

1986 ANNUAL ISSUE



# FISHING TALES



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DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS

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# Mitchell: "1985 . . . A great year!!!"

The past year was a good one for the Detroit Area Steelheaders. We started the year in good financial condition, and due to the efforts of the membership, each of our major projects was also successful.

It would take too long to mention everyone who contributed in 1985, so just let me give a personal "Thank You" to each one of you. This year's Board of Directors was also one of the best I have ever been associated with. Many of you aren't really aware of all the extra work that your Board puts in, but let me assure you that they work very hard and put in a lot of personal time.

Let me also offer a big "Thanks" to all of the wives who volunteered for special projects, or who put up with all the phone calls or having their husbands gone to some meeting or another! The combined efforts of all of these people resulted in the great year we just ended.

The year kicked off with Joan Duffee from the D.N.R. speaking at our January meeting. There were some doubting looks when we said we were going to have a woman speaker, but it all changed the minute she took the microphone. Her talk on fishing on our side of the state, and on the whitefish netting operation out of Sanilac was very informative. January also marked the start of our Annual Boat Raffle and our first of three shows: the Silverdome Show, the Cobo Hall Boat Show, and Outdoorama.

Our February speaker was Buzz Ramsey, from Luhr Jensen Co. As always, Buzz was spectacular and attracted the largest attendance of the year. February also brought our first Annual Dinner Dance. While there was a lot of concern, everyone came through for a truly great time. We have the Dinner Dance planned again for 1986, and I'm sure it will be just as much fun. Don't miss it!

March is always a great month, in that the boat trollers start to talk about ice-out, and the river fishermen are looking forward to the peak spring steelhead fishing. For those interested in the spring lake fishery, we had Captain Jerry Lee as our speaker. Jerry is a long-time member of our club, and has a reputation as one of the best charter captains on Lake Michigan. His talks are always informative and entertaining. Yes, Jerry, I admit I do paint my cannonballs!



**MIKE PATTERSON** (left), long-time Detroit Area Steelheader member is shown here accepting a special plaque of recognition from 1985 club President **Bob Mitchell**. Mike was honored for saving the lives of two small boys at Ludington last summer. Well done! We're all proud of you, Mike!

The highlight of March, though, has to be the Detroit Area Steelheaders' Spring Fishing Show. The 1985 Spring Fishing Show was the most successful one we have ever had, and ensured the financial success of the club for 1985. We had over 2,500 paid attendance, and a whole schedule of great speakers. A special "Thank You" goes to Jim Gordon, who put the whole thing together for the second straight year.

April saw the end of the river tournaments and the start of the boat trolling tournaments, with our first tourney taking place at Benton Harbor. Andy Pelt came to our meeting to update us on the Indian fishing situation, and the then-recently signed agreement. I personally feel that we, as sportfishermen, came out of that with much more than we could have had that agreement not been reached. We also had Gerry Ciurzinski to tell us about fishing at Lexington for our May tournament. Last, but not least, was the drawing and announcement of the winners of the Annual Boat Raffle. Again, this raffle was a success for the club due to the efforts of everyone who helped by selling tickets.

By May, boat trolling was in full swing. Our speakers for May were from the On-

tario Sportfishing Club. Their slide show on their club's efforts at raising their own salmon was truly one of the most interesting presentations we have had.

Our June speaker was none other than the father of Michigan salmon fishing, Dr. Howard Tanner. Dr. Tanner is now retired from the D.N.R., but he is as involved as ever in salmon fishing. As most of you know, Dr. Tanner is now at Michigan State University working on research. You could have heard a pin drop when he started talking about triploid salmon and the prospects of catching 50-, 60- or even 70-pound salmon as a realistic happening in the near future!

Because of the success of the club's fund raising projects, we were able to present Dr. Tanner with a \$500 check to help out in his research. Keep your eyes open for the new cookbook that Ken Rogers is putting together. Net proceeds will be going to Dr. Tanner's research. In June, your club also sent a check for \$250 to the state association to help offset the huge legal bills incurred as part of the Indian settlement.

We also had our annual Special Olympics walleye outing at Monroe in June. Once again, Don Kirchoff put together a great program and we had about 20 boats participating. The satisfaction of seeing the smiles on the faces of those handicapped kids is something those of us who were there will never forget. There's a nice report on the outing elsewhere in this issue.

July and August are the height of the boat trolling on the big lakes. Ken Rogers brought his boat to the July meeting for a live demonstration. Ron Spittler from the D.N.R. was our speaker at the August meeting. We're lucky to have someone like Ron working in our corner of the state. Ron is a true fisherman and understands our problems.

The highlight of August was the annual Ladies Day tournament, at Port Austin. The ladies were out in full force and taught the guys a few things about fishing and partying. The picnic was great, with roast pig and salmon galore. Thanks to everyone who brought a dish to pass.

In September, boat trolling is starting to come to an end, as the fish head up the rivers. But, that's good news for the river-

men. We brought in the best to talk about it at our September meeting: Dick Swan. Dick was fired up, and we got a great talk! The "Skipper of the Year" contest was not decided until the last boat tournament, at Harbor Beach. Darrin Harris edged out Joel Garinger to win the honors.

In October, we had another great river fisherman as our speaker. Jim Bedford gave a talk on spinner bait fishing for salmon and steelhead. He also brought along some parts and showed how to make his baits. Again, because of the hard work of our membership, we were able to donate \$250 toward the construction of a fish cleaning station in Lexington.

"Jake" Jakubiak was our speaker at the November meeting. Jake gave demonstrations on tying flies for steelhead fishing. In addition, it appeared as if the information passed on by our previous speakers paid off, as the Detroit Area Steelheaders won the traveling trophy from the three-way inter-chapter tournament with Saginaw and Metro-West.

What better way to end a successful year than to have a big party? That's exactly what we did at the December meeting. First we took ballots for the 1986 Directors. Next we awarded the "Skipper of the Year" trophy, and trophies for the big fish of each species for 1985. We announced the "Member of the Year" award winner, Ed McIntosh, and the "Director of the Year" award winner, Ken Rogers. Congratulations, fellows!

A special award was given to Detroit Area Steelheader Mike Patterson for saving the lives of a couple of small boys at Ludington. Well done, Mike!

Our big raffle for the night was a giant cooler full of Christmas "cheer." The member who won wasn't present for the drawing, but I heard that a lot of members showed up at his place later! Finally, to top off the entire year, we had an appearance by none other than "Salmon Claus." It was rumored that he got a ride here on the "Drifter," and he had gifts for all the little steelheaders.

Nineteen eighty-five was truly a great year. We had great speakers, great success at our fund raisers, great fun at our functions, and we were able to donate money to worthy causes. Nineteen eighty-six looks to be just as good as 1985 was. Your Board of Directors is already working on many activities. If there is anything you would like to see us add to our program, please speak to any of the Directors. They are always open to new ideas.

In conclusion, let me again say thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make 1985 a success. You can truly be proud of your efforts.

—Bob Mitchell, 1985 President

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The views expressed in FISHIN' TALES are those of members and the Editor. The purpose of FISHIN' TALES is to inform members of events which affect the Sportfisherman. It is our intention to teach, inform and guide members to respect and appreciate the Great Lakes, rivers and land around us.

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The list of Officers and Committee Chairmen for 1986 will be published in the February issue of Fishin' Tales.

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All materials for publication should be submitted to:

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FULLY EQUIPPED 'FISHING MACHINE' IS TOP RAFFLE PRIZE

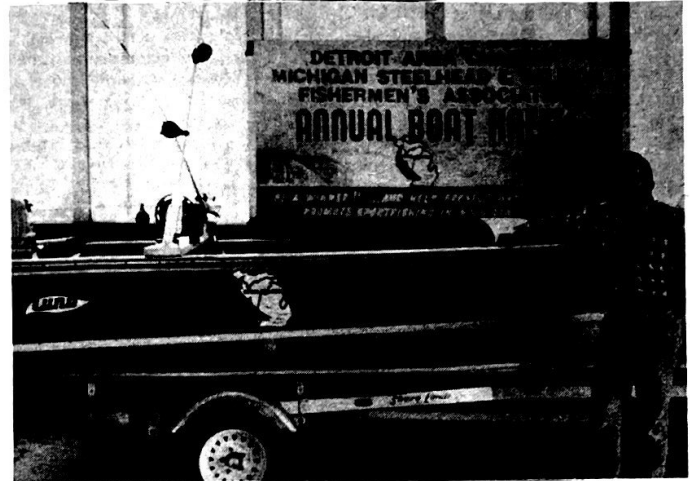
# A \$5,000 salmon rig could be yours!

Once again it's Annual Raffle time! As in past years, the Raffle will feature a boat, motor and trailer as the Grand Prize.

Everyone was very impressed with the quality of the Lund boat we gave away last year as the top prize, so for the 1986 Annual Raffle we have once again selected a Lund. The prize boat, with its 30 horsepower Mariner motor and trailer, makes its debut appearance at the Silverdome Boat Show (January 22-26), and can be seen at Detroit Area Steelheader displays at the other winter shows, as well as at our own Spring Fishing Show on March 16 (see below).

In addition to the Grand Prize, two long-time Steelheader supporters, Lowrance and Big Jon have also donated prizes for use in the Raffle. Lowrance is providing one of its outstanding computer graphs, and Big Jon has given us two downriggers with trolling bar. These donations are both exceptional prizes, and the Detroit Area Steelheaders are very lucky to have the continued support of these two excellent companies.

Another great prize for the Annual Raffle is a full-day charter, courtesy of the "Predator" charter boats. Also, a tackle package worth at least \$100 will be given away as an added Raffle prize in 1986.



GRAND PRIZE in the 1986 version of the Annual Boat Raffle is this Lund boat, complete with 30 horsepower Mariner motor and a trailer. SOMEBODY'S GOING TO WIN IT... WHY NOT YOU?!!

Tickets will be sold at all meetings, and at the major boat, fishing and outdoor shows in the Detroit area. If you can help with ticket sales at the shows, please contact any member of the Board of Directors.

If you want any more information, or would like to help out in some other way,

call me at 755-6583.

Regardless, we encourage all Detroit Area Steelheaders to stop by the club's display booth, have a look at the prizes, and maybe even buy a few tickets. Who knows? You may be one of this year's lucky winners!

-Mike Zelkowski

## Spring Fishing Show is set for March 16

One of the surest signs that winter is almost over—the Detroit Area Chapter's annual SPRING SHOW—is nearly here. Mark your calendars! The date for this year's fishing extravaganza is SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 1986.

The show is begin held again this year at the Dearborn Civic Center, off Michigan Avenue near Greenfield Road, (see map). The hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a \$2.00 donation for admission. Senior citizens and kids get in FREE, and there is plenty of convenient free parking.

As always, the show offers all fisher-

men the finest selection of tackle and the latest in equipment, PLUS "How to..." clinics to show you how to catch the elusive and much sought-after Great Lakes Steelhead and salmon.

There will be seminars on river fishing, surf fishing and boat trolling. Other clinics scheduled during the show include ones covering fly tying, rod building, and smoking fish.

THERE WON'T BE ANY WRESTLING BEARS, OR "MACKINAC ISLAND" FUDGE AT THIS SHOW—JUST EVERYTHING TO DO WITH FISHING!!

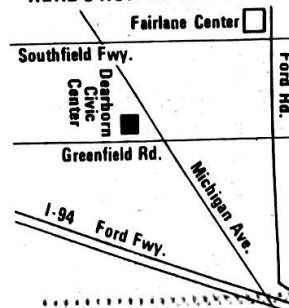
You'll have the opportunity to hear some well-known fishermen reveal the tactics and tricks that work for them—fishermen such as Dick Swan, Jerry Lee and Steve Hamilton.

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## Detroit Area Steelheaders History

The first organizational meeting of the Detroit Area Chapter was held on October 16, 1974. Many hours of planning went into the project after a feasibility questionnaire to MSSFA members in the area indicated interest in the Chapter concept.

The State Board of Directors had encouraged two of their own, John Makela and Tom Schneider, to spearhead the move because of the membership possibilities in the vast metropolitan area. Two other Steelheaders, Ed Raquel and Joe Sizemore jumped in and, as a committee of four, they founded the Detroit Area Chapter late one night in September, 1974.

Forty-one fishermen attended that first gathering at the Northwood Inn, discussing elections, finances, committees, and reading the by-laws. But most of the talk was about fishing, naturally! It was decided that the "First Annual Meeting" would be held on December 4 and that that date would be the official beginning of the Chapter.

The Annual Meeting was attended by the State officers, with Tom Mandigo, MSSFA President, the featured speaker. Fourteen directors were nominated and elected at this meeting, while paid membership grew to over one hundred.

Since that time the Detroit Area Steelheaders (its present name) has had a monthly meeting for its members (now held on the last Tuesday of each month), and has grown to be the largest Chapter in the state.

## Coming Events

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren

January 28, 1986      February 25, 1986      March 25, 1986

SPECIAL STEELHEADER EVENTS

- SILVERDOME BOAT SHOW January 22-26
- COBO HALL BOAT SHOW February 1-9
- OUTDOORAMA February 21-March 2
- DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS SPRING FISHING SHOW March 16

NOTE: Volunteers are needed to staff the club's booth at the shows. Please call Mike Lehto (478-9746) or Dennis Holoway (898-4329) if you can help.

### RIVER/SURF TOURNAMENTS

DATE	LOCATION	CHAPTERS	CONTACT
Feb. or March	Big Manistee River	WATA Super Tournery All Michigan Steelheaders	Dick Leonard, 774-8248
March 16	Betsie River	Detroit only	Dick Leonard, 774-8248
April	To be announced	To be announced	Dick Leonard, 774-8248

PLEASE NOTE: Until further notice, President Mitchell requests that NO VENDORS set up at Members' meetings. ALL space is needed for seating the membership!

# 1985 boat tourneys featured quality action!

Now that the boats have long been put under wraps and the cry of "FISH ON" hasn't been heard for what seems like ages, most normal (normal??) Detroit Area Steelheader boat trollers are suffering from a bad case of cabin fever and that dreaded affliction, 'noneintheboxitis'. This seems like the perfect time to review the 1985 Boat Trolling Tournament season, and remind ourselves that there really is a spring, summer and fall.

## BENTON HARBOR IN APRIL

First, there was the Benton Harbor tournament back at the end of April. This was one for the record books, as 58 boats, the largest fleet ever to participate in a Detroit Area Steelheader tourney, showed up for the usually "fantastic" spring fishing at this southern Lake Michigan hot spot. Although the catches were good, the fishing just wasn't quite what we've come to expect at Benton Harbor each year in the spring. Skipper Bruce Choinski and his crew on the "Kneeknocker" took first place in this two-day event.

This also marked the first time we had an inter-chapter fish-off in the boats against "those guys from the other side of town," the Metro-West Chapter. Unfortunately, Metro-West's top ten boats somehow managed to weigh in about ten more pounds total weight of fish than our top ten boats, and we had to spring for the keg of beer. Nonetheless, everyone had a great time and the challenge has already been put up for this year.

## LEXINGTON IN MAY

May found the Detroit Area Steelheader fleet in southern Lake Huron at the very popular and close-to-home port of Lexington. This probably should have been called the Port Sanilac tournament. Even though all 52 boats—another super turnout—launched at Lexington, as per tourney rules, most of them made the 11-mile run north to Sanilac, where, reports had it, the better fishing was to be found. The reports didn't hold true on this particular weekend, however, as most boats struggled the entire day just to catch four or five fish. Rookie skipper and Fishin' Tales editor, Joel Garinger and his crew on the "Fishbusters" managed top honors for the day. Once again, though, everybody had a great time despite the disappointing fishing.

## LUDINGTON IN EARLY JUNE

The first weekend in June, it was back to Lake Michigan to the well-known port of Ludington for another two-day contest. Although Detroit Area Steelheader tour-

ney skippers are not strangers to this port, this event was the first time a tournament was held there as early in the season as this.

The fishing at Ludington in years past during the weeks just before and after Memorial Day has been excellent. The 35 tourney boats entered managed to weigh in a two-day total of 281 fish—pretty good numbers—but every boat had to work pretty hard all day on both days to catch those fish. Mike Zelkowski, skipper of the "Elvira," and his crew topped all other boats for first place. The largest Atlantic salmon of the boat trolling season—a 14 pound, seven ounce beauty—was caught here by Neal Batson, fishing aboard the "Dondi."

## OSCODA IN LATE JUNE

At the end of June, it was on to Oscoda, one of the favorite ports for Detroit Area Steelheaders. Summer fishing there means one thing, lake trout—affectionately known as "greasers."

The 38 boats that showed up found pretty tough fishing, as storms earlier in the week really played havoc with water temperatures. While most of the fleet stayed in the general vicinity, it seems the ones which made the long run north to Harrisville found the better fishing. A total of 105 fish, mostly lakers, were weighed in. By comparison, in 1984, 27 boats weighed in 155 fish.

The good news, though, was that, for the fifth consecutive year the Detroit Area boat trollers managed to beat the local Au Sable Chapter in the annual fish-off, and by a good margin—our 410 pounds of total catch to their 305 pounds. Once again, Joel Garinger and his "Fishbusters" fishing team captured first place. Ed McIntosh, skipper of the "Sweet Lorraine," weighed in the largest lake trout of the boat tourney season here—a nice 12 pound, 6 ounce "greaser."

This annual event is always a good time, partly due to the excellent facilities and hospitality provided by Jan and Doug of Fellow's Marina. Our sincere thanks goes to them!

## NEW BUFFALO IN JULY

The highly touted "Skamania" steelhead is what brought Detroit Area Steelheaders to the port of New Buffalo in Lake Michigan on the second weekend of July. Weather has been a problem for us at this port in the past, and 1985 was no exception. An early morning thunderstorm delayed the 7:00 a.m. start of the tournament, and high winds and rough seas forced an early end to the event.

The weather probably accounted for the poor fishing we experienced also, as 21 of 28 entered boats only managed to weigh in 45 fish for the Saturday contest. Bruce Choinski, skipper of the "Kneeknocker," and his crew took first place, their second tourney triumph of the season. As was expected, the largest steelhead of the tourney season was weighed in here—a 15 pound, 15 ounce dandy—by Joel Garinger, skipper of the "Fishbusters."

The boats that stayed around on Sunday participated in our first fish-off against the New Buffalo Chapter. The fishing was definitely better, as most of the boats from both clubs did pretty well. We just squeaked out a win by the narrow margin of two pounds, nine ounces! The Detroit Area Steelheaders donated the New Buffalo Chapter's check paying for the keg of beer toward a proposed fish-cleaning station to be built there.

These inter-chapter fish-offs, besides offering a good time and a chance for some friendly competition, give the guys from our club the opportunity to get to know the local fishermen from the other chapters.

## PORT AUSTIN IN EARLY AUGUST

August brought us back to Lake Huron for our annual "Ladies Day" tournament and picnic at Port Austin. This event, which gives the Ladies a chance to show the men how it's done, is always one of the better times on the tournament schedule. We couldn't have asked for nicer weather—fair skies, warm temperatures, and a calm lake.

A total of 30 boats was on hand for the outing. Even though the fishing wasn't as good as could be at this port, most of the Ladies got a chance to brag about their catches, or the "big one that got away." Shelly Ball, Alice Fisher, Linda Martin, and Barb Tolley, fishing aboard skipper Mike Zelkowski's "Elvira," captured first place with their nice catch of eight lake trout.

Since Port Austin is primarily a lake trout port, it was surprising that the tournament year's largest brown trout—12 pounds, six ounces—was weighed in there by Theresa Fletcher, fishing aboard the "Oldsquaw," skippered by her husband, Bill Fletcher.

Following the weigh-in, the picnic at the pavilion in downtown Port Austin near the beach was the highlight of the afternoon. The roast pig, along with boiled fish, corn-on-the-cob, hot dogs, various salad, vegetable and dessert dishes prepared by the Ladies, as well as plenty of pop and beer, made for a good feast. The Ladies, skippers, crews, and families and friends certainly enjoyed themselves amidst the 'party' atmosphere for the rest of the day.

## GRAND HAVEN IN LATE AUGUST

Late August was the occasion for the Detroit Area Steelheaders' first-ever tournament at this Lake Michigan port. Most of the 24 boats that showed up would probably rather forget this experience. Poor fishing, bad weather, and some shabby treatment at The Wharf Marina made this the "black sheep" tournament of the season. Only 15 boats had anything to weigh in, and the total catch of the entire fleet amounted to a mere 29 fish. Despite the poor conditions, skipper Darrin Harris and his crew aboard the "Cannonball" took first place honors with a nice catch of four kings. Most

of the boats left town immediately following the tournament in search of better fishing elsewhere.

## HARBOR BEACH IN SEPTEMBER

The season finale at Harbor Beach on Lake Huron the first weekend of September proved to be rather surprising. This was the first time we had held a tourney at this close-to-home port, and 34 boats entered with three of them having a good shot at the club's "Skipper of the Year" trophy: Bruce Choinski ("Kneeknocker"), Joel Garinger ("Fishbusters"), and Darrin Harris ("Cannonball").

A few of the boats made good catches, but the remainder found the fishing to be pretty tough. A total of 74 fish were weighed in by 28 boats. Ed McIntosh, skipper of the "Sweet Lorraine," and his crew caught eight real nice kings, which gave them the first place trophy. Ed has a rather entertaining account of his experiences at this tournament elsewhere in this issue—you ought to read it!

This port also produced 'largest fish of the tourney season' catches in two categories, and both fish were dandies! The largest king of the season—a 27 pound, 11 ounce brute—was weighed in by Don Dissett, skipper of the "Dondi," while Leslie Gilbert, fishing aboard President Bob Mitchell's boat, "Kemo," weighed in a real beauty of a coho—14 pounds, six ounces! Leslie's fish also earned her a Michigan Master Angler award.

It came right down to the wire in the "Skipper of the Year" contest. But a fourth place finish at Harbor Beach, combined with another fourth at Benton Harbor, a second at Lexington, a third at Oscoda, and the win at Grand Haven, earned Darrin Harris, skipper of the "Cannonball" the 1985 rights to the trophy. Quite an outstanding season, and hearty congratulations to Darrin and his crew! Right on Darrin's tail, but missing by just one point, was Joel Garinger, skipper of the "Fishbusters," fishing in just his first tournament season! Congratulations to Joel and his crew, also!

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

Well, that's the rundown on the Detroit Area Steelheaders' 1985 Boat Trolling Tournament season. Even though it was not one of the most spectacular years for number of fish caught, it certainly produced larger fish, which can be attested to by the fact that each of the species for largest fish of the year went over ten pounds. And, I know I can speak for anyone who participated in saying that everyone had a good time, learned a little bit more about fishing, and got to know more of their fellow club members.

It's some of those members whose names I would like to mention and thank for their various contributions throughout the 1985 Boat Tournament season: Bob Brumer, Bruce Choinski, Gary Clark, Rich Cybulski, Rod Elnick, Steve Froias, Joel Garinger, Don Jakubiak, Tom LaPorte, Jim Legenzoff, Ed McIntosh, Bob and Linda Mitchell, Blaise Pawnski, Dave Prudhomme, Gene Smoter, Ted Warrow, Ed Yankoski II, and Mike Zelkowski. Without the efforts of these, and members whose names I've overlooked, the tournaments wouldn't happen. I also want to thank all those skippers and crews who participated.

Good Fishin'!

—Bob Ksionzek  
"Last Dime"

## 1985 BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT RESULTS SUMMARY

	KINGS	COHOS	LAKE TROUT	STEEL HEAD	BROWN TROUT	ATLANTIC SALMON	TOTAL	NO. OF BOATS	FISH PER BOAT PER DAY
✕ BENTON HARBOR	156	129	0x	6	3	0	294	58	2.53
LEXINGTON	136	2	1	5	1	0	145	52	2.79
✕ LUDINGTON	258	0	14	2	6	1	281	35	4.01
OSCODA	3	0	101	1	0	0	105	38	2.76
NEW BUFFALO	21	1	13	8	2	0	45	28	1.61
PORT AUSTIN	6	0	65	0	1	0	72	30	2.40
GRAND HAVEN	20	6	0x	3	0	0	29	24	1.21
HARBOR BEACH	70	3	0x	0	1	0	74	34	2.18
TOTAL	670	141	194	25	14	1	1045	37.4	2.44

✕ LAKE TROUT SEASON WAS FROM MAY 1 THRU AUGUST 15

✕✕ DENOTES TWO-DAY TOURNAMENT



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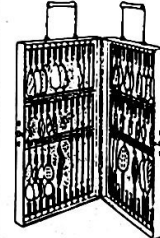


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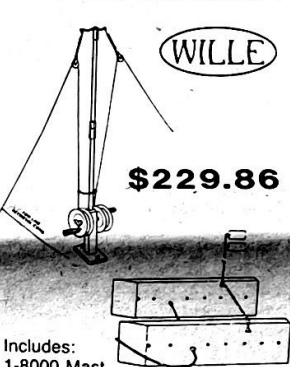


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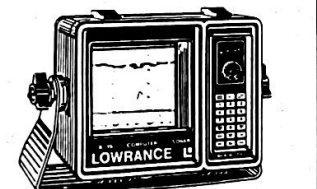
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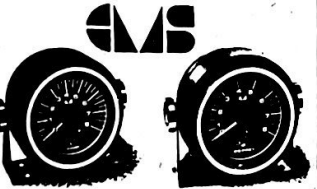
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# Here's What We're All About...



DAYS SPENT ON THE GREAT LAKES in pursuit of the elusive and challenging salmon and trout are indeed "golden days" for Steelheaders!



LESLIE GILBERT, fishing aboard club President Bob Mitchell's "Kemo" at Harbor Beach, caught this 14-pound, 6 ounce 'monster' coho. It was the largest coho caught in Michigan in 1985, and earned Leslie a Michigan Master Angler award!



WINTER ON THE RIVER offers excellent fishing action for hardy Steelheaders who delight in proving that being a Steelheader is a year-round responsibility!!



SPECIAL OLYMPIANS, their chaperones and Detroit Area Steelheader skippers all certainly enjoyed a 'special' day at the club's annual Special Olympics Walleye Outing last June.



"SALMON" CLAUS (alias Bob Kring) paid a visit to a Detroit Area Steelheader Christmas party, giving out presents to the kiddies on hand.



DR. HOWARD TANNER (l.) happily accepts a \$500 donation from Detroit Area Steelheader President Bob Mitchell to help support Dr. Tanner's recently established Great Lakes Fisheries Research Endowment based at Michigan State University.

# 'Hooked' on trolling: A member tells how

This is a story about how I became such an avid boat troller. I'd like to tell it because I think it illustrates one of the best things about being a member of the Detroit Area Steelheaders.

Great Lakes boat trolling never appealed to me until I became a Detroit Area Steelheader. This lack of appeal was because I lacked exposure to trolling. Now, however, Great Lakes trolling has a very special place in my heart, and I'll try to explain how this came about, and to express some appreciation and gratitude along the way.

Boat trolling began for me in the spring of 1981. Steve Hamilton headed up an "outing" for Detroit Area Steelheaders out of Port Sanilac on Lake Huron.

The "outing" included a demonstration on Great Lakes trolling that was not only very educational, but very enticing as well. The demonstration took place during the monthly membership meeting, and its title was "How to Troll and Catch Spring Kings from your Boat."

As we sat there at the meeting watching the demonstration, Chuck Grzyb leaned over to me and suggested that we might be able to attempt boat trolling that spring, even though neither one of us owned a boat. We thought that trying it during this outing would supply a degree of safety and familiarity.

Chuck had a six-horsepower motor, one portable downrigger, two trolling rods, two portable rod holders, a Dipsey Diver, a half-dozen lures, and a manufactured release.

Being an avid river and surf fisherman, the only rods I owned were the longer, 'noodle-type' rods, seated with Mitchell 300's and spooled with eight pound test main line. I also owned a net and some swivel snaps. We learned from the demonstration that we were going to need a few more items in order to attempt our first Great Lakes boat trolling venture ever.

First, we needed a boat! Chuck said we could rent a 14-footer at Port Sanilac. I needed some lures. "Buy a few" was the advice. I bought two J-11 Rapalas, one chartreuse red-dot Flutter Spoon, and one green Northport Nailer. It was suggested that I would need something to get the lures down to the "desirable" depth of 15 feet. I planned only to high-line, so I was instructed to use rubber-core sinkers that easily attached to one's line.

We left early (4:30 a.m.) Saturday morning and arrived at about 6:30 a.m.

We then rented the boat, installed the motor, hooked up the portable downrigger, placed the rod holders so we could run three rods, and checked the water conditions and all other indicators. Finally, we were ready to go boat trolling!

We were out on the water by eight o'clock, but the outing had already started, so we were left more or less on our own. In the event, this first trolling day turned out to be a pleasant comedy of errors and luck, and an overwhelming success!

We were within 100 yards of the harbor when Chuck's downrigger rod went off! There was a nice three-pound 'jack' on the end of the line, and it was easily netted!

Resetting the rod, I recall Chuck counting the revolutions of his downrigger wheel to get the lure back to the same depth of fifteen feet, twenty feet back. Within minutes, "Pop!" Off went the same rod again!! This time, Chuck had a battle on his hands and lines were tangled everywhere—in short a complete fiasco! Nevertheless, I was able to net the fish, which went over 15 pounds.

I was impressed, but I now felt it was my turn to catch a king, too! We were not alternating the catching. I felt that I had to get one of my lures deeper.

I asked Chuck if I could use his Dipsey Diver. He hesitated, very reluctantly noting, "You have only eight-pound test line, and the pull alone might break off the Diver."

I persisted: "Let me try it. I'll set a light drag, and if I lose the thing, I'll buy you another one!" With that, Chuck agreed.

I tied on the Diver with about a six-foot lead to my chartreuse red-dot Flutter Spoon. I had to read the instructions

first to see how many feet of line I'd have to let out in order to get my lure down to 15 feet. After six pulls, I clicked the bail of my reel.

My rod was bending as it had never bent before. Luckily, I had set the drag



**AUTHOR JOEL GARINGER shows off two nice Skamania steelhead taken last summer.**

light enough so that a little line slipped out once in a while. I really thought that either the rod and/or the line was going to break at any time. The pull and stress on the rod was enormous, but, as good luck would have it, everything held long enough for the rod to start bouncing wildly! Then line began peeling out, causing my reel's drag to scream!! In reply, I screamed "FISH ON!!!"

The first run was like a torpedo heading for Canada. That fish stripped off over 100 yards of line before it finally stopped. I fought back, gaining back about 50 yards of line, and then I played him just as though I was back in the river. It was a long, tedious process because the Diver was giving me difficulties, but, at last, I managed to get the fish to my partner's net, and he hoisted it into the boat for me. As I remember it, the fish went about 12 pounds.

I'll always remember that first boat trolling spring king. Catching it gave me a good feeling, exactly the same feeling that I got from catching river fish. From that moment on, I've been 'hooked' on boat trolling on the Great Lakes.

It's hard to explain to someone else just what that "good feeling" you get when you catch a nice fish is all about. Perhaps relating a conversation I had last summer will help you understand.

After one of our club's Boat Trolling tournaments, the "Fishbusters" team had enjoyed a good day of fishing, as

had Ted Warrow and his crew from the "Eagle." As Ted and I discussed the day's fishing, I tried to express to him just how much fun it all was, but as I told Ted, I was finding it difficult to really put it all into words.

In his deep, rough, burly voice, Ted replied, "Joel, don't even try! It's like music—we feel Richard Strauss' *Also sprach Zarathustra*, we don't have to put that into words!" I think you're right, Ted!!

Before I bought my own boat, I had the good fortune to experience the educational opportunity of fishing with some of the Detroit Area Steelheaders' leading skippers: Bob Kring, Bob Ksionzek, Tom LaPorte, Herb Rinke, Dave Prudhomme, Ken Rogers, and Tom Schrinel. Whenever I went out with these fine skippers, I always took careful mental notes.

Many of those trips were tournament fishing trips, and I found that I learned a lot from other skippers fishing in those tournaments. Somewhere along the way, after the weigh-ins, the "Least Likely" team of Brian Glaser, Bob Kanas, and Ed Yankoski II told me how to catch lake trout. After one of our member meetings, Butch Ayers introduced me to Eppinger's Flutterchuck lure. Jim Legenzoff helped me . . . et cetera, et cetera I could go on for quite a while listing all the Detroit Area Steelheaders who helped out. Let me just say to all, "Thanks a lot for all the help, guys!"

Oh, yes, back to that first boat trolling trip with Chuck Grzyb. We ended up with seven fish landed out of 15 strikes on that eventful Saturday! That Dipsey Diver did break off, but on a fish, I think . . . and I did have to replace it. It was worth it!!

—Joel Garinger  
"Fishbusters"

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**Captain Bob Kring**

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# Detroit Area Steelheader Special Olympics outing was a very special day!

The Detroit Area Steelheaders held their Annual Special Olympics Walleye Outing in late June last summer. The event took place at the Raisin River Marina, with twenty club boats participating.

Unfortunately, weather conditions forced us off the lake, so the skippers trolled in the Raisin River instead. Despite the adverse conditions, walleyes were taken, a lot of hot dogs were eaten, and many "fish stories" were told. In short, the outing was another great success!

A big "THANK YOU" goes to Bob

Philaboun, owner of Riverfront Boat Sales, who made his entire facility available to us for the day. His generosity certainly helped make the outing the memorable experience that it was for everyone there!!

I would also like to thank from the bottom of my heart everyone from the Detroit Area Steelheaders who was there. Without you, this very "special day" could not be a reality. I hope to see even more Detroit Area Steelheaders on hand for the 1986 Special Olympics Outing!

-Don Kirchoff



BILLIE KREBS looks startled by the antics of his walleye as R.J.Branham, skipper of the "Sea Hawk," Ron Krammer (right) and an unidentified Special Olympian look on.

- 1985 SPECIAL OLYMPIANS**
- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| TOM McAULIFFE   | ROBERT BROWN   |
| MIKE APPELLE    | ROBIN APPELLE  |
| JEFF PARKINSON  | BOB CASE       |
| CHUCK BRADLEY   | BRIAN HUMPHREY |
| LORI HENRY      | HOLLY BALAKA   |
| TODD HARRIS     | SARA BORIO     |
| KEVIN BARNES    | MARC CARROLL   |
| DEBBIE DIEGEL   | JIM ASHLEY     |
| BILL KREBS      | PATRICK BROWN  |
| DAVID DREXLER   | DENNIS BROWN   |
| MIKE YOUNGBLOOD |                |



HOLLY BALAKA (center) poses with her catch, along with Tom Westphal and Dennis Harper from the "Lady's Choice."



DAVID DREXLER holds up his 2 1/2-pound walleye, caught aboard Dennis Holoway's "Cad-Jay."

- 1985 SPECIAL OLYMPICS CHAPERONES**
- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| MIKE McAULIFFE   | CARL APPELLE     |
| BILL SNYDER      | RALPH YOUNGBLOOD |
| CHUCK BRADLEY    | LOLA HENRY       |
| MARYANN BALAKA   | CHERYL HARRIS    |
| DAN BORIO        | JERRY BARNES     |
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# Her world revolves around fishing!

My world revolves around fishing! Possibly this sounds like a strange statement coming from a female whose occupation is that of secretary—but it's true!

I'm surrounded at work by members of the "Elvira," "Mad Dog," and "Irene" crews. One wall of my office is decorated with a dozen trophies from Steelheader tournaments. Another displays a beautiful mounted muskie. An entire corner of the office is filled with Steelheader tackle used to make up the Tackle Packs given away at the monthly Steelheader meetings. Rarely does a day pass that I don't talk to at least one member of the Detroit Area Steelheaders and hear at least one "fish story!"

So, it was inevitable and only a matter of time before I became personally involved in salmon and trout fishing.

The love of fishing was instilled in me at an early age. I was raised on the shores of Lake Erie, about 14 miles from Sandusky Bay. For the past 18 years, I've owned property on the Clinton River, and I have logged many hours of dock fishing time in my front yard. Mainly, my experience has been with panfish—perch, bluegill, bass, walleye—with a dogfish, carp or gar pike once in a while for interest.

Now, proudly, I can add lake trout and salmon to my personal "catch" list. I caught four salmon on an early spring outing at Lexington, and two lake trout as a member of the "Elvira" first-place Ladies Day tournament crew at Port Austin in August, and two lakera and a king on a charter at Oscoda.

The king from Oscoda is the one that is most vivid in my memory, and I have a feeling it always will be. That fish taught me the meaning of the word *RESPECT* and gave substance to all the "fish stories" I've ever heard. In addition, he gave me my own "fish story" to tell.

My lesson in salmon respect was taught aboard the charter boat "Predator II," owned by Steve Jones and captained by Detroit Area Steelheader and Board member Mike Zelkowski. Mike skippers "Elvira" in the Steelheader tournaments.

Since Captain Mike is my boss at M & M Machine Products and knows of my fondness for fishing, he invited me to join two of our customers, Stan and Tony Peterson, in late August at Oscoda for a salmon charter. Mike saw this occasion as the perfect opportunity to stage a battle between his 106-pound secretary and her king salmon, "Goliath." Goliath is the



**BARBARA LIMBER still has enough strength to hold up her 23-pound king, "Goliath's" little brother!**

legendary 33-pound king salmon I wrote about in the August 1985 Fishin' Tales. He's the subject of my favorite fish dream—the BIG one I'm destined to hook into someday.

Weather conditions in Oscoda that Wednesday started out perfect. It was a heavy rain in the morning, and Mike had seriously considered calling us to cancel the charter. Happily, he did not, and we arrived around 4:30 in the afternoon to find bright sunshine and calm seas. The afternoon catch reports were also encouraging—the salmon were hitting!

We were headed out of port in a matter of minutes. Our destination was an area where Mike had found salmon on his Tuesday charter. He set the lines and we started trolling.

We were about a half-hour into the half-day charter when the first salmon hit. Tony took the rod, and I watched in amazement at the physical strength and exertion he used to land a beautiful 24-pound king salmon. The second fish was Stan's—a smaller salmon than his brother Tony's, but still a spunky fighter that obviously required muscle as well as technique to boat.

With two fish in the cooler, I knew

my turn was next. By this time I had a lot of doubt in my mind about my physical ability to handle the challenge successfully. Mike yelled "FISH ON" and handed me the rod. I struggled around to get into position . . . and let the rod tip drop! My fish was gone! I mentally kicked myself, and tried silently to encourage myself with the old "you can do it" pep talk.

The guys decided that, even though I'd lost my salmon, my turn wasn't over until I got one in the cooler. A rod went off and I was up again. As I carefully started reeling it in, Mike said it was a lake trout. I sure couldn't tell, but somehow he seemed to know. Later on, I figured out that it was the way the fish fought that told him it was a laker. When the fish got alongside the boat, I was surprised to see how big it was. The guys said it was 20-plus pounds! Trout season was closed, though, so we released it.

Again a rod popped, again it was my turn, and again it was a large lake trout. This one had to be boated to unhook the spoon before we could release it. Right then, I was sure sorry the season had closed! The action slowed down at this point, and I got a chance to rest my tired arms and get set for the next bout.

My confidence in my physical ability was restored. I'd just caught two 20-pound fish, right? Right! It was tiring, but not all that bad. Both Tony's and Stan's fish were slightly larger, but I figured "No problem. I can handle it!"

It was then that I was unconcerned that theirs were king salmon and mine had been lake trout. The significance of that difference was soon to be forever established in my consciousness!

To be honest with you, I think if I had known what I was about to go through, I'd have had second thoughts.

THE hit came. I planted myself firmly in place and my lesson began. I got my first feel of fighting a king salmon on the line. The only sound I heard was the high-pitched "ZZZZIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII" as the line came screaming off the reel! This fish seemed headed for the other side of the world!

He slowed, and Mike took advantage of the opportunity to adjust the drag.

The overwhelming impression in my mind at this time was that I was tied into an angry, raging creature that was going to use every ounce of its considerable strength and power to free itself from the other end of my line.

I struggled inch by inch to reel him toward the boat. He jumped out of the water, shaking his head in a vain attempt to free himself from the hook . . . Then, "ZZZZIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII" Off he went again, this time changing direction. He charged the boat, making me reel furiously to take up the slack line.

Over and over again, he repeated his routine. Each time he slowed, and each time I seemed to be making some progress. Then he'd find new energy and be off! My mind filled with doubts: Would he ever tire? Would I make a mistake and lose him?? Would I be able to hang in there to the end???

I really don't know how long I fought that fish. It's one of those times when minutes seem like hours. I finally got him close enough to net . . . then there he was, flopping around, still full of fight on the deck!

When it was over, I was exhausted. My arms were shaking with fatigue, my hands ached, my stomach burned with pain where I'd jammed the rod butt against myself. But I was thrilled, and filled with *RESPECT* for my adversary!

My fish weighed in at 23 pounds, and I'm glad he wasn't any bigger!

My 1986 salmon battle is already on Mike's calendar, and now that I've had some experience, we'll be going after the BIG one—"Goliath!" Meanwhile, I'll be spending the rest of the winter working on a method of "talking" my fish in, rather than just relying on my "muscle" to get him in!

—Barbara Limber



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# Here's ten ways to improve your catch

There are at least ten ways by which every salmon troller, whether novice or expert, can improve his catch.

I'm not talking about opening your wallet for a new graph of a LORAN-C unit. I'm talking about the little things, like keeping hooks sharp, or properly netting a fish. It's the little things that will make the BIG difference.

Here, then, are ten things that I think will help anyone improve his catch.

## SHARPEN THOSE HOOKS

This is the easiest and most important improvement fishermen can make to increase their catch. Sharp hooks produce better hook-ups and far fewer lost fish. A 6-inch long mill bastard file is the tool for the job and can be purchased from your local hardware store for about \$3.00.

## PROPERLY FIGHT YOUR FISH

Many trophy fish have eluded capture because of improper landing technique. When a fish is hooked, keep a tight line (NO SLACK!). Use the 'pump-and-crank' system to fight the fish. Fight the fish with the bend of the rod by keeping the rod in a vertical position so that it bends in a normal arc. Let the rod do the work!

To pump a fish, lower the rod tip, cranking on the reel at the same time to maintain a tight line. Then, without reeling, raise the rod tip gently until it is overhead. Repeat the process. If the fish jumps, lower the rod tip quickly until the fish is back in the water, then raise the rod tip again to maintain a tight line.

Never rush the fish to the boat. Instead, let it tire first. This will avoid tangled lines and make netting easier.

## PROPERLY NET YOUR FISH

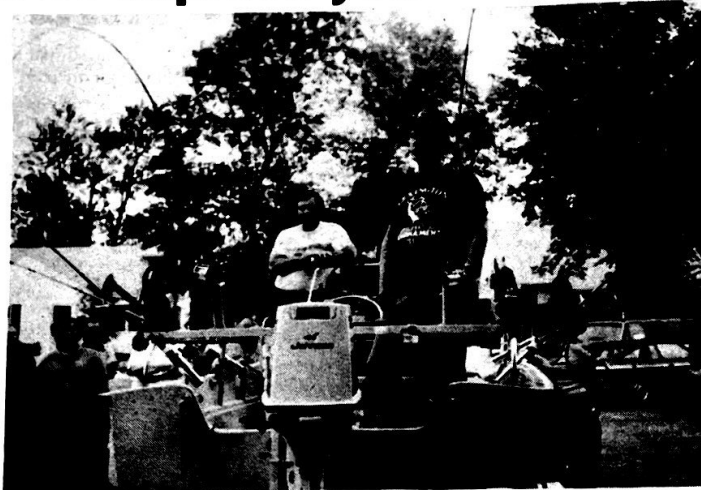
One of the most common ways a fish is lost is through mishandling of the net. Be sure that the person netting the fish holds the end of the net bag against the net handle. When correctly done, the net bag is released simultaneously with the scooping up of the fish.

Bob Ksionzek, Detroit Area Steelheader Boat Trolling Tournament chairman, uses a stretch cord with one end hooked to the end of the net bag and the other looped around the net handle. The loop slides down the net handle with the weight of the fish. Great idea!

Never chase the fish with the net. Let the rod man position the fish for proper netting. The rod man and net man MUST work together. The key is teamwork.

## RUN TO THE FISH

Frequently, the wrong choice of which



KEN ROGERS, Field Editor for *FISHIN' TALES*, is shown here presenting a clinic on trolling the big lakes 'aboard' his boat at a monthly Detroit Area Steelheader members' meeting last July.

direction to head to find the fish is made by the skipper. After fishing in unproductive water, the skipper trolls to a new spot. In doing so, valuable fishing time in more productive water is wasted. Many a skipper has made this mistake, especially during tournaments. Instead of trolling, pull your lines and RUN to the fish. This will maximize valuable fishing time.

## EXPERIMENT WITH LURE SIZE

There's an old saying that proclaims that "BIG lures catch BIG fish." For the most part this may be true. However, there are times when small lures will out-fish large lures by a wide margin. The key is to experiment with size as well as with color.

## DO NOT TROLL IN A STRAIGHT LINE

By zig-zagging your course, you will effectively be varying lure speed. Lures on the inside of the turn will slow down, while lures on the outside of the turn will speed up. The changing speed and lure direction will often provoke a strike when all else fails. This method is especially effective on calm days.

## CHECK FOR FRAYED LINE

Before putting lures out, and after each fish, the monofilament line on each reel should be nicks or kinks. Either will weaken the strength of line and could result in lost lures and fish. A good practice is to trim off approximately 20 feet of line after each BIG fish, just to be sure.

## RUN SHORTER LEADS

In general, most fishermen run leads far longer than necessary. Most lures are at their optimum in effectiveness and action when run ten feet to 30 feet behind the downrigger weight. In addition, downrigger weights act to attract fish. When short leads are used, the downrigger weights attract fish to the closely trailing lures. Another advantage to short leads is fewer tangles. Tangles mean lost fishing time.

## STAGGER YOUR LURES

Start out by varying both the distance behind the downrigger weight and the depth of the lures. The deeper the lure, the shorter the lead. I like to start out with the lures at five-foot increments, so that a maximum of water can be covered.

## READ THE WATER

While out in the lake, every skipper should learn to read the water. Things to look for are:

- Slicks on the surface of the water consisting of a combination of air bubbles and floating debris. These slicks attract zooplankton, which attract bait fish, which attract salmon and steelhead.
- Rings on the surface of the water, which indicates that fish are present and active in the area.
- Seagulls actively feeding on the surface, which means that baitfish and feeding salmon, steelhead, or brown trout are present somewhere in the area.

By following these recommendations, I am certain that, overall, you will improve your catch results and have more fun.

—Ken Rogers

"The Boston Whaler"

## "MAYBE WE'RE A LITTLE SPOILED . . ." SAYS "RUM RUNNER" SKIPPER

Looking back on the 1985 Detroit Area Steelheaders' boat trolling tournament season, with an average catch of less than three fish per boat for eight tournaments, it doesn't seem to have been a good year.

I've heard the same complaints from just about all the skippers and crew members, and I'm guilty myself of complaining about what a "lousy" year it was, as far as the tournaments were concerned.

We started off at Benton Harbor, where everyone has come to expect limit catches, and what happened? High winds, barely fishable conditions, and a two-day average of just over four fish per boat per day.

The next tournament was held at Lexington, and, after a hard day of fishing, the results were disappointing, with only a few boats having a good day.

Even Ludington, which boasts an excellent spring fishery, was a letdown in the first week in June. Once again, our members found limited success and a rough ride back in to the weigh-in.

Oscoda was supposed to be the turning point. What had been a "lousy" spring would surely be forgotten once everyone limited out on lake trout. However, it was not to be. Once again the coolers had more ice than fish in them.

Next came New Buffalo, and with hopes of hooking into more Skamania, we held the tourney a week later than in 1984. We should have known it wasn't going to be a good ay when we found ourselves running for shelter from the heavy rain and lightning which delayed the tournament start by 90 minutes! With the fishing slow and the winds fast (35 miles per hour off shore), I don't think anyone minded when tourney boss Bob Ksionzek called the tournament early, at 1:30. Again, we experienced "lousy" results, with a fleet average of fewer than three fish per boat.

Ladies Day at Port Austin wasn't much better. The weather co-operated, but the fish didn't! A few of the boats had nice catches, but most reported "lousy" fishing.

Ah, Grand Haven! A new port, and, for most of us, expectations were running high. The fishing had to be good—August . . . kings . . . Lake Michigan . . . I'm not sure which factor contributed most to the early calling of the tournament at one o'clock. It might have been the lightning, it could have been the 50-mile-per-hour squall, or maybe it was the "lousy" fishing.

Harbor Beach just proved what most guys (with the exception here of Ed McIntosh and Blaise Pewsinski) had been saying all season: the fishing was plain "lousy."

When you stop to think about it, though, how can a day spent with friends on the water in search of salmon or trout be called "lousy?" I think that, with the knowledge that was shared among fellow Detroit Area Steelheaders, most of us have increased our catches over the years. Maybe we're a little spoiled—we've come to expect full coolers and limit catches.

Looking back, the amount of fish caught is not important. The good times we enjoyed far 'outweigh' the relatively lower number of fish caught. The people I've met . . . the new friends I've made . . . the pig roast at the Ladies Day tourney . . . the annual prime-rib dinner at Skip's in New Buffalo . . . the list is endless.

What is important is the memories we all have of the good times of 1985. When you do stop to think about it, 1985 really was a GREAT YEAR!

—Gary Clark, "Rum Runner"

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# So you want to be a charter captain?

Think you want to run a charter boat? Give me a few minutes of your time to tell you what it means. I earned my captain's license on January 28, 1985. At that time, things in my life were in limbo, so, I thought I'd go for it!

A friend of mine, Captain Steve Jones, told me about the Houston Marine Service Training School. Based in Louisiana, Houston teaches a five-day course that guarantees you a license.

The Coast Guard test you must pass consists of four sections. Your knowledge of the rules of the road, seamanship, navigation, weather, safety and first aid are thoroughly tested. Minimum scoring in the sections of 90 percent, 80 percent, 60 percent and 60 percent respectively are required to become licensed.

Personally, I haven't had any schooling of this kind in my life. Test questions cover every phase of shipping under jurisdiction of the United States. Even for a license on the Great Lakes waters, you must be able to answer questions on tides, typhoons, hurricanes, freighters, the Intercoastal Waterways, lights, and day markers, etc.

As I mentioned, Houston runs a series of classes which will prepare you for this exam. The people handling the classes are extremely professional. They know what they are talking about, and they know how to teach it! The fee at the time I took the class was \$475, which included 28 hours of class time.

The instructors were great. They took the time to teach us as individuals, as well as a class. They helped the slow learners as well as the fast ones. Captain Bernie Halverson now teaches these classes in Michigan for Houston. He's a super individual who helped me through mine. Bernie can be contacted at:

607 West Sunset Drive

North Muskegon, Michigan 49448

Believe me, this course was like nothing I've ever tried before. I personally know people who have tried eight times to pass the Coast Guard exam! Anyway, after the training I had, I felt confident and ready for anything they had to throw at me.

Then . . . "What lights would be displayed for a barge 100 meters or longer being towed alongside on Central rivers? . . ." (They have a million of them). Easy? By no means. Hard? Only if you don't have the time to try, or the patience to learn. I passed on the first try.

Now, let's assume you have your license. You then have to bring your boat up to Coast Guard standards. I was lucky there, because Steve Jones hired me to run "Predator II," a 26-foot Bertram Skiff which he had charter-ready. A copy of the applicable regula-



**CAPTAIN MIKE ZERKOWSKI**, skipper of the charter boat "Predator II," found out through practical experience last year just exactly what is involved in being a charter boat captain.

tions can be obtained by contacting a Coast Guard Marine Inspection Officer, or from the:

Michigan Department of  
Natural Resources  
Law Enforcement Division  
Marine Safety Division  
Box 30028, Lansing, Michigan 48909  
(517) 373-1650

The regulations are quite comprehensive, and make good sense. Even so, most skippers would have to put forth some effort to bring their boats up to the standards.

Let's assume that you've got your boat ready, so . . . "Let's go fishin'!" Right? NO! You've got to have customers first. Think of it. All of us take friends, relatives, acquaintances, and family out fishing, right? We'll split expenses and we'll go. No problem, right? Start telling people you charge "X" amount of money and see what you get.

From what I've learned over the past year, the average charter fee is about \$240 per eight-hour day. With a breakdown of \$30 per hour, it doesn't sound bad, does it. Now, let's go to work on that. Your boat payments, fuel, dockage, rods, reels, and miscellaneous tackle take a big chunk out of it. Also, you've got to consider wear and tear on your boat. How many times have you had friends come on your boat and treat it poorly? Just think what can happen when people are paying you to fish! The most "good-hearted" people in the world lose a lot of their scruples when they put their money in your hand. Some think they own the boat, even if only for the day.

We always ask people to show up for

their charter wearing soft-soled shoes and comfortable clothing for the current weather conditions. You wouldn't believe how many show up in dress shoes, or, for that matter, motorcycle boots! I'm sure you know how that will make your nice white decks look, right? Next, it's 45° and sunny with a light wind, so everyone shows up in windbreakers and baseball caps. Sure, that's fine in the harbor, but a half-mile out on the lake, you can hear their bones clattering. About that time, the words "That's all you brought?" finally make sense to them. Don't get me wrong—most people I've had on board "Predator II" have been great. But it does happen.

Now it gets easy! Once all of the tests, boat preparation and attracting of customers is behind you, all you have to do is catch fish, right? Well, maybe. But you would not believe how many people get sick or cold, or who decide they just don't really want to be there after the first half-hour. This is when a part of being "Captain For Hire"—the part the Coast Guard doesn't tell you about—comes into play! Above all, fish or no fish, the people who pay for a charter are counting on you to show them a "good time." Ever had the experience of having five out of six people hanging over the side while you try to convince them they are having a good time (not to mention the "good time" you're having cleaning up what they forgot to deposit in the lake!)??

"FISH ON!!" Now you're in business. Everyone forgets about being cold, sick, wet, or not being able to stand on a slick deck. Well, most of them forget, anyway. Whether chartering or fishing for fun, every skipper wants that fish in the boat, right? Only now you have a paying customer on one end of the line and something that wants to survive on the other.

Put yourself on the end that wants to survive. Charter operations that stick around year after year always seem to get them in the boat . . . that's how they make it. A good percentage of the people you see on a charter boat have never caught a "big" fish. You put them into one of our silver monsters and it's white

knuckles all the way. What do you do? Talk a lot, slap some hands when they reach for the drag, and maybe even scream when they don't follow instructions!

"FISH OFF!" Those are the two words a charter captain never wants to hear. "What did I do?" "What did you do?" You'll hear those two questions a lot. Fifty percent of the time, the customer does something you asked him, or her, not to—drop the rod tip, yank, thumb the drag, slip, fall down, maybe even barf. But then again, if you do everything right and so does the fish, who wins?

Putting fish in the boat is what it's all about. Some days, that takes all the sport out of it. Would you believe that you can even get tired of fishing?! Try going out every day for a month straight.

Having a different set of people to please every day can get tough. Getting up at 4:30 a.m. day after day can really get to you. A job's a job, though, and I guess it isn't as bad as it may sound in this article. But there's a lot more to being a charter boat captain than I first thought!

Most days I'm back at the dock between three and four o'clock—7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. is our standard eight-hour charter. Occasionally, you have those days when you run a double. In at 3:00, get the first set of customers off the boat, scrub it down and be ready for another group at 4:00. This puts you back at the dock between eight and nine o'clock. Talk about a long day, and it's not over yet! The boat has to be cleaned again, tackle checked and put in order, plus there always seems to be something to repair on the boat.

Look at it this way. Most of us use our boats every weekend. Consider all the problems we have—engine trouble, out-drives, electrical problems, trouble with downriggers, radio, graph, etc. Think what happens when you use them every day! It seems it's a never-ending battle. It comes down to preventive maintenance to keep everything working, and emergency repairs when it stops working. After all, even the very best of equipment is bound to malfunction when it is used constantly.

You might say you have to live, eat and sleep fishing. If you're not enthused about it, it's hard for the customer to be. Forget about everything but catching fish and everything works out fine!

Can you make a living at it? I think it comes down to what you call a living. Have you ever seen a charter captain driving a Cadillac? Most have nice boats and good equipment, but that's about it. Some do well, don't get me wrong. But most do no more than break even. I personally don't know too many that don't have to work another job to get by.

To sum it all up . . . as a way to make a living, it's tough. You have to have patience, steady nerves, a good rapport with people and a tight wallet.

I enjoyed this past summer, but it also made me realize how much I appreciate my tool-and-die business. I'll be out there again this coming season (somehow I miss the "Predator II" already), only now that I know what it's all about, I don't think I'll try to make my living at it.

"Fish On—got to go!"

—Mike Zerkowski  
"Elvira"

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# Basics for new mates: Everything you need to know

Have you read any of the many articles describing the thrilling battles with Great Lakes king salmon and been left drooling with envy and a desire to experience those same thrills? I know that, while the great majority of Detroit Area Steelheaders have had their own thrilling battles with Great Lakes king salmon, they are still left drooling with the desire to do it again as soon as possible!

In fact, perhaps the greatest benefit of being a Detroit Area Steelheader is having the chance to catch big fish on the Great Lakes even if you do not own a boat suitable for the big waters. Simply put, every captain needs a crew to help run the boat, share expenses and catch the fish.

Our "CREWS" program (see below for details) gets captains and crew members together for our weekend tournaments, or other fishing trips. As a result, a lot of people are thrust into 'big water' trolling as active participants for the first time whose only prior experience with it, if any, was on a charter boat where everything was done for them.

To help 'first-timers' get a headstart toward making a smooth transition from passive to active participation, here are some crew/mate basics.

## TEAMWORK

The first thing to realize is that you will probably be overwhelmed with the differences between big lake boat trolling and most other types of fishing. The main difference is that the boat itself is the fisherman, rather than any individual who happens to be on board. The crew of the boat MUST act as a team. The captain will assign different tasks to each crew member, and you make your contribution to the team by doing what you are asked to do, to the best of your ability.

## ASKING QUESTIONS

Don't assume anything! If you don't know how to do something you have been asked to do, don't be embarrassed to ask. In this regard, it is most important to respect the investment of the captain.

If you get the chance, have him explain what all his equipment does and how it works before you go on a fishing trip. If you don't get that chance, please ask for specific explanations necessary to correctly do what you are asked to do.

Some examples of what I mean are finding out how to read the graph or depth sounder, what type of speed indicator is being used, how the downriggers and releases work, where the various lures are kept, how to operate the marine radio, how the engine throttle works, etc.

## SETTING LINES

Assuming the boat has been successfully launched, the next thing to be done will be setting lines. The captain will choose the lures and probably put the lines down himself the first time. However, it's not fair to expect the skipper to do this all day. Be prepared to help out.

Most captains use either the improved clinch knot or the "Trilene" knot to tie on lures or swivels. Always use his knot when you are doing the tying on. Once the lure or swivel is tied on, be sure to put the hook into the hookkeeper on the rod and tighten the line so lure hooks won't be flying around before the lure is put into the water.

The next thing helpful to know is the method the captain uses to measure how far back he wants to run the lure. This is usually measured by 'pulls' or 'bars' unless the distance back is obviously only a few feet.

Pulls are done by putting the anti-reverse level off, grabbing the line at the reel and pulling out an arm's length of line. This distance, approximately two feet, is one pull.

The other method of measuring line out is counting 'bars'. Usually, a bar consists of one pass of the level wind device from one side of the reel to the other. Some captains, however, consider that one pass is the level wind device going across and back to its original position. Whichever method is used, the captain will know how many feet of line goes out of the reel on one pass. For example, one pass on a Penn No. 209 reel is about nine feet. Thus, if the captain wants to run a surface lure back 100 feet, you can use 50 pulls, or about 11 bars, to reach that distance.

It's likely that you won't be doing any line-setting right off the bat, but when you do get the chance to set some lines yourself, it will be helpful if you make sure the hooks are needle-sharp before the lures go into the water. Also, check to make sure the lures have the right action before they go down.

## BOAT HANDLING

If you're not the one setting the lines,

which you probably won't be, you'll probably be driving the boat. The most important things here are to keep the boat going straight so that the lines don't tangle on their way down or out, and to get and keep the boat going at a precise trolling speed.

To avoid tangles, it's easiest to set lines going either with the waves or directly into them. It is at those times when it's easiest to keep the boat going straight. If you want to be trolling in some other direction, you can always turn once the lines are set.

Trolling speed will be dictated to you by the captain, and the main thing to learn is that throttle adjustments will be extremely fine—speeds are measured as precisely as one-tenth of a mile per hour.

## IDENTIFYING STRIKES

Once the lures are down, the most important thing for everyone on the boat is to watch the rods. There should not be even a second or two when there is not at least one pair of eyes on those rods. It takes concentration to avoid daydreaming, or even falling asleep at times, but diligence at this task will save many fish.

If you do nothing else to contribute to the success of a trip, let it be being the first one to notice that there is a fish on one of the rods.

What exactly are you watching for?

✓ In the case of a line on a downrigger, it's easy—the bent-over rod will pop up when the force of the strike pulls the line off the release.

✓ For a line on a deep diver, the same thing will happen.

✓ For a line on an outrigger or planer board, the line will be pulled off the release and go straight back instead of off to the side.

✓ For a lone line connected directly to the rod, there will be a noticeable throbbing or jerking action.

Another thing to be alert to while you are watching the rods is any unnatural movement of the rod, such as the rod tip bouncing or vibrating in any different-than-normal sort of way. This could indicate that:

✓ The cannonball is bouncing on the bottom.

✓ You have hooked a fish too small to trip the release.

✓ You have tangled lines.

✓ You're running an 'out-of-tune' lure, or one that has snagged some seaweed or other lake garbage.

Bring any unnatural-looking rod movements to the attention of the captain immediately.

## SETTING THE HOOK

When you get a rod reacting in the normal fashion, the first thing to do is yell, "FISH ON!" You don't do this just because you're happy and excited. You do this because *everyone on the boat must react*, especially if it's a large, strong fish—in other words, if you've tied into a SCREAMER!!

If you're able to get to the rod the quickest, grab it out of its holder as fast as you can. Wind up any slack with the rod tip lifted up enough so that, when the slack is wound up, the fish has to fight a noticeable bend in the rod.

NEVER point the rod tip toward the fish except during a jump, or when taking up slack line. NEVER wind the reel against the drag, i.e., while the fish is pulling line out of the reel.

If the hooks are sharp enough, and the downrigger release is set tightly enough, and someone can get to the rod fast enough . . . , most fish will set the hook themselves.

If you must set the hook, wait until the line is tight and the fish is definitely pulling away before you jerk back on the rod.

## KEEPING A TIGHT LINE

What is more important, even more important than setting the hook, is that you MUST do whatever is necessary to KEEP A TIGHT LINE!

If it's a big fish, it should make a strong initial run of at least 50 yards. When this happens, keep the rod tip up and make the fish fight the rod. Gain line whenever you can by the 'pump-and-retrieve' method—pull back on the rod, then wind in the line as you lower the rod. Squarely face the fish AT ALL TIMES, keep your balance, and move to the side of the boat closest to the fish.

An often-forgotten but very important duty of the person fighting the fish is to yell out a verbal description of just what the fish is doing. This enables the helmsman and others in the crew to react effectively. It is especially important to do this if the fish rushes the boat. The driver can speed up, thus helping you keep a tight line and avoid the fish fouling lines that are still in the water and haven't been brought in yet.

## LANDING THE FISH

Eventually the fish will tire enough to be ready to net. The most noticeable indication of this is that the fish will turn on its side. Seeing the boat, though, will sometimes energize the fish for one more strong run, in spite of its fatigue. The main point is to keep the fish away from the boat while it's still strong and spunky, unless it's small enough that you can control it anyway.

When the fish is ready, keep it at the surface and bring it along the side of the boat, but don't lift its head out of the water. At this point, if you need additional control, use your thumb on the reel spool to add to the pressure of the drag. Wind in the line so that the rod tip is close enough to the fish to allow you to pull it toward the net by stepping backward and letting the net man step in front of you.

Guide the fish head-first toward the

Continued on Page Thirteen . . . /

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## MASTER THE BASIC SKILLS AND "... YOU'LL BE AN ASSET ON ANY BOAT YOU MAY GO ON, AND YOU'LL BE A WELCOME CREW MEMBER TOO."

*... Continued from Page Twelve*

net man, and bring it in close enough so that he can simply slip the net under the fish and scoop it up without having to stretch out too far. If you let up on the pressure slightly once the net hoop is under the fish's head, he'll dive right in!

The landing procedure described above applies only to the larger, stronger fish you may be called upon to fight. In the case of a smaller fish, or one too weak to make runs against the pressure of the reel drag, simply reel it in and net it as quickly as possible—you'll be able to control such fish even though they may not be completely tired out. This situation is very common with lake trout, and with coho salmon taken in the spring.

### THE HELMSMAN'S DUTIES

While you were fighting that fish, what was everybody else on the boat doing? In fact, they did just as much as you did to get that fish landed, if not more.

If you happen to be the driver when a fish hits, the first thing you'll do is check to see which rod the fish is on, and to find out if it's a SCREAMER or one that can be easily controlled. If it is a SCREAMER, you may have to reduce speed so that the fish doesn't take out too much line.

Your main task, though, is too keep the fish behind and, preferably, off to one side of the boat. You may have to turn back toward the fish to help gain back line. It may also be necessary for you to wave off other nearby boats to keep them from cutting between the boat and the fish.

Once all the lines are up, you may want to put the engine in neutral to let the rod man gain line, or just enjoy the fight with the fish.

Most importantly, as helmsman, you must react to what the fish is doing, keeping in mind the competing goals of gaining line and yet keeping the fish away from the boat until it's ready to bring to the net. It is especially important to be ready to speed up the boat if the fish rushes toward it.

When the fish is ready to be netted, it's your job to maneuver the boat so that the fish can be readily brought along the side of the boat chosen by the rod man and the netter.

### THE 'EXTRA' MAN'S JOBS

If you are the 'extra' man, you may actually be busier than both the rod man and the helmsman. For that SCREAMER fish, you'll probably have to clear the rods from one side of the boat, or maybe you'll have to clear all the lines.



**AUTHOR MIKE LEHTO shows off a nice king salmon which he took off Ludington last summer.**

Here's how to handle the various types of rigs:

✓ For downrigger lines, take the rod out of its holder, point the rod tip toward the line release, wind up any slack and then jerk the rod tip upward to pop the line off the release.

✓ Deep diver rigs are released in the same way as downrigger set-ups.

✓ Handle planer board and outrigger lines the same way as you do the downriggers and deep divers, except that you jerk the line toward the rear of the boat in order to pop them free from their releases.

In all cases, once the lines are free you then reel in the lures as fast as possible, doing all you can to get the fish on it. When the lure is close to the boat, hold the rod tip away from behind the boat. That way, if the lure pops out of the water, it won't end up hooking your face, or anyone else's!

After the lure is out of the water, put the hook into the hookkeeper on the rod so that the lure doesn't flop around. Put all rods thus reeled in forward, or on the side of the boat away from the fighting action—and use storage rod holders or some other secure, out-of-the-way place.

Once a downrigger or planer board is free from a line, it can be brought up and/or in, as you are instructed by the captain.

While you are taking care of all the line-clearing, it will be very useful if you'll remember:

- ✓ The location where the fish hit.
- ✓ The water depth.
- ✓ The boat direction and speed at the time of the strike.
- ✓ The kind of lure, the depth it was being fished in, and the distance from the release it was being run.

Keeping track of this information enables the captain to quickly and easily repeat what worked. It also helps him to maintain an accurate log book with all relevant information recorded.

As the 'extra' man, you can also help by:

- ✓ Telling the helmsman what the fish is doing.
- ✓ Keeping track of where other boats are and what they are doing, and letting the driver know what's happening.
- ✓ Watching any other lines that are in the water and still working.

Getting the net ready to use as the fish begins to tire.

How do you go about netting the fish? There are a number of different ways of netting, but several principles are universal. First of all, hold the mesh against the net handle to avoid hanging up on downriggers, rod holders or other obstructions. Second, on a boat in the lake, never net from behind—fish can't swim backwards! Finally, let the rod man bring the fish within your reach up on the surface, and let him guide the fish to a position right over the net.

I prefer letting the mesh bag drop down naturally as I place the hoop horizontally right under the fish's head. NEVER net from behind the fish.

Once the net is below the fish's head, a slight lowering of the rod tip will usually result in the fish diving into the net. If this is not done, the fish is still easily scooped up.

When bringing a large fish aboard in the net, place the net handle in a vertical position and then pull up and into the boat. This avoids bending the net hoop or handle.

### SECURING THE CATCH

After the fish is in the boat, the rod man should release some line from the reel and place the rod in a holder. Someone should use the 'bonker' to stun the fish by hitting it on top of the head between the eyes (taking care to avoid hitting the bottom of the boat, of course!).

Then, using needle-nose pliers, the hook should be removed. It's helpful to grab the hook at the base of the curve so that you can give the barb a direct (straight) pull out. This helps avoid bending the hook. Once out, the hooks should be checked for sharpness, and straightened if necessary.

Make sure you get that fish on ice as fast as possible! You'll taste the difference if you do, or if you don't!

The line should be checked for any fraying or nicks, the bad line cut off, and lures and/or swivels should be retied on good line. Then the boat should be mopped and the net rinsed.

With all that out of the way, you may celebrate briefly and start all over again!

### SOME FURTHER POINTERS ON DRIVING THE BOAT

Speaking of "starting all over" reminds me that, when driving the boat the first

few times, there is a lot to learn. Some of the things I've already mentioned earlier in this article. But some things just have to be learned by experience. Even so, I think it will be helpful to mention a few of them.

For example, the captain might say, "Go north and keep the speed at 3.4." At the time he says that, you might be going south with the wind at a speed of 4.0. You have four downrigger lines, a "dipsey diver" and a surface line down. What do you do?

First, find out from the captain which way he wants to turn, or which way will be easier because of boat traffic. Then start your turn while alternately watching forward and backward—forward to watch for boat traffic and direction, and backward to watch how the turn is affecting the lines.

In general, the farther back the lines are and the more surface lines there are, the more gradually you'll have to make the turn. Watch where the lines are going to judge how sharp you can make the turn. When you turn, turn the wheel until the angle between the lines and the boat is no more than 45°, then turn the wheel straight until the lines go straight back again. Repeat the entire process as many times as necessary until the turn is completed and you have the boat heading in the requested direction.

In the meantime, what's happening with your speed? You're supposed to be slowing down, right? But what about the wind and waves?

Since you are turning into the wind, you'll probably have to increase your speed to help make the turn. In addition, even though your boat speed is supposed to ultimately be slower, your RPM's, or engine speed, may have to be increased a few hundred to maintain even the slower speed going into the wind.

Watch your speed indicator religiously so you can 'fine-tune' the throttle until conditions settle again. The individual adjustments may be small, and there may be a time lag of 15 to 30 seconds before changes in engine speed result in specific changes in boat speed. Be vigilant in making adjustments whenever necessary to maintain the exact boat speed requested. Eventually, you'll be able to add 'S' curves and zig-zags to your boat-driving abilities.

Whatever happens, don't forget to yield the right-of-way to boats with fish on the line, and to sailboats. When in doubt about what to do, ask the captain.

Finally, don't forget to watch for fish marks on the graph, changes in depth and surface temperature, or to glance back at the rods once in a while, just in case someone misses something there. Also, keep the captain updated on any major changes.

### SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

Now that you've read this far, even if you've never been boat trolling on the Great Lakes for drag-burning salmon and trout, you at least have some of idea of what to expect and how to be helpful when you do get your chance at this kind of action.

If you are able to watch rods without daydreaming, tie on lures and swivels with a good knot, drive the boat straight when lines are being set, maintain an exact trolling speed, pull lines quickly and safely, and, above all, react quickly with a "FISH ON" yell when a rod pops up, you'll be an asset on any boat you may go on, and you'll be a welcome crew member too.

—Mike Lehto

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# It was a sweet win for the "Sweet Lorraine"

This is the story of the first tournament win of the "Sweet Lorraine." With the 1985 boat season over, perhaps this fishing tidbit will give you one last taste of the summer past, and help you prime the pump for the summer to come.

The last Detroit Area Steelheader tournament of the 1985 season, on September 7, was set for Harbor Beach, near the tip of Michigan's Thumb. As had been our practice in all past tournaments, our crew departed for the tournament site on Thursday afternoon, taking one and one-half days of vacation to conduct research on the fishing at the tourney port before it really counted on Saturday.

This water was new to us, and, we guessed, to most other club members, too. In addition to learning about current fishing conditions, we had some arrangements to make for tourney day (ordering a keg of beer, finding a site for the weigh-in on the big day), as I had the added responsibility this time of running the tournament for Boat Trolling Chairman Bob Ksionzek, who had to skip the event to become a father.

It didn't take long to get everything lined up, and before we knew it, the "Sweet Lorraine" was launched, all the gear was installed, and there was still some daylight left. "Let's go!" we said, and out we went for a very pleasant twilight cruise in the 21-foot Thompson hardtop checking out the harbor and proximate lake conditions.

The evening was beautiful, with a light, warm breeze and calm waters. We even caught a nice King salmon, about 18 pounds, which we donated to a very surprised and delighted pier fisherman on our way back in.

We had taken temperatures near the breakwall, and noted that the surface was 67°, with a very warm 61° all the way down to 25 feet. We then moved out into deeper water to take a look there. It was the same 61° down to 50 feet, but then it dropped 5 degrees, to 56° in just five feet.

At 60 feet, it was down to 47°, and at 70 feet it was 43°. We caught the lone king in 55 feet of water, 45 feet down with a silver and green J-Plug. We 'marked' the spot with our King 8001 LORAN-C unit, and decided to return there the next morning.

Instead of an expected bright Friday morning, we woke up to light fog and fairly heavy clouds. Ah-ha! Never mind the silver J-Plugs, guys, let's switch to white and pearl. Trolling near our spot at 55 feet did no good, so we moved out to even deeper waters. Then the fog dropped on us like a big, wet shower towel—we couldn't see more than 50 feet!

Three small finches buzzed our boat for at least an hour in the tight fog, finally landing on our foredeck out of sheer exhaustion. We surmised that they couldn't find their way in to shore, a distance of three to four miles.

We watched the birds peck away at dead bugs on the hull, the tackle boxes, the downriggers and then... WHAM! We were suddenly jolted out of our trance by the delightful sight and sound of a jumping rod, complete with line zinging through the rod guides! FISH ON!! It was 11 o'clock and we had been cruising for nearly four hours without a hit. Now, in a flash, the action was on, the salmon was our prey, and he was determined to take our line to Ontario!!!



ED McINTOSH (center), and his crewmates, Bob and Harold Fitzgerald, obviously enjoyed their first tournament win aboard the "Sweet Lorraine."

This trip the two Fitzgerald brothers, Bob and Harold, had joined me. I handed Harold the rod, and he leaned back as far as he could while the line screamed its way out of the reel. "Keep the rod up, keep it up!" was the excited advice from both of us as Harold hung on to the bent-double rod. Knowing this was one of Harold's first salmon, we decided to clear the water of the other rods so that they wouldn't be in the way when the fish got closer to the boat.

Finally, after a good 15 minutes of circling and circling, Harold's fish was in the landing net on its way into the boat. Whew!

"Hey! It's time to toast the fish fairy," someone said. It was also the perfect time to celebrate getting that little black-and-white animal out of our fish box, too! Well done, Harold!!

It was only moments later that Bob had his hands full with another hot rod and reel, and soon, our second salmon was history. Both had come at 45 feet down in 72 feet of water, very close to each other, according to the LORAN-C numbers. We had a spot for Saturday! Both had also come on a new pearlescent Silver Streak spoon, bought the week before on Tom Nesbitt's suggestion.

We apparently had the bait as well as the spot! Let's hope for fog on Saturday, 'cause pearl and white are the colors, we chuckled.

A little past noon we had another hit. It was my turn, and as I went at it, I realized it played 'funny'—not like a king, not like a laker. After some pullin' and tuggin', we finally got the fish to the top. Amazingly, it had whiskers! It was a huge catfish. Leave it to me—fishing 43 feet down over 72 feet of water and I catch a catfish!! Oh, well. We guessed its weight at about nine pounds, and returned it very carefully (!) to the lake.

We figured that was enough tourney preparation, so we headed back in to port. We were ready!

Saturday morning brought fairly clear skies, but the weatherman had promised steamy conditions, with very hot southerly winds and 90-degree temperatures. That had to cause more haze, I thought, so I requested that we use white and pearl anyway.

"What's the program, Bob?" I asked. "Well," he answered, "we didn't get a fish

until 11 o'clock out deep yesterday, so my vote would be to try the shallows near the gap with the rest of the boats for a while. If the fishing slows down, we know where to head."

"Yep," I agreed. "That's a good idea. We'll stay in close, head south of the gap first, and then run north just outside the pack and see what we pick up."

After we sounded the 7:00 a.m. start on the radio, sending most of the Detroit Area Steelheader boats out into deeper water, we turned south, through the "zoo" near the breakwater. We trolled patiently for an hour before fish number one was on the line. BANG! It was my turn. Hell, you can't count a catfish, guys! I grabbed the rod from the number three downrigger on the port quarter and set the hook. "My God, it's a monster. Clear the rods off, Bob, I've got a big one on!"

Bob pulled all the other rods in, and reeled up the downriggers as we started to cicle "Monstro" to relax the strain on the line. It was 8:03. I've caught bigger salmon (this one weighed 20 pounds, 12 ounces), but it sure was a good sight to see this one go in the box, with high hopes for more in the tournament. We got it on a pearl Producer with a green ladderback, running 20 feet down, about 100 feet back.

Bob had pressed the "store" button on the King LORAN-C when the brute released the rod. We programmed the device to direct us to the spot again, and we turned to head back over it. No action. We turned north again and passed over it again. Nothin'.

The digital depth finder was acting up, giving readings of 174 feet when we knew we couldn't be deeper than 50 feet. We got error messages, then a crackling sound. It was cooking itself.

Well, there went that piece of equipment! I pulled the plug on it. We would have to rely solely on the Vexilar sonar for our depth readings.

Continuing north, we had another strike at 8:25, on a "gay J"—that's a pearl J-Plug with pink and baby blue spots. At 8:45 another one hit. This time the fish took our pearl Silver Streak running on the "stacker" on the number three downrigger, 24 feet down. The stacker line was running ten feet above the bottom release, set back about 20 feet, compared to the bottom line with a pearl Producer

only five feet behind the ball.

Releasing the number four rod to check the lure for hung-up weeds, we busted the rod, right at the joint. Damn! With a tournament limit of six, this was a hell of a time to lose a rod! The only other one we had on board was a 12-foot steelhead river rod we had tried at the New Buffalo tournament as a long liner. Well, put it on, Ed, it's better than running with only five rods. Wow! If we were to get a hit on number four, it would sure be a picnic, you can bet on that!

We went ahead and set it up. That giant rod, bent into a huge loop that started high above the boat and ended with the rod tip nearly touching the surface of the water, made quite a sight!

The Silver Streak paid off again at about 9:20, once again off the stacker. What was more interesting, we noted, was that all the fish were coming at the same place—we were turning back over the same spot time after time. We were about a mile off the breakwater, in 40 to 42 feet of water, halfway between the lighthouse and the power plant.

Ten o'clock, the time for the first fish call, came, and most boats were reporting in with no fish, or only one or two at best. It looked like a poor day overall for the club, but we had our fifth fish on the line as the last boat reported in. We were lookin' good! The LORAN-C was sure proving helpful, as all the fish were coming from the same place and we were experiencing no difficulties in staying in the right location!

No more action until 11:25, when again a "gay J" 20 first showed up. The boat did the trick, in tepid water! We had just about decided to pull lines and go out to join the rest of the fleet. Every time we were about to do that, we had a release, so we stayed put. Besides, the haze was picking up, and many boats were coming back in to shallow water.

At exactly noon, number seven was on the line, again going for a pearl Producer. One to go.

At the one o'clock fish call, most boats still reported just a few fish, some with three or four, some still with zero. But "Sea Hag" had seven in the box, too! OH OH! Competition after all!! Got to have that eighth fish (only your best eight fish count in tournaments). C'MON, FISH!

We were getting desperate. We had seven big fish that would be hard to beat, but eight is more than seven and eight would beat us. "Sea Hag" could do it. We had lost a total of four fish, too, with broken lines and other gremlins. C'MON, FISH!!

"Tell you what," Bob said, "we have to try something else. I'm puttin' on some black." He pulled in number four (the big rod) and reset it with a green-striped supermagnum Northport Nailer running back about 100 feet behind the ball. He dropped the ball to ten feet and tightened the line to make that huge hoop again. We moved out a little, to 42 feet of water.

"Whadaya' wants' bet that the eighth fish comes on that 12-foot rod?" I mused. "It'll be some fun, and good old Harold gets the shot. It's his turn."

Yep. It was. At 2:25, number four tore off the release, the huge rod twanging like a buggy whip into the sky. It almost

Continued on Page Fifteen . . .

# Lake Huron Fishery: Spectacular Recovery

Catastrophic changes in the fish stocks and fisheries of Lake Huron have been instrumental in shaping Michigan fisheries programs.

Noted declines in the whitefish population in the 1860's gave rise to the establishment of the State's hatchery program, the forerunner of D.N.R.'s Fisheries Division. The discovery of sea lamprey, and their destruction of the fish stocks in Lake Huron during the 1930's and 1940's, resulted in the United States and Canadian governments establishing the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in 1955. That group has the responsibility for eradicating the lamprey from all the Great Lakes.

Although these catastrophes resulted in development of programs which provided high benefits to the State's fisheries overall, the fisheries of Lake Huron continued to decline into the early 1970's.

Lake Huron's fishery reached its zenith in 1902, with a production of 20,000,000 pounds of fish from U.S. waters. By 1972, the annual production of fish from these same waters had declined to 2,000,000 pounds.

However, since the initiation of many innovative fisheries management programs, beginning in 1970, new fishing opportunities have been developed, creating new excitement among Lake Huron anglers.

Programs leading to the spectacular recovery of the Lake Huron fisheries include:

- A restructuring of commercial fishing regulations to provide adequate protection for depressed stocks to recover, and to reduce incidental commercial take of recreational species.
- Lakewide sea lamprey control.
- A lakewide coho, chinook, brown trout and steelhead recreational fish

- A lakewide joint State and federal lake trout rehabilitation effort.
- The Saginaw Bay Citizen-State Wall-eye Rehabilitation Program.
- Pollution control and clean-up.
- The recent fish management agreement struck between the State, the Indian tribes in the 1836 cession area, and the federal government.

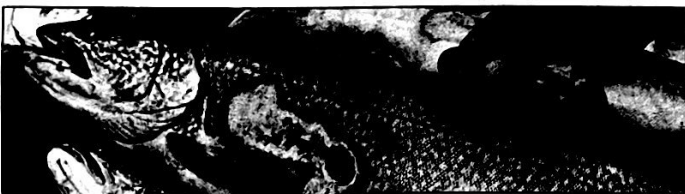
The fisheries management prescription for Lake Huron for the last 15 years has been very successful in restoring its fisheries potential. It has:

- 1) Expanded the whitefish population, and increased annual production from 175,000 pounds to over 1,500,000 pounds.
- 2) Saved the chub population from potential extinction.
- 3) Totally rebuilt a walleye population in Saginaw Bay to the point where it is now an attractive recreational fishing opportunity.
- 4) Reversed the decline of the perch population in Saginaw Bay.
- 5) Increased catfish production from 225,000 to 525,000 pounds annually.
- 6) Rebuilt populations of successfully spawning lake trout.
- 7) Established world-renowned populations of, and fisheries for, coho and chinook salmon, brown trout, and steelhead.

There is still much to be accomplished. The ever-present sea lamprey still poses a continuous threat to the future of the fisheries. However, working together, we can continue to enhance opportunities in these vast waters which we share with our neighbor, Ontario.

—Asa Wright  
Fisheries Division, D.N.R.

Reprinted from the Natural Resources Register, October 1985.



A SEA LAMPREY is shown here being removed from a Lake Huron lake trout. Despite continuous control efforts, the sea lamprey remain a threat to the fishery.

## "SWEET LORRAINE" NOTCHES FIRST-EVER TOURNAMENT TRIUMPH AT HARBOR BEACH

... Continued from Page Fourteen

jumped out of its socket. FISH ON! Harold grabbed the rod, trying to set the hook. The rod bent around like a wet noodle as he waved it back over his head. The reel screeched its song as the line zipped up the guides. I had loosened the drag a bit extra to be "real sure." We were not going to lose this one! Harold fought that fish for 20 minutes. We rounded it many times, turning "Sweet Lorraine" in tight circles as the salmon fought to get behind the boat and into its wake.

A great cheer went up from the three of us as number eight finally hit the deck, tangled in the net, wrapped around lines, rods, hooks, feet and joy! It was another

17-pound beauty!! Now, where was "Sea Hag?"

It was 2:59 as I picked up the radio 'mike'. Grinnin' from ear to ear, I called out the tournament's end at exactly three o'clock. We weren't 1000 feet from the gap in the breakwall, and, therefore, we were second in line at the weigh-in. After tidying up a few final details, we waited anxiously to have our fish weighed, and to see the fine catch of "Sea Hag" and the other boats in the fleet.

Our tally was 121 pounds, and "Sea Hag," also with the maximum eight fish, came very close with 119 pounds! We had won! Our first first, but, hopefully, not our last!! Watch out, big boys! We'll be back next season!!

Now, if I could just figure out how to catch a 'steelie' at Tippy Dam . . .

—Ed McIntosh

# Detroit Area Steelheaders know how to have fun !!

ANNUAL STEELHEADER DINNER DANCE IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 15

The Detroit Area Steelheaders will hold their second Annual Dinner Dance on February 15, 1986 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Warren where the regular monthly meetings take place.

Last year's Dinner Dance was an overwhelming success. Despite being the first one, more than 100 people attended! This year we hope to see many more of you there for this fun-filled event!!

Fellows, this occasion is the perfect time for all of us Detroit Area Steelheaders to repay our wives or girlfriends for all the patience and understanding they have shown us as we've avidly pursued our sport throughout the year.

This year, the dinner will be served "sit-down style," to eliminate the need for everyone to stand in line and serve themselves. However, it's still going to be an "all you can eat and drink" affair! Music will be supplied by a well-known local disc jockey for your listening and dancing pleasure.

In addition, there will be over \$500 worth of prizes given away!

The cost for this great evening is only \$35.00/couple, or \$20.00/person. For more information, call Tom Schriener (463-7603) or Jim Legenzoff (839-8958).

We hope to see you all there!!!



THE DANCE FLOOR GOT A WORKOUT at the 1985 Detroit Area Steelheaders' Annual Dinner Dance!



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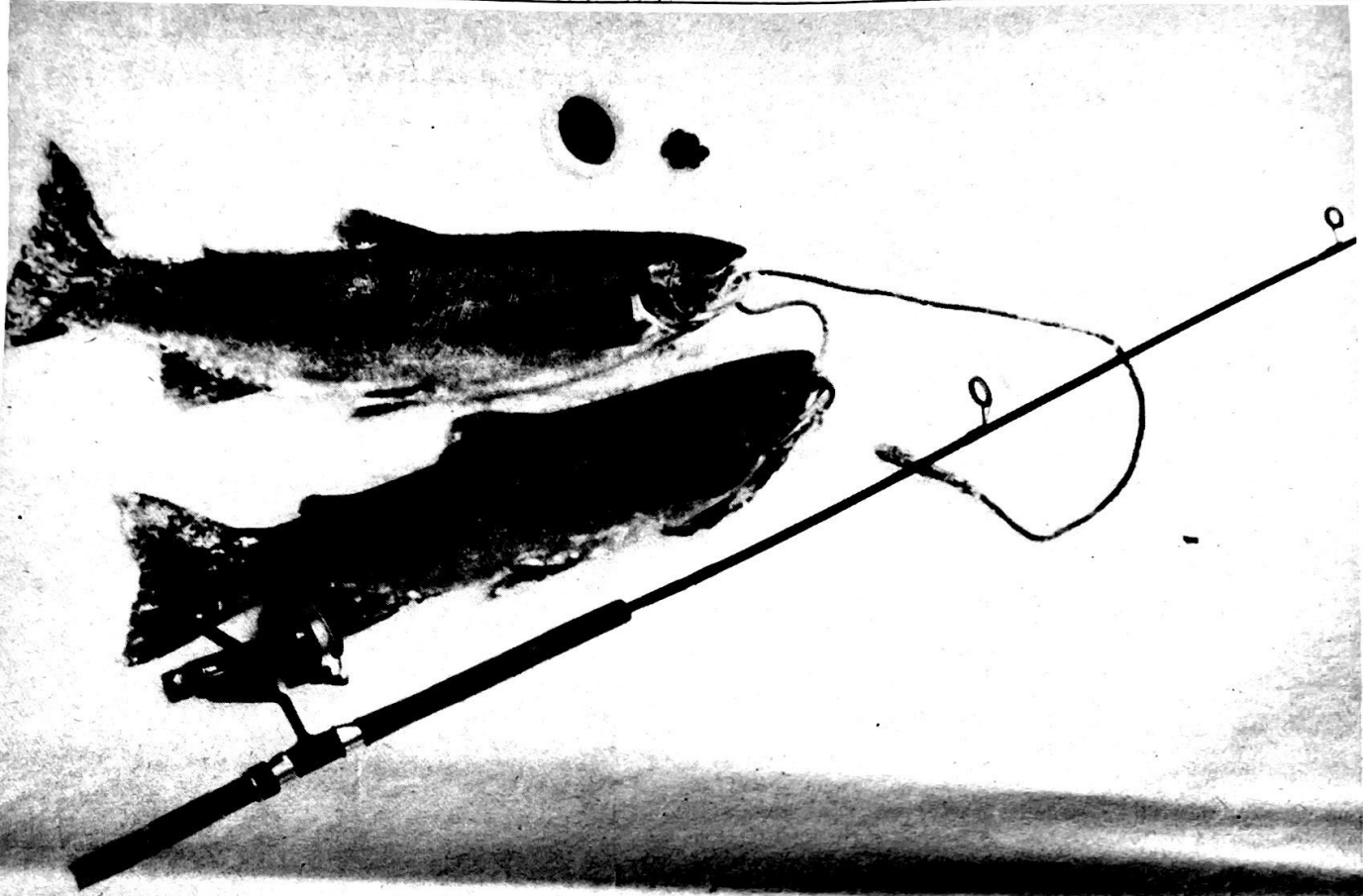
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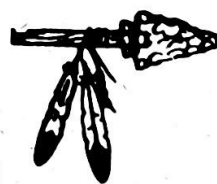
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# Like to catch more fish? Try a bobber!

Have you ever tried to fish a hole or run up a river and had your line get hung up on rocks, roots, logs, or line on practically every cast? If you're tired of losing rig after rig... try a bobber!

Have you ever watched big steelhead rolling in the slack water just a few feet from the edge of the main current and wished that there was an effective way you could fish for them? Well, there is... try a bobber!!

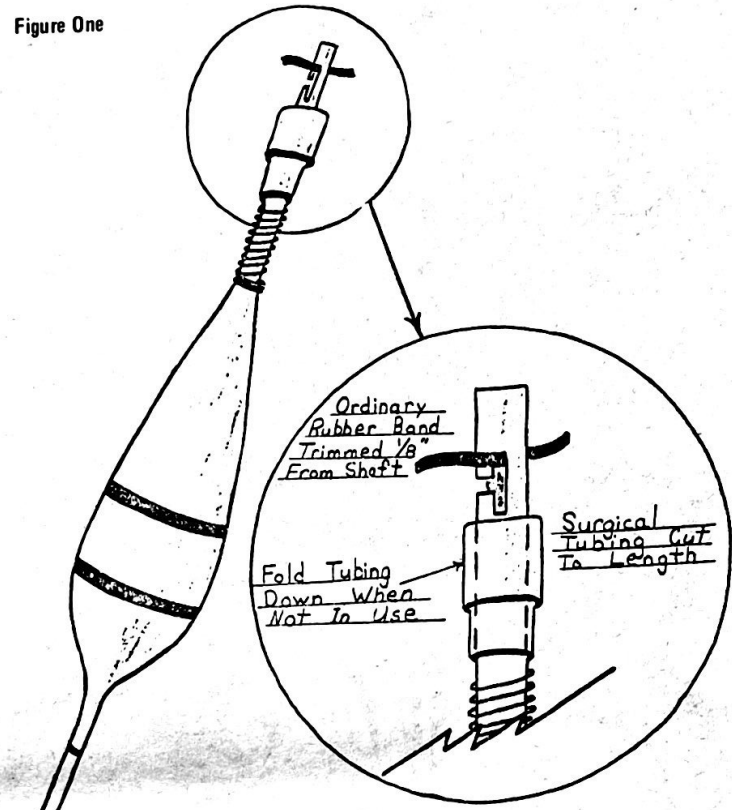
I was first introduced to this method of fishing for steelhead and salmon by Archie Sweet of Farwell in the spring of 1975. At first, all I did was miss strike after strike. However, with a little practice, I soon began hooking and landing some very impressive fish. So far, my biggest steelhead has weighed about 15 pounds, and my biggest king pushed 36 pounds.

I believe I have increased my catch by approximately 40 percent. I've also increased the available water I can fish by at least 50 percent. In a single two-month period (November and December) I landed 119 fish using the bobber method: 81 coho, 16 kings and 22 steelhead. That isn't too bad for a weekend fisherman!

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, the bobber method can be used in several different situations. I prefer to use it where there is a rough, rocky bottom, or to fish the edges of currents where it's very hard to bounce bottom and the steelhead tend to lay. The method is also very effective below dams and natural barriers where there is a slow backswirl of fairly dead water.

The bobber method is simplicity itself. It uses the same effectiveness as

Figure One



#490 CARLISLE BOBBER

bottom-bouncing. This method is the Number 490 Carlisle pencil-type bobber. You'll also need some quarter-inch surgical tubing and a plain old, everyday rubber band. Figure One above should be helpful in understanding the preparation instructions.

The bobber comes equipped with a spring to secure the line in the "T" slot. The first thing to do is to slide this spring up the shaft until it is snug against the float portion of the bobber.

Next, cut a piece of surgical tubing  $1\frac{1}{4}$ "- $1\frac{1}{2}$ " long and slide it over the shaft of the bobber until it is next to the spring and covers the "T" completely. Fold the top of the tubing back until the entrance to the "T" slot is exposed.

Finally, slide a rubber band into the top of the "T" slot and trim it off about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the shaft of the bobber. Your bobber is now ready for use.

When you put your bobber on your line, make sure that your line is in front

of the rubber band on one side and in back of the rubber band on the other side. This will prevent your line from sliding above the rubber band in the "T" slot. The purpose of the surgical tubing and the rubber band is to protect your line from the fraying which would otherwise occur as it rubbed over the wood of the shaft and the metal of the spring. Needless to say, this adaptation could be used for other types of fishing also.

I prefer to use a three-way swivel when using the bobber method. I usually run eight-pound test main line through the bobber to the swivel, four-pound or six-pound test leader from the swivel to my hook, and a short (four- to six-foot) piece of two-pound or four-pound line for my split shot.

For the hook, I like a Number 10 or Number 12 Eagle Claw hook, style number 30. However, most any short- or medium-shank hook, ranging in size from Number 6 to Number 12 may be used.

When using the bobber method properly, you'll still occasionally get hung up on the bottom. By using light leader and light split-shot line, all you'll lose, if anything, is a small part of the total rig. I've found that two Number 7 or one Number 4 split-shot give the most natural drift under most circumstances.

The distance of the bobber above your three-way swivel will vary according to the depth of the water you are fishing. It should be high enough to keep the split-shot from dragging on the bottom, but low enough so that it will "tick" the tops of the rocks. Generally speaking, from one to four inches off the bottom is ideal. With a little practice, you'll be able to determine this distance without too much trouble.

When using the bobber method, it is best to cast either directly upstream, or upstream at an angle off to the side. As your bobber is carried back toward you by the current, you will have to reel constantly in order to keep the slack out of your line between the rod tip and the bobber. Be sure, however, that you don't reel so fast that you drag your bobber faster than the current is flowing. This produces an unnatural drift and fish off.

When the fish picks up your bait, the bobber dips under water almost instantly. When it disappears, you have from one to three seconds at the most to set your hook. If you don't strike within this time frame, the fish will feel the line drag and spit your hook and bait out. The setting of the hook should be with a fairly sharp motion, in order to ensure burying the point of the hook securely.

If you are fishing in fairly dead water with a very slow drift, the bobber may not be pulled completely under the surface of the water. It could just move sideways or even just stop drifting altogether. Vigilance is a must in order to be successful using this method.

There are three baits which I have found to be very successful when using a bobber. These three are: spawn bags, wigglers, and Burl's Golden Nuggets, especially the Mini-Nugget Cluster. Fish each of them just as you would if you were bouncing bottom.

The next time you're fishing an area where you have trouble getting a good drift, either because of slow current or rough bottom, try something different... try a bobber! You may be pleasantly surprised!!

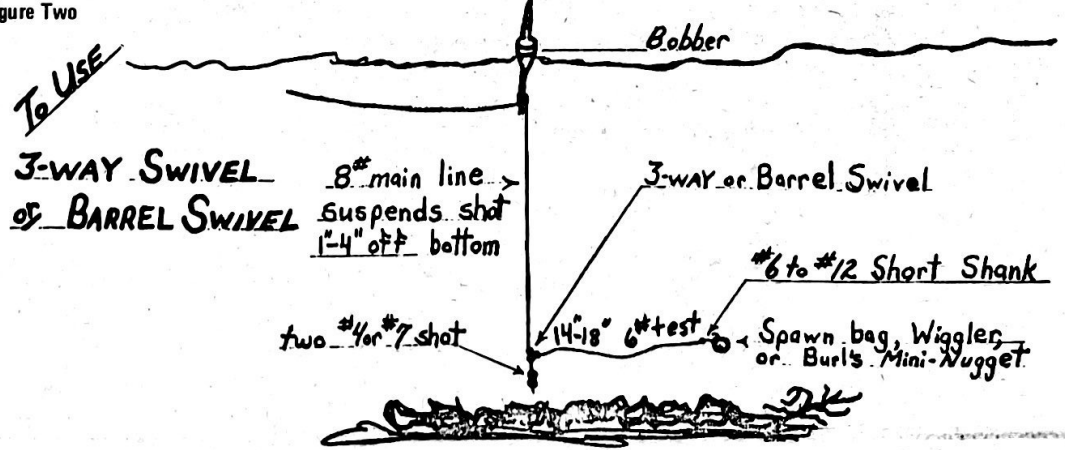
-George "Buddha" Riedel

Reprinted from the Third Edition of the M.S.S.F.A. Annual Publication.



ED YANKOSKI II, winner of the Detroit Area Steelheaders' Intra-chapter tournament last December, is hard to beat above the Coffey Dam on the Big Manistee River. Ed uses the bobber technique described in this article almost exclusively at that location.

Figure Two



**WHO ARE THE MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS (MSSFA)?**

The Michigan Steelheaders is the familiar name for the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, a non-profit sports fishing organization whose members are dedicated to protecting, preserving, promoting, and educating the general public about the Great Lakes anadromous salmon and trout fishery.

The story of the Michigan Steelheaders parallels the story of our modern Great Lakes sports fishery. Twenty years ago, there was no such fishery and no such organization. In fact, the Great Lakes were void of sport fish.

Then, in the spring of 1966, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources introduced about 250,000 coho salmon into the Platte River and an otherwise barren Lake Michigan, in an innovative effort to battle alewife overpopulation and bring back sports fishing.

The result of that program is a booming sports fishery which attracts over 100,000 anglers each year and pumps over \$600 million into Michigan's economy.

It took just over a year from that first plant for the first coho to return to their natal streams. It took about the same period of time for a small group of individuals who recognized a good thing when they saw it to organize the MSSFA.

It began with about 12 individuals from Muskegon, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph, working out of their homes, teaching other fishermen how to catch these West Coast immigrants, and attempting to make sure that these fish would be around for their children and grandchildren to enjoy.

From this modest beginning, MSSFA has grown into the largest sports fishing organization in the Midwest. With membership approaching 7,000, and with more than 30 chapters in three states, MSSFA is the only sports fishing organization in the Midwest with a full-time paid professional staff, located in Paw Paw, Michigan.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders was the second chapter formed, starting on October 16, 1974, and is the largest chapter in MSSFA, with its present membership total exceeding 500.

At the time the MSSFA was formed, the entire Great Lakes sports fishery was in a bad way. Parasitism by sea lamprey, over-harvesting by commercial gill netters, and indiscriminate dumping of waste by municipalities and toxic matter by industry had created an environment hostile to fish. There appeared to be no hope in sight.

But the first coho plants spawned

**BE A STEELHEADER!!!**



**STEELHEADERS HAVE MORE FUN!** Detroit Area Steelheader Chuck Huxford is happy showing off this beauty, taken last December during a Detroit Area Steelheader tournament on the Big Manistee River.



**MSSFA**

hope in fishermen. Programs were created to reduce lamprey predation. Commercial gill netting was limited. Clean water and clean air programs were enacted. Most of these programs are still in effect today.

But programs can end as fast as they begin, and Steelheaders have become the advocates for the Great Lakes resources which are so abundant today. Our chapters serve an important local watch function, while the paid staff at the state level serves as liaison with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the State Legislature, the Governor's office, and Michigan's universities.



**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS**

If you're concerned about the future of sports fishing in Michigan and the Great Lakes, you owe it to yourself to make your voice heard. If you are now a member of MSSFA, get your renewal in now—and get a friend to join as well. If you're not presently a member, join today—it's the best thing going for sportsfishermen in Michigan!

**WHAT DO THE DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS DO?**

Michigan Steelheaders, the MSSFA, are the advocates of a voiceless Great Lakes fishery resource. Whenever and wherever an issue or problem affecting our fishery crops up, you will find Steelheaders there, speaking out on behalf of the resource.

MSSFA led the charge to limit commercial gill netting in Michigan's Great Lakes. The organization has championed innumerable laws and policies to bring more ethical and responsible fishing practices into being.

At the state level, MSSFA sponsors the Salmon Bonanza, holds tournaments for the "big water" fishing connoisseur, publishes the monthly Great Lakes Steelheader, sponsors an annual outing for the Michigan Special Olympics, and undertakes numerous other projects.

MSSFA chapters serve an important social function. Each MSSFA chapter holds monthly meetings, sponsors tournaments within their club and against other chapters, holds fishing shows and clinics, brings in expert speakers, and sponsors films. At chapter meetings, members and their families have a chance to socialize and an opportunity to relax and discuss fishing with fellow members.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders, the largest chapter of the MSSFA, offers many benefits to its members:

- \* Expert presentations at the monthly members' meetings covering all aspects of salmon and trout fishing.
- \* The monthly Fishin' Tales magazine, which also delivers much useful information on the sport.
- \* The sponsorship of a full schedule of boat trolling, river, and surf tournaments.
- \* Involvement, support and participation in various civic, conservation and sport-enhancing projects of local interest and value.
- \* A program which helps 'boatless' members get out on the big water.
- \* A nice set of various decals and patches when you join.
- \* Good fellowship and numerous other benefits.

If you are now a member of the Detroit Area Steelheaders, you know it's the kind of club anyone interested in sports fishing will enjoy. Tell your friends about it, take them to a meeting, encourage them to join. If you're not now a member of the Detroit Area Steelheaders, this is the time to join. Do it today . . . you owe it to yourself!!!



**Please..**

Experienced sportfishermen often make strange discoveries while cleaning their catches! They find that the fish have gobbled all kinds of manmade objects that have fallen into the water. Key rings, false teeth, bottle tops, paper and plastic objects are just a few.

Many things that boaters casually toss overboard can be lethal to fish. Especially items which resemble familiar foods: filter tips from cigarettes can look tempting like grubs; crumpled bits of foil from candy wrappers become attention-getting reflectors of light as they flutter down through the

water; wads of chewing gum look like fish eggs or other morsels.

Often a hungry fish will swallow any such item tossed overboard. As most of these objects are indigestible, they can harm or even kill a fish.

Also, as part of the sportfishing scene, it's a fact that litter from unconcerned boaters often helps to ruin the fishing grounds.

As the above examples so clearly show, littering by some pleasure boaters does happen, and it has all kinds of consequences. Be a boater who cares.

**...Don't Litter!**

**'SURF CHARTERS'**

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## Choosing Clothing for Fall and Winter Fishing

The one big problem fall and winter fishermen run into is staying warm in very cool and damp conditions, especially newcomers to the very trying sport of fall and winter fishing. Not knowing what or how to dress for this type of fishing can leave you very cold and discouraged, to say the least.

One of the first things to look for in this sport is properly fitting waders,

causing you to become cold very soon after you start fishing.

Usually, I find wearing one pair of quilted thermals and a one-piece suit such as a hunting or snowmobile suit works fine all winter.

You should carry your rubber coat to the stream and put it on there. Also, walk slowly to the stream to help keep from overheating yourself. When you reach the



**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER BOB KANAS** illustrates the proper sort of clothing for cold-weather fishing that is described in this article. Bob is shown surf fishing at Otter Creek last winter.

You should always buy your waders one or two sizes larger to allow proper fit when you put on extra socks for foot warmth.

I like to buy my waders two sizes larger—that gives me enough room to wear one pair of cotton socks, one pair of wool socks, and a pair of down booties. If you don't leave room for this kind of footwear, your feet will become cramped and cold in no time at all, forcing you to leave the stream. Good insulated waders can be bought with heavy felt liners inside them, but the cost is usually \$125 or more. Always check your waders for leaks before going on a trip at that time of the year.

The next important piece of clothing is a good rubber raincoat. This is very important for it will keep the rain, snow, wind and, most of all, the water out of your waders. It is important to stay warm but it's just as important not to overdress. Overdressing in cold weather will cause you to sweat while walking to the stream, making your inner clothing damp and

stream, then put on your rubber coat, on the *outside* of your waders. This will keep the weather off you and, at the same time, hold in your body heat.

The next important thing to do is to put a belt around your waist over the rubber coat. This will keep the cold winter water out of your waders and also help keep you afloat should you fall into a cold water stream.

A pair of wool fishing gloves, with the finger tips off, helps very much to keep your hands warm, and yet allows you to tie your line and feel the fish.

A fishing vest is also very helpful to the stream fisherman because it allows you to carry everything you need with you to the stream, especially on streams like the Grand.

I hope these tips help you this season. Good fishing, and I hope to see some of you on the stream this winter.

—John Trofimuk

Reprinted from the Blue Water Sportfishing Association Newsletter, October 1983.

## The critical 20 feet

What takes place during the final moments of your battle with a fish is extremely important. Have your basic plan worked out well!

All of us have weathered the frustrations. There were a few times during the battle when the outcome was in doubt, but with the fish less than 20 feet from the net, victory seem almost at hand. That's when it happens. A sudden surge by the fish, or an over-anxious lunge by the angler, and all that remains is a broken line or an empty hook, and memories of the fish that got away!

More fish are lost during the landing sequence than at all other times combined. Yet you can turn the odds in your favor if you follow a few proven procedures. Preparation and anticipation are the keys. While you are still fighting your quarry, you should be deciding where and how to land it.

Make sure the landing area is selected carefully, and that all loose gear is out of the way. Usually someone else will net the fish, and it is important to find out beforehand just how experienced that person is. Too often, a well-meaning friend will try to scoop the fish into the net, and wind up catching the leader or hooks instead of YOUR FISH! If the other angler is a newcomer, verbally rehearse the procedure with him, and make certain that both of you work together.

For some reason, enthusiasm often clouds common sense, and some anglers feel compelled to try to land the fish the instant it is within range. This can lead to **DISASTER!** Every experienced fisherman knows that a hooked fish will make a strong dash for freedom the moment it spots the hull of the boat, the net, or, in the case of river or surf fishing, even the feet of the angler who happens to be wading. It is going to happen each time you are about to try to land a fish, so be ready for it.

The breaking point of the line varies with the distance between the rod tip and the fish. With the fish close to the boat, there isn't much margin for error. That's precisely why you should help the situation by dropping the rod tip and pointing it right at the fish when it surges away from you. Help the drag on the reel yield line, then you can try to stop the fish. If you snub the fish short, either the hook will pull out or the line will part.

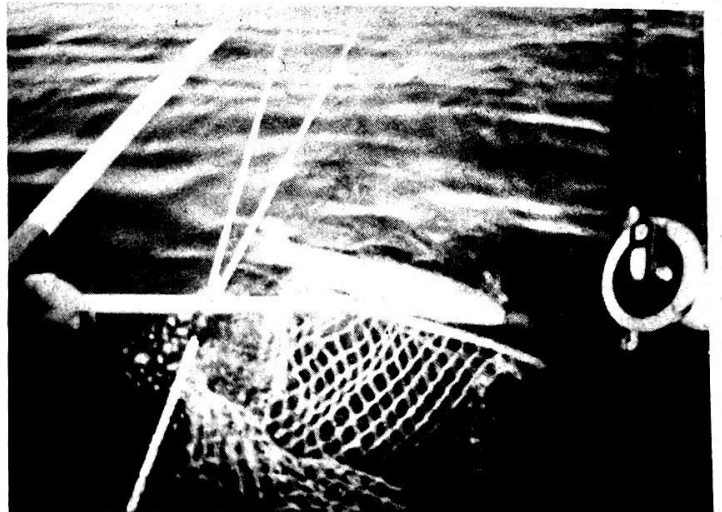
Fish cannot swim backwards. Any evasive action they take will propel them forward. Recognizing this is vital to successfully landing a fish. Too many people try to slip a net behind the fish and scoop it out of the water. The frightened fish is simply going to swim away from the net, and no one can move a net through the water with any amount of speed.

A more sensible procedure is to use the fish's natural actions to your advantage. The net should be placed in the water at approximately a 45° angle, with the "Y" of the base at the surface of the water or just above it. It is up to the rod man to lead the fish head-first into the net. That way, if the fish surges forward, it will swim right into the net. Then it's merely a matter of lifting the net and the fish is caught!

One error that many fishermen make is backing away from the gunwale when someone is netting their fish. This immediately obscures their vision, and they have no idea what is going on in the water. If the fish avoids the net, the angler is not in any position to counter the move, and he could lose the fish. An angler must be ready to fight the fish all over again if it pulls away from the net. One miscalculation is all it takes to create another "fish story."

Trying to lift a fish of significant size without benefit of a net is pure folly. It's attempted all the time, but the success ratio leaves something to be desired. If you do have to lift a fish, reel down until the rod tip is as close to the water as possible. Keep the fish just under the surface of the water, not thrashing about on top. Then start to lead the fish through the water toward you. With one smooth motion, lift the fish out of the water and on board the boat or onto the bank. The fish's momentum will help, but if you try to jerk the fish upward, you'll pull the hook out or break the line.

The secret of landing any fish is to wait until it is ready, and then net it following a systematic procedure. If the fish changes course or doesn't co-operate, don't make a 'do-or-die' stab at it. Instead, lead the fish around again and try it a second time. Haste at boatside spells disaster—that's precisely why most fish are lost within 20 feet of the fish box! Reprinted from the Grand Rapids Chapter Newsletter.



HERE'S ONE THAT WON'T GET AWAY! Your chances of ultimate success are greatly improved if you take the necessary care during those "critical" final 20 feet.

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**POACHING**

# Make your own worm bin/compost box

The organic material in household garbage can provide valuable nutrients for plant growth. One way is to compost it by making layers of leaves, garbage, manure, grass clippings, and garden soil. This pile is kept damp and should be turned occasionally to mix the different kinds of materials and to expose the decaying mass to air.

Another way is to feed garbage to earthworms and let the worms help do the composting. When a worm bin is properly set up, the worms mix the materials, create channels through the bedding to let air in, and eat the garbage. They turn it into rich, black humus in the form of worm castings. Worm castings will help plants to grow faster, bigger, and more luxuriantly.

To set up your own worm bin, you'll need the following materials and tools.

2 x 5/8" CDX plywood @ 35 5/8" x 12"

2 x 5/8" CDX plywood @ 23 3/8" x 12"

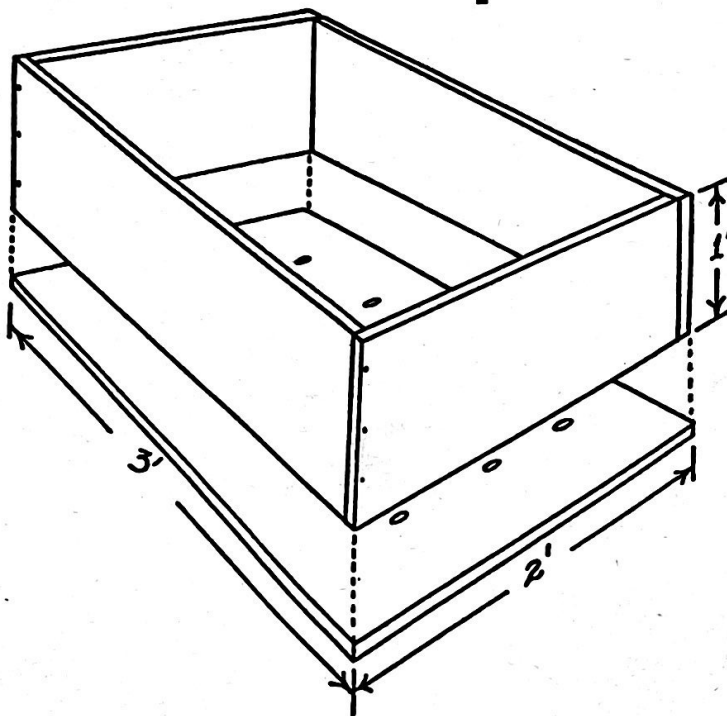
1 x 5/8" CDX plywood @ 24" x 36"

3 dozen Ardox nails, 2" long

Hammer

Drill with 1/8" bit

Assemble the box so that the sides interlock as shown in the drawing. Secure the bottom to the sides using five to seven nails per side. Drill 12 1/2" holes in the bottom for aeration and drainage.



## The 1-2-3 Worm Box

### BEDDING MATERIALS

You'll need to select one of the following for bedding material: Shredded cardboard, newspaper pulp, peat moss, or animal manure (rabbit, horse, cow). You'll also need a half-pound of red worms, or at least 500 garden worms.

The worms are bedded down in a material which serves not only as a bedding, but as a food. When garbage begins to decompose, it may get quite hot—too hot for the worms. Bedding enables the worms to stay away from the "hot spots" until they cool off enough for the worms to move in to eat the garbage. The bedding also holds moisture and helps to reduce possible odors. In time (several months), the bedding is eaten by the worms and becomes worm castings in the same way the garbage does. When the bedding becomes black and so firmly compacted that the worms have a hard time moving through it, you may have to remove some castings and add more bedding.

**Shredded cardboard**—This makes excellent bedding material, although it may be difficult to obtain. Soak it until it's

soggy, then squeeze handful until you can squeeze only a few drops of water from a handful. Fluff this into the bin, adding more until you have at least eight inches throughout the box.

**Newspaper pulp**—Newspaper pulp can be prepared by half-filling a bucket with hot water, then adding strips of newspaper (black ink only!), torn into long, narrow strips. Using a broom handle or other device, plunge and break down the newspaper into paper pulp. Pour this pulp into a burlap bag or other sturdy cloth bag, and let it hang overnight to drain off excess water. The next day, wring out the pulp further by hand, then fluff it into the worm bin.

**Animal manures**—Well-rotted horse, rabbit, or cow manure makes excellent bedding. It needs to be wetted until damp. If it heats up, as it may, wait about 48 hours for it to cool before adding the worms. Manure can also be mixed with peat moss to make it lighter and less compacted. Odor from fresh animal manure will usually disappear within a week after the worms have been added.

**Leaf mold**—Decomposed leaves from the bottom of a pile of decayed leaves can be used for bedding. Maple leaves are preferable to oak, which may be too acidic.

**Peat moss**—Canadian peat moss should make a satisfactory bedding, although its acidity may have to be reduced by adding a pound or two of lime (calcium carbonate, such as that used in animal feeds). As in all bedding materials, the peat moss should be thoroughly wetted so that you can squeeze three or four drops of water from a handful.

### ADDING THE WORMS

Worms can be added once the box has been filled about two-thirds full with properly moistened bedding and the heating stage has passed (if manure was used). Place a light over the bin when you add the worms—they will move quickly down into the bedding to get away from the light.

Redworms can be purchased by the thousand or by the pound from commercial growers who advertise in gardening and fishing magazines. Worms from your garden can be used, although it may be difficult to find the 500 or so recommended to be used in a bin of this size. Within two to three months, the worms will be reproducing rapidly, and some may be used for fishing.

### BURYING THE GARBAGE

Household garbage, such as lettuce and cabbage leaves, carrot tops, potato peels, citrus rinds, coffee grounds, egg shells, and moldy left-overs can be fed to the worms. Some meat from table scraps may be added, but a large quantity may produce excessive odor as it decays, so it is best disposed of elsewhere. To bury the garbage, dig a hole in the bedding large enough to accept the garbage, spread the bedding about two inches deep on top, and let the worms go to work. Two pounds of worms should be able to process almost a pound of garbage per day in a bin of this size.

Water the bin as necessary, keeping the bedding damp, but not soaking wet.

### THE BY-PRODUCT: HUMUS-RICH POTTING SOIL

After several months, the worms will have converted the garbage and bedding into a nutrient-rich humus known as worm castings. This material may be placed on house plants or used when transplanting plants in your garden. Although it will not burn your plants, it is too rich by itself for potting soil. A satisfactory mixture is one-third peat, one-third worm castings, and one-third vermiculite. You may even want to add some worms to your house plants. Some people do, and rave about the results.

### ABOUT EARTHWORMS

Of nearly 2,000 species of earthworms, we are most likely to be familiar with nightcrawlers, the small redworms (manure worms), and garden worms. Earthworms can be as short as a few millimeters, although the largest, found in Australia, are almost three meters (ten feet) long and over three centimeters (one and one-half inches) in diameter!

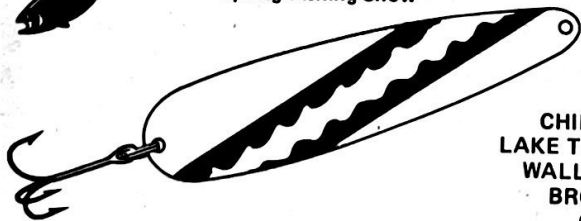
Earthworms are segmented, meaning that their bodies consist of series of externally similar units separated internally by membranes—the whole body appears to be ringed or grooved. To distinguish one kind of worm from another, one needs to count the total number of segments and to note the position of specific organs with respect to these segments.

Have you ever seen worms mating? On a damp spring night, if you have been out in the yard with a flashlight, you may have seen two nightcrawlers joined together for about one-third of their body length. If you looked closely, you could see their "heads" pointing in opposite directions. The conspicuous swollen band (clitellum) on each worm secretes sticky mucus to hold the worms together.

Continued on Page 21 . . . /

# SEAWOLF

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... (Continued from Page Twenty)

During mating, sperm from each worm move down a mucous-covered groove into a pouch on the other worm, where they are stored until a capsule is formed. The worms separate and the clitellum again secretes, this time a mucus which hardens over its outer surface. The worm moves backward, literally crawling out of the forming capsule tube, depositing eggs and stored sperm into it. When the worm is completely free of the tube, the ends close, leaving a lemon-shaped capsule containing the eggs and sperm.

The sperm fertilize the eggs and embryos begin to form. About three weeks later (depending upon the kind of worm and the environmental conditions), from two to 20 baby worms leave the capsule. Each worm, like its parents, is bisexual, meaning that it will produce both eggs and sperm when it becomes sexually mature several months later.

Earthworms eat many kinds of organic materials, most of which are already rotting or decaying. In natural habitats, they have been observed eating decaying material such as leaf litter, dead grass, rotting roots or plants, fruits which have fallen on the ground, and animal manure. Domesticated worms thrive on animal manures, sewage sludge, poultry mash, chopped hay, fish mash, canning factory refuse, walnut meal, apple pomace, grape pulp—this list gets longer every year.

Food and soil that an earthworm eats moves through its digestive tract. Food is stored in a thin-walled crop, from which it passes to a thick-walled gizzard. Muscular contractions of the gizzard help to grind up the food with the aid of sand and mineral particles in the soil. Most of the digestion and absorption of food materials occurs in the intestine where cellulase and other enzymes break down the food into a form the worm can use. Bacteria and protozoa living in the intestine also help to digest the food.

Grains of sand, clay, and dirt are not digested, but are mixed with organic residue and thousands of the bacteria and other organisms in the worm's intestine. These black masses are expelled as worm castings, and can be seen as irregular globs on the surface of the soil.

These castings are valuable for plants because they contain many times more nutrients than an equal portion of dirt. For example, worm castings contain five times more nitrogen, seven times more phosphorus, eleven times more potassium, and one-third more bacteria than ordinary soil. Even though each cast is small, in good agricultural land, there may be as many as two million worms per acre! That many worms could convert 700 pounds of organic matter and soil to worm casting per day under favorable conditions. This could amount to over 105,000 pounds per acre per year. It is no wonder that Aristotle called earthworms "the intestines of the earth."

This article was adapted from a pamphlet entitled "Vermicomposting," part of the 4-H Marine Science Series, and distributed by the Kalamazoo Nature Center.



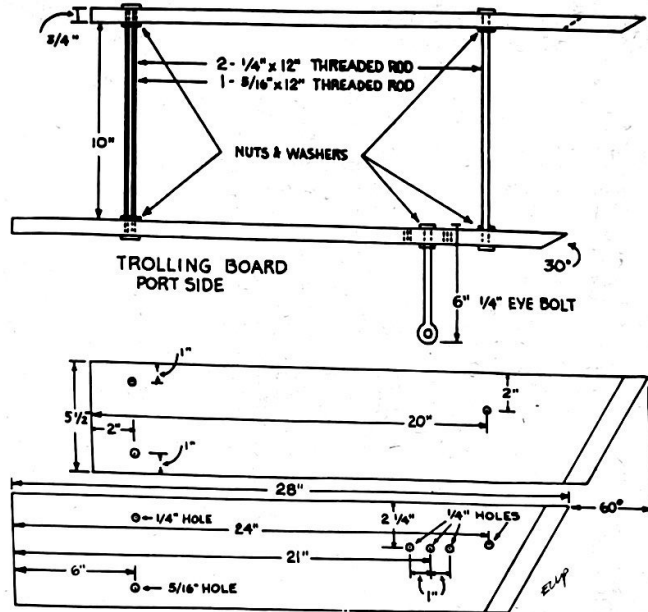
**YOU CAN BUILD  
YOUR OWN DOUBLE  
PLANER BOARD**

Here's a plan for use in building the popular and widely used double planer board. The materials listed below are sufficient to complete one board.  
 2 x 1" x 6" x 28" pieces of redwood  
 2 x 12" x 1/4" threaded rods  
 1 x 12" x 5/16" threaded rod  
 1 x 1/4" x 6" eye bolt  
 10 x 1/4" washers  
 10 x 1/4" nuts  
 4 x 5/16" washers  
 4 x 5/16" nuts

In addition to the materials above, one will need a hand saw, a wood rasp to form the 30-degree angle on the face of the boards, a 1/4" wrench, a 5/16" wrench, wood sealant, a highly visible paint (International Orange or white are good choices), and at least 100 feet of tether line—80-pound test monofilament, or 200-pound test small diameter braided nylon work well.

When assembling the boards, keep these three points in mind:

- ✓ Cut or rasp the 30-degree angle on the front of each planer.
- ✓ The center hole of the three eye bolt holes is usually the best.
- ✓ The bottom 5/16" rod not only



strengthens the board, but also acts as its keel.

Remember, too, reverse the pattern to make the starboard planer!

For those who would rather leave the work to someone else, there are many fine commercially manufactured double planer boards available.

**Correct fish handling helps save our sport**

For avid anglers, fish are a gift of nature, and not to be wasted. Many sportsmen catch more than enough, and have a hard time deciding what to do with the leftovers.

The practice of releasing fish is becoming more and more common among conscientious fishermen.

When releasing fish, follow these tips for proper release of fish:

- One of the most important things the angler releasing fish should do is to wet his hands before touching the fish. A very thin covering of mucus protects most species from bacterial infections. Dry hands immediately remove this covering, leaving the fish wide open to a host of fungal diseases.
- Ideally, the catch should remain in the water while the hook or lure is removed. In instances where this isn't practical, the lip hold is the one most commonly used to prevent fish mortality. With wet hands, and using the thumb and index finger, grasp the fish by the lower lip. The releasing of a toothier species requires a tail hold, or any other hold which does not touch the gills or eyes.
- Studies show that artificial lures cause fewer mortalities than live or prepared baits. An inexperienced fisherman might allow the fish to swallow

the bait before setting the hook, whereas a conscientious fisherman with an artificial lure practices the "hit 'em when they touch it" technique that hooks the fish in the jaw or the roof of the mouth. Any fish hooked in these areas and released properly has an excellent chance of surviving.

- Two factors which cause almost immediate mortality are exhaustion and/or rapid temperature changes. Shock occurs in fish when they are removed from their environment. Fatigue is the most rapid killer of all. When a fish is hooked and begins to fight, a breakdown of food occurs, in order to produce energy. A byproduct of this energy production is lactic acid, which, when reaching a concentrated level, makes it impossible for the fish to recover. The sport who brags about how he fought a fish until it rolled over on its side, and then gently released it, more than likely released a

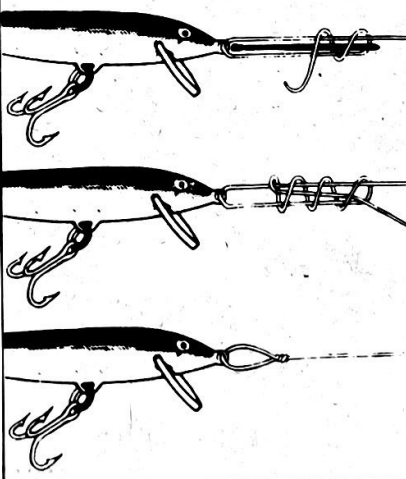
dead fish. The best method is to use heavy line and "hoss" the fish in. Getting it in "green" will aid in its survival.

Studies show that the greatest mortality of released fish occurs after the fourth day after being returned to the water. This is when the subtle killers *Ichthyophthirius* and *Columnaris* attack. Grey masses on fish, or dead fish on the water's surface with their tails eaten off, are signs of diseases which are natural and the common cause of old age in fish. When a fish's resistance is down from stress and the protective mucus has been removed, it becomes susceptible to disease.

It still remains true, as advised by angling specialists, that the best thing a fisherman can do to ensure survival of a catch intended to be returned to the water is to handle it as little as possible and in the manner described above, and return it as quickly as possible to its own environment.

**NAIL KNOT LOOP**

Used to form a loop in heavy line or leader or to attach a lure so it will swing freely.



1. Run the line through the eye of the lure or fly hook and then back along the nail. Make three turns around the nail and standing line.

2. Run the line back through the middle of the wraps. Remove the nail and keep one finger in the loop that was formed.

3. With a pair of pliers pull on the end of the line until the knot is as tight as possible. Clip off the end close to the knot.

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# Is "Courtesy" a forgotten word

By definition, courtesy means having or showing good manners—being considerate of others. In these times of pack fishing and elbow-to-elbow fishing conditions almost everywhere, it seems that many fishermen leave their manners at home. With crowded fishing conditions being the rule rather than the exception, we **MUST** remain composed and, above all, show courtesy to others.

Courtesy can be demonstrated in many ways while fishing and here are a few that everyone should practice.

## RIVER FISHERMEN

- **Don't crowd others.** Ask permission before you fish alongside another fellow. Remember, he was there before you were and you should honor his wishes.
- **Be prepared to stop casting.** This should be done when a drift boat passes you, or when a neighboring fisherman has a "FISH ON." Step out of the water, if necessary, and give the other fellow plenty of room to fight and land his fish. Be ready to help him net his catch if he asks you to.
- **Walk the bank when not fishing.** This should be done on shallower rivers or during low water conditions on larger rivers. When you walk in the water you disturb the bottom, signaling fish downstream that you are coming. Stay well clear of others who are fishing, and make sure their spot is undisturbed by your presence.

## DRIFT BOATERS

- **Stay quiet.** When passing over holes occupied by shore casters, or when passing a fellow drift boater working a run below you, remain silent. You should

ask for permission to fish from the shore caster or a fellow drift boater before reaching their hole. Their wishes should be honored, as they were there first.

## PIER AND SURF FISHERMEN

- **Don't crowd others.** Ask permission before you fish alongside another fellow. Remember, he was there first and you should honor his wishes.
- **Tend your lines.** Always be prepared to pull your lines so they won't tangle with another fellow's fish.
- **Yell "FISH ON."** This will tell nearby fishermen when to pull their lines.
- **Make accurate casts.** Confine your casting to the area directly in front of you.
- **Watch where you walk.** It's easy to step on another fellow's rod as he puts it down to take a break or to rebait his hook.
- **Carry your own net and tackle.** This way, you can help others net their fish if they ask for help. Try not to bother others by asking to borrow lead, leader material, hooks or bait.
- **Watch where you shine your light.** If you fish at night, be sure to shade or dim your lantern or flashlight.

## BOAT TROLLERS

- **Rig your boat BEFORE you reach the launch ramp.** Be 100 percent ready to launch when it's your turn. Start the engine and let it warm up while you park your vehicle and trailer.
- **Watch your wake.** The "NO WAKE" rule applies everywhere on the water, whenever another boat is near. This is the utmost courtesy one boater can

show to another. Cut your speed and don't be in a hurry. Watch for smaller boats in and around the pier heads. Watch for "NO WAKE" signs and obey speed limits. Stay alert to the presence of other boats on the water, and steer well clear of all boats when traveling at higher speeds.

- **Abide by FCC rules regarding radio use.** DO NOT 'loose lip' on channel 16. This channel is designated as a distress and safety channel as well as a call channel. Switch to a non-commercial channel such as 9, 68 or 70 to do your talking. Keep your conversations short and try not to interrupt the other fellow's message. Wait for your turn. Don't forget to use both your boat name and call station designation when calling and answering.
- **Watch your turns.** Give the other boats plenty of room, especially if they have a "FISH ON." Run your lures close to your boat, and use hand signals to indicate your moves when you are in the pack.
- **Offer assistance to other boats.** This might mean towing someone back to port, or calling the Coast Guard for assistance.
- **Share information.** Tell others of your success.

A common courtesy you can show everyone is to remove your own trash. Don't litter our beaches, rivers or other waters.

If we all try to observe these few simple rules, we'll all have a better time at our sport. Good Luck and Good Fishing!

—Ken Rogers  
"The Boston Whaler"



## HELP THE FUND

The Common Loon . . . the Bald Eagle . . . the Osprey . . . the Piping Plover . . . the Bluebird . . . the Lake Sturgeon. These are just some of the species that have been, or will be, aided by Michigan's new Non-Game Wildlife Fund.

This Fund will also sponsor efforts in 1986 to bring back the Peregrine Falcon and the Trumpeter Swan as part of this state's natural heritage.

The future of over 500 non-game species in Michigan is keyed to the Fund. Please help make it work by donating to it where you see this on your Michigan income tax form.



Department of Natural Resources  
Nongame Wildlife Program  
Wildlife Division

## Herb . . .

*Last year when you chartered,  
You had to stand all day . . .  
And you got wet in the cold rain . . .  
You got lost in the fog . . .  
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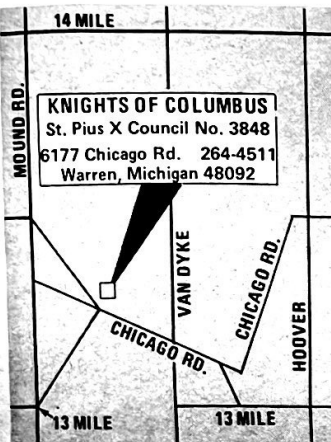
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**FEBRUARY ISSUE**  
 of  
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# Want Ads:

**FOR SALE**—One Pro-combinator, new, still in the box, \$275.00.  
 Call Ken Rogers: 757-5653

**FOR SALE**—1984 Starcraft SF221, "Fangra," and 1984 RE extended-tongue custom trailer. Equipped with 140 h.p. Mercury I/O, Porta-Pottie, auto. bilge pump, full canvas (including camper top, mooring and storage covers), Bennett trim tabs, VHF marine radio, CB, President 400 4" graph, Pro-combinator, speedometer, AM-FM-Cassette, compass, SMR-100 digital depth sounder, 4 Lühr Jensen downriggers with board, outrigger with releases, hour meter, other items. Well-maintained, 258 hours on boat, \$14,000.00.  
 Call Frank Lawrence: 887-5360 (home) 956-3870 (work)

**FOR SALE**—Sixtex 767 LORAN-C, \$350.00.  
 Call Mike: 769-9313

**FOR SALE**—Happy Hooker trolling plate, used three years, \$40.00.  
 Call Mark or Dan: 268-1826

**FOR SALE**—1983 Blue Fin 14' deep 'V', 18 h.p. Johnson and trailer, \$1,300.00 or best offer.  
 Call Jim Hardrick: 796-2100

**FOR SALE**—Wooden drift boat, 13½' long, two years old, five Down Easter rod holders, 37-pound anchor, 8' oars, and trailer, \$1,000.00.  
 Call Frank Lawrence: 887-5360 (home) 956-3870 (work)

**FOR SALE**—Two MacJac manual downriggers, 24" arms, with counters and rod holders, \$45.00 each.  
 Call Gil: 781-4952.

**FOR SALE**—1984 Sea Ray 24-foot Cuddy Cruiser, E-Z Load tandem trailer, LORAN-C, Data Marine speed and depth gauges, Beaver Troll, four Proos downriggers with swivel bases and ten rod holders, outriggers, Lowrance graph, spare, VHF radio, full canvas, pump-out head, and lots more, \$24,800.00.  
 Call Tom: 977-3236

**FOR SALE**—New Heath Model 2910 fish finder/depth recorder, with white line, 4" paper, \$170.00.  
 Call Gil: 781-4952

**NOTE:** Want Ads are run free for Detroit Area Steelheaders, and will automatically run in one issue only. If you wish to have your ad repeated, please contact the Editor by the published deadline date.

## Patches & Decals

SIZE	ITEM	PRICE	QTY.	COST
5" dia.	CHAPTER ARM PATCH (8-color)	4.00 ea.		
3" x 4"	WINDOW DECAL	.25 ea.		
11" x 14"	BOAT DECAL	1.00 ea.		
11" x 14"	CHAPTER BOAT DECAL	2.00 ea.		
MAILING FOR ABOVE ITEMS				.75
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION TO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER "FISHIN' TALES"		12.00/yr.		
TOTAL				

Complete form and send with check or money order payable to:  
**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS**  
 P. O. BOX 16320  
 CLARKSTON, MICHIGAN 48016  
 These items are Chapter Fund Raisers—WE THANK YOU!

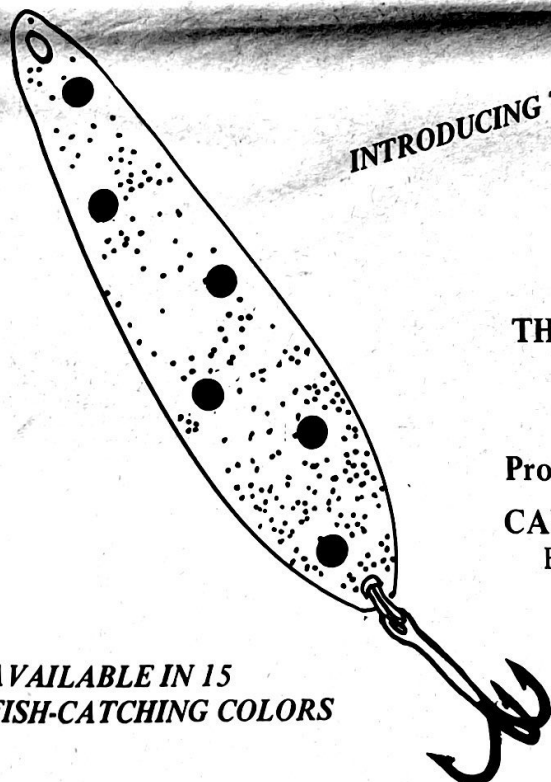
## Membership Application

**MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:**  
 Detroit Area Steelheader Newsletter—*FISHIN' TALES*, MSSFA Newspaper, Boat Decal, Car Decal, Tackle Box Decal, Arm Patch, Membership Cards & Other Benefits

**ANNUAL DUES:**  
 New members & renewals under age 62 . . . . . \$ 30.00  
 (Detroit Area Steelheaders share—\$14, State Association share—\$16)  
 Renewals age 62 to 65 . . . . . \$ 18.00  
 Renewals over age 65 . . . . . \$ 8.00  
 Lifetime . . . . . \$180.00  
 (State Association dues are not included, and must be paid separately.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Complete form and send with check or money order payable to:  
**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS**  
 P. O. BOX 16320  
 CLARKSTON, MICHIGAN 48016 **THANK YOU!**



INTRODUCING THE

# PREDATOR

THE LURE DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY TO CATCH GREAT LAKES SALMON

Proven and tested by leading tournament winners:  
**CAPTAIN STEVE JONES** of the "Predator"  
 Finishing First or Second in over a dozen major tournaments

&

**CAPTAIN LARRY ATWELL** of the "Cobra"

Call or write:  
 37897 MAST COURT • MT. CLEMENS, MICHIGAN 48045  
 (313) 463-FISH

Dealer Inquiries Invited

# V182

*Sport Fisherman*

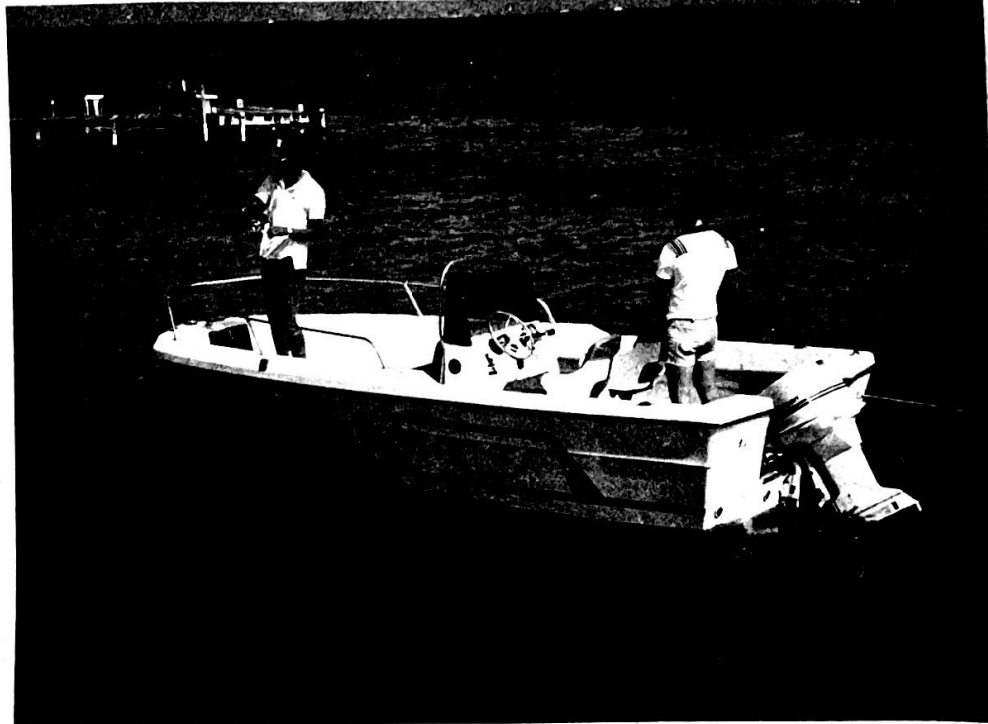
**Standard Features Include:**

Two deck mounted rodholders, two inside mounted rod-racks, windscreen, windscreen grab rail, stainless steel steering wheel, stainless steel bow rail, 43 gallon built in tank, large built in console cooler (removable), storage under console, self bailing hull, two large forward storage areas, one aft floor storage area, bow and stern lights, bow chocks, rear inside cleats, bow anchor locker, large teak splashwell, and more.

Optional equipment includes bimini top, speedometer, tachometer, conversion of console ice box to a live well, reversible ice chest seat for behind console and horn.

**Specifications:**

- Hull Configuration ..... Vee
- Centerline ..... 17' 3" (5.26)
- Gunwale Length ..... 18' 3" (5.56m)
- Molded Depth ..... 51" (1.3 m)
- Max Capacity  
(persons, motor and gear) 1750 lbs. (794 kg)
- Weight Approx. .... 1200 lbs. (545 kg)
- HP Capacity ..... 150
- Fuel Capacity ..... 43 gals. (162 l)



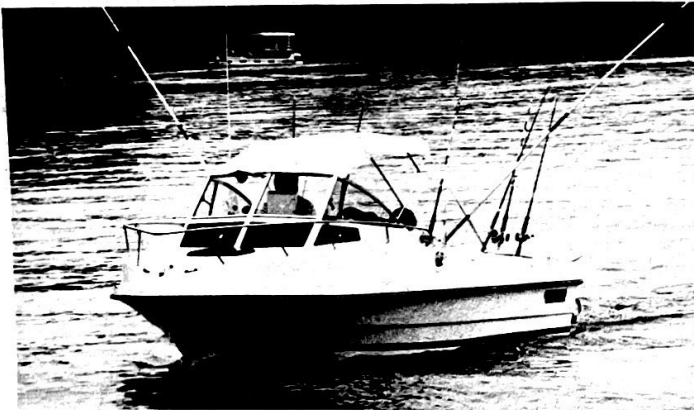
INVADER "V182" SPORT FISHERMAN, EQUIPPED WITH 75 HORSEPOWER MARINER OUTBOARD & CUSTOM TRAILER:

**\$8999.**

+ Tax & Make-ready



See SUBURBAN MARINE... and take your pick of 24 models from 15' to 24 feet. Available in outboard, inboard/outboard, and sea-drive options. Glassmaster offers you a complete line of runabouts and fishing models, priced right, and with our new 5-YEAR WARRANTY!



**210 WF Regency Kingfish**

Outboard  
SPECIFICATIONS  
Centerline Length 21' 0"  
Beam 95"

Transom Width 91"  
Motor Shaft Length Twin-20" Single-25"  
Depth 65"  
Max. HP Rating 230  
Fuel Capacity 75 gal.  
Weight Approx. 2,120 lbs.

## Check These Specials!

\*\*\*\*\*

MICRONAR M700 COLOR VIDEO Regular price \$536.25  
Special to MSSFA Members (through Feb.) \$499.95

\*\*\*\*\*

WALKER DOWNRIGGERS  
LDR-4 ..... \$292.12  
MDR-4 ..... 156.88  
MDR-2 ..... 151.46

\*\*\*\*\*

SALES: LOWRANCE \* MICRONAR \* HUMMINGBIRD

