



ANNUAL ISSUE

# FISHING TALES



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## Join the Detroit Area Steelheaders!!



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# "Overall, we caught more fish in 1991," says president

Nineteen ninety-one brought about a number of changes for the Detroit Area Steelheaders. Dave Even passed the president's gavel on to myself, and needless to say, it's been a very tough job trying to meet the high standards Dave had set for the club as president. We added Chris Coffey, Mike Wakulski and Ed Wilczek to the Board of Directors, and said good-bye to retiring directors Bruce Haywood, Dennis Holloway and Jim Legenzoff. The club owes a "tip of the hat" to these "retirees" who contributed significantly to us all over the past years.

January saw Detroit Steelheaders manning our booth at all the major fishing/boating shows in the Detroit area. Thanks to all the fellows who volunteered their time during the shows to talk to the public about fishing and our club. Club members will be at all the shows again this year explaining the benefits of belonging to the Detroit Area Steelheaders and about the resources we have available to us throughout the state. By the way, special thanks go to Doug Karakas and Mike Wakulski for the great-looking new front on our Steelheader booth.

The highlight of February was the annual Steelheader Dinner Dance. The event was a major success due to the efforts of Bob Mitchell and Jim Legenzoff, even though the credit for a good number of the raffle prizes goes to Linda Mitchell. By the way, Leslie Gilbert, did you ever get your ???????? out of Dave Even's jacket pocket? This year's Dinner Dance will be held on February 15, featuring a sit-down dinner, open bar and good music. You can contact Doug Karakas or Ed Wilczek for tickets for a great night out (See Page Fifteen for a complete preview of the Dinner Dance.)

With March came the annual Steelheader Spring Fishing Show, at the Dearborn Civic Center. As always, the show featured a number of fine speakers and tackle (new and used) at unbelievable prices. Bob Gilbert did an outstanding job at making this one of the most successful fishing shows in the Detroit Area. Details about the 1992 Spring Fishing Show appear on the next page.

April kicked off the 1991 boat trolling tournament season with empty freezers and high expectations. Poor weather conditions played a major role in almost every port fished in 1991. The Steelheaders visited the new port of Wilson, New York on Lake Ontario with enthusiasm and hope for limit catches, but again the weather severely limited the club fleet's total catch. The highlights of the year included the great time everyone had at Oscoda on Ladies Day (even though the tournament was canceled), and the outstanding catches of fish at the ports of



**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS** staged another successful Special People Outing in 1991. Here club president Tim Graskewicz and wife Juanita pause to pose at the picnic with Linda Bredernitz (left) of the co-sponsoring Monroe Intermediate Schools and participant Keturah Wallace.

Manistee and Ludington. Tom Moores was heard to say at Manistee, "Gee, I finally weighed an 8-fish limit and still only finished in 10th place."

Overall, we caught more fish per hour trolled in 1991 than in 1990. With the excellent results from Lake Michigan, 1992 could really be an outstanding year! I also would like to congratulate Bob Mitchell — "Mr. Consistency" — as our 1991 "Skipper of the Year," and say a final farewell and thanks to outgoing Boat Trolling Tournament Chairman Dick Shirk who did a simply outstanding job. Also, it's a good time to say welcome and good luck to incoming Chairman Mike Wakulski.

In June, the Detroit Area Steelheaders the annual Special People Fishing tournament on Lake Erie. As part of our club's efforts to give back something to the community, we sponsor a fishing outing for mentally and physically impaired children in co-operation with the Monroe Intermediate School District. Each year, a day is spent walleye fishing, picnicking and generally having a great time at the Toledo Beach Marina. The kids receive trophies (generously donated by Little Bill's Trophies), shirts, hats and anything else we can get donated to help support the

project. At our April meeting this year, we will again be asking for club skippers to volunteer their time for this fun event, to be held on June 20, 1992. I urge you all to PLEASE consider participating in this very worthwhile event!!

This past fall, our club became actively involved in the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council. Although we are still affiliated with MUCC, the Board believes that participation in GLSFC can have a positive impact on the future of sport fishing in the Great Lakes basin. GLSFC has at least 64 clubs and 10,000 members actively voicing their opinions on issues that directly affect us. GLSFC is an active member on many of the Great Lakes advisory commissions. If you have any questions about our involvement with GLSFC, talk to our representatives, Dave Even, Bob Mitchell, or myself.

Autumn also kicked off the fishing for our more hearty fishermen, the River Rats. Doug Karakas had a nice assortment of pier, surf and river events on the tournament schedule. The quantity of fishing may not equal the lake fishery, but the thrill of fighting a river fish without the drag of a moving boat is tough to describe!

We wrapped up 1991 with our annual

Christmas meeting and its Director election for 1992 Board members, a visit from "Salmon" Claus, the bestowing of bragging rights for the winner of the smoked salmon contest, and the drawing for our "Cooler Full of Cheer" raffle. We also said good-bye to our longtime treasurer, Bob Kring. Bob, one of the founding members of our club, has decided to step down from the Board after serving on it for 15 years! His presence and contributions on the Board will certainly be greatly missed, but I'm glad to report that Bob and Linda will still be active members of our club. Thanks for everything, Bob, and good luck to you!!

Looking ahead, 1992 really promises to be a fantastic year. We already have two outstanding speakers scheduled (*John Robertson and George Richey* — see Page Three), with presentations from Dr. Howard Tanner and Mike Modrinski tentatively lined up for later in the year. I fully expect the fishery to be much improved in 1992, especially in light of last year's successful Lake Michigan tournaments. We've seen less fishing pressure on weekends by the general public, fewer charters fishing out of each port, and with every passing year, each of us in the club refines our fishing skills a little more, and all of that should add up to even better fishing during 1992!

There is no club in the state of Michigan that can outfish the **DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS!** I'll see you at our next meeting... and remember to bring a friend!

— **Tim Graskewicz**  
President, 1991

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The list of Officers and Committee assignments for 1992 will be published in the next issue of FISHIN' TALES.

All materials for publication should be submitted to:

**JOEL GARINGER, Editor**

21237 Sunnydale, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

# Spring Fishing Show is set for March 21-22

One of the surest signs that spring is here and winter has finally come to an end — the Detroit Area Steelheaders' annual **SPRING FISHING SHOW** — is nearly here!

Mark your calendars! The dates for this year's fishing extravaganza are **SATURDAY, MARCH 21 AND SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1992!!**

The show is being held again this year at the Dearborn Civic Center, off Michigan Avenue near Greenfield Road (see map below). The hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, with a \$3.00 donation for admission. Children under 12 who attend with an adult and Senior Citizens get in **FREE!** There is plenty of convenient, free parking.

As in previous years, the show offers all fishermen and fishermen the finest selection of tackle and the latest equipment at



**IF YOU'RE INTO FISHING, then the Detroit Area Steelheader Spring Fishing Show is the place for you to be on March 21 and March 22, 1992!**



**THE CLINICS AND SEMINARS are jam-packed with valuable, "FISH-CATCHING" tips and information!**

bargain prices, **PLUS** many "How to . . ." clinics to show you how to catch the elusive and much sought-after steelhead and salmon of the Great Lakes and connecting waters.

There will also be seminars on river fishing, surf fishing, and boat trolling. Other presentations scheduled during the show include fly tying, rod building, and how to prepare smoked fish.

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

Finally, you'll have the chance to buy the hottest lures at the best prices from the biggest dealers in the state!

Remember, if it has to do with steelhead and salmon fishing, you'll find it at the 1992

Show. **JOIN US FOR MICHIGAN'S BEST STEELHEADER SPRING FISHING SHOW!!!**

## Coming Events

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Last Tuesday of month at 7:30 p.m. K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren  
**JANUARY 28, 1992 • FEBRUARY 25, 1992 • MARCH 31, 1992**  
 January Speaker — **JOHN ROBERTSON, DNR Fisheries Chief**  
 February Speaker — **GEORGE RICHEY, Custom Fly Maker**  
 March Speaker — **TO BE ANNOUNCED**

### SPECIAL STEELHEADER EVENTS

**PONTIAC BOAT SHOW (Silverdome)** January 22-26  
**DETROIT BOAT & FISHING SHOW (Cobo Center)** February 1-9  
**STEELHEADER DINNER DANCE (K. of C. Hall, Warren)** February 15  
**OUTDOORAMA (State Fairgrounds)** February 21-March 1  
**PROFESSIONAL FISHING SHOW (The Palace)** March 5-8  
**SPRING FISHING SHOW (Dearborn Civic Center)** March 21-22

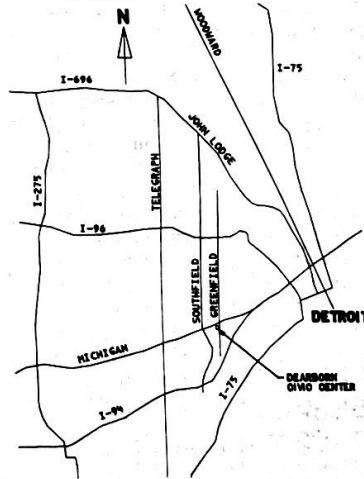
### WINTER FISHING SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
January 25	HIGGINS LAKE — Ice Fishing	Doug Karakas, 545-1181
March 7	W.A.T.A. SUPER TOURNAMENT	Doug Karakas, 545-1181

### BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
May 2	RIVER CRAB (Lexington/Port Sanilac)	Mike Wakulski, 585-6307
May 16-17	ST. JOE (Two-day)	To Be Announced
May 30	HARBOR BEACH	To Be Announced
June 13	PORT AUSTIN (Team Doubles)	To Be Announced
June 20	SPECIAL PEOPLE DAY (Walleye)	To Be Announced
June 27	OSCODA (Ladies Day)	To Be Announced
July 18	MANISTEE (Team Doubles)	To Be Announced
August 1-2	LUDINGTON (Two-day)	To Be Announced
August 29	OLCOTT, NEW YORK	To Be Announced
September 12	FRANKFORT	To Be Announced

### HERE'S HOW TO GET TO THE DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS SPRING FISHING SHOW:



The **DEADLINE** for the **FEBRUARY ISSUE** of **FISHIN' TALES** is **JANUARY 28, 1992**

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## A COMPLETE GUIDE TO BEING A TROLLING BOAT CREW MEMBER

# What every new crew member should know!

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

In fact, perhaps the greatest benefit of being a Detroit Area Steelheader is having the chance to catch big fish on the Great Lakes even if you don't own a boat suited for the big water. Simply put, every skipper needs a crew to help run the boat, share expenses and catch the fish.

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

To help first-timers get a head start toward making a smooth transition from passive to active participation, here are some basics for would-be mates and crew members to learn.

## TEAMWORK

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

## ASKING QUESTIONS

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

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

You definitely should try to learn:

- How to read the graph or depth sounder.
- What type of speed indicator is used.
- How the downriggers and releases work.
- Where the various lures are kept.
- How to operate the marine radio.
- How the engine throttle works.

These are only a few of the myriad questions you may need or want to ask.

## SETTING LINES

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

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

The next thing helpful to know is the



DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER skippers and their crew members gather after a good day of fishing at Frankfort last September.

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

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

The other method of measuring line out is counting bars. Usually a bar consists of one pass of the level wind device from one side of the reel to the other. Some captains, however, consider that one pass is the level wind device going across and back to its original position. Whichever method is used, the captain will know how many feet of line goes out of the reel on one pass. For example, on pass on a Penn #209 reel is about nine feet. Thus, if the captain wants to run a surface lure back 100 feet, you can use 50 pulls, or about 11 bars, to reach that distance.

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

## BOAT HANDLING

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

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

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

## IDENTIFYING STRIKES

Once the lures are down, the most important thing for everyone on the boat (except the driver!) is to watch the rods. There should not be even a second or two when there is not

at least one pair of eyes on those rods. It takes concentration to avoid daydreaming, or even falling asleep at times, but diligence at this task will save many 'lost' fish!

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

What exactly are you watching for?

- In the case of a line on a downrigger, it's easy — the bent-over rod will pop up when the force of the strike pulls the line off the release.
- For a line on a deep diver, the same thing will happen.
- For a line on an outrigger or planer board, the line will be pulled off the release and go straight back instead of off to the side.
- For long line connected directly to the rod, there will be a noticeable throbbing or jerking action.

Another thing to be alert to while you are watching the rods is any unnatural movement of the rod, such as the rod tip bouncing or vibrating in any out-of-the-ordinary manner. This could indicate one of the following conditions.

- Your cannonball is bouncing on the lake bottom.
- You have hooked a fish too small to trip the release.
- You have tangled lines.
- Your lure is running "out of tune," or it has snagged some seaweed or other lake debris.

Be sure to bring any unnatural-looking rod movements to the attention of the captain immediately.

## SETTING THE HOOK

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

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

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

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

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

## KEEPING A TIGHT LINE

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

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

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

## LANDING THE FISH

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

When the fish is ready to landed, keep it at the surface and bring it along the side of the boat, but don't lift its head out of the water. At this point, if you need additional control, lay your thumb lightly on the reel spool to add to the pressure of the drag. Wind in the line so that the rod tip is close enough to the fish to allow you to pull it toward the net by stepping backward and letting the net man step in front of you. Guide the fish head-first toward the net man, and bring it close enough so that he can simply slip the net under the fish and scoop it up without having to stretch out too far. If you let up on the pressure slightly once the net hoop is under the fish's head, he'll dive right in!

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

## THE HELMSMAN'S DUTIES

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

If you happen to be the driver when a fish

Continued on Page Sixteen ...!



# Good planning will improve your fishing trip

The old adage that you get out of something what you put into it certainly applies to having a successful fishing trip. Three things to remember are: Plan, Plan, Plan!

You should start planning for next year's fishing when you put the boat away in the fall. If you have done this properly, you know you'll be able to get the boat out in the spring with high expectations of a smooth start to the new season.

## PRE-SEASON PREPARATIONS

Once the boat is all nicely tucked away, there's still a lot of pre-season preparation we can do. There is tackle to be reorganized, hooks to be sharpened, line to be stripped and replaced. If equipment needs attention, now is the time to get that reel repaired or that LORAN software update taken care of. If you've bought a new piece of equipment that you plan to install in the spring, read the manual now. Read it on more than one occasion to give you a good feel for what to expect in terms of installation and use — all new equipment involves a learning curve. These are just some of the ways you can get a good initial jump on your fishing preparations in the pre-season.

Tournament schedules have usually been established by mid-winter, so take advantage of the lead time to plan your fishing excursions with your regular crew to best advantage. The best-laid plans can go astray, so try to find out who else might be interested in going fishing sometime in case a regular crew member has to miss a trip. A reliable crew is probably the hardest thing to nail down... and the best equipment is of no use without a crew!

Spring is a special time of the year for fishermen, so we don't want to be fishing around when we're getting our boat and equipment ready. However, we do want to make sure we're 100 percent ready before that first shakedown trip. Charge those batteries — something that is very important in the cold spring weather. Grease those bearings — that is preventive maintenance, and that is the best kind.



SCOTT AND DAVE, crew members on an "Alice's Angler" fishing trip, show off the results of a well-planned expedition in pursuit of tasty walleye!

## TRIP WEEK CHECKLIST

So, now it's the week before that trip you have planned, and you're sure you've got your crew already lined up. Still, it's a good idea to get in touch with each one of them a couple of days before the trip to make sure everyone is still "on board." How about that morning meeting place and time. Meeting at a restaurant is a good idea. It's a good place to wait, and you certainly want to start the day with a full stomach. No matter how you decide to handle these preliminaries, make it clear to your crew what your routine is so they won't be surprised. If they're new, tell them about bringing proper clothes, sunglasses, lunch, etc. Let them know about expenses they will be expected to share — room, slip rental, gas and so on. I've found this 'up front' approach to work out the best.

The evening before departure, I gather all gear in the boat, my lunch is packed and ready, and clothes I'm wearing or taking are laid out. I like to rise early, allowing at least 15 minutes more than I think it will take to get ready. If I'm a little early, I can always sip on another 'cuppa' while I wait for the crew to arrive. I certainly don't want to be rushing with a long day ahead.

## THE BIG EVENT

I always gas my boat up en route, so when I launch I'll be ready to go. Besides, gas station prices are a lot cheaper than marina prices. When I arrive at the harbor, I want to first check in with the Harbormaster if I intend to keep my boat in a slip. At the launch site, I get my boat ready for launching before backing down the launch ramp. This is only common courtesy. All of us should strive to get our boat off the trailer and out of everyone else's way as soon as possible.

With the boat and equipment ready, my crew and I are set to go off fishing. If it's a tournament weekend, I like to "pre-fish" the local area the day before the tourney. I try to keep in mind all the things to be done after fishing: tie up the boat properly, put equipment away, clean fish, visit with other crews, take a shower, etc. The point is, everything takes time and I like to budget mine so that I can get up the next day well-rested and ready for a fun day of fishing. Those of us who've fished tournaments know how much work having fun can be!

## THE ROAD HOME

A weekend trip ends all too soon, and then we face the tasks necessary to get the boat back on the trailer and drive home. Remember to take all dock ropes and boat fender. Get the equipment organized properly so that it will withstand the road trip. Make sure the trailer lights are working and the safety chains are connected. I like to stop frequently on the way home. When I stop, I examine the tires and bearings, and generally look over the rig. If it's a long trip, I make sure we stop for a meal along the way.

When I arrive home, I like to put the boat equipment in a safe place. If my equipment is broken, I try to attend to it early in the week. This way I'm all set for the next time out.

So, I say again, "Plan, plan, plan!" If you do, you'll find your next fishing trip to be smoother and even more rewarding.

— Les Jump  
"Alice's Angler"

# So you want to be consistent?

How many times have you watched a weigh-in and wondered why the same skippers consistently finish in the Top Ten? It's amazing that no matter which port we visit, the same crews consistently produce! What is it that sets them apart from their competitors? Is it some secret lure? A mystery program? Are they using live bait? Do they have a secret spot?

Hey skippers, there is no magic dust out there! Catching fish consistently is a simple matter of finding fish and knowing how to pound on them!! Knowing how to pound on them is the hard part. The common thread I've noticed among successful skippers is that they run time-proven programs. Taking a big chance and making big changes is very risky and often results in light coolers and many finishes down near the bottom of the fleet.

The top skippers all seem to run lures that have produced for them in the past. Gambling on an unproven lure is rarely tried. At first light, they have their first team of lures and rigs in the water, with their 'teeth' sharp and ready to bite! Experimenting is done on practice days, not at tourney time! Taking a gamble is not going to help you produce consistently. This isn't to say that taking a chance will never pay off — it's just too risky to take unproven programs and put them to the test during a tournament.

Always start with a location where you know fish have been recently. Trying to find a school in unknown waters is one of the biggest mistakes an inexperienced skipper can make. At the least, try to find a good spot to try by either dock talk or by

asking someone you know who had some recent success. A single fish can make a major difference in the final standings of a tournament.

If you're willing to gamble, at least go with the best odds. Stick with the basics. Find the bait, find the temperature, vary your speed and your leads. Look for structure, and once you find action, don't leave until you're convinced it's time to move on.

Don't be fooled. There are no big secret lures, methods, or magic dust. Remember, a fish's brain is no bigger than a dime. Just hope you are lucky enough to be around when he decides it's dinner time. Finally, if all else fails, follow "Kemo!" Tight lines!!

— Dave Even  
"Teacher's Pet"



DAVE EVEN, past Detroit Area Steelheader president and runner-up in "Skipper of the Year" standings for the past three years, shows off one of the king salmon he consistently produces at club fishing tournaments.

## PHOTO CONTEST — 1991

Congratulations to the top three photos entered in the 1991 Photo Contest, pictured here. Individually and together, they nicely capture the spirit and excitement of our sport!

I would like to thank everyone who entered a photo, and for those who didn't, get in on the fun and enter something in the 1992 Photo Contest. You may be one of the next group of prize-winners!

The rules are simple. The photo should be of a fishing event or club-sponsored function. Write your name on the back of the photo, and turn it in to any Board of Directors member, or to me. Enter as many photos as you like. Good luck to all!!

— Les Jump  
FISHIN' TALES Photographer



FIRST PLACE: JIM BEELBY (\$50 PRIZE)



SECOND PLACE: MIKE CHIMELAK (\$25 PRIZE)



THIRD PLACE: WARREN RENANDO (\$15 PRIZE)

# Don't waste your winter — try cold-weather fishin'!

Yet again, we faced the time when we put away our boats, stood the fishing rods in the corner, and gazed at the calendar with that "how long until spring" look. Many of us slipped into our favorite easy chair, turned on the ol' television and clicked around until we found a fishing program, mentally counting, "Let's see... 3 months to go, 12 weeks sounds better... I think..."

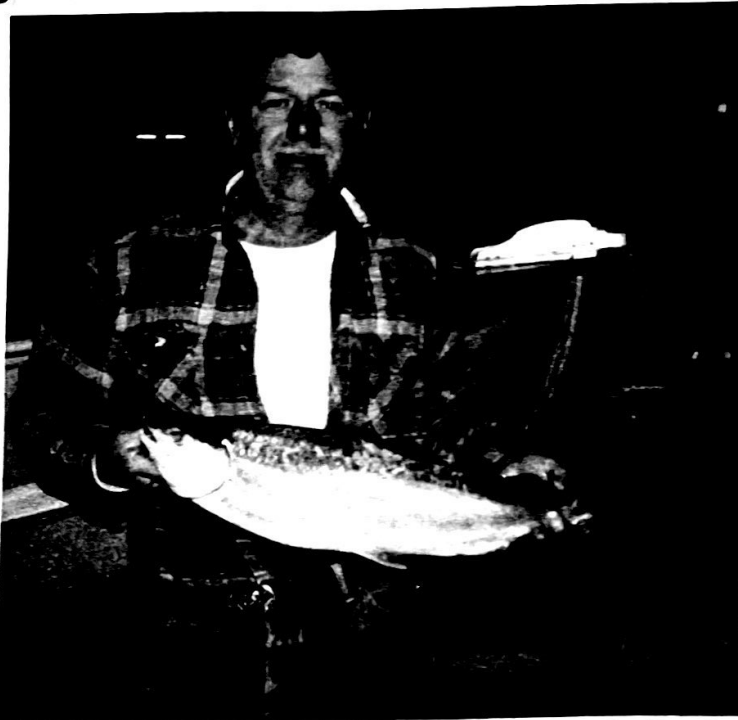
Does this sound familiar? If so, it's time to expand your fishing horizons — how about winter fishing? Lots of options are available to this winter fishin' business, and I'll touch on a few.

The first one is ice fishing for panfish. This one probably requires the smallest money outlay. A couple of \$3-\$4 ice fishing rods, some tear drop jigs, small bobbers, and ice fishing baits are about all the specialized fishing equipment you'll need. Other things needed include a five-gallon bucket with lid, warm clothing and a pair of good boots, and an ice spud or auger to make a hole in the ice.

A trip to Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie or many inland lakes will get you into those tasty panfish. Stop at the local bait shop and while you're there ask the question, "Where are they bitin'?" Someone will point you in the right direction.

Next, let's look at walleye ice fishing. Some different equipment, and tactics, are required for these. Get a rod with large eyes and stiff action (cost: about \$10), and a small spinning reel to go with it. A styrofoam minnow bucket, walleye jigs (Ice Rapalas, Jig-A-Whoppers, etc.), and warm clothes, good boots, ice hole maker, and a lantern round out the equipment list. A lantern?? Oh yeah, you'll need a good sense of adventure, as well, because the best fishing for walleye is in the dark. I've even seen guys start out at 9-10 o'clock in the evening and fish all night!

How about ice fishing for trout? It's a lot like



**JIM HARDRICK** caught this nice steelhead on the Big Manistee River last November to win the Detroit Area Steelheader portion of a three-club tournament.

the walleye program except you fish in daylight, and deeper water. A tip-up is very effective for trout, tipped with a large golden shiner fished about 10'-20' off the bottom. Find inland lakes with lake trout populations, usually with 70'-100' bottoms. Good choices include Crystal Lake, Higgins Lake, etc.

Then there's winter open-water fishing, primarily for steelhead (rainbow trout). Possible sites for this usually narrow down to a big river that doesn't freeze up — the Au Sable, Big Manistee, Muskegon, Grand, etc.

There are two approaches to river fishing — boat or bank. Bank fishing usually requires waders, a good river rod, plenty of terminal tackle, spawn or wigglers, and a good sense of caution. Yes, caution! Taking a dunk in an icy cold river is no picnic at best, and can be downright dangerous. The most popular areas for bank fishing are the 1/2-mile to 1-mile stretches below the dams. These spots are always busy on weekends.

Boat fishing first off requires a boat. A good, seaworthy 14'-16' aluminum boat is very popular with us average fishermen. A West Coast drift boat or a jet pump sled would be the top-line way to go, if you're fortunate enough to own such or know someone who does. Boats provide you the opportunity to get to spots in the river not accessible to the "banky" guys.

Well, folks, it's your choice. You can do what you did last winter, and the winter before, and the winter before that — sit and watch for the first robin to show, or you can get together with some of your fishing buddies and try some winter fishing. Lots of your fellow Detroit Area Steelheaders fish in the winter, so give some of them a call. You won't regret it!!

— Doug Karakas

## A 'day of infamy' — 50 years later!

On December 7, 1991, 50 years after Pearl Harbor, the Detroit Area Steelheaders were on the waters of the Au Sable River for a steelhead tournament.

The weather was kind to us. The day before, Oscoda had a 12" blizzard pull off a sneak attack. But Saturday's rising sun brought warm weather, with temperatures climbing into high 40's.

While nine club members had entered the tournament, only seven survived to make the weigh-in, and only Steve Hamilton brought fish to the scale. Steve caught two steelhead, one a beautiful 'double pink' striped male weighing 11 pounds, 10 ounces, and the other a chrome male which went 5 pounds, 2 ounces. Both fish were taken on plugs (gold & orange Wee Wart, Wiggle Wart, Magnum Hot 'N Tot and Blue Pirate Hot Shot). The other guys had only one hit among them.

After the weigh-in, we all retired to Desi's Taco Lounge in Foote Site Village to nurse our wounds and recount the day's events.

Sunday brought heavy fog, still moderate temperatures, and a few more fish. A good time was had by all, except maybe Jimmy Hardrick, who lost something in the river. For more on this, see Jimmy!

Maybe next year we can recruit more from the club to do battle with the mighty steelhead on 'The River'!!



**STEVE HAMILTON** was the only Detroit Area Steelheader to enjoy any success during the club's tournament on the Au Sable River last December. Steve weighed the only two fish entered, including this beautiful steelhead that weighed nearly 12 pounds.



**SOME OF THE "RIVER RATS"** GATHER AROUND after the weigh-in for a photo with Steve's winning fish, an 11-pound, 10-ounce Au Sable steelie. Pictured here are Greg Clifford, Ralph Boland, Eddie Yankoski II, Jim Hardrick and Steve Hamilton.

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# Projections for 1992 club tournaments

With the completion of a successful 1991 boat trolling tournament season, the outlook for 1992 shows great promise. The catch was up at most ports, especially on Lake Michigan, where they were near-excellent.

The 1992 boat trolling tournament schedule will again take the Detroit Area Steelheader fleet to various ports on four of our five Great Lakes.

Our first stop of the new season will be on May 2 at the River Crab Salmon Stakes near Port Huron. Although "Mother Nature" did not allow any boats to venture out on lower Lake Huron and the St. Clair River for this event in 1991, everyone is hoping that the two-week change in dates (from mid-April to early May) will provide better weather conditions for us. I urge EVERYONE in the club to plan on participating in this fun event that supports very worthy causes.

May 16-17 will find us on Lake Michigan for the first time in 1992, at the twin cities of St. Joseph/Benton Harbor. Always great for spring cohos, you can try off the Cook Nuclear Plant and Chalets, or north of the pier heads toward the clay banks for kings.

Harbor Beach returns to our schedule this year, on May 30. Good spring king action can be found off the structure both north and south of the pier heads.

Next, the gang goes to the reefs off Port Austin on June 13. There'll be plenty of lakers at this port, with some kings thrown in for good measure. Don't forget the Team Doubles event on Sunday.

Our annual "Special People" Walleye Outing is set for June 20 on Lake Erie at Toledo Beach Marina. All the skippers are winners at this tournament.

This event come from seeing all the "special crew members" having such a great time.

This year's Ladies Day outing takes place on June 27 at Osocda. Always lots of fun, this is the toumey where the women get a chance to show off their angling as well as their culinary skills at the picnic afterwards.

Next, it's back to Lake Michigan and the



**NEW BOAT TROLLING CHAIRMAN MIKE WAKULSKI** has been a regular at Detroit Area Steelheader tournaments for some time.

port of Manistee on July 18. Last year, the fishing was just superb. It appears that this fishery is making a comeback, finally! We will also have our second Team Doubles event on Sunday of this weekend.

We stay on the 'west coast' for our next event, as we move down the shoreline to Ludington on August 1-2. Like Manistee, this port was hot last year, and we're looking for a repeat performance there in 1992.

Ludington, as we head for Lake Ontario and Olcott, New York on August 29. Our previous experience there proves that when a fish hooks up in those water, **HANG ON!!** You'll never know when that 30-pounds-plus king salmon will be on the line. There is also excellent steelhead fishing at this port.

Our season finale will take place on Sep-

tember at Frankfort, our traditional tournament schedule wind-up. This port usually produces a mixed catch of steelhead, kings and coho — many Master Angler coho were taken here last year! Trolling in the shadows of the scenic Sleeping Bear Dunes makes this a popular sport with many skippers.

It looks like we have a good schedule lined up this year. As the season progresses, we'll have available information packets with

making your tournament outings more enjoyable than ever. I'm looking forward to seeing **ALL** of you at our upcoming meetings and tournaments, especially new members!

Keep a tight line, and good fishin' to all of you!!

— Mike Wakulski  
1992 Boat Trolling Chairman

## Help the D.N.R. and help yourself in 1992!

If, during the 1992 fishing season, you catch a fish of any species which has one of its fins missing, it has probably been fin-clipped and recorded by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.) before being released. The D.N.R. asks that you report the fin which is missing, the species, length and weight of the fish, and where and when it was caught.

With this information, D.N.R. fisheries biologists can get a better handle on the effectiveness of their release programs.

Why not clip out the next few paragraphs, put the clipping in your tackle box, and be able to report intelligently to the D.N.R. These are the fins which may be clipped.

**ADIPOSE FIN:** A small, fleshy fin on the back and near the tail of salmon, trout, catfish and bullheads.

**ANAL FIN:** The single fin on the underside of the fish, between the vent and tail.

**CAUDAL FIN:** The tail of the fish, a corner of which may be clipped.

**DORSAL FIN:** The fin on the back of the fish, which may be divided into two parts on some fish, such as bass, perch and walleyes.

**PECTORAL FIN:** The uppermost fins on either side of the body and usually just behind the gills.

**PELVIC FIN:** The fins on each side of the fish's body, below and often behind the pectoral fins.

If you want to join in the research, designed to eventually improve Michigan fishing, send your report to the following address. Be sure to include the date, location, species, length and weight of the fish, and the fin which was clipped. Attach the fin clipping, complete with the detailed information listed above, to:

Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division  
P.O. Box 30028  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

— James A.O. Crowe

From *Suburban Papers*, October 20, 1991

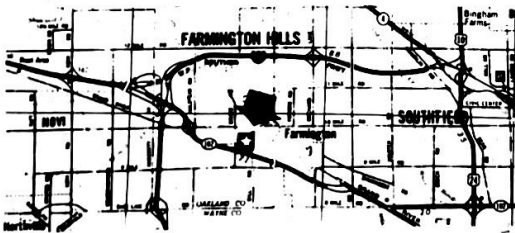
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# Reflections on the 1991 boat trolling season . . .

**Reflection:** The serious thought of fixing your mind on a subject that has existed or might exist.

We all have reflections of some things that we have experienced, good or bad, to put in our memory bank . . . some thing like the 1991 Boat Trolling Tournament season. Let's throw another log on the fire, sit back and have some reflections on the highs and lows we experienced throughout the season.

We started right off with a low, with ol' Mother Nature flexing her muscles at the annual River Crab Salmon Stakes tournament. We were staring at six- to eight-foot waves crashing over the breakwalls at Port Sanilac. Needless to say, we were blown off the lake before we ever got started! We did, however, meet at the weigh-in site for a great dinner and great conversation, scheduling a make-up date for later in the summer.

Early May found all of us trailering over to St. Joe for what I refer to as our first official tournament of the year. We had a good turnout of 22 boats, with a new skipper, Warren Renando aboard "Doo-Dah," walking off with top honors with a nice 8-fish catch. Although this was meant to be a two-day tournament, we fished less than an hour on Sunday, due to some very inclement weather. It was the first time I had ever held a weigh-in in a men's restroom — now those are some mean weather conditions!

Later that same month, many of the fleet trekked over to dock at Wilson, New York for our next tourney, and yes, you guessed it . . . Mother Nature did another number on us! We sat ashore all day Saturday, just looking out over Lake Ontario and those four- to six-foot waves it was offering us. One good thing about such 'weather' days is that barbecue, drink and camaraderie have a way of healing a lot of disappointment and depression. Fortunately, we did manage to get in a day of fishing on Sunday, with Rob Pinsky and crew aboard "Anticipation" weighing a nice catch to claim first place.

Our next tournament took us to Port Austin and the lake trout at the beginning of June. It proved to be two great days of fishing. Saturday was the regularly scheduled event, while Sunday served as the make-up for the ill-fated River Crab from April. On Saturday, Rob Pinsky was still on a roll, notching the top score of the day with a limit (8-fish) catch of nice lake trout. Rob couldn't stick around for Sunday's action, so Bob Mitchell kept things rolling by boxing another limit catch aboard "Kemo" to win that tourney.

Next it was time for the annual tourney set aside for the ladies — Ladies Day at Oscoda at the end of June. We were hoping for good



**DICK SHIRK, 1991 Boat Trolling Tournament chairman, strikes a familiar pose here as he announces final results to club fishermen and fisherwomen at the 1991 Rogers City tourney, one of several club events marred by poor weather.**

weather at tournaments back-to-back, but it just wasn't to be. A couple of hours into the action and Lake Huron began to 'kick up its heels', to the point that I had to call all the boats back in to port for safety reasons. We were never able to get back on the water for the balance of the weekend. This one went into the books as "No Contest." What really saved the day was the potluck barbecue, and the fun we all had at the family festivities. We sure have people in our club who can put a great spread of good food on the table!

We took a couple of weeks off, and then gathered again at the port of Manistee the third weekend of July for what turned out to be the best tournament of the year. We enjoyed perfect weather, and everyone had fine catches . . . what more can you ask? Nine of our fleet of 26 boats weighed in limit catches, and all boats had something to put on the scales by the end. Don Redmond and his "Trena Dawn" crew assembled the best eight-fish catch to win this tourney.

After another two-week pause, our schedule resumed just down the Lake Michigan coast at Ludington for a big two-day event. This Saturday dawned with anticipation, as the sweet taste of Manistee was still lingering in our mouths. And this was one time that our high hopes were fulfilled. Don Redmond still had the right secret recipe for these waters, as he put together limit catches each day to record back-to-back tournament victories. Based on 1991 results, I would have to say that both Manistee and Ludington are making fine comebacks as major "hot" ports. Let's hope the good news continues in 1992!!

heads off limits to a certain red boat. This particular boat has now won at Frankfort two years running without ever getting its engine oil hot! I'm referring, of course, to the "Lucky Falcon" and skipper Joe Golaszewski and crew. Joe put a nice five-fish catch on the scales to repeat his 1990 victory, and for that I give him a couple of "ATTA BOYS!"

With the final weigh-in behind us, we loaded up the boats and started on down the big concrete path. With the CB chatter about weekend exploits filling the airwaves, we made our way home, stopping for burgers and fries and striking up acquaintances with other boaters, hearing of their weekend experiences. It's a great way to end a summer!

What a great season we can all reflect back on, and what a string of nice club gatherings these tournaments represent. The one that stands out as the most enjoyable and satisfying for me, however, is one that I have not yet mentioned — our annual Lake Erie outing, with all those *VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE!* Let me say, if you haven't been there for one of these events yet, you don't know what you're missing. When, at the end of the day, your special individual comes to you with a handshake or a big hug and says thanks for making their day special, all I can say is "Thanks for making MY day special!"

With that, I'll say so long for another winter. I'm looking forward to my annual trek to Florida for a few months. This time, I'm taking the "Lil Scratch" down there with me, so I'll be certain to have a lot of lies to tell you come spring. May you all enjoy 1992 with health, prosperity and happiness. Take

With those two outstanding tourneys under our belts, we headed for Rogers City in mid-August. This port has been an exciting one for us to visit, at least until the past two years. In 1991, it really let us down. Captain Bruce Haywood aboard "Katie-Did" teamed up with his wife to produce the winning catch of a difficult day. Good job, Bruce and Katie, on a hard fishing day!

The fleet sadly came to the end of the 1991 tournament trail at Frankfort just after Labor Day. This is our traditional final fling, and it turned out to be a great weekend to wrap things up, although the fishing was not the best. On a final note concerning the 1992 season, it is that we make a one-mile radius of the pier

Dick Shirk, "Lil Scratch" 1991 Boat Tournament Chairman

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# 1991 "Skipper of the Year"

(FINAL STANDINGS)

SKIPPER	BOAT	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Tot.
1) BOB MITCHELL	KEMO	4	7	6	1	3	2	50	3	19
2) DAVE EVEN	TEACHER'S PET	5	3	2	3	18	6	10	4	23
3) DON REDMOND	TRENA DAWN	10	4	3	6	1	1	50	9	24
4) DICK SHIRK	"LIL" SCRATCH	3	5	10	50	2	7	6	2	25
5) JOE GOLASZEWSKI	LUCKY FALCON	9	75	18	4	8	11	4	1	37
6) MIKE WAKULSKI	WET PAINT	6	11	50	7	15	9	2	50	50
7) TOM MOORES	KARE FREE	17	75	11	10	10	5	50	7	60
8) WARREN RENANDO	DOO-DAH	1	14	5	15	17	16	75	12	63
9) RON HARTMAN	MOLLY FRAIR	7	16	50	16	14	4	50	16	73
10) DOUG KARAKAS	CAPT. HOOK	20	50	20	18	23	12	3	10	83
11) CHRIS COFFEY	COFFEY BREAK	75	9	17	14	19	75	17	18	94
12) ED WILCZEK	PAT'S COMPETITION	14	10	21	50	12	20	50	22	99
13) HANK BACZYNSKI	SINSATION	2	6	12	50	24	75	9	50	103
14) BOB HERMAN	NOMAD	18	50	4	2	50	75	75	15	139
15) WALT POHORILY	CARMEN ASHLEY	8	75	13	50	7	14	50	50	142
16) CHRIS NYTKO	AQUARIUS	75	75	50	11	13	75	8	13	170
17) DON ANTON	HAPPY BARE	75	13	75	75	11	10	75	11	195
18) AL SCHULTZ	MISERY 3	13	75	50	12	75	21	50	50	196
19) ED PABISZ	POLE BENDER	75	8	14	8	16	75	75	75	196
20) BILL SHACKLETON	NET PROFIT	15	18	75	75	4	19	75	75	206
21) RON HUEY	HALF R'S	75	17	75	75	25	18	16	75	226
22) JIM HARDRICK	MY DREAM	75	75	16	75	75	75	5	14	255
23) JIM BEELBY	FISHFLY	50	75	50	13	6	75	75	75	269
24) STEVE BANOVIC	EXAGGERATOR	75	50	9	9	75	75	75	75	293
25) ROB PINSKEY	ANTICIPATION	75	1	1	75	75	75	75	75	302

Omit 2 highest scores  
 A = St. Joe B = Wilson, N.Y. C = Port Austin D = Port Austin II E = Manistee  
 F = Ludington G = Rogers City H = Frankfort

## DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS 1991 BIG FISH STANDINGS

(FINAL)

KING SALMON			
SKIPPER	BOAT	WEIGHT	LOCATION
1) BOB MITCHELL	KEMO	25 LBS., 5 OZ.	LOUDINGTON
2) DICK SHIRK	"LIL" SCRATCH	24 LBS., 10 OZ.	MANISTEE
3) DON REDMOND	TRENA DAWN	24 LBS., 2 OZ.	MANISTEE
COHO SALMON			
SKIPPER	BOAT	WEIGHT	LOCATION
1) DON ANTON	HAPPY BARE	12 LBS., 4 OZ.	FRANKFORT
2) TOM MOORES	KARE FREE	12 LBS., 3 OZ.	FRANKFORT
3) PAUL NOWAK	A DAY LATE	11 LBS., 15 OZ.	FRANKFORT
STEELHEAD TROUT			
SKIPPER	BOAT	WEIGHT	LOCATION
1) BOB MITCHELL	KEMO	15 LBS., 8 OZ.	MANISTEE
2) RON HARTMAN	MOLLY FRAIR	14 LBS., 1 OZ.	MANISTEE
3) ROBERT SAUNDERS	MY VALENTINE	13 LBS., 7 OZ.	MANISTEE
LAKE TROUT			
SKIPPER	BOAT	WEIGHT	LOCATION
1) BOB MITCHELL	KEMO	15 LBS., 8 OZ.	PORT AUSTIN II
2) BOB HERMAN	NOMAD	15 LBS., 1 OZ.	PORT AUSTIN
3) DOUG KARAKAS	CAPT. HOOK	14 LBS., 12 OZ.	LUDINGTON
BROWN TROUT			
SKIPPER	BOAT	WEIGHT	LOCATION
1) RON HARTMAN	MOLLY FRAIR	8 LBS., 12 OZ.	MANISTEE
2) DICK SHIRK	"LIL" SCRATCH	8 LBS., 10 OZ.	MANISTEE
3) ED WILCZEK	PAT'S COMPETITION	8 LBS., 8 OZ.	MANISTEE

# 1991 Boat Trolling Tournament Results Summaries

Location	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L
ST. JOE/BENTON HARBOR (May 4 & 5 - 2 days)	21	77	189	87	.460	4.142	40	24	21	1	1
WILSON, NEW YORK (May 18)	22	86	132	63	.477	2.863	27	13	12	11	0
PORT AUSTIN (June 1)	30	110	240	64	.266	2.133	0	2	62	0	0
PORT AUSTIN II (June 2)	23	78	184	61	.331	2.652	2	0	59	0	0
MANISTEE (July 20)	26	85	208	152	.730	5.846	35	0	53	47	17
LUDINGTON (August 3 & 4 - 2 days)	23	86	322	199	.618	8.652	59	9	52	76	3
ROGERS CITY (August 17)	26	91	208	35	.168	1.346	31	1	1	0	2
FRANKFORT (September 7)	29	104	232	52	.224	1.793	12	24	0	15	1

A = Total Boats Entered B = Total Participants C = Total Hours Fished  
 D = Total Fish Caught E = Fish Caught/Hour F = Fish Caught/Boat  
 G = King Salmon H = Coho Salmon J = Lake Trout  
 K = Steelhead L = Brown Trout



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1991 "SKIPPER OF THE YEAR" BOB MITCHELL shows off a 25-pound, 5-ounce king taken at Ludington, which turned out to be the largest fish taken during 1991.

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## 4 IN A ROW!!

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- Bob Gilbert
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- Linda Mitchell
- Robbie Gilbert
- Jodi Gilbert
- Carrie Gilbert
- Tim Bepler
- Joel Garinger
- John Fair
- Tim Graskewicz
- Glen Bergener
- Leon Van Eden



*Bob Mitchell*



MURPHY AND HIS 'LAW' SHOWED UP FOR THIS FISHING TRIP!

## Persistence paid off last May for "Coffey Break"

I should have known from the moment I awoke that morning last May that what lay ahead would not be an ordinary fishing trip.

I had gotten my boat and fishing gear all prepared the night before (good thing!), so all I had to do was get the truck washed, fill the fuel tanks, load my gear in the back, and wait for Brian and Jeff to show up around noon.

The first sign of trouble was when I climbed into my truck, turned the key and was greeted by "CLICK... CLICK!" Normally, this sound would make you think something was wrong with the battery. Mine was brand-new.

After much thought and telephone discussion with my crew, we all agreed it could only be a bad starter. No problem. Around the corner I went, and in no time at all I had a new starter purchased and installed.

Brian and Jeff showed up nearly on time. We finished loading, hooked up the boat, and set off. I had a stop to make, at the lot where I store my camper, to pick up a stove for our campsite. In minutes, we pulled up in front of my camper. I shut the truck off, and quickly went inside to find the stove. Brian was stowing it in back of the truck as I climbed in behind the wheel, turned the key and — you guessed it! — "CLICK... CLICK!"

I won't quote here what I said after this development! Suffice it to say that Andrew Dice Clay could not have said it any better himself! Up went the hood, and a mere 30 minutes later the engine was purring.

At this point, we had a team meeting. I wondered aloud what would happen if, half-way across Ontario, our vehicle again decided not to start. Jeff's answer to this potential problem was short, sweet and simple: "Don't shut it off!" All hands agreed with this, so off we went to the Detroit Area Steelheader trolling tournament at Wilson,



A ROCKY START to their fishing trip didn't prevent Chris Coffey, Jeff Pelc and Brian Pelc from notching a ninth-place finish aboard "Coffey Break" in a Detroit Area Steelheader tourney on Lake Ontario last May.

New York, fingers crossed all the way.

We awoke on Saturday morning to the sounds of howling winds and crashing waves.

We had arrived at Wilson without further incident, full of anticipation for a great day of fishing, and now this! The skippers' meeting confirmed our worst fears. The starting time was first pushed back to 8:00 a.m., then postponed until 10:00 a.m., and finally re-

scheduled for Sunday morning.

Lake Ontario laid down around 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon, so we headed out. We had been out for about an hour when we

found some fish that were willing to bite. After another hour, each of us on board had tangled with a decent fish, we had three in the box, and, most important, a way point entered in the LORAN for use the next day. We

headed for shore and a good dinner.

Sunday morning arrived with decent weather. The fleet set off — our tournament was under way! We cleared the pier heads at 6:00 a.m., and were at our way point fifteen minutes later. I set the trolling speed, then Jeff took the wheel. Brian busied himself rigging and setting the 'Dipsy Diver' rod, while I started setting out the downriggers.

I set the portside 'rigger first, with no problems. It was when I moved to the starboard downrigger that the fun began. I set my lure back, clipped the line into the release, hit the button and... NOTHING! I tried again — still nothing happened. At this point, even a "CLICK... CLICK!" would have been welcome. After a half-hour of fruitless attempts, I gave up.

The problem we were now faced with was how to get the legally allowed six lines out with a single downrigger. Our solution — STACKERS! To be exact, we used two stackers. We ended up with two Dipsy Diver rods, one flat line, and, yes, three lines on one 'rigger. It looked funny, but then so did stopping for dinner Friday night in Ontario and not shutting off the truck engine!

We took some ribbing about our methods that day at the weigh-in, but we managed to pull out a ninth-place finish in a fleet of 22 contestants. Brian and Jeff were happy, and we all had some funny stories to tell when we got home, including what happened when we shut off the truck in Canada on the way home, but that's another story.

I'm planning to return to New York and... 1992, but I believe I'll have the truck checked over a few days before we leave. Oh yes, I'll be bringing 4 downriggers, wise guys!

— Chris Coffey  
"Coffey Break"

## Long rods deliver versatility — and success!

To tell a fisherman which rod he should use falls into the same category as arguing religion and politics. However, I would like to share several years of experience with you in the development of a special, versatile rod.

Back when the Detroit Area Steelheaders organization was being formed, Bob Lindberg and I were bass fishermen and did not know a steelhead from a lake trout. We joined and came to the meetings and listened to Tom Schneider expound upon the merits of the Corky in fast water, and heard Dick Swan tell us the way to do it was with 'two-pound' and long rods. We were also urged to learn the river of our choice the very best we could.

It only took a couple of trips to the Au Sable River to find out that our equipment was not right, and unless we adapted to the river, we were not going to catch anything.

We noticed that the "two-pound test" guys did real well when the water was low, but not so hot when the river was really rolling when the gates were open.

The Corky guys were just the opposite, with their best results coming under high-water conditions. We decided to build a rod that would do both light lines and Corkys.

We started with slow-action, ten-foot fly rod blanks and extended them to eleven feet, with plenty of guides. The rods were parabolic, and "C-ed" beautifully.

On the first test trip on the Au Sable, we found out that our creations were not worth a damn for using two-pound test line — but they were phenomenal when used for fast-

water drifting!

We zeroed in on twelve-pound test main line and ten-pound test leaders, and started hooking and landing steelhead. We had to develop a new set of techniques to fish our long rods with the heavier line, but it paid off, as streaks of eight and nine fish became commonplace for us.

Well, all good things come to an end, and my beautiful rod wrapped itself around a pine tree on the Rifle River! It was back to the drawing board. This time a twelve-footer emerged, made from a 9' and a 10' blank.

This new twelve-footer was superior in every respect to the old rod. The additional foot of length was advantageous for reaching over other lines when the "rock pile" was crowded, for letting the guy next to you know he was encroaching on your territory, or for controlling your drift by the amount of line in the water. The greatest advantage of the twelve-footer becomes apparent when you are fighting a large steelhead, because you can make all kinds of dumb mistakes and the rod will forgive you.

The fame of the heavy line/long rod combo quickly spread, and techniques for employing it were honed to the point that a novice with a few hours of instruction in fast-water drift methods could successfully catch and land steelhead.

That fall, winter and spring quickly passed and suddenly it was boat trolling time. Jim Treadaway's "Okie Drifter" barely had downriggers, let alone outriggers and all the

fancy electronic stuff, so we crew members for the upcoming season all bought equipment of our own to outfit the boat that year.

For outriggers, we used — you guessed it! — the twelve-foot river rods! We ran a minimum of three twelve-footers, and we both 'flat-line' or 'stack' them, as conditions dictate. The superior fish-fighting characteristics of the river rods are even more pronounced in boat use.

I can truthfully say that, since we have been keeping records, we have not lost a fish on the long rods. We have caught them all — steelhead, browns, kings, coho and lake trout.

The reason for that kind of success is simply because the long rod makes you a better fisherman. There is absolutely no way you can "horse" a fish with the slow-action rod, and because it is so flexible, the fish fights the rod and tires more quickly. The twelve-footer gains additional flexibility when you carry spools of different weight

lines, as you can go down to six-pound test and long lines for browns. We normally use twelve-pound test for steelhead and kings.

Try the long rod on your boat and, when it goes off with a king on the other end, give it to the least-experienced person on your boat. Tell him/her the following: "Keep your hands on the cork and off the drag!" If they follow your directions, you can pretty well assure them of a fish in the box!

Try this rod for all seasons — I believe you'll love it!

— Ken Conrad

This article originally appeared in the October 1978 issue of FISHIN' TALES.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The principles mentioned in the above article still apply today. If you are interested in building a long rod of the type described above, Doug Karakas, Steve Hamilton or Joel Garinger will be glad to answer questions and offer advice.

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# Give yourself an "edge" for better fishing!

Most fishing articles revolve around describing a specific technique, covering a specific species, or identifying a specific place. Some helpful information is usually imparted, but many times principles or theories of fishing underlying that information are ignored.

If we take the time to think about it, one of the most useful and obvious of these principles of fishing is the concept of "EDGES."

By organizing our fishing thoughts in terms of thinking about "edges," maybe we can give ourselves that edge we sometimes need to catch fish.

My premise is that fish behavior is guided by "edges," and the purpose of this article is to point out some of them, and to inspire you to think of others.

### WEATHER "EDGES"

The most noticeable "edges" are those provided by the weather. As a general rule, fishing is better at sunrise and sunset, just before a storm approaches, and in the fall and spring. Other weather influences are runs triggered by rains, or the ice going out.

### RIVER "EDGES"

River fishing provides an abundance of "edges" to think about. In terms of fish location, think about where current meets slack water, where a tributary enters a river, where a pool begins and ends, a hole on the edges of spawning gravel, riffles in shallow water providing cover, logs or rocks breaking the current, the increased fish activity



LONGTIME DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER MIKE LEHTO fishes by the "edges" to successfully stalk any particular species, in this case a handsome walleye.

that takes place at the onset of high waters, and fish concentrations provided by dams and log jams.

### OPEN-WATER "EDGES"

Finally, what "edges" can we find when trolling the vast open expanses of the Great Lakes. What separates dead water from productive water? In spring, the fish-attracting "edge" may be the warmest water you can find, whether it be a warm-water discharge, creek mouth, shallow dark bay, river mouth, or up on the beach. At other times of the year, the "edge" may be a drop-off, the edge of the thermocline, a mud line, the pier heads, a garbage slick, a temperature slick without garbage, a flock of diving sea gulls, or the inside or outside edge of a pack of boats.

Sometimes the fish-attracting "edge" might be a speeding up or slowing down your bait, using a bait that is different from what everyone else is running, or attracting the attention of lake trout by bouncing your cannonballs on the bottom, or having your lures hitting bottom.

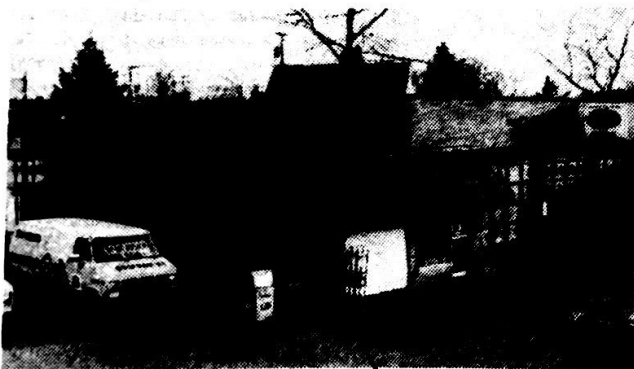
If you put your mind to it, you'll be able to think of many more ways in which "edges" may govern fish behavior than those I've listed. As you can see, I'm just providing examples resulting from a particular method of thinking about fishing. When you do the same, I'm sure you'll give yourself an "edge!"

— Mike Lehto

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# Richey's Custom Flies

# Take **YOUR** winners on dodgers and flies or squids!

Last August, Jerry Woods of Flint was trolling his 25-footer "Salmon Chaser 3" north of Manistee's "Green Onion." Fishing was good for Jerry, who had landed a pretty 27-pound king on a chrome fluted "0" dodger and green/gold Metallic Fly the day before.

"I know a lot of salmon are taken along the Lake Michigan shoreline each year using the Glow-In-The-Dark Michigan Squid. But just the same, I've had pretty good luck using the Metallic Fly. Because of that nice fish I took the day before, I decided to keep a winning combination down," Jerry would relate later.

He went on, "The rod just went down on that one, no bobbing — it just flattened out as the fish hit and ran. I was fishing in 130 feet of water with the downrigger that went off set at 105 feet, and I swear that salmon was trying to drag my dodger/fly combo to Sturgeon Bay across the lake. As soon as I grabbed the rod, I knew it was a big salmon.

"I took my time, while my Flint buddy Larry Denzer manned the helm. We were lucky it wasn't crowded that day off Manistee, because that big king was all over the lake. It just kept up a steady pace, and all I could do was hang on. I had my rod bent almost double, yet whenever the fish decided to go ... he went! Fortunately, everything worked smoothly."

After about 25 minutes, the big king finally surfaced behind the boat. Jerry told Larry, "I'll holler when it's close, then you come back and net it for me." Jerry kept up a steady rod pressure and gradually worked the king up off the corner of the boat. Larry came back to net the brute.

Jerry noted: "I knew it was big, but just before Larry slipped the net under it, I finally got a good look at it. It was large, long and deep! I couldn't believe how big it was!"

With his heart in his throat, Jerry led his big king toward the waiting net. Larry slipped it under the fish and gave a loud grunt as he hoisted the beauty over the transom! The first thing they did was measure the fish. It stretched out to 44 1/2 inches. Then they headed right in to get the monster weighed.

At the Insta-Launch Campgrounds, Jerry's fish tipped the official scales at a whopping 36 pounds, 11 ounces. His big king was good enough to win the 1991 Manistee Salmon Derby, and more than \$1200! It was one of the largest salmon caught in Michigan in 1991, if not the largest.

Says Jerry, "I've got a lot of faith in dodgers and flies or squid for producing lots of big fish." It would seem that Jerry has his dodger/fly program down pat.

The use of dodgers and flies or squid is well-known for producing big fish. Here are some others who have done well with similar combinations.

In 1985, Bev Myers of Attica, New York won the coho division of the ESLO derby with a coho weighing in at 24 pounds, 15 ounces. Her set-up was very similar to what Jerry Woods used for his prize-winning catch. She used a chrome fluted "0" dodger and green Metallic Fly.

Bev told me, "We've had great success with that particular combination. But we also do well using a chartreuse dodger with a green frog glow or laser glow Michigan Squid. That big coho, taken off Point Breeze, New York in Lake Ontario, was worth over \$12,000 in cash and prizes to Bev!"

Another big fish that won a contest was also taken off Point Breeze, on August 13, 1990. Cathy Bennett of Muncy, Pennsylvania was fishing with husband Al aboard their 22-foot Starcraft, "Gypsy." Their tourney-winning fish hit a chartreuse dodger and



**JERRY WOODS** took this 36-pound, 11-ounce king salmon off Manistee's "Green Onion" last August using a dodger/fly combination. It measured 44 1/2 inches.

Dietzen Glo-Fly. (Editor's Note: The Dietzen Glo-Fly, a favorite lure in Point Breeze waters, was developed jointly by Captain Dan Dietzen and the author.)

Cathy fought her fish for almost a half-hour before tiring it enough to work it into position for Al to slip a net under it. They immediately headed in to the dock to get their fish on an official scale. Their whopper turned out to be a 33-pound king salmon, big enough to take the lead in the 1990 Orleans County Salmon Derby! Cathy's fish eventually won the salmon portion of that event, along with several thousand dollars in prizes and cash.

Needless to say, Cathy recommends the Dietzen Glo-Fly for producing good catches on Lake Ontario!

On the same day Cathy caught her top salmon, August 13, 1990, another prize-winning fish was being caught on another lake. Detroit Area Steelheader Bob Mitchell, fishing Lake Huron out of Rogers City in the Rogers City Salmon Derby aboard his boat "Kemo," hooked and landed a 28 1/2-pound king, the biggest in the derby, on a chrome fluted dodger and a laser Michigan Squid. Bob's big king won the derby and netted him more than \$10,000 in prizes and cash. Says Bob, "We've taken lots of big kings using dodgers and Michigan Squid, in both the glow and laser colors. The lasers work very well, especially the black laser, laser, and pearl laser colors. Those colors, run behind either a fluted or hammered chrome dodger, or a white dodger with laser tape, work well in the clear waters of northern Lake Huron."

In fact, Bob's 1990 win was a 'repeat' win of sorts. Tom Hicks of Fair Haven won the 1989 Rogers City Salmon Derby with a king weighing 29 3/4 pounds caught using the same rig, a chrome fluted dodger and a laser Michigan Squid.

Other Michigan fishermen have done well in tournament fishing using my flies. Mark Rinckey, of Honor has won the National Coho Festival based at his home port twice, once using a chrome fluted dodger and green Sparkle Fly, and once on a chrome fluted dodger and a laser Michigan Squid. In 1990, Captain Larry Ring of Roseville won the

tournament with a dandy coho taken on a white dodger with laser tape and a laser glow Michigan Squid. Notes Larry, whose charter boat "Ring's Thing" is a common sight on Lake Michigan every summer, "I find using dodgers and glow squid a highly effective way to put lots of salmon on the lines for my customers."

All of these tournament winners agree on the value of using attractors such as dodgers with flies or squids. To a person, they believe that the flash, noise and action provided by dodgers help to provide them with greater catches of salmon.

Over the years, some top-producing combinations have evolved. A chrome fluted dodger seems to work well with a green Sparkle Fly, a black laser or laser Michigan Squid. For low-light conditions, a hammered chrome dodger is the choice — we've taken lots of salmon using one in combination with a black glow or black laser Michigan Squid.

Another rig worth trying is a white or white with laser tape dodger run with those same black glow or black laser Michigan Squid.

"Go with the glow" is a term commonly heard along Lake Michigan and Lake Ontario shorelines. Good "glow" combos to try include glow green, green frog glow, black glow or blue frog glow Michigan Squid with chartreuse or chartreuse/white dodgers. Captain Howard Zeitlin, who fishes out of Point Breeze, New York on Lake Ontario, regularly scores with green/yellow (key lime) dodgers and triple glow Michigan Squid.

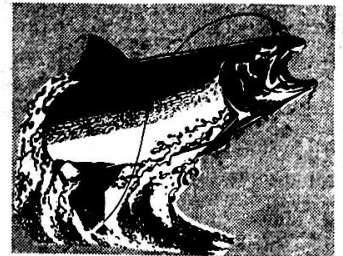
Another set-up worth trying, one I've had exceptional luck with, is a white dodger with laser tape and either the black glow or green frog glow Michigan Squid. And for New York salmon, don't overlook the chartreuse dodger/Dietzen Glo-Fly combination — it's taken many a nice fish.

Over the years, the Sparkle Fly and Metallic Fly have done well for fishermen. The chrome dodger works well with a black, blue, green or lime Sparkle Fly. Coho salmon, especially up high, like the 'banana' (yellow/white) dodger used with the Dazzler Trolling Fly. This works well under almost any light conditions. Another long-time coho salmon favorite is a red dodger run with a black Sparkle Fly or Michigan Squid.

All the combinations I've mentioned in this article have provided fishermen with many thrills over the years, and they've won some tournaments, too! And there are other combos waiting to be tried. In fact, if you are willing to experiment, you may discover your own top-producing outfit. Next season, be sure to give dodgers and flies or squid a try — perhaps you'll win a tournament yourself! Even if you don't win one, I believe you will catch more fish!!

— George Richey

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** George Richey pioneered the use of dodgers with flies or squid from the inception of salmon in the Great Lakes. For a brochure listing all his trolling flies, send a SASE to Richey's Custom Flies, RR 1, Box 280, Honor, Michigan 49640



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# There's great fishing close to home!

The fishing interests of Detroit Area Steelheaders are wide, varied, and cover the whole twelve months of the year. In late fall and through the winter, you will find our members on streams, rivers and beaches fishing for steelhead and salmon in tournaments and in informal groups. You will also find our members at favorite ice fishing hot spots such as Lake St. Clair, Tip-Up Town, and on many other inland lakes sharing a winter's day of fun.



From April through October you will find our boating enthusiasts pursuing their hobby at many of the great fishing areas around the state. These include the sites of our club's nine trolling tournaments, informal research trips, the "Special People" Outing, and fishing at various local hot spots. One of the best of those hot spots is the close-by basin of Lake Erie for spring and early summer walleye fishing, and fall perch fishing.

This area has become world-famous for walleye, and with its close proximity to most of our members, it allows for a great one-day outing when we want to take a break from fishing Lake Huron or Lake Michigan.

For purposes of this discussion, only the Michigan waters of the western Lake Erie basin are referred to, although excellent fishing extends out into Ohio waters. You will want to study a chart carefully if you do not have an Ohio fishing license to be sure of avoiding any problems.

The area that is most convenient for those trailering their boats extends from Stony Point (near the Fermi Nuclear Plant) on the north down to Luna Pier (near the 3-stack Consumers Power Plant) on the south. This area covers Brest Bay and LaPlaisance Bay.

The area is served by two excellent D.N.R. launch sites: Sterling State Park at Exit 15 off I-75 for Brest Bay, and Bolles Harbor at Exit 11 off I-75 for LaPlaisance Bay. Sterling also has camp sites if you want to spend the weekend.

The walleye begin hitting early in the spring and will offer great action well into July. Early in the year, begin fishing in fairly shallow water (10'-15') where the fish are concentrated in relatively warmer water in preparation for spawning. As the water begins to warm in May, the fish will begin moving out, but keep in mind the water depth in this whole area does not exceed 25'-27'.

Fishing methods vary from trolling to drifting to casting. The best method for trolling is to keep the lines as far from the boat as possible to avoid spooking the fish, especially in shallow water. Most trollers employ planer boards run from 75'-125' off the side. Run lines back 150'-200' on the outside, and 75'-100' on the inside. Long lines off the back can also be successfully employed.

Preferred lures are Hot-N-Tots, Wiggle Warts, Wee Warts or any of the other lures of a similar shape. Colors that produce well are black and gold, purple and white, green and silver, and blue and silver.

For a change of pace, try drifting, or

**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS can make a nice catch of walleye just like these beauties and still make it home in time for dinner!**

anchoring and casting. These methods can be very productive if you locate fish schooled up over a gravel bed. Forward-weighted spinner baits, such as the Erie Dearie, topped with a nightcrawler will produce fish, as will crawler harnesses.

September and October offer excellent perch fishing in this same area. A couple of hot spots can be found directly off Stony Point in 23 feet of water, and outside the No. 1 buoy at the River Raisin in 25 feet of water.

So, when it's not going to be a weekend of salmon fishing, consider some fishing "close to home!" You will probably find some of our members enjoying this fishing, and as always, they will be more than willing to share information on "where to" and "how to." I'll be seeing you there!

— Bill Shackleton  
"Net Profit"

# A memorable fishing trip!

It was a crisp, frosty early morning in November when my friend Arnold and I walked through some virtually impenetrable terrain to a productive fishing hole on the Sturgeon River some distance below the Prickett Power Station. We found a very desirable-looking spot, a long sandbar to which, in our ordinary knee-high boots, we could step across a narrow rivulet. On the opposite side was a long stretch of deep water — a dandy fishing hole! We put our four lines out, set for still fishing for spawning trout. We soon had a bonfire going with dry tinder, pitchy pine branches and heavier stubs left along the bank by a generous Providence. We were all set for action, but not what suddenly erupted.

In response to the increased electrical needs of the day, the power station operator opened the gates to the generators wider than usual, sending a greatly increased water volume downstream! It seemed everything happened at once. A great tidal wave of water came sweeping down upon and around us! And just then, I had a strong grab on one of my lines and that rod jerked up and down like crazy. I started to fight the fish, realizing the odds that were now stacked against my landing this one. Arnold, also reacting instantly, quickly pulled in his lines and was frantically throwing them, and our fishing gear to the safety of the river bank. He succeeded in saving everything we had except our six-pack (!) from the wall of water that was now engulfing our previously high and dry sandbar. Meanwhile, my fish reached the cover of a log or snag in the river bottom, and I couldn't budge him. The water was still rising fast, soon to reach our boot tops. Also, sheets of thin ice drifting down added to my woes! Soon the fish brokeoff and I lost him — OUCH!!

What had been a shallow rivulet only moments before was now water way over our boot tops. In crossing back to the river bank, both of us got our boots full, wet up to the knees. Meanwhile, the most incredible part of the incident took place. Lo and behold, our still merrily blazing bonfire floated downstream and got stuck on a small log jam jutting out into the river a few hundred feet downstream from us. As we watched in amazement, our floating fire ignited the dry leaves, twigs and other wood debris in the log jam!

Aware that this was a time of high forest fire danger because of all the dry leaves piled deep on the forest floor, we hurried over to extinguish the blaze. Frenziedly, we pulled off our water-filled boots and poured the contents onto the quickly spreading blaze. This was not enough, so we each dipped a few 'bootsfull' from the river until the job was done.


With a moment to take stock of our situation, we realized we should have known that the river would rise. Still, we cursed the luck that a cruel fate had dealt us. Our feet were soaking wet up to the knees, we had lost our six-pack — an indispensable part of any good fishing trip! — and our preferred fishing hole was gone.

Fortunately, every dark cloud has its silver lining, and this one was no exception. The sun came out from behind the clouds to warm us, and we began to feel much better. As the full incongruity of the incident became clear, we dismissed the whole episode with heavy laughter. We decided that we hadn't walked over two miles to a nearly inaccessible place (at least to ordinary, fair-weather fisherfolk!) without giving it a good try. Arnold headed downstream and I moved upstream in search of other deep pools. We each found some likely-looking places, continuing to fish for some hours. Finally, we were forced to conclude that this was one of those all-too-frequent days when fish just don't need to eat.

Back at home, our wives mildly reprimanded us for not coming home promptly after our dunking. Anyway, we had the satisfaction of knowing that when you don't catch any fish, at least you don't have to clean them! And though old fellows that we are, we didn't even catch colds! This fishing trip, although not successful, ranks as one of our most memorable among the hundreds Arnold and I have experienced together during our sojourn on this planet.


The moral of this story? Fisherfolk, be ever-mindful of the tidal wave that the power station operator upstream from you might decide to let loose on you!!

— Martin Kaurala



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# Detroit Area Steelheaders know how to have fun!!

Detroit Area Steelheader Dinner Dance Co-Chairmen Doug Karakas and Ed Wilczek are hard at work getting an early start on our club's outstanding social event of the year, the annual Steelheader Dinner Dance.

Doug and Ed report that an early start will enable them to do a better job of planning and preparing, so they are encouraging all club members to come to the bash and to make that decision **RIGHT NOW**, so that food and drink requirement estimates can be made accurately.

This year, the Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday, February 15, 1992 (the day after Valentine's Day!) at the St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Hall in Warren, the site of our monthly club meetings (see map below). The good food and drinks that have become fixtures of this popular affair will once again be featured. There have been some donations of prizes from businesses



THE ANNUAL STEELHEADER DINNER DANCE is always a fun occasion, with good food, music, and friends adding up to A GREAT TIME!!

and companies, and more are needed. Home-made craft items would also be welcome. Please call Doug or Ed if you can help out with this.

"Participation should not be limited to just Detroit Area Steelheader club members and their spouses," say Doug and Ed. "We would like to see the Dinner Dance continue to grow, with a big crowd and lots of non-club members attending!"

Tickets for this gala event are \$25 per person or \$50 per couple, and that includes all you care to eat and drink, door prizes, great music, and a fun evening of socializing. Invite your friends and relatives, make your plans, mark your calendars, and be sure to get your tickets **NOW!**

If you have any questions about the Dinner Dance, wish to contribute a prize, or want to get your tickets, please call Doug Karakas at 545-1181 or Ed Wilczek at 757-7365.



1991 "MEMBER OF THE YEAR" BOB BUERO (left) receives his award, voted by the Board of Directors, from Detroit Area Steelheader President Tim Graskewicz at the annual Christmas Party last month.

## Here's what Detroit Area Steelheaders are all about!

The Detroit Area Steelheaders are celebrating their eighteenth year of existence. Formed as part of the salmon and steelhead fishing boom in Michigan in the early 1970's, the organization continues its existence now by working in many ways to help promote and protect Great Lakes sportfishing.

Community involvement has always been an important aspect of our club activities. Over the years, we have been involved in such diverse activities as:

- Taking handicapped children on fishing trips (in our annual Special People outings).
- Raising money for fisheries research at Michigan State University (including donation of cash and equipment such as fish shocker, etc.).
- Donating money for building fish cleaning stations, artificial fishing reef construction, etc.
- Contributing toward legal fees and expenses involved in the negotiating of Indian fishing rights and gill netting.
- Participating in various conservation projects such as the annual Rouge River clean-up, etc.
- Helping to raise money for mental health and child abuse prevention charities through consistent heavy participation in the annual

River Crab Salmon Stakes charity fishing tournament.

As part of our activities for club members, we stage an extensive schedule of boat trolling, river and surf fishing tournaments, with the emphasis on sharing camaraderie, fishing knowledge and good times. We always include a Ladies Day boat trolling event to ensure great family fun, and we offer a member hot line (CREWS Hot Line) to match boat skippers with would-be crew members in the club so that all who wish to can share in the fishing fun.

Our Detroit Area Steelheader Spring Fishing Show annually draws thousands with great speakers, tackle displays and sales, exhibits by various non-profit organizations, and informative fishing seminars by club members.

We publish *Fishin' Tales*, regularly recognized as the one of the finest fishing club newsletter in the state, and we hold monthly meetings featuring great speakers and programs, and other activities.

With a current membership of about 250, we offer prospective members the best package of benefits available in a salmon/steelhead fishing organization. We invite all who are interested to join us, and join the fun!!

**1992 MEETING SCHEDULE**  
TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M.  
JANUARY 28, 1992  
FEBRUARY 25, 1992  
MARCH 31, 1992  
*Visitors Welcome — Bring A Friend!*

### ATTENDANCE BONUS GOES UNCLAIMED IN DECEMBER — JANUARY PRIZE UP TO \$50

Once again the club's monthly attendance bonus has gone unclaimed. Club member Bill Lewton's name was drawn at the December meeting, but unfortunately, Bill was not on hand to claim the \$40 prize. Another \$10 was added to the pot, so January's prize will be \$50. The Board of Directors would like to see every member attend every membership meeting, so it has devised the bonus as a means of stimulating attendance.

**RENEWAL NOTICE**  
The following memberships expire in January:  
Harold Kramer, West Bloomfield  
A.P. Recchia, Detroit

Here's how to get to  
**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER**  
Monthly Membership Meetings



## Membership Application

YOUR MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES *FISHIN' TALES*, THE DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER NEWSLETTER

### ANNUAL DUES:

New memberships & renewals under age 65 .....	\$ 25.00
Renewals over age 65 .....	\$ 10.00
Lifetime membership .....	\$150.00

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THANK YOU!!!



## WHAT EVERY NEW CREW MEMBER SHOULD KNOW

... Continued from Page Four

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

Your main task, though, is to keep the fish behind and, preferably, off to one side of the boat. You may have to turn back toward the fish to help retrieve line. It may also be necessary for you to wave off other boats to keep them from cutting between the boat and the fish. Once all other lines are up, you may want to put the engine in neutral to let the rod man gain line, or just enjoy fighting the fish.

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

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

### THE 'EXTRA' MAN'S JOB

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

Here's how to handle various rigs:

- For downriggers, take the rod from its holder, point the tip toward the line release, wind up any slack, then jerk the rod tip upward to pop the line off the release.
- Deep diver rigs are released in the same way as downrigger set-ups.
- Handle planer board and outrigger lines the same as you do downriggers and deep divers, except jerk the line toward the rear of the boat to pop it free from the release.

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

After the lure is out of the water, put the hook into the hookkeeper on the rod so the lure doesn't flop around. Put all rods thus reeled in forward, or on the side of the boat away from the action. Use storage rod hold-

ers or other secure, out-of-the-way places.

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

As you take care of all the line-clearing, it will be very useful if you will remember:

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

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

As the 'extra' man, you can also:

- Tell the helmsman what the fish is doing.
- Keep track of where other boats are and what they are doing, and letting the driver know what's happening.
- Watch any other lines that are in the water and still working.
- Prepare the net as the fish begins to tire.

How do you go about netting the fish? There are several different ways of netting, but a few principles are universal. First, hold the mesh against the net handle to avoid hanging up on downriggers, rod holders or other obstructions. Second, on a boat in the lake, never net from behind — fish can't swim backward! Finally, let the rod man bring the fish within your reach on the surface, and let him guide the fish to a position right over the net. I prefer letting the mesh bag drop down naturally as I place the hoop horizontally right under the fish's head from in front or from the side. Remember, NEVER net from behind the fish.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### MORE ON DRIVING THE BOAT

Speaking of "starting all over" reminds me that, when driving the boat the first few times, there is a lot to learn. Some things I've already mentioned. But some things just have to be learned by experience. Even so, I think it will be helpful to mention a few of them.

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

First, ask the captain which way to turn, or which way will be easier because of boat traffic. Start your turn while alternately watching forward and behind — forward to watch for boat traffic and direction, and behind to watch how the turn is affecting the lines.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### FINAL THOUGHTS

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

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

— Mike Lehto



**BILL SHACKLETON (L)** accepts his award as the Detroit Area Steelheaders' 1991 "Director of the Year" from President Tim Graskewicz. Congratulations, Bill!

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