



# THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

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## On The Road – With Sea Lampreys!

By Lauren Holbrook  
Great Lakes Fishery  
Commission, USGS Great  
Lakes Science Center

If you are familiar with MSSFA, you are likely aware of sea lampreys, parasitic “vampire” fish that invaded the Great Lakes through shipping canals in the early 1900s. The sea lamprey—using its tooth-filled mouth—rasps holes into fish and feeds on their blood and fluids. Each sea lamprey can destroy up to 40 pounds of fish in 12-18 months. As they spread throughout the Great Lakes in the mid-1900s, they devastated the region’s commercial and recreational fisheries.

In response to this destruction brought on by sea lampreys, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) was established



Above and Right: The commission has two sizes of displays to accommodate different venues. Both contain information about the sea lamprey control program and a tank of live sea lampreys. Photos: A. Miehl, GLFC

by the United States and Canada through the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries. The GLFC has the responsibility to support fisheries research, control invasive sea lampreys in the Great Lakes, and facilitate implementation of A Joint Strategic Plan

for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries, a provincial, state, and tribal fisheries management agreement. In the nearly 70 years since the formation of the GLFC, the sea lamprey control program has reduced sea lamprey populations by 90% in most areas of the

Great Lakes, a remarkable success!

During outreach events with the public, we, often hear: “Sea lampreys? I thought that problem was solved decades ago.” In one respect, that’s true – sea lamprey populations are a small fraction of their



peak in the 1950s before the GLFC began its successful control program. It’s not surprising then, that many people are not aware that sea lampreys are still a problem in the Great Lakes.

The GLFC takes that as a compliment – it means we are doing our job. Nevertheless, we want people

“Sea Lamprey”

Continued on page 12

## Claramunt Named Fish Chief



Randy Claramunt has been named the next chief of the MDNR’s Fisheries Division. Randy will assume this new role effective March 5, taking over for current Fisheries Chief, Jim Dexter, who retires at the end of April. The overlap in Randy’s assumption of this role and Jim’s retirement will allow for a smooth transition.

Randy is well known to many of us having served the DNR in a variety of capacities, most recently as the Lake Huron Basin coordinator. Before that he was a research biology special-

ist, as well as the interim Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station manager and supervisor for the Habitat Management Unit. Prior to joining the DNR, Randy gained quality experience with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, first as a fisheries biologist and then as interim natural resources director.

GLFSN caught up with Claramunt after the announcement and asked him about his new role. What do you see as some of the biggest challenges you will face as Chief as you begin your tenure? “There will be many I’m sure, however, there are five challenges that pose pressing concerns. The declining participation in our fisheries among constituencies, including anglers, everyday Michiganders and rural families that have very little opportunity to experience the benefits our fisheries. Second is the challenge posed by aquatic invasive species (AIS) and how we keep them at bay. Then there is the impacts

of changing environmental conditions and violent swings in water levels from 2012’s all-time lows to 2019’s all-time highs and more frequent weather events producing torrential rains over short spans of time like never before. Another major concern is the outdated funding model which is not working now. We are appreciative for the legislative funding support we received in 2022 to address the overdue needs within the department and hatchery system, but it signifies a broader concern for funding the needed infrastructure improvements as we go along without resorting to dramatic catch-up initiatives. How do we keep from repeating this fundamental challenge going forward? Finally, and most significant challenge is cooperative fisheries management. We must have all our stakeholders engaged to solve these challenges because the only way to be successful is to solve them together.”

## Creative Colors For Fishing

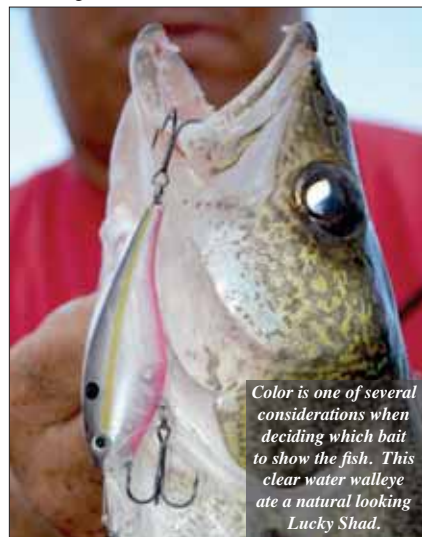
By Bob Jensen

Fishing to many of us is kind of magical. You tie a thing on to the end of your line, it might look like a minnow, a frog, a crawdad, something that lives in or

near the water. Or it might not look like anything that has ever lived anywhere. You throw that thing into the water and every now and then you reel it back in with a fish attached to

it. People who fish are optimistic. Usually we don’t see the fish before casting, but we’re always thinking that there’s one near where our bait just landed. There are several things that we need to think about before we throw that thing into the water hoping for a fish to eat it.

First, what kind of fish are we after? Some baits are designed mostly for walleyes, others mostly for bass, panfish, or something else. Then we need to consider where the fish are in the area that we’re fishing. Are they in deep water or shallow water? Is there vegetation or timber or something in the water that could increase the likelihood of getting snagged? We need to use a deep running lure for fish



Color is one of several considerations when deciding which bait to show the fish. This clear water walleye ate a natural looking Lucky Shad.

“Colors”  
Continued on page 6



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# The MDNR FAQs are either false or grossly misleading. From the Coalition to Protect Michigan

Recreational fishers may have received an email from the MDNR suggesting that all is well with a new proposed agreement between the State and four out of five tribes with Treaty preserved fishing rights in the northern Great Lakes. These FAQs are either false or grossly misleading.

The issues involve how the Great Lakes fishery will be shared between state-licensed fishers and tribal fishers. The issues also involve how the fishery is divided between tribal commercial fishers and recreational fishers and done so in a manner that will preserve and protect the fisheries for future generations.

These issues are complex and the MDNR's FAQs provide only generalized statements that hide the real facts and risks to the fishery

presented by the proposed agreement. One overarching comment on the State's FAQs is that they do not attempt to refute with any science-based facts the well-researched objections and positions of those opposing the proposed decree. As an old mentor of one of our expert biologists used to say: "saying it's so does not make it so". Those opposing the proposal have backed up our positions in our court filings with references to 44 scientific journal articles and publications. Our gillnet positions have been based upon multiple scientific papers and literature reviews. The State's position on expanded gillnets are nothing but wishful thinking and their other positions are nothing more than opinions offered in defense of an indefen-

sible proposal. Maybe if they just say this stuff often enough it becomes true?

Set forth below is a brief response to some of the FAQs. We acknowledge the complexity of the issues and are only able to provide a brief response here, but one that illustrates the problems caused by the proposed decree and their complexity. (That we don't address every FAQ should not be taken as our agreement with it.) We urge you to ask questions, seek real answers and in the meantime, don't be fooled by the FAQs.

**CLAIM: The proposed Decree will protect the fishery.**

The MDNR says that the proposal "includes regulations to protect vulnerable fish populations and provides for harvest limits



and allocations to govern the fisheries of the State and Tribes." This is false. The proposal relies on Tribal regulations to govern the fishing by the Tribes. As for the proposal itself, there is a large BLANK where the proposal sets forth the critical mortality rate used to estimate fish stocks, particularly lake trout. This estimation is what sets the available catch for the tribes and recreational fishery.

Lake Trout, Walleye and Yellow perch are now targeted species, yet there is nothing in the proposal to say how those species will be estimated and how many can be caught. There are no current Harvest Limits on Walleye and Yellow Perch or any criteria on how these species will be shared.

Data used to estimate available fish are reviewed every 3 years, instead of annually as has been the case for over 35 years, yet fisheries in the past have collapsed in less than a year. The criteria to change Harvest Limits are also so vague as to be unenforceable.

Our estimate is that these changes will lead the current recreational share of the resource to decline from the current about 39% to less than 30%. This compares to the legal standard of roughly a 50-50 split.

**CLAIM: Lake trout rehabilitation will not be harmed.**

The MDNR says "The proposed consent decree would ensure that Lake Trout populations are carefully monitored and man-

aged through harvest limits that result from complex population modeling and the application of sustainable mortality rates." This is a patently false claim. Start with "sustainable mortality rates," the critical factor in estimating sustainable fish populations. The proposal states that "Prior to signing" the proposal, the parties "shall adopt... target annual mortality rates" for lake trout yet there are no such rates anywhere in the proposal even though the proposal has been agreed upon and submitted to the Court for approval. There are simply no mortality rates set forth or being agreed upon. It is impossible to know what will happen to lake trout, perch or walleye without this critical factor, but we know this: Current mortality rates set by the parties are too high to allow for sustainable fisheries. The reason given for not establishing mortality rates is three years are needed to collect enough data to use in their models, yet as noted above fisheries in these waters have collapsed in less than a year.

**CLAIM: Shrinking the only Lake Trout refuge in Lake Huron will do no harm.**

The MDNR's FAQs state that Lake trout rehabilitation in Lake Huron will not be harmed by shrinking the lake trout refuge by more than half and allowing new gill net fishing in the refuge for 10 months of the year. The MDNR justifies the opening of this critically important refuge in Lake Huron by arguing that lake trout migrate to and from the refuge only during the months of October and November. They also say that the rest of the year few lake trout will be caught in this ideal lake trout habitat.

It is ludicrous to suggest that Lake Trout rehabilitation will not be harmed when gill net fishing is going to be allowed within the refuge 10 months of the year, and may occur without limits around the shrunken refuge year round. If lake trout migrate, the dramatically smaller refuge is now much easier to ring with strategically placed gill nets to catch those migrating trout and kill year-round inhabitants. In addition, and not to be flip about it, but lake trout do not operate with a calendar. They do not all wait until October 1 to swim in and until November 29 to swim out, especially with changes coming to the lake by warming waters. In addition, this refuge has not only excellent habitat for

spawning lake trout but it has ideal year-round habitat for Lake trout. It has been shown that lake trout throughout Lake Huron spawn in this refuge. The proposed decree will ensure that there will be gillnetting on all sides of this greatly reduced productive habitat 10 months each year.

**CLAIM: There will not be "millions of feet of new gill net fished in the Great Lakes."**

The FAQ claims that "While it is true that there would be some areas where gill nets could be fished that were not available under the 2000 Consent Decree, this would not result in "millions of feet of new gill net." This is patently false. Consider just the following: The proposed agreement allows for 24,000 feet of large mesh gill net to be fished every day in Big Bay de Noc year-round. If that net is fished just 50 days per year, that means 1,200,000 feet of gill net will be fished in one bay in a year. (24,000 x 50 = 1.2 Million feet). In the inner Grand Traverse Bays (East and West bays), 9,000 feet of large mesh gill nets may be fished daily from the day after Labor Day until the following Memorial Day. If that net is fished 50 days, 450,000 feet of net could be fished where there haven't been gill nets since 1979 when the fishery was closed down after virtually all lake trout in the bays were caught in a couple of months. In Lake Huron, around the refuge discussed above, there is no limit on the amount of gill net that can be fished. And the list goes on ....

This is not "a redistribution of current effort..." This is new effort in areas where there haven't been gill nets fished for decades. And this doesn't even include the huge areas in Lake Superior where gill nets are now allowed. Finally, if gill net fishing is good in or near a recreational area, a large portion of the entire management unit catch limit may be caught in tribal gill nets in a specific recreational location. After the fishery declines from new gill net effort, then tribal fishers can quickly move to other small areas where fish are still plentiful enough to support the recreational fishery and fish there. With this focused gill netting in or near recreational fishing zones, the number of fish in the area will decline quickly resulting in anglers losing interest and they will either stop fishing or move to other ports, where the cycle will continue.

"FAQs"

Continued on page 7



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# TUNING CRANKBAITS FOR BETTER FISHING SUCCESS

BY: MARK ROMANACK

Crankbaits are amazingly effective fishing lures. Sometimes I marvel at how well these plastic or wood minnow imitators perform on a wide variety of species including walleye, brown trout, lakers, bass and even salmon. If crankbaits have an Achilles heel, it's the fact that not all of the hundreds of cranks on the market come out of the package ready to fish properly. Often crankbaits need a little "adjustment" to convert them into the fish traps they were intended to become.

## WHY ARE CRANKBAITS NOT ALWAYS IN TUNE?

Plastic crankbaits often end up not in tune because they are designed to be two identical halves that are hand glued or sonic welded together to form a water tight and finished lure. If this gluing or sonic welding process is only slightly off kilter, the bait will not be perfectly balanced and will swim in the water favoring a course that is either left or right of center.

In the case of wooden crankbaits, the diving lip must be installed by machining a small slot into the nose of the lure. The diving lip is then glued into place. Small imperfections in how the diving lip is installed of course can cause crankbaits to perform differently from lure to lure.

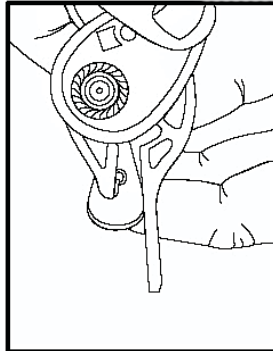
## CRANKBAIT TUNE

Crankbaits often suffer from the failing of not being properly tuned. A tuned crankbait will run straight in the water

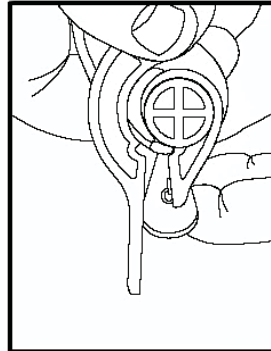


Pro Staffer Gary Parsons of The Next Bite TV series knows the value of tuning crankbaits to maximize their performance.

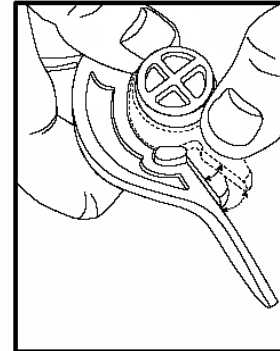
Always start with a lighter setting and adjust tension as needed.



1. Place short jaw on line tie and long jaw against bill at a 90 degree angle.



2. Squeeze until you hear a click.



3. Reset by squeezing jaws together.

4. If bait doesn't make a change, give adjustment knob 1/2 turn for more tension.

SHORT JAW MUST BE RESET AFTER EACH ADJUSTMENT

at all common trolling speeds, dive to its intended maximum fishing depth and also deliver its maximum life-like action. A lure that is "out of tune" generally runs right or left of center, causing the bait to canter slightly in the water and killing the lure's ability to dive properly.

Out of tune crankbaits simply don't catch many fish and the problem is many anglers are not skilled enough at "tuning" a crankbait to correct the situation. An angler who doesn't know how to properly tune a crankbait will soon find himself frustrated with the process. A rookie at the art of crankbait tuning

often makes a bad lure worse instead of better.

## PULL POINT ADJUSTMENT

Tuning a crankbait requires making very minor adjustments to the lure's wire pull point or what is often called the line tie. Located on the lure's diving lip, the operative word here is minor because it only takes a very small adjustment to dramatically change the way a crankbait is running.

Lures that are running to the left of center will require the pull point to be slightly bent to the right to correct this situation. Lures that are running right of center will need the pull point bent to the left for correction. The traditional tool for this job used to be an ordinary pair of needle nose pliers to tune any crankbait. In the hands of someone who isn't so skilled, a needle nose pliers can lead to a very frustrating situation for anglers who are in a hurry to get the job done and move on to the process of fishing.

The process of bending the pull point is fairly straight forward, but it requires trial and error to achieve the desired results. Often a crankbait that is seriously out of tune is subjected to so many adjustments the wire on the pull point becomes softened to the point it will no longer support the lure running in a predictable manner.

## THE EZ CRANKBAIT TUNER

Thankfully a tool designed especially for tuning finicky crankbaits is on the market. Known as Off Shore Tackle's OR40 EZ Crankbait Tuner, this unique product features a slip clutch jaw design. One half of the jaw on the EZ Crankbait Tuner is long and slender and the other half of the jaw is shorter. This feature allows the long jaw to be positioned against the lip of the crankbait while the short jaw is placed against the wire pull point. This fundamental design gives the angler more control to make very small adjustments to the pull point.

The slip clutch features an adjustable

spring tension located right at the junction where the jaws come together. Applying more or less press to the slip jaws makes it possible to tune crankbaits of different sizes that feature different wire diameters on the pull point or line tie.

When the clutch on the EZ Crankbait Tuner slips you will hear a loud click. To reset the tuner for another adjustment, simply use your thumb and forefinger to click the jaws back together. **This "resetting step" must be taken each time an adjustment to the lure's pull point is made.**

The process of using the EZ Crankbait Tuner is easy. First, make sure the slip jaws are reset by pinching them together until they click. Then place the long jaw on the edge of the crankbait's diving lip and the short jaw on the wire pull point. Squeeze the handle on the EZ Crankbait Tuner until the jaw slips and clicks again.

A small adjustment has been made to the wire pull point. Cast the crankbait to see how this adjustment has impacted on how the lure is running and then make another adjustment as needed until the lure is running and diving straight down into the water. Remember, you have to "reset" the OR40 jaws prior to making each adjustment.

The adjustable spring tension on the slip jaws helps tremendously in the process of determining how much pressure is needed to adjust various different design and sizes of crankbaits. The EZ Crankbait Tuner can be used to tune all crankbaits from oversized saltwater and muskie lures to pint-sized walleye and crappie baits.

## SUMMING IT UP

Off Shore Tackle's OR40 EZ Crankbait Tuner takes the trial and error out of tuning crankbaits. With a little practice this tool becomes intuitive to use, making sense out of what has historically been a complex and confusing process. Even better, the EZ Crankbait Tuner can turn "dud" crankbaits into fish catchers once again.



## MSSFA PRESIDENT Tim Stegeman

The Tribal negotiations process, which was supposed to arrive at a new consent decree protecting the fishery and equally share

the resource has failed to do either. After thirty-seven years of peaceful co-existence with the five northern tribes' commercial fishers,

the proposed decree currently being considered by the federal court, will potentially devastate the lake trout fishery and threaten

the other sport fish species in a relatively short period of time. The opportunity to expand gill netting in areas of the Great Lakes which



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

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**Questions: Chad Bard 269-214-6934**

have been restricted zones for sport fishers for decades leads the list of give aways the State of Michigan and the Federal government have acquiesced and thereby jeopardized the sport fishery. And refugees to promote natural recruitment of lake trout have been offered up to commercial gill net harvest for the first time since they were established.

How did we get to this point? Simply put the priorities of the sport fishing community were ignored. The amici group, Citizens to Protect Michigan Resources (CPMR) and its attorneys, were not taken seriously by the state or federal negotiators when considering concessions that would achieve a new agreement. Getting the tribal fishers to agree to reporting requirements and responding to the decline of white fish stocks took precedent. The state's team

lacked negotiating experience. That was apparent from the beginning when they offered concessions that should never have been on the table so early in negotiations. None of them had been part of prior consent decree negotiations nor did they possess the relationships with the tribal representatives that the CPMR team had developed over the years. However, the most egregious error in judgement was to abandon the Fish Division's management principal of limiting commercial fishing gear to that which would not take and kill significant numbers of those species allocated to sport fishing.

If this proposed agreement is upheld by the federal court and if CPMR's motion to intervene in the negotiations is denied by the Sixth Circuit Court of appeals, what should the sport fishing community do next? In my opinion the best thing we can do is make it known how badly this agreement will impact the \$7.1 billion dollar sport fishing industry (\$4.2 billion in Michigan alone) by all avenues possible. Secondly, we need to engage policy makers statewide like the Natural Resources Commission or the state legislature to hold the MDNR accountable by insisting on evaluating the impact the decree is having on the sport fishery annually, and not rely on the provision in the proposed agreement to evaluate the impact three years from now when it may be too late.



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

The MDNR sent out an email to stakeholders with the Most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) concerning the consent decree negotiations. The Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources (CPMR) determined that the responses were misleading and not supported factually. CPMR posted responses to MDNR's email on its webpage (QR code, right). In a surprising move, the Sault Tribe asked the district court to withdraw their motion seeking to dismiss the case for lack of subject matter jurisdiction and vacate the 2000 Consent Decree. Today, the district court issued an order

accepting that withdrawal. This made our response to their initial motion moot. We are not certain what exactly is going on within the Sault Tribe that led them to withdraw their motion, but we have learned that they are dealing with some issues internally and other litigation.

The Tourism Industry



Coalition of Michigan (TICOM) held a reception for incoming legislators on February 1st which I attended. I met with Rep. Rachel Hood of Grand Rapids who chairs the House Committee on Environment, Great Lakes and Energy and she invited me to join her and her legislative director to discuss any issues of concern the Steelheaders may have with the agencies the committee oversees. Rep. Julie Brixie of Okemos chairs the house appropriations committee for Agriculture and Rural Development and Natural Resources was also in attendance. MSSFA supported her bill in the last legislature to offer youth fishing licenses as a means of gaining additional Dingle-Johnson Act revenue from license sales.

Dr. Howard Tanner Award. As discussed at the last board meeting, this year's recipient of

the Tanner Award is Roger Greil, retired Hatchery Program Manager at Lake Superior State University and the guiding force behind the successful reestablishment of Atlantic salmon to the Great Lakes. Roger has agreed to be recognized with this award and is planning to be with us at the Presidents' Meeting on April 29th. Senator Jon Bumstead was selected to be the Tanner Award recipient in 2020, just before the pandemic caused the state to shut down. Now that we have reopened to public meetings, we will be inviting Sen. Bumstead to come and accept the award in person at this year's Presidents' meeting.

The Presidents' Meeting will again be held at the Michigan Historical Library and Museum on Saturday April 29th from 10AM until 3:00PM. I am arranging for the caterer, the luncheon menu and the

suggested program topics. More to come as we get closer.

The Michigan Legislative Sportsman Caucus Advisory Council (MLSCAC) met with the Co-Chairs on January 31st to agree on dates for Caucus Breakfast meetings this year and dates for special events. I was asked to chair a Salmon Fishing Event on July 24th tentatively scheduled for South Haven, MI. I will be working with Bill Jackson from McAlvey Merchant & Associates (a lobbying firm in Lansing) to plan and execute the event.

We are working with Bob Stuber, Executive Director of the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition (MHRC) to reach out to the Kalamazoo Watershed Council. The Coalition shares an interest in the Kalamazoo River through the FERC-licensed hydropower projects on the Kalamazoo River. It is currently supporting the legal action that the State (EGLE, MDNR) is taking against STS Hydro for the sedimentation issues associated with the Morrow Dam hydropower project.

I am also part of the Conservation Coalition's Dam Removal Work Group and we have been defining topics within the dam removal heading, including the need to develop inventorying and databases, the speed and

costs of removing dams, grant funding streams, the overlay with climate adaptation, etc. The DNR has identified 62 of the 100 dams it has authority over as targets for removal. We should know where these dams are located and see if we can agree on the ones which make the most sense to prioritize for removal. The 13 large dam projects owned by Consumers will take time and more public engagement before we see which ones will be targeted.

This year's Steelhead Spectacular took place on Saturday Feb. 18th at D & R Sports Center in Kalamazoo. The Committee did another excellent job of gathering presenters and raffle prizes to assist the MSSFA in raising funds for protecting the fishery in 2023.

President Tim Stegeman and I will be attending the Legislative Sportsman Caucus Advisory Council Reception in Lansing on March 15th to begin a dialog with legislators on issues facing sport fishing and Michigan's environmental concerns.

Chapter officers please keep Saturday April 29th on your schedules for the Presidents Meeting and I will see you all at the Michigan Historical Library and Museum, 702 Kalamazoo Ave., Lansing, MI. at 10 AM.



## MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis Eade

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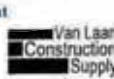
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## "Colors"

Continued from page 1

that are in deep water and a shallow running lure for shallow fish. When fishing near stuff that could snag our lure, we need a lure designed to resist snags.

Then there's one more thing, and this is the one that seems to be at the forefront of our lure selection considerations: Lure color. How many times have you heard an angler say that they caught 'em really good today on an XYZ lure, and

the first question is "What Color"? Color is and probably always will be a very important part of the fishing equation.

Fishing lure colors as described by the manufacturers can be very creative or not so creative. If you look on one company's website, you'll notice they have a minnow bait in the silver/black back color. That sounds pretty straight forward. Take a look at another company's website at a similar shaped lure in a similar color and it's

called natural shad. Again, pretty straight forward if you know what a natural shad looks like. But some names are really creative and will put your imagination to work. How about a color called Sweet Tator Pie? Or Monkey Shine or Acid Rain. Very unique names that will be easy to remember, and those colors are fish-catchers.

In my days of guiding, fishing tournaments, or fishing with friends, when we were after walleyes, we had to have some orange head/

chartreuse body and pink head/white body jigs in the tacklebox. In crankbaits, firetiger and perch were our go-to colors. 2021 National Walleye Tournament Angler of the Year Drake Herd looks into the water when he's deciding what color to go with. If he's using plastic and the water is clear, he likes a Slick Shad in Ruffe, Lemon Tiger if the water is stained. Regardless of location, those are his thoughts on color. Drake's color decisions have served him well in walleye fishing.

Jay Przekurat and Cole Floyd travel across the United States to participate in bass tournaments. They fish on the highest levels of different tournament circuits, but it's interesting how much they agree on lure shape and color. Both are very versatile anglers, but when they've got to put a bass in the boat, they'll often be pitching a Rage Bug in black/blue, pumpkin, or Moon Juice colors. They agree that sometimes a different and unique color will be better, but they're confi-

dent that wherever they are, black/blue, pumpkin, or Moon Juice will produce.

Wherever you fish and whatever you fish for, experiment with colors that you've never used in addition to your favorites. And expect some curious looks from your fishing friends when you tell them that you caught 'em good today on a Rage Space Monkey in the Okechobee Craw color.



Who doesn't love a good fish fry? And when the fish getting dropped in the fryer is bluegill, well, to say you're in for a treat is an understatement. What bluegill lack in size, they more than make up for in flavor. The firm, white meat has a mild, delicious flavor that flakes up nicely when fried.

For this recipe, Mercury Pro Team member Mark Zona, co-host of "Bassmaster" and host of "Zona's Awesome Fishing Show," shows how he fries up this delectable little fish. It's a simple recipe that's easy to commit to memory, and will make you a favorite among family and friends.

### Preparation:

Start by soaking your bluegill fillets in milk for a couple hours. According to Zona, this step will enhance the flavor. And seeing how you have a bit of time on your hands before the fish is ready to be coated and fried, you might think about what you'd like to serve with your bluegill. You can go with a store-bought coleslaw or perhaps you make a nice green salad. In this case, use the time to slice up some vegetables to accompany the greens. Peppers, carrots, radishes, tomatoes and any other veggies you like will work perfectly. Of course, if you prefer, you can always go with some good old-fashioned French fries!

Once you've allowed the time for your fillets to soak, add one package of Fryin' Magic and some Cajun seasoning to the bottom of a batter shaker. Next, add the fish to the top, put the lid on, tip the container upside down and shake gently to thoroughly coat each piece of fish. Now Zona doesn't specify just how much of the Cajun seasoning mix to add, but that's probably because when it comes to spice, everyone's tastes are a bit different. 1-2 teaspoons should do the trick.

If you don't have a batter shaker, you can just as easily coat your fish in another container with a lid. Whichever method you use, just be sure to coat each piece of fish evenly.

Once you have all of your bluegill coated, it's time to get frying. Zona uses a deep fryer, but if you don't have a deep fryer, a deep frying pan will work just as well. Whichever vessel you use, heat the oil to 375 degrees. Once the oil has reached the target temperature, add one stick of butter-flavored Crisco, if you like. It gives the fish an even richer, complex flavor.

Little trick when frying your fish – do not overcrowd the fryer or frying pan. Doing so will bring the temperature of the oil down, and when that happens, the fish will absorb an excess amount of oil and become soggy.

### Ingredients:

- 5 pounds bluegill fillets
- 1 box Fryin' Magic® Seasoned Coating Mix (16oz.)
- Cajun seasoning
- 1 quart of vegetable or canola oil
- 1 stick butter-flavored Crisco® shortening
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

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Fry the fillets for approximately 3-4 minutes. When the fillets begin to float and are a nice golden-brown color, you know you're just about done. At this point, Zona recommends cooking for another 20-25 seconds. Next, scoop out the fish, drain any excess oil and transfer the fish on top of a couple layers of clean, dry paper towels.

Before you plate your bluegill, sprinkle a little grated Parmesan cheese on top. The richness of the cheese works nicely to balance out the spiciness of the Cajun seasoning. Serve alongside your side dish of choice, and, voila, dinner is served ... Zona style! Enjoy.

To learn more about Mark Zona or "Zona's Awesome Fishing Show," visit MarkZona.com. You can also follow him on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Fryin' Magic is a registered trademark of Little Crow Milling Company, Inc. Crisco is a registered trademark of Procter & Gamble Company. All other trademarks belong to Brunswick Corporation.








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## 2023 Schedule of Events:

**July 10:**  
Big Boys  
Captains'  
Meeting

**July 11-12:**  
Big Boys-  
Tournament

**July 13:**  
Ludington  
Legends  
Memorial  
Tournament

**July 14:**  
Ladies and  
Youth

**July 15-16:**  
Pro/Am  
Ludington  
Offshore  
Classic

### "FAQs"

Continued from page 2

**CLAIM: Gillnets do not "kill indiscriminately."**

The FAQ claims that "Every gill net does not catch every fish that swims..." but massive new areas of the Treaty Waters are open to areas with net sizes ranging from 2 inches to over 5 inches enabling fish of almost any size to be taken. Sure, a large mesh gill net WILL catch desirable size whitefish, lake trout, brown trout, Atlantic salmon or any other species of similar size that swims through it, and the vast majority that are caught will be dead or dying when brought to the surface. Of course, the smaller mesh gill nets will entangle and kill most of the smaller fish. So, yes, a gill net does kill nearly all fish of similar size indiscriminately. Gill nets will also kill sturgeon, loons and any other endangered or threatened species that get tangled in it. This is why gill nets are being banned or severely limited,

worldwide. See, for example, <https://ccanc.org/theugly-truth-about-gill-nets/>.

In addition, the FAQ states that "The increased areas where Tribal fishers could use gill nets would be relatively small." This is patently false. To list just a few, the areas to be opened to large mesh gill net fishing where no gill nets have been allowed for the past 35 years includes: Lake Michigan- inner Grand Traverse Bays, Little Traverse Bay, over 400 square miles of water from Leland to Frankfort, Big Bay de Noc; Lake Huron- over 600 square miles of water in and around the lake trout refuge; Lake Superior- all Michigan waters from Munising to Marquette (excluding two small off shore refuges).

**CLAIM: "The State is not in a position to dictate to the Tribes what gear they use."**

This claim misstates the real issue. The issue is NOT whether the State can "dictate" the gear the Tribes use. The issue is whether

the State must agree to the gear proposed by the Tribes. Since 1985, the State and the Tribes have AGREED to limitations on the kind of gear that the Tribes may use. In exchange for limitations on gill nets, the State has shared a larger portion of the fishery than just the 50-50 split. For decades, gill nets have been banned in recreational zones and the State committed in 2000 to pay over \$14 Million to convert tribal fishers from gill nets to trap nets. The State has now abandoned gill net reduction and AGREED to gill net expansion without a reduction in the tribal allocation back to a 50-50 split.

Perhaps most shocking of the State's apparent defense of expanded gill net fishing is this statement: "it is an inexpensive gear to use and can be fished from smaller boats." Remember the old saying that "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it?" In 1979, when the Court ruled that the Tribes had a right to fish without State

regulation, gill net fishing exploded and in the summer of 1979, tribal gill net fishers took 98% of the lake trout in Grand Traverse Bay and ended the lake trout fishery near Rogers City. That devastating catch was almost entirely by "smaller boats" using "inexpensive" gill nets." Apparently unaware of this history, the State has now agreed to new gill net fishing without limits on the number of fishers or the days to be fished or the amount of net to be used in large areas of the Great Lakes. In other areas, where "limits" are stated, they are so vague or large as to be without protection for the recreational fishery.

**CLAIM: The new agreement simply continues an existing gill net fishery in the Little River Band Zone.**

The FAQ claims that the Little River Band had the right to "use of gill nets in their zone within Lake Michigan (Arcadia to Grand Haven)" as part of the previous agreement

signed in 2000. Thus, the State argues that the 12,000 feet of gill net now allowed is not "new" gill net. This is plainly false.

The 2000 Decree provided that the Little River Band could do a "fish distribution" study that could be conducted with gill nets from 2015 through 2020. That decree did not specify that any new gill net fisheries could be established and the right to do the study expired after the five year term set forth the 2000 Decree. Importantly, the Little River Band NEVER undertook the "fish distribution" study; it never fished gill nets from Grand Haven to Arcadia. Further, most scientific assessment studies that are completed with gillnets or trawls do so even though that gear is not used by the fisheries operating in the area. During the 2000 Decree negotiations, the emphasis by the Little River Band was on trap nets and charter boat fishing with the goal of working closely with the recreational fishing community. (We

truly hope that continues.)

Despite this, the MDNR took the position that the two gillnet operations, fishing up to 12,000 feet of gillnet per day now to be allowed in Lake Michigan, are a continuation of that abandoned "fish distribution" study; another abandonment of the effort to reduce gillnet fishing in the Great Lakes.

**CLAIM: Gill nets were fished in Big Bay de Noc under the 2000 Consent Decree.**

The FAQ asserts that a limited gillnet assessment fishery was authorized to fish in Big Bay de Noc during the end of the 2000 Consent Decree and somehow that justifies a permanent gill net fishery. No ongoing gill net fishery was ever authorized in the 2000 Agreement, however. Big Bay de Noc was limited to trap nets only for the last 20 years!

Under the proposed decree, 24,000 feet of gill net

### "FAQs"

Continued on page 11

## MSSFA - 2023

### Presidents' Meeting Set for April 29th

After almost two years of COVID related public meeting shutdowns, the MSSFA's Annual Presidents' meeting is set to return in 2023. It's an occasion to bring together all chapter officers, local chapter board members and at large members looking to have more involvement in the association's mission of protecting, promoting and enhancing sport fishing in the Great Lakes and connecting waterways.

The meeting will take place in the **Forum Auditorium at the Michigan Historical Library and Museum, 702 Kalamazoo Ave., Lansing, MI on Saturday, April 29th from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM.**

The morning session will be reserved for association business topics like membership outreach and priority setting while the afternoon session will honor Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award recipients and outgoing Fisheries Chief, Jim Dexter, who will reflect on his tenure as Chief and the accomplishments sport fishermen have achieved as a result of working together with the legislature to pass "once in a lifetime" investment in the sustainability of the anadromous fish sport fishery.

If you are a current member of MSSFA, why not consider joining us on the 29th of April. Let your chapter president know your interested in driving to Lansing for the meeting. A luncheon will be available between sessions in the museum cafeteria. You can always call the state office at 616-298-8842 with questions or to place a luncheon selection order for the event.

#### 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

#### GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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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](http://www.MSSFA.org)

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## MSSFA: It PAYS to belong! Here's why:

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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 the largest organized groups of fishermen in the Midwest. There are chapters throughout the entire state. You too can help protect and preserve this world-class sport fishery for you, your children and generations to come.

## THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS (GLSFN)

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

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

This paper has no paid writers and has a grass roots style. Its writers are the every day fishermen who share their techniques and fishing adventures; and the paper has become well known for 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.

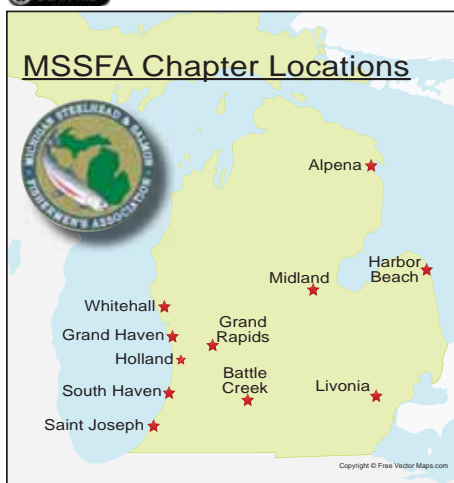
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Chapter members receive the paper as part of their membership. And because of the diversity of fishing in the Great Lakes, the information covers everything from river fishing, big lake fishing to inland lake fishing. The paper also offers a direct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

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For questions email: [mssfamembership@charter.net](mailto:mssfamembership@charter.net)  
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# Impact of the Great Lakes Consent Decree

By E. John Trimberger,  
Retired MDNR Fisheries  
Biologist

Are you ready for significantly reduced Great Lakes and tributary fishing opportunities? Are you ready for a significant reduction in the economic contribution those fisheries make to Michigan and other GL state's economies? That's what is about to happen if the Great Lakes Consent Decree is approved as it stands right now. Considerable expansion of both large and small mesh gill net fisheries in Lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior will reduce fishing opportunities on those lakes and tributary streams if the Consent Decree is implemented. And all the economies associated with both the recreational and commercial industries are threatened as well.

The Consent Decree is an agreement reached by the State of Michigan, the Federal Government and four of five Michigan tribes to allocate the fisheries re-

sources of areas covered by the Treaty of 1836. The Treaty covers an area north of a line from Grand Haven on Lake Michigan to Thunder Bay in Lake Huron and portions of eastern Lake Superior. The Sault tribe is attempting to negotiate its own allocation of the resource.

The first Decree was negotiated in 1985 and it was updated in 2000. It's obvious Michigan DNR Great Lakes assessment biologists did not have major input on the tentative Consent Decree being reviewed now as it is biologically unsound (the DNR's Tribal Unit leader was the only DNR biologist participating). And the interests of sport-fishing anglers including MUCC, the Steelheaders, Charter Boat Association and several other sportfishing organizations have been frozen out of participating in the negotiations and their interests are not being represented by the DNR.

The issues of contention in the proposed Decree involve how the Great Lakes

fishery will be shared between state-licensed commercial fishers and recreational anglers and tribal fishers in a manner that will preserve and protect the fisheries for future generations.

The proposed Decree would allow new gill net zones in East and West Traverse Bays, Little Traverse Bay, Hammond Bay, the Bays De Noc and off Ludington, Manistee and Frankfort and river mouths of the treaty area. This includes off the mouths of the Grand and Muskegon rivers where many sport fisherman fish regularly. These are areas that have not had gill nets in them for the past 35 years.

The proposed decree is a setback from the 2000 agreement that resulted in protecting critical lake trout spawning refuges and the conversion or removal of \$14 million dollars of tribal large mesh gill nets to trap net fisheries. The goal of that agreement was to allocate 50% of available fish to the tribal and 50%

to the State-licensed commercial and recreational fisheries while helping to restore stocks of lake trout, whitefish, and walleye and minimizing the impact on important sport fish like salmon, steelhead, walleye and yellow perch. The new agreement fails to recognize the populations of whitefish, salmon and perch have declined since 2000 with the continued expansion of invasive species competing for food sources.

Converting the large mesh gill net fishery to trap net fishery began in the 1960's when research documented large mesh gill nets were impacting the rehabilitation of lake trout and establishment of the salmon fishery. Many state licensed commercial fishermen were bought out or converted to trap net fisheries. Lake trout, salmon, steelhead, walleye and perch generate greater value when caught by sports-fishermen with hook and line than when taken by gill nets or trap nets. Fish taken in trap nets can be sorted by size and

species and small fish and non-target species can be released alive whereas most fish caught in large mesh gill nets are dead. Gill nets are also a threat to loons, the State-threatened Lake sturgeon, and diving ducks.

The Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources (CPMR) is a group representing anglers that has been granted amici (friend of the court) status in previous negotiations. But this year the State of Michigan rejected the Coalition's positions on resource sustainability and allocation concerns and eventually froze recreational interests out of the negotiations.

The Coalition's goal is maintaining a 50-50 allocation of the fishery resources, allow for more conversion of gill net fisheries to trap nets and not allow the proposed expansion of gill net fisheries to refuge areas and other areas where they were previously excluded since 2000. They also want the harvest of sport caught, state licensed and tribal commercial fisheries



monitored closely, including law enforcement of reporting and data quality control measures. Lake trout populations in Lake Michigan and parts of Lake Huron are continuing to be stocked. Lake Superior Lake trout populations are now self-sustaining as is much of Lake Huron. All that stocking, made since the late 60's, was largely paid for with tax dollars. Because lake trout and whitefish are slow growing and long-lived, a collapse of these species would take at least 10 years for even partial recovery to be realized. A decade of lost fishing opportunities would mean economic extinction of many fishing industries and livelihoods and a significant reduction in the economies they support.

This is not about commercial fishing vs. recreational fishing. It is about sustaining populations of lake trout and whitefish for the commercial fisheries and protecting lake trout, salmon, steelhead, brown trout, walleye and perch for harvest by recreational fishers. Below are two references that will provide more information if you are interested.

I spent a 30-year career working with my colleagues to develop and rehabilitate these fisheries. I, and many of my retired colleagues, are disappointed in the direction the State of Michigan, the Federal government and the tribes are taking with this Consent Decree.

I urge you to act and contact the MDNR Natural Resources Commission and the legislators listed below and ask them to intercede for a more equitable distribution of the fisheries resources. You can find their mailing information online. And, if you wish to support the effort to have recreational fisheries represented you may want to contribute to that effort at [protectmiresources.com](http://protectmiresources.com).

Contact: Governor Gretchen Whitmer, DNR Commission, Senators Stabenow and Peters and your US Representative, your state Senator and Representative.



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**"FAQs"****Continued from page 7**

may be fished daily in Big Bay de Noc. In addition, an extended assessment fishery may be authorized to operate anywhere in the treaty waters using any regulations even if they are drastically different from the existing rules. This means that gill nets may eventually be fished anywhere the treaty waters over the next 24 years unless a party is successful in stopping the effort using the Dispute Resolution Process. (Note that recreational fishing organizations are not allowed to use the Dispute Resolution Process in the proposed decree.)

**Claim:** *Sportfishing groups were involved in the negotiations but were later barred from participating.*

The FAQ pitches you a doozy here. Here are the facts: Since 1979, recreational groups including the MUCC, the Michigan Steelheaders, the Michigan Charter Boat Association, the Grand Traverse Sportfishing Association and several other lake associations and resource protection organizations have participated in court proceedings and negotiations over previous agreements involving the Great Lakes fishery and tribal claims for inland hunting, gathering and fishing rights. For those 43 years, these groups enjoyed a good working relationship with the MDNR and Governor's office even though we may have disagreed at times.

When the negotiations began in 2019, those groups participated again, but their participation was limited to working through the MDNR representatives only. The groups were not allowed to directly participate in the negotiations. Being focused on the biological standards necessary to provide for a sustainable fishery and with the knowledge of history and the needs of a recreational fishery, the relationship got off to a rough start when our belief was that the State's initial efforts were focused on getting a deal, not on getting a deal that protects the fishery. The relationship finally broke down in late June 2022 when recreational representatives were told that the State did not have time to address "local concerns." From that point on, we were denied any drafts of documents and the MDNR refused to meet with us or share proposals or drafts of any agreements.

Being frozen out of the negotiations, the recreational fishing groups within Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources asked the Court to make it a full party in the case and negotiations since the State had frozen us out and in our view was no longer focusing on sustainable fisheries and representing the needs of the recreational fishery. This request was under seal due to a confidentiality agreement, which hid the

negotiations and information from the public. The State then argued that the Coalition did not provide enough information to support being a full party while at the same time saying that the request to intervene violated the confidentiality agreement. This tactic was used by the State to cast a derogatory shadow over the Coalition and to hide any further discussions the parties were having.

This FAQ is simply an attempt to denigrate the only representatives of the recreational fishery that have defended it for the last 43 years.

As we said above, these are complicated issues and we could write pages to address the rest of the FAQs. We hope from this brief response that the recreational fishers who love the Great Lakes will see that the FAQs paint a picture that lacks, in the words of the late Paul Harvey, "the rest of the story."



## What You Need to Know Before Renting a Boat

*With a little advance research, you can enjoy a fun, carefree day on the water.*

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If you don't own a boat and want to experience the boating lifestyle, renting a boat for a day is a great way to "try before you buy." Even if you already own a boat at home, renting one in a new boating destination or while on vacation can be a fun way to get to know the area. Many towns located on the ocean, a major river, a lake or the Intracoastal Waterway — particularly those in popular fishing

destinations — are home to businesses that offer daily boat rentals. Before you book your boat, however, there are a few things to keep in mind.

**What are the regulations for boating in the state?** The legal age to operate a boat and boating-license requirements vary from state to state. Be sure to research the regulations in the area where you plan to rent a boat in advance, to make sure you will comply.

Same goes for angling regulations, if you plan to do some fishing.

**What is your boating skill level?** If you are a beginner, you should consider chartering a boat with a captain who will drive the boat and be responsible for it while you and your guests focus on having fun. Another alternative is to join a club, like Freedom Boat Club, which has a training course that must be completed before you take

a boat out on your own.

**What sort of rental boat is right for you?** Start by listing everything you expect to get out of your boat rental. Do you plan to fish? Then a center-console or other type of fishing boat might be best for your rental. Are you interested in anchoring off a beach or sandbar? Will there be people with limited mobil-

**"Renting"**

**Continued on page 13**

## DOWNTOWN GRAND RAPIDS



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March 9	Thursday	1 pm-8 pm	
March 10	Friday	12 pm-8 pm	
March 11	Saturday	10 am-8 pm	
March 12	Sunday	10 am-5 pm	

**Schedules & Details: [UltimateSportShow.com](http://UltimateSportShow.com)**

**"Sea Lamprey"**

Continued from page 1

to appreciate that sea lampreys are resilient beasts and left uncontrolled, even briefly, they bounce back with a vengeance.

So, the sea lamprey invasion story is an important one to tell as it is cautionary about preventing invasive species from entering the lakes in the first place, and it highlights the importance of on-going control. Indeed, the sea lamprey control program is one of the most successful invasive species programs in the world and is absolutely essential for the protection of the Great Lakes' \$7 billion fishery.

How do we remind people of this old, on-going problem? We take our story (and live sea lampreys) on the road!

One of the goals of the GLFC's communication program is to conduct outreach that provides members of the public with the opportunity to learn about (and see) sea lampreys, interact with sea lamprey control program staff and advisors, and take-home information to help share their newfound knowledge. The importance of outreach and education can't be overstated as the GLFC and its partners rely on well-informed resource users and the public to recognize that our work is essential to protect the vast resources of the Great Lakes.

In the last several decades, the GLFC has attended thousands of events throughout the Great Lakes basin to talk directly with people of all ages and from a variety of communities – not just anglers – about sea lampreys and the successful control program.

The GLFC's booth is a big hit because it includes a tank of live sea lampreys. Visitors can view the vampire-like mouth sticking to the aquarium glass and their

prey tattoos – and new this year are bookmarks and water bottle stickers!

The most commonly asked questions and comments that we hear when staffing the outreach display, besides the high-pitched, "Ewww! What are those things?!" include: "Do they attack people?" "I haven't heard anything in the news about sea lampreys in recent years, so I figured they were not a problem anymore." "I don't want that to touch me!" "Those aren't in Lake \_\_\_\_\_, are they?" "Can you eat them?" "What's being done to control sea lamprey populations?" "Can I hold one?"

The frequency of these questions reiterates the importance of performing outreach. At each event, GLFC and partner agency staff talk to hundreds (sometimes thousands) of people about sea lampreys and the damage that invasive species inflict on the Great Lakes fishery. The GLFC's sea lamprey control program, too, greatly benefits from this interaction with the public. To successfully implement sea lamprey control, the GLFC relies on a variety of people, from landowners, to fishermen, to current and future generations of voters. As funding for Great Lakes environmental issues is threatened and the risk of losing our social license with regards to lampicide usage increases, our connections with the concerned, engageable public become even more critical. Ensuring that residents of the Great Lakes basin are aware of the on-going sea lamprey battle is critical to developing and maintaining support for this crucial program.

turn to in-person outreach, especially with large boat and sport shows! Between January and September of 2023, the GLFC will have displays at the following events:

**Ultimate Fishing Show**  
Novi, MI: January 12-15

**Chicagoland Fishing Travel and Outdoor Expo**  
Schaumburg, IL:  
January 26-29

**Greater Niagara Fishing & Outdoor Expo**  
Niagara, NY:  
February 16-19

**Duluth Sport Show**  
Duluth, MN:  
February 16-19

**Ultimate Sport Show**  
Grand Rapids, MI:  
March 9-12

**Toronto Sportsmen's Show**  
Mississauga, ON:  
March 16-19

**Blue Water Sturgeon Festival**  
Port Huron, MI:  
June 3

**Detroit Riverfront Kids Fishing Fest**  
Detroit, MI: June 11

**GroveFest**  
Fremont, OH: June 24

**UP State Fair**  
Escanaba, MI:  
August 18-20

**Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular**  
Owen Sound, ON:  
August 25-September 3

**Sportsmen for Youth**  
Muskegon, MI:  
September 9

**Butler Field of Dreams**  
Peninsula, OH:  
September 23



**Above and Below:** The sea lamprey booth – especially the tank of live sea lampreys – attracts, entertains, and educates kids of various ages. The commission has temporary tattoos of the sea lamprey mouth that are always a big hit!

Photos: A. Miehl, GLFC

lampreys. Several notable exhibits include a year-round display at the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, IL called "At Home on the Great Lakes"; the "Aquatic Invaders" exhibit at the Great Lakes Aquarium in Duluth, MN; and the "Ohio Lakes and Rivers" exhibit at the Greater Cleveland Aquarium in Cleveland, Ohio. Sea lamprey exhibits can also be viewed at the Aquarium at Tall Ships Landing in Brockville, ON; Ripley's Aquarium of Canada in Toronto, ON; the Bayfield Maritime Museum in Bayfield, WI; the LSSU Center for Freshwater Research and Education in Sault Ste. Marie, MI; and the MDNR Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit, MI. All well worth a visit if you are in the area!

Seasonal exhibits continue to become established as well. The Ohio State University Aquatic Visitors Center at Put-In-Bay, Ohio, has a summer exhibit that typically includes live sea lampreys as a highlight. In many welcome centers and fish hatcheries, all run by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, a variety of live sea lamprey exhibits have also been set up, including Ludington State Park in Ludington, MI, and Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery in Mattawan, MI.



All of the GLFC's outreach materials are free to the public. Most materials are accessible on the GLFC's website [www.sealamprey.org]. Predator in Paradise, a 20-minute video about the damage inflicted by sea lampreys and the highly successful control program is available on the GLFC's You-

Tube channel [www.youtube.com/lampreycontrol]. If you are unable to attend an outreach event but are still interested in acquiring some of these materials, please contact Ross Shaw, Communications Program Associate, at rshaw@glfc.org or 734-669-3027.



**Above:** Sea lampreys on display at a sport show.

Photo: GLFC



**Above:** The commission has a bilingual display for venues in Canada.

Photo: A. Miehl, GLFC

slimy snake-like bodies! The booth also includes information about how sea lampreys are controlled, along with a few take-home items such as brochures and fact sheets, DVDs, activity booklets for kids, sea lam-

If you live within the Great Lakes Basin, be on the lookout for a GLFC sea lamprey booth at a sporting or boating event near you! Special for the 2023 outreach season: The upcoming year brings the full re-

However, the GLFC's outreach and education activities extend well beyond attending shows. Our teams have assisted in creating long-term exhibits in the region that specifically discuss and display live sea



**Photos 6 and 7:** Two permanent sea lamprey displays: Ripley's Aquarium of Toronto and the MDNR Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit, MI.

Photos: K. McAvoy, Ripley's Aquarium and Ross Shaw, GLFC

**"Renting"**

Continued from page 11

ity on board? If so, we recommend renting a pontoon boat.

Also consider how many people you want to bring along. Most rental companies offer smaller boats such as center-consoles, runabouts and pontoons that comfortably accommodate a max of six to 10 passengers. If you need a bigger boat with more capacity or one that can run offshore, chartering a larger boat with a captain may be a better choice.

**What is the boat rental company's reputation?** If you have friends in the area who rent boats, ask them for a recommendation. The dockmaster at a local marina also might be able to give you a referral. Be sure to check the company's online ratings and reviews before you go, too.

**When do you plan to rent the boat?** If it's during high season in a resort destination, it's important to make your booking well in advance or you may be disappointed. The same applies to weekends, which are likely to be peak rental times regardless of the season.

**What's the rental company's cancellation policy?** Check with the company in advance to find out what will happen if you cancel your booking due to bad weather, illness or another

reason. It may require 48 or 24 hours of advance notice of cancellation or you will forfeit your deposit. However, if the rental company must cancel your booking due to the weather, typically it will give you a refund or reschedule for another date.

**What are the rules and requirements?** The rental company may require you to demonstrate your ability to drive a boat in person or will provide you with a safety briefing before you start your rental. If so, plan to arrive early. Typically, you will need to pay for any fuel you use in addition to the boat rental fee, so it's a good idea to inquire how much the company charges per gallon. Also, ask in advance about the geographical boundaries for the rental, so you won't make plans to head for a fishing spot or a dock-'n'-dine restaurant that's out of bounds.

**What's in the rental agreement?** Be sure to read all the fine print in the boat rental contract. What happens if you should return the boat late or accidentally damage it during your rental? The agreement also should include information about the company's liability insurance and what it covers. Although not required, you may want to consider purchasing your own short-term boat rental insurance. Check with your insurance provider to find out more about the cover-

age available in your area and what it costs.

Before starting your rental, it's important to do a visual inspection of the boat, just as you would with a rental car. Are there any signs of damage? Does it look like it has been well-maintained? Document any damage before you go out, just as an extra precaution.

**Is all the required safety equipment on board?** During the initial inspection, make sure the boat is equipped with all the safety equipment required by the U.S. Coast Guard for a boat of its size. You'll also need to verify it's properly equipped to meet state and local safety requirements. If you are bringing children with you, make sure each child has a life jacket that fits him or her properly. Typically, a rental agent will show you some basic boat operation procedures and demonstrate any controls or features specific to the boat you rent. This is the time to ask any questions or request a demonstration, if needed.

If you've done your homework and followed these basic steps, once you leave the dock in your rental boat, you can enjoy peace of mind on the water and have a great boating experience. Not to mention the fact that when you get back to the dock, it's the rental company's job to wash the boat!

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**2023 Battle Creek Steelheader's Calendar of Events**

Month	Date	Event	Location
March	4	St. Joe River Chapter Challenge	Sand Bar
March	18	Kalamazoo River Spring Steelhead	Allegan Dam
May	6	Trip Swap with LSCWA	
May	20	Lake Michigan Spring Tournament	Benton Harbor
June 2-3	2-3	Connie McGowen Invitational	Lake Erie (Captain must be member)
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
April	20	Spring meeting	
June	1	Bill Rogers Memorial Tournament	
June	2-4	Grand Haven Offshore Challenge	
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
March	9-12	Outdoor Sports Show	DeVos Place, GR
*March	17-19	Spring River Outing	Spencer Kroesing
March	27	Recap Outdoor Show	
April	24	Speaker: TBD	
*May	20	Big Lake Cobweb Blowout	Don R & Paul Z
May	22	Fishing Awards	
*June	8-11	Lake Erie Walleye Event	Contact Steve Heintzelman
*June	17	Wabasis Fish Outing	John Plekker, Details in the spring
June	26	Speaker: TBD	
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	Information
April	1	Harbor Beach	
April	15	Manistee	
April	29	State Wide	Membership meetings held at: 3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642 989-496-3410
May	6	Linwood	
May	20	Linwood	
June	3	Sebawaing	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.
June	17	Sebawaing (Kids Day)	On the day of the outing, call in on Marine Radio, Channel 72.
July	1	Linwood / AuGres TBD	
July	15	Manistee	Weigh-in follows each outing.
July	29	Ludington	Picnics follows weigh-in on Saturdays only.
August	12	Ludington (2-Day)	Outings: All Steelheader members pay \$5.00.
August	26	Manistee (2-Day)	All non-Steelheaders pay \$10.00 to participate.
September	9	Manistee / Frankfort TBD	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
March	6	Board Meeting
April	3	Board Meeting
April	20	Membership Meeting
May	1	Board Meeting
May	16	Tuesday Night Fishing League Starts
May	18	Board Meeting
May	20	Spring Challenge
June	5	Board Meeting
June	10	All Species Tournament
June	24	Kids and Kings Tournament
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
March	4	Clinton River Steelhead	Abdulkarim/Nabors/Somers
March	7	General Membership Meeting	
March	9-12	Novi Boat Show	Bob Schulz/Eric Braden
March	18	MWS Sports Banquet	MWS Board
March	25	MI Steelhead Challenge Manistee River/Pier	Adam Trenz/Eric Braden
April	4	General	
April	15	Clinton Rier Clean Up	Jay Labban
April	15	New Buffalo Coho Tournament	Dave Zawacki
April	22	Detroit River / Lake Erie Walleye	Robert Grech / Chris Cristoph
April	29	Lake Huron Lexington Tournament	Bob Schulz
April	30	Lake Huron Lexington Tournament	Marc/Kirk Traver
May	2	General Membership Meeting	
May	6	Carp Bow Hunting Event	Gale Frazee
May	13	Lake Erie Walleye Tournament	Bob Schulz
May	20	Bruin Lake Kayak / Small Boat	Chuck Davis
May	20	Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament Saturday	Chris Thompson / Mark Platt
May	21	Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament Sunday	Brad Allan / Mark Platt
May	27	Pt. Moullé SM Bass / Walleye	Keith Childs
June	3	Kids Fishing Outing at Kensington Park	Brad Allan
June	6	General Membership Meeting	
June	TBD	Lake Erie Brest Bay Walleye Tournament	Len Wood
June	10	Sterling SP Walleye Tournament	Fabian Sepulveda
June	10	Cristal Waters Kayak / Small Boat	Eric Braden
June	17	Muskie Tourney at Lake Hudson Kayak/SB	Michelle Braden
June	24	Silver Lake Kayak/SB	Keith Childs
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 Hinchliff
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

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



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

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We'll HOOK YOU UP with the latest news!

*Join a Chapter, Join the Fun!*

**2023 South Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events**

Month	Date	Event
March	9-12	Ultimate Sport Show - DeVos Place, Grand Rapids
March	16	<b>Best Chance Fishing Seminar - South Haven American Legion Post 49 *</b>
April	20	<b>Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop - South Haven American Legion Post 49*</b>
April	20	Southern Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop - Dr. Dan O'Keefe presenting
May	5-7	Horizon Bank Quake Coho Classic - Michigan City, IN
May	12-13	St. Joe Tourney / SW Chapter
May	18	Membership Meeting *prior to SHS Pro/Am
May	19	<b>South Haven Pro Am Tournament Captains Meeting - Location is TBD</b>
May	20-21	<b>South Haven Pro Am Tournament</b>
May	27	<b>Merle Morris Tournament - River Bend Boat Club</b>
June	10	<b>South Haven Steelheaders' Ladies Tournament</b>
June	10-11	Free Fishing Weekend
June	15	Membership Meeting
June	16-18	South Haven Harborfest
July	10	Membership Meeting
August	10	Membership Meeting *prior to the Annual Fish Boil
August	12	<b>SHS Fish Boil (Blueberry Festival - August 11-13)</b>
August	19	<b>SHS Operation Injured Soldier / SH Salute to Veterans</b>

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](mailto: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. <a href="http://www.swmsteelheaders.com">www.swmsteelheaders.com</a> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/southwestmichigansteelheaders">www.facebook.com/southwestmichigansteelheaders</a>			
March	4	Tackle Mania Swap Meet	American Legion Post 568, Stevensville, MI
May	11-13	Summer Challenge Tournament	<a href="http://www.fishthesummerchallenge.com">www.fishthesummerchallenge.com</a>
June	24	Trolling with the Troops	<a href="http://www.trollingwiththetroops.com">www.trollingwiththetroops.com</a>
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
May	6	6:00am	Can2Can Fishing Tournament	Harbor Beach Marina - NEED WORKER
May	18	7:30pm	Regular Mtg - Speaker: TBD	Ubyly Foxhunters
June	10	6:00am	Veterans Fishing Outing	Harbor Beach Marina - Contact: Kevin R
July	13	7:30pm	Regular Mtg - Speaker: TBD	Ubyly Foxhunters
October	19	7:30pm	Regular Mtg - Speaker: TBD Election of Board/Officers	Ubyly Foxhunters

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

**2023 Thunderbay Steelheader's Calendar of Events**

Month	Date	Time	Information
March	4	4:00pm	Annual Meeting / Dinner
April	3	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
May	12-13	7:00pm	Captains Meeting - Alpena Harbor / Alpena Tournament
June	9-10	7:00pm	Captains Meetgin - Presque Isle Harbor / Presque Isle Tournament
June	24-26	7:00pm	Captains Meeting - Presque Isle Harbor / Presque Isle Tournament
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](mailto: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.			
March	2	6:30	Member meeting
April	6	6:30	Member meeting
May	4	6:30	Member meeting
June	1	6:30	Member meeting
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

## South Haven Chapter to Host Spring Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop

Dan O'Keefe, MSU Extension Services Educator will host the Spring Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop in South Haven on April 20 at 7pm. Loca-

tion will be at the American Legion Post 49, 129 Michigan Ave, South Haven, MI. So far speakers will be Dan, Jay Wesley, MDNR biologist and Ash-

ley Elgin, GLERL. Other speakers will be joining as well when their calendars can be cleared for the evening. This is a great way to gain valuable information

on fishing prospects for 2023 and beyond. Results of the fall trawl surveys, latest diet study surveys and predator/prey modeling scenarios will provide an-

glers with the information they need to plan what they will be targeting and when as the season begins this spring. If you need more information, please contact Dan O'Keefe at 616-994-4580 or Rich Chapman, President of the South Haven Steelheaders at 269-214-8018.



Dan O'Keefe, MSU Extension Services Educator



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