook page. ** = Members and Family Only. (All other events open to the public). Speakers will be listed in the monthly newsletter, and on facebook.</p>			

2022 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Location / Time
<p>ALL EVENTS - TO BE DETERMINED</p> <p>Membership meetings held at: 3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642 989-496-3410</p> <p>Board meetings begin at 7:00pm</p> <p>Please call the Port Chairman no later than Monday prior to the outing whether you plan on attending or not attending. On the day of the outing, call in on Marine Radio, Channel 72. Weigh-in follows each outing. Picnics follows weigh-in on Saturdays only. Outings: All Steelheader members pay \$5.00. All non-Steelheaders pay \$10.00 to participate. Children 16 and Under are free. Picnic is \$5.00 for everyone.</p> <p>If interested in fishing with us please contact: Gary Decker at 989-859-7472 Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com</p>			

2022 Holland Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	
November	5	River Tournament	
November	7	Board Meeting	
December	1	Membership Meeting	
December	3	River Tournament	
December	5	Board Meeting	
<p>Board meetings held at: TBD Locations</p> <p>General Membership: Bayshore Yacht Club at the Yacht Basin Marina Doors open at 6 pm., Dinner at 7 pm, speaker to follow</p> <p>For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jeremy Erdman 616-510-9405, or email Steve Weatherwax at Waxer1221@Yahoo.com</p>			

2022 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Chair / Location
November	1	General Membership Meeting	
November	5	Manistee River/Pier/Shore Tournaments w DS	Dave Zawacki/Eric Braden/Adam Trenz
November	19	PM River Tournament	Marc Traver/Adam Trenz
December	6	CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
	10	Huron River Tournament	Hinchcliff/Brown
<p>** ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contact: <i>President</i> Bob Schulz, bobschulz7@gmail.com, 248-915-0043 <i>Membership Director</i> Henry Nabors 248-225-4964</p>			

2022 South Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
November	2	2023 Pro Am Tournament Committee Kick-off meeting
November	17	Membership Meeting - and Board Meeting to finalize budget and calendar
November	26	SHS River Tournament Invitational <i>(must be a member to participate)</i>
December		No membership meeting in lieu of Holiday Party
Dec	10	South Haven Steelheaders Holiday Party 2022
<p>Membership Meetings Held at 7 pm at: American Legion Post 49, 129 Michigan Avenue, South Haven, MI 49090 Meetings take place on the third Thursday of the month at 7pm unless otherwise re-scheduled. For more information email: president@southhavensteelheaders.com</p>		

2022 Southwest MI Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
<p>Membership meetings and board meeting are held the second Thursday of each month but we are still determining our schedule for 2022 due to the lingering effects of covid. Please check online for the latest information. www.swmisteelheaders.com www.facebook.com/southwestmichigansteelheaders</p>			
Decemberr	3	33rd Annual Winter Challenge Tournament	
<p>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</p>			

2022 TCAS Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
<p>All events are TBD</p>		
<p>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.</p>		

2022 Thumb Chapter Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Event	Location / Information
<p>All events are TBD</p>				
<p>Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries.</p>				

2022 Thunderbay Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Time	Information
November	7	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
December	5	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
<p>Contact Dan Bouchard at dan-bouchard@hotmail.com for inquiries.</p>			

2022 White River Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Event information	Location
<p>Note: All meetings will be held at 6:30 pm at the VFW, any changes in location will be decided a couple of days before the meeting. – Any questions or to verify dates/times please call Clint Pollock at (231) 893-0210 or Terry Clark at (231) 893-6805.</p>				
November	3	6:30	Member meeting	VFW
December	1	6:30	Member meeting	VFW

Acknowledgement of error:

There was a caption error in the last issue. We misidentified the Coho in the picture below (located on page 4 of the September/October GLSFN) as a Steelhead when it is actually the biggest coho (36”) that the author, Jim Bedford has ever caught...Sorry Jim!



Fall Cranking Tips: How To Use Crankbaits For Fall Bass

The air and water temperature is cooling down. Schools of baitfish are everywhere. Leaves are starting to fall and bass are on the move. It's a perfect time for throwing a fast-moving lure, but which one works best during this season? While many anglers throw spinnerbaits and buzz baits for bass in the fall, there are others who would rather crank the ultimate shad imitator—a crankbait.

The fish are feeding up for the winter and are looking for schools of shad to feed on, so a crankbait offers bass a lure that looks like a shad but is just a little bigger or has something a little different than what they are used to seeing.

A change in diet later in the fall also makes a crankbait more effective than a spinnerbait because bass start feeding on crawfish then. So use shad-color crankbaits in early to mid-autumn but switch to crawfish-color crankbaits for late fall. When the sun heats up the rocks in late fall the crawdads start moving a little bit and bass move ultra-shallow.

Bass migrate from deep to shallow water in the early stages of autumn and then back to the deep again by early winter. So crankbaits become effective lures during this season because anglers can fish these baits at various depths.

Let's look at some of the cranking techniques you can use to catch bass in the fall.

Crankbaits for Fall Bass: Deep to Shallow

In the early fall when the water temperature still hovers in the 70- to 80-degree range, try probing

brush piles with deep-diving crankbaits you can run 12 to 15 feet deep into brush piles close to drop-offs. Crank the lure down into the piles and then just work it as slow as you would a worm or jig through the

brush. Cranking is an effective way to catch bass as you follow the bass' fall migration route into the creeks and coves and later to the rocky 45-degree banks. Throughout the fall, keep



tabs on the baitfish to find bass and if you don't see any shad keep moving until you find the forage.

When the fish are in the creeks and coves, concentrate on depths of 1 to 5 feet and select small medium-diving crankbaits even though these lures dive deeper than the larger square-billed crankbaits. The smaller crankbaits match the size of shad then

and will allow you to catch more bass than the big square bills.

Shad-pattern hues such as Tennessee shad and baby threadfin shad (blue back and pearl sides) work best for bass feeding in the creeks and coves. Retrieve the lures at a fast clip but mix things up with a stop-and-go presentation.

In the late fall, you should move to the rocky 45-degree banks and eventually to points where you can throw Bomber Model 6A or Storm Lure Wiggle Wart crankbaits (to name a couple) in crawfish hues (dark brown). On cloudy days, select crankbaits for fall bass in a chartreuse baby bass color.

When the water temperature dips to around the 50-degree mark, slow down your retrieve considerably and if the temperature drops below 50 crawl the lure along the bottom so the crankbait grinds into the rocks. On sunny days in late fall, you can catch bass on the crawfish crankbaits close to the bank.

Crankbaits For Fall Bass: Staying Shallow

If deep-diving crankbaits are too much work for you to throw all day, you can concentrate on shallow bass in the upper ends of reservoirs throughout the fall. Even when the water temperature stays in the 75- to 80-degree range in early autumn, you can throw shallow-running square-bill crankbaits to catch bass that are chasing shad on flats near a channel. Bass will remain shallow there as long as the water stays

above 60 degrees.

Selecting large square bills will usually match the size of the shad in these areas. The best colors for square bills are Tennessee shad or black back and chartreuse sides.

A rocky channel bank next to a flat with laydown logs is an ideal spot to throw square-bill crankbaits for fall bass. Key on the rocks in the morning and then target the laydowns in the afternoon. When fishing the flats, look for the shad and any piece of cover sticking out of the water.

Crankbaits For Fall Bass: Retrieve Speed

Vary your retrieve depending on the mood of the fish. Start out winding it as fast as you can, then adjust speeds until you find out how bass want it presented. Steadily wind in the lure until it hits a rock or log and then pause it for just a second. Throwing crankbaits for fall bass is a process, so it will take some experimentation.

As the water gets colder later in the fall, crank the lure slower and scale down to a smaller square bill. Bass move off the flats and laydowns then, and stay strictly on the rocks of the channel bank.

Article and photos source: shopkarls.com



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