



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

Volume 99 September/October 2026 No. 5

Dr. Howard Allen Tanner Passes Away at 102



Dr. Tanner beside the new fisheries research boat named in his honor.

By Dennis Eade

Widely known as the “father of the Great Lakes salmon fishery,” Howard A. Tanner spent a distinguished forty-year career in fisheries and natural resources, working in Colorado and serving as chief of the Michigan Department of Conservation Fish Division and director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. He was elected to the American Fisheries Society’s national Fisheries Management Hall of Excellence.

He was born in 1923 in Northern Michigan, the son of a grocer who began fishing when he was five years old, chasing brook trout along the Jordan River in Antrim County. That same little boy became so good at fishing that at 15 he began guiding city anglers to inland lakes to chase small-mouth bass or fly fishing on the Jordan River. He never was a catch and release guy, but this whole enterprise of casting a line in the water could have nothing to do with what would be on the dinner table that night --- made an indelible mark on the teenager.

He went off to college in Kalamazoo at Western Michigan University, met

and married Helen (Freytag) Tanner, his wife of 73 years, before going off to join the army and fight in the Pacific at the outbreak of WW2. It was there he learned what it took to be part of the greatest generation. While carving out air strips out of the jungle and connecting communications links to the front lines as part of the Army Signal Corp, he learned that leadership and initiative separated the best from the rest.

By age 29 Tanner had returned from the war and acquired a knack for studying, a doctorate in fisheries biology from Michigan State University. His first job out of college was as a fisheries biologist in Colorado which was ideal for his own professional development and for the future of the Great lakes.

After 12 years in Colorado, Tanner received a call from one of his old professors at MSU telling him Michigan was looking for a chief of fisheries; he applied. He took the job, and his new boss gave him one simple directive: “Get out there and do something spectacular.”

Michigan in the fall of 1964, was plagued with a spreading scourge of alewife which were taking

over the Great Lakes. They would swallow southern lake Michigan’s shoreline in three short years. Where others saw the ever-ballooning alewife population a natural disaster, Tanner assessed it as an opportunity to raise bumper crops of predator fish.

Tanner sent his lieutenant, Wayne Tody, to the West Coast to learn about Pacific salmon, a species built to feast on schooling prey fish, fish just like alewives. Encouraged by what they had learned but unable to find available salmon eggs the two continued researching the feasibility of raising salmon in the state hatchery system.

Then it all came together. Tanner received a phone call from an old colleague in Oregon who might have some coho eggs to share. In December 1964---less than four months after he took the job---the first batch of an initial gift from Oregon of one million coho eggs was loaded on a plane bound for Michigan.

The introduction of coho salmon into the Great Lakes began on April 2, 1966, when a large number of

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Alan Douville, MSSFA President, presents the Tanner Award plaque to Congresswoman Dingell

Tanner Award Presentation to Congresswoman Debbie Dingell



MSSFA representatives and GLFC staff join together to honor Rep. Debbie Dingell for receiving the Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award.”

By WEMU | By Kevin Meerschaert

The Great Lakes are under attack with invasive species and other dangers. A major state fisherman’s association is honoring Ann Arbor Congresswoman Debbie Dingell for her work to protect the industry.

The Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen’s Association has presented

Dingell with their Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award. It’s given to those who make great contributions to the state’s anadromous sports fishery.

President Alan Douville says it’s an everyday battle to protect the Great Lakes and help the fisheries that are at-risk:

“Having focused on our sportsmen and the communities that we support in this

state, letting them focus their dollars where it matters, so we can fund things like fisheries, hatcheries, stocking, and letting the

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THE MICHIGAN STEELHEAD & SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE QUALITY OF FISHING REFLECTS THE QUALITY OF LIVING!

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

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

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

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

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

THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS (GLSFN)

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

Better than fifty 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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Alan Douville, President
Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen’s Association

Last week, I had the privilege of presenting the Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award to Congresswoman Debbie Dingell at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission headquarters in Ann Arbor. It was a proud moment for MSSFA, but it was also a time for reflection.

Only days earlier, the Great Lakes community learned of the passing of Dr. Howard Tanner at the age of 102. Dr. Tanner’s name is familiar to most anglers, but I wonder if we sometimes lose sight of just how much we owe to his vision. When others saw a Great Lakes

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1	12/19/25	01/05/26
2	02/13/26	03/02/26
3	04/10/26	05/04/26
4	06/19/26	07/06/26
5	08/14/26	08/28/26
6	10/16/26	11/02/26

GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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The Great Lakes Sport Fishing News (GLSFN) is the official publication of the *Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen’s Association (MSSFA)*. Subscription to th *GLSFN* is through membership in *MSSFA*. The *GLSFN* publishes six issues per year. Permission for reprint from this publication is normally permitted, unless otherwise stipulated by the article, and proper credit is given to the author and the publication. The *GLSFN* or *MSSFA* does not necessarily agree or support the contents of articles within this publication. The views expressed are those of the author(s) of the articles.

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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

MSSFA PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Alan Douville

A Fishery Worth Fighting For

ecosystem overwhelmed by alewives and declining opportunities, Tanner saw potential. His bold decision to introduce Pacific salmon forever changed Michigan’s fishing heritage and helped create one of the greatest sport fisheries in North America.

For many of us, the fishery Tanner helped build has been a constant throughout our lives. It has given us sunrise launches, screaming drags, family traditions, friendships, tournaments, and memories that can never be replaced. It has also supported charter captains, tackle manufacturers, bait shops, marinas, restaurants, hotels, campgrounds, and countless small businesses throughout Michigan’s coastal communities.

Simply put, it is a fishery worth fighting for.

As I reflect on where we stand today, I find myself increasingly concerned. Not because of one issue. Not because of one bill in Lansing or one management decision by the DNR. What concerns me most is that we are no longer facing one challenge at a time.

We are facing a convergence of risks.

We continue to see growing pressure on fisheries funding. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division is being asked to do more with limited resources while costs continue to rise. Hatcheries, research programs, stocking efforts, and fisheries management all require long-term investment. If we expect world-class fisheries, we must be willing to support the people and programs that make them possible.

At the same time, the Great Lakes ecosystem continues to change. Invasive mussels have altered the food web in ways that scientists are still trying to understand. The impacts on forage species, salmon growth, and native fish populations will continue to shape management decisions for years to come. These are not theoretical concerns. They are happening now.

Then there is the continued threat of invasive carp. For years, anglers have heard about barriers, studies, and prevention efforts designed to keep these fish out of the Great Lakes. Yet delays continue while one of the most important ecological protection projects in North America remains unfinished. The consequences of getting that decision wrong are difficult to overstate.

We are also witnessing renewed discussions surrounding commercial harvest and resource allocation. Every stakeholder has a seat at the table, and every stakeholder has interests to protect. Recreational anglers must be no different. We cannot assume someone else will defend our interests or advocate for the future of salmon and steelhead fishing. History shows that when anglers remain silent, decisions get made without them.

None of these issues alone will determine the future of our fishery. Together, however, they create a level of pressure that should concern every person who values the Great Lakes.

The greatest threat may not be invasive species, funding shortfalls, political disagreements, or commercial interests.

The greatest threat is complacency.

Too many anglers believe healthy fisheries simply happen. They don’t.

The fishery we enjoy today exists because previous generations paid attention. They attended meetings. They challenged bad ideas. They supported sound science. They invested in organizations that could represent anglers when important decisions were being made. Most importantly, they recognized that protecting a fishery requires constant vigilance.

That is exactly why MSSFA was formed more than 55 years ago.

We were never established simply to talk about fishing.

We were established to protect it.

Today, MSSFA remains one of the few organizations consistently advocating for Michigan’s sport fishery. We continue to engage decision-makers, attend meetings, support science-based management, and work with agencies and partner organizations that share our goal of maintaining healthy fisheries for future generations.

But our effectiveness depends on our membership.

A stronger MSSFA means a stronger voice when funding decisions are debated.

A stronger MSSFA means greater influence when legislation is proposed.

A stronger MSSFA means more credibility when resource allocation decisions are made.

A stronger MSSFA means a stronger future for Michigan anglers.

The reality is that future generations will not judge us by how many fish we caught. They will judge us by the condition of the fishery we leave behind.

Will future anglers have the same opportunities we enjoyed?

Will they experience September kings charging river mouths?

Will children standing on Michigan piers feel the same excitement we felt waiting for a reel to scream?

Will our coastal communities continue to benefit from one of the greatest recreational fisheries in the world?

The answer depends on the decisions being made today.

Dr. Howard Tanner believed bold leadership, good science, and long-term thinking could transform the Great Lakes.

History proved him right.

Our challenge is different. We are not being asked to create a fishery.

We are being asked to protect one.

That responsibility belongs to all of us.

That is why MSSFA matters.

That is why your membership matters.

And that is why, now more than ever, this remains a fishery worth fighting for.

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Tight Lines,
Alan

Then... and Now

By Denny Bobeldyk

As we near another end to the fishing season here in Holland, Michigan, it's a good time to reflect on how much salmon fishing has evolved through the years.

When salmon were introduced into Lake Michigan in the late sixties, we wondered how we'd go about catching these magnificent fish. We can now look back and say "WOW, did we really do all those innovative techniques to catch these fish in the early years?" Things have really changed!

Experimenting certainly came with many trials and tribulations. We were real rookies but soon learned how to adapt. No one knew exactly how they fought or the methods of catching them; it was all trial and error. We had to find out what would work and what didn't work. Catching King Salmon was all new to fisherman on the east side of Lake Michigan.

Looking back, we fished out of a boat we bought or a friend had. Most of my first fishing boats were small and very basic. My first two Star Crafts had nice open sterns giving me room to work.

There were advantages of outboard boats over inboards/outboards where you had an engine box to deal with. You purchased basic fishing gear to outfit your boat. Just throw four downriggers on a board and then go from there. We clamped our board to the transom with c-clamps and used Cannon barrel releases which worked very well. Our fish finder was an old paper graph which sometimes worked but most of the time didn't. We also had a flasher graph. At least this gave us an idea at what depth the fish were in.

Fishing poles were very whippy and Eagle Claw was the preferred brand for many of our rods along with Penn reels. Initially, we even used open-faced reels with 10 lb test line. Pretty basic stuff--- yet we managed to have a lot of fun! We lost many fish on busted tackle and broken lines. Back then no one even used 30 lb. test line. There was no such thing as leadcore or copper lines. The first few years the water clarity was terrible. It was as dirty as you could get since zebra and quagga mussels hadn't arrived through the ballast water discharge of lake freighters until much later to clean it up. You could run your lures right behind tight to the cannon ball, the fish would hit anything. We sometimes ran our lures only five feet behind the cannonball. Planer boards were never used. Most boats only ran four rods off four downriggers. Popular riggers were Penn, K-Line and Cannon. Not much strategy was involved in those early years; just use 4 Northport Nailer lures and catch many

fish or come home empty-handed. We knew there would be good days and bad days. Broken lines and lost fish didn't matter. We were having fun. The Holland Fish and Game Club ran a salmon tournament during the summer.

For me it was just as much fun at the Dog 'n Suds event the Thursday before the tournament. A huge raffle was held with many lures and fishing equipment given away.

back to the harbor with stories to tell. Also, you had to launch your boat and check wave height when you cleared the pierheads. No Apps existed to tell you the height of the waves before you left the house. Many times, we had to turn around and go back to the launch because of rough seas.

When we were successful the fish were brought home to be cleaned and the guts buried in the garden. I made a mistake one time

a lot of the fun out of fishing these days. It seems like its how many fish you can catch and not about the fun you had doing it.

Now, as an older fisherman, I fondly remember all those great times on the lake. This year completes my forty-seventh year of salmon fishing out of Holland, MI for which I am very thankful. I still have a boat and try to get out whenever the lake is flat and smooth.

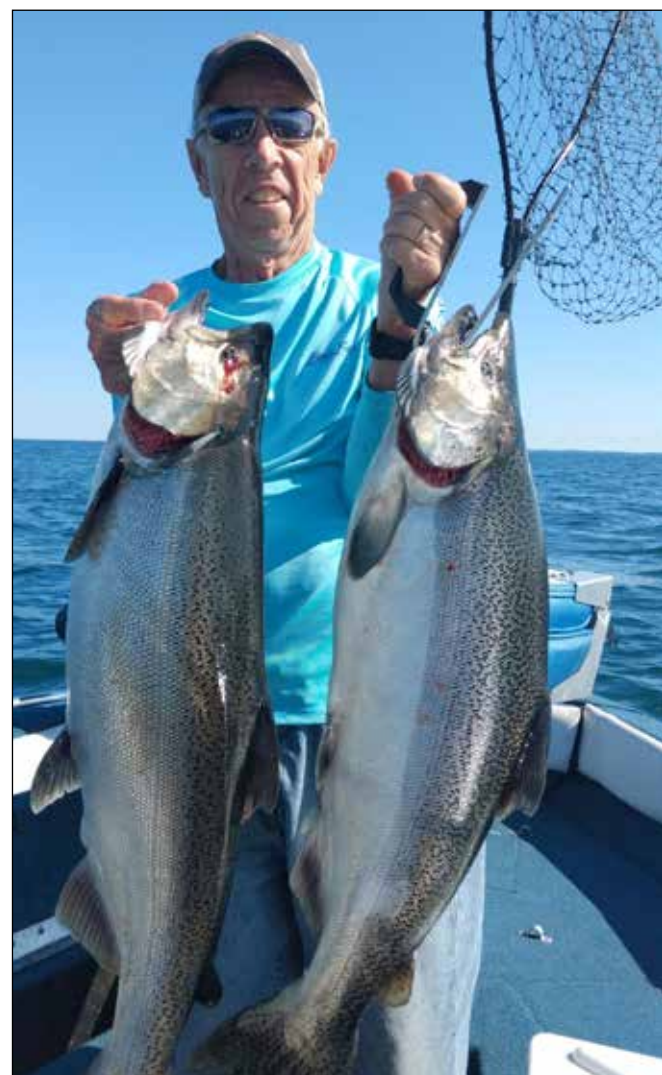


Above: Author Denny Bobeldyk with his daughter Sara - proof of a great day fishing together!

The Holland Steelheaders had just gotten organized by Gord Zuerink and fishermen like Jim Swanezy and Bill Pathuis. They met up at the FOP Lodge to learn new methods and set ups for catching these silver fish. Swanezy organized the Salmon Slam Tournament which to this day brings hundreds of anglers to town annually in late July as part of the Tournament Trail 333 series and known now as the Big Red Classic.

To communicate with others on the lake, marine radios were used for many years as cell phones didn't exist. Each boat had call numbers and a boat name. All information was shared between fisherman on the lake. You would call another boater on the lake and see if he would answer. Most of the time it usually ended up with talk about your kids and grandkids. Other times it was bragging how many fish you had in the box. If a storm came up from the west you got the heck off the lake in a hurry. We didn't have radar on our phones like we have today. Many times, this happened to me. I got caught in a few bad storms over the years but always managed to get

in leaving the guts in the garbage can during a hot summer week. My wife got on me pretty severely about that one. There was no fish cleaning station to help us out. All this early salmon fishing was live and learn by trial and error. No such thing as You Tube videos on tactics or strategy. Just ask your fishing buddies how and what they did to land their catch in preceding days on the water. Then, you went out and dropped your riggers anywhere. Never once did anybody say anything about speed at the ball or speed at the surface. I've got to say there were a lot of good days with many limits during those early years! Fishing days consisted of simpler times without the "high tech stuff". All of the fishing was basic and many anglers fished the same way. Slowly fishing strategies emerged that resulted in new equipment, electronics, lures and boat gear which really changed the face of salmon fishing over many years. I'm not going to delve into specifics of present -day fishing. However, most of us now deal with very different methods to catch fish. I do think technology has taken



Two big kings!

I appreciate all that our DNR has done to create the great fishery we have here in Michigan. Memories are still being made every day on the lake. Hopefully you also can enjoy lake fishing into your later years.

God bless all of you and tight lines to everyone!



Below: King Salmon ready to be cleaned at the Holland fish cleaning station





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

The legislature is in recess until after the election when the lame duck period begins. They may return to deal with required procedural issues but substantive work will be postponed until after the election. We still plan to send out notices to our members to contact their representatives regarding support for HB 5093, the bill that would address the funding concerns of the Fisheries Division. Many of the legislators are incumbents and will be returning so it's advisable to send out now and then again later when we may see some movement on the bill.

September 10th is looming. That is the date the Michigan Public Service

Commission rules on Consumers Energy's request to sell its 13 Hydro Projects (Dams) to Confluence Hydro, an outside limited liability company. We have successfully fought to prevent the sale by appealing to public opinion, gaining support from the AG's office and finally the Governor herself in a released statement last week encouraging the commission to deny Consumers request. We will see if it has worked.

I have been working with a Steelhead Task Group and 11 Fisheries Division staff on research priorities for steelhead in Michigan. There are a number of hypotheses being considered including what is impacting

MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis Eade



survival between the time that smolt out-migration until return to rivers as adults, are the number of fish returning to each river declining and what are catch rates, effort and harvest per river. After consulting with Dan O'Keefe, Rodger Hinchliff and Alan Douville, I have formulated a position that best informs MSSFA's perspective. We will recommend supporting research that helps managers maximize adult returns, angler opportunity, and long-term sustainability, while avoiding any assumption that a high percentage of naturally reproduced fish should automatically result in stocking reductions.

Our position should be that Michigan's steelhead fishery has benefited from both natural reproduction and hatchery production, and research should focus on determining the best combination of the two. Before any stocking reductions are considered, the

Department should demonstrate that adult returns, catch rates, and fishing opportunity can be maintained or improved. These are the questions most likely to produce actionable management decisions and directly impact the quality of Michigan's steelhead fishery for anglers, local communities, and future generations.

On July 15th I supported Dan O'Keefe, Sea Grant Educator by joining him in hosting Nancy Wallace, OAR's new incoming Deputy Assistant Administrator for Programs and Administration. She was joined by her assistant Adi Hanein and also the Acting Director of NOAA/GLERL Jesse Feyen. The tour included a stop at Grand Valley State University's Annis Water Research Institute (AWRI) to get an overview Sea Grant's work with AWRI. We highlighted key challenges and opportunities facing Muskegon Lake and Lake Michigan.

Then we walked to fishing access at Heritage Landing on Muskegon Lake, where we discussed shore fishing infrastructure, restoration projects, and survey work that will help inform waterfront redevelopment. The tour concluded with a short drive to visit Slown Outdoors, learning about small businesses including outdoor shops, tackle manufacturers, fishing guides, charter captains, and bait harvesters that depend on healthy fisheries. The emphasis is on how Sea Grant plays an active role in facilitating communication among anglers, researchers, and managers to optimize economic impacts without harming long-term viability of fish populations.

On August 20, 2026, MSSFA honored Congresswoman Debbie Dingell with the Dr Howard Tanner Award for outstanding contributions to Michigan's anadromous sport fishery and her work in protecting

the Great Lakes and its ecosystem. The ceremony took place at the Great Lakes Fish Commission in Ann Arbor, MI. It was also a tribute to Dr Tanner himself who passed away on August 16, 2026 at the age of 102.

Our chapters have been busy hosting tournaments and honoring veterans with outings to celebrate their service to our country. Fishing leagues are in full swing and the fishing has been excellent.

Tight lines!





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Dr. Tanner, former director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, holding a salmon caught on the Great Lakes. Photo from DNR-Fisheries@Michigan.gov

"Tanner" Continued from page 1

coho salmon were released into the Platte River in Benzie County, Michigan, as part of a bold experiment.

By 1966-70, over 15 million coho salmon were planted in the Great Lakes, and by 1970, natural reproduction had occurred in some tributaries of the upper Great Lakes. This marked the first successful establishment of a salmon fishery in the region, transforming the Great Lakes into a world-class sport fishing destination.

What separated Dr. Howard A. Tanner from other leaders of his time was his vision and his willingness to take on all the naysayers, bureaucrats, and institutionalists to "do something spectacular".

"If something needed to be done," Tanner said of the mindset of the battle-hardened group, "you did it". "They didn't consult Canada. They didn't consult the other states," said Great Lakes fishery historian Kristin M. Szylvian, "They just did it."

Howard Tanner believed that natural resources

belonged to the people rather than any entity, and his guiding principle was "providing the greatest benefits, for the most people, for the longest time."

We may never see the likes of a Dr. Howard Tanner again, but let us never take for granite the world class fishery he created and that he lived in our lifetime. We treasure the fishing experiences he has provided and we work every day to protect and promote his creation.

Metro West Summer Picnic

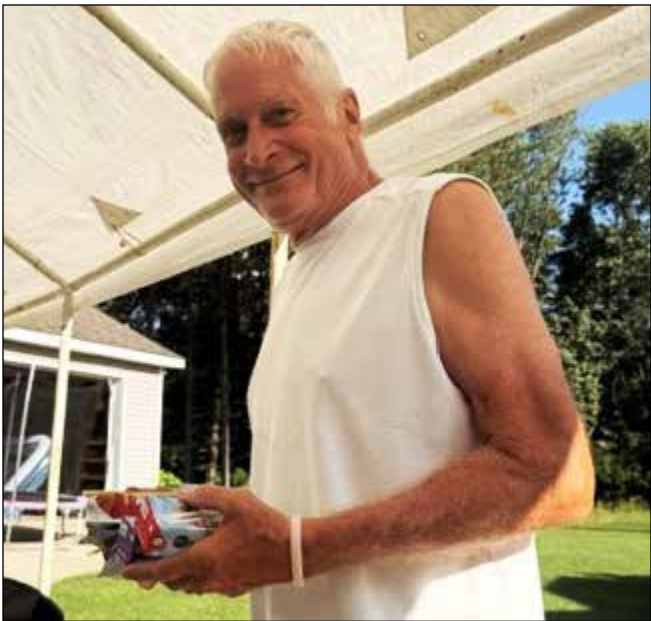
By Mark Platt;
Pictures by Kelly Kinney

Once again Metrowest Steelheaders put on an AWESOME Summer Picnic. Mother Nature gave us a Beautiful Day, a little warm but I had that kinda covered (shade and fans) till DTE lost power. I'm still learning how to pay bills LOL. I already sent out plus personally Thanked Dave Zawacki and his Merry Band of Fishers (Traver brothers and Chris Thompson) for a wonderful, delicious dinner plus the help in setting this

thing up. Now I want to THANK the rest of you Steelheaders that prepared and brought all the appetizers, side dishes and desserts. Can't say I tried them all, that would've been impossible... but I did try many of them plus I'm still working on it as some were still let for "me"/"us". The "us" consists of one of my FAVORITE Daughters (I have three) who did a Tremendous Job helping with EVERYTHING !! Along with learning how to pay bills and use this silly thing called a computer, LOL, my

previous job was digging holes (lawn sprinklers) and or building/fixing houses so I didn't need to know how to do/use them, with retirement I'm trying but it's hard to teach an old dog new tricks. Another thing I'm trying to learn is cooking so I borrowed a recipe and a little guidance from Nancy and Henry Nabors to prepare my first side dish. They always bring a Baked Bean Casserole (*see page 7*) to our events but couldn't make this one so I did and it turned out pretty damn good if I do say so myself.

Thanks, you two!!
MWS is one of the better clubs around--fun, great place to learn, great place to meet people and financially stable (important in this day and time). We got this way due to a lot of dedicated people but also other people stepping up to the plate and helping out.
It is wonderful to see everyone throughout the year at tournaments and outings, and equally as wonderful to see everyone during the Picnic. Whether you're a member who's been around for ages, or if you're newer, THANKS for making MWS what it is!



Above: Mark Platt enjoying the picnic.
All photos below: Metro West members at picnic



Whitmer Urges Michigan Regulators to Reject Hydro Dam Deal

By Jeffrey Tomich

A proposal by Michigan utility Consumers Energy to sell its fleet of hydro-electric dams in the state to a private equity company would impose “unacceptable safety and financial risks,” Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer wrote Thursday in a letter to state regulators.

Whitmer, who is term-limited and can’t seek reelection this fall, said in the letter that she can’t support the deal without conditions to address those risks, and she urged the Public Service Commission to reject it next month when it’s set to issue a ruling.

It is the first time Whitmer has weighed in on the sale proposed last year by Consumers Energy, the state’s second-largest utility, to Confluence Hydro, which is owned by Maryland private equity firm Hull Street Energy. The letter comes two months after an administrative law judge also recommended the sale be rejected.

Consumers Energy has grappled for years with what to do with 13 aging, uneconomic hydro dams. A sale to private owners is seen by some as the best solution, and less costly than decommissioning.

Confluence Hydro proposes to invest more than \$1 billion to refurbish and relicense the dams — a plan welcomed by many of the communities that have built up around man-made lakes created by the dams, which are popular for boat-

ing, fishing and swimming. Consumers Energy and Confluence Hydro said they are disappointed in the governor’s letter and that evidence in the case shows Confluence Hydro is a capable dam operator and that the sale include terms to ensure the dams’ safe operation.

“The Governor’s letter fails to acknowledge the informed and impassioned pleas of the communities around these dams that approving the sale is the best option for their communities and Michigan,” Consumers Energy spokesman Brian Wheeler said.

Natalie Joubert, a Confluence Hydro spokesperson, added that if the sale isn’t approved, Consumers Energy has stated plans to decommission the dams, “which will dry up reservoirs and kill jobs in local communities.”

A coalition of conservation and angler groups, which has vigorously opposed the sale, applauded the governor’s stance.

“There are better solutions for Michigan’s ratepayers, rivers, dam safety and the public’s interest” than the transaction proposed by Consumers Energy, said Howard Learner, executive director of the Environmental Law & Policy Center. The group is representing the Anglers of the Au Sable, the Great Lakes Council of Fly Fishers International, the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fisherman’s Association, and Michigan Trout Unlimited in the proceeding.

Opponents argue the terms of the sale and the proposed ownership structure — with each dam owned by a separate limited liability company — is too risky, especially given Michigan’s checkered history of private dam ownership. They say the new owners could bleed the dams for profit, file bankruptcy and leave Michigan taxpayers left to pay for the dams’ removal or upkeep.

Whitmer referenced this checkered history in her letter to the PSC.

“Private dam owners have too often compromised public safety and imposed extraordinary costs on Michigan taxpayers,” she said, referring to the 2020 failure of the Edenville and Sanford dams in central Michigan that forced the evacuation of 10,000 people and caused \$200 million in damages.

As recently as April, the Cheboygan Dam, which is connected to an inoperable privately owned hydro plant, came within inches of overtopping and threatened nearby residents, Whitmer said. Meanwhile, the Au Train Dam in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula “lies crumbling from years of neglect,” she added.

While Confluence Hydro has pledged its projects will be well-maintained and improved, the governor said the proposed transaction lacks adequate financial assurances and doesn’t require the new owner’s parent company to be responsible for accidents or decommissioning costs.



Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D) speaks during a 2024 campaign event in Detroit. | Paul Sancya/AP

Consumers Energy’s offer to establish a \$275 million hydro safety fund after the administrative judge recommended rejection of the sale is “too little, too late,” Whitmer said.

Consumers Energy first pitched the sale to Confluence Hydro last fall. Under the proposal, the new owners would pay just \$1 apiece for the dams and it

would buy back the power under a 30-year contract for \$160 per megawatt-hour with a 2.5 percent annual increase. The price is about double what the utility would pay for electricity in the regional market.

The deal also is being opposed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan Attorney General Dana

Nessel (D). The PSC is set to issue a ruling on the sale Sept. 10.

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Nabors’ Family Baked Bean Recipe

It has been a tradition for Nancy and me to bring a side dish to Metro West picnics and Christmas parties over the last thirty years.

This baked bean dish was our choice most of the times. Because we were unable to attend the

picnic this year, Mark Platt asked for the recipe so he could make sure the bean dish would be part of the picnic fare. We talked Mark through the recipe and gave him the modifications Nancy has made over the years.

He made a practice run for his family and then the side dish for the picnic! *Nicely done Mark!*

The recipe source was my mother – Helen P. Nabors (Lete was her nickname). I have enjoyed the recipe for over eighty years. The recipe has

been shared with over 150 family members and a few family friends via the family cookbook Nancy compiled and published in 2008. The cookbook is titled ‘Manna from Heaven, Gifts of Love’.

These pictures tell more of the story for those



Henry and Nancy Nabors

BAKED BEANS

Lete Nabors

Try this recipe or just use your own baked bean recipe and add the ground beef and bourbon!

1 (1 lb. 5 oz.) can pork and beans	1 rounded t. mustard
1/3 c. brown sugar	1/3 c. maple syrup
2 T. Worcestershire sauce	4 T. bourbon or whiskey
1 can tomato paste	2 cans water
1/2 can tomato soup	1 lb. ground beef
1 onion, chopped	

Fry in greased pan, 1 large, chopped onion until golden brown, and the ground meat in chunks until color changes. Add all other ingredients and mix. Top with 3 strips of bacon and bake for 1 hour in a 350° oven.

Note: These beans are a must at the Nabors’ Reunion. Sometimes Lete uses wiener rounds in them instead of beef. NN

that have enjoyed family cookbook adventures.

We are looking forward to bringing Nabors Family Baked Beans to the NEXT MWS feast!

Note: Nancy does not include the tomato soup or the water. Sometimes Nancy leaves the bacon on the top if that might be questioned by non-family members enjoying the baked beans for the first time.



Recipe mentioned on page 6, Metro West Picnic

Brief Update of Boardman River FishPass Project

Work continues on the nearly complete 400-foot-long fishsorting channel on the Union Street Dam replacement and the FishPass project on the Boardman/Ottaway River in downtown Traverse City.

The FishPass project, scheduled to be completed in 2027, is expected to have fish-sorting mechanisms that prevent invasive species, such as sea lampreys, from swimming any further upstream, while allowing native species, such as trout and sturgeon, to pass freely.



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The contractor will now be using divers to cut off and remove the sheet pile upstream of the fish-sorting channels. Contractors will then use a vibratory hammer to remove the remaining temporary sheet pile down the centerline of the river and downstream end of the fish-sorting channel. The vibratory hammer is expected to be active through September.

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3	Ann's Custom Canvas	4414 Remembrance Rd	Walker	MI	49544	10% Discount, not valid on specials. Mention steelheaders before ordering
4	Auto Owners Insurance	303 E. Monroe	Durand	MI	48429	Rowe Agent Group #486
5	Batteries Plus	2061 N-139 Suite B	Benton Harbor	MI	49022	10% & Member Discount 269-925-7374 www.batteriesplus.com
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7	Batteries Plus	386 Bay Park Dr, Suite B	Holland	MI	49424	10% & Member Discount 616-396-9914 www.batteriesplus.com
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9	Batteries Plus	3031 28th Street SE	Kentwood	MI	49512	10% & Member Discount 616-575-0500 www.batteriesplus.com
10	Batteries Plus	5839 Hrvey Street, Suite 6	Norton Shores	MI	49444	10% & Member Discount 231-747-9168 www.batteriesplus.com
11	Big Papa Sportfishing	50642 Oregon Ave.	Novi	MI	48374	10% except on equipment
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13	BoatU.S.					\$15 Annual Membership Dues - Use Membership # GA83723B
14	Bob's Outdoors	Statewide	www.bobsoutdoors.com			10% Discount (www.bobsoutdoors.com)
15	Brenner's Service	4765 W River Dr	Comstock Park	MI	46321	5% exclusions may apply. 616-784-9872 dawnbrenner@hotmail.com
16	Dayton, Rick R, DDS	169 Louis Campau Promenade Ste 2A	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	20% off all services (616)458-2545
17	Cascade Capital Funding	4251 Cascade Rd. SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49546	Free appraisal up to \$300.00
18	Dockside Marine, Inc	4320 State Rd	Glennie	MI	48737	15% Off Parts & Accessories (Excludes Electronics)
19	Dunham's Sports	Statewide				10% Discount # 50050/3
20	Firestone - Metro 25	19268 Middlebelt	Livonia	MI	48152	\$20 off on \$200 or more on service www.metro25firestone.com
21	Fish with Jim Outfitters	http://www.fishwithjimoutfitters.com/	248-252-1277			Discount \$50.00 off the total trip price.
22	Glacier Corporation	1021 Fuller St.	Santa Ana	CA	92701	Aquarium Chillers for "salmon in classroom" \$625 + 60 (s&h) = \$685
23	Great Lakes Angler Magazine		www.glangler.com			Discount 50% OFF 1 year subscription, members only! Use code MSSFA
24	Homestead Resort on Betsie River	2399 Dam Rd	Benzonia	MI	49616	10% In Season, 25% Off Season (homestead@crystal-rentals.com)
25	Insta-Launch Campground	20 Park Ave	Manistee	MI	49660	Member Discount
26	Insurance Shop/Fremont Ins.	824 Water St.	East Jordan	MI	49727	10% Discount off insurance for MSSFA Group Members
27	Jim Waldron Pontiac, Buick, GMC	1146 S. State Rd	Davison	MI	48423	Contact Nick Russlolf for Sales, 10% off all parts not to exceed \$100.00
28	J Smith Custom Tackle	1136 E Hughes Lake Road	Rose City	MI	48654	15% - 20% off depending on rod. Customrodsbyjsmith.com 989-685-2819
29	K & M Marine	14990 Telegraph Rd	Redford	MI	48239	10% off merchandise except sale items (www.kandmmarine.com)
30	Kamp Oil Inc	6467 Manistee St	Fredric	MI	49733	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
31	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.
32	Beebe Oil Co (aka Kamp Oil)	4999 22 Mile Rd	Utica	MI	48317	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
33	Lapeer Boat Service	3556 Fort Knox Dr	Lapeer	MI	48446	10% off parts and labor (810-245-6038)
34	Liberty Tax Service	544 E. 8th St.	Holland	MI	49423	\$20.00 Discount on tax service
35	Logan's Run Muskegon River Cottage Rental	1648 Gardner St.	Newaygo	MI	49337	10% Discount www.logansrun.us 616-485-4501
36	Mark's Sport Shop	11530 Mason Dr	Grant	MI	49327	Member Discount
37	MUCC	2101 Wood Street	Lansing	MI	48912	\$18.00 Membership Dues
38	Patriot Custom Fishing Rods	35919 6th Ave.	Gobles	MI	49055	10% Discount 269-628-5227
39	Richfield RV	Statewide				10% Discount
40	River Raisin Marina & Campground	2502 E. Elm Avenue	Monroe	Mi	48161	Buy 1 get 1 free - call 313-575-4367 (www.riverraisinmarina.com)
41	RX Optical	Statewide				Plan 308
42	Salmon Trout Steelheader		www.salmontroutsteelheader.com			Discount 50% OFF 1 year subscription, members only! Use code MSSFA
43	Sun Coast Marine	1172 68th Street	South Haven	MI		Member discount
44	The Angling Outpost	2480 Duck Lane Rd	Whitehall	MI	49461	www.anglingoutpost.com 5% use coupon "steelheader" for online purchases
45	Traxtech Corp	14754 N Oakley	Chesaping	MI		989-845-5969 10%
46	Van's Sport Center	1855 Alpine Ave.	Walker	MI	49544	10% Discount
47	Warrior Lures	5915 Lillian La	Traverse City	MI	49684	10% Discount on all product ordered (www.warriorlures.com)
48	West Marine		Bay City	MI		10%
49	West Michigan Propeller	847 Ionia Ave. NW	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	10% Discount
50	* Your Business Here!					

Freshwater Drum: The Overlooked Native Fish That Has Been Crushing Trillions of Invasive Mussels in Lake Erie

The invasion of zebra and quagga mussels dealt a heavy blow to many Great Lakes fisheries, but new research suggests that the humble sheephead has been a key player in the recent decline of invasive mussels in western Lake Erie.

By Dan O’Keefe
www.michiganseagrant.org

The zebra mussel and its close cousin the quagga mussel are two of the most destructive Great Lakes invaders. Collectively known as dreissenid mussels, these filter-feeding pests remove microscopic algae and other suspended material from the water. This led to dramatic increases in water clarity in Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, and Lake Michigan after the dreissenid invasion. While clear water may look inviting, it is not very productive and can’t support much life.

Invasive mussels have been implicated in the decline of native invertebrates like Diporeia (a scud), Mysis (a small shrimp) and Daphnia (a water flea) Lake Michigan. This, in turn, means less food available for prey fish and the young of many gamefish. Lake Michigan has seen declines in the harvest of yellow perch, lake whitefish, and most trout and salmon species since the 1980s, and food web changes following the mussel invasion are one of the major contributing factors.

Soon after the initial invasion of zebra mussels, biologists realized that only a handful native fish species were well-equipped to feed on invasive mussels. Some fish species have teeth in the back of their throats that are built for crushing shells. These molar-like pharyngeal teeth are only found in a few North American fish. Pumpkinseed and redear sunfish have them, but they also have small mouths that are not suitable for eating large mussels. River herring and copper herring also have molar-like pharyngeal teeth, but they are only found in a few high-quality rivers in the Great Lakes region.

The only other native fish with potential to prey heavily on these shelled invaders is the freshwater drum. Drum, also known as sheephead, are fairly abundant in warm, shallow waters of the Great Lakes and

connected waterways. The West Basin of Lake Erie, Saginaw Bay, and drowned river mouth lakes of West Michigan provide good habitat for drum, while the offshore waters of lakes Superior, Michigan, and Huron are too deep and cold. Early research suggested that drum might be able to control zebra mussels in certain areas, but hopes were not high for anything beyond localized effects.

New Research Shows Impact

A new scientific paper by Kevin Keretz and other researchers shows that drum have been having a much larger impact than we thought. Keretz and crew conduct annual bottom trawl surveys in the West Basin of Lake Erie. Large trawl nets are dragged through the water, and they do a good job of catching whatever fish species happen to be present. In 2014, this meant a whole lot of freshwater drum.

When researchers started to put numbers on the prevalence of invasive mussels in drum diet together with the biomass of drum in the West Basin of Lake Erie from their trawl surveys, they realized that drum consume far more mussels than originally assumed. Drum are somewhat opportunistic feeders. They can and do consume a variety of invertebrates and small fish, which is one reason that there was some initial skepticism regarding their ability to control invasives.

Although at least 16 different food items were consumed by drum in Lake Erie, diet analysis found that 88% of drum over 19 inches long and 100% of drum over 23 inches long had consumed mussels. The only food item that was more important than dreissenid mussels was Hexagenia – the super-abundant giant mayfly or ‘fishfly’ that is a sign of a healthy lake but can also be considered a nuisance when swarms hatch in early summer.



Freshwater drum only have a few small teeth in their mouth, but they also have pharyngeal teeth far back in their throat behind the gills (inset). These powerful grinding teeth are built for crushing shells, making drum an effective predator on invasive zebra mussels. Photo: Dan O’Keefe, Michigan Sea Grant

Eye-Opening Results

Keretz and coauthors calculated the total biomass of mussels consumed by drum on an annual basis from 2013 to 2023. The results were eye-opening. On average, drum consumed over 512,602 pounds of dreissenid mussels per square mile in western Lake Erie. Consumption was highest in 2013, the first year of the study, at 1.2 million pounds per square mile. This equated to 1.31 trillion mussels consumed by drum in the West Basin alone in 2013.

Other studies have shown a steady decline in dreissenid biomass in the West Basin, dropping from 125,619 lbs/mi² in 2004 to as low as 6,852 lbs/mi² in 2019. This suggests that drum predation has been able to exert considerable influence on mussel populations in Lake Erie, outdoing even the invasive round goby. The round goby was an accidental import native to the same waters as dreissenid mussels, which also has crushing pharyngeal teeth adapted to eating mussels. Estimates of peak round goby consumption in the Central Basin of Lake Erie were only about 25% of peak drum consumption, though.

The standing stock of dreissenid mussels present in the West Basin actually appears to be lower than the amount of mussels consumed on an annual basis. At first, this sounds unlike-



A freshwater drum forages among clumps of quagga mussels in Lake Michigan.
Photo: Dan O’Keefe, Michigan Sea Grant

“Drum”
Continued on page 11

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2026 Battle Creek Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Location
October	24	KALAMAZOO RIVER SALMON SLA	ALLEGAN DAM
November	7	KALAMAZOO RIVER TROUT QUEST	ALLEGAN DAM
November	14	KALAMAZOO RIVER MEMORIAL	ALLEGAN DAM
November	28	ST.JOE FALL STEELHEAD	I-94
December	5	CHAPTER CHALLENGE	TBA
December	12	CHRISTMAS PARTY	KALAMAZOO EAGLES
Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting Meeting Location: <i>(In process of finding a new location)</i> FOR MORE INFORMATION: Joe Foy at 269-303-1894 / Dan Foster at 269-370-3693 battlecreeksteelheaders.com			

2026 Grand Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
September	12	Sportsman for Youth
December	10	Christmas Party
Other Events TBD		
For information on these events and other information on the Grand Haven Steelheaders contact GHS President and State Director Paul Zelenka at pbzfarms@gmail.com		
www.ghsteelheaders.com		

2026 Grand Rapids Steelheader's Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
September	14	Board Meeting
September	28	Membership Meeting
October	5	Board Meeting
October	24	Fall Outing / Buck Contest**
October	26	Membership Meeting
November	2	Board Meeting
November	7	Fishing Partners*
November	30	Membership Meeting
December	7	Chapter Christmas Party**

* - Times/Events subject to change,
watch facebook & email blasts

** - Members and Member's family only event.

NEW MEETING LOCATION:
Jackson Street Hall, Polish National Aid Society
921 Jackson Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-774-9011

Events open to the public

Meeting Location - Elks #48, 917 Bridge St NW, Grand Rapids

Time: 6:00pm-7pm Social Hour with food and beverage followed by Speaker

Board Meetings will take place after the regular Member Meeting

Email Grand Rapids Steelheaders: fishgrsteelhead@gmail.com

Dates with "***" are for members and family only

2026 Great Lakes Bay Region Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
September	1	Meeting
September	12	Linwood
October	6	Meeting
November	3	Meeting
December	1	Meeting
December	12	Banquet at VFW 5pm*
Contact Port Chairman no later than Monday prior when attending outings		
Pull lines at 1:00pm on Saturdays, 12:00pm on Sundays (2-Day Outings). Port chairman will call the end of the outing on Channel 72 all Boats must check in.		
Board/Membership meetings at VFW Hall in Midland at 7:00 pm (No Meeting in August)		
On the day of the outing, port chairman will call the outing start on Marine Radio, Channel 72, All Boats must confirm they are fishing.		
Weigh-in follows each outing. Picnics follows weigh-in on Saturdays only.		
New Rule: Weight in is at 2:00pm “Sharp” No Exceptions		
Outings: All Steelheaders members pay \$5.00. All non-Steelheaders pay \$10.00 to participate. Children 16 and under are free.		
Banquet: Drinks at 5:00pm Dinner at 6:00pm (Potluck Style)		

2026 Holland Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
September	8	League Dinner
September	14	Board Meeting
October	12	Board Meeting
November	9	Board Meeting
December	3	Membership Meeting
December	14	Board Meeting
Board meetings held at: TBD Locations		
General Membership: Bayshore Yacht Club at the Yacht Basin Marina		
Doors open at 6 pm., Dinner at 7 pm, speaker to follow		
For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org , or call Jimmy Van Brocklin 616-240-7017 or email Brad Stephenson at brad.stephenson32@gmail.com		

2026 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Contact
September	1	General Membership Meeting	
September	5	Manistee Kayak/SB & Pier Tournaments	
September	15	Kensington Kayak/SB Monthly Tue Outings	
September	26	Manistee River Tournaments	
September	26	Revisit PM Lake Salmon Kayak/SB	
October	3	Harrisville Area kayak/SB/shore	
October	6	General Membership Meeting	
October	10	Lake Erie Perch Outing	
October	14	Captain/Crew/River Angler ’26 Cal. Mtg	
October	17	Ludington Pier/Beach Event	
November	3	General Membership Meeting 2nd Tue.	
November	7	Manistee River/Pier/Shore Tour. w DS	
November	14	Ohio Walleye Tournament	
December	1	CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
December	5	PM & other NW Mi Rivers Tournament	
December	19	Huron River Tournament	

2026 South Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
Note: SH Steelheaders (SHS) Chapter Events in BOLD * = Not Confirmed		
SEP	5	Labor Day Weekend
NOV	9	2027 Pro Am Tournament Committee Kick-off meeting
NOV	28	South Haven Steelheaders River Tournament
2026 South Haven Steelheaders Membership & Board Meeting Dates		
Note: All Board and membership meetings are generally held the third Thursday of each month except for special circumstances such as Pro Am Captain's Meeting set up in May, Fish Boil organizational meeting in August and prior to Deer Season in November.		
Meeting Location: South Haven American Legion Post 49, 129 Michigan Avenue, South Haven, MI 49090 Board Meetings start at 5:45pm and membership meetings at 7:00pm. For more information email: rachapman1@comcast.net		
SEP 17th - 3rd Thursday – <i>Regular & Board meeting to prioritize & set next year's events. ID event chairs.</i>		
OCT 15th - 3rd Thursday – <i>Regular and Board meeting to finalize next year's events and set calendar, nominations for Board of Directors.</i>		
November/December – No membership meetings		

2026 Southwest MI Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
Membership meetings and board meeting are held the second Thursday of each month but please confirm online for the most updated information. www.swmisteelheaders.com www.facebook.com/southwestmichigansteelheaders			
SEPTEMBER	10	(Club Meeting) Fall Wrap-Up - Happy Hour Discussion	The Buck & Brew, St. Joseph MI
DECEMBER	5	Winter Challenge River Tournament #1	The Sandbar, St. Joseph MI
Meeting Location: Elks Lodge, 601 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor MI 49022			

2026 Thumb Chapter Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Event	Location / Information
October	16	7:30pm	Regular Meeting	Harbor Beach American Legion - Election of Board/Officers
Contact Luke Gehring at 989-550-3121 for inquiries.				

2026 Thunderbay Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Time	Information	
September	14	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting	
October	5	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting	
December	14	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting	

2026 White River Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Time	Event information
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.			
September	3	6:30 pm	Meeting - Montague VFW
October	1	6:30 pm	Meeting - Montague VFW
November	5	6:30 pm	Meeting - Montague VFW
December	3	6:30 pm	Meeting - Montague VFW



MSSFA Board of Directors Meetings 2026

October 21st

Via TEAMS -

7:00pm

December 16th

TBD

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Fall For Crappies

By Bob Jensen

Many very accomplished and well-known anglers have made the observation that crappies are a mysterious fish. In mid and late summer in a good number of lakes, they seem to disappear from areas where they were abundant just a few weeks earlier. But if you keep a few things in mind, you can catch 'em when they re-appear in the fall.

Crappies are crepuscular. This means that they are most active early and late in the day much of the year. In the fall though, they'll often bite all day.

Depending on where you're fishing, there are a couple of very good ways to catch crappies right now. The favorite technique of many crappie-catchers is to cast a light jig to a deep weedline or dock. Crappies like the cover that each provide and they also like that baitfish will hang around the same areas. Crappies will also suspend off the deep edge of the weedline. Watch for dimples on the water's surface. The dimples reveal crappies slurping bugs off the surface. Throw a jig around the dimples and they'll often slurp the jig.

Another technique that works well in these same areas is to rig your jig under a slip-bobber. There's something about watching a bobber float across the surface, then slowly go down that's almost magical. Experiment with how far your bobber is set above the jig. At times the fish like the bait close to the surface, especially when there's less light penetration or a bug hatch. Sometimes they want it deeper, like when it's brighter out.



-Mr. Crappie Wally Marshall uses jigs and plastic to catch crappies year 'round, including in the autumn.

Last technique. In some lakes, crappies will move into deep water and spend much of the rest of the year there. They'll hang out close to the bottom in deep water. If you watch your sonar carefully, you'll be able to see the crappies holding near deep water points or even in the basin of the lake. Sometimes you'll see fish that you believe are walleyes on the sonar and they are actually crappies. This time of the year crappies can look much like walleyes on the sonar. You'll frequently catch some walleyes with the crappies, and that's not a bad thing. Many anglers would consider that a winning deal. Walleyes and crappies in the same spot. In this deep water an eighth ounce jig fished on four or six pound line will be most

productive.

In all of these techniques we're mostly using jigs in either sixteenth or eighth ounce sizes. The sixteenth ounce size when casting to the weedline or docks, the eighth ounce jig in the deeper water. And consider a 1/32nd ounce jig with a splitshot under the bobber.

Through the years, serious crappie chasers usually had a rod rigged with a minnow on a jig. Not so much anymore. Crappie plastics have become so good there hardly is ever a time when a minnow is better. Maybe when the fish are being really finicky a live minnow will be more productive. Plastic offers more colors, shapes, and durability. Mr. Crappie Grubs, Crappie Thunder, and Slabalous plastics are outstanding. Start with brighter colors and go more natural if the crappies aren't aggressive.

Crappies are fun to catch and can be willing biters. If you keep these ideas in mind, you'll be able to catch 'em through the autumn months. They're outstanding on the table, so don't hesitate to keep a few. Once you get onto it, catching a few usually won't be a problem this time of year.

"Drum"

Continued from page 9

ly – but dreissenid mussels also reproduce at a very high rate. This suggests that drum are consuming enough mussels to not only keep up with their high annual production, but also to reduce their standing biomass. While other factors like low oxygen levels and high temperatures may also have had a role in the decline of dreissenid mussels in Lake Erie's West Basin, the evidence points to our native freshwater drum as an unlikely hero in the fight against Great Lakes invaders.

"Dingell"
Continued from page 1

DNR get focused where we think it should be and protecting the fisheries and our lakes."

Dingell says, growing up on the St. Clair River, she appreciates the state's sports fishing industry. She says protecting the Great Lakes is one of the most important jobs she has in Congress.

Jill Wingfield, director of communications, for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, said, "The Commission and the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association share a long-standing commitment to protecting and enhancing the Great Lakes fishery. Established in 1955 through a treaty between the United States and Canada, the binational Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) coordinates fisheries research, leads efforts to control the invasive sea lamprey, and fosters co-operative fishery management among federal, state, provincial, tribal, and First

Nations partners throughout the region. Working alongside organizations such as the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, which champions conservation, angler education, and advocacy, the GLFC helps ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the Great Lakes ecosystem. Together, these organizations combine science, stewardship, and public engagement to support a world-class fishery that contributes billions of dollars annually to the regional economy and provides invaluable recreational opportunities for future generations.

It is fitting then that we honor someone who truly embodies the values both of our organizations share. For more than a decade, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell has been a strong and consistent advocate for the protection of Great Lakes fisheries, recognizing their importance to Michigan's environment, economy, and outdoor heritage. Though she represents Michigan's 12th district, so much of

her work extends to the Great Lakes region. As a co-chair of the bipartisan Great Lakes Task Force, we are grateful for her work to secure federal funding for fisheries research, invasive species control, and habitat restoration throughout the Great Lakes region.

Most recently, she joined with Congressmen Tim Walberg to introduce the Save the Great Lakes Fish Act, which would authorize \$50 million annually for 10 years for the Commission to coordinate research and partnerships aimed at developing effective invasive mussel control technologies.

This award represents dedication to science-based decision-making, a commitment to our state's incredible natural resources, and belief in a vision for a better tomorrow. Dr. Tanner recently passed away but his legacy as the "father" of Michigan's recreational fishery will live on every time someone yells "fish on"!

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Lake Michigan Committee (all states) to Reduce Chinook Salmon Stocking in 2027

By Dennis Eade

In a memo sent out by Rod Edgell, Lake Michigan Committee Chair on August 6, 20026, the Lake Michigan Committee has agreed to reduce Chinook salmon stockings into Lake Michigan in 2027 by 25-30%.

Several factors influenced the decision including the Predator/Prey Ratio, which continues to increase and has done so since 2021. Secondary indicators are also trending toward an unbalanced PPR. Many stakeholders have taken notice of high catch rates, but low weights and are concerned.

To have the greatest immediate impact on the PPR, it was decided the bulk of the reduction would focus on Chinook salmon stock-

ings. Due to the heavy rain events potentially limiting natural reproduction in 2026 and anticipated reductions in prey sampling effort due to vessel limitations across multiple agencies, the LMC decided to propose the reduction only for 2027.

Next steps include discussions with Citizen Advisors Groups to gain input regarding the ultimate percentage agreed upon and recommendations for stocking locations and numbers. The Lake Michigan Citizen Advisory Committee meets on October 7th in Clare, Michigan. The LMC will continue to evaluate the fishery and will make future stocking decisions prior to the egg collection in 2027.



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