



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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South Haven Steelheaders Fish Boil Marks 50th Year

The South Haven Steelheaders Chapter holds its annual Fish Boil during the National Blueberry Festival in South Haven, Michigan on Saturday August 12th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Huron Street Pavilion. This year marks the 50th year the event has been held. The Fish Boil is a Great Lakes culinary tradition that originated in Wisconsin. The crews on commercial vessels that were fishing for Lake Trout and Whitefish in the winter months and would boil some of their catch on the coal fired stove for a meal while at sea.

Emil Dean, one of the founding members of the Michigan Steelheaders as well of the Michigan Charter Boat Association started the idea of having a community fish boil back in 1973 at Nichol's Landing as a fund raiser for the chapter's efforts to give something back to the community. This event is the main fundraiser for the South Haven Steelheaders Chapter and the money raised by is used for many dif-

ferent purposes including college scholarships, sports team sponsorships, and the maintenance and support of the South Haven Off-Shore Data Buoy. Other donations have been made to the South Pier Lighthouse restoration project, Caring Circle Hospice, Al-Van Humane Society, WE CARE, INC, the annual Salute to Veterans Event, and support for three Salmon in the Classroom Projects.

While today's fish are still caught on the Great Lakes "inland sea", they're caught by local tournament sportfishermen and donated to the Chapter in anticipation of the festival in August. The overall principal of boiling the catch remains the same with the added twist of not only trout, but also salmon, red potatoes, onions, other side dishes and a little (or a lot, depending on your cravings) of melted butter.

The Fish Boil meal itself requires a minimum of 40 volunteers, many are

"Fish Boil"

Continued on page 2



Great Lakes Smallmouth

Roger Hinchcliff,
Steelhead Manifesto

Ask any Angler if they don't love catching a hard-pulling fish. The answer will be a resounding yes! The warm water species fishing has always been popular, and the Bass is the country's number one fishery.

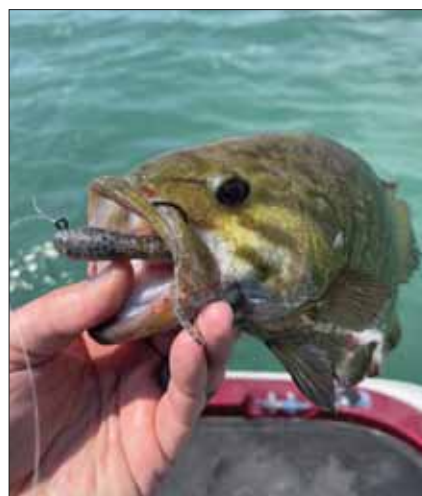
Only some people are near or can access Steelhead, Trout, Salmon, and Walleye. But everyone lives near Bass Waters and or can go after work every day. So, the Bass opens angling opportunities to many folks. But only some have access to our World Class Smallmouth Fishery. Lake Erie, Huron, and Michigan are my favorite Great Lakes to chase smallmouth

on. We have hundreds of miles of prime water for trophy smallmouth. No matter which great lake you choose, they all have world-class fishing.

The smallmouth bass is a hard-fighting, great-biting fish that loves getting air during the fight. The Great Lakes region is home to some of the best smallmouth fishing on earth. And people from all over the world come here to catch them every year. Summer-time is a busy time of year for many, from traveling, vacations, family events, etc. But no fish pound-for-pound fish fights like the smallmouth bass.

Many that can find

"Smallmouth"
Continued on page 6



*Zebra mussels on a Great Lakes shoreline.
photo: flatheadbeacon.com*

I Am Worried...

Jim Bedford

With the proliferation of the invasive mussels, times have gotten tougher for the sport fish that inhabit Lakes Michigan and Huron that we love to catch. Plankton levels are low and alewives that depend on plankton for food are in reduced abundance making the food available for the predators like salmon, lake trout, and steelhead tougher to come to find. With the proposed switch from trap nets to gill nets in the renewal of the consent decree times are going to get even more difficult for our prized game

fish in these Great Lakes.

My history as an avid stream angler fishing for anadromous salmonids spans many years. I caught my first steelhead in the Betsie River in 1966, when steelhead were just starting their comeback on their own after the invasive lampreys and commercial fishing had nearly wiped them out. My partners on that trip were two fellow Michigan State University fisheries graduate students, Leo Mrozinski and Dell Siler who went on to long careers as fisheries biologists with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Division. My career path took me to the working on fish contaminant issues but I never lost my zeal for river fishing for our anadromous salmonid treasures.

When the Lake Michigan Citizen's Fishery Advisory Committee was formed more than 30 years ago I was on board representing Trout Unlimited and more precisely river anglers. The committee was active in providing input to the revising of the consent decree between the Native American tribes and the sport fishermen in 2000. Much work and re-

sources were put into the switching the Native Americans over to trap netting. This allowed the release of non-target species caught in the nets (bycatch), something really important to maintaining a compatible relationship between the commercial fishing for various species of native whitefish and sportfishing

"Worried"

Continued on page 3



Search groups for MSSFA

The Quality of Fishing Reflects the Quality of Living!

**"Fish Boil"**

Continued from page 1

spouses and all of whom are members of the local Chapter. Several of them begin earlier in the day by peeling onions into two or three large plastic containers and inspecting the potatoes. In an average year, those volunteers remarkably serve

900 to 1100 meals to attendees in a four-hour time span.

Be sure not to miss out on this great event and get there early as supply is limited.

Fish Boil Recipe

Ingredients:

- 8 lbs. of Salmon, Lake Trout or Steelhead filleted and chunked approx. 1"
- 1 lb. salt
- 20 new waxy red potatoes
- 30 small onions (approximately 1 1/2-inch diameter)
- 1/2-pound butter, melted
- 10 lemon wedges

Directions:

- 1) Fill a 24-quart kettle 3/4 full of water. Place over open fire, propane burner or on stove and bring to boil. Add potatoes and 1/2 pound of salt. When boil resumes, time for 8 minutes. Then add onions wait until boil resumes then time for 2 minutes. Add fish and remaining salt. After 10 - 12 additional minutes of boiling dinner is ready. Broth may be ladled off prior to serving. Or use a slotted spoon to retrieve food from kettle.
- 2) Fish is placed on plate along with 2 potatoes and 3 onions. Melted butter is then ladled over and garnished with lemon wedge.



F150 Lightning Takes 6000lb. Camper To Cape Cod

Henry Nabors,
Metro-West Steelheader

The Plan: Deliver 6000 pound Rockwood Roo camper to son's home on Cape Cod in Dennis Port, MA with the 2023 F150 Lightning EV (131 kw battery/320 miles range/avg 2.4 miles per KW - with no trailer). Compare the Lightning vs the 2022 Expedition for this same trip in April, 2022.

Conclusion - Trip with Camper: The trip was a success. Yes, there was some RANGE ANXIETY as we crossed the mountains on I 90 between Albany, NY and Chicopee, MA (300' to 1700' in 60 miles). We now do not have a concern for taking the camper on vacations. We normally travel 250 miles between camp sites.

Conclusion - Trip home without Camper: The trip was a success! No range anxiety at all! The trip home was no different than when we traveled with the Expeditions.

General: Nancy and I use the camper when visiting Cape Cod each year since 2015. We have always pulled the camper with our

Ford Expeditions. Now we have an electric truck for this year's trip! All the fast charging stations were identified (see chart Page 2) as we expected the range to be less than half the standard. We did a test run to Toledo two weeks before this trip and got 1.1 miles at 55 mph on flat terrain (our normal speed pulling the camper).

The chart below provides a daily summary for the trip while on the highway. It also gives information about our April, 2022 trip with the Expedition and the camper; it does not have rest area stops for that trip (hard to believe that I did not record those stops).

Summary:

1. 75 miles between charges traveled; 115 miles for the Expedition.
2. 1.0 mile/kwh vs 2.4 normal; 8 mpg vs 20 mpg, Expedition
3. Total cost \$431 for the Lighting and \$552, Expedition.
4. Time charging nine hours for the three days but only four hours or less when restroom breaks, shopping and eating considered.
5. Cost for the trip was \$431 for the Lighting vs



Location Home to	Dates	Miles	Ch	KWH	Mile/ KWH	Cost \$	110v	Hours Charging	Net Time Charging	Expedition Trip to w Camper	Expedition Gas stops
Dunkirk, NY	5/18	334	5	310	1.1	\$103		3.1	1.0	\$139	3
Albany, NY	5/19	339	5	317	1.1	130		3.3	1.7	141	3
Dennis Port, MA	5/20	252	4	261	1.0	43	54	3.0	1.2	105	3
Total Towing	3 Days	925	14	888	1.0	\$276	54	9.4	3.9	\$385.00	9
Cape Cod Visit	5/21 - 29	135	1	45	3.0	25	17	.7	.7	25.00	1
Syracuse, NY	5/30	381	2	156	2.4	53		1.2	0	68.00	2
Sania, ON - Home	5/31	409	2	176	2.3	36	82	1.1	0	74.00	2
Total Cape/Return	No Camper	925	5	377	2.4	\$114	99	3.0	.7	\$167.00	5
Mi EV Tax	\$148/Yr					41				0.00	
Total		1850	19	969		\$431	100	12.4	4.6	\$552	

\$552, Expedition.

6. Emissions were over 800 lbs less with the Lighting than our 2022 Expedition.

TMI: The Lighting can travel more than 75 miles between stops but the Electrify America and other DC fast chargers I like are

about 70 miles apart. The Lighting can make 100 - 110 miles but not 150 to skip a charging session. Stop a bit more often but don't stay long and go to the restroom/eat. Charging up to 80% is fast; after that charging slows down.

Electrify America stops

charging at 90% to protect the battery. At home, I charge to the recommended 90% level unless I am going on a trip. Charging at the Charge Point Level 2 charger at Best Western Hotel in Liverpool, NY worked very well! We were able to go from 68% to 100% at 16

cents per kwh while sleeping is great! \$6.80 for 100 miles is not bad - over 80 mpg of gas.

The addition of DC fast chargers over the next two years will improve charging

"Lightning"

Continued on page 3



“Lightning” Continued from page 2

opportunities; the Ford/Tesla charging agreement should allow even more charging opportunities.

Crossing the mountain on I90 was less of a concern than we had before making that climb. The lighting was averaging 1.1 to 1.0 for the first part of the trip. The climb up the mountain dropped to average to .9 miles per kWh. Like all vehicles, the Lightning likes going into the valleys and generates charge as it slows the vehicle and load down.

It does take more time to charge an electric vehicle than putting gas in a vehicle. Net charging time is reduced when restroom visits, eating and shopping are considered. You cannot go to the restroom while pumping gas! The extra time for charging is used to do things normally done at the end of the driving day; those include email, texting, reading the news, facetime visit with family and friends, and exercise. I walk 3 miles/one hour per day on a regular basis; so my extra time includes walking!

Additional Thoughts:
No time spent stopping

for gas in the last 6 months for 2500 miles for the Lightning when not on long trips.

The Lightning is quiet, smooth and quick! Zero to 60 mph in under 4 seconds! Fun to drive with or without the camper!

Fifteen EA locations identified before leaving on the trip; the Lightning software list ALL Ford Network stations along the route. Those include EA, ChargePoint, EVgo, Greenlots, and EV Connect. The filter was set for Ford Network Fast Chargers only.

Charging with a trailer attached was not a problem. The camper blocked the lane behind the truck but other vehicles went around or approached the charger they needed from the open lane to that charger. No comments were made by anyone.

Electrify American (EA) was always available by phone to solve any questions I had while charging. I had about three charging sessions where I called to get the charging station to work - they rebooted two machines and had me move to a different charger at another location. EA operators are very patient with their customers! An operator was always available

when I called - no waiting! There were always four or more charger stations at each location.

EVgo/Charge Point are charging companies that are part of the Ford Network of chargers. Nice to have three sets of locations in case needed. I have most frequently used Electrify America.

Fun talking to other EV owners and to others that came to the charging station to ask questions about electric vehicle. There were several.

Fun to talk to people about the Lightning at locations other than charging stations.

WAY TMI:

Electrify America, which was established with money from a VW emissions cheating settlement, plans to double its number of chargers by 2026. It now has 840 stations and about 4,000 plugs.

Electrify America's goal is to have 1,700 fast-charging stations (a total of around 10,000 individual chargers) built in the United States by 2025. At the time of writing, Electrify America has 670 charging stations (around 2,900 individual CCS fast chargers) available in the U.S. This is

Mile	Distance between Chargers	City	State	Business	Address
0	0	City	State	Business	Address
91	91	Genoa	OH	Wynford Service Plaza E	6410 CO RD S65, Genoa, OH 43830
115	44	Sheffield	OH	Sheffield Crossing Giant Eagle	3233 Central Rd
200	45	Minerva	OH	Sheets 384	7777 Reynolds Rd
279	79	Lebanon	PA	Wal-Mart 2278	1825 Diverse Drive, Erie, Pa
282	4	Cambridge	OH	Wal-Mart	61205 Southgate Rd, Cambridge, OH
326	51	Frederick	NY	Wal-Mart 1988	32401 Bennett Road
371	45	Chenango	NY	Wal-Mart Supercenter	2500 Washburn Ave, Chenango, NY
443	72	Victor	NY	EV/EA	Evolve NY Victor
469		Watkins	NY	EA	Waterloo Premium Outlets
511	88	Saratoga	NY	EV/EA	Evolve NY Saratoga North
573	62	Yorktown	NY	EA	DENNIS / RED ROOF INN
646	73	Albany	NY	EA	Wal-Mart Supercenter - 3167
735	89	Chicopee	MA	EA	Chicopee Marketplace
775	40	Auburn	MA	EA	Auburn Mall (2)
811	36	Worcester	MA	EA	EA Premium Outlets
852	41	Plymouth	MA	EA	Altman Fresh Convenience Mar 24 Long Pond Road, Plymouth, Massachusetts
877	25	Hyannis	MA	EA	Cape Cod Mall - 70 Back Backside
895	18	Cape Cod	MA	Home	265 Ipswich Road, Hyannis, Massachusetts

pretty far from its goal, but as more and more electric vehicles get released, the pressure will be on to build as many fast chargers as possible.

Tesla, for example, has Superchargers capable of

150kW up to 300kW with its new V3 Superchargers, though most are still capped at 250kW.

Electrify America offers chargers from 50kW, used mostly by EVs with CHAdeMO charge ports,

150kW for EVs with CCS charge ports, as well as 350kW, which is even faster than Tesla Superchargers; however, you'll need a car with compatible fast charging to take advantage of it.

Electrify America's app does a great job at allowing you to filter the minimum charging speed, as well as displaying the price per kWh or per minute at each stall.



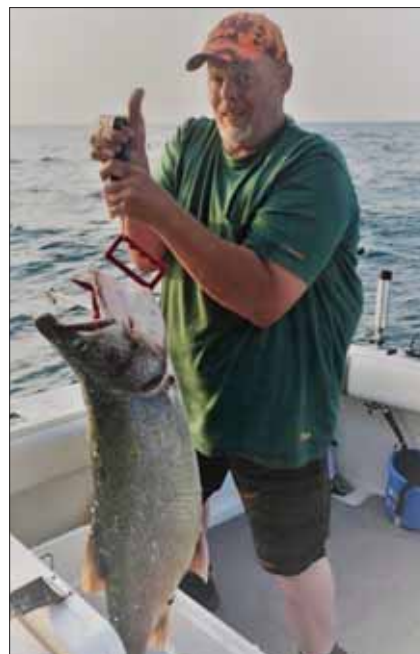
Left: Every gallon of gasoline burned creates about 8.887 grams/20 pounds of CO₂ plus other harmful stuff. Here is how you get 20 lbs of carbon dioxide from 6.3 pounds of gas.

As electrical power generation becomes greener, the Lighting numbers will improve where the ICE vehicle likely will not during an ownership period.

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Holland Update - June 20th, wire diver, 190' back, chrome frog meat rig, 115 feet of water. "Great evening with my son Ben and his friend Zach, 5 for 11 and a monster lake trout 29lbs. 13oz. Biggest trout I ever landed!"

Left: Paul Zelenka, Grand Haven Steelheader's president and state director catches 29 lb. Lake Trout.

Summer Peak Crankin'

by **Dave Csanda**
Midwest Outdoors

Mid-June typically experiences full-on summer peak conditions throughout

the North Country. Deep weed lines are at or near peak growth for the year. Many baitfish and gamefish have shifted location from the shallows out to

the first drop-off to deep basins. The lake is suddenly alive with activity, with fish feeding voraciously. It's a good time to be a big fish—and the anglers who



Dave Csanda suggests using crankbaits—cast or trolled—to turn up the heat and trigger bass, walleyes and pike this summer.

are out to catch them.

Focus much of your daytime fishing efforts along deep weed lines and primary drop-offs to deep water where gamefish are schooling in heavy numbers. It's not uncommon to pull up to a point or inside turn along this outer edge and pop 10 or 12 bass, a few good-sized pike, and maybe a handful of walleyes—all off the same spot! All species are on the chew!

It's one of the best times of the year to cover water quickly, searching for active biters. As such, these are prime conditions to throw deep-diving crankbaits, parallel casting along the outer weed edge or drop-off. If the weeds don't rise all the way to the surface (yet), rig a second rod with a crank that dives just deep enough to tickle the tops of the adjacent weeds. Make a few casts along the drop with the deep diver, followed by a spray of casts across the nearby weed tops with the shallower lure, covering the edge area both shallow and deep.

Need to cover more water to locate fish, or to trigger strikes with enhanced speed? Try trolling those same crankbaits along the

same weed lines and drop-offs, occasionally brushing the outer edge of the weeds or bouncing bottom along the drop-off. Watching your electronics, if you see you missed the desired trolling path and are about to plow your lure into the weeds, simply slow down or stop, allowing your floating lure to rise to the surface. Then simply creep out to deeper water and resume trolling.

Using deep-diving, buoyant crankbaits allows your baits to reach the desired depths while trolled on fairly short lines behind the boat at 2 to 2 1/2 mph. Short lines allow you to steer the boat to weave your lures in and out of depressions and curves along the outer weed edge, bet-

"Crankbait"

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2022 Tentative Print Schedule		
Issue	Deadline	Print Date
1	12/12/22	01/04/23
2	02/13/23	03/03/23
3	04/14/23	05/05/23
4	06/14/23	07/07/23
5	08/14/23	09/01/23
6	10/13/23	11/01/23

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

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

The proposed consent decree hearings took place on May 24th and 25th in Kalamazoo, MI District Court. I attended as did the major board members in the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources. The Court heard oral argument on all of CPMR's objections and on forty-one of the Sault Tribe's objections. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Court indicated that it would provide the Stipulating Parties, the Sault Tribe, and CPMR with the opportunity to expand the record with expert testimony on the issues of harvest limits, mortality rates, proposed gillnet use expansion, and gillnet bycatch if they so desired. However, according to Judge Maloney, no party requested the scheduling of such an evidentiary hearing. Upon the Court's review of the objections, responses, and supporting attachments, the Court decided not to require expert testimony to resolve the objections to the Proposed Decree, especially given that no party

requested expansion of the record. Instead, "the Stipulating Parties, the Sault Tribe, and CPMR each may, within twenty-eight days of the date of this order, file proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to any issue raised in the Sault Tribe and CPMR's objections. Upon the Court's review of the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Court will decide whether to approve the Proposed Decree." Given this shocking change of course by the court, it appears that the Proposed Decree could be approved by the court by the end of July.

I testified before the Senate Natural Resources Committee on May 16th in support of the Guiding Bills being considered. Sen. John Cherry is the key sponsor and Senators Daley and McCann are co-sponsors. Testimony may be viewed on-line by going to Michigan Senate Home, Senate TV, Video Archives. Playlists (Upper right-hand corner of the landing page),

then scroll to Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee, 23-05-16. If you wish to move forward to my testimony scroll the

video bar at the bottom of the screen to 3:52:20 and hear MSSFA's support for the bills.

Finally, after being alerted to a newspaper article about a developer in Muskegon approaching the city planning commission about the feasibility of developing an indoor fish farming operation connecting to the city's waste water treatment facility, I contacted Michael Thome, DVM with MDARD to see if the developer had reached out

to the State of Michigan regarding a potential aquaculture facility in Muskegon and its associated environmental impacts. He told me, "Currently, an application for aquaculture facility permit has not yet been received by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for this facility. If and when one is, it will be carefully reviewed by myself and my colleagues at Michigan Departments of Natural Resources and Environment,

Great Lakes, and Energy."

We will continue to monitor this potential development but it may not be a bad idea since the water treatment facility was built to handle Muskegon's large industrial complex in the 1970's which has subsequently dwindled to the point where now homeowners in the city are encumbered with the cost of running the vast operation.

MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dennis Eade



CPMR Team attends Consent Decree Court Hearings in Kalamazoo, MI

L – R Top row: Bill Winowiecki, MCBA, Tony Radjenovich, CPMR

L – R Middle Row: Chris Patterson, Attorney, Dennis Eade, MSSFA, Nick Green, MUCC

L – R Bottom Row: Frank Krist, Hammond Bay Anglers, Amy Trotter, MUCC, Steve Shultz

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"Smallmouth" Continued from page 1

some time will tell you summer bass fishing can be phenomenal post-spawn if you can find them. The weather, temps, and winds greatly influence your success. Knowing what to look for will be critical.

When water temps climb from 64 – 80 plus degrees in June and July, deeper water is your friend. Post spawn, the fish will put on the feed big time. They are giving the angler a chance at some quality fishing. I mainly focus on 16 feet or deeper water to find them in the summer. Any structure will be the ticket, like boulders, rock piles, reefs, points, underwater humps, weed beds, ledges, and drop-offs.

Remember one crucial fact about structure it usually goes nowhere. So, once these key places are found, you can return every year and catch these fish.

Favorite Baits

Matching the forage base is critical. If you see gobies, crawfish, or schools of alewives, smelt, or shiners, that's what they are feeding on. Try to match the presentation to the bait

you're seeing, and you will not believe the numbers you can put on the board in a day of fishing.

My favorite lure sizes are in the 2 1/2 – 4 1/2-inch range for smallies. However, bigger baits sometimes take bigger fish, leaving nothing on the table. Pay attention to what caused you to get bitten. One day they want a tube dragged on the bottom; other times, they want it hopped or sometimes cracked and jerked erratically.

The goby has provided an unlimited food supply to fatten these smallmouths up. This fishery is very healthy with many year classes. The tournament anglers routinely weigh a daily bag of 25 lbs and bigger. You will not place in the top 10 without a bag that heavy.

Never underestimate the fall rate of a tube. Some days, a lighter tube, like 3/8 ounce, is the ticket. But other days, when the wind is high, you may have to go up to one oz. Every day is an experiment; let the fish tell you what they want.

If you asked me my most productive methods for smallmouth, hands down, it would be a tube jig and drop shot. Learn and

"Crankbait" Continued from page 4

ter keeping your baits in the fish zone. Longer lines

fish; these two methods put fish in the boat. Everyone preaches green pumpkin color, but have you ever tried a grey tube in salt/pepper or blue/gold flake? Not to mention purple. Smallmouth love it.

Gear and Tips

I love 7-foot to 7'3" rods in Medium Heavy for Tubes and for drop shot. I love to run my spinning reels with a 10-15 lb. braid with a 6-10lb fluorocarbon leader tied in.

I use Pro-Cure gel-based scents religiously. Give Goby, Smelt, and Emerald Shiner a try. It can make all the difference in a heavier bag on tough day bites.

Watch hook size and hook diameter. A light wire hook is the king in the world of smallmouth. Take the time to sharpen your hooks. Sharp hooks catch more fish, period!

This time of year produces some big smallmouth, and 3-6 lbs are typical. Take advantage of this species this summer.

Your job is simple: Pick a lake and go fishing; you won't regret it.

work better with straight trolling passes, but they reduce your ability to adjust your trolling path and your lures could miss key feed-

ing spots along the outer weed edge.

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Salmon in the Classroom Fish Release

by Rich Chapman

On Friday May 12, two classes from North Shore Elementary School in South Haven released the fish from their Salmon in the Classroom Program. The 4th graders from Jennifer Hood's class and the 5th graders from Barb Raak's class had the chance to release 180 chinook salmon one at a time into the Black

River in South Haven. I spoke to them briefly prior to the release about what the Steelheaders are about including our support of this program. The kids had a great time and I was supported by South Haven member Dan Strong, and three members of the local Rotary Club, Tom Renner, Art Ayres and Jerry Portman. Both teachers have been in the program

for a few years and plan on continuing the effort. Thank you to the teachers, students, The South Haven Rotary and The Steelheaders for their support of this project.



Two classes in South Haven, MI released their Salmon in the Classroom fish



Jennifer Hood's 4th grade class



Barb Raak's 5th grade class

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"Worried"

Continued from page 1

for stocked salmon, steelhead, and brown trout. Native lake trout fall in between but at the time we were also trying to bring back lakera to their former abundance as a naturally reproducing stock after overfishing and lamprey predation had greatly reduced their numbers.

Modern gillnets are now made with fluorocarbon monofilaments and are virtually invisible to fish as their refractive index is nearly the same as for water. The thought of many miles of gillnets killing steelhead and salmon has me very upset. A tremendous waste!!

In my opinion the 2000 Consent Decree has been very fair and has worked well while the proposed new decree in combination with the heavy concentration of invasive mussels that are present may very well end both sport and commercial fishing in Lakes Michigan and Huron. That will be a very sad day for this diehard steelhead angler.

As I write this in late May the judge has asked for more information from the DNR Tribal Unit and the Tribes relative to possible harvest limits, natural mortality rates, gill net mortality rates, and the likely by catch rates. Getting this information will take time and delays are a good thing if it helps all parties come to their senses and allows a consent decree to be formulated that will allow sustainable sport and commercial harvests of the fish in our precious Great Lakes. The obvious key word is sustainable!

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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 its **January Special Edition** or "**Show Edition**" that is seen at all the spring expos and sport, boat and fishing shows throughout the Great Lakes.

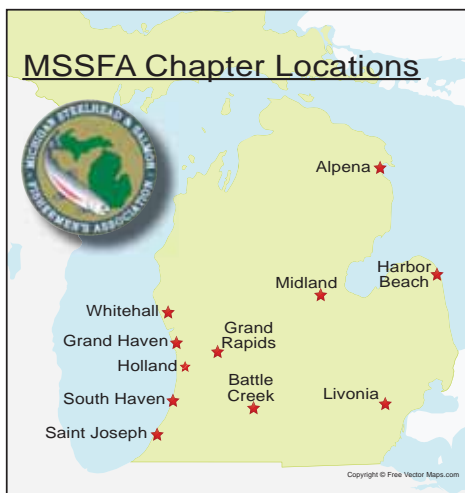
Information in the paper covers the entire Great Lakes Basin region from Minnesota to New York including all five of the Great Lakes and their tributary streams.

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Tail-Dancing Steelhead Put on a Show

by Lee Haasch

midwestoutdoors.com

Grey, wispy clouds to the east covered the stars and gave way to partly cloudy skies in the west, half covering the sliver of moon occasionally peaking in and out. My favorite time of the year is here, and this morning looks to be a dandy. I unhooked the last line and pushed the Grand Illusion 3 away from the dock as Capt. Trevor slid her into gear and headed toward the lighthouse. "Let's head a little south and set on our lines from yesterday; those steelhead should still be close by," I suggested to Trevor as I grabbed my coffee for the ride out.

By this time of year, shallow-water brown trout fishing has usually slowed as the browns seem to slide deeper and are not as active. Sometimes early in the month, the kings are just getting started, but if you venture deeper in the lake, you can find temperature breaks forming on the surface. On those breaks, you can find feisty steelhead actively feeding on early season hatches of bugs and small young-of-the-year alewives that are found in schools near the surface. These silver torpedoes are cruising and darting high in the water column, and they are putting the feed bag on!

I set my deep diver with a flasher and fly set-up. Next was the high Slide Diver with a blinking B &

E spoon. This is my go-to spoon for steelies; the blinking LED light is a magnet for the fast-cruising, sight-feeding steelhead.

I just set that Ugly Stik in the rod holder when Trevor shouted, "Fish on! Grab your diver." That didn't take long, my Ugly Stik was pounding towards the water and the drag was screaming. "Who's up?" I shouted as I handed the pole off to my customer. "I'll keep setting lines Trev, you take the fish," I instructed. Trevor cleared the back, and as he reached for the net, he yelled out, "Another fish! Who's up." And he grabbed the pounding rod, working the front end of my Blinky spoon. "Here it goes again! That one was hot yesterday!" he added. Minutes later, he slid the net under a feisty 17-pound king salmon, flopped it on the deck, and then turned to scoop a nice lake trout to complete the double.

After very mild winter temperatures in the Lake Michigan region, we are seeing water temperatures a bit warmer than usual to start the fishing season. This should lead to an earlier-than-normal start to both kings and steelhead. While the thrill of the long, hard runs of a king salmon slamming your line is hard to beat, calm, bright, sunny days often bring a thrill like no other when feisty steelhead smack a shallow-running, brightly flashing



spoon and soar skyward, leading to long, aerobic battles.

"Furiously fast" is the trademark of spring fishing. Early mornings often deliver a mixed bag of salmon and trout. Once the lake turns over in spring (warm water rises to the surface and cooler water sinks to the bottom), thermoclines start to set up. The sun warms the surface water on calm days and

further helps to set more distinct temperature breaks. The warm water side of the breaks will attract and hold more baitfish, and that attracts hungry king salmon and steelhead. They're perfect ambush sites to target. Following these breaks from day to day helps you to stay on the fish.

Steelhead were on our minds this morning, and it wasn't long before we ran into some. The sun had popped above the horizon sometime during that last little flurry of activity, and the clear skies made for dark shadows cast on the deck, mimicking our every movement. "Fish on! Five-color, look at him jump!" Trevor shouted. It was on. The first steelhead of the day was dancing at the end of our far line and the anglers were in awe and counting the jumps—six, seven, eight—and cheering in total awe of the dancing acrobatics. Minutes later, Trevor stabbed the net under the sleek steelie.

Steelhead are mostly sight feeders. These fast-swimming torpedoes can cover a lot of water in no time and are consistently attracted by the flash of the lure. I like to target them in the top 25 feet of the water column. This is where they spend the majority of their feeding time, targeting younger alewives that tend to feed near the surface. Also, as older alewives weaken, they make



their way up in the water column and become a sizeable meal for steelhead. Steelies also like to surface feed on bugs that accumulate on temperature breaks that we call slick lines or scum lines. Targeting these areas by weaving back and forth along these lines is a very productive and visible way to fish steelies.

Spoons are undoubtedly the number one go to bait to catch steelhead. I have found that lures that have

orange, yellow or red are most effective. Just as effective as the silver flash is spoons with blinking LED lights in their eyes. Anything that attracts the fish's attention and triggers a strike is good. I tend to drag the lighter, shinier baits on sunny days and darker, more colorful baits on overcast or darker days. Also, because these powerful fish are such fast swimmers, pulling more spoons, which are very speed forgiving, picking up your speed and covering more water will increase your catch.

June is a great time to target steelhead as the surface water warms up for the colder winter months. As a bonus, we tend to see coho salmon making their way up the shoreline as the water warms, which makes for a great mixed bag in the cooler. So, turn up the speed, drag some orange and red spoons, and get ready to experience some tail-dancing, acrobatic leaping steelhead action and fill your cooler with some of the tastiest grilling fare you will catch this summer!

For more information or current fishing reports, visit my website at FishAlgoma.com, follow Haasch Guide Service on Facebook or call me at 920-255-0604.



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EXPLOSIVE LARGEMOUTH

by Bob Jensen

It's been several years since I started using artificial frogs for largemouth bass. Before that, friends and I had used live frogs as catfish bait and I never liked it that much. I didn't enjoy putting a live frog on a hook and offering it to a hungry catfish. At some point, no matter how effective the frogs were for catfish, I decided "no more". I'll find another way to catch 'em.

One day while fishing with bass expert Mike Frisch, he suggested that we throw frogs around for largemouth bass. After he explained that these were fake frogs, I agreed to participate. I'm glad I did. And while I still won't use live frogs for fishing, I'll gladly cast plastic frogs into bassy looking places.

Using artificial frogs for largemouth bass is very visual. You'll see every strike: Sometimes the bass will lightly slurp the frog off the surface, other times they'll smash it. Often a wake in the water will reveal the approach of a hungry bass. Other times you'll see the lily-pads or reeds moving as the bass approaches. It's one of the most exciting ways to catch largemouth bass.

This is mostly a shallow water pattern. Approach the area to be fished quietly. If you make too much noise, you'll often see the water boil as the bass spook out of the area. Moving into the shallows with the outboard running will spook them as will dropping equipment on the floor of the boat. Quick motions can spook fish. Some shallow water experts suggest wearing clothing colors that blend in with the sky. The sky is the background to what the fish see, and light colored clothing blends in with the sky better than dark clothing.

Now that you're in the area to be fished, you need a bait. You want something that will come through the heavy cover without getting hung up. A KVD Poppin' Perch, Sexy Frog, or a Hack Attack Pad Perch will do that. They all have a different action in the water, and sometimes a particular action will be more appealing to the bass. For instance, the Poppin' Perch creates more noise than the Frog. Everyone in the boat should be throwing something different until the fish reveal their preference.

Fish quickly and cover water. Cast to the edges of the vegetation, and also cast beyond the heaviest clumps and retrieve your bait so it goes right through the middle of those heavy clumps. Try a straight retrieve, but also experiment with a stop and go retrieve. A strike will often occur as the bait starts moving after a pause.

One of the keys is to try not to get too excited when a fish hits, and this can be hard to do. When you see the strike, drop the tip of your rod to the fish, then set the hook hard.

This is heavy cover fishing, so you need equipment designed for heavy cover. Fifty pound test line is a good starting point. There are rods made just for froggin', but I like a Lew's Flippin' rod due to its versatility. It does a good job with frogs, but also is outstanding for pitching jigs and casting spinnerbaits.

If this visual action sounds like something that you would enjoy, it's going on now and will throughout the rest of the summer and into the fall. Get some artificial frogs, leave the real ones alone, and find out how much fun and productive this shallow water bass action can be.



A fake frog and a heavy duty rod, reel, and line will take largemouth bass from the heaviest cover.

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Panfish Bait of the Future?

by Ted Pilgrim
midwestoutdoors.com

Even among the nation's best bass anglers, words like big crappies attract a captive audience. During tournament off-seasons or anytime they're up for a change of pace, many bass fans go hot on the trail of their favorite panfish—silvery, palm-stretching wraiths evocatively known as “hubcaps.” Hundred-fish days and flaky-white filets—battered, seasoned and sizzling in a skillet—prompt even the most jaded anglers to drop what they're doing and beeline for the nearest crappie hole.

While driving home from his latest bass derby, Major League Fishing pro David Walker found himself daydreaming about his local crappie lake and the makings of an epic fish fry. “After a hectic bass tourney, I love coming home and catching a boatload of crappies with my daughters,” says Walker, a wizard with a small jig and soft-bait.

A lifelong panfish pursuer, Walker has discovered something exciting in the arena of soft plastic baits for crappies, perch and bluegills—an idea that occurred to him while fishing bass tournaments.

Superplastics

“When I first started throwing so-called ‘super-plastics’ for bass, I quickly learned an almost magical advantage of the ElaZtech material: that panfish and other nuisance fish couldn't peck the tails off the back of your bass jigs,” recalls Walker. “While bass fishing with traditional soft plastics, it's always been a headache and major time waster when you've got perch, sunfish and other tail-pecking fish in the area. But using these ElaZtech baits, I realized panfish could peck them all they



wanted. I could stay in the game, non-stop, without constantly grabbing and re-rigging a new bait.”

All the while, Walker was thinking about crappies. He knew that ElaZtech's advantages held tremendous panfish potential. “This material is wonder-

fully soft and lively, making it easy to activate, so it moves and undulates fluidly in the water,” he notes.

“Like most anglers, I accepted for years that traditional panfish-sized soft plastics just don't move that well underwater. Because they're relatively rigid, traditional soft crappie baits tend to lose action the smaller you make them. So, you often had to resort to larger baits than you wanted or had to retrieve them faster to achieve the desired tail movement or the right swimming action. Neither

are ideal for a fish that often exhibits size and speed selectivity in their feeding habits.

“When I started fishing ElaZtech, I was excited about its advantages for bass. But secretly, I couldn't wait to throw the baits for panfish. Combine



a super-soft, lively bait with crazy durability and you quickly appreciate what I'm saying. This stuff has all the makings of the perfect panfish bait.”

while I can benefit from the extra casting weight of the 1/10-ounce jig, the rigged bait flutters and fishes more like a 1/16-ouncer. And it still exhibits that nice little tail kick on the fall that in-

bait.”

One other tip for triggering cool-water crappies, says Walker, involves the sniff test. “Scent is the final factor for triggering bites—especially big crappies in cool water. But not all scent attractants work the same.”

“There's a natural connection between oil-based attractants and ElaZtech baits. Pro-Cure Super Gel Crappie & Panfish formula, for example, sticks to the material like glue. I like to marinate baits by squeezing a decent amount of the goo into bait bags. Let it sit overnight or longer. Like marinading a nice steak, Pro-Cure-soaked baits just get better and better. And after fishing a bait for an hour or so, when you no longer feel or smell the sticky stuff, simply drop it back into the bag, spread it



Slow-Sink Swimbaits

A few days after the finish of a recent bass tournament, Walker found himself on his favorite crappie lake. He spotted aqua-blue packs of Z-Man baits lying on his boat deck and a light bulb ignited. “I grabbed a pack of Shad FryZ—a slick, little, 1 3/4-inch paddletail swimbait—and put it on an 1/10-ounce Micro Finesse ShroomZ panfish jig. Almost immediately, it became my favorite crappie bait.”

From the first few casts, Walker noticed that the bait's tail was easy to activate—even at slow retrieve speeds. “The Shad FryZ is one of those rare crappie-sized swimbaits whose tail will wag and thump even as it's falling. Crappies can be really speed sensitive in terms of lure retrieves and drop speed. Too many traditional crappie baits require excessive speed to activate them; often, that's too fast for crappies, especially in cooler water.”

Walker, a deep-thinking angler who's always conjuring ways to maximize lure performance, suggests that bait buoyancy and rate-of-fall remain two ignored factors in the crappie-catching equation. “Consider that the natural buoyancy of the Shad FryZ slows its sink rate. So,

duces bites.

“As veteran anglers know, crappies primarily feed up,” Walker continues. “So, keeping your lure at or a few feet above their eye level is of utmost importance, especially in spring.”

Unlike traditional PVC soft plastics, which sink, Walker notes that ElaZtech baits float, slowing the drop-speed of the jighead. “That's something you simply can't do with other crappie baits, because traditional plastisol baits sink fast—often shooting right through the active strike zones of crappies and other panfish.”

Softbait Hacks

To further tweak rate of fall, Walker spoos with “straight 6- or 8-pound test braided line and no leader,” he suggests. “After trying those micro-thin 2-, 3- and 4-pound test braids, I realized that thicker-diameter braid, which floats, slows the lure's rate of fall a bit more.”

Walker adds a tip for creating a semi-permanent “lure” that catches dozens of fish without replacing the tail. “Add a drop of Loctite Gel Control glue to the jighead before threading on the Shad FryZ,” he explains. “This locks the bait in place and has allowed me to catch close to 50 crappies on one single

around, and you're back in business.”

While springtime anglers typically target shallow-water fish, Walker prefers to pursue bigger, less-pressured crappies in 5 to 15 feet of water—just outside eventual spawning zones. “Simply count the lure down to the right depth and begin a slow, steady retrieve. While retrieving, I'll pause every 5 to 10 seconds. Let the bait stop and hang momentarily. I know the tail will hover; it won't drop unnaturally below the jighead and turn fish off. It's a real key to ‘talking’ lethargic crappies into biting.”

“As a bass angler familiar with the toughness of ElaZtech, I spent years trying to slice and customize bigger worms into panfish-sized offerings. They worked, but the new Micro Finesse baits give me panfish profiles and actions I'm after, no knife needed.”

“As more and more crappie anglers discover the advantages of superplastics for panfish—buoyant, super-soft and easy to activate and surprisingly durable—we'll all be sitting down for a lot more crappie dinners.”

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The Best Way to Freeze Fish

by Dockline Blog

www.mercurymarine.com

So, you've just gotten back from a successful day on the water, where you reeled in a gorgeous haul of

good-eatin' fish. And while your plan is to fry some up for your evening supper, you've got more than you

could possibly eat in one sitting. What will you do with the remainder of your catch?



Photo credit: www.pacfood.com.au

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Easy! Break out the vacuum sealer and freeze the rest for another time.

With the right equipment, sealing and freezing fresh fish is a simple and effective way to extend the shelf life of your catch. Florida Sport Fishing Magazine founder and creator and host of Florida Sport Fishing TV Capt. Mike Genoun demonstrates how he tackles the job, showing just how fun and easy it can be.

Here's how Capt. Mike goes about it:

Be sure to start the process with the freshest fish possible. Like anything else, what you end up with is directly related to what you put in.

Almost as important as the freshness of your fish is the quality of your vacuum sealer. Be sure you purchase a high-quality sealer. While a premium-grade sealer might cost you a bit more up front, it will be well worth the investment. A higher quality sealer will last longer and deliver a better seal, which will help preserve your fish longer as well as prevent freezer burn. And it'll do a better job of vacuuming out all the air and getting a good seal when there's residual moisture on the fish.

Now, before you begin the process of vacuum sealing, it's absolutely critical that your fish be as dry as you can get it. Remove as much moisture from your fish as possible by wiping it with clean, dry paper towels. The drier the fish is, the better your seal will be, and the longer your catch will keep in the freezer. When done correctly, vacuum-sealed fish can keep for up to a year in the freezer. And when you go to eat it, only you will know it wasn't just pulled out of the water.

As for the skin, Capt. Mike likes to leave it on because he believes it helps hold the meat together when it's in the freezer. It also makes it easier to identify the species of fish. However, labeling your bag with the species of fish and

the date is still a very good idea. That way, there'll be no confusion. And remember, when it comes to keeping fish, always make sure you're following state regulations regarding possession limits and verification of species and date caught.

Now that your fish is nice and dry, the next thing you'll want to do is trim it, removing the bloodline and bones. The bloodline has a strong fishy flavor, so removing it, along with the bones, will, according to Capt. Mike, help to ensure a greater level of freshness when you go to enjoy your catch.

Next, be sure you cut your fish into pieces that will easily fit inside the bags, paying attention not to pile the fillets on top of one another. Piling them on top of one another in the bag can lead to freezer burn, which will compromise the flavor of your fish.

Finally, with your fish dry and neatly packed inside the bags, it's time to seal them up, label them if you haven't already done so, and pop them in the freezer.

When you're ready to eat your frozen fish, be sure to allow enough time for the fish to thaw naturally, pulling it from the freezer a day before you're planning on consuming it. And never microwave fish! Not only can it dry fish out, it's also incredibly easy to thaw it for too long in the microwave, causing an otherwise delicious piece of fish to go chewy. On top of that, microwaving fish can be pretty stinky.

Oh, and while vacuum sealing your catch is a great way to preserve it for another time, be sure to only harvest what you can realistically consume.

For more information on Florida Sport Fishing magazine and TV, visit FloridaSportFishing.com. You can also follow Florida Sport Fishing and Capt. Mike on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter.



2023 Battle Creek Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Location
July	15	Panfish / Family Picnic	Portage Lake
August	5	Lake Michigan Memorial	South Haven
August	19	Veterans Outing	South Haven
October	28	Kalamazoo River Salmon Slam	Allegan Dam
November	11	Kalamazoo River Trout Quest	Allegan Dam
November	18	Kalamazoo River Memorial	Allegan Dam
November	25	St. Joe River Fall Steelhead	I-94 Boat Ramp
December	2	St. Joe River Chapter Challenge	Babe's Lounge
December	9	Christmas Party	Kalamazoo Eagles

Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting
Meeting Location: Travelers Cafe and Pub, 5225 Portage Rd. Exit 78 off I-94.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
River Tournament - Joe Foy at 269-303-1894 / Lake Tournament - Dan Foster at 269-370-3693
battlecreeksteelheaders.com

2023 Grand Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Contact Info
July 28 - August 10		Weeklong Plus Event	
August	10	Picnic	
September	9	Sportsman For Youth	
December	TBD	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

2023 Grand Rapids Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information
July	12	Picnic at 6pm, no member meeting	Details in the spring
*August	5	GR/GH Chapter Challenge/Double D Big Lake Tournament	GR - Don Remington, GH - Paul Zelenka Details in the spring
August	28	Speaker: TBD	
September	25	Speaker: TBD	
*October	27-29	Fall Rier Fishing Contest	Spencer Kroesing
October	30	Speaker: TBD	
*November	11	Fall Fishing Partners	Contact Steve Heintzelman
November	27	Speaker: In-House Speaker	
December	11	Christmas Party - watch for details	Members & Family only

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

** Fishing Outings are subject to change based on weather conditions**

2023 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
July	1	Linwood / AuGres TBD
July	15	Manistee
July	29	Ludington
August	12	Ludington (2-Day)
August	26	Manistee (2-Day)
September	9	Manistee / Frankfort TBD

Membership meetings held at: 3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642 Phone: 989-496-3410

Board meetings begin at 7:00pm. Please call the Port Chairman no later than Monday prior to the outing whether you plan on attending or not attending. On the day of the outing, call in on Marine Radio, Channel 72.

Weigh-in follows each outing. Picnics follows weigh-in on Saturdays only.
Outings: All Steelheader members pay \$5.00. All non-Steelheaders pay \$10.00 to participate.
Children 16 and Under are free. Picnic is \$5.00 for everyone.

If interested in fishing with us please contact: Gary Decker at 989-859-7472
Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com

2023 Holland Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
July	8	Fishing with Veterans
July	10	Board Meeting
July	27	Membership Meeting
July	29	Summer Challenge
August	4-6	Big Red Classic Fishing Tournament
August	7	Board Meeting
August	19	Ladies Tournament
August	22	Fishing League Final Night
September	11	Board Meeting
October	2	Board Meeting
November	6	Board Meeting
November	11	River Tournament
December	2	River Tournament
December	4	Board Meeting
December	7	Membership 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 Jeremy Erdman 616-510-9405,
or email Steve Weatherwax at Waxer1221@yahoo.com

2023 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Chair / Location
July	8	Tippy Dam Back Water Kayak/SB	Eric Braden
July	11	Club Summer Picnic	Jim Robertson / Dave Zawacki
July	14	Erieau Tournament - Saturday (Erieau, Canada)	Henry Nabors / Ron Bellemore
July	15	Huron River Kayak (Argo to Barton Dam)	Keith Childs
July	15	Manistee River Cleanup Day @ High Bridge	Roger Hinchcliff
July	27	Ludington Salmon Tournament - Thursday	Gale Frazee / Tom Abdelnour
July	29	Ludington Salmon Tournament - Saturday	Dave & Kim Zawacki
July	30	Ludington Salmon Tournament - Sunday	Chair: Henry Nabors
August	1	General Membership Meeting	
August	12	Salmon Tournament - Manistee - Saturday	Henry Nabors / Dave Hutton
August	13	Salmon Tournament - Manistee - Sunday	Marc / Kirk Traver
August	19	Lake Tournament - Frankfort	Robert Grech / Chris Christoph
August	20	Salmon Tournament - Frankfort	Bill Dodge / Robert Grech
August	26	PM Lake Kayak / Small Boat	Eric Braden
September	5	General Membership Meeting	
September	9	Manistee River & Pier Tournaments	Adam Trenz - River, Chair: Eric Braden
September	18	Captain/Crew/River Angler 2023 Calendar Mtg	Kelley/Trenz/Nabors/Zawacki
September	23	Muskegon Lake Salmon Camp Out Kayak/SB	Keith Childs
September	30	Manistee River Tournaments & Lake Kayak/SB	Fabian Sepulveda / Eric Braden
October	3	General Membership Meeting	
October	7	SE Michigan Brown/Rainbow Trout River Event	Abdulkarim/Nabors/Somers
October	21	Ludington Pier/Beach Event	Eric Braden
November	4	Manistee River/Pier/Shore Tournaments w/ DS	Dave Zawacki/Eric Braden/Adam Trenz
November	7	General Membership Meeting	
December	2	PM River Tournament	Marc Traver/Adam Trenz
December	5	Christmas Party - Happy Holidays!	
December	9	Huron River Tournament	Hinchcliff/Brown

Metro West Steelheaders Calendar for August through December 2023
will be available in the next issue of Great Lakes Sport Fishing News.

**** ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC****

7:00 PM at The New Livonia Seniors Center at the Southeast Corner of Farmington Road and Five Mile Road
WEB Site: Go to www.metroweststeelheaders.org
If you have questions, contact Henry Nabors - HHNabors@gmail.com or call 248-225 4964.

Contact: President Bob Schulz, bobschulz7@gmail.com, 248-915-0043
Membership Director Henry Nabors 248-225-4964

2023 South Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
July	10	Membership Meeting
August	10	Membership Meeting *prior to the Annual Fish Boil
August	12	SHS Fish Boil (Blueberry Festival - August 11-13)
August	19	SHS Operation Injured Soldier / SH Salute to Veterans

South Haven Steelheaders Calendar for September through December 2023
will be available in the next issue of Great Lakes Sport Fishing News.

Note: SH Steelheaders (SHS) Chapter Events in **BOLD**

= Not Confirmed
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: president@southhavensteelheaders.com

2023 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.swmsteelheaders.com www.facebook.com/southwestmichigansteelheaders
December	2	Winter Challenge Tournament	St. Joseph River / Weigh-in @ Babe's Lounge
			Membership Meetings Held at: St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks 541, 601 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor MI 49022 Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM, Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM, Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784

2023 Thumb Chapter Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location / Information
July	13	7:30pm	Regular Mtg - Speaker: TBD	Ubley Foxhunters
October	19	7:30pm	Regular Mtg - Speaker: TBD Election of Board/Officers	Ubley Foxhunters

Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries.

2023 Thunderbay Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Information
July	10	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
August	7	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
August	25-26	7:00pm	Captains Meeting - Roger City Harbor / Roger City Tournament
September	4	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
December	5	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting

Contact Dan Bouchard at dan-bouchard@hotmail.com for inquiries.

2023 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.			
July			No meeting this month
August	3	6:30	Member meeting
September	7	6:30	Member meeting
October	5	6:30	Member meeting
November	2	6:30	Member meeting
December	7	6:30	Member meeting

Join a Chapter, Join the Fun!

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

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Above: Mr. Crappie, Wally Marshall, said to himself "I wonder if there's a crappie in those flooded trees." There was.

I Wonder If...?

by Bob Jensen

In the past many years, I've had the almost always wonderful opportunity to fish with a lot of different anglers in a lot of different places for several different species of fish. There were days when we caught a lot of fish and days when we didn't catch so many. We've also employed a lot of different fishing techniques. Most of them were very common traditional techniques. But there were times when we changed our approach in an attempt to catch more fish. Almost always, our change in approach would start with the three words "I wonder if." Following are some success stories that started with "I wonder if."

One of those memorable adventures took place on a river near Winnipeg Manitoba. A couple friends and I had heard that big channel catfish could be caught on this river. We spent two days fishing for and catching those catfish. They were regularly eating the dead minnows and the other natural baits that we offered them. Every third or fourth fish that we caught was a larger than average walleye. At some point, one of us said "I wonder if we could catch more walleyes if we used crankbaits?" It seemed natural that since we were in Canada we should fish walleyes at least for a little while. So we tied on crankbaits and started trolling. The result: The best afternoon of walleye catching that I've ever experienced. I caught a walleye in the thirty three inch range that I think is my best ever. "I wonder if" certainly paid off in this situation.

Here's another "I wonder if" walleye experience. A friend and I were on a Midwest lake. The walleyes on this body of water like to be in windblown areas. We were fishing the

ten to twelve foot depths off a windblown point. The boat operator wasn't paying as much attention as I should have been and we drifted into shallower water, and while in those shallows, we both hooked walleyes directly under the boat. As we moved slowly back into deeper water, the question was asked "I wonder if there are more walleyes in the shallow water?"

We started casting jigs and minnows to the shallows and, for the next hour, caught lots of walleyes. Not big ones, but they were certainly fun on 6 pound line and medium light rods. "I wonder if" wins again.

One last walleye related "I wonder if" experience. It was late spring and a group of us were going to chase walleyes on a Minnesota lake. I got to the boat ramp early. There was a rocky point at the mouth of a nearby bay that usually held some walleyes at this time of year, so I threw a jig and minnow around that point while I waited for my friends to arrive. After catching a couple of small northern pike and having some bite-offs, I said to myself "I wonder if there are any bigger pike around?" I tied on a minnow look-alike suspending jerkbait, something like a KVD 300, and started throwing it around the rocky point. I quickly learned that there were several much larger pike in the area and they were very willing to eat my jerkbait. Another "I wonder if" that paid off bigtime.

I've had a few "I wonder if" adventures that were successful and some that were terrible failures. I'm guessing most anglers have had similar "I wonder if" experiences. My suggestion is that, next time you're fishing and have an "I wonder if" idea, give it a shot. You'll never know unless you try.

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**2023 MSSFA
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August 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM on TEAMS

October 18, 2023 at 6:00 PM on TEAMS

December 20, 2023 at 6:00 PM on TEAMS



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