



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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Author Jim Bedford with yard long fall steelhead

LATE AUTUMN STEELHEAD

By Jim Bedford

As I write this in mid-October I am already pretty certain that you will need to beef up your tackle for the 2018-19 steelhead run. The first six October steelhead that I landed were all over ten pounds. One that I didn't land escaped by pulling the hook out of the plug I was using. During the chinook egg take at the Little Manistee weir a 23 pound steelhead was passed upstream, a likely record for the largest steelhead ever passed during this process.

Fall run Great Lakes steelhead are truly special fish. Their prime condition following a summer of feeding heavily in the Great Lakes coupled with favorable water temperatures in the 40s and 50s bring out the best in these fish. Virtually all of our steelhead spawn in the late winter or spring so they have all of the stored up energy for this task available to put a great bend in your rod. They aggressively take a wide

variety of lures and baits and even though the numbers present in the river are considerably smaller in the fall compared to the spring you are likely to find more takers.

I've queried a number of fellow biologists and no one seems to know why portions of the Great Lakes steelhead run in the fall. In the Pacific Northwest there are physical barriers, distances, and water level constraints that cause steelhead to run well in advance of spawning time but those situations don't exist in our Great Lakes tributaries. Many have speculated that the steelhead are following the salmon to feed on their eggs. However, it is uncommon to find salmon eggs in the stomach of an adult steelhead on its river migration and these rainbows were running upstream in the fall before chinook and coho salmon were introduced. In addition, fall run steelhead tend

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Charter Fishing Continues To Boost Tourism in Coastal Towns

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

Charter fishing catch and effort statistics from 2017 are now available from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Charter Boat Reporting Program. Each year, the economic impact of charter fishing is calculated by Michigan Sea Grant based on the number of fishing trips that charter captains report to the DNR.

Despite the many problems that challenge the future of Great Lakes fisheries, charter fishing continues to provide an important component of coastal tourism. In fact, the economic impact of tourism generated by charter fishing in Michigan rose to \$25.4 million in 2017. This represents a 4.5 percent increase from 2016 to 2017 after adjusting for inflation.

Lake Michigan holds steady

The Lake Michigan fishery has experienced a lot of uncertainty in recent years, but the lake's charter fishing industry has been remarkably steady since the late 1990s. Fluctuations in charter fishing effort (and resulting economic impacts) have not been closely linked to catch rates, in part because fishing success has ranged from good to fantastic since Chinook salmon recovered from a bacterial kidney disease (BKD) epidemic in the mid-1990s.

In 2017, charter captains logged 12,122 fishing trips in Michigan waters of Lake Michigan, generating tourism that created over \$7 million in personal income and over 322,000 employment hours. This was very similar to the economic impact of 11,791 trips reported in 2016, and reflects the continued high level of interest in charter fishing for salmon and trout.



Walleye have been increasingly important to Lake Huron's charter fishery, rising from 6 percent of the harvest in 2002 to 61 percent in 2017.
(Data provided by Michigan DNR.)

Tribes Not Eager to Parley "2020 Tribal Consent Decree"

By Steve Schultz and
Chris Patterson

From our observation of the parties' discussions during the last Tribal Executive Council meeting, it appears to us that the issues

presented to the Executive Council now are more for posturing prior to expiration of the 2000 Consent Decree than to explore true

"Tribes"
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Lake Michigan offers anglers a variety of trout and salmon species, but Chinook salmon are often considered the premier gamefish. Charter fishing produced an average of 2.1 Chinooks per trip in 2017, which is similar to catch rates in 2015 and 2016. Prior to 2013, Chinook salmon targeted catch rates were much higher (up to 7.4 per charter trip) but fishing effort and economic impacts were similar.

Catch rates are calculated by the Michigan DNR, and these rates represent the number of Chinooks caught per trip targeting salmon and trout of all species. These targeted catch rates are used to exclude incidental salmon catches taken by anglers fishing for walleye, bass, or other fish that are targeted using different gear or methods.

The resurgence of Lake Huron

Much of the angst surrounding declining Chinook salmon catch rates on

Lake Michigan is related to the crash of Lake Huron's salmon fishery in 2004. After Chinook salmon targeted catch rates fell from 2.4 fish per charter trip in 2004 to 1.2 fish per trip in 2005 the Lake Huron charter fishery was cut in half.

Although Lake Huron's charter industry was never as large as Lake Michigan's, the impact of lost tourism and fishing opportunities was devastating to many coastal communities. From 2006 to 2015, Lake Huron captains logged fewer than 2,000 charter trips per year, but in 2016 things started looking up. Fishing effort rose to 2,154 trips in 2016 – just below the long-term average of 2,176 (1990-2017). In 2017, Lake Huron rose above this long-

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MSSFA PRESIDENT *Dr. Ken Merckel*

On October 4, 2018, I visited the USFW Jordan River Hatchery to view the 1,100,000 herring that are being raised and planted in Lake Huron at White Stone Point, and at a reef off the N.E. corner of Big Charity Island. The M.V. Spencer Baird will transport the herring to be planted off Big Charity Island. This is the beginning of a ten year research project.

The fishing from Cheboygan to Presque Isle this year saw good numbers of Chinook salmon taken and their stomachs were full with alewife, smelt, and chubs. Lake Trout fishing was tremendous and good numbers of Atlantic salmon, steelhead, and walleye rounded out the catches. From Alpena to Lexington, the catch was made up of lake trout, steelhead, Atlantic salmon, and walleye. The perch fishing around Au Gres was spotty.

The Atlantic salmon fishery ranges from the North Channel in Lake St. Clair to Rogers City. This has been a great research project and will only get better in the future with the Harrietta Hatchery coming on line to produce 100,000

Atlantic salmon and Platte River producing 80,000.

At the October 19, 2018 LHCFAC meeting, advisors supported the need to reduce lake trout daily bag limit from 3 to 2 in Lake Huron management unit MH1 from Roger City to Drummond Island. The reason is a 27,840 pounds overage from the 2016 recreational fishery. This will take effect in 2019. While very unfortunate and not biologically necessary, we supported the regulative change to maintain respect for and integrity in the 2000 consent decree. A letter of support was sent to Director Creagh, MDNR.

Paul Sullivan from Canada's Fisheries and Oceans provided an overview of the attempted progress to obtain approval of the First Nations to treat the Garden, Mississauga, Root, and Echo Rivers in the North Channel with lampicide to kill larval lamprey. Both Rivers were treated in 2013 and 2014 respectively. These rivers were also to be treated in 2016, and 2017 but were not. These treatments were deferred to provide the First Nations time to review information and material

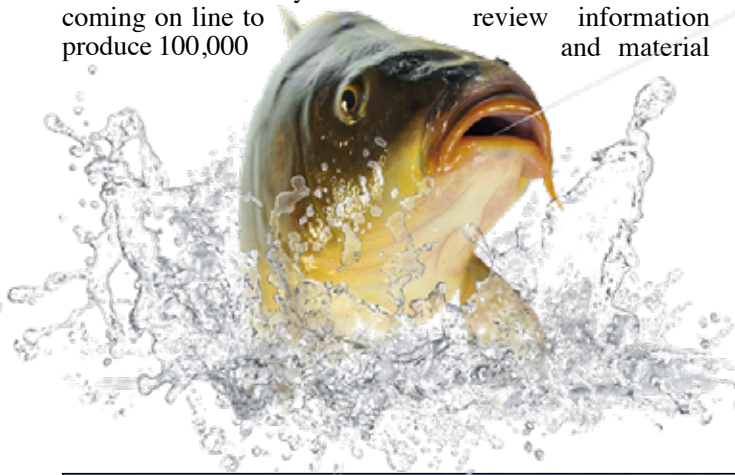
relative to the history of the treatments role in supporting fish stocks in Lake Huron and environmental and health reports related to lampicide exposure. As of this date, the First Nation peoples, have not supported proposals to treat these rivers. When left untreated the Mississauga can produce 8,100,000 larval sea lamprey, the Garden 7,000,000 per year, as compared to the St. Mary's 4,300,000 and Saginaw 2,700,000 if left untreated.

Paul Sullivan's comments suggest to me that Provincial and Federal Canadian Government is not working well with the First Nation peoples and the First Nations return it in kind. The only way any progress seems to happen is if there is some kind of quid pro quo for the First Nation people. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is fully engaged with the Provincial and Federal Canadian Government and the First Nations trying to solve this problem, knowing full well how the game is played.

As my term as President winds down, I wish to thank, Dennis and Bonnie Eade, Tim Stegeman, Jim VanderMass, Gerry Sickon, Joe Montella, Mark Spahn, and Jim Marohn, as well as all the supportive board members of MSSFA who have helped elevate MSSFA's prominence in the State of Michigan.

Thank You.
Have a great Holiday Season.

- President Kenneth Merckel



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"Tribes" Continued from page 1

problem solving. In addition, one could also conclude that for some of the parties, there may be no intent to negotiate a new Consent Decree prior to the lapse of the current Consent Decree. This would mean that as of August 9, 2020, tribal activities would not be subject to the harvest limits and management requirements imposed un-

der the current Consent Decree. This could, then, return us to the days before the 1985 Consent Decree was adopted by the Court where a "race horse" fishery prevailed that required Court intervention on a regular basis. For those who may recall those days, the impact on the sport fishery was devastating.

There were also remarks made indicating that the biological changes in the lakes are changing the Trib-

al perspective and urgency on whitefish management. Some Tribes may also be interested in exploring other fish species, as the Tribes feel is necessary or appropriate. For example, the interest in whitefish by the Tribes and interest in salmon by the sport fishery, as set forth in the 2000 Consent Decree, might not constitute the dividing line in use of the Great Lakes fishery. For some tribal interests, there appears to be an interest in fishing all species in the Great Lakes, and based on comments made, potentially not pursuant to a decree governing all parties' actions.

At the close of the meeting, and on behalf of the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources, Steve Schultz presented several concerns to the Council, including the lack of agreement between the parties to start negotiations and the lost time occurring without any negotiations presents a significant risk that the current Decree will expire leaving a lapse in the management of the fishery. He noted the historical time it has taken to negotiate the prior consent decrees (1985, 2000, and 2007), which if followed here, would warrant starting negotiations as soon as possible. The Tribal response to this request to start the process was not received with any indication that negotiations would begin anytime this year.



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

Since our last issue, I have been focused on Great Lakes Sport Fishing News' Big Show Edition which will kick off the New Year in January. Attendance at the shows should be way up based on the resurgence of Lake Huron sport fishing and Lake Michigan holding steady with an average of 2.1 Chinook salmon per charter trip. We have created a new media kit with an editorial calendar, pricing and deadlines for ad copy. Dr. Howard Tanner launches his new memoir "Something Spectacular" in December and we are discussing how MSSFA

may be able to support the book's introduction by providing opportunities for book signings at the fishing shows or offering advance copies for presents during the holidays.

The Grand River Restoration Project is in Phase 1 with permit application by 2019. The adjustable hydraulic barrier engineering is progressing but the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's U.S. Committee of Advisors has not recommended moving forward with building the barrier until they can be confident the proposed barrier will not fail and expose the 220

miles of river upstream or the 1900 miles of tributaries to sea lamprey migration every year. MSSFA needs to be vigilant in its involvement with this project. The consequences of exposing the Grand River system to sea lamprey would be a monumental blunder.

At the October board meeting we elected new officers for the next two years. Tim Stegeman from the South Haven Chapter was elected president, Jim Vander Maas from White River, was elected v.p., Gerry Sickon, representing Thunder Bay, was elected secretary and Joe Montella from the SW Michigan Chapter was elected Treasurer. The board finished work on amending MSSFA's By Laws. Chapters will now be voting on the new By Laws over the next sixty days. We heard a presentation from Nicole Toman on the MDNR Parks & Recreation Division's

tournament events policy which may affect chapter tournaments held on MDNR property whether at state parks or at launch site locations. We don't anticipate any problems with the policy since it is accommodating to non-profit associations like MSSFA.

The 2020 Consent Decree Process is moving forward with the DNR fisheries division preparing "issues papers" for the negotiators. The tribes say they are not ready to start negotiations. The amici curia status of our Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources needs to be decided by the court and at this point, the court has not scheduled the case nor ruled on the "friend of the court" authorization. It is critical we stay involved in the process and fund the negotiations process. The court has already said "any species of any origin is fair game" for the tribes so getting them to

the table and getting sport fish protections and agreement on fair and equitable limits is crucial.

The Lake Committee reports were discussed at the board meeting as was the Cold Water Steering Committee report. When the minutes of these meetings are finalized you will be able to review them on line at mssfa.org. Click on MSSFA at the top, then MSSFA Reports and select the committee report you wish to review.

The controversial Grayling, Michigan, fish farm will close and re-open next year as a tourist attraction, ending a legal battle between the farm's owner, Dan Vogel and Anglers of the Au Sable, who took the owner to court over a proposed expansion that would do permanent damage to the famed Au Sable River. Tom Baird, a member of the anglers and attorney for the case has written an

article for the show edition about this environmental victory for sport fishermen across Michigan.

As Dr. Kenneth Merckel steps down as MSSFA president, I cannot overstate the remarkable impact he has had on elevating the importance of the Michigan Steelheaders in policy development and influencing fisheries' management with our agency personnel, our legislators and our members. He has served the association selflessly for the last seven years as its president and will continue to serve as an advisor to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee and as the state director for the Thumb Chapter. On behalf of all MSSFA members, thank you Ken, for a job well done!



"Steelhead"

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to linger in the lower reaches of the tributaries, a long way downstream from most of the salmon spawning activity.

Since there is no urgency for fall run steelhead to reach the gravel riffles low water can inhibit their movement upstream. In the past the best fall runs of steelhead have usually occurred when we have periodic heavy rains in October and November. And that is exactly the way October has started out this year. These storm events may put the rivers out of shape for a few days but the high, muddy water will probably lure in another bunch of silver battlers. High Great Lakes levels also help facilitate the fall run of steelhead and we all know that is the current situation.

Even when we do have ample rainfall autumn steelhead will tend to be more concentrated in the lower reaches of the tributaries. You can also expect the larger rivers to get better runs than small rivers and creeks. These fish may move into small tributaries of both the Lakes and the large tributary rivers during high water and then retreat to the bigger water when the small streams drop and clear.

Drifting salmon or steelhead eggs is the most popular technique used for steelies in the fall just like it is in the spring. Skippers, which are young steelhead returning to their planted or natal stream after just one summer in the Great Lakes, will often actively feed when they are in the river and you can't beat single



Terri Bedford with deer season steelhead

eggs or small spawn bags for these small but very active steelhead. Larger adult steelhead are much less likely to actively feed on their river migration and usually don't swallow the bait. However, spawn and other live baits like wigglers and wax worms still are very effective because the fish will pick them up out of irritation, feeding memory, or curiosity. Then they will mouth the bait until you set the hook because it smells, tastes, and feels "right".

One of the disadvantages of eggs and other live baits is that they are not very visible to the steelhead and you need to get them very close to the fish in order to entice a take. You can increase your strikes by using bright fluorescent netting for your spawn sacks and adding some yarn in a contrasting bright color. A small drift bobber slid on the leader will also help steelhead locate your drifting bait and may help to excite them into grabbing it. In recent years,

small, brightly colored jigs dressed with marabou and tipped with a wiggler, wax worm or small spawn bag have proven to be excellent steelhead takers. The jigs are suspended with a float well off the bottom and are especially effective when there is a bit of a chop to the river surface. This makes the float bounce, which in turn causes the jig to rock, and the marabou to pulsate. Finding ways to attract steelhead to your offering are important because fall steelies are rarely found in big concentrations.

Autumn run steelies also eagerly attack lures that invade their territory. Cast and retrieve anglers usually toss weighted spinners, minnow plugs, and heavy, highly curved spoons. My long time preference for moving water is the weighted spinner. This lure has action at a very slow retrieve and the flash and vibrations from the revolving blade really arouse fall run steelhead into an aggressive

response. Spinners with broad French type blades such as the Mepps Aglia and Super Vibrax are best for most river fishing.

Silver is usually the best bet for a blade finish because it reflects light much better than nickel, chrome, and brass. Usually the surroundings and the river water are quite dark so the silver finish will make your lure much more visible to the steelhead. Lure tape on the back of the blade in contrasting fluorescent colors along with brightly colored beads and hook dressings and shiny body components also help to capture the steelhead's attention. Of course when you are fishing a small, clear river on a bright day you will want to scale down to a smaller spinner with a brass or copper blade.

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Bob Bryans with bright autumn steelhead



Fat and sassy December steelhead



THE MICHIGAN STEELHEAD & SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE QUALITY OF FISHING REFLECTS THE QUALITY OF LIVING!

MSSFA was organized 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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Recipe submission from
Mary Jane Belter of the Grand Haven Steelheaders,
with a beautiful Alaskan King Salmon

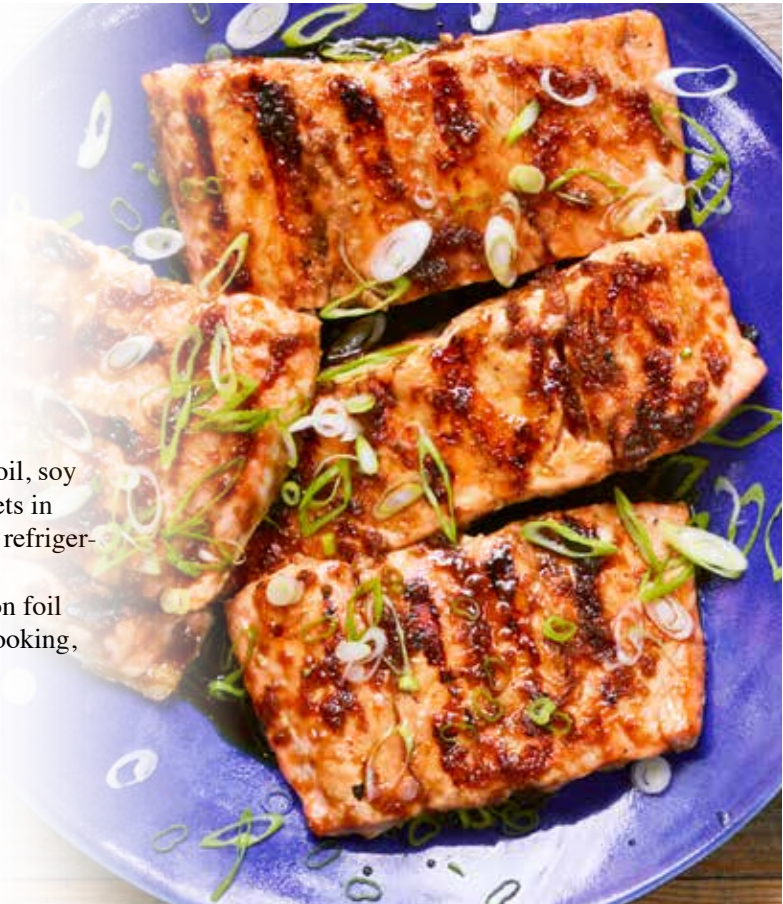
Teriyaki Grilled Salmon

INGREDIENTS

- 4 Salmon fillets, thawed
- 1/4 cup brown sugar, not packed
- 3 tbsp. oil
- 3 tbsp. soy sauce
- 1-1/2 tbsp. minced fresh garlic
- 1-1/2 tbsp. minced fresh ginger
- 1 sheet (12 x 18 inch) heavy duty aluminum foil

DIRECTIONS

In a shallow baking dish, combine brown sugar, oil, soy sauce, garlic and ginger. Place salmon steaks/fillets in baking dish. Turn fish over several times to coat; refrigerate 30 to 45 minutes. Remove salmon from marinade. Cook on foil sheet on medium hot grill, turning once during cooking, about 6 to 12 minutes per inch of thickness. Do not overcook. Makes 4 servings.



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MUCC Headquarters

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI

Wednesday
December 19, 2018

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2	Al & Bob's Sports	3100 S. Davison	Wyoming	MI	49548	10% Discount with Al & Bob's Card
3	All Auto Care	1234 Ball Ave. NE	Grand Rapids	MI	49505	Member Rates
4	Alpine Rent-All & Sales	1452 Alpine Ave NW	Grand Rapids	MI	49504	10% on Stihl & Toro Parts. Www.alpinerent-all.com info@alpinerent-all.com
5	Ann's Custom Canvas	4414 Remembrance Rd	Walker	MI	49544	10% Discount, not valid on specials. Mention steelheaders before ordering
6	Art Van Furniture	Statewide				Friends and Family Sales only (need special coupon)
7	Auto Owners Insurance	303 E. Monroe	Durand	MI	48429	Rowe Agent Group #486
8	Batteries Plus	2061 N-139 Suite B	Benton Harbor	MI	49022	10% & Member Discount 269-925-7374 www.batteriesplus.com
9	Batteries Plus	386 Bay Park Dr, Suite B	Holland	MI	49424	10% & Member Discount 616-396-9914 www.batteriesplus.com
10	Batteries Plus	5228 S. Westnedge Ave	Kalamazoo	MI	49002	10% & Member Discount 269-553-2355 www.batteriesplus.com
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14	Big Lake Outfitters of Saugatuck	640 Water St	Saugatuck	MI	49453	10% on fishing tackle (retail store) with membership card 269-857-4762
15	Big Papa Sportfishing	50642 Oregon Ave.	Novi	MI	48374	10% except on equipment
16	Black Dog Outfitters	4444 14 Mile Rd	Rockford	MI	49341	10% Discount on fly tying materials, hooks & lines. www.blackdog-outfitters.com
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31	Kamp Oil Inc	6467 Manistee St	Fredric	MI	49733	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
32	Kamp Oil Inc	3650 Eastern Ave SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49508	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
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Deadly Vertical Fall Tactics

By Jason Mitchell
www.lake-link.com

Perhaps more than any other year, fall fishing locations can be spot on the spot where specific structural elements hold fish. An advantage that anglers have when fishing fall patterns is that so often, many fish are relating to deeper structure where you can really trust your electronics. If there is a mistake many anglers make when fishing structure, that mistake would be fishing the spot versus fishing for fish. Whether you are targeting walleye or bass, deep rock structure in particular will often load up

with fish in the fall and you will mark fish with your electronics. You can fish memories and catch fish and good spots are worth fishing through but I find I catch way more fish by looking over the location with my graph before I ever drop down a line. I am a big fan of the Lowrance Carbon HDS series for specifically marking fish as I trust these units. To better mark fish on structure, swing the boat up and down the structure so that you can better separate fish from the blind spot that occurs over an irregular bottom. When you mark fish, hit a waypoint by mov-

ing the crosshairs on the screen so that the crosshairs are right on the fish. Once you have these waypoints, you can get to work. Vertically fishing specific structure where you specifically target fish on your electronics is deadly for fall bass and walleye. Tungsten jigs give anglers a huge advantage over deeper water or when fishing heavy wind. Fall fishing over structure is often all about boat control and luckily for today's anglers there are many tools that make boat control easier than ever. Simply pulling yourself up to the waypoint where you



By trusting your electronics and using boat control, you can increase your batting average dramatically by fishing fish versus fishing the spot.



Vertically fishing specific structure where you specifically target fish on your electronics is deadly for fall bass and walleye. Tungsten jigs give anglers a huge advantage over deeper water or when fishing heavy wind.

marked fish and hitting the spot lock or anchor feature on today's bow mount trolling motors is the simplest boat control there is, and this feature is deadly effective. You can however step up your boat control even more by making very tight and precise moves with the boat so that you pull your presentation past the fish at different angles. I often find that if I can't get a specific fish to bite, I am usually coming across the fish at the wrong angle and I often catch that fish by simply changing direction. If your bow mount trolling motor is struggling to hold in really strong winds, don't

be afraid to use your kick-er or even auxiliary motor by having the rear motor in forward gear to aid the trolling motor on the bow. Of course, back trolling with a tiller remains some of the best boat control there is when fighting really strong winds. There are many presentations that will work for this vertical and precise fishing style. Live bait rigging chubs for example with a large egg sinker that fishes right below the boat is a deadly presentation for catching big walleye. A heavy bottom bouncer and snell can also fish well. Because of the lack of speed

for this precise style of fishing, snells are typically plain with perhaps a bead or float. Of course, jigs shine with this precise of boat control and the key to catching fish you see on your electronics regardless of presentation is simply keeping the presentation right below the boat in the cone angle of your electronics. Does no good to keep your boat right on top of a fish if your presentation is somewhere else. For precise jig fishing where you are attempting to mark

“Tactics”
Continued on page 7



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“Tactics”**Continued from page 6**

a fish and hold the boat over the top of the fish, absolutely nothing beats the performance of tungsten. Bass anglers have embraced tungsten for fishing structure and more walleye

anglers are discovering the advantages of fishing tungsten as the added weight of tungsten increases the performance dramatically particularly when fishing over twenty feet of water or when fishing in wind. Clam Pro Tackle introduced a new jig called the CPT

Drop Tg last spring that features a long shank hook that is perfect for double hooking minnows or rigging plastics.

**CPT Drop Tg**

In some cases, you can actually find your jig on your electronics and watch fish hit the jig. Much like what ice anglers enjoy when using electronics.

By trusting your electronics and using boat control, you can increase your batting average dramati-

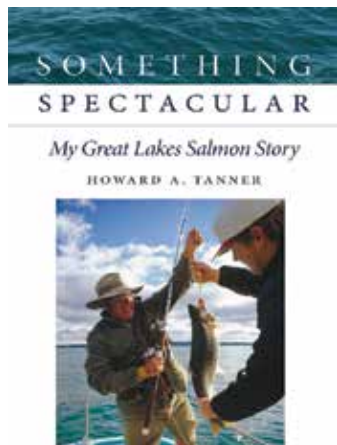
cally by fishing fish versus fishing the spot.

This fishing style is methodical and deadly but in order for this system to really work, you have to trust your electronics enough to where you keep looking and keep hunting until you actually mark fish because this fishing style is very slow so you don't find fish by having a line in the water, you find fish by covering water without a line in the water so you can simply look over structure faster. Once you find fish, your batting average goes up dramatically when you plant yourself over the top of fish. This fall, combine boat control with trust in

your electronics and match that mindset with the right presentation to catch more fish that are relating to classic fall structure patterns.

The author Jason Mitchell is credited with pioneering many modern ice tactics for walleyes and earned a reputation as a renowned ice fishing guide on Devils Lake, North Dakota with the Perch Patrol Guide Service before a career in outdoor television. Jason Mitchell Outdoors Television can be viewed on FSN North at 9:30 Sunday mornings and FSN Midwest at 8:30 am Saturday mornings. Show schedule can be found at www.jason-mitchelloutdoors.com.

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Late Fall Fishing Not a Bad Idea

By John Raffel

www.ourmidland.com

BIG RAPIDS -- The number of anglers continues to drop as temperatures get colder and hunting dominates the outdoor scene, the DNR said in last week's fishing report.

The DNR reported that windy conditions are forcing many anglers to fish the inland waters instead of the Great Lakes. But the DNR added that this is the time to target bigger fish that continue their feeding frenzy prior to winter.

Greg Clark of Schafer's Sporting Goods in Weidman agrees.

“There's not many people out fishing,” Clark said. “They're all out hunting. It'd be a great time to go fishing. Everyone has put their boats away. It's too cold (for boats).”

Chippewa Lake, Coldwater Lake and the Martiny Chain of Lakes are still favorite spots for anglers in central Michigan.

Strong north winds

“Fall Fishing”

Continued on page 8



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Feature: Monster Catch



My name is Brian Cenci, P.E. I'm Vice President of Eng., Inc., a Lansing & Grand Haven based Civil Engineering Consulting Firm, for 19 years and I work all over the State with different County Drain/Water Resources Commissioners. I graduated from Michigan State with dual B.S. degrees, one in Civil Engineering and one in Fisheries and Wildlife.

I'm an avid fisherman of all species all throughout the year and when I'm not working and solving many of the water resource problems and issues of this State, I'm usually out fishing some remote spot

where nobody is around fishing with either my significant other of nearly 5 years, Alli, or our 3 kids, who all love to fish as well.

Brian's post on Facebook regarding his monster catch:

"I had to post this just because of how gnarly and massive this male King was.....and because it's probably my personal best. These photos were taken about 8 hours after I caught it, since I lost my waterproof camera somewhere in the river. So, after I gilled this one out and then dragged it behind my kayak for 6 more miles,

throwing it in and out of the kayak a few dozen times, it weighed 29.6 lbs with a flabby belly and nothing in it. These pics were some of the few that I could actually control its loose skin and keep the fish upright. Total length was 41.5".



"Fall Fishing" Continued from page 7

cooled the Lake Michigan surface water to 52 degrees at Manistee, the DNR reported. Angler activity is slow. Small numbers of steelhead were caught off the north pier using fresh spawn, the DNR added, while the fish cleaning station is closed but the restrooms are still open and the docks are still in at the launch.

"Tippy Dam has quite a few fish," Gordon Park of Andy's Tackle Box in Brethren said. "They've got what they call the trout slam going on this weekend. It's rainbows and brown trout, coho and fresh kings, all four species at the dam and in pretty decent numbers for the weekend. If someone wants to go fishing, they'll have a good weekend."

Many people reported having caught steelhead at the Manistee River, the DNR said. Surface water temperatures there dropped to 55 degrees.

"They're starting to get a few perch off the beach

and pier," Bud Fitzgerald of Tangled Tackle Co. said. "Most of the coho moved up in the little river. We've had good steelhead fishing, with light colored beads."

The Loomis Road launch still had a dock in at Wellston.

"The water has been on the fall, which is good," Rob Eckerson of Pappy's Bait Shop in Wellston said. "Fishing has been good at Tippy Dam. Steelhead and a few of the late coho are there as well. A few people are going perch fishing in the smaller lakes like Portage Lake and Manistee Lake. It's been relatively good."

Fishing continues to improve in Benzie County.

"There are steelhead at the pier, and there are some in the river," Christine Murphy of the Frankfort Tackle Box said. "They're still catching coho and steelhead in the Platte River. Boats are trolling around the harbor."

The Pere Marquette River is also producing good catches of steelhead. Higher water levels have increased the number of

fish in the river, but have also made fishing a challenge.

In the eastern Thumb, a few perch were caught inside the harbors at Lexington and Port Sanilac. Pier anglers got the occasional Atlantic salmon, steelhead or pike on Cleos and spinners, the DNR said, but Harbor Beach had no boating activity. Pier and dock anglers found walleye on artificial baits in the evening, the DNR said. At Port Austin, a few perch were caught off the docks while a couple of pike, smallmouth bass and walleye were taken off the north wall.

At Saginaw Bay, some perch and a few walleye were caught on the north side of Spoils Island in 15 feet, in the old shipping channel and in the first set of buoys past the Island, the DNR reported. Small perch and bluegills were caught off Finn Road. At Caseville, a few fish were taken from the Pigeon River.

Those fishing the Saginaw River at Smith Park caught a few perch, bass, channel cats and freshwater drum.



While most anglers have put away their boats for the winter, good fishing is still out there for those willing to brave the cold weather. (John Raffel/ for the Daily News)

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Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Efforts Continue to Reintroduce Arctic Grayling in Michigan

By Makenzie Schroeder
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

It's been a little over two years since the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, announced a new initiative aimed at bringing back a long-gone historical species to the Great Lakes state – Arctic grayling.

Michigan's Arctic Grayling Initiative – with more than 45 partners, including state and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses and universities – is committed to reintroducing this culturally significant species, with steady progress made since June 2016.

"Our formal mission as an initiative is to restore self-sustaining populations of Arctic grayling within its historic range in Michigan," said DNR Fisheries Divi-



Current Arctic grayling fishing opportunities are limited to states like Alaska, where the fish pictured was caught.

Photo credit: Michigan Department of Natural Resources



The Arctic grayling was virtually the only native stream salmonid in Michigan's Lower Peninsula until the resident population died off nearly a century ago.

Photo credit: Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The last native Arctic grayling on record in Michigan were taken in 1936. Since that time, natural resource managers have repeatedly looked for options to reintroduce the species.

"In the late 1800s and early 1900s they tried stocking millions of Arctic grayling fry into Michigan streams, but that didn't work," said Grischke. "And then in the 1980s we, the DNR, stocked hatchery-reared yearlings into lakes and streams, but again to no avail."

In each of these previous re-introduction efforts,

"We have learned from the previous re-introduction events and plan to capitalize on new approaches, dedicated partnerships and advanced technology," Grischke explained.

Much of the initiative's focus is detailed in its official action plan, reflective of the vast work to be done by various partners.

The group is gleaned as much information as possible from the state of Montana and its successful effort at re-establishing stable Arctic grayling populations. In addition to Michigan receiving help from biologists

that were developed by all the partners and that we believe will give us the best chance of success moving forward," said Grischke.

The four focus areas of the Action Plan are research, management, fish production, and outreach and education.

The research focus area includes work – already under way – on understanding relationships between resident trout and grayling, prioritizing streams for grayling introduction and evaluating in-stream remote site incubators. These incubators allow fish to be



A striking fish with a sail-like dorsal fin and colorful body markings, the Arctic grayling is in the same salmonid family as salmon, trout and whitefish.

Photo credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



sion Assistant Chief Todd Grischke.

Michigan's history with the Arctic grayling is long and storied. A striking fish with a sail-like dorsal fin and a slate blue color on its body, it was virtually the only native stream salmonid (a family of fish that also includes salmon and trout) in the Lower Peninsula until the resident population died off nearly a century ago.

"The fact we have a town named after this fish indicates just how iconic it was, and still is, to many in this state," Grischke said. "When you add in other factors – such as the fact they're only native to Michigan and Montana out of all the lower 48 states – it just adds to their legendary status."

In the 19th century, Arctic grayling were found in many coldwater streams in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula and in one Upper Peninsula stream – and large populations of grayling flourished in the Manistee and Au Sable rivers – offering anglers plenty of opportunity to catch these unique fish.

But a variety of factors

slowly erased their presence, including the cutting of Michigan's vast virgin forest in the 1800s.

"Logging practices during that time period used streams to transport trees that were harvested. The streams carried logs to mills for processing," explained Grischke. "These practices greatly impacted the physical nature of those streams and basically destroyed stream habitats for fish, including grayling spawning areas."

Additionally, the cutting of the trees caused blockages in many of those same streams, often displacing grayling from where they lived, but this was just one issue that affected Michigan's Arctic grayling, another being the introduction of non-native fish species.

"Other types of trout were introduced into Michigan's waters to create additional opportunities for anglers to pursue – but a consequence of this action was that grayling couldn't compete with more aggressive fish like brown, rainbow or brook trout," Grischke said.

The other factor that led



Research being done in the field as part of the Michigan Arctic Grayling Initiative includes work with remote site incubators to better understand how the grayling rearing process works on Michigan streams.

Photo credit: Michigan Department of Natural Resources

to the species' demise was overfishing, with people harvesting grayling in large quantities with no possession limits or other regulations to stop them.

something critical was missing that prevented these populations from flourishing, but the Michigan Arctic Grayling Initiative hopes to rectify that.

in Montana, both states also have been collaborating with Alaska.

"Within our action plan we've identified four focus areas and associated goals

reared and released directly in the streams to better al-

"Grayling"
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“Grayling”
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low them to imprint to the waters they will hopefully reproduce in later.

Better imprinting means the initiative will be one step closer to establishing a self-sustaining population of Arctic grayling, which is the ultimate outcome of this effort.

The cost to reintroduce the fish will total around \$1.1 million, according to DNR Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter, with virtually the entire amount being supplied through private and foundation support.

To date, nearly \$325,000 has been raised for the initiative. Contributors include the Consumers Energy Foundation, the Henry E. and Consuelo S. Wenger Foundation, Rotary Charities of Traverse City, Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, Oleson Foundation and Little Manistee River Watershed Conservation Council. Plans are under way to recognize donors at Oden State Fish Hatchery.

“A diverse group of partners has invested themselves toward attaining a shared goal, and that says something about the nature of this project,” said Dexter.

Funders play a critical role in financially supporting various projects within the initiative.

“I am delighted to play a role in returning the Arctic Grayling to northern Michigan’s streams,” said Charles Wilson, a member of the Henry E. and Consuelo S. Wenger Foundation’s board. “There has been a void in Michigan’s biotic community for way too long, but thanks to knowledge gained from Montana’s experience and research performed elsewhere, a reasonable chance exists today for successful reintroduction.”

Goals for the management focus area will include evaluating key habitat criteria, establishing population goals, and working on regulations related to fishing for grayling.

The fish production focus area’s work will center on experimenting with remote site incubator designs,

ensuring fish health standards are upheld and maintaining a genetically diverse broodstock (fish used for breeding purposes) that will be housed at a hatchery facility.

Lastly, goals for the outreach and education focus

area will be concentrated on informing the public about this initiative’s efforts, identifying future partners and creating a stewardship plan.

“The goals of these focus areas will be accomplished by partner representatives working together,” Grischke shared. “The only way this initiative will be successful is if we continue to work together towards our mission.”

To learn more about the Michigan Arctic Grayling Initiative, visit migrayling.org.

Check out previous Showcasing the DNR stories in our archive at michigan.gov/dnrstories. To subscribe to upcoming Showcasing articles, sign up for free email delivery at michigan.gov/dnr.



Much research is being done as part of the Michigan Arctic Grayling Initiative, like rearing eggs in a lab environment to see how they grow.



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2018 AuSable Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
<p align="center">Information TBD. Contact Gene Kirvan at calypsocharters@yahoo.com for inquiries.</p>			

2018 Battle Creek Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
November	24	St. Joe River Fall Steelhead	I-94 Boat Ramp
December	1	St. Joe River Chapter Challenge	Elks Lodge Benton Harbor
December	8	Christmas Party	Kalamazoo Eagles
<p align="center">Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting Location: Moonraker West Battle Creek</p>			
<p align="center">FOR MORE INFORMATION: River Tournaments – Ice Tournaments – Justin Kling 491-2980 Lake Tournaments – Greg Peck 998-9407 battlecreeksteelheaders.com</p>			

2018 Grand Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	Contact Info
December	5	Annual dinner, recognitions, fund raiser		
<p align="center">For information on these events and other information on the Grand Haven Steelheaders contact Mary Jane Belter @ mjbelter@altelco.net www.ghsteelheaders.com</p>				

2018 Grand Rapids Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	
November	3	Fall River Contest Grand & Muskegon Rivers and their Tributaries	STC*	
November	5	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM	
November	10	Fishing Partners Manistee Contest	STC*	
November	26	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM	Social Hour 6:30 PM
December	3	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM	
December	10	Chapter Family Christmas Party	6 PM	Diamond Hall
<p>STC* = Date subject to change ** = Members and Family Only. (All other events open to the public)</p>				

2018 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Comments / Contact Info	
December	8	Christmas/Awards Banquet	Cocktails 5:00 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m. Bring family and friends! K of C Hall Auburn, Mi 48611	
December	15	Big Manistee, Bear Creek	Call Mark Trudell 989-615-0481	
<p align="center">Membership meetings held at: 3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642 989-496-3410</p> <p align="center">Board meetings: 6:00 pm / Membership meetings: 7:15 pm All Board/Membership meetings are held first Tuesday of each month with the exception of June, July and August. A raffle is held following all membership meetings. BRING A FRIEND! All membership meetings are open to the public. Register via Marine Radio channel 72 at beginning of all events. Weigh in's and picnics follow at 2:00 pm.</p> <p align="center">If interested in fishing with us please email: kathy@steel-headers.com. Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com</p>				

2018 Holland Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	
November	5	Board Meeting	
December	1	River Tournament	
December	3	Board Meeting	
December	6	General Membership Meeting	
<p align="center">Membership meetings held at: Yacht Basin Yacht Club 1862 Ottawa Beach Road, Holland MI 49424 Social hour at 6 pm, Dinner at 7 pm Call board members to find out location of board meetings.</p> <p align="center">For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jeremy Erdman 616-510-9405, or email Steve Weatherwax at Waxer1221@yahoo.com</p>			

2018 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Chair
November	3	River Tourn./Pier & Shore Outing Manistee w DS	Chair: Dave Zawacki/Eric Braden
November	6	General Membership Meeting	
December	4	CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
December	8	Huron River Tournament	Chair: Hinchcliff/Davis
<p align="center">** ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** 7:00 PM at The New Livonia Seniors Center at the Southeast Corner of Farmington Road and Five Mile Road WEB Site: Go to www.metroweststeelheaders.org If you have questions, contact Henry Nabors - HHNabors@Ameritech.net or call 248 225 4964. Contact: <i>President</i> Larry Tabaka 313-215-8979 / <i>Membership Director</i> Henry Nabors 248-225-4964</p>			



Quote of the Day

“Scholars have long known that fishing eventually turns men into philosophers. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to buy decent tackle on a philosopher’s salary.”
– Patrick McManus

2018 South Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	
November	7	The Pro Am Tournament Committee Kick-off meeting	
November	15	Board and Membership Meetings	
November	24	SHS River Tournament	
December	6	The Local Tournament Committee Annual meeting (if necessary)	
December	8	SHS Holiday Party 2018	
<p align="center">Note: All Board and membership meetings are held the third Thursday of each month except in January and March. Membership Meetings Held at: South Haven Moose Lodge, 1025 East Wells Street, South Haven, MI 49040 For more information email: president@southhavensteelheaders.com</p>			

2018 Southwest MI Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Location / Contact Info	
November	8	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge	7:00 PM
December	1	Winter Chapter Challenge Tournament		
December	13	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge	7:00 PM
<p align="center">Membership Meetings Held at: St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks 541, 601 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor MI 49022 Monthly meeting second Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM No meetings in May or August Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784</p>				

2018 TCAS Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Location / Contact Info
November	7	General Membership Annual Meeting	
December	1	Christmas Party – Tentative date	
<p align="center">Membership Meetings Held at: Traverse City Senior Center, 801 Front St., Traverse City, MI 49686 * Ice Fishing Tournaments will be cancelled if ice is deemed unsafe.</p>			

2018 Thumb Chapter Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	Location
November	TBD			
December	TBD			
<p align="center">Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries.</p>				

2018 Thunderbay Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
November	5	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
December	3	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
<p align="center">Contact Dan Bouchard at dan-bouchard@hotmail.com for inquiries.</p>			

2018 White River Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
November	1	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
December	6	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
<p align="center">Contact whpollock@netzero.net for inquiries.</p>			

2018 - 2019 Membership Drive

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- For each member signed up by you, you get a ticket.
- Your ticket(s) are put into a pot for a drawing.
- The drawings are held at the April Presidents' meeting.
- There are between 15 - 25 drawings.
- The more tickets in the pot, the more chances to win prizes.

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

“Steelhead”
Continued from page 3

Spinners can be cast in just about any direction except straight downstream. Usually they are cast either quartering with the current or across and down. They should be retrieved just fast enough to keep the blade spinning. When casting across and down this often means you will have to retrieve only a small amount to keep the blade turning on the sweep.

Deep diving plugs or crank baits can also be cast and retrieved by the wading angler but they are usually worked from a boat. The traditional drop back method from an anchored boat is still employed by many anglers. The key to success with this method is the choosing of good holding water and the proper positioning of the boat above the run. Plugs must be picked that will work well relative to the depth and current speed. Deep runs and holes with moderate current and lots of cover along their edges in the lower parts of our rivers are the places to try.

Pulling plugs from a drift boat is a great way to fish for fall steelhead in our larger tributaries. This technique is especially effective at this time of year because it is possible to cover a tremendous amount of water while searching for autumn’s scattered steelhead and almost makes finding some silver torpedoes a sure bet. Most savvy rowers let their plugs out about 50 or

60 feet behind the boat in a relative straight line. This causes the plugs to invade the steelhead’s territory in unison and if the fish moves aside to dodge one wobbling lure it will encounter another one and likely clobber it. In addition to rowing a drift boat you can also use an electric motor to slow the downstream movement of a conventional boat while pulling plugs. This also makes it easier to fish a productive run again by motoring back up and making a second pass. Once you have found a concentration of fish you can also anchor and pull out the drift rod and try to entice some more steelhead.

Regardless of your preferred method for steelhead don’t let this fall pass without trying to do battle with these migratory rainbows that are absolutely in prime condition. If your past experience has only been with spring steelhead you will be very pleasantly surprised by the consistently spectacular battles these fish put up in the fall. Just keep an eye on the rain gauge and try to hit your favorite Great Lakes tributary a few days after a substantial autumn rain.



2019 Tentative Print Schedule

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

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

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"Tourism"

Continued from page 1

term average for the first time since 2004 with 2,548 trips logged.

The economic impact of Lake Huron charter fishing has increased by roughly 45 percent since 2015. In 2017, charter fishing generated tourism that created over 90,000 employment hours and \$1.2 million in personal income for coastal communities on Lake Huron. When adjusted for inflation, this looks more like the good old days than the "collapsed fishery" we have heard so much about.

There are some big differences between today's Lake Huron charter fishery and the fishery of 2002, though. For one thing, Chinook salmon remain scarce in most of the lake for most of the year. In fact, anglers targeting salmon and trout caught fewer than one Chinook for every two trips taken in 2017. The resurgence in Lake Huron's fishery is not due to any recovery of Chinook salmon, but solid lake trout fishing,

phenomenal walleye catch rates (over 25 fish caught per charter trip targeting walleye), and changing regulations on Saginaw Bay may have had positive impacts. Saginaw Bay now accounts for 41 percent of charter fishing effort on Lake Huron, up from a low of around 8 percent in 2005.

Since 2015, anglers on Saginaw Bay have been able to keep up to eight walleye per day, and the minimum size limit was reduced from 15 to 13 inches. The long term biological goal is, in part, to reduce the number of walleye preying on yellow perch. Historically, yellow perch have been extremely important in drawing anglers to Great Lakes fisheries so this could be an additional boon in years to come.

While things do seem to be looking up on Lake Huron, it is also possible that 2017 was just an exceptionally good year relative to the "new normal." It would be premature to assume that other species have effectively filled in the gap left by the loss of Chinook

salmon, but results from last year's charter season are definitely encouraging. Anecdotal reports from the 2018 season suggest that fishing effort and harvest may be a bit lower on Saginaw Bay because of high winds that result in cancelled trips and warm water that caused walleye to leave the bay earlier than usual.

Other waters continue to offer world class fishing

Although salmon get a lot of attention when it comes to charter fishing, many Michigan waters offer incredible fishing opportunities for other species. Lake Erie provides fast fishing for walleye, with 2017 being no exception. Lake Superior's vast expanse of cold water attracts lake trout anglers. Some Superior charter captains offer trips that focus on casting or jigging, which offers a fun alternative to trolling methods used in most Great Lakes lake trout waters. The St. Mary's River hosts a run of Atlantic salmon, which is renowned for its tendency



Photo Credit: www.fishseahawk.com

to jump repeatedly when hooked. Atlantics are also starting to show up regularly in northern and southern Lake Huron due to expanded stocking.

Detroit may be the largest urban center in Michigan, but it also provides some of the fastest fishing around. The St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, and the Detroit River offer catch-

and-release charter fishing options on some of the best smallmouth bass and musky waters in the world. The musky is known as the "fish of 10,000 casts" but in 2017 charter fishing in Lake St. Clair produced an average of 2.7 fish per trip. Charter trips targeting bass on Lake St. Clair produced over 25 fish per trip in 2017. Yellow perch and

walleye also provide great fishing for charter anglers who prefer to keep their catch. The Detroit River is a hotspot for walleye in the spring, and walleye charters harvested an average of 16 fish per trip in 2017.

No matter where you are in Michigan, quality charter fishing is never very far from your doorstep.

Michigan Sea Grant helps to foster economic growth and protect Michigan's coastal, Great Lakes resources through education, research and outreach. A collaborative effort of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University and its MSU Extension, Michigan Sea Grant is part of the NOAA-National Sea Grant network of 33 university-based programs.

This article was written by Michigan Sea Grant Extension Educator Dr. Dan O'Keefe under award NA14OAR4170070 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce through the Regents of the University of Michigan. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Commerce, or the Regents of the University of Michigan.

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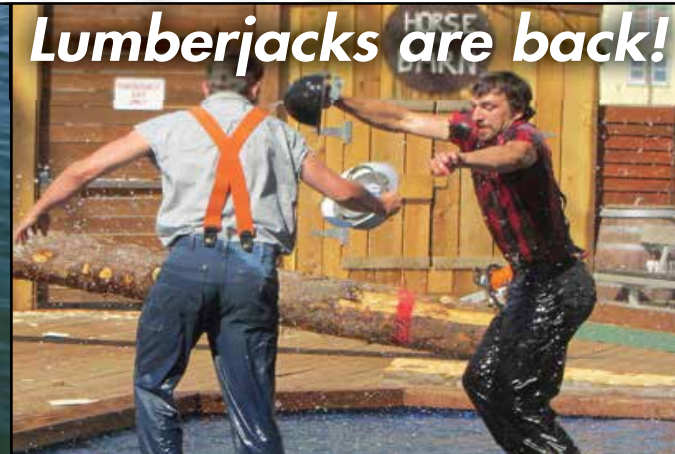
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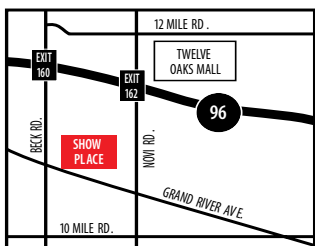
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Bigger Baits for Bigger Fish in the Fall

By Bob Jensen

It's autumn throughout the Midwest. In some areas the trees are alive with color, in more northern reaches the trees are losing their leaves. A sweatshirt feels good in the mornings, we're several games into the football season, and the early migrating birds have pretty much left. And, best of all if you like to catch fish, now is an outstanding time to do so. They're instinctively fattening up for

"Bigger Bait"
Continued on page 15

Protect the Mackinac Bridge From Enbridge Oil Tunnel

By Barbara J. Brown
Vice-Chair, Mackinac
Bridge Authority

Plans calling for the Mackinac Bridge Authority to own the proposed Enbridge crude oil tunnel beneath the Straits of Mackinac are ill advised and not in the best interests of the Mackinac Bridge.

For over 60 years the bridge has served as a symbol of our great state—the very manifestation of the courage, cooperation, innovation, and determination of those who risked their political and professional reputations to make the bridge a reality, and, also, those who risked their lives to build it. Businesses from the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula to the Ohio state line and across the four directions of our state proudly incorporate images of the bridge in their logos. Jewelry and T-shirts displaying images of its soaring towers and elegant catenary are ubiquitous.

True to Mission

Built in the 1950s as part of our state highway system, and housed within the Department of Transportation for administrative purposes, the Mackinac Bridge Authority has operated for over 60 years as an independent authority free from outside influence and political pressure. And over the decades when that independence has been threatened, every one of our former Governors has stepped up to the plate to protect that independence.

Why? Because the Mackinac Bridge is unique and so is the authority created to maintain and govern it. To protect its revenue stream and other assets necessary to construct and now maintain and operate

the bridge, the Mackinac Bridge Authority has an impressive list of powers: the power to charge a fare for crossing, the power to issue bonds to raise funds, statutory protection of its financial assets from raiding by other agencies or the legislature, and the power to condemn private property for its public purpose.

And while previous administrations have fought to protect this powerful, single-purpose governmental authority from power grabs, the current administration, through agreements with Enbridge, is handing this private, foreign corporation access to our powers and authority through a “shotgun wedding” between the Mackinac Bridge Authority and Enbridge. As of November 1, the governor will have four new appointees on the bridge authority and majority control to do his bidding. The governor has made clear he hopes to complete this forced marriage by the end of the year.

Whether the proposed tunnel is a prudent and viable alternative to the highly controversial Line 5 pipelines running across the Straits is a separate issue from whether such a tunnel should ever become the property of the Mackinac Bridge Authority. I strongly submit to readers that it should not. Even if the many experts who must be consulted on the efficacy and safety of such a tunnel determine it to be a safe alternative to Line 5, it would take up to 10 years to build and burden the bridge authority with continuous oversight and responsibility to build a tunnel for a private corporation. It should never be the business of the Mackinac Bridge Authority to own and, thus, be re-

sponsible and liable for an energy tunnel that serves shareholder-owned energy companies. It is not why the bridge authority was created, and it is not what we do.

Passing the Buck

It is interesting to note that the very news release announcing the agreement with Enbridge lists three state agencies, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Michigan Agency for Energy, as well as the governor’s office, as points of contact to answer questions about the agreements. Neither the Department of Transportation nor the Mackinac Bridge Authority is listed. Why are these three state agencies whose job it is to oversee our energy needs and to regulate and protect us from environmental disasters passing the buck to the Mackinac Bridge Authority? The proposed tunnel has nothing to do with the state highway system and, thus, is not and should not be the responsibility of a governmental body whose mission is solely focused on transportation.

Moreover, there are too many outstanding and unanswered questions about the viability and safety of the proposed oil tunnel, as well as its fiscal impact on the finances of the Mackinac Bridge Authority. The agreement anticipates that the bridge authority will provide Enbridge the land necessary to construct the tunnel. Will this require the bridge authority to condemn its neighbors’ property on both sides of the Straits? Who will pay for the appraisals, the legal costs associated with condemnation, and the ultimate price for the property? Who



Photo credit: Lars Lentz, via Wikimedia Commons

will be liable for accidents and unforeseen problems that are sure to arise down the road?

We Must Remain

Focused on the Bridge

The Mackinac Bridge Authority has prudently and judiciously established fares and saved its money to undertake the \$200,000,000 redecking project slated to begin in the next few years. What are the fiscal implications for the bridge authority and, also, what will happen to bridge fares when our assets are diverted to the tunnel project? Will we need to issue bonds and incur debt to meet our new obliga-

tions? Will we need to hire more employees? Who will pay for them? Who will pay for the land? Who will be responsible for the myriad problems which are sure to arise? And these are just the fiscal implications.

Who will pay for the necessary independent geo-technical studies, the legal analysis of the public/private partnership, the environmental and fiscal impact studies? Who? Very likely the drivers of passenger cars and freight haulers at the toll booths!

The Mackinac Bridge Authority has done its job well. The tunnel is not and should not be its respon-

sibility. The Mackinac Bridge must once again be protected from outside influences and undue political pressure, and remain the independent authority that has served travelers and the State of Michigan so well.

Barbara J. Brown is vice-chair of the Mackinac Bridge Authority, on which she has served since 2005. Ms. Brown is the granddaughter of Prentiss Brown, the first chairman of the bridge authority’s board who served from 1950 to 1973. Ms. Brown can be reached at brown-bj07@gmail.com.

This opinion piece first ran in The St. Ignace News.

“Bigger Bait”

Continued from page 14

the winter, so if you can put a bait in front of them, chances are good they’ll bite. If you want to increase the chances for getting a big one to bite, you need to use bigger baits. Here’s why the fish like bigger baits in the fall, and a couple of ideas for using bigger baits.

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 seems to signal to the fish that it’s time to put some fat on. The fish seem to prefer to eat one large meal instead of several smaller ones. It requires less energy for them to eat once 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 predator fish are more interested in eating the size baitfish

that are more abundant this time of year.

If walleyes or smallmouth are your quarry, you can’t beat a big redbait chub on a live-bait rig. Redtails are expensive, and they can be hard to find, but if you can get some, the walleyes and smallmouth really like them. If you just want to get bit and aren’t looking for truly big fish, a fathead minnow on a Fire-Ball jig is about as good as it gets.

Another option for smallmouth is dropshotting. I’ve had some memorable autumn days dropshotting for numbers of smallmouth and some big ones. The Dream Shot from Strike King is an outstanding plastic to use while dropshotting.

Lew’s makes a dropshot rod in their Custom Speed Stick Series that is very sensitive but also has the power for good hooksets. Add a Lew’s spinning reel spooled with 6 or 8 pound test CX Premium P-Line and your set.

If you’re after large-mouth bass, you’ll want to try the deep weedline.

Out here you’ve got several options for baits, but remember to go big with the baits. A rubber-legged jig with a big bulky piece of plastic will be good, and so will a spinnerbait with a larger than ordinary blade and tipped with large plastic. However to cover water and still appeal to bass, a crankbait is hard to beat. There are lots of crankbaits out there, but the 5XD that Strike King makes runs deep and true and is available in the best colors. I’m usually fishing clear water in the fall, so I like a bait that’s natural in color, something that looks like a bluegill, a perch, or a shad.

Autumn is a great time to be on the water, and if you use big baits, you have the opportunity for a truly memorable fishing experience. Find that out for yourself in the next few weeks.

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



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Make your own meat sticks at home! Each kit seasons up to 20 lbs of ground meat. Includes seasoning, cure and casings. 10 flavors available!

WESTON
Original Jerky Shooter

SALE \$29⁹⁹

Reg. \$39.99

1.5 lb capacity tube with easy-squeeze trigger. Includes attachments for making snack sticks and jerky.

FEDERAL
Fusion 12 ga Sabot Slugs

SALE \$7⁴⁹

Reg. \$14.99

3" 7/8 oz sabot slugs for 12 ga.

CONQUEST SCENTS
EverCalm Deer Herd Calming Scent Stick

\$19.99

Calming scent from deer bedding areas puts deer at ease. Wax stick formula for No Spills, Leaks, or Mess. 2.5 oz

WILDLIFE RESEARCH
Scent Killer 24/24 Combo

ONLY \$7⁹⁹*

Reg. \$19.99

Over 99% effective at stopping replicated human odor! Includes 24 oz field spray plus 24 oz refill.

*Final price after \$5 mfg rebate.

WILDLIFE RESEARCH
Special Golden Estrus

SALE \$6⁹⁹

Reg. \$9.99

Super fresh serialized deer attractant with "Use By" date. 1 fl oz.

ICE FISHING SHOW

December 1st & 2nd

Biggest sales of the season!

Check out this season's new gear, speak with mfg reps and attend free seminars.

FREE PARKING
FREE ADMISSION



Options/colors shown may be different than product in stock. Not responsible for typographical errors. Sale prices apply to in-stock items only - no special orders or rain checks.



TERRAIN HUNTING BLINDS



Edge 4-Side
Reg. \$549.99
SALE \$399.99



Range 5-Side
Reg. \$699.99
SALE \$499.99



Archer 5-Side
Reg. \$799.99
SALE \$599.99