

ANNUAL ISSUE

# FISH TALES



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1988 ANNUAL ISSUE

## Detroit Area Steelheaders



- Fishing "Know-How"
- Tournaments
- Conservation
- Fisheries Research
- Educational Programs
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# 1987: WHAT A YEAR!!

After becoming President of the club last January, I thought it would be real tough to equal 1986's achievements. Member participation was great and our tournaments and meetings were well-attended. Everything seemed perfect.

Then along came 1987. I'd like to personally thank every member for helping make this past year one of the best ever for our club.

It all started with the Pontiac Boat Show in the Silverdome. We had plenty of help there for a change! Boat Raffle tickets sold well, and we picked up some new members as well as a few renewals.

Anyone who's worked the shows knows just how much fun they can be. The Silverdome show seems to get everyone out of the winter doldrums and lets us know that spring is just around the corner.

We went right from Pontiac to the Detroit Boat Show at Cobo Hall, and it was another great success, as we set a record for Boat Raffle ticket sales! Thanks again to all the members who volunteered their time and help. I think everyone had a good time there, got to see the show, and talked a lot of fishing.

Next came a new stop on the show 'trail' for Detroit Area Steelheaders. The Bass-O-Rama show in Waterford turned out to be a great single weekend show. Thanks again, members!

Last on our show circuit was the Outdoorama show at the State Fairgrounds. I think 95 percent of our membership went to that one, and everyone knows how well it came off for us. Membership enrollments were great, with strong Boat Raffle ticket sales.

Sandwiched in among all the show activity was the 1987 Steelheader's Dinner Dance. This annual event turned out to be a real highlight. More than 100 people turned out at St. Pius X Hall that snowy night, and I'm sure no one went away disappointed. The music was great, the food was excellent, and the raffle prizes were fantastic!

Director Jim Legenzoff really outdid himself on this one. More than \$1,500 in prizes were given away before the night was over. Good job, Jim! Let's see you do it again!!

The Detroit Area Steelheaders also offer special thanks to Shirley Olinger,



**THE RIVER CRAB STAKES**, which benefits the McKinnon Center for abused and troubled children in Port Huron, was won in 1987 by the Detroit Area Steelheaders. President Mike Zelkowski (r.) is shown accepting the first prize award, which has been used by Detroit Area Steelheaders to support several worthy projects (see Page Four).

Karen Ksionzek, Kathy Burbary, and Lakeside Tackle for their generous donations of raffle prizes for the Dinner Dance!

If you missed last year, be sure to attend the 1988 Steelheader's Dinner Dance on February 20, once again at St. Pius X Hall. We sure would like to see more of you on hand. Come on, Mrs. Steelheader, make the Captain take you somewhere besides fishing!!

The beginning of April saw our annual Spring Fishing Show at the Dearborn Civic Center. It was truly a gem! Don Kirchoff, our Chairman for the year, put together one of the best set-ups we've ever had for this popular event.

Our table space was filled with fine merchandise from the top tackle manufacturers and dealers from around the state, and fine speakers such as Dick Swan, Jerry Lee, Steve Hamilton and Don Calhoun gave the audiences many helpful ideas on tactics and techniques.

My thanks go out to all the members who gave their all for this one! The Spring Fishing Show requires more "hands on" help than any other event we stage each year. We always need new blood, so if you can spare a day, please pitch in and lend a hand at the 1988 Detroit Area Steelheaders' Spring Fishing Show.

April also brought on the much-anticipated boat trolling tournament

season. Thank God!

The 1987 season was in a class by itself. Although I was not able to attend many of the tournaments, I can't say enough good things about how well it went.

Dave Even, Trolling Committee Chairman, did a fine job, initiating some new ideas, expanding on some old ones, putting more people in charge, and making everyone work together. Participation was super, and we had a lot of new boats, new ports, and new members highlighting our season. Great job, Dave!

As Chairman for the River Crab tournament, I can speak with authority about the great showing made by all our members who participated. As most of you know, the Detroit Area Steelheaders beat the Oakland County and Blue Water Sportfishermen clubs soundly! The \$5,000 first prize we won helped our club in many ways, and special thanks are due to every boat and fisherman for their efforts!!

I'd like to urge all members to take part in this year's renewal. We need your participation to successfully defend our title. Please make it a point to include this event on your schedule (see the Coming Events schedule for the 1988 dates).

The amount of money up for grabs in the River Crab tourney can help out a lot in the areas of research and improvement of Great Lakes sportfishing. For example, most of the money our club won last year was used to purchase a backpack-style fish shocker for Michigan State University, a very useful item for fisheries research. The help, both financial AND political, of clubs such as ours, provides researchers with an important resource to call upon—they have very few other places to turn for help. Since we, the sport fishermen, are principal beneficiaries of their work, I believe we have a genuine obligation to help out whenever and wherever we can.

The end of April saw the completion of our annual Boat Raffle, one of the club's major fund-raising events of the year. Due to the efforts of those who worked on this project, we managed to pull off the most successful Boat Raffle so far! Many, many members made this possible, but there is one member in particular who deserves special men-

tion. Vince Dermeyer again proved himself to be the best ticket-seller in our club. For the second consecutive year, Vince sold more than 150 books! Thank you, Mr. Dermeyer!! Thanks, also, to all who sold tickets, either at the shows or on their own. By the way, Raffle winner Bobby Dennison, is VERY happy with his new Yar-Craft.

As the summer flew by, the fishing was up and down, the weather good and bad, and good turnouts, good sportsmanship, and good times seemed to follow us. If anything, I think '87 was a year of sharing good and bad fortune through the entire tournament fleet. Everyone worked together much better—I sure hope that feeling carries over into 1988.

I'd like to congratulate Greg Clifford for winning Detroit Area Steelheaders "Skipper of the Year" honors for 1987. Good fishing, Greg and 'crewski'.

One of our special projects gelled in 1987. "Cooking Fit for a King," our club-sponsored cookbook became yet another success. Ken Rogers, longtime Detroit Steelheader Board member, nursed this project to completion through two years. Besides the countless hours of collecting, organizing and producing this fine book, Ken did most of the selling! Many, many thanks, Ken.

The net result of all the work on the cookbook project was realized in September when Dr. Howard Tanner came to our membership meeting to accept an \$800 donation on behalf of Michigan State University. From the very start, net proceeds of the project were earmarked to aid Dr. Tanner in research leading to the introduction into the Great Lakes of the triploid salmon. Thanks mainly to Ken's patience and hard work, we as a club did something substantial toward getting 50-pound salmon into Great Lakes waters. Thanks to everyone who helped, whether just by buying a book, or by selling them.

As summer slipped into fall, I was afraid we would slip back into the doldrums, but surf and river tournaments solved that. As a rookie "river rat," I can't tell you how amazing river fishing can be. So far, I've managed to make two tournaments, and to anyone who hasn't tried it, my advice is don't put your rods away when the boat gets covered up!

Doug Karakas did a fine job scheduling and running those tournaments. Also, once again Detroit Area Steelheaders managed to win the three-way Inter-Chapter Meet on the Big Manistee River. That event was my first river tourney, so the victory made it that much sweeter. A special thanks, also, to John Tymensky for his help.

*Continued on Page Nineteen . . .*

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**THE DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS** donated \$800.00 to Dr. Howard Tanner (l.) for triploid salmon research. The money represented net proceeds from sales of "Cooking Fit for a King," a cookbook of Detroit Area Steelheaders' favorite recipes. Ken Rogers (r.) compiled and produced the book (printed by Dave and Bridget Smith). Good job!!

FISHIN' TALES is published monthly by the DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS.

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.

Material published in FISHIN' TALES may be reprinted, provided proper credit is given to the author, and to FISHIN' TALES as the original source of the material, and that at least one complete copy of the publication containing the reprint is sent to the Editor at the time of publication.

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The list of Officers and Committee assignments for 1988 will be published in the February issue of Fishin' Tales.

All materials for publication should be submitted to:

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SPECIAL NOTE: Dennis Holoway, Membership Chairman, requests that all dues money and membership renewal forms be sent ONLY to:

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# Spring Fishing Show is set for March 20

One of the sure signs that winter is nearly over—the annual **SPRING FISHING SHOW** of the Detroit Area Steelheaders—is almost upon us. Mark your calendars! The date for this year's all-fishing extravaganza is **SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 1988**. The show is again being held at the Dearborn Civic Center (see map), from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The admission is a \$2.00 donation, with **FREE** admission for senior citizens and kids under age 12 accompanied by an adult. There is plenty of convenient, free parking.

As always, the show offers the finest in tackle and the latest equipment at bargain prices, PLUS "How to..." clinics



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Guest speakers scheduled to appear include: Tom Huggler, nationally known writer/photographer speaking on "How to Catch More Trout and Salmon;" Don Calhoun, past president of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, speaking on Skamania Steelhead

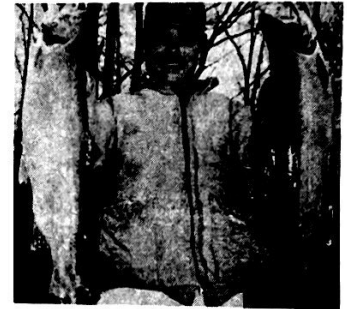
and lake trout; and Steve Hamilton, past Detroit Area Steelheader president, speaking on river fishing. Other seminars scheduled include: more fishing presentations,



TOM HUGGLER

fly tying, rod building and smoking fish. **WE WON'T HAVE ANY WRESTLING BEARS OR "MACKINAC ISLAND" FUDGE—JUST FISHING AND MORE FISHING!!** Here's your chance to learn tactics and tricks that really work, and to buy the hottest lures at the best prices from the biggest dealers in the state.

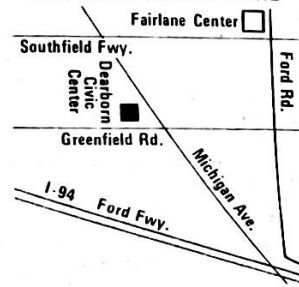
If it has to do with Steelhead and salmon fishing, you'll find it at the Detroit



STEVE HAMILTON

Area Steelheaders' 1988 Spring Fishing Show. **DON'T MISS THE BEST STEELHEADER SPRING FISHING SHOW IN MICHIGAN!!**

HERE'S HOW TO GET THERE



## A fantastic salmon rig could be yours!

January is here, and it's time to kick off our annual Boat Raffle. This year we have five fantastic prizes to be given away at our April membership meeting.

The Grand Prize is a 1988 16-foot Yar-Craft side console boat equipped with a 40 horsepower Mariner electric-start outboard motor, Motorguide electric trolling motor, and a Shorelander trailer. As in 1987, this year's great grand prize is supplied courtesy of Suburban Marine of Centerline, Michigan. If you liked the 1987 Grand Prize rig, you'll like this year's **EVEN BETTER!!**

Second prize in the Raffle is a pair of Big Jon electric downriggers with an aluminum trolling bar, courtesy of longtime Detroit Area Steelheaders supporter Big Jon, Inc. of Traverse City, Michigan. It's a great second prize!

This year's third prize offers the lucky person who wins it a day-long fishing

charter aboard "Drifter," supplied courtesy of Captain Bob Kring of Clarkston.

Fourth prize also offers fun on the water, with a fishing charter aboard "Silver Fox," supplied courtesy of Captain Mike Zelkowski of Detroit.

A tackle package of over \$100.00 worth of salmon- and trout-catching baits and lures rounds out the 1988 prize list.

The drawing takes place at the regular club membership meeting location, St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren, Michigan, on Tuesday, April 26 at 8:30 p.m. during our April membership meeting.

We've decided to do something a little different this year. Raffle tickets will cost \$1.00 each instead of our usual 3/\$1.00. Your odds of winning will remain the same, there'll just be fewer stubs in the drum. It ought to make ticket sales at the various shows much easier.

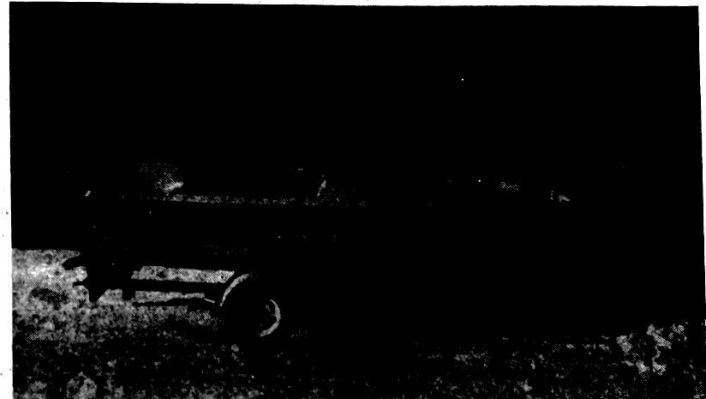
Tickets will be available at the Pontiac Boat Show at the Silverdome, or at any of our regular membership meetings.

The Boat Raffle is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and I'd like to ask everyone in the club to pitch in and help with it. Let's make this year's Boat Raffle the best ever. We always need help, so if you can work any of the shows, even if it's just for a few hours, please call Mike Lehto at 478-9746.

If you would like any further information, or would like to pick up extra tickets to sell on your own, please call me evenings at 526-3236.

Once you describe the great prizes we have, these tickets should sell themselves! Please give a little time, a little money, and a little effort to help keep YOUR club in good financial shape! Remember, you can't win if you don't play!!

—Mike Zelkowski



**GRAND PRIZE FOR THE 1988 ANNUAL BOAT RAFFLE** is this Yar-Craft boat complete with 40 horsepower Mariner outboard motor, Motorguide electric trolling motor, and Shorelander trailer, supplied courtesy of Suburban Marine of Centerline. **SOMEBODY'S GOING TO WIN IT... WHY NOT YOU??!**

CLUB DONATES TO MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY PROJECTS!

# Detroit Steelheaders support research

Where did all the kings go? Is the size of fish declining? How many steelhead should we stock?

Ask these questions and you'll get a lot of different answers and opinions. Ask the D.N.R. or fisheries specialists and you become aware that they, too, have mostly opinions.

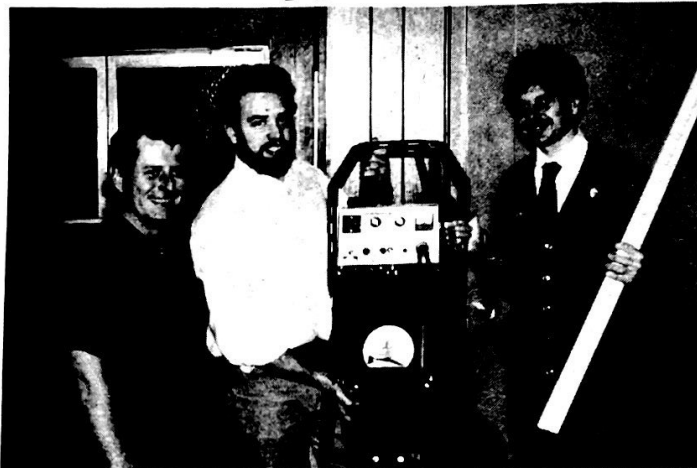
The real problem is that nobody really knows the answers to these questions. Further, there is great pressure on the D.N.R. to do something about them. However, a quick fix may end up doing more harm than good, or unnecessarily restricting the fishery.

What's needed first is more research into the problems. Dr. Howard Tanner, former head of the D.N.R., has stated that the situation is critical. We have a multi-million dollar industry backed by little research. We need to increase that research immediately, and continue to support it in the future.

As an organization, the Detroit Area Steelheaders agree, and in 1987 the club made two substantial money donations supporting research.

The first donation involved the club cookbook project (see Page Two), which resulted in a donation of several hundred dollars to Dr. Howard Tanner's research at Michigan State University.

The second one came about as a result of contact with Professor Bill Taylor, also of Michigan State. Professor Taylor told us that the fishery research program at Michigan State was in dire need of a reliable backpack-style electroshock unit.



**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS** got an "up close and personal" look in November at the electroshocker the club donated to Michigan State University. Professor Bill Taylor (r.) and an aide show off the unit to an admiring President Mike Zelkowski.

Based on this need and our ongoing commitment to supporting fisheries research, the Detroit Area Steelheaders donated the nearly \$2,000 needed to purchase the unit.

The electroshocker purchased is a BP-4 from Coffelt Electronics. It weighs 36 pounds and has an output of up to 600 volts and 500 watts. It will stun a fish so that it can be captured, recorded, and later released unharmed. Professor Taylor says it also will straighten out the hair of researchers whose hands are too quick!

After its acquisition, Professor Taylor and one of his research assistants brought this very interesting piece of equipment to our November membership meeting. Their presentation included examples of how the electroshocker can be used, and provided us with ample assurances that we had done the right thing in putting up the money for its purchase. In fact, we are all now aware that we as a club are now in a better position to support fisheries research in the future.

If you should sometime happen upon a group of fisheries researchers using an electroshocker, look closely — you may see a Detroit Area Steelheaders decal proudly affixed to the unit! For 1988, please try to participate in the River Crab tournament, and support our various fund-raisers.

We all need to work together so that we can all benefit from continued fisheries research.

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# Location is the key to success

From their very first time out on the Great Lakes, every fisherman is trying to find ways to consistently catch the elusive salmon. Today's angler uses all kinds of fancy equipment to be successful. From the novice to the most experienced charter captain, everyone is continuously updating their present equipment. Just listen during the off-season—something new is added each season, trying for that extra edge.

How many times have you stood in the weigh-in line and wondered, "What am I doing wrong?" as you see the same teams consistently finish at or near the top.

Sure, all of us have had one of those days where nothing can go wrong and the cooler becomes nailed to the floor of your boat. The first rod down and "Fish On," and all the lures aboard work—even that funny one you won in the tackle pack. You have this program down. Fishing is a piece of cake!

The next day out, you face reality. On the radio you hear other boats catching fish, while your crew is just going for a boat ride. How often have you heard these questions: "How far down are you running your lures?" "How far back?" "What colors?" "What kind?" "What depths are your downriggers set at?" "How much water are you fishing over?" "What is the surface temperature?" "How fast are you trolling?" Then comes the question that should have been asked first: "WHERE ARE YOU?"

Nothing on the market today can replace a big, active school of feeding fish.



**AUTHOR DAVE EVEN, Boat Tournament Chairman, hefts a 27-pounder he caught at Rogers City last summer!**

If you want to be consistently successful, spend as much time as possible learning ways to locate feeding fish. Many experienced anglers simply listen to the radio and run to that location when the word is out—but be prepared to fish "the pack!" At times that can be very successful, but hectic. Much fishing time can be lost, or you may run for nothing.

Another method which may pay off is to look for signs of feeding fish, such as seagulls picking off baitfish at the surface. The problem here is that you must be within sight of this activity and be able to

capitalize quickly. Look for scum lines—they can also be a good indicator, along with any temperature breaks you find using your temperature gauge. Always check out these areas when you locate them. They can often be very rewarding.

One of the best methods to locate an active school is to troll as fast as your lures will allow. The biggest advantage is that, as your lures pass by more fish, it is more likely you will find active fish. Once you have found some action, the most important thing you can do is to not leave that area until you are convinced

the fish have either left or have stopped feeding. It might even be a good idea to return to the same spot later—they may begin feeding again. This is where LORAN-C is very useful and pay off nicely!

Also remember to keep your rods in the water as much as possible when you have found feeding fish. You will want to capitalize on this action, as it may be the only good activity you will find that day. Many tournaments have been won by skippers who caught the majority of their fish in a short period of time.

Location is the key ingredient to consistent success on the Great Lakes. Now, if only someone would invent a piece of equipment which would tell us just where the feeding fish are. Imagine all the time and money we would save! Gee, then we wouldn't have any fun . . . FORGET IT!

—Dave Even

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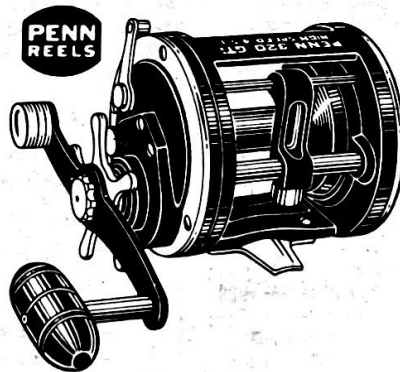
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"LITTLE BIG JOHN'S" SECRET: THE FRANKFORT "FINGERS"

# Detroit Steelheaders win Frankfort cup

Mother Nature had the last say at Frankfort, the closing boat tournament of the Detroit Area Steelheaders' 1987 season. Scheduled for a two-day event (September 12-13), stiff southwest winds on Saturday morning created waves and swells that were just too much for most of the boats that made the 250-mile journey to the Benzie-area port town.

The regular 7:00 a.m. start was delayed for an hour at the skipper's meeting, then backed up until 9 o'clock, then until noon, when it was reluctantly cancelled until Sunday.

Later in the day, many of the boat crews seemed satisfied with reduced wave heights and conducted further research on their own, with boats making trips south to the Herring Hole, and north to Betsie Point and even beyond to Platte Bay. After the long wait, most boats got in some "fun" fishing and primed themselves for the Sunday "crap shoot" when everything would be on the line. This tourney would determine final placings in the 1987 "Skipper of the Year" competition.

The wind was still a factor on Sunday morning, but the water was fishable. Swells of one to three feet, with a four-footer thrown in now and then, were considered safe enough, although it was later named the 'Rock and Roll' event of the season! Later Sunday morning, the waves grew to two to four feet with a five-footer once or twice.

Frankfort is a port surrounded by great structure, deep water close to shore, with flats in some places. The Herring Hole is only three miles to the south, and many boats trolled the rim of it in a giant crescent-shaped procession.

To the north, there is the Betsie hole, about five miles up, Betsie Point with the Coast Guard lighthouse, and West Platte Bay and East Platte Bay beyond that.

This year the River Platte was the site of the 25th anniversary observance of the original planting of Great Lakes salmon in 1962 at the fish hatchery in Honor, Michigan.

Just short of the Coast Guard station coming from port are the Frankfort "Fingers," a series of east-west lateral bumps that provide superb shelter for bottom-hugging fish, and it was there that a few boats headed on Sunday. Most of the rest of the fleet went south to the hole that had been producing cohos all week.



ED McINTOSH (c.) holds up the Frankfort Challenge Cup he and his "Little Big John" crew helped win for the Detroit Area Steelheaders. Art Moser (l.) of the Benzie Chapter and Detroiter Dave Even (r.) agreed to another challenge match for the 1988 season.

Saturday afternoon research by the crew of "Little Big John" (the former "Sweet Lorraine" now owned by John Chwalibog) tipped them to great clouds of cohos marking the graph at 70' to 110' in water depths from 80' to 130', with some generously sized Kings mixed in to add to the temptation. Starting at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, "Little Big John" went five for seven by sunset, losing two great Kings to a tangle with the downrigger cables of another boat passing too close, but boating three Kings and two cohos in just over two hours.

The program for Sunday was obvious. Head for the Frankfort "Fingers": 75' down in 110' at LORAN TD's 31982.2 and 48495.0. Fish white '0' dodgers and glow-green squids on all four lines. Set the depths at 70', 75', 80' and 85', and troll slowly, at 1.9 to 2.1 miler per hour.

Returning to port on Saturday, we had noted a slight increase of wind speed, with a shift to a slightly more westerly direction. There might still be a problem for the tournament on Sunday. Back at dockside, while some boats were still out, others had already returned and had enjoyed their own good luck. Others had their plans for Sunday, it appeared.

At 6:00 a.m. Sunday, still in darkness, an inspection of lake conditions from the beach area within the breakwalls showed some boats already on the water and several more heading out between

fish came at 75', the same as on Saturday.

I conducted the required Fish Calls at 9:00 a.m. and noon. Each of the 29 boats in the fleet were called on channel 72 to record their current tallies.

Fish come at unexpected times. Even though you have the hooks in the water, the salmon decide when to hit, and you are often surprised! This time we got another doubleheader, right in the middle of a fish call. Both Bob Fitzgerald and Don Haney, two veteran salmon fishermen, had fish on, and one was a King!

"D--- it, Ed," yelled Haney, "put down that mic and give us some help here!"

Well, I was a bit busy too, with steering wheel in one hand, and mic, pen and papers in the other, with the wind blowing everything around, including the boat!

"Ahem, pardon us, guys. We have to suspend the Fish Call for a few minutes, we have one on." No sense saying TWO on . . . we didn't want the whole fleet up here!

Most boats had reported only one or two fish, but some, including "Little Big John," had reported they had three in the box.

Within minutes we had boated two more, a 17-pound King and another coho. The Fish Call was completed, but now "Little Big John" had five in the box! Our action had stirred up a bit of company, however. Now seven or eight boats were in the area, including "Lil' Scratch" and "Diamond Girl" from

the pier heads. None were returning, though the little red lights on the horizon were bobbing up and down a bit. Serving in the dual roles of Port Captain for the tournament and skipper of "Little Big John," I decided to see conditions for myself. We left the dock at 6:20 to reconnoiter wave conditions firsthand, beyond the usual wavy turmoil always present at a river mouth.

By 6:35, we found swells of three feet with no wind. There was a light breeze, mostly clear sky, and sunrise starting over the bluffs to the east. I called Dave Even, Boat Tournament Chairman, and advised that the tourney should begin as scheduled. The other boats left the harbor and started their march down the Betsie River into Lake Michigan.

At 7 o'clock, the "go" call was given to start the tournament, and "Little Big John" headed north, as we noted that nearly everyone else was headed south, back to the Herring Hole. We reached our "spot" by 7:20 a.m., had lines down by 7:25, and had our first release at 7:37, a doubleheader! We boated two cohos, each about 6 pounds. The LORAN readings were 31988.7 and 48502.6, pretty close to our intended location. At 8:15 another coho was on the line and soon in the cooler. That green squid/white dodger combination was working. All three

lead boat in the Benzie Area Chapter, which was competing with us in a challenge match, also showed up.

The 'Rock and Roll' continued. We got another coho, six in now and probably well ahead of the other boats in the tournament.

At 10:23, we got a screamer. The line flew out of the reel and up the right rear pole as an obviously irritated Chinook headed north 80' down at about 40 miles per hour! I yanked the rod from the holder, let the fish set the hook, and handed it over to Bob.

"Here, it's your turn," I said. Bob gulped and took the rod, by now bent double, as the fish continued its charge north. From the helm, Don said he would like to fight it if Bob didn't. No problem . . . Bob quickly handed this one over to Don and took the wheel. This one was a toughie—it had to be a nice size, too!

Continued on Page Twelve . . . /

## Coming Events

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Rd., Warren  
**JANUARY 26, 1988**      **FEBRUARY 23, 1988**      **MARCH 29, 1988**

### SPECIAL STEELHEADER EVENTS

- PONTIAC BOAT SHOW (Silverdome)      January 20-24
- DETROIT BOAT SHOW (Cobo Hall)      February 6-14
- OUTDOORAMA (State Fairgrounds)      February 19-28
- STEELHEADER DINNER DANCE (K. of C. Hall, Warren)      February 20
- STEELHEADER SPRING FISHING SHOW (Dearborn Civic Center)      March 20
- ANNUAL BOAT RAFFLE (K. of C. Hall, Warren)      April 26

### RIVER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

- ICE FISHING OUTING      Brest Bay      February 6
- W.A.T.A. SUPER TOURNAMENT      Big Manistee River      February 27

### BOAT TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

- RIVER CRAB      April 23      OSCODA      June 25-26
- BENTON HARBOR      April 30-May 1      LUDINGTON      July 23-24
- MUSKOGON      May 21      MANISTEE      August 6
- PORT AUSTIN/GRINDSTONE CITY      June 11      ROGERS CITY      August 20
- FRANKFORT      September 10

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MEMBER, DETROIT AREA CHAPTER, M.S.S.F.A.

# A Steelheader's dream come true

Since I began fishing some 27 years ago, I have often dreamed of catching that trophy muskie, northern pike, salmon or steelhead.

But dreaming about something is one thing and the actual happening of it is another. On June 13, 1987, however, my dream did come true. This is the story of that day.

As that Saturday dawned, my close friend and fishing buddy Bob Koerner and I were headed for Frankfort City Marina where my boat was docked. As the van climbed the hill overlooking Betsie Bay and Lake Michigan, the lake was calm and there was not a cloud in the sky. Conditions were just right to try some offshore fishing for steelhead—exactly what Bob and I had in mind.

We were not strangers to this type of fishing, having experienced this deep-water (750 feet-plus) fishery several times during the 1986 season. What had prompted our decision to go deep was the lack of a near-shore fishery for salmon. The only fish to be found in abundance were lake trout, but they were *NOT* our target fish.

After loading gear, we double-checked gas tank levels, all electronic gear and *ESPECIALLY* the radio. With everything functioning properly, we headed out on a due westerly course.

It wasn't long before the lighthouse on Frankfort pier head was nearly out of sight. At 4.0 miles out, we slowed to trolling speed. Bob took over the wheel while I put out an array of body baits, varying each in depth, distance away from the boat, and color.

At 5.7 miles out, we spotted a freighter that was approaching us from the south. We could not judge its distance or speed, so we kept a careful watch. At 6.0 miles out, we altered our course to parallel that of the oncoming freighter that turned out to be the "Copenhagen Maru." After the Danish freighter passed and was a safe distance away, we altered our course back to due west and continued toward deeper water.

At 7.4 miles out, we had our first action. A small steelhead (6 to 8 pounds) slammed a fire tiger orange-bellied Long A Bomber from the rear and charged the boat. On its second leap from the water, the fish freed itself from the lure and was gone.

After checking the hooks, I reset the same Bomber 30 pulls out and five feet down on the left downrigger, ex-



**KEN ROGERS, Field Editor of Fishin' Tales and longtime Detroit Area Steelheader, experienced the dream of a fishing lifetime last June when he fought and landed this 20-pound, 11-ounce, 38-inch-long trophy steelhead!**

actly where it had been before the strike.

As we continued out, radio reports had one charter boat reporting steelhead being caught at 22.5 miles out, and two others were reporting taking steelheads at 11 and 13 miles out, respectively.

At noon, the wind was still out of the southwest and beginning to die. At most, there was a one-foot chop on the water and the sky remained clear in all directions.

By 12:30, after enjoying a great quickie lunch, the left downrigger with the fire tiger Bomber once again came to life.

As I grabbed the rod, I could feel the pull of a fairly heavy fish. I scanned the water behind the boat, but could not spot the fish. Seconds later, I saw the splash of a fish to my right some fifty yards away.

It did not leap, but instead changed directions and headed back toward the rear of the boat. Bob, who is usually a 'laid-back' kind of guy, reacted quickly and pulled the other lines and then put the engine in *NEUTRAL*.

I kept a tight line on the fish and, after seeing its tail, was convinced that this fish was a big King salmon. Some 20 minutes later, I guided the tired fish into the waiting net!

Bob did a masterful job of netting the fish, and when he lifted it aboard, we both just stood and admired its size and color. Instantly, we recognized that

this fish was *NOT* a King salmon, but rather a giant steelhead! My hand-held scale indicated that the fish weighed roughly 19 to 21 pounds. Bob and I were elated, to say the least!!

After regaining our composure, we iced the fish, then reset lines and resumed trolling. We were approximately 13.5 miles from the pier heads and could *NOT* see land. We fished the same area for more than an hour, then headed due east.

Shortly after 2 o'clock, the right downrigger rod sprang to life. This time, Bob took the rod. The fish leaped from the water a half-dozen times and made several runs before tiring. The fish spent its energy quickly and came to the net in short order. This steelhead dipped the scales to 14 pounds and was as silvery as the first. It had fallen for a No. 13 orange-gold Rapala, ten feet down and 30 pulls back.

We trolled for another hour or so without success, then decided to pull lines and head in. In about an hour, we were back at the Frankfort City Marina, where we inquired about the location of registered weigh scales. We were told that the Frankfort Tackle Box had a certified scale, so it was there that we headed.

The owner, Mrs. Shirley Lowenthal, assisted Bob in weighing the fish, and both officially witnessed the weight of 20 pounds, 11 ounces. The fish measured 38 inches long, and has been entered in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.) Master Angler Award program.

I would like to thank fellow Steelheader and good friend Bob Koerner for his assistance in netting the fish, and to Mrs. Lowenthal for her help in weighing and registering the fish.

—Ken Rogers  
"The Boston Whaler"

## 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



**AN EARLIER VERSION of the Detroit Area Steelheader patch.**

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.

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GREG CLIFFORD & CREW DEFEAT WEATHER AS WELL AS RIVALS!

# "Outlaw" wins 1987 "Skipper of the Year"

Greg Clifford and his "Outlaw" crew battled rough weather and excellent competition during the 1987 boat trolling season to win the Detroit Area Steelheaders' annual "Skipper of the Year" award. The "Outlaw" crew, which finished second in 1986 to "Kemo" and Bob Mitchell, was not to be outdistanced this time and returned the favor in 1987! The battle lasted all season, and was not decided until the season finale at Frankfort!

Greg and his crew of Mark Clifford, Cynde Klein and Ed Yankoski II did an outstanding job, taking first place at Port Austin, Ladies Day, and Rogers City, and a title-clinching second-place at Frankfort.

The season began with Al Feeny aboard "Blue Max" winning the River Crab. This was Al's first tournament and an excellent way to begin his trolling career. After this one, the wind never died down until July!

The next tournament, at Harbor Beach, was a wash-out, and was cancelled after one hour of rough fishing. The weather continued to have a big impact on the season, as only three of our nine scheduled tournaments did not have some type of weather problem.

The next stop, at Benton Harbor, began with great expectations. This port is usually a successful tourney site, with good spring catches the rule. The water was a little on the rough side, as was the fishing, with lake trout providing most of the action. The highlights of the tournament included Don Anton's first victory aboard "Happy Bare," and Brian Mitchell's 14-pound, 13-ounce steelhead. The pattern of first-time tournament winners was to continue throughout the entire season.

The next tournament was the make-up of the Harbor Beach Blow. This was a multi-port event, with the skippers having a choice of three ports - Port Austin, Grindstone City, and Harbor Beach. The wise strategy for this one turned out to be fishing the reef for lakereels. The skippers who did were rewarded with excellent catches of hog lake trout. The top nine skippers all weighed in eight nice fish. This was the first of two wins at Port Austin for "Outlaw," a location which proved to be their favorite port for 1987.

The first-time winners pattern held true at Oscoda, where "Lil' Scratch" took top honors. Dick Shirk and his crew won, even though weather problems continued to put a damper on our trolling schedule.



GREG CLIFFORD (c.), "Outlaw" skipper, accepts the "Skipper of the Year" trophy for 1987 from President Mike Zelkowski and Boat Tournament Chairman Dave Even.

Other Oscoda highlights included the usual great hospitality of Jan and Doug of Fellow's Marina, and Doug Karakas' 17-pound, 11-ounce lake trout. Incidentally, at this port the word "INCOMING" took on a special meaning for anyone within 100 yards . . .

Ladies Day was a huge success, with excellent fishing off the Grindstone reef. The ladies had a great time, and showed off many fine catches at the weigh-in. "Outlaw" captured its second tourney win of the season, and highlights included trying to get all the members of the crews into one photo, and the fantastic picnic organized by Jim Lee. In case you didn't know, Jim stayed in while the rest of us were out on the lake fishing.

Ludington was our next stop, and the weather continued to be a major headache. The fishing was fairly decent; the problem was getting out on the lake. On the Saturday, the tournament got started in heavy fog, which lifted shortly after sunrise, and "Teacher's Pet" managed to take a 30-point lead into the second day. Heavy rain and wind cut short the Sunday fishing, and "Teacher's Pet" ended up with its first-ever win. Highlights here included the welcome mat from the city of Ludington, and the success of pearl dodgers with glow squids.

Rogers City promised lots of action, and for anyone who fished this port during the month of August, that's exactly what they got. Unfortunately, a cold

needed was one tournament with decent weather. The nice weather finally arrived and the lake was calm, but where the fish went was anyone's guess. Saturday morning, most skippers hung around the pier heads hoping for some quick action, but John Hiekies of "Our Dream 2" headed north and captured first place - another first-time winner. The biggest catch of the day (and season!) goes to Rod Elnick who snared a red runabout with his kite - a job well done!

The final tournament of the season had the makings of a great finale, with everything - the "Skipper of the Year" title - on the line. Frankfort was in the middle of a coho run, and advance reports spoke of excellent fishing. It looked as though we were finally in for a great tournament, but . . . once again the weather refused to co-operate and Saturday was a blow. Sunday's fishing was very rough, and the tournament was called early with "Little Big John" and John Chwalibog finishing first. This was John's first win, marking the sixth different first-time tournament winner of the season!

The 1987 trolling season was a big success, and I hope that everyone who took part had a good time. The success of a tournament schedule is dependent on many people, including all the Port Captains. I would like to thank all of the people who helped make this season the club's best ever.

Get ready - the 1988 season is not too far off! Tight Lines!!

front moved through the day before our tournament - the jinx continued! The fishing was not bad, but it was not what it had been the entire week before. "Outlaw" won its third tournament of the season, and our club found a friend in Rogers City. The locals welcomed us and were very friendly and co-operative. Highlights included the doughnuts and coffee tent provided by the Rogers City High School Boosters Club at 5:00 a.m., and the 26-pound, 9-ounce king I caught right after the 25-pound, 4-ounce Kingl Too and it was the Thursday night 255007 the tournament!!

Manistee was next and all we really

"Teacher's Pet" Boat Tournament Chairman



KATHY BURBARY shows off a 20-pounder she caught at the Ludington tournament. That brute was good enough to win the tourney's Big Fish Pool. Nice going, Kathy!

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# 1987 Skipper of the Year

(Final official standings)

Skipper	Boat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
1) GREG CLIFFORD	OUTLAW	30	1	5	9	1	4	1	22	2	14
2) BOB MITCHELL	KEMO	3	3	3	6	4	4	2	9	8	19
3) DON REDMOND	TRENA DAWN	30	2	11	3	10	29	3	4	3	25
4) STEVE BANOVIC	EXAGGERATOR	4	10	2	20	3	20	21	14	5	38
5) DICK SHIRK	LIL' SCRATCH	15	7	8	1	8	13	23	13	6	43
6) BILL HOFFMAN	STEELIE	30	8	75	5	23	16	8	8	75	46
7) GENE MUCZINSKI	REEL THING	12	6	9	10	6	75	13	5	14	48
8) RON HUEY/RAY GLIME	HALF R'S	10	75	13	75	75	12	5	11	7	58
9) DAVE EVEN	TEACHER'S PET	26	4	6	13	18	1	22	21	17	59
10) DON ANTON	HAPPY BARE	22	20	1	75	9	22	75	2	12	66
11) DON FEENEY	BLUE MAX	1	5	24	20	12	19	16	15	75	68
12) BLAISE PEWINSKI	SEA HAG	30	8	75	8	75	3	26	23	4	72
13) GENE BURBARY	DIAMOND GIRL	30	24	17	18	11	10	9	27	13	78*
14) CHUCK SKIDMORE	KING FISH	7	19	75	7	75	75	24	3	18	78*
15) LES JUMP	ALICE'S ANGLER	2	26	16	75	75	9	75	16	9	78*
16) DOUG KARAKAS	CAPT'N HOOK 2	17	28	22	2	24	18	2	26	18	79
17) GEORGE SCHNEIDER	SWEET JEANETTE	11	19	19	75	6	75	28	10	16	81
18) CHUCK HUXFORD	CHUZY II	75	12	75	16	24	28	6	6	18	82*
19) BOB PATYK	BLUE STAR	6	22	7	15	13	75	19	75	75	82*
20) BRIAN MITCHELL	NATURAL	75	17	15	20	16	15	7	75	75	90
21) AL SCHULTZ	MISERY 3	30	13	4	17	22	30	28	25	15	96
22) BILL SHACKLETON	BOUNTY HUNTER	30	27	20	20	20	20	28	18	11	109
23) VINCE DERMYER	IRENE	75	29	18	12	26	75	11	17	75	113
24) LARRY GAIOWNIK	FORMULATOR	21	75	24	19	75	14	28	19	18	115
25) BOB HERMAN	CHERYL ANN	75	21	14	20	20	24	17	75	7	116
26) PAUL DEDENBACH	HEADSTRONG	19	75	75	75	23	23	12	24	18	119
27) ART DENNIS	NUFF 4 ME	30	14	21	7	75	26	28	28	75	124
28) SHERM MOSHER	TOLEDO MAD DOG	30	30	12	75	75	27	27	12	75	138
29) LARRY WYNNE	YIN YAN	75	3	10	12	30	75	10	75	75	140

a) \* Tiebreaker Boat Tournament Rules, Section IV, Scoring: Any tie in "Skipper of the Year" standings will be resolved by total weight of catches in like tournaments.

b) Standings determined by total of best six finishes.

c) Tournament identification key: 1 = River Crab 2 = Harbor Beach 3 = Benton Harbor 4 = Oscoda 5 = Ladies Day  
6 = Ludington 7 = Rogers City 8 = Manistee 9 = Frankfort

## News Update

### ICE FISHING EVENT PLANNED

An ice fishing outing is planned for February 6 on Brest Bay. However, at this writing, there is *NO* ice, so that will have to be a "wait and see" date. I feel that the unpredictability of the weather is the reason why there have been such low turnouts at some of our February tournaments in the past.

I'll have more on this for you at the January meeting. See you there.

—Doug Karakas

### "SUPER TOURNAMENT" IS SET

The annual Wellston Area Tourist Association (W.A.T.A.) "Super Tournament" on the Big Manistee is set for February 27, and it should be another great tournament.

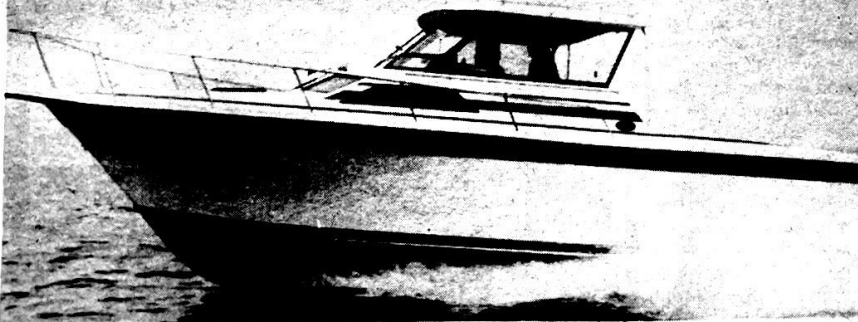
The trophy for the Steelheader Chapter weighing in the most fish is up for grabs, and we need as much participation as possible, in order to defend our 1987 championship!

Individual trophies will be awarded for largest overall catch, and for the largest male and female fish. In addition, a great number of door prizes donated by local merchants and residents are given away.

Mark your calendar now for February 27 and plan to attend the festivities! Details will be available at the January meeting, or call me at 545-1181.

—Doug Karakas  
River Tournament Director

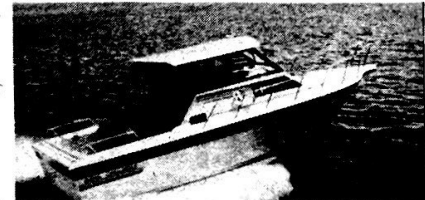
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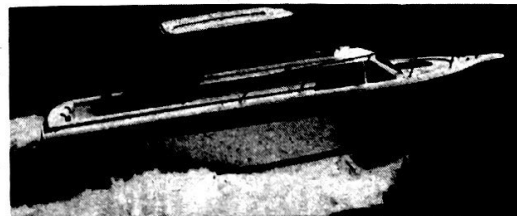
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# Light line trolling: It's FUN!!

My fishing partner Steve Hamilton startled me again when he loudly yelled; "Fish On!" as he grabbed one of his rods out of the rodholder and began to do battle with the fish.

As standard operating procedure, the other fisherman on board has to clear all remaining lines out of the water for the one with a fish on. I immediately popped my two rods, pressed the "up" button on the "electrics" and reeled in my lines. I cleared Steve's other rod and brought his downriggers up, too.

After all lines were cleared, I had a feeling of accomplishment because I know that, when fishing from a boat with other fishermen, it is always a team effort when a fish is caught. It pleased me not to see any tangled lines or other problems. Past experience has taught me that it takes great skill to untangle and cut the correct lines. If something isn't done precisely, either the fish or valuable equipment could be lost.

Now all that was left for me to do was to hand over the scales for weighing the fish, and then the needle-nose pliers at exactly the right moment so the "release" could be properly made. I was free to enjoy watching the fight.

Steve's actions are always exuberant. His reactions to the fish's moves were excellent. As the fish made its long first run, Steve routinely stopped the engine on "Valhalla." It's a real pleasure to fight fish from a NON-trolling boat!

"Super fish, Joel, . . . a big king!" I could see that this hook-up might pose a problem, because we were using 6V foot ultralight rods with small reels.

Sure enough, on the third run, Steve said he'd have to chase this one or he would be "spooled." Steve shifted the engine gears to neutral/start and turned the key while still holding the rod, line peeling off the reel all the while!

The motor caught and we were off, heading toward the fish, with Steve reeling in line frantically. We got to within ten yards of the fish, and we killed the engine again. Steve achieved a tight line and began pumping the salmon to the surface.

However, the fish was not yet finished with its antics. Now the big salmon decided to swim under the boat and take off in the opposite direction.

Steve just kept his line tightened, put the "Big C" to that little rod, and coolly walked from starboard to the bow, ending up on the port side while at all times keeping the rod tip clear of the boat.

After some more pumping actions, Steve finally got the fish to submit. The



FISHIN' TALES EDITOR JOEL GARINGER challenges a nice King as it swims down to the depths. Pumping action on the rod soon brought it up to the surface.

salmon reached the surface worn out and completely under Steve's control.

"Scales please!" . . . "20 pounds, 3 ounces." . . . "Pliers!"

I took back the scales as I handed the pliers to Steve, then watched as he gave the hooks a quick, hard twist the surface on its side, exhausted.

Steve put his hands in the water, then ever-so-gently revived the beautiful salmon by pushing it forward in a figure eight motion pattern. Suddenly, the fish made some fast, muscular swimming movements, swam down deep in the water and was out of our sight within seconds.

A Perfect Release! Steve looked over at me, and I automatically offered him my approval with a "high five" signal that he enthusiastically returned.

Exclude the chasing of the fish (which we did only a half-dozen times) and you have the scenario for each fish we caught during a superbly enjoyable trip we made to Bailey's Harbor, Wisconsin. The eight-day trip proved to be a perfect way to celebrate the Fourth of July!

Weeks before this trip, Steve and I had agreed on the following objectives. We were going to fish for brown trout at Bailey's Harbor Bay. If the browns did

not co-operate, we were going to fish for salmon out in deeper water. We also wanted to fish for at least one day at New Buffalo for Skamania steelhead on the way home, if possible.

We would use only six or eight pound test line, with either the 6½-foot or 10-foot rod. We decided it was in our best interests to have each of us run our own downriggers and set our lines any way we wished. There would be NO alternating of fish—each man was on his own, and if someone didn't catch anything, well that would be "tuff" luck!



THE AUTHOR is shown releasing a ten-pound Wisconsin brown trout.

Our most important decision was that we would NOT KILL any fish until our last fishing day. I think this was an appropriate decision because it is a good conservation practice, and also because it tests the very reasons why one fishes in the first place.

The results of this trip were: Bailey's

Harbor—7 browns, 18 kings, 2 steelhead, 2 carp, and 11 fish lost; New Buffalo (one day)—4 kings, 7 coho (3 kept), and NO steelhead. Individual totals were: Joel, 19 fish; Steve, 21 fish.

During our time at Bailey's Harbor Bay, the water temperature was over 69° F and, consequently, did not produce any browns for us. The ones we did catch were taken just outside the harbor in 66° F water and depths of at least 30 feet.

When the wind blew directly from the southeast one evening, the water temperature in the Bay dropped to 66° F, and almost magically the browns appeared. However, at the time, we were preoccupied with our salmon fishing and didn't even try to fish for browns. On our way in to harbor at this time, we did observe many browns caught on two other boats.



A NICE KING SALMON is weighed prior to its release. The scale is attached to the LURE to avoid damaging the fish.

We decided to fish for browns the next morning, but by then the water temperature had risen to 70° F and, you guessed it . . . no browns! Back out to 80 feet of water for salmon.

When using light line, I would strongly recommend reels with large line capacity. I had to switch to eight pound test line with larger reels and the longer rods because I got "spooled" twice using the lighter line and smaller reels.

When we ended up July 5 in New Buffalo, Steve and I heard reports of very poor fishing on the western side of Michigan. We were stopping in New Buffalo to catch a couple of Skamania steelhead to keep, but we almost felt like every King and coho in Lake Michigan was there for us! We read fish on the graph top to bottom in water 100-200 feet deep, and all apparently were kings and coho. We kept a few (trying to leave room for steelhead) and kept releasing fish until we realized it was going to be impossible to catch the Skamania because, no matter what we put into the water, a king or a coho would hit it!

Later that week, we heard that masses of Skamania steelhead were being caught just ten miles west of where we were fishing out of New Buffalo.

My question is this: "Why were so many kings and cohos down in New Buffalo waters at a time when you'd think they would all be further north in deeper waters?"

I would encourage all Detroit Area Steelheaders to at least occasionally try the light line techniques mentioned in this article, and I hope no member ever keeps more fish than he can use. In other words, release more fish and keep less. I am.

—Joel Garinger



DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS made new friends in Rogers City last year. During their tourney stay, Detroiters Bill Galvin (l.) and Joel Garinger (r.) received most gracious hospitality from Carlene, Brian and Art Filipiak. Brian and Art (center) hold Brian's first-ever King salmon caught from a boat, Joel's "Fishbusters."

# Frankfort finale featured fine fishing!

...Continued from Page Six

We got the other three rods released and stowed as Don gradually worked the "fish of the day" to the back of the boat. A giant dorsal fin finally poked out of the water about 50 feet back of the boat. After two more short runs, Don worked the King into our waiting net, and it took two of us to lift the net up and over the transom onto the rear deck. Number seven, and maybe the money fish!

The Big Fish Pool was a double, with Saturday's money dumped into the Sunday pot. It looked like our monster had to be over 20 pounds! For 1987, that's a nice-sized fish, with the salmon running quite a bit smaller than in previous years. At least "Little Big John" had a contender for the Pool.

Four minutes after that, we got another release and another coho in the boat. Now we had eight in the box, enough for maximum count in the tournament, and there was still more than two hours to go before the 1:00 p.m. finish. It was now getting pretty crowded, and three or four local charter boats had joined the group, apparently coming from Platte Bay where, we found out later, the action had also been slow.

More "Rock and Roll," with the winds picking up a little. "Trena Dawn" called in, asking about cutting the tournament short. "Last Dime" and "Sea Hag," the other Weather Boats for the weekend, finally recommended that we shut down at noon. With us sitting on eight fish, I didn't want anyone to complain later that they didn't get enough time to get their maximum. At 11:35, after several radio discussions, it was agreed that we would order lines pulled at noon. Boats from both chapters were notified about the early ending, and told that all fish boxes had to be in the weigh-in line at the Frankfort Municipal Marina no later than 1:00 p.m.

We heard a couple of the charter boats reporting hits at 100'. I reset our lines to 100', 90', 75' and 70' and sat back to await developments.

Starting out the tournament with a doubleheader was great, but finishing it with another one was even greater! At 11:46 the two deeper rods popped simultaneously. One of the two was really paying out line and it looked as though a fish had crossed lines and released the second one.

But no! It was two fish, and one was another big King!! Again, Haney had the

big fish, right behind the boat, straight down in 120' of water. I brought in the first one, another 6-pound coho, and the fight was on to get Haney's into the boat.

The fish sounded and just would not come up. Patience prevailed, however, with a stiff arm and sheer determination. That time of year, Frankfort is a coho port, but there are still enough Kings around to help make tournament points mount up. That King had to come in, but we could not risk breaking the line. Finally, at 11:57 a.m., another 20-pound Chinook was in the boat—and ten fish for the day, including three nice Kings!

At noon on the dot, channel 68 listeners heard the call "Pull lines!" The last boat tournament of 1987 was history.

In the weigh-in line, most boats of the fleet of 29 had from three to seven fish, although some had none. There were a couple of single Kings of decent size. When our box was opened in front of the scales, out came seven cohos ranging from five to seven pounds, and three Kings weighing 14, 18, and 20 pounds, 11 ounces, respectively!

"Little Big John" piled up a point total of 166 points, more than 50 points ahead of second-place finisher "Outlaw," which weighed in six coho and one small King for a total of 115 points. I don't think "Outlaw" was too upset, though, since second place meant that "Outlaw" nailed down the 1987 "Skipper of the Year" award, beating out "Kemo," which won that coveted title in 1986.

For our crew, it was a grand slam. Not only did we take the tournament, but we also won first AND second place in the

Big Fish Pool, a \$25 gift certificate donated by the Frankfort Tackle Box for the biggest fish in the tournament, and four hats and t-shirts donated by Speed-troll Downriggers for the boat with the most points!

To settle the challenge match between our club and the Benzie Area Chapter, we matched the scores of our top four boats against the scores of their four boats entered. With a combined point total of 483, we won the match easily over the local fellows, another testimonial to the great talent and experience that the "downstate" Detroit Area Steelheaders can bring to bear when we take on other Chapters at various ports around the Lakes. The new "Frankfort Challenge Cup" belongs to us for now, but it will "go up for grabs" again this year, and in future years.

While Mother Nature wasn't all that friendly, the folks from Frankfort were. Thanks to Buzz Hejl and Art Moser, Frankfort Harbormasters, for providing guaranteed space and free coffee for every Detroit boat asking for it. Thanks, too, to the Frankfort Hotel, which donated a free dinner for four, won by Dick Shirk on "Lil' Scratch." And thanks to the Frankfort Tackle Box for the gift certificate donation, and the free coffee they always have for Steelheaders who come into their store.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders thank everyone at Frankfort who helped make the tournament a success. The club will be back in 1988, and so will "Little Big John!"

—Ed Mcintosh



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# Awards, raffle highlight Christmas party

There were many highlights at the Detroit Area Steelheaders' Annual Christmas Party and Meeting held on December 15. Director elections for 1988 were held, and the "Cooler Full of Cheer" Benefit Raffle was completed. Certainly tops with young and old Steelheaders alike was the eagerly awaited traditional appearance of "Salmon" Claus (alias Bob Kring) with his sack of goodies to distribute to the kiddies, and with special prizes for all the ladies in attendance and drawings for consolation prizes in the Cooler Benefit Raffle, nearly everyone went home with something!

Another highlight was the announcements and presentation ceremonies for various club awards, including "Skipper of the Year" and "Member of the Year," as well as Big Fish trophies. Pictures and details of some of these appear elsewhere in this issue, and congratulations go to those worthy winners!

For sheer drama and prestige, however, nothing surpasses the "Joe Bozotski" award, with its moving presentation ceremony! Highly prized and hotly contested, this year there was a tie for the coveted prize, so Bob Mitchell, past Steelheader president, made dual presentations to the surprised and 'happy' winners.

Mike Zelkowski, current Steelheader president, got his award for the impressive feat of releasing a 20-pound king salmon caught by one of his charter clients. It seems that as everyone was leaving Mike's boat at the end of the charter, Mike tried to throw the fish up onto the dock. Unfortunately, he missed his target and the fish got away! Surprisingly, the customer whose fish it was was *NOT* interested in catch-and-release fishing at the time!!



MIKE ZELKOWSKI (l.), though speechless, made sure he got a good grip(!) on his "Joe Bozotski" award, presented by Bob Mitchell.

The other recipient of the award was Dick Leonard, who earned his for an amazing demonstration of fishing enthusiasm. Fishing aboard Don Redmond's "Trena Dawn" during the Frankfort tournament, Dick got so excited during the action that, as a rod released, he yelled "Fish On!" so loudly and quickly, with such energy and gusto, that his false teeth came out of his mouth and landed in the lake! Don't fishermen with false teeth *ALL* use Poligrip??



DICK LEONARD'S "Joe Bozotski" award is admired by Joel Garinger (l.) and Bob Mitchell!

Seldom have there been two more deserving recipients for the "Joe Bozotski" award!

As usual, all who attended this Steelheader Christmas Party enjoyed themselves from beginning to end. We hope *YOU* can be with us for the fun in our 1988 edition!!



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# Detroit Steelheaders return to the Au Sable

After an absence of three to four years, the Detroit Area Steelheaders returned to the Au Sable River for a river tournament.

A total of 15 members showed up on December 7 at Bob's Breakfast Hut in Oscoda for a hearty breakfast and a chance to plot fishing strategy for the day ahead. Somehow, a map of Steve Hamilton's favorite fishing hole was freely circulated for all to look over. Sorry, Steve, the secret's out!!

The weather was perfect—a cloudy morning, with mild temperature and light winds. The skies continued to clear and the temperature rose gradually throughout the day, making for a great day on the river. A pleasant surprise awaited us—an excellent launch site has been installed about halfway down the river. The river itself had excellent holding water, with fish to boot!

Six competitors were in waders, while nine took to the boats, a pretty good balance for our club, which has been dubbed a "boat chapter" by some of the other M.S.S.F.A. chapters.

The weigh-in took place as scheduled at



**THE AU SABLE RIVER** yielded good action! Back (l. to r.): J. Garinger, M. Zelkowski, G. Clifford, D. Karakas, J. Jakubiak, B. Ksionzek, B. Brummer, M. Clifford. Front (l. to r.): J. Tymensky, S. Hamilton, and E. Yankoski II.

the Dam Store, with a total of nine fish coming to the scale. John Tymensky took top honors in the Boat Division with a 10-pound, 10-ounce steelie, plus a 7-pound, 3-ouncer to go with his prize catch. Club President Mike Zelkowski turned in a 10-pound, 3-ounce steelhead, good for second place. Nice going for a guy's

second try at river fishing! Other boaters included Ed Yankoski II, Greg Clifford, Bob Brummer and Bob Ksionzek.

Steve Hamilton claimed the Wader Division with a 5-pound, 7-ounce steelhead. Steve also had a 5-pound, 5-ounce beauty to give him two fish from his favorite fishing hole.

After the weigh-in, most everybody went back, cleaned up and headed for Charbonneau's Restaurant in Oscoda.

I'm sure this trip won't be the last for many of us to the Au Sable River. I understand there is also a new launch site up near the dam this year.

Good Fishing and Tight Lines!

—Doug Karakas



"THIS RIVER FISHING IS GREAT," says Mike Zelkowski.

# Detroit Steelheaders triumph on Big Manistee

The annual three-way Inter-Chapter Tournament matching Metro-West and Saginaw against the Detroit Area Steelheaders took place on November 7, and once again the Detroiters dominated the competition, scoring the best fish-weight-to-angler ratio.

A total of 35 fishermen from the three clubs showed up for the tourney on a cool and clear day. There was a slight nip in the air early but bright sun shine later made for a very delightful day of river fishing. There was also an M.S.S.F.A. "Surf, Pier and River" tournament going on that same day, so there was a lot of fishing pressure on the Big Manistee—

fishermen everywhere, but no matter. "When the going gets tough, the tough get going . . .!"

Detroit fishermen weighed in 11 of the total of 22 fish entered, with a combined weight of 86 pounds, 4 ounces. Only 7 of our 16 fishermen weighed in fish, but, oh boy, what fish were weighed in!

Steve Hamilton took Big Fish honors with an eleven pounder plus a 7 1/2 pound steelhead to go with it in the Boat Division. Ed Yankoski II had second place in the Boat Division with a 9-pound, 5-ouncer, and a three-fish total of 21 pounds, 7 ounces. Great job, Ed!

Bob Kanas took first place in the Wader Division

with a 10-pound, 5-ounce fish, plus another steelhead of 6 pounds, 11 ounces. Other Detroit catches included: John Tymensky with a 7-pound, 7-ouncer, Greg Clifford with an 8-pound, 3-ounce beauty, Mark Clifford with a 6-pound, 1-ounce steelhead, and, last but not least, our own club President Mike Zelkowski with his very first river steelhead, a 7-pound, 8-ouncer!

The average weight of fish per angler figured out to 5 1/2 pounds per man! Wow, what a showing! Metro-West came in second with a 3-pound, 5.8-ounce average and Saginaw finished third, averaging 3 pounds, 3.7 ounces per man.

After the weigh-in, we all enjoyed a superb steak dinner at the Township Hall, where the totals were announced to all. It was a great time, especially since it gave all of us from the different clubs a chance to get together and swap stories and techniques with each other. Plans are already in the works for next year's Inter-Chapter three-way tournament on the Big Manistee River.



**SOME OF THE VICTORIOUS DETROIT STEELHEADERS** show off their catch at the Big Manistee River Inter-Chapter tournament with Metro-West and Saginaw: J. Tymensky, M. Clifford, G. Clifford, B. Vance, S. Hamilton, S. Glazer, E. Yankoski II, S. Kanas, L. Kanas, and B. Kanas.

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# "It was a great Thanksgiving Day"

The day was overcast when my two sons and I unloaded the boat from the trailer. We were at Tippy Dam on the Manistee River for Thanksgiving Day. We had only a few hours to fish and be back for turkey dinner by 2:30 p.m.

We had talked to the local chaterers about the fishing, and the word we got was not encouraging. I was going out with my sons, though, and that would be fun in itself. Adam, 11, was with me up front, while Mike, 18, was on the sticks.

It's a rare occasion that the Boat Launch hole is without a bobber fisherman. Mike rowed across and we anchored. The water was gin-clear, so we loaded all rods with Hot Shots. We had heard that blue/silver was producing some hits, so we put two different blue/silver combinations and an assortment of blue, silver and grey. Once all the 'Shots were tuned, Mike pulled anchor and away we went.

We had only been moving about four minutes when the No. 5 Loomis rod took a quick dive toward the water. I pulled it out of the holder and set the hook in one motion. The fish started downstream, then quit pulling altogether. Mike dropped anchor and then he and Adam reeled in the other lines. Once everything was clear I gave the rod to Adam.

Adam, who had never caught a fish over nine pounds, was doing an excellent job of holding on. He lifted the rod at just the right time and reeled in some line when he lowered it. After about 12 minutes, he had his monster within sight of the net. The fish saw the boat and made one last run. Adam brought the fish back

to the edge of the boat and, with one lifting of the rod, the silver King slid into the net.

The big King now lay on the bottom of the boat, spilling her eggs. We rendered her helpless, plugged her up, and removed the grey/silver No. 30 Hot Shot from her mouth. After a few pictures, we reset all the rods and Mike took us back upstream.

After positioning the boat in the run, we put out the 'Shots. In less time than the first strike, Mike had the same rod pumping again. This time the fish decided to stay in the hole; in fact, the fish swam under the boat! Mike anchored so he could fight this fish. Adam reeled in the other lines while I manned the net. In about five minutes the 16-pound King fell victim to the net. This fish was past its prime, so we removed the lure and released it. After less than ten minutes of fishing, we had hooked and landed



THE TYMENSKY BOYS, Mike (l.), Adam (c.) and Kevin (r.) worked like a veteran team on a great Thanksgiving Day Manistee River, 'six-for-six' fishing trip.

two of two fish. The launch was only 100 feet behind us and we still had a couple of hours and four miles of river left to fish.

We moved on downriver to the flat stretch below the Rock Pile. Mike continued to row while Adam and I put out the 'Shots. As we neared the end of the hole, the No. 5 Loomis slammed down. Just as I pulled the rod from its holder, the fish flew out of the water. I was momentarily knocked back into my seat! I quickly regained my balance as Adam reeled in and Mike held the boat steady.

Once everything was set, we took off after the fish. This was a big stealie and he was headed for Suicide Bend. He finally stopped just short of the snag at Suicide. It took us a couple of minutes to get down there without foul-hooking the only two boat fishermen in the river. The guys saw us coming and pulled in their lines. It's not too often that kind of co-operation exists between boats and boats. After another few minutes of fight, the steelie fell prey to our outstretched net.

We moved on down to the Tonk Hole. Guess what??? Not a person in sight. Wow! Our lucky day!! Mike dropped anchor about 60 feet above the stairs as Adam and I put out the lines, still using the same colors.

Once we were ready, Mike pulled anchor. I do not think Mike got three strokes on the sticks when the No. 1 Loomis rod started hammering. Adam grabbed it and held on. The fish took a

couple of jumps, then settled down to a tug-of-war. After a bit, another bright steelhead slid into the net.

We went back upstream and put out the plugs. Now we were joined by a couple of guys in boots who walked right into the water at the foot of the stairs. They didn't fish, preferring to watch us instead—I guess they had seen our recent success. We opted to pull the anchor and start working our way down through the run.

Mike was working the sticks really hard, and it paid off again. This time it was the No. 2 Loomis that started pounding. We left it in the rodholder so that Mike could have a chance to fight one from the start. Adam and I reeled in while Mike dropped the anchor. This was now getting to be some fun! The fish was rather light and we had no trouble landing it. After two fish from Tonk Hole, we said goodbye to the guys on shore and moved on.

The last time we were here, we found a new area to try. We had only enough time for one more spot, so we pushed on downstream. We found the spot, we thought. After dropping the anchor in a tree, we moved down about 100 feet to where the hole really started, leaving the same Hot Shots on the lines. It's not often you can keep the same color working all day.

Mike continued to row and when we got to the end of the hole, the No. 5 Loomis jerked down hard. I grabbed the rod while Adam and Mike did their jobs. The water was starting to come up, so Mike pulled anchor, moving the boat to calmer waters.

This fish was not the least bit willing to come to me. In fact, the fish did nothing but stay in the current. I fought the fish for another ten minutes, gaining enough line to see him about 30 feet in front of us.

We decided to float downstream and net the steelie on the fly. The only drawback to this idea was the logjam 80 feet in front of us. We stationed Adam at the anchor so he could lower it if needed. Mike pulled up enough to let us float while I brought the fish closer. The free drift was working. The fish moved next to the boat and Mike stuck the net under her, taking her in one swoop as Adam dropped the anchor ten feet short of the

## Steelheader Trivia

Here's a chance for you to see if you know as much about salmon and trout fishing as you think you do!

- Match up the following fish names:
 

A. King	a. Coho
B. Silver	b. Chinook
C. Steelhead	c. Lake trout
D. Greaser	d. Rainbow trout
- Which of the following fish are native to Michigan?
 

A. Chinook	D. Brook trout
B. Brown trout	E. Lake trout
C. Steelhead	
- Michigan's first successful salmon return was to which river?
 

A. Pere Marquette	D. Betsie
B. Grand	E. Au Sable
C. Platte	
- Atlantic salmon are most closely related to:
 

A. Chinook	D. Brown trout
B. Coho	E. Lake trout
C. Pink	
- A "herbie" is a:
 

A. Hot lure	D. Long fishing rod
B. Salmon boat	E. Disease boat
C. Downrigger weight	
- The current world record Chinook was caught in which river?
 

A. Au Sable	D. Skamania
B. Rogue	E. Mississippi
C. Kenai	
- Michigan's current state record Chinook came from which place?
 

A. Sable Pt., Ludington
B. Big Manistee River
C. Oscoda Pier Head
D. Grand River
E. Frankfort Herring Hole
- Which of the following is NOT a summer-run steelhead strain?
 

A. Umpqua	D. Au Sable
B. Rogue	E. Skamania
C. Siltezt	
- Michigan's new Grayling plants come from what state?
 

A. Alaska	D. Washington
B. Oregon	E. British Columbia
C. Montana	
- Match the fish with the current state record:
 

A. Chinook	a. 26 lbs., 8 ozs.
B. Lake trout	b. 30 lbs., 9 ozs.
C. Steelhead	c. 46 lbs., 1 oz.
D. Coho	d. 53 lbs.
E. Brown trout	e. 34 lbs., 6 ozs.

—Bob Mitchell

(Answers are listed on Page Seventeen)

logjam. Wow! Good teamwork by all put this fish in the boat.

By now it was noon, and we had another hour of rowing to get to the boat launch at High Bridge. Mike started rowing downstream while Adam and I cleaned up the front of the boat. We made the launch by 1:15. My wife and other son Kevin brought the van and trailer down to the launch. We loaded everything up and headed back to the house for Thanksgiving Day dinner.

I'm sure we'll all remember Thanksgiving 1987 for a long time for several reasons. First was the success of landing six fish out of six with my sons Adam and Mike. Second was Mike's expert handling of the boat the entire trip. He made no mistakes, as the number of fish hooked shows. Third, and most memorable, WE HAD FUN!

—John Tymensky

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DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER MEMBER

# Detroit Steelheader Wins

The Huron Valley Chapter of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association (M.S.S.F.A.) sponsored a statewide boat trolling tournament at Manistee last July, open to all M.S.S.F.A. chapters. The turnout was on the small side, but all who participated had a pretty good time.

Detroit Area Steelheader James Simpson, skipper of "Mar-Lynn," weighed in five fish totaling 65 pounds to take first place in the tourney! Jim also maintains membership in the host Huron

Valley Chapter.

Harry Haskins, president of the Huron Valley club, and Marie Skully, editor of their newsletter, worked very hard to coordinate the tournament. According to Harry and Marie, their main purpose for the event was to provide an occasion that would bring all the M.S.S.F.A. chapters together at one time at one port for friendship and fishing camaraderie.

Harry and Marie have written to our Board of Directors inviting the Detroit Area Steelheaders to become the host

club for the 1988 event, and I'm sure every consideration will be given to that request. I do know, however, that Dave Even and his Boat Trolling Tournament committee have already worked out a pretty full schedule of Detroit Area Steelheader tournaments for 1988, so it may prove difficult for us to take on such a large additional commitment.

Harry believes that the relatively low turnout came about because "we only offered trophies instead of prize money!" Perhaps a tournament can be devised where a small amount of prize money can be offered; the tournament could be called the M.S.S.F.A. Friendship (Getting to Know Each Other Better) Stakes!!

In any case, good fishing, Jim! And congratulations to Harry Haskins and Marie Skully for a gallant effort on a first-ever all-Chapter trolling tournament!!

—Joel Garinger



JAMES SIMPSON, Detroit Area Steelheader, won the 1987 M.S.S.F.A. statewide boat trolling tournament at Manistee.



DON REDMOND (l.), the Detroit Area Steelheaders' 1987 "Member of the Year," accepted his award from President Mike Zelkowski at the Annual Christmas Party. Congratulations, Don!!

## Please...

Experienced sportfishermen often make strange discoveries while cleaning their catches! They find that the fish have gobbled all kinds of man-made 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 temptingly 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.

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# Gill Nets are Kill Nets

The following material is largely based on an article which appeared in the December 1987/January 1988 issue of Ontario Fisherman magazine. It calls attention to some new efforts to combat an old problem. I urge everyone who cares about sport fishing on the Great Lakes to read this, and then get involved. You owe it to yourself and to your children!

—Joel Garinger, Editor

Late in 1987, the formation of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Coalition was announced in Ontario. It was formed as a result of widespread concern of thousands of anglers and many organizations over the incidental and uncontrolled harvesting of valuable sport fish stocks by the commercial fishing industry.

Plans call for lobbying of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (M.N.R.) and politicians for more effective policing of commercial netters, and for tougher restrictions on gill net use in the Great Lakes.

The Coalition believes that nylon, non-selective gill nets are posing a threat to sport fishing and fisheries development programs, such

sport fishing and fisheries development programs, such as those under development in Lake Huron by the state of Michigan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.) has begun questioning the activities and harvest results of Ontario's commercial fishing fleet on Lake Huron, the Coalition notes.

Despite industry claims that the gill net issue is an issue only for a few 'radical' organizations and individuals, the facts suggest otherwise. The 60,000-member On-



GILL NETS "LYNCH" countless gamefish in the Great Lakes each year!!

tario Federation of Anglers and Hunters has called for a Great Lakes gill net ban. And recently, the 100,000-member Michigan United Conservation Clubs unanimously supported the Federation's call for at least severe restrictions on gill netting in international waters of Ontario.

Fred Geberdt, Coalition Chairman, says that the issue is not commercial fishermen "per se, . . . (but) the use of literally thousands of miles of non-selective gill nets in the Great Lakes" adversely affecting sport and other non-commercial species. He points out that anglers, particularly on Lake Huron, are "questioning if it is worthwhile to pursue . . . fish stocking programs when the product (sport fish) . . . end up in gill nets."

Bill Namink, a Director of the Coalition and current President of the Sarnia Blue Water Anglers, agrees that the gill nets are the issue. He points out that both com-

mercial and sport fishermen have problems with violators breaking fishing rules and laws. But, he says, the non-selective gill nets "must be removed from all Great Lakes waters where salmonid stocks exist. In their place, . . . netters must be given the option to use live trap or impoundment gear which will allow non-target species to be . . . released unharmed."

The Coalition is seeking depth restrictions on gill net sets to match rules in effect in Michigan waters, and it is also strongly opposing a rule which would allow commercial fishermen to bring ashore "incidentally" gilled salmon and trout, which the M.N.R. says would be sold, with proceeds earmarked for "fisheries enhancement." Such a program, the Coalition believes, would result in increased targeting on salmonids and other game species currently illegal for commercial fishermen to take and market.

Arnie Clark, another Coalition member who has extensively researched the gill net issue with fisheries biologists in the U.S., wants to see some U.S. fishing rules adopted for Ontario commercial netters. He says, "The luxury of allowing gill netters a (legal) percentage of salmonids in their catches is history in many U.S. jurisdictions. The (old) system was grossly violated, and as a result, not a single salmon or trout is legally permitted to come ashore on tugs. Alive or dead, they're deep-sixed."

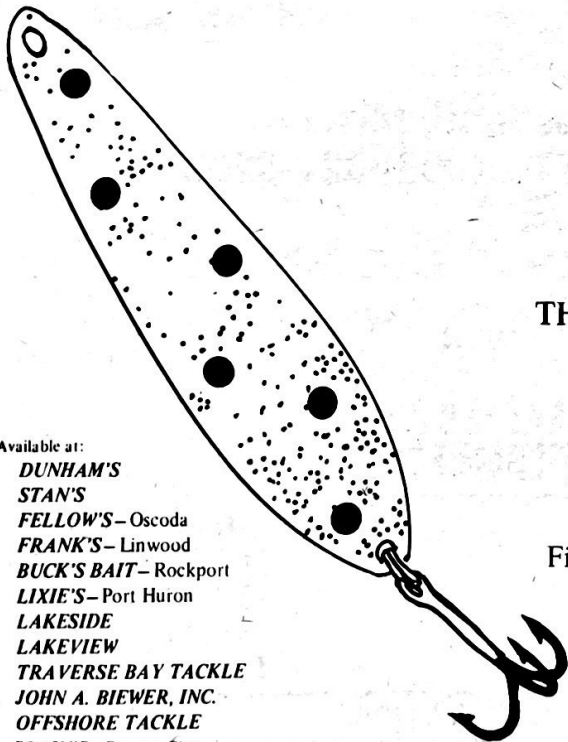
The Coalition advocates the designation of chinook and coho salmon as a gamefish protected from commercial harvesting and marketing, the placing of port observers at selected Great Lakes harbors, and establishing absolute authority for M.N.R. enforcement officers to board any commercial fishing tug for inspection purposes. This last point is needed because, apparently, some Lake Huron netters are barring entry to their tugs by enforcement staff.

Geberdt adds, "It is not our aim to put commercial fishermen out of business. We agree that commercial species like whitefish should be harvested, but something has to be implemented to get gill nets out of the areas frequented by salmon, trout and sport fishermen."

"It is our aim to ensure the healthy development of sport fish populations, and to ensure the success of international fisheries enhancement programs for now and future generations of anglers,

"Our research and that of other Great

Continued on Page Eighteen . . .



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# Take your DOG fishing!

My fishing buddy Al and I are both self-employed, and we like to fish during the week—no waiting at the launch site, fewer boats, and it's like playing hooky. We were heading for our favorite port, the old Whaler was tracking nice and straight behind us, it was a beautiful, sunny day, and the wind was down.

Then Al gave me the bad news. The Apple Blossom Queen and her entourage had taken all the motel rooms, and he didn't have a place reserved for the next two nights. "But don't worry," he said, "we'll find a place when we get to town."

It was late afternoon when we got to the launch site. Boats were coming in with fish, nice Chinooks. Well, who's going to drive around looking for a motel with good action going on out there RIGHT NOW?

"Don't worry, we'll find a motel later," Al said as we slid the boat into the water. "We'll catch a few fish first!"

It was dark when we got back in with a good catch. The cleaning took a while, and there were ravenous appetites to satisfy. Finally, a phone booth and lots of dimes.

There were no vacant motel rooms within 50 miles, so Al said, "Look, we have some nice fish, we can go home now (a 3½-hour ride) or we can sleep in the car, fish a half-day tomorrow and head home."

Sooo . . . we balled up some sweaters for pillows and I gave Al the back seat—he has a stiff leg and uses a cane.

I listened to him thrash around for a half-hour, then he said, "Len, I can't get comfortable, it's my leg. You help me get up in the boat, I'll spread some cushions on the deck and I'll be able to sleep. Then

you can have the back seat." We pulled the canvas back, got Al settled down, then replaced the canvas to keep out the bugs. I settled down in the back seat and went out like a light.

Next thing I knew, Al was shouting and pounding the window with his cane nearly hard enough to break it! I yelled, "What the h--- is the matter?!"

He said, "Where's your boat?" I shouted back, "Where IS my boat, you were sleeping in it?!" I looked behind the car, and sure enough it was gone!

Al was really agitated. Even in the dim light of the launch site, I could see his face was red and he was MAD!!

"I finally fell asleep," he said, "and the next thing I know the boat is moving, so I pull back the canvas and stick my head up. What do I see? I see this pickup truck pulling the boat off the launch site! I stand up and start beating the side of the boat with my cane and screaming LOUD!

The pickup slams on its brakes, and this a----- jumps out, disconnects the boat and takes off, spitting gravel!!" Pointing with his cane up the street, Al said, "There is your boat!" I could see it sitting there, about a half-block away.

On the drive home, we laughed about the incident. Can you imagine the guy in the pickup—moving along quietly in low gear, then hearing all that loud hollering and pounding coming from the boat, then having to make up his mind what to do: "Can't outrun it . . . it's ATTACHED! Have to ditch it—FAST!!"

Now we take along our dog on our trips!

—Len Pershin

# Lake Michigan Fishery Under Study

A special *ad hoc* advisory committee is assisting the Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.) Fisheries Division in reviewing the Lake Michigan fishery. Division Chief John Scott said the committee, comprised of biologists and representatives of various groups with a direct interest in the fishery, will assist D.N.R. staff in preparing a report by the early part of 1988.

The committee will examine the fish-planting activities of Michigan and other states, determine the numbers of forage fish such as alewives and smelt, and measure the adequacy of sea lamprey control and progress in the rehabilitation of lake trout.

"The review will particularly focus upon need for changes in existing sport, charter and commercial fishing regulations," Scott added, "and expansion of current fisheries research and assessment activities."

Considerable new data on Lake Michigan fish stocks, now available from numerous lakewide surveys, are expected to aid in the review. Recommendations developed will be presented to the Natural Resources Commission.

Others wishing to comment on the Lake Michigan fishery should make written submissions to: Fisheries Division, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909.

.../Continued from Page Seventeen

Lakes fisheries managers, particularly in the U.S.A., has confirmed over and over that non-selective gill nets can be a significant limiting factor in achieving these goals."

The Coalition concurs with the views of Dr. Howard Tanner, former D.N.R. head and "Father" of Great Lakes salmon and trout. Summarizing his presentation at the 1986 World Salmonid Conference, Dr. Tanner stated, "Professional managers with the responsibility of managing public fishery resources must recognize that wherever the demand exists, allocation towards sport fishing and away from commercial fishing will yield the greatest good by a wide margin."

Another organization, the Lake Michigan Sport Fishing Coalition, was formed in mid-1987 for the same purposes as the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Coalition: to fight for the protection of salmonids from commercial pillage and outrageous gill net slaughtering, and for the improvement of the sport fishery.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders urge all fishermen and other fishing clubs to join and support the effort to help and save Great Lakes gamefish. The Lake Michigan and Great Lakes Coalitions both seem to be excellent vehicles for fishermen to support to those ends. The future of our sport will depend on the success of the efforts mentioned in this article, and on any other activities being carried out by other organizations. All of us should budget some time and money for this cause.

TRIVIA ANSWERS: 1=A-B, B-A, C-D, D-C, 2=C, 3=3, 4=4, 5=3, 6=3, 7=5, 8=4, 9=3, 10= A-C, B-D, C-A, D-B, E-E.



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**ROBERT ZAKK (r.)** looks very pleased as he accepts the "Cooler Full of Cheer" Benefit Raffle Grand Prize from Detroit Area Steelheader President Mike Zelkowski.

...Continued from Page Two  
 December means the Steelheaders' Christmas Party, and what a nice evening this turned out to be. The kids had a great time with "Salmon" Claus, while the adults had a good time "re-fishing" the whole 1987 season in one night.  
 Robert Zakk went home a happy man, winning the annual "Cooler Full of Cheer" raffle. Bob should have enough "Christmas Cheer" to last quite a while!  
 Another special thanks goes to Bob "Salmon Claus" Kring, and also to Jim Lee for all the help in making the last fund-raiser of the year (the Cooler Raffle) as big a success as the first (the Boat Raffle).

it was all good. I just hope that we can continue to have the same kind of cooperation from everyone. It's kind of odd to me that, in a club of over 400 members, I see the same two dozen people first in line to help all the time. New blood is always a great help, so, please, for the next show, tournament or meeting, **GET INVOLVED!!**  
 To close, I have one last pat on the back to hand out. This one is to the other people on the Board of Directors. I give my biggest thanks to you. Giving so much of your time can get rough, but as I look back over the year, I sure think it was worth it!

Fish on . . . gotta go.  
 —Mike Zelkowski

# Detroit Area Steelheaders know how to have fun !!

**FOURTH ANNUAL STEELHEADER DINNER DANCE IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 20 AT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL**

The Detroit Area Steelheaders will hold the fourth annual Dinner Dance on February 20, 1988 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Warren, the same place where the regular monthly meetings are held.

Last year's Dinner Dance was the best one so far, and a huge success. More people attended and had more fun than ever before! This year we hope to see even more Detroit Steelheaders, family and friends on hand to help make the 1988 edition even better than last year.

Fellows, this occasion is the perfect time for all of us to repay our wives or girlfriends for all of the patience and understanding they have shown

us as we have avidly pursued our sport throughout the year.

Once again, the dinner will be served "sit-down style," eliminating the need for everyone standing in line to serve themselves. However, the very popular "all you can eat and drink" format remains unchanged! Music will be supplied by a well-known local disc jockey for your listening and dancing pleasure.

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

The cost for this great evening is the same as in 1987 — \$35.00 per couple, or \$20.00 per person. For more information, call Jim Legenzoff (839-8958) or Bob Kring (625-8397).

We hope to see you all there!!!



**SKIPPER BILL HOFFMAN** of "Steelie" is shown here enjoying the Detroit Area Steelheaders' 1987 Dinner Dance with family and friends!

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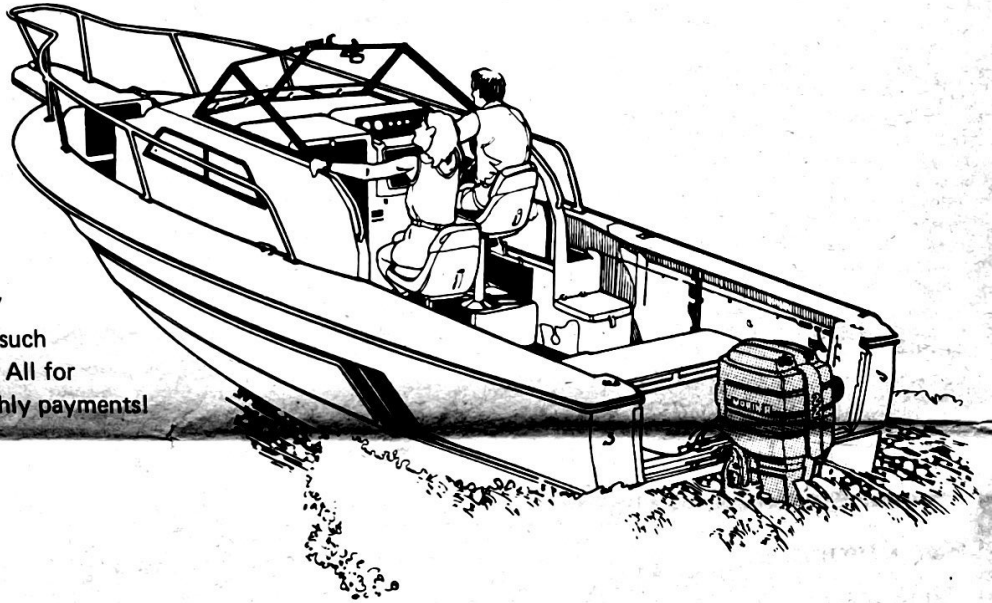
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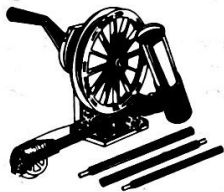


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