



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

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

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It's the age-old question many children are asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Well, around the age of 10, Jim Dexter knew exactly what field he wanted to work in, but he never imagined or planned that it would lead him to be the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division Chief.

Dexter caught his first fish, which was a northern pike, at the age of 3 with his grandfather. Not only was this the start of him being hooked on the thrill of catching fish, but his appreciation for the world of fisheries grew with each cast and catch.

Dexter credits his grandfather for his love of fishing, as he was the one

who taught him all the tips and tricks on how to fish.

Throughout his childhood, Dexter spent a lot of time outdoors. He and his friends would share fishing tips, trade tackle and catch bluegill, bass and crappie at a small local lake. If they weren't on the water, then then were likely found at the local Kmart to pick up the latest lure that came out.

His love for the outdoors carried on to his junior and high school years as he volunteered nearly every weekend at the Bloomfield Hills E.L. Johnson Nature Center.

He helped manage the pond on the grounds and built a dock for visitors to fish from. Here is where he met his first mentor, who he spent time with discussing careers and the outdoors. With a career path in mind, Dexter graduated high school and prepared for college.

In 1983, Dexter earned his Bachelor of Science degree in fisheries and wild-

Where Passion Meets A Career



Jim Dexter is shown fly fishing for brook trout on an Upper Peninsula pond.

life from Michigan State University. This was at the tail end of a recession, which made it difficult to find a full-time job.

However, Dexter was able to secure consistent

part-time positions between the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Michigan State University and the National Park Service.

The string of part-time fisheries jobs lead to a full-

time position offer from the Indiana DNR in 1985.

Knowing that his goal was to eventually end up back in Michigan, Dexter waited for a full-time position in his home state

to open, which finally occurred in 1987 when the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act was en-

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The Largest Walleye Run in the Country

By Roger Hinchcliff

STAYING VERTICAL = FISH FRY

Spring fishing in Michigan is big money to the economics of our State. One word, and that is Walleye! It is a HUGE draw every year on the Detroit River. Folks come from all around the country to fish the largest Walleye run in the country. As many as 10 million fish migrate up the river from Lake Erie to spawn every year. This makes for some excellent fishing opportunities for everyone. Depending on the winter and the water temps, fishing can start heating up in late March. But April, May, and June are safe bets for limits of fish that are enjoyed by all. Nothing better than a Walleye Fry.

HOW TO FISH FOR THEM

First, you must understand the hydraulics of the Detroit River. This river, on average runs 2 ½ knots around 3 mph. Based on its

size, it has one of the fastest flows in the world. Due to the river's speed, Vertical jigging is the preferred method. The angler must learn to use a trolling motor with his boat and slip with the current. In certain circumstances, most anglers fish 5/8 oz to 1 oz jigs with up to 1.5 oz jigs. The most popular bait with a jig is a 4-inch soft plastic such as a worm or minnow imitation. Early in the season, when water temps are colder, we will tip the jig with a minnow for flash and scent.

Jig cadence is critical to getting bit. This can vary depending on the phase of the run. When fishing early in the season in cold water, I only lift my jig 6-12 inches off the bottom and drop it slowly. As the run progresses and water temps increase, I get more aggressive with my jigging cadence. Snapping jig up to 1.5-to-2-foot. This is due to the fish that are post-

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Our Last-Chance Steelhead

By Jim Bedford

The St. Mary's River has the latest run of spring steelhead in Michigan because it takes a very long time to warm up the massive body that is its source. This huge river is the outlet of Lake Superior and divides Michigan and Ontario. It connects Lake Superior with Lake Huron and is only about 50 miles long. As you would expect, a river of this magnitude is primarily a boating river. But, luckily for wading anglers, between the two towns of the same name, Sault Ste. Marie, lies the St. Mary's Rapids. While a major portion of the river is diverted for power plants and locks there is still a very large area of relatively shallow, fast water to fish on foot. Steelhead spawn in the rapids and also hold in the runs and holes that are found interspersed throughout the fast water.

Access for wading anglers is limited to the Canadian side of the river. A Canadian fishing license must be purchased to fish from this side of the river. Short-term licenses are available and you can save considerably by purchasing a "Conservation License". With this license you can still keep a fish or two for dinner but the limits are much reduced. This is an easy decision for most anglers because they travel to the "rapids" to extend the fun of their spring steelhead fishing season and not to harvest fish.

You can purchase your license at the Canadian Customs/Duty Free

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The Quality of Fishing Reflects the Quality of Living!

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hanced, which brought dozens of professional fishery job openings to the Michigan DNR.

“The four-hour interview process was nerve-racking,” Dexter said. “I remember prioritizing my locations, with the southwest Michigan Plainwell office being my first choice. When I received the official offer, I received my last choice. But within a couple days and some other staff taking transfers, I was able to secure the Plainwell position. I still live in Plainwell even though I have worked for 15 years out of Lansing.”

Throughout his 36-year career, Dexter has held the positions of biologist, manager, staff specialist, Lake Michigan basin coordinator, acting Fisheries



Jim Dexter is shown electrofishing on the Lower Dowagiac River in 1988. Dexter is holding a brown trout.



Division assistant chief and Fisheries Division chief.

As he moved through the ranks, each position was a different world. With each position he needed to think more broadly, and his perception and appreciation grew with each position.

“They don’t teach you this stuff in college. You’re trained as a biologist, but you need to learn as you go to hone and grow your management and leadership skills,” Dexter said. “I have had a number of mentors throughout my career, and without their advice and support I would not be where I am today.

Left: In an image from 2016 at the Platte River State Fish Hatchery, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter dumps a bucket of fish into the river on the 50th anniversary of the first salmon stocking in the Great Lakes. Dexter is pictured with retired Michigan DNR Fisheries Division Chief Howard Tanner, the father of the Great Lakes recreational fishery.



Jim Dexter is shown with a large salmon aboard the Old Grin off Grand Haven in Lake Michigan in May 2021.

“I view my job as chief (being) to break down the barriers for everybody else to help them get their work done. Teams and units and sections produce the results. Sometimes I refer to myself as a gatekeeper or air traffic controller. A good leader needs to set aside time to think about future strategies and objectives for the division, gain acceptance for them and then figure out implementation.”

There have been numerous milestones and achievements over Dexter’s career.

Most notably, during his time as the Lake Michigan basin coordinator, Dexter was instrumental in developing and implementing the lake trout management plan for Lake Michigan. This was no small effort, as the plan took seven years

to develop across multiple fish and wildlife agencies, including Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Another achievement during his time as chief was

to develop across multiple fish and wildlife agencies, including Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

“Our future is bright with the staff we have and who we continue to onboard,” Dexter said. “I



Jim Dexter is pictured identifying yellow perch stomach contents aboard a research vessel in the Les Cheneaux Islands in 2019.

obtaining two new Great Lakes research vessels and, most recently, a \$30 million investment by the Michigan Legislature and executive administration in infrastructure improvements at state fish hatcheries.

“I’m so thankful for the work the staff has put into these investments to ensure our future work to enhance our fisheries resources is secure,” said Dexter. “We continue to be forward-thinking and invest in our future, such as being a natural resource agency leader in installing solar power at our hatcheries to reduce our carbon footprint and help offset electrical needs to save costs.”

The Michigan Arctic Grayling Initiative is another notable project that was begun under Dexter’s direction. In June 2016, the Michigan DNR, in partnership with the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, proposed the initiative that aims to bring back the extirpated species to the state.

The initiative seeks to establish self-sustaining populations of this species throughout its historical range in Michigan. The initiative has more than 40 partners collaborating on the reintroduction.

While preparing for retirement, Dexter has had some time to reflect on his

foresee the division working on broader-scale issues such as watershed and dam management to help our future fisheries.”

Dexter will close out his official role as chief of the Fisheries Division on April 28, but he doesn’t plan to miss out on some volunteer field work during his retirement. He plans to participate in future egg takes, surveys and other field work.

“I’m looking forward to spending more time with family and friends,” Dexter said. “But I also plan to keep in touch with my work family and get back to my roots of helping out on the rivers, streams, inland lakes and the Great Lakes.”

Of course, Dexter will have more time to dedicate to fishing during his retirement.

Michigan is home to tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams, and he plans to add some more miles to his boots and entries to his fishing trip journals.

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Great Lakes Invasive Carp Barrier System Scaled Down To Be More Cost Efficient, But Cost Rises



The new Brandon Road invasive carp barrier design issued December 2022. Photo credit: USACE

By Lester Graham
Michigan Radio
www.michiganradio.org

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found more efficient ways to construct a barrier near Chicago to keep invasive carp in the Mississippi River system out of the Great Lakes. But the cost is nearly 13 percent higher than a 2019 estimate. The Corps of Engineers blames inflation, material, and labor costs.

The price tag for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam barrier system near Chicago is now nearly \$1.2 billion.

Even then, there's evidence the carp might get into the Great Lakes through some other river.

"Invasive carp are less likely to get into the Great Lakes through any of the other routes. The most likely way that they reach the Great Lakes is through the Chicago waterway system," said Molly Flanagan, COO and Vice President

for Programs for the Alliance for the Great Lakes.

Flanagan added that the sheer number of invasive carp in the Mississippi River system make the Chicago waterway connection to Lake Michigan the biggest threat.

A non-federal match of ten percent, close to \$115 million is required. Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker has pledged \$50 million toward the project. Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer has included \$64 million in her proposed budget.

If those state Legislatures approve the expenditures, the construction could start in 2024 and be completed in six to eight years, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' estimate.

It is to include leading edge deterrents such as automated barge clearing (see photo) as well as acoustic and bubble curtain barriers.



A representative from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manually dumps a calculated number of fish between to barges during automated barge clearing deterrent testing at Peoria Lock and Dam on the Illinois River. This action was done to measure the effectiveness of the system.

Photo credit: Kelcy Hanson, U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers, Rock Island District

"Last Chance" Continued from page 1

Store just across the International Bridge. They will also provide directions and a small map to the public access site. There is a fairly long walk across the power canal and locks and two small islands before you reach the rapids. Thus it is important to make sure you have everything you need including lunch and a spare reel. Once you experience the fun of fishing the fast, clear water you won't want to be wasting any fishing time going back and forth to your vehicle.

There is a concrete berm that parallels the current fairly close to the Canadian side and many anglers focus their efforts near it. The current is for the most part not as strong on the inside of the berm making the river easier to wade here. Steelhead will be present on each side of the concrete structure. As you would expect from its source the water is always very clear in the rapids. This helps with the wading as long as you are cognizant of the fact that you can clearly see the bottom at a water depth that will easily float your hat.

A sturdy wading staff is an absolutely essential piece of equipment, both to keep you upright in strong current and to check the depths ahead. At a minimum you will need waders with felt soles and studded felts or studded wading sandals like Korkers are very highly recommended. Most of the substrate is bedrock and just enough algae grow on it to make it super slippery.

Typically the anadromous rainbows from Lake Huron begin to enter the rapids in early to mid May and their numbers peak in early June. The warm winter

we have experienced this year likely will move up the run by several weeks. Of course warm weather, when we have it, will also result in earlier runs in other rivers so the run in the St. Mary's will still be the latest. Look for the rainbows to move into the rapids in earnest when the water temperature warms to about 40 degrees.

Drifting bait, jigs, beads and flies, casting and retrieving spoons and spinners, and casting or pulling plugs, all the usual methods for catching steelhead, can be applied in the rapids. The St. Mary's is especially

conducive to fly fishing because the clear water helps the steelhead find the offerings. Most anglers cast to sighted fish and they can watch the steelhead's reaction to their fly. This can help in deciding whether to change patterns or change presentation angle. Globbugs and other egg imitating flies are very popular but some anglers focus on relatively small, dark flies that imitate the insect nymphs and larvae in the rapids. Invading the steelhead's territory by swinging large marabou Spey, leech, and woolly bugger streamers can result in

some smashing strikes and is my favorite way to fly fish for steelhead. Fluorocarbon tippets will help fool the steelies in the ultra clear water.

Canadian John Giuliani (705-942-5473) is an expert on the rapids and specializes in guiding fly fishermen there. A trip with him will greatly shorten your learning curve on both the fishing and negotiating the rapids. The amount of water that is released into the rapids is regulated and the level can greatly affect how



Michigan Department of Natural Resources

DNR Collecting Walleye Eggs on Muskegon River

By Ed Pearce, Sierra Williams, Michigan DNR

Muskegon River anglers should be on the lookout this spring for Michigan Department of Natural Resources personnel collecting walleye eggs below Croton Dam, which is in Newaygo County.

Electrofishing boat crews will collect walleye starting as early as the week of March 27 and concluding by April 14. The date these collections begin will depend on water temperatures, the presence of ripe fish and other factors. Most work likely will be completed from the last week of March through the first week of April. Five days of electrofishing are planned, with four of those being egg-take days.

“This adult population consists of mostly stocked fish,” said Ed Pearce, DNR fisheries technician supervisor who coordinates the egg take. “The Muskegon River has the largest run of walleye in the Lake Michigan watershed south of

Green Bay.”

Electrofishing sampling usually begins at Croton Dam each day at about 8:30 a.m. and proceeds downstream to the Pine Street access site. If more eggs are needed, additional collections may occur downstream to the Thornapple Street access site.

Anglers who wish to avoid the walleye collection activities should fish downstream of the Pine Street access site. The DNR asks everyone to use caution when fishing near the electrofishing boats, and anyone wading will be asked to exit the water when a boat approaches and during electrofishing work.

The DNR plans to collect approximately 32 million walleye eggs from the Muskegon River this year, which will result in fry (fish that have just hatched) for transfer to rearing ponds and direct fry plants throughout the Lower Peninsula. Walleye fry transferred to ponds will be raised to fingerling size (approximately 1.5 to 2.5

inches) and stocked in late spring or early summer in lakes and rivers throughout the Lower Peninsula. Lake Michigan and many inland lake walleye populations in the Lower Peninsula depend on the fingerlings produced from Muskegon River eggs.

The size of the walleye spawning run in the Muskegon River is about 40,000 to 50,000 fish each year. DNR crews will strip milt (sperm) and eggs from approximately 545 adult fish, which will be returned to the river – except for 60, which will be sent to Michigan State University for fish health testing.

Learn more about how the DNR manages Michigan’s fisheries at Michigan.gov/Fishing.

Right: Michigan DNR fisheries staff collect eggs from a female walleye below Croton Dam.



Above: Michigan DNR fisheries staff electrofishing on the Muskegon River below Croton Dam.

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Two days twice a year, families and friends can enjoy one of Michigan’s premier outdoor activities, Michigan Fishing, for FREE! All fishing license fees will be waived for two

days. Residents and out-of-state visitors may enjoy fishing on both inland and Great Lakes waters for all species of fish. All fishing regulations will still apply. A Recreation Passport will NOT be required for

entry into state parks and boating access sites during Free Fishing Weekends. Check out a fishing program at a state park!



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

This past month I attended the Michigan Legislative Sportsman's Caucus Reception in Lansing and the breakfast meeting the following morning. Both events were well attended. Representatives were very positive in their support for our legislative priorities. Though the first 100 days of this new 102nd Legislature has been highly partisan because of the incoming Democratic Party's majority agenda, I do have optimism that when the budget process is completed and partisan squabbling settles down, we do have an

opportunity to gain bipartisan support for modernizing the commercial fishing statue. This long overdue modernization hasn't been updated significantly since 1970. MDNR oversight and enforcement costs are not covered by licensing fees for commercial anglers --- recreational angler license dollars subsidize this. And we have an opportunity to ensure walleye, perch, salmon and lake trout stay out of commercial nets. The Senate Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee's Sue Shink (D-Northfield Twp.) and John Cher-

ry (D-Flint) listened to our concerns for the modernization measures and it could lead to new bills to protect Michigan's sport-fishing heritage.

I also attended the Natural Resources Commission meeting on April 13th and though the topics focused on wildlife issues and not angling issues, I did get to visit with commissioners who know how concerned the sportfishing community is regarding the impending consent decree court decision. Our focus needs to shift to holding the MDNR accountable for measuring the impact of liberalizing the use of gill netting in traditionally sportfishing zones. Having the commissioners aware of these concerns should result in their wanting to know what the MDNR is doing to protect the sport fishery.

We continue to be encouraged by the resurgence of the Lake Huron sport fishery. Though alewife have not made a comeback in the system, other prey fish, like smelt, seem to be filling the void. We are seeing very positive results from planting more coho and steelhead.

The selection of Randy Claramunt as Fisheries Chief was an excellent choice and should prove to be beneficial to the sport fishing community. Randy places a high value on stakeholder involvement and will listen to anglers' concerns. He has the credentials to back up his decisions and should prove to be an effective chief. Jim Dexter is leaving having made a major impact when it comes to addressing the funding needs the division. He was a strong advocate

for renovating Thompson State Fish Hatchery to increase steelhead production and led the effort to get the \$30 million dollar budget proposal passed to allow most of the division's aging infrastructure to finally be upgraded. He also was instrumental in getting the license fee increase across the finish line in 2016 which addressed the declining funding source for the division.

MSSFA's focus this year will be the removal of obsolete dams and enhancing fish passage throughout the state. The largest growing segment of new anglers to our sport is river fishers. Access and opportunity can fuel that segment's growth.

Finally, MSSFA honored three "remarkable difference makers" at this year's Presidents' Meeting on Saturday April 29th at

the Michigan Historical Library and Museum. The Howard A. Tanner Award was presented to Sen. Jon Bumstead who was selected during the Covid shutdown period and could finally receive the recognition he deserves this year. Roger Greil, retired Aquatic Research Laboratory Manager at Lake Superior State University was awarded the Howard A. Tanner Award for 2023 in recognition of his career long efforts to prepare aquatic biologists to take their place among the stewards of our fisheries across the country and his unprecedented work to reestablish Atlantic salmon into the Great Lakes. Jim Dexter was honored as well for his accomplishments during his 36 year career with the MDNR's fisheries division.



MSSFA Honors Chief Jim Dexter

After more than 36 years with the Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division, Chief Jim Dexter is turning the helm over to one of his proteges and retiring to pursue the vary sport fish he spent his career protecting and enhancing in our Michigan lakes and streams.

Jim is a 1983 graduate of Michigan State University and after a series of temporary fisheries jobs at state and federal agencies and universities he joined the Indiana DNR in 1985 as a fisheries technician. He was hired by Michigan as a fisheries biologist in the Plainwell District in October of 1987. He managed the fish ladders on the

St. Joseph River and was promoted multiple times. He was serving as Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator when in April 2011 he succeeded Kelly Smith as Fisheries Chief.

During his tenure, he has navigated some rough waters dealing with a significant decline of alewife in Lake Michigan which required the difficult decisions to reduce stocking of Chinook salmon in order to preserve the predator/prey ratio and protect and sustain the resource. Another challenge was the commercial fishing statue which dates back to 1929, however the commercial fishing community has always been holding out for other

species notably lake trout and walleye and that has not been acceptable to the sport fishing community.

But Jim was also in charge when the DNR needed to convince the legislature to increase license fees in order to preserve DNR funding or endure staffing cuts and program rollbacks. Working with Rep. Bumstead who was leading the appropriations committee in the House, he was able to streamline the fee system, reducing the number of licenses offered and gaining the needed revenue stream to preserve staff and programing. He also was successful in passing a \$12 million dollar allocation for the upgrade of the Thomp-

son State Fish Hatchery to produce 250,000 more steelhead annually. That achievement was dwarfed this past year by the \$30 million-dollar general fund budget appropriation he guided through both House and Senate to renovate the state's hatchery system,

replace outdated equipment throughout the department and the acquisition of two new Great Lakes research vessels.

Under Jim Dexter's leadership, the DNR's fisheries division has met and exceeded expectations of managing the fishery us-

ing science-based decision making and sustainable practices. He is leaving his post in a much better place because of his dedication and commitment to preserving our natural resources.



Retired Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter receives a distinguished service award for his dedicated service and accomplishments in support of the anadromous sport fishery.

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spawned and seem to be more aggressive.

The best rod choices are 5’6” through 6’3” in fast action. This helps when jigging heavy jigs in deeper water. The most popular line choice is high viz braid in a 10lb test with a 10lb fluorocarbon leader.

You can have the best jig and soft plastic combo and have the proper depth and jig Candance, but it will be a long day if you’re not vertical. That’s why the person on the trolling motor may catch the most fish. Due to the fact, he is the closest to the trolling motor and is the most vertical. Therefore, staying vertical

is the most crucial part of this technique. Remember: Vertical = Limits of Fish.

Locating walleyes within the river system varies depending on the phase you’re in. Remember that the Detroit River is 28 miles from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie. So, we’re talking about an extensive river system, a hectic industrial waterway with an international border with Canada.

WHERE TO FIND THEM

Early in the run, concentrate on shallower water in spawning areas. Look for depths around 12-25 ft. As the walleye run progresses, you will find the fish

in deeper water. Always look for a hard bottom. The depths to focus on are 25-40 feet. The ledges in the shipping channel are money and produce more fish during the second half of the run. The water temperatures to start fishing for them are 40-44 degrees. So soon as the water gets to 42, it’s game on!

SENSE OF SMELL

The debate continues when it comes to scent for walleyes. Does it really help? However, when it comes to dirty water and colder water temps, I highly recommend it. A walleye’s sense of smell can detect amino acids in a dilution of several parts per 10 million. Now, scent is not the be-all and end-all to catching fish. But when the bite is getting finicky, sometimes scent does the trick. My favorites are made by Procure. I love the gel-based scents in Trophy Walleye, Nightcrawler, Goby, and Emerald Shiner. Try scent; it will improve your catch rate.

After the winter in Michigan...nothing is better than a Spring Walleye trip on the river. So, get out there every Spring. The bite is on, and fishing is excellent from April thru June on the Detroit River. Remember, a fresh walleye fish fry makes people feel better and happier and makes you the most popular guy or gal in the neighborhood!



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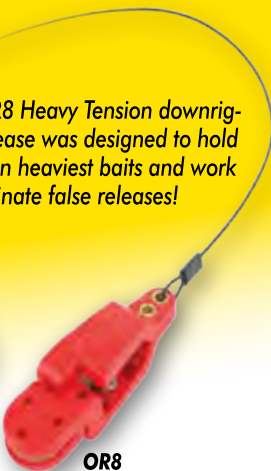
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WALLEYE RECIPE from Roger Hinchcliff

Peanut oil is a must when frying fish. Use a deep fryer, Fry Daddy, or cast iron skillet. Use a thermometer to ensure the oil is heated between 350-375° F Pat fillets dry and use Andy’s Cajun Fish Breeding (No egg or milk needed to dip fillets in) Should be done in 3 minutes or less!

Enjoy!

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the river wades. John constantly monitors the river

and a call to him will let you know about the water level and the number of steelhead that are present in the rapids.

Drifting eggs and other bait as well as drift lures is very effective for steelhead holding in the deep pockets and runs in the

rapids. While eggs seem to be the most effective there are times when wigglers (Hexagenia nymphs) and wax worms are even better. Flies fished with drift fishing gear are also likely to get you connected to a big rainbow. Despite the size of the river some stealth is important because of the clear water. Keeping a low profile and staying below the fish when they are in shallow water will increase your success. Light leaders of low visibility monofilament or fluorocarbon will also result in more pick-ups.

The variety of the water and the expanse of the rapids make it a great place for the hardware angler to toss lures. The steelhead can see your lure from a long way off and this can make for some arm wrenching strikes. You will increase your chances of a strike by sweeping your plug, weighted spinner, or spoon through as many of the deep riffles and holes as you can. There are places where you can hang your lure in eight to 20 feet of water while standing in two feet of water. Just don't let a muscu-



Beached spring steelhead

lar rainbow drag you into its domain. Cloudy days are best for hardware tossing but when the weather turns sunny on your trip try using smaller lures in darker hues. Weighted spinners with size 3 brass blades proved successful for me when the sun was high in the sky. Earlier on the same day larger spinners with silver plated blades provoked an aggressive response from several feisty

rainbows.

Careful but aggressive wading that gets you away from the berm to less heavily fished water will almost always result in some extra hook-ups. On my first foray in the rapids I was able to wade all the way across the river and nobody asked about my purchases, place of residence, or reason for crossing the international boundary. Some lightly fished runs produced some American side steelhead on my trek. Because the current is strong I plotted a path that kept me in thigh deep water or less and used my wading staff on almost every step. Staying sideways to the current will decrease your resistance to the powerful flow.

In addition to the rapids, anglers on foot can fish just below the Edison Power Plant on the American side of the river. There is a public access site here and the power plant discharge attracts fish. This is also a popular area for boat fishermen. You can launch your boat at the end of Pine Street on the Canadian side and a few miles downstream from the rapids on Riverside Road on the Michigan side of the river. You can intercept migrating rainbows downstream from the rapids with your boat but the fish will be more concentrated at the base of the rapids and below the power plants.

Atlantic salmon in July, chinook and pink salmon in August and September, and a fall run of steelhead in October and November follow the spring steelhead run. After fishing for steelhead in late May or June you will likely want to return for these other species because the rapids are indeed a special fishing venue. It is the best place in Michigan and probably the best in all of the Great Lakes for Atlantic and pink salmon. More information on the river's fisheries as well as the status of current fishing can be obtained from fisheries personnel in the DNR's Gaylord office (989-732-3541). The scoop on lodging, restaurants, and local tackle shops can be obtained from the Sault Area Chamber of Commerce at (906) 632-3301 or www.saultstemarie.org.

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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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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.

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

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

This paper has no paid writers and has a grass roots style. Its writers are the every day fishermen who share their techniques and fishing adventures; and the paper has become well known for it's **January Special Edition** or "*Show Edition*" that is seen at all the spring expos and sport, boat and fishing shows throughout the Great Lakes.

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

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

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Sen. Jon Bumstead Receives Howard A. Tanner Award



After waiting more than two years because of the COVID shutdown state-wide, Senator Jon Bumstead was honored in person on April 29th for being selected the 2020 Howard A. Tanner Award winner for his dedication and outstanding contributions to Michigan’s anadromous fish sport fishery. This award recognizes his leadership and support for the \$30 million supplemental budget to underwrite 40-year overdue upgrades to the state’s hatchery system, upgrades to equipment and facilities and the replacement of the Lake Michigan

Left:
 Sen. Jon Bumstead accepts plaque for his efforts on behalf of anglers across the state.

Research vessel, RV Steelhead. These improvements will guarantee the MDNR’s ability to rear and stock healthy fish for decades. His leadership as Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy made this once in a lifetime opportunity happen. It will provide quality and healthy fish populations throughout the state. Sen. Bumstead’s long and staunch support for conservation, outdoor recreation and the local economies of our lakeshore communities goes back to his six years in the House and serving as Vice Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Environment. It was there that he helped pass needed funding to preserve staffing and programs of the MDNR by streamlining the licensing system, reducing the required number of licenses

and allowing sportsmen and women to pay a little more for the opportunity to preserve our hunting and fishing heritage. He also guided through a \$12 million-dollar supplemental appropriations bill to make improvements to the Thompson State Hatchery that resulted in the DNR being able to now plant over 250,000 more steelhead trout annually across the state of Michigan. MSSFA values results and Sen. Bumstead has shown he can deliver for the millions of men and women of the state who value our outdoors and its hunting and fishing heritage!



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
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July 15-16:
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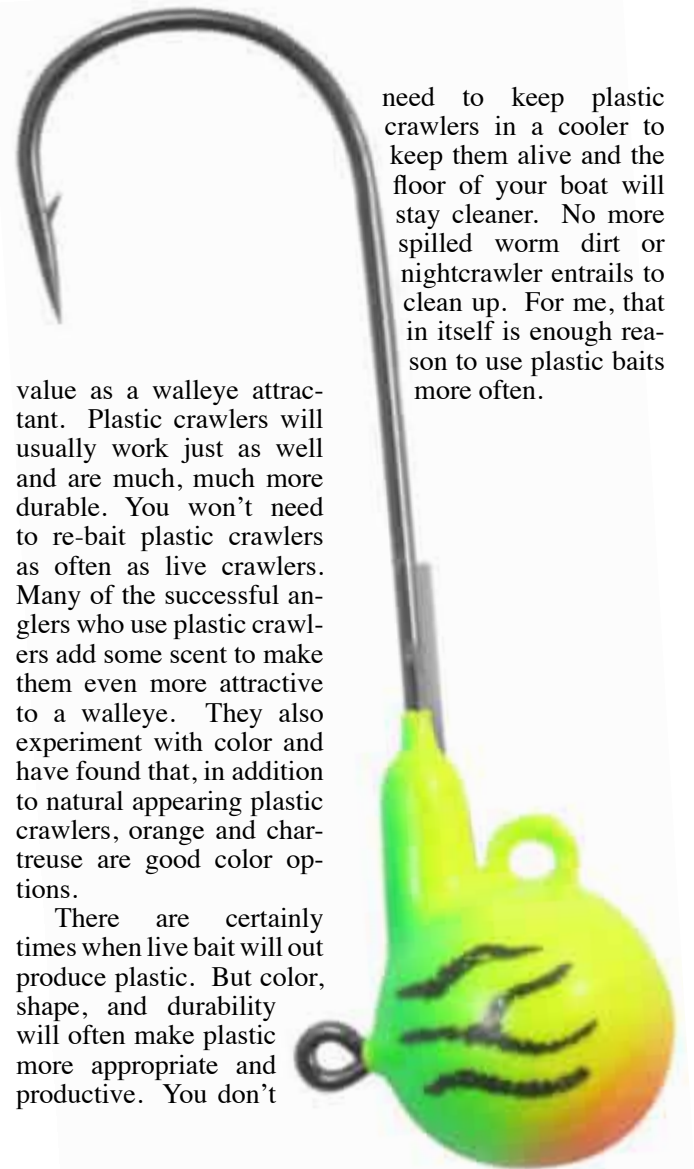
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Plastic Baits For Walleyes



be pecked at and ruined by panfish. Also, when casting to the weedline, jigs will often hang on the vegetation. When the jig is snapped off the weed, the live bait is frequently snapped off the jig. A jig tipped with plastic is much more durable than a jig tipped with live bait. Walleye tournament angler Drake Herd often has a Slick Shad or Rage Swimmer attached to his jig when a jig/plastic combo is appropriate. They stand up to the panfish pecks and vegetation, and the walleyes like to eat them. He prefers bright plastic in stained water and plastic that resembles a real minnow in clear water.

In some waters during the summer and fall, trolling with spinners rigged with nightcrawlers is a popular and productive presentation for walleyes. But just like with panfish along the weedline, spinners with nightcrawlers attract unwanted attention. Panfish and sheepshead will nip at the crawler until it is of no



need to keep plastic crawlers in a cooler to keep them alive and the floor of your boat will stay cleaner. No more spilled worm dirt or nightcrawler entrails to clean up. For me, that in itself is enough reason to use plastic baits more often.

value as a walleye attractant. Plastic crawlers will usually work just as well and are much, much more durable. You won't need to re-bait plastic crawlers as often as live crawlers. Many of the successful anglers who use plastic crawlers add some scent to make them even more attractive to a walleye. They also experiment with color and have found that, in addition to natural appearing plastic crawlers, orange and chartreuse are good color options.

There are certainly times when live bait will out produce plastic. But color, shape, and durability will often make plastic more appropriate and productive. You don't

Left: South Dakota fishing guide Joe Honer catches lots of walleyes in flooded timber on jigs tipped with plastic.

By Bob Jensen

Some friends and I gathered recently and as so often happens at these gatherings, the talk turned to fishing. One friend indicated that he was seriously thinking about trying plastic baits for walleyes this fishing season. Another friend said it was "about time". Some anglers have been using plastic baits instead of live baits for walleyes for a good number of years. Others haven't made the jump yet. There are situations when plastic baits will produce as many walleyes as live bait, sometimes more, and will be much easier to use.

I remember my first venture into the world of plastic for walleyes. It was the late 70's and I was living in Brainerd Minnesota. The Mississippi River flows through Brainerd and I spent too much time on the banks of the river casting for walleyes. On this day I was throwing a jig that had a 3 inch white Mr. Twister attached. I was catching walleyes regularly. An angler down the bank noticed my success and walked over and asked what I was using. I showed

him. His reaction was hard to understand. Upon seeing what I was using, he commented "those things don't work" and returned to his fishing spot. I went back to catching walleyes with those "things that don't work". Since that time, I've incorporated plastic into my walleye fishing with very good results.

In the spring many anglers wade the shallow areas of rivers and lakes in search of pre-spawn walleyes. A jig/minnow combination historically is the most used presentation. In recent years though, a jig with a plastic tail has become very popular. An angler doesn't need to drag a minnow bucket along when using plastic, and with the many shapes and colors available in plastic baits, an angler can present the fish with a very unique and more appealing presentation.

Another time when a jig/plastic combo is productive is when summer walleyes are along the deep weedline. They're on that deep weedline more often than an angler might think. A jig tipped with a leech or minnow will catch them, but that combination will

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“Commission”
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a border-blind way, and to spread the news about the work being done by Secre-

tariat staff and Commission committees and boards. One such event occurred on December 14, 2022 when Rep. Dingell and Rep. Huizenga joined MP Badawey

and Sen. Cordy at a binational media event on Parliament Hill. The foursome used the event to speak of the need for closer ties in 2023, and they jointly con-

gratulated the Commission for its success over the years. This positive sign-off was encouraging and set a confident tone for the year ahead.

Policy and Legislative Affairs staff just completed a busy appropriations season. Starting in February, and continuing through Great Lakes Week in March, the team connected with more than 50 lawmakers in Washington to start the fiscal planning for the year ahead. While long-standing Congressional allies such as Senator Portman, Senator Leahy, and Congressman Upton have retired from Congress, Secretariat staff built upon the positive legacy left behind by these Great Lakes champions. This work focused on maintaining existing relationships while forging new associations within the 118th Congress. During Great Lakes Week in Washington, the secretariat had the added pleasure of escorting a delegation of Canadian Members of Parliament around Capitol Hill. The Parliamentarians met with several members and staff, participated in Great Lakes Week events, and met with Embassy of Canada offi-

cials. The Parliamentarians stressed the importance of the bilateral relationship. President Biden visited Ottawa on March 23 and 24 and met with Prime Minister Trudeau on a number of topics. High on the list was the Great Lakes and freshwater. For those of us that work and live in the Great Lakes region, a highlight of the trip was an announcement from the Canadian Government of a \$425 million investment in the Great Lakes over ten years. Several members of Congress who wrote to the president urging him to raise the profile of the Great Lakes and to call for greater investments from Canada toward Great Lakes restoration expressed appreciation for the two leaders including the Great Lakes on their agenda and for Canada’s additional investment in the Great Lakes at large. The Commission was mentioned in the letter as an example of an effective binational institution.

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Fishing Things To Consider

By Bob Jensen

As fishing season gets closer, many anglers are thinking about new lures or techniques that they would like to put into practice this year. That’s a wise thing to do. Fish get conditioned to lures, lure colors, and lure presentations. When they become conditioned to these factors, they’re less likely to eat that lure. Show them a different lure or different presentation and they might respond the way that we want them to respond: They eat the bait. Here are some ideas that you might want to consider putting into action in future fishing trips.

Sometimes old techniques become new techniques. Anglers have used slip-bobbers when fishing for walleyes for a long time. But in some areas the use of slip-bobbers has fallen by the wayside. That’s too bad, because there are times when slip-bobbers are the best way to get finicky walleyes to eat. I can’t think of a better way to put a minnow or leech in front of a walleye and leave it there until the fish can’t resist eating it. However, there’s more to it than attaching a bobber to your line above a hook and throwing it out there. It might be hard to believe, but the bobber you choose to use can actually determine how many fish you catch. A thin, cigar-shaped bobber has less water resistance than a bobber that’s larger in diameter. A bait-shy walleye can pull the thinner bobber down easier, so it will hang onto a bait longer, and that gives the angler an advantage. If you like to catch walleyes, research slip-bobber techniques if you haven’t done so.

A somewhat new lure type that has been creat-

ing outstanding catches for largemouth bass is a bladed or vibrating jig. And although bladed jigs were designed with largemouth in mind, if the bladed jig is pulled past a walleye or northern pike, it is going to get eaten. Bladed jigs can be fished over and through deeper beds of vegetation as well as through shallower reeds and lily pads. It creates a good amount of vibration, so it works well in stained water but also calls fish in from farther distances in clear water. Fishing guide and educator Mike Frisch employs whatever technique is necessary to catch fish and reports that Thunder Cricket Vibrating Jigs have earned a very important position in his bass fishing efforts.

Pay attention to the various shapes of plastic. Much of the time, in fact most of the time, anglers tip their jig with some form of plastic. Anglers that use plastic a lot soon learn that the different shapes of plastic have different characteristics. They perform differently in the water. Plastics that have claws and flappers and appendages put out more vibration, and they also fall slower. Often those shapes will be better in stained or dirty water. Plastics that have straight tails fall faster, have less or no vibration, and are more productive in clear water. Color is certainly a consideration, but the shape of the plastic bait on your jig is a very important factor also.

This year, expand your fishing techniques and locations and you’ll be a more successful angler more often.



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Opinion...
Consent Decree Dangerous for Local Fishing

By Jim Johnson, CPMR

In 1979, a federal district court ruled that tribes of the 1836 Treaty of Washington have fishing rights in their waters of lakes Michigan, Huron, and Superior. The state can intervene with Native fishing only for the purposes of conservation and fair harvest opportunity for state-licensed users.

Since then, agreements divided those treaty waters into zones for gill nets, trap nets, recreational fishing, and refuges. And provisions were added to better protect lake trout, which were still recovering from near-extinction caused by overfishing and sea lampreys.

The state invested \$14 million in taxpayer money to convert about half of the tribes' commercial gill nets to the less lethal, more selective trap nets. Gillnets had been banned in the state-licensed fishery since the 1970's.

Gillnets are not just lethal, they are extremely efficient, made of modern extruded polymers that are almost invisible under water. Fish simply cannot see them and swim into their lethal meshes, becoming entangled and often caught by the gills, which causes suffocation.

The proposed new

consent decree undoes the \$14 million investment in gillnet reduction and represents an about-face by the DNR on gill nets. Zones are almost gone, a refuge is now opened to gillnetting, and gillnets will be unleashed in places they have not been for over 35 years. That jeopardizes an already dwindling fishery resource and both the tribal and recreational angler's opportunity to fish the Great Lakes.

That can only be a formula for disaster.

Whitefish have nearly collapsed and the remaining whitefish will be hunted down. Still-recovering Lake trout, along with walleye, will be the new targets.

In 2000, lake trout were considered a "by-catch" to the targeting of whitefish, and lake trout were given special levels of protection.

Now, the proposed decree would encourage the targeting of lake trout with gill nets.

Gill nets are so efficient as to decimate fish populations in months — not years — when not vigilantly regulated. Yet harvest regulations will only be reviewed every few years, leaving plenty of time for disaster. The new proposal eliminates penalties for violations.

The priority is expanded fishing opportunity over resource stewardship.

For Lake Huron's recovering lake trout, the future is uncertain. The Lake Huron agencies recently agreed that stocking lake trout here is no longer economically viable. If harvest kills off too many adult fish, lake trout reproduction will cease. Worse, the proposal opened the Drummond Island Refuge to gillnet fishing.

If lake trout fail, what then? Will stocking millions of lake trout prove effective? And at what cost?

Like overgrazed pastures, intensively fished gillnet zones will have fewer fish, recreational zones mean more fish (taller grass). The proposal views recreational zones and the Drummond Island Refuge (until now, less heavily fished) as greener pastures to be opened as short-term opportunities for gillnetters.

"Short-term" because, soon, all pastures will be overgrazed.

Anglers cannot compete with gillnets — lake trout and walleye catches become too low to attract anglers. Launch ramps and parking lots empty. Lake Huron has lost most of its salmon. Lake trout are the mainstay of

Alpena's annual Michigan Brown Trout Festival. The implications to Northeast Michigan ports are ominous.

Until now, the DNR has argued that gill nets need to be minimized. Now, they say that the gillnetting won't hurt lake trout.

So which is true? Are gill nets a serious problem or are they OK, after all? Did the DNR waste \$14 million to remove gill nets?

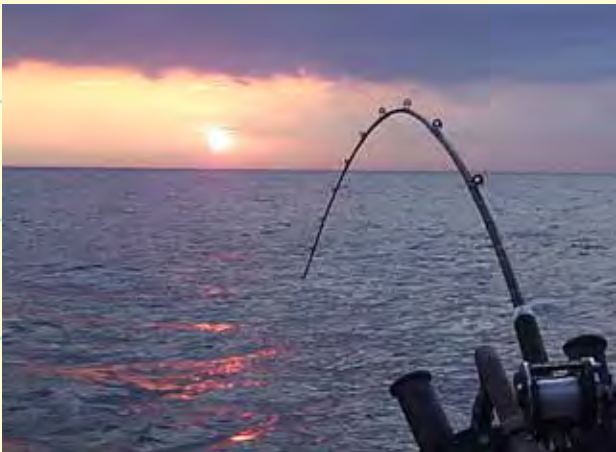
The DNR Fisheries Division has prided itself in its transparency. Annual fishery workshops are held to share information and plans and solicit public comments. But, since the proposed agreement became public, it seems our Fishery Division Great Lakes biologists have been silenced. They are forbidden to answer

questions about the proposal.

Let's see if we can encourage the Fisheries Division to recommit to transparency as we learn more about how the proposed consent decree may affect the future of our Great Lakes.

And please share your thoughts with the governor, attorney general, and our delegates from Northeast Michigan to the state House and state Senate.

Jim Johnson is a retired Lake Huron fishery biologist. He now volunteers with the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources.



Federal Judge to Hold Hearings on Consent Decree

By Dennis Eade, GLSFN

On May 24th and 25th in Kalamazoo's Federal District Court Judge Paul Maloney will conduct hearings to determine next steps in the Consent Decree negotiations process. The Sault Tribe is attempting to delay any resolution in order to pursue a strategy of sovereign independence from regulations governing where and how they fish. The other four tribes are against the Sault tribe's tactics because the concessions given up by the state and federal agencies in the proposed agreement will open additional waters for gill net fishing enabling tribal fishers to continue to fish commercially without the burden of higher costs of production associated with trap net fishing.

Then there is the matter of the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources (CPMR) seeking standing in the negotiations. The judge has formidable challenges to consider before we see this process play out. If you were anticipating any resolution soon, expect to be disappointed.

Tanner Award Goes to Roger Greil in 2023

Atlantic salmon are native to Lake Ontario; but their populations severely declined by the late 1800s due to human influences. During the early to mid-1900s, Atlantic salmon were stocked throughout the Great Lakes in effort to reestablish them into Lake Ontario and introduce the species into the upper Great Lakes. However, these ef-

forts experienced minimal success. In 1987, Lake Superior State University with the assistance of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, began stocking Atlantic salmon in the St. Marys River, Michigan, which has resulted in a successful, self-supporting hatchery operation and stable recreational Atlantic salmon fishery.

Lake Superior State University Aquatic Research Laboratory Manager, Roger Greil, has been the guiding force behind the successful reintroduction of Atlantic salmon within the upper Great Lakes. Roger has always contended that Atlantic salmon are "a fish in search of a reason to die". Possibly due to a combination of stress and

susceptibility to disease. Thwarted by competition with other salmonid species for spawning habitat, prey selection causing detrimental effects on early life stages and high rates of early mortality syndrome, Atlantic salmon appeared to be severely limited in their ability to naturally reproduce within the upper Great Lakes.

Roger capitalized on the advantages of the St. Marys River program which include: 1) the LSSU hatchery is located on the St. Marys River, uses St. Marys River water, and fish are stocked directly into the river without additional transport, resulting in increased homing and greatly reduced hauling stress; 2) the St. Marys River has abundant forage

(larval Rainbow Smelt and Cisco Coregonus artedi) and stocking can be timed so receiving temperatures are ideal for survival; 3) over 80% of the Atlantic Salmon are caught in the St. Marys River indicating a high degree of homing behavior that makes the fish more vulnerable to anglers; and 4) the St. Marys River is cool and large, allowing spawning phase Atlantic Salmon to begin migration as early as June and July, while many smaller streams do not take runs until the mid-late fall season. All of these factors aided in the successful reintroduction of Atlantic salmon.

For over 30 years, LSSU has been one of the strongest university programs training new fisheries biologists and creating an environment for breakthrough aquatic research. Most of that credit goes to one person, Mr. Roger Greil. Since 1987, LSSU's Aquatic Research Laboratory has created a world-class fishery for the Atlantic salmon species, and training many of MDNR's

"Greil"
Continued on page 15

38th Annual Charlevoix Area Trout Tournament

June 9-11th, 2023 • Registration June 7 & 8th

Brown Trout • Salmon • Steelhead • Lake Trout • Walleye
Over \$20,000 in Cash and Prizes

Entry Fees:

Adult Early Bird by May 17th (\$35)
After May 17th (\$40)
Ages 6-14 (\$15)
Ages 5 & Younger Free (but must register)

Kids Fish Pond:

East Park Trout Pond
June 10th, 11am - 3pm
(\$5)

Where to Register:

231-675-1127 • 231-330-0867 • 231-758-4900
www.fishcharlevoix.com & Facebook!

Trout Tournament Dinner: May 6th at Castle Farms doors open at 5:30pm.

New for 2023: Sponser Packages- Become a sponser and you'll be entered into an exclusive gun drawing!
General Raffle Package (\$100)- Includes \$150 worth of raffle tickets plus two bonus gun raffle tickets!
Special Gun of the Year Drawing- Rifle will include the CATT logo.

2023 Battle Creek Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

| Month | Date | Event | Location |
|--|------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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 |
|---|------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 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 |
|--|-------|--|--|
| *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 | |
|-----------|------|--------------------------|---|
| May | 6 | Linwood | 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. |
| May | 20 | Linwood | |
| June | 3 | Sebawaing | |
| June | 17 | Sebawaing (Kids Day) | 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. |
| July | 1 | Linwood / AuGres TBD | |
| July | 15 | Manistee | |
| July | 29 | Ludington | If interested in fishing with us please contact: Gary Decker at 989-859-7472 Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com |
| August | 12 | Ludington (2-Day) | |
| August | 26 | Manistee (2-Day) | |
| September | 9 | Manistee / Frankfort TBD | |



Join a Chapter, Join the Fun!



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

mssfa.org
We'll *HOOK YOU UP* with the latest news!

2023 Holland Steelheader’s Calendar of Events

| Month | Date | Event |
|--|------|-------------------------------------|
| 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 |
|--|------|---|------------------------------|
| 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 / MarkPlatt |
| 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 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 |
| 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: <i>President</i> Bob Schulz, bobschulz7@gmail.com , 248-915-0043 <i>Membership Director</i> Henry Nabors 248-225-4964 | | | |

Highlighted on earlier pages
of this issue, the award
winners stand together.

**From Left: Roger Greil,
Sen. Jon Bumstead and
Jim Dexter pose with
plaques received for their
collective efforts to
protect and enhance
the anadromous sport
fishery.**

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| 2023 South Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events | | |
|--|-------|---|
| Month | Date | Event |
| June | 10 | South Haven Steelheaders' Ladies Tournament |
| 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 | 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.swmisteelheaders.com www.facebook.com/southwestmichigansteelheaders | | | |
| May | 11-13 | Summer Challenge Tournament | www.fishthesummerchallenge.com |
| June | 24 | Trolling with the Troops | www.trollingwiththetroops.com |
| 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 | Ubly Foxhunters |
| June | 10 | 6:00am | Veterans Fishing Outing | Harbor Beach Marina - Contact: Kevin R |
| July | 13 | 7:30pm | Regular Mtg - Speaker: TBD | Ubly Foxhunters |
| October | 19 | 7:30pm | Regular Mtg - Speaker: TBD Election of Board/Officers | Ubly Foxhunters |
| Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries. | | | | |

| 2023 Thunderbay Steelheader’s Calendar of Events | | | |
|---|-------|--------|--|
| Month | Date | Time | Information |
| 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 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. | | | |
| 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 |



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MSSFA President Tim Stegeman presents the 2023 Howard A. Tanner Award to Roger Greil, retired LSSU Aquatic Research Laboratory Manager.

“Greil”
Continued from page 7

current Fisheries Division employees over that time. Roger has been crucial to the success of that program,

becoming a nationally-recognized expert on Atlantic salmon culture. In recognition of his accomplishments, the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen’s Association

has selected Roger Greil as this year’s Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award recipient for his contributions to Michigan’s anadromous fish sport fishery.

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