



ANNUAL ISSUE

FISH TALES



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Join the Detroit Area Steelheaders!



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Gilbert looks back on 1993 as another good year for club!

Nineteen ninety-three was yet another good year for the Detroit Area Steelheaders!

During the year, we welcomed Mary Karakas aboard as a member of the Board of Directors, and, regrettably, said good-bye to club director Dave Even as a board member.

January started out with Don Calhoun as our guest speaker, talking at our membership meeting on Skamania fishing. That month also saw our club hosting the quarterly meeting of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council. We also began our annual participation at all the major boat/fishing/outdoor shows in the Detroit area, with club members representing our club before the public. Thanks to all those club members who volunteered their time to talk to the general public about salmon/steelhead fishing, as well as the benefits of belonging to the Detroit Area Steelheaders.

In February, we held our annual Dinner Dance, once again enjoying a major success due to the efforts of Doug and Mary Karakas, Bob and Linda Mitchell, and all their many helpers. The theme was a South Pacific setting, complete with dancers (including our own Dick Jackson!) performing the Hula in a grass skirt. This fun, social evening always represents an excellent opportunity for all club members to say thanks to their "First Mates" for all the weekends they were away fishing during the year. The 1994 Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday, February 12 (see Page Eleven of this issue for details). We closed out the month with Jim Fenner, Ludington charter boat captain, as our featured speaker at the membership meeting.



BUZZ RAMSEY was a featured guest speaker at the Detroit Area Steelheaders 1993 Spring Fishing Show & Steelhead Expo.

March began with the annual Wellston Area Tourist Association (W.A.T.A.) fishing tournament on the Manistee River for our "River Rats" to enjoy, and closed with our annual Detroit Area Steelheader Spring Fishing Show and Steelhead Expo. An all-out effort was made to draw as many people as possible to our new show location. We brought in such well-known fishermen as Buzz Ramsey, Jim Bedford and Craig Schaaf as guest speakers, but, unfortunately, attendance was fairly light. As a result the Board of Directors decided to cancel the show for 1994.

The Boat Trolling Tournament season got underway at St. Joseph/Benton Harbor in late April. We had a total of 34 boats participate, but only 15 caught fish over 18 inches long — the weather we encountered was not the best to fish in. April wrapped up with an interesting LORAN-C versus GPS talk at our membership meeting. We also raffled off a handheld GPS unit at the meeting, won by our own "Doc" Huey!

One week after St. Joseph/Benton Harbor, we kicked off May with the 1993 edition of...



SPECIAL PEOPLE MAKE FOR A VERY SPECIAL DAY! The Detroit Area Steelheader Special People Outing on Lake Erie each June is one of the true highlights of our year!

Chuck Muer's River Crab Salmon Stakes. The weather co-operated, and 43 of the 57 Detroit Area Steelheader boats weighed in fish. The final tally saw our club weighing in 927 pounds of fish, compared to 712 pounds of fish entered by the Blue Water Sport Fishing Association, a great win for our club. The names of all 57 skippers who participated are listed elsewhere on this page. A big thank you goes to everyone who took part in the tournament, with special thanks to Don Redmond and Dick Shirk for making sure that our club's entire catch was turned in on time for the weigh-in!

May also saw a tournament at Harbor Beach. Unfortunately, fog was the name of the game for the day, as Mother Nature played havoc with our fishing. Lew Tipper put a spin on the month, with an interesting presentation at our monthly membership meeting about the fish hatchery he manages for the Benzie Area Steelheaders. The Detroit Area Steelheaders donated \$250 of our River Crab Salmon Stakes prize money to help support the efforts of the Benzie Area Steelheaders and their fish hatchery.

We had a busy month in June with both the Port Austin and Oscoda Ladies Day tournaments taking place. We also held our annual Special People outing on Lake Erie. The Monroe Intermediate School District again brought 27 mentally or physically handicapped children to Toledo Beach Marina for a morning of walleye fishing. Over 300 fish were caught, and everybody who took part had a great time. A bunch of "Thank You's"

go out to the 28 skippers and crews who donated their time, boats and expertise, Little Bill's for donating trophies, King Heart Productions for donating t-shirts for all the children, and also to anyone else I may have forgotten.

As usual, the Ladies Day tournament was another great success, thanks to the help of Jan and Doug at Fellow's Marina. We wrapped up June with Dr. Howard Tanner and Dr. Tom Coon as guest speakers at the June membership meeting. Our club also donated \$500 to the Michigan State University Fisheries Research Project headed by Dr. Tanner.

Mother Nature provided good and bad days in July and August. We managed to hold all our scheduled tournaments, but Labor Day rolled past us, and so did our 1993 Boat Trolling Tournament season with less than desirable fishing conditions.

With the arrival of Fall, Doug Karakas and the River Rats began their 1993-1994 schedule of river, pier and surf tournaments. A couple of events are still to be held between now and Spring, so I invite you to check the Coming Events on Page Three, pick one out, give Doug a call and get involved for some cold-weather fun.

In December, we had our annual Christmas Party meeting, featuring a visit from the Jolly Old Guy himself, "Salmon Claus," the popular "Cooler of Cheer" raffle, and elections for the 1994 Board of Directors. Club awards were also presented for the "Top 15 Skippers" of 1993 and the biggest fish of the year. We also said good-bye as board mem-

bers to Gene Burbary (7 years) and Mike Wkluski (3 years).

Among other individual honors, "Skipper of the Year" for 1993 went to Dave Even, after being a bridesmaid for 4 of the last 5 years. Congratulations, Dave!! We are blessed as an organization with many fine, hard-working members who are deserving of individual recognition as "Member of the Year," and for 1993 the Board of Directors chose Tom Moores to receive that honor. Thanks for all the help, Tom!

The most difficult job of the year is choosing the recipient of the "Director of the Year" award. After much consideration, I concluded that Don Redmond was the most deserving among my colleagues on the board. Running the "Cooler of Cheer" raffle, helping out at all the shows, helping co-ordinate the Spring Fishing Show, running the weigh-ins at all the Boat Trolling Tournaments, and helping out at the membership table each month are but a few of the things Don did for our club during the past year. Thanks and congratulations, Don!

— Bob Gilbert
1993 President
Detroit Area Steelheaders



DON REDMOND (left) congratulates Mark Luff, winner of the 1993 "Cooler of Cheer" Raffle.

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS 1993 RIVER CRAB SALMON STAKES HONOR ROLL

Here are the skippers who were responsible for our great victory last May 1:

Don Anton	Mark Lubowski
Hank Baczynski	Dale Luff
Bob Bowen	Greg McCann
Gene Burbary	Bob Mitchell
Chris Coffey	Tom Moores
Jack R. Dick	Paul Nowak
Roger Doyle	Chris Nytko
Robert Duran	Ed Pabicz
Myron Dzieranowski	Dean Pilat
Rodney Elnick	Rob Pinskey
Dave Even	Walt Pohorilly
Joel Garinger	Don Redmond
Joe Golaszewski	Warren Renando
Robert Golaszewski	Dave Roehr
Tim Graskewicz	Paul Schoenrade
Darwin Gregg	Al Schultz
Richard Grix	Bob Segraves
Jim Hardrick	Bill Shackleton
Ron Hartman	Dick Shirk
Edward Horen	Gary Smedes
Ron Huey	Frank Sniezak
Dick Jackson	Leon Van Eden
Edward Jaworski	Joachim Von Grebe
Les Jump	Mike Wkluski
Milt Knapp	Eric Walline
Bob Klonzek	Ed Wilczek
Kenneth Kuhar	Richard Wong
Gary Leinonen	Howard York



THE "COOLER OF CHEER" Raffle top ticket seller was Greg Zaccardelli (right). Greg is shown receiving congratulations from Board member Steve Hamilton, whose Lakeside Tackle Shops presented Greg with a \$100 gift certificate award for his outstanding...

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

In 1994, the Detroit Area Steelheaders celebrate their twentieth anniversary. In 1974, the M.S.S.F.A. Board of Directors had encouraged two of its own, John Makela and Tom Schneider, to start a chapter in the Detroit area. Joined by two other Steelheaders, Ed Raquel and Joe Sizemore, the resulting committee of four formed the Detroit Area Chapter late one night in September, 1974.

The first organizing meeting of the Detroit Area Chapter, M.S.S.F.A. (our club's original name) was held on October 16, 1974. Forty-one fishermen attended that first meeting, discussing elections, finances, committees, by-laws and, naturally, fishing. The first Annual Meeting was held on December 4, 1974, our official founding date. By the end of that first meeting, membership exceeded 100, 14 directors had been elected, and we were well on our way!

Early in 1990, we disaffiliated from the M.S.S.F.A. to better pursue our goals of promoting, preserving and improving steelhead and salmon fishing in our state. We are now known as the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc., one of the largest independent fishing clubs in Michigan, and, we believe, **THE BEST!**

Formed as part of the mid-1970's salmon and steelhead fishing boom in Michigan, the organization continues its existence by working in many ways promoting and protecting Great Lakes sportfishing. Community involvement has always been an important aspect of our club activities. Over the years, we've been involved in such activities as:

- Taking handicapped children on fishing trips (our annual Special People outings).
- Raising money for fisheries research at Michigan State University (including donating equipment, rods, reels, lures, shockers, etc.).
- Donating money for 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.



THE DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER Membership Booth is a regular sight at the winter outdoor shows. Shown here (L-r.) are Steelheaders Bill Shackleton, Don Redmond, Mike Lehto and Alice Jump at a show last winter. Stop by and talk fishing anytime!

- Participating in various conservation projects such as the annual Rouge River clean-up.
- 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 club activities, 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 for 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 all who wish to can share in the fishing fun.

Club launches 1994 New Member Drive

During February, March and April of 1994, all new members signing up will receive a FREE Detroit Area Steelheader Boat Trolling Tournament shirt.

These popular shirts list all scheduled 1994 Boat Trolling Tournament locations, along with the official Steelheader logo.

We invite everyone to come on out and join with us in our great sport of salmon and steelhead fishing in all its varied forms. For only \$25.00 per year, you'll receive:

- Fishing "Know-How"
- Trolling, River & Surf Tournaments
- Conservation Activities
- Educational Programs & Meetings
- Fisheries Research
- CREWS Program
- Fishing Camaraderie & Fun

and much more! Just fill out and mail in the form below or join in person at our show booth, or sign up when you come to a meeting. We hope to see you soon!!

Looking For A FISHING PARTNER Or Another CREW MEMBER?

Do you want to fish in the Boat Trolling Tournaments but don't have a boat?

If the answer is yes to either of these questions, make a telephone call and have your wishes come true!

CREWS Hot Line

TO SIGN UP, CONTACT —
DOUG KARAKAS: 545-1181
BILL SHACKLETON: 422-3386

CREWS HOT LINE is a Detroit Area Steelheader club service for members

COMING EVENTS

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Last Tuesday of month at 7:30 p.m. K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren

JANUARY 25, 1994 • FEBRUARY 22, 1994 • MARCH 29, 1994

January Speaker — JOHN HUNTER, Manistee River Guide

February Speaker — CRAIG SCHAAF, on Float Fishing

March Speaker — TO BE ANNOUNCED

SPECIAL STEELHEADER EVENTS

DETROIT BOAT & FISHING SHOW (Cobo Center) February 5-13

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS ANNUAL DINNER DANCE (K. of C. Hall, Warren) February 12

PONTIAC BOAT & FISHING SHOW (Silverdome) February 16-20

OUTDOORAMA (Novi Expo Center) February 25-March 6

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS LAS VEGAS NIGHT (K. of C. Hall, Warren) March 26

WINTER FISHING SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
February 5	HIGGINS LAKE — Ice Fishing	Doug Karakas, 545-1181
March 5	MANISTEE RIVER (W.A.T.A.)	Doug Karakas, 545-1181

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
April 30	RIVER CRAB (Lexington/Pt. Sanilac)	Don Redmond, 469-8344
May 14-15	ST. JOE/BENTON HARBOR (2-day)	Walt Pohorily, 755-4698
May 21	HARBOR BEACH	Chris Nytko, 254-7426
June 4	PORT AUSTIN (Team Doubles)	Ron Hartman, 542-4873
June 18	SPECIAL PEOPLE (Lk. Erie Walleye)	Tim Graskewicz, 486-5674
June 25	OSCODA (Ladies Day)	Dave Even, 981-2236
July 23	MANISTEE (Team Doubles)	Bill Shackleton, 422-3386
August 6-7	LUDINGTON (2-day)	Bob Mitchell, 828-8034
August 20	ROGERS CITY	Leon Van Eden, 293-1261
Sept. 10	FRANKFORT	Tim Graskewicz, 486-5674

Here's how to get to DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS

Monthly Membership Meetings



The DEADLINE

for the
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of
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is
JANUARY 25, 1994

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Where are the fish? An expert reveals his secrets!

There's an old saying that "90% of the fish are in 10% of the water." There is also another saying: "The most important element in catching fish is that you have to be over the fish." Easy enough. But, where are the fish? How do I find them? That is the \$64,000 question!

There are a number of aspects that have to be considered when you are trying to find the fish. First is the season. In general, salmon tend to be in the southern ends of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron in the spring, having migrated there over the winter. Through the summer, they move offshore and to the north. Eventually they reach their spawning rivers.

About ten years ago, salmon just disappeared as far as fishermen were concerned. Everyone switched over to lakers and awaited the return of the salmon in late July. At that time we concentrated our efforts near shore.

The tough fishing of the past five years has caused fishermen to venture far off shore, initially to target steelhead along the thermal bars. What we found out is that the salmon are also in deep water, and it is possible to catch them there, too.

In late July, the salmon start to mature and the urge to spawn becomes a whisper in their minds. However, the salmon don't just show up off the mouths of the rivers. This phenomenon occurs because the fish were originally from the ocean. If a salmon were to immediately move from the salt water of the ocean into the fresh water of a river flowing into the sea, it would die. They school in the mixture of salt water and fresh water to be found at river mouths, slowly getting used to the fresh water.

As they acclimatize to the fresh water, salmon undergo a transformation. They often turn dark in color as they form a protective mucous covering on their bodies. Only after the transformation is complete do the salmon enter and run up the river to spawn. When found in the Great Lakes, salmon behave the same way as they do in the ocean. No one told them they weren't in salt water!

Temperature is also a key factor in finding the salmon. In the spring, it is usually the warmest water that holds the fish. As the lakes warm up from the mid-30's into the 40's, there are pockets of water to be found that are warmer than the surrounding water. These may be near shore, at the mouth of a river or creek, or at the discharge of a power plant. Regardless of where they're found, these warm water pockets hold bait fish, and salmon anxious to feed upon them.

As previously noted, when the waters warm, the fish move north and offshore. Good places to look are thermal bars where the surface water changes temperature by a couple of degrees. The best are where you find a narrow band of 54° F water on the surface. Often this band will exhibit a "scum line" that makes finding it easier. In early summer, this thermal bar may be five to 30 miles off shore. The fishing there can be great



AUTHOR BOB MITCHELL proudly hefts a 29-pound money tournament winner taken at Rogers City last summer. Joining Bob in the post-tourney celebration are crew members (l-r) Dick Shirk, Dave Even, Ray Even and George Richey.

and is usually quite shallow, the upper 25 feet or so. Steelhead are also present in great numbers. Eventually, the warm water from one side meets the other side of the lake and the bar disappears.

Once the salmon return to shallower water (less than 200'), temperature can still play an active role in finding the fish. Again, 54° F is the key. That's the temperature at which water undergoes physical changes in density. This causes it to layer, with colder water below, warmer above, and a rapid change in temperature over a band of from 5'-20'. Find this band with a temperature probe and you have a major key in trying to locate fish. The fish may be above or below the band, but the odds are that they and the bait fish will be near it. One trusty old standby tactic is to find the depth of water that is 54° F, add 15 feet to the depth and start fishing there. It's amazing how often that works.

For lake trout, the rule is to find where 48° F water intersects with the bottom and start fishing there. These tips are not guarantees by any means, just good starting points.

Salmon are eating machines. If you want to find weighty people, go to a buffet. If you want to find weighty kings, go to their 'snack bar': schools of bait fish. You will sometimes find schools of bait fish where there are no salmon. You will almost never find salmon where there are no bait fish. If you graph bait fish, it's worth looking around some more. If the buffet is bare, the people leave. When the 'snack bar' is empty, so do the salmon.

As we come to know more about salmon, it is becoming increasingly apparent that they relate to structure on the bottom, and also to water currents. Think about the great salmon ports on Lake Michigan and Lake Huron and you will notice a common factor with all of

them: structure. The Point at Ludington, the Herring Hole at Frankfort, the area around the Nordmar wreck off Rockport, the Grindstone Reef. All these areas have tremendous structure, and they consistently hold fish because of their structure. Structure is the key to finding salmon.

Another kind of structure or break is the current. Currents are still one of the mysteries of salmon fishing. We do know that they are important in determining where salmon are, but there is much still to learn. At this point, I can only say that if you find a deep current, check it out. Also, be very careful how you fish it. Remember, if you are fishing in the same direction as a deep current, you need to go faster to ensure that your baits are running at optimum speed. If you fish against it, slow down. The angle of your cables will provide a clue to speed and current.

Of course, there are other ways to find fish. There is the "bait shop report" method. Some are good, some aren't. One of the best sources of information is from guys fishing for a living, the charter boats. They generally fish every day and follow the schools. Their information and/or presence is a positive sign. Just be courteous and stay out of their way. You are fishing the fish they led you to, not "your" fish. Also, be sure to stay wide of them, as they often have less ability to maneuver, and frequently run long lines. Last time I checked, there was plenty of lake out there for us all.

Lastly, the radio can be a good source of information. Don't become a 'radio runner', picking up your lines and running every time someone catches a fish. Often you will get there after the action stops anyway. But if you are not catching fish and several other boats are reporting good action not far away from you, don't just keep on doing what you're doing. Go there!

As pointed out earlier, there is no surefire way to catch fish all the time. But get over the fish and your odds will improve in finding that 10% we're all after.

Good fishing!

— Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"

Tasty uses for your salmon & trout

In response to the many questions I get about canning and smoking salmon and trout, here are some recipes to try.

CANNING

To can salmon, steelhead, or lake trout (thawed frozen fish or freshly caught) use wide-mouth pint jars, which seem to work best. Inspect jar rims for cracks and chips; wash and rinse thoroughly. Cut fish into chunks sized to fit the jars. No need to remove any bones, as they'll soften during canning. Pack each jar with fish chunks to within 1/4"-1" of the top, and add 1/2 tsp. Kosher or pickling salt and 1 1/2 tsp. ketchup. Wipe off jar lids, place on jars, and screw rings on snugly. Process in a pressure cooker canner for 110 minutes at 10 pounds of pressure.

NOODLE CASSEROLE

Now that you've canned your fish, here's a recipe for using some of that good stuff.

2 1/2-3 cups of cooked noodles
1 pint jar salmon, lake trout or steelhead
1 can (6-oz.) cream of mushroom, cream of celery or cream of chicken soup thinned with 1/2-3/4 cup milk
1/2 cup frozen peas (optional)
Mix all ingredients together, put into casserole dish and level off top. Sprinkle bread crumbs on top (I use Progresso Italian) and drizzle 1/2 stick of melted butter or margarine over the top. Bake at 350° F until golden brown.

SMOKING

Here's the brine recipe I used at last year's Spring Fishing Show that was so popular.

1 gallon water
1 cup brown sugar
1 tsp. lemon pepper
1 cup soy sauce
1 cup non-iodized salt
1 tsp. garlic powder
1/2-1 tsp. Tabasco sauce
1 bay leaf

Maple syrup (for basting only)

Mix all ingredients (except maple syrup) and stir until dissolved. Brines should be mixed thoroughly in glass, crockery or plastic containers — DO NOT USE wooden or aluminum containers! Immerse fish flesh completely in brine, and stir or rearrange fish in the solution occasionally. Keep brines as cool as possible. Chunks 1" thick or more need 8-12 hours (or overnight) in the brine.



DON REDMOND holds a lake trout that will be weighable in 1994 for the first time. Though less than 18" long, it weighs over 3 pounds.

Filets to 1/2" thick require about 4 hours, and small whole fish or very thin pieces need about 2-4 hours. After brining, rinse the fish lightly in cool water and allow to air dry for about 1 hour before placing in smoker. You'll notice a glossy look to the flesh when it's dry. This is called "pellicle" and its formation on the flesh surface is important.

Smoke the fish using 1 to 3 pans of wood chips. I use Chips-N-Chunks by Luhr Jensen in a Totem smoker. I prefer to use a 50-50 mixture of apple and alder chips. Smoking will take anywhere from 2-12 hours, depending on the thickness of the flesh and the degree of doneness you desire — check the flesh periodically to get it right. Baste about 2 hours into the smoking process.

The above method is adapted from the Luhr Jensen Smoking Book. Feel free to try your own adaptations once you have a little experience. I hope this article will help you make good use of all your salmon, steelhead and lake trout catches.

— Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"

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Getting started in salmon fishing: Here's what you need to know about equipment!

You just went on your first salmon/steelhead charter, or you got a chance to crew on a buddy's boat, and now the bug has bitten you. You say to yourself, "I want to fish for salmon on my own!" More likely than not, right after thinking that, this thought crosses your mind: What do I need to get started?

To fish for salmon and trout on the Great Lakes requires specialized equipment. Sure, you can catch a salmon on bass or walleye gear, but sooner or later you'll go toe to toe with a big king and he'll give you a first-hand, no-holds-barred lesson on tackle! If you just go out and buy the cheapest stuff you can find, it will cost you more in the long run than buying the proper equipment. Find out and acquire the "right stuff" at the beginning, and you will be better off.

RODS

Let's start with rods and reels. For salmon, lake trout and steelhead on the Big Lakes, you need big equipment. Most Steelheaders use rods that are about 8' 6" in length. Plan to buy four to six graphite rods from a reputable manufacturer. The preferred action should be light to medium. My personal favorite is a Shakespeare Ugly Stick, but they will cost you about \$50 each. You can buy adequate rods for about half that if you shop around, and you may even find some on clearance for less than \$20 each.

REELS

Buy good reels. A big king can easily steal all your line off a cheap reel, burning up the drag in the process. Good reels will probably cost about \$50 each. I'd suggest the Daiwa #47H, the Shimano #GT 2000, or the Penn #GTI 320. Cheaper reels are often hard on your line, too. A lot of guys buy Penn #200 reels, but they have a bad habit of allowing the line to get between the spool and the frame and then cutting it! Buy cheap reels to start, and when you eventually decide you need good ones, the cheapies will be worthless. Buy good reels, and if you later decide to go back to bluegill fishing, someone will buy them from you. In the end, good reels are the least costly way to go.

LINE

Use fresh line. I spool new line every year. That might seem like overkill, but in the overall scheme of things, new line each year is cheap. Buy a bulk spool of a brand-name line: Stren, Berkley Trilene XT, Ande, or Silver Thread. Most guys use 20-pound test. I occasionally go to 17-pound, and I will use 30-pound test on Dipsey Divers. It's really easy to see where your lines are with the heavier weight. For the past year, I've been testing the new Spectra braided lines. They are 75-pound test with the diameter of 25-pound test monofilament. I found I really like them with the Dipsey Divers; some other



IT'S ALWAYS GREAT TO BE A DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER! So says Gary Leinonen and his "Fishin' Finn" crew, shown here at last year's St. Joseph/Benton Harbor tournament. Gary notes that some days the fishing is better than on others, but you can always count on having a good time at a Detroit Area Steelheader outing!!

guys don't. Stay tuned.

LURES

There is no place where guys seem to waste more money than in buying lures. I see fellows with tackle boxes stuffed full of "secret" lures that were used once and have been rusting away in the box ever since. Don't buy cheap lures, they'll sit in your tackle box. It's better to spend \$3.00 per spoon on proven lures than to spend \$1.50 on a spoon you'll never use.

Spoons

Spoons are the most versatile lures. I have great confidence in several different manufacturers and their spoon lines. I would recommend Silver Streaks, NK47's, or Northport Nailers. Pro spoons are favored by a number of Steelheaders. The Silver Streaks and NK's are silver-plated, which is important, especially if you are fishing deep. Silver reflects blue light better than chrome, and blue light penetrates deeper than other colors.

Spoons run best at a specific speed. Different brands often run best at different speeds. For that reason, it's best to stick with one or two brands and buy a variety of colors, rather than mixing and matching different brands. Otherwise, you will be fishing one brand of spoon at its optimum speed, and another brand or brands at something other than ideal speed. For colors, I suggest silver spoons accented with greens and/or yellows as your first choice. Be sure to include reds or or-

anges if you plan to target steelhead. A couple of blacks and white/pearls ought to round out your spoon selections nicely.

Plugs

The next group of lures to consider is plugs. These are used mainly in the spring, when fishing shallow. If you have walleye baits such as Rapalas, they will suffice. If not, make a selection of Long A Bombers. You never know what colors will be hot, but chartreuse, pearl, Wonderbread (white with multi-colored dots) and gold with orange back are good for starters. Remove the front hook and they will snag less on the bottom. Hot-N-Tots are also a good choice. Magnums or regular sizes in silver plate or gold plate are great lures! They come with black, orange or chartreuse backs.

For the fall, you may want to try some J-Plugs. They have lost some popularity recently, but they do work well in August and September for big kings. Try chrome #4 Silver Bullets, gold plate, or lime green. For fishing the pier heads, I suggest a black J-Plug or two. Keep your eyes open. You can often find J-Plugs for \$2.00 compared to the \$5.00 they used to cost. I have faith in J-Plugs because they are used by West Coast commercial fishermen — they still work!

"Junk"

The last category of lures is called "junk." These are lures and attractors you will need for mid-summer lake trout fishing, and for

really deep (80'-100') kings. There are a number of popular specialized rigs, but the Number One rig is the dodger and squid combination. My first choice is the Luhr Jensen chrome fluted dodger in the "0" size. White dodgers with pearl tape are also good. The best squid is Richey's Michigan Glow Squid. That combination will work 90% of the time! You can buy lots of other colors of dodgers and SQUIDS, but I bet you'll end up running that combination most of the time.

Another lure to get to run behind dodgers for lake trout is the Spin-N-Glow. Get the big ones in chartreuse/red, white with dots, or green chrome. Lastly, cow bells sometimes out-produce dodgers. I like the big ones (J's and N's) trolled at a speed of 1 knot.

MISCELLANEOUS

You'll still need some other miscellaneous items. Buy a supply of quality swivel snaps. Don't try to save 50 cents on swivels only to end up losing \$10.00 worth of lures! Buy various sizes of rubber core sinkers to use with flat lines. Be sure to check each sinker to be certain it does not have a sharp edge that can nick or cut your line. Get a couple of Dipsey Divers, the big ones. They will add to your ability to run more lines, and sometimes they are the hot set-up.

This list will get you started. Talk to the other guys in the club. Have them point out their "hot" colors, etc. Get ready now... that big king is out there waiting to take you on! Good fishing!

— Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"

Club secures co-op agreement with Boat/U.S.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders now have a Co-operating Group Accord with Boat/U.S. Under the accord, any Detroit Area Steelhead member joining Boat/U.S., or renewing membership, will receive 50% off the regular annual dues of \$17.00. You must use the club's group number (available from any board member) when you sign up with Boat/U.S. Just mail in your renewal form, or visit the local office at 2214 E. 14 Mile Road, Warren (939-5050).

Boat/U.S. offers a wide array of boating equipment, and special services which can really help boat owners. Some of the services offered include: marine insurance, boat financing, price guarantees on boating equipment, towing reimbursement, etc.

In addition to equipment and services for the boater, Boat/U.S. is now the strongest voice in Washington, D. C. protecting boater interests, something that likely will become more important in the future.

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Looking ahead to the '94 tourney season

Now that the '93 season has come and gone, it's time to look forward to 1994. The boat trolling tournament committee has come up with what should be an excellent schedule for the upcoming season.

Our first outing of the year will be the River Crab Salmon Stakes on April 30. Not only does this tournament help a good cause, but the prize to the club which weighs in the most fish sure comes in handy. The River Crab tourney traditionally has featured the greatest participation by our club members, and we certainly hope to see another big turnout of Detroit Area Steelheaders at this year's event.

The second stop of the year will be St. Joseph/Benton Harbor on the weekend of May 14-15. Although coho salmon are the main target here at this time of year, the chance for some early spring kings and steelhead make this an exciting event. The warm-water discharge off the Cook Nuclear Power Plant will usually hold fish. Also try the junk cars and chalets to the south, or north toward the clay banks.

Our next tournament will be at the popular port of Harbor Beach, on May 21. This port



ROB PINSKEY and other interested Detroit Area Steelheaders look on as a Michigan Department of Natural Resources officer records vital statistics from a nice fish caught at last summer's Ladies Day tournament.

can serve up some exciting fishing, especially for kings. The reefs off Harbor Beach hold a lot of bait fish, and that should keep the salmon nearby. Areas to try are off the cemetery and White Rock to the south, or north toward Port Hope.

The weekend of June 4 will find up the road at Port Austin pounding the reefs up there for lake trout. Keep a couple of baits up high for those occasional kings and steelhead, too. Also, don't forget to stay over for the Team Doubles event on Sunday.

The annual Ladies Day Tournament will be held on June 25, based at Fellows Marina at Oscoda. The ladies get an opportunity to display not only their fishing skills, but also their culinary arts. The traditional meal following the weigh-in here is one you won't soon forget!

Next we go off to Manistee on July 23. One of the nice things about this location is that when a fish hits, you never know what's on the other end of your line. Not only does this port offer excellent king and lake trout fishing, but its coho, steelhead and brown trout fisheries are second to none. There'll

also be a Team Doubles tourney on Sunday, so plan to stick around.

The port of Ludington on August 6-7 is always a big favorite with our club. Mixed bag catches off the Project to the south, or north toward the Bath House and the Point usually make this a hot, well-attended tournament. The Saturday evening beach barbecue is also always well-attended.

For those of you who like big kings (and you know who you are!), Rogers City on August 20 is next on the tournament trail. We expect the "Big Kings" should be there to deliver plenty of fine-rippin' action! Don't miss it!!

Our final outing of the year will see us at the beautiful port of Frankfort. Good catches of coho should be available at the Hearing Hole south, or toward the Point and Platt Bay to the north. It's a great spot for our season finale.

It looks as though 1994 is going to be a great year. We hope you'll be able to make all or most of our great tournament line-up. Good luck to all, and have a safe season.

— Mike Wakulski

BIG FISH STANDINGS

1993 Season

STEELHEAD

Ron Huey 16 lbs., 4 oz.
Don Anton 13 lbs., 4 oz.
Chris Nytko 12 lbs., 13 oz.

KING SALMON

Tom Moores 27 lbs., 4 oz.
Leon Van Eden 26 lbs.
Bob Mitchell 24 lbs., 8 oz.

LAKE TROUT

Jimmy Hardrick 18 lbs., 6 oz.
Rob Pinskey 15 lbs., 15 oz.
Bob Mitchell 15 lbs., 12 oz.

COHO SALMON

Tom Moores 11 lbs., 14 oz.
Joe Golaszewski 11 lbs., 3 oz.
Paul Schoenrade 11 lbs., 3 oz.

BROWN TROUT

Joe Golaszewski 6 lbs., 15 oz.
Bob Edwards 6 lbs., 3 oz.
Howard York 5 lbs., 13 oz.



AUTHOR MIKE WAKULSKI and crew members Cindy Wakulski and Pat Wakulski show off a nice catch at one of last summer's tournaments.



MIKE & FRAN CHIMELAK proudly show off the beautiful and delicious cake they donate each year for the picnic following the Ladies Day tournament.

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CONGRATULATIONS, DAVE EVEN!! After coming close several times, past club president Dave Even (right) is shown happily accepting his 1993 "Skipper of the Year" award from President Bob Gilbert. Dave proved that persistence really does pay!!

Detroit Area Steelheaders "Top Five" Skippers 1976-1993

1993	1984	
1)..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"	1)..... Bob Kanas, "Least Likely"	
2)..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"	2)..... Ed Choiniski, "Kneeknocker"	
3)..... Joe Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"	3)..... Darrin Harris, "Cannonball"	
4)..... Leon Van Eden, "Bullhead"	4)..... Bob Ksionzek, "Last Dime"	
5)..... Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"	5)..... Mike Zelkowski, "Elvira"	
1992	1983	
1)..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"	1)..... Gerry Ciurzenski, "Jawbuster"	
2)..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"	2)..... Mike Boroniec, "Horsefly"	
3)..... Tom Moores, "Karefree"	3)..... R. J. Branham, "Seahawk"	
4)..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"	4)..... Bob Kozar, "Snowman"	
5)..... Mike Wakulski, "Wet Paint"	5)..... Ed Yankoski II, "Least Likely"	
1991	1982	
1)..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"	1)..... Brian Glaser, "Least Likely"	
2)..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"	2)..... Toby Lampi, "Jessie III"	
3)..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"	3)..... Mike Curzenski, "Nooner"	
4)..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"	4)..... Bob Kring, "Drifter"	
5)..... Joe Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"	5)..... R. J. Branham, "Seahawk"	
1990	1981	
1)..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"	1)..... Bob Kring, "Drifter"	
2)..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"	2)..... Toby Lampi, "Jessie III"	
3)..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"	3)..... Bob Kanas, "Least Likely"	
4)..... Rob Pinskey, "Anticipation"	4)..... Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"	
5)..... Mike Wakulski, "Wet Paint"	5)..... Jewell Harris, "Cannonball"	
1989	1980	
1)..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"	1)..... Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"	
2)..... Steve Banovic, "Exaggerator"	2)..... Terry Cholette, "Fishing Fever"	
3)..... Ron Huey, "Half R's"	3)..... Toby Lampi, "Jessie III"	
4)..... Ron Hartman, "Molly Frail"	4)..... Randy Cope, "Ouzo Too"	
5)..... Don Anton, "Happy Bare"	5)..... Ed Yankoski II, "Least Likely"	
1988	1979	
1)..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"	1)..... Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"	
2)..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"	2)..... Howard Mills, "Paramour"	
3)..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"	3)..... Larry Atwell, "Cobra"	
4)..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"	4)..... Jim Treadaway, "Okie Drifter"	
5)..... Steve Banovic, "Exaggerator"	5)..... Bob Kring, "Drifter"	
1987	1978	
1)..... Greg Clifford, "Outlaw"	1)..... Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"	
2)..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"	Complete standings for 1978 are unavailable	
3)..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"	1977	
4)..... Steve Banovic, "Exaggerator"	1)..... Chuck Cartwright, "Tuna Boat"	
5)..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"	2)..... John Makela, "Sisu"	
1986	3)..... Murrell Blackburn, "Fish'n 5"	
1)..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"	4)..... Bob Kring, "Drifter"	
2)..... Greg Clifford, "Outlaw"	5)..... Larry Atwell, "Cobra"	
3)..... Chuck Wood, "Predator"	1976	
4)..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"	1)..... John Makela, "Sisu"	
5)..... Blaise Pewinski, "Sea Hag"	2)..... Murrell Blackburn, "Fish'n 5"	
1985	3)..... Chuck Cartwright, "Tuna Boat"	
1)..... Darrin Harris, "Cannonball"	4)..... Paul Irvine (boat name unavailable)	
2)..... Joel Garinger, "Fishbusters"	5)..... Steve Hamilton, "Valhalla"	
3)..... Bruce Choiniski, "Kneeknocker"		
4)..... Tom Chojnowski, "Sea Con"		
5)..... Ed McIntosh, "Sweet Lorraine"		

1993 "Skipper of the Year"

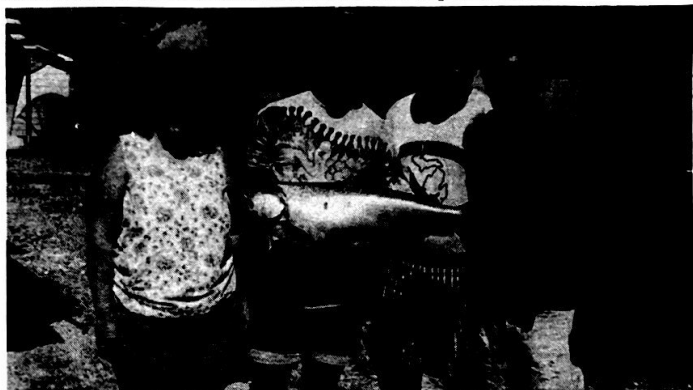
(FINAL STANDINGS - BEST 6 OF 9)

PLACE/SKIPPER	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	TOT.
1) DAVE EVEN	50	5	50	7	3	5	2	2	50	24
2) DON REDMOND	50	8	4	8	2	7	5	10	8	34
3) JOE GOLASZEWSKI	7	20	8	15	4	1	15	3	50	38*
4) LEON VAN EDEN	75	43	50	5	13	2	10	1	7	38*
5) CHRIS NYTKO	10	22	50	16	10	75	6	11	4	57
6) DON ANTON	4	9	50	9	75	12	17	7	50	58
7) RON HARTMAN	50	17	50	10	17	4	18	13	5	66*
8) LES JUMP	12	30	3	75	50	8	12	75	1	66*
9) JIM HARDRICK	15	32	5	6	75	9	19	14	75	68
10) BOB MITCHELL	50	19	75	1	50	75	1	4	2	77
11) WALT POHORILY	8	2	75	50	16	3	7	75	75	86
12) DICK SHIRK	75	16	7	4	50	18	75	8	75	103
13) ED WILCZEK	50	28	1	12	9	75	75	21	50	121
14) KEN KUCHAR	50	21	50	50	7	11	13	20	50	122
15) RON HUEY	3	7	75	75	75	13	3	50	50	126
16) DAVE ROEHR	9	38	6	50	50	16	75	19	50	138
17) MIKE WAKULSKI	50	50	50	3	8	75	16	12	50	139
18) TOM MOORES	50	25	9	75	75	75	9	6	50	149
19) BOB BRESSLER	13	75	50	50	15	17	75	24	50	169
20) DOUG KARAKAS	2	75	50	50	14	6	75	75	50	172
21) PAUL SCHOENRADE	50	12	50	75	75	14	75	5	50	181
22) MARK LUBOWSKI	6	10	75	14	75	75	11	75	75	191
23) HANK BACZYNSKI	50	50	50	13	11	75	50	75	75	224

* = See Rule III-G 50 = See Rule IV-E 75 = See Rule IV-F
A = St. Joseph B = River Crab C = Harbor Beach D = Port Austin E = Oscoda
F = Manistee G = Presque Isle H = Ludington I = Frankfort



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22ND PLACE: MARK LUBOWSKI and his "Big Intention" crew!

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Other areas that are comparable? Where? The Pacific Northwest? Not hardly. Northern Canada? Every weekend or any Sunday for less than a day's wages? No way. Alaska? The limit is two Chinook per angler per season. Europe or Asia? There, it's strictly a sport for the rich if not famous.

Now comes Lake Michigan, which continues to give up some of its huge fish lazily swimming the waters off our front door. Jim Montgomery of Sparta, Michigan is one angler who can prove it.

Montgomery has had pretty good luck fishing for salmon over the years, but he had

Michigan near the mouth of the Muskegon Channel. The male salmon weighed 42 pounds, 15 ounces, measured 46 inches long, with a girth of 29 inches.

Montgomery was fishing alone from his 16-foot aluminum boat. He said he has been fishing for salmon since 1968.

Earlier last summer, a 27-pound lake trout was taken off Chicago's lakefront, and on July 10 a new freshwater world's record 30-pound, 4-ounce steelhead was caught in Lake Michigan off Waukegan, Illinois. You can also throw in some 30- and 40-pound Chinooks caught further north in Lake Michigan.

Who hasn't heard of the fabulous fishing in Minnesota, or the equally great walleye and smallmouth bass fishing in Lake Erie? Walleyes of 10-12 pounds are common there, 13-pound lunkers are not rare, and then there is that new smallmouth record of 9 pounds, 8 ounces caught in Lake Erie last June 16 off Port Clinton, Ohio.

Remember the new Great Lakes Chinook record catch of 47-pounds, 13 ounces caught on September 7, 1991 in New York's Salmon River? That same year, New York's ESLO derby alone produced 31 Chinooks over 35 pounds. New York boasts many more salmon



RON HUEY (L) AND HIS "HALF R'S" CREW of Bill Shelton, Ed Sohacki and Ray Glime took this Great Lakes beauty at a Detroit Area Steelheader tourney last summer.

never seen anything like this nearly 4-foot-long, 43-pound Chinook he caught late last August. Apparently, neither have state officials, who say he has caught what appears to be the largest salmon hooked on rod and reel in Michigan history.

"To the best of my knowledge, that's the heaviest salmon ever taken by trolling on Michigan waters," said John Trimberger, a fisheries biologist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.). The only other certified salmon that approaches Montgomery's trophy is a 42-pounder caught by a troller in Emmet County, according to D.N.R. records. The current state record for salmon is a 46-pound Chinook snagged in the Grand River in 1978, when snagging was legal.

Montgomery caught his giant in Lake

in the 30- to 40-pound range.

All this notwithstanding, New York's commissioner Tom Jorling is stretching the facts a bit when he says "outside the Pacific Northwest, New York State's Lake Ontario waters provide the only opportunity in the United States to catch salmon weighing 30 pounds or more." Not quite so, Commissioner!

Initially stocked by Wisconsin in the Root River, and now widely stocked by other state Natural Resource departments, the "Seeforellen" strain of brown trout will undoubtedly soon produce a new world's record out of the Great Lakes.

Promote and protect this fishery, fellow anglers, for it is the best Mother Nature has to offer us, and it's right at our back door!

From the Great Lakes Basin Report, September 15, 1993

"THE STEELHEADER"

As cold beats down from merciless skies, and a cool canyon breeze blows rain in his eyes;

There stands the Steelheader, soaked to the skin, in hopes that a fresh run of fish has come in.

The stream has some color as it rushes along, requiring lots of lead for the current is strong.

The man makes his cast at the top of a drift, and holds his pole high as comes down so swift.

It bumps and it thumps over cobble and hole, he feels every action through the tip of his pole.

It stops and he jerks! Is it one for the bag? No, the lead found a crack, it was only a snag.

The line is much lighter for the lead weight is gone, he retrieved his line to quickly put more lead on.

The eggs hang so limply all bundled in yarn, they're losing their color and getting quite torn.

He ties on more lead with hands that are numb, then loses his balance, gets the hook in his thumb.

The thumb bleeds quite freely as hook is extracted, thanked God for the numbness as he calmly reacted.

He went back to fishing with new lead and eggs, got ready for casting as he steadied his legs.

The bait fell exactly where past fish had hit, as it bumped and slid through the hole, nothing bit.

Oh, why won't fish bite? The phase of the moon? Should he try something brighter like spinner or spoon?

He put on a Steelie and cast in the hole, hit a tree limb and busted his pole. This true Steelheader wasn't discouraged by this, got his spare tip and continued to fish.

With persistence like that, his luck had to change, he cast out his lure but misjudged the range.

Got hooked on a limb hanging over the stream, smiled calmly then let out a scream.

That scream was so loud that the morning air shook, he broke off his lure and replaced his hook.

He started a drift through the hole fast and deep. With that scream, how could any fish sleep?

He felt a slight tug as his line stopped its travel, gave a big jerk, and out of the gravel a big silver streak leaped high in the air, that big ironhead had accepted the dare.

To grab the man's hook as it went through the hole, and now with a lunge it bent the man's pole.

Swam down the stream as swift as an eel, the line fed out quickly at the scream of his reel.

The fish swirled and jumped and twisted in flight, the hook was set well and the drag was just right.

At last it was tired, but indeed, so was he, his body was shaking, especially his knee.

The fish slowly surfaced and laid on its side, he pulled it in slowly to a place he could slide

The fish on the bank, what a beautiful sight, the troubles seemed worth it at the end of the fight.

The fish hardly wiggled till its head hit the sand, then exploded and jumped and escaped his quick hand.

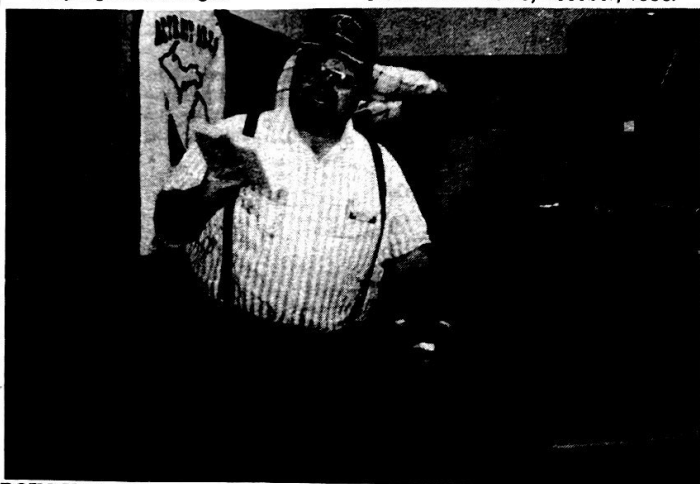
The line gave a snap as the fish gave a flip, then went for deep water with hook in his lip.

Now a true Steelheader doesn't waver from his goal, so he packed up his gear and fished the next hole.

— Charles K. Ashbaker

Gaston, Oregon

Reprinted from the Central U.P. Steelheader News, December, 1986.



DOUG KARAKAS, River Tournament Chairman and one of the most ardent "River Rats" to be found in the ranks of the Detroit Area Steelheaders, knows first-hand the joys and sorrows expressed in the poem above. Doug urges all club members to give river steelheading a try, especially at the upcoming W.A.T.A. tournament in March

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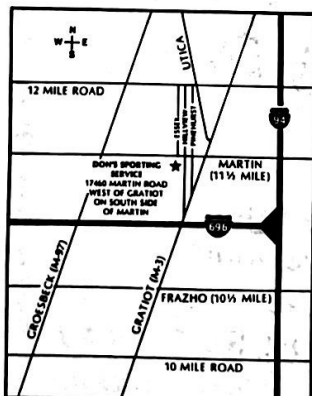
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POACHING

Late fall trolling for steelhead

Steelhead are one of the most challenging and fun species of fish to catch in Michigan. One of the simplest and most productive ways to catch them is to troll with a small boat in any of several 'rivermouth' lakes along the Lake Michigan shoreline from late October to early December.

Catches of several seven- to 15-pound acrobatic silvery steelhead in a day are common when the conditions are right.

It is not hard to give this action a try. First, you need access to a small boat in the 12'-17' range. You need to be able to troll in it at speeds of two miles per hour or less. Some people use an electric trolling motor, or even row the boat.

Next you'll need two or more rods and reels. Line strength is not crucial so long as you have the more limber type of rod to use with the lighter lines. If running two rods, longer rods will help spread your lines further out to the sides.

The predominant lures to use for this fishery are small Rapalas, size #7, in orange and gold. I like to tie them to a loop knot, or use a lightweight rounded snap. Junior Thundersticks made by Storm are the same size and seem to work equally well. For variety, you can experiment with color somewhat. Some colors that have produced some success using this method include purple and orange, chrome, fire tiger, gold, red, and pearl. I'm sure other colors will work, but orange and gold and the reds are definitely the most consistent steelhead takers.

Although most steelhead are taken on the Rapala-type surface lures, fish are also taken on several of the diving lures, such as Hot-N-Tots, Hot Shots, and Deep Junior Thundersticks. If you are able to troll really slow or are able to turn off the motor and row, the other lure to try is the Flatfish, in the same colors mentioned above.

One method of running these lures is simply to let them run back 75 feet or more as flat lines, with the rods firmly in holders. Position two rods out to each side, and if you prefer, run a diving lure at a lesser distance down the middle. If you happen to have the equipment, you could also use a planer board or in-line planers to spread the lines further apart, or to run more lines. Experiment with speed and turns in the slow speed range and repeat whatever produces fish.

Don't forget to dress as though you are going ice fishing without a shanty. I usually wear two pairs of polypropylene or Therman long underwear, a thick wool shirt, polypropylene socks under heavy wool socks, felt pack boots, a scarf or turtleneck undergarment, a raggy wool hat and a one-piece Gore-Tex/Thinsulate suit with a hood. Wool gloves (with a back-up pair) and a hand warmer to revive wet hands complete my weather protection.

I think it is very important to have a chart of the lake you are fishing. This will help you



AUTHOR MIKE LEHTO shows off another beautiful example of 'rivermouth lake' steelhead!

avoid losing lures to radical depth changes. I would recommend that you avoid using the diving lures until you learn where the shallow spots are located.

Don't forget to include a long-handled net, fish bonker and needle nose pliers among your equipment array. Optional aids, should you happen to already own them, would include a depth finder and speed indicator.

My favorite place for this kind of fishing is Manistee Lake. One place to stay is the Moon-Lite Motel. You can get a free boat slip with your room, and you can fish right in front of the motel, in the area where the Big Manistee River enters the lake. Every time there, we catch fish from a new spot. Another option is the five- or six-mile run to the south end of the lake where the Little Manistee River empties into the lake.

Another good place to try is Betsie Lake in Frankfort. This is a much smaller lake to fish than Manistee Lake, but that can be an advantage since the fish are more concentrated when they are present in the lake.

Other places to try using the methods described above include Pere Marquette Lake at Ludington, Pentwater Lake, White Lake, and Muskegon Lake.

With prudent use, the ever-more-successful offshore trolling in Lake Michigan won't eliminate the productivity of this simple, accessible 'rivermouth' lake fishery. Why not give it a try?

Good luck and good fishing!

— Mike Lehto

Did you ever have one of those days??

When we plan a fishing trip, we are usually expecting the best, but once in a while, well, the trip just doesn't go exactly as we had planned. I think the best way to relate this point is with some excerpts from my fishing log....

• • •

Date — July 5, 1985.

Place — St. Clair River.

Crew — Alice, Andrea, Wendy.

Boat — Alice's Angler.

Weather — Wind out of southeast fairly strong, moving more southerly. Waves increased as wind moved southward. Sunny and warm.

Fishing Conditions — We were drifting for walleyes. The first time out, Alice couldn't take the waves, so we came back in and dropped her off on shore. Anyway, the fish hadn't been biting. On the way out the second time, I wasn't completely untied at the stern and ended up running the boat into the dock and busting off the "Steury" logo on my boat's stern. Then, to make matters worse, within a minute of that event, while throttling up, the drive shaft on my engine sheared completely in two as we were heading out! It was a truly miserable day!!

Baits — Mr. Twisters with a regular walleye rig.

Results — No fish, a broken motor, and a broken heart.

Total Estimated Catch Weight — Zero pounds.

• • •

Date — August 24, 1985.

Place — Detroit Area Steelheaders Grand Haven Tournament.

Crew — Marv, Tommy.

Boat — Alice's Angler.

Weather — Foggy and very overcast. It looked threatening, with thunderstorms expected for the afternoon. The lake was fairly calm, with waves 1 to 2 feet.

Fishing Conditions — We started out in the fog around the harbor. There, the visibility was perhaps 100 feet or less. When we got about a half-mile out, we were away from the fog. The visibility was fine as long as we stayed out. We banged a 3-pounder and a 4-pounder, in 80' and 120' of water respectively. For the 10:00 a.m. Fish Call, we had one in the box.

After we got the second fish, things started looking darker. Then we heard a report of lightning on the radio. I decided to pull lines and head in. We knew that we had to head east, but we didn't know for sure if we should go north or south. We felt that we were south of the harbor, so we decided to head north. It turned out that, fortunately, that we headed in the right direction, since we saw other boats heading the same way.

The weather got worse, and conditions were starting to get bad. Wind and waves were kicking up, and rain and hail were coming down. About this time, we still didn't

have an eye on the harbor, but we spotted a big charter boat and started following him. The only way to see was to stick my head and body through the walk-through window and steer from there. By now it was raining hard and the wind was really gusty.

We kept faith that the charter boat knew what he was doing, and continue to follow him as we got drenched. Finally, we could hear the fog horn at the harbor and we caught a glimpse of the pier heads. We were safe inside the breakwater after coming through the worst weather I've ever been in.

Baits — Silver and gold hammered Sutton Spoons.

Results — Two kings (3 pounds and 4 pounds).

Total Estimated Catch Weight — 7 pounds.

• • •

Date — May 24, 1986

Place — Harbor Beach



AUTHOR LES JUMP (L) and "Alice's Angler" crew members **Bob Bauman** and **Larry Hantz** enjoyed some success at Harbor Beach last year.

Crew — Jesse

Boat — Alice's Angler

Weather — Foggy at first, lifting at about 1:00 p.m. It was sunny, and later cloudy and hazy. It was a changeable day, but excellent compared to the previous rainy week. The water started out dead calm, then the wind and waves kicked up. The wind was coming from the northeast, with the waves at about 1 1/2 feet. A short time after the fog rose, it calmed right down again.

Fishing Conditions — We went south about 2 miles and set lines over about 55 feet of water. We had heard that about 10 miles south was where the action had been, so we headed south. I ran the old reliable Bomber Dots off the corners 35 feet and 30 feet down. On top of those, I ran "sliders" with spoons. Off the long arms, I ran spoons, thinking that it might be too late for body baits at that time of year.

After less than 30 minutes the rod with the Bomber Dot went off and the story was told. This rod was set down 35 feet and we were over about 55 feet of water. I grabbed the rod and really got into the fish. It earned every inch of the 100 yards or so of line it peeled off the reel. I wanted to keep good tension on the fish, while trying not to 'horse' it. We had already lost some good fish hooked with body baits due to hooks bending and giving way. Another factor was that I wanted the fish to be good and tired when I got it up to the boat. Finally, I wanted to enjoy the fight under near-ideal conditions.

I was talking to Jesse, telling him what a good fish I had and trying to let him know what to expect. How can you really verbalize this situation to someone who has not experienced it before? It's like trying to tell some-

Continued on Page 12...J

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They laughed at my nylons . . .

Years ago, while day-dreaming about an upcoming Chinook salmon fishing trip, I visualized a list of all the equipment needed in order to bring home one or two of those prized king salmon.

I decided that a written check list would prevent any forgetfulness.

Included among the major items needed to have a chance to be successful were:

- ✓ Rods
- ✓ Reels
- ✓ Flies
- ✓ Net
- ✓ Plastic Zip-Loc Bags
- ✓ Women's Nylon Stockings

That's right, women's nylon stockings!

If my luck prevailed and I caught another of those female Chinook salmon carrying her golden eggs, I would be milking those eggs into one of the plastic bags for future use as spawn bags and single egg bait.

This plastic bag procedure proved awkward. After milking the spawn, one still has to wash the eggs in water as soon as possible, ridding them of their milky solution to prevent spoilage. The plastic bag inhibited this effort, and clearly another approach was needed.

My friends and I believe the answer lies in the use of women's nylon stockings. I know it sounds crazy, and you will probably get a few strange looks from other fishermen, but it works.

Simply pull the nylon stocking over the

fish's tail, then up over the anal opening, and proceed to milk her down. When the milking is completed, just twist the nylon at the top, and rinse the eggs in the river water. As I said before, the sooner the eggs are rinsed clear of the milky solution, the less chance there is of spoilage.

After you have rinsed the eggs to your satisfaction, place both nylon and eggs together into a Zip-Loc plastic bag. No muss, no fuss!

Back at the cabin, after your day of fishing, thoroughly rinse the eggs in clean, fresh water, spread them out on newspapers or paper toweling and let them air-dry overnight. If you need more spawn bags sometime during the remainder of your trip, these eggs will have an outer skin tough enough to supply you with some fresh bags.

If time and place prevent air-drying, place them on ice until you return home. Once there, process the eggs in the usual fashion with boric acid. This will preserve your eggs for up to a year, and sometimes longer.

My friends have all tried my nylon stocking method. They agree it's neat, clean, and best of all, it's successful.

Steelhead runs will be starting any day now, so give my method a try. You'll be laughing to yourself when you see other fishermen smiling and making little comments about your nylon stockings!

— Don Sedore

Reprinted from *Fishin' Tales*, May 1978.

Lucky Lures may be the best on the Great Lakes!

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally appeared in April, 1981 issue of *Fishin' Tales*, and is being reprinted not just for nostalgia but because the methods described nearly 13 years ago still work, and work well today. I hope you enjoy it.

In July of 1980 I wrote an article about a fishing charter trip aboard Al Laaksonen's "Finlander." I won in a raffle of the Detroit Area Steelheaders. I had been told that the "Finlander" had the highest catch on record using Lucky Lures. Al's records showed that he is certainly an extremely successful and dedicated fisherman.

I believe that the Lucky Lure is one of the best lures you can use on the Great Lakes, and based on Laaksonen's fishing logs, and my exceptional success aboard Steelheader John Makela's "Sisu," I hope to spread the Lucky Lure word far and wide.

First the records. The numbers which follow were not compiled by me, but are used with permission. Last season (1980) on "Finlander," a total of 1167 fish were taken. Of this total, 55% (640 fish) were caught on Lucky Lures! Most of the lures used were silver with either green or chartreuse. In fact, overall figures (including fish caught with other lures such as J-Plugs and Hot-N-Tots) show that silver lures accounted for 453 fish, green lures were responsible for 337, and chartreuse notched 211 fish. The grand total for these three colors is 1041 fish, or 89% of the total for the entire season. So much for the rest of the colors of the spectrum!

Now for my success on "Sisu." It's my belief that our catch was greatly improved last season over the three previous seasons because of my knowledge of the Lucky Lure. Now, you may say, "What is he talking about? I use Lucky Lures and don't catch fish on them." Well, fellow fishermen, I said the same thing until my charter trip aboard the "Finlander." In fact, "Sisu" skipper John Makela didn't believe me at first either.

On over a half-dozen trips, I would run my Lucky Lures close to the cannonball while keeping the rpm's up and have 3 or 4 fish in the boat before John would ask me to change his baits. I think I've got him convinced now that our success will keep increasing if we follow 'the formula' for Lucky Lures.

'The formula' is very simply stated: Run the lures no more than 6 feet behind the cannonball and run them fast. The speed of each boat varies, but you can tell you are running the lures too fast when they start to spin in the water. You want the boat going at the highest speed possible just short of making the lure spin while keeping good lure action. Speed up the boat until just before the lures spin, then drop the cannonball to the desired depth. Lucky Lures work very well behind the Deep Sixes also. Keep the leader at the 6-foot length and you're sure to improve your catch.



STEVE HAMILTON, long-time Detroit Area Steelheader, went 13 for 20 trolling out of Manistee last October. The fish were mostly coho, and OVER 75 PERCENT of the strikes came on Lucky Lures. Steve kept only two of that memorable catch.

Another point of interest is that Lucky Lures are 24-karat gold-plated, and as a result, paint does not stick to the lures very well. But don't let that discourage you. Visioneering Specialties has Lurtape in the necessary fluorescent colors, and this tape sticks well.

The lures keep the same action with the tape on, and there is no fussing with paint that always chips off. So make sure you have some fluorescent Lurtape aboard to repair those Lucky Lures.

Now I'd like to put to rest any rumors about the methods used to catch fish on the Lucky Lure. The methods I have described are the methods I have learned from some of the best fishermen on the Great Lakes. I have proven these methods again and again on the "Sisu." I have shown all who have fished with me and told anyone who would listen. I challenge any fisherman to test this method and prove it wrong. I believe you will be satisfied by your own results.

I also challenge any fishermen who have a proven fish-catching method to come forward and show your fellow fishermen that Steelheaders have nothing to hide. Let's educate and help fishermen in this state and elsewhere, and prove again that there are a service-based as well as a conservation-based organization.

I hope now that you will not say that the Lucky Lure is UNBELIEVABLE. Rather, I hope you will say the Lucky Lure is the MOST BELIEVABLE, SUCCESS-ORIENTED fishing lure on the Great Lakes. Good fishing!

— David Geistler

FISHIN' TALES is published monthly by the **DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.** Views expressed in it are those of the authors, and the Editor. Its purpose is to inform members of issues and events affecting sport fishermen, and to teach and guide the public to respect and appreciate our Great Lakes, rivers, other waters, and land.

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The list of Officers and Committee assignments for 1994 will be published in the next issue of *FISHIN' TALES*.

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Detroit Area Steelheaders know how to have fun!!

Detroit Area Steelheader Dinner Dance Chairman Doug Karakas is hard at work getting an early start on our club's outstanding social event of the year, the annual Steelheader Dinner Dance.

Doug reports that an early start will enable him to do a better job of planning and preparing, so he is encouraging all club members to come to the bash and to make that decision **RIGHT NOW**, so accurate food and drink requirement estimates can be made.

This year, the Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday, February 12, 1994 at the St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Hall in Warren, the site of our monthly club meetings (see map on Page Three). The good food, drinks and music that have become fixtures of this popular affair will once again be featured. There have been some donations of prizes from businesses and companies, and more are needed. Homemade craft items would also be welcome. Please call Doug if you can help out with this.

"Participation should not be limited to just Detroit Area Steelheader club members and their spouses," says Doug. "We would like to



THE ANNUAL STEELHEADER DINNER DANCE is always a fun occasion, with good food, music, and friends adding up to **A GREAT TIME!** A special surprise theme is promised for this year's gala, so **PLAN TO BE THERE!!**

see the Dinner Dance continue to grow, with a big crowd and lots of non-club members attending. It's a great way for newcomers to get started enjoying the fun of being a Detroit Area Steelheader!"

Tickets for this gala event are \$30 per person or \$60 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.

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STEELHEADER PHOTO CONTEST — 1994

Do you want three good reasons to enter the 1994 Steelheader Photo Contest? How about \$50, \$25 and \$15! These are the values of the prize packages awarded to the 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place winners. Interested? Good!!

The rules are simple. Just take a photo of a subject relating to a Detroit Area Steelheader function or event, write your name on the back of the photo, and turn it in to the board member in charge of the Photo Contest (to be announced). The entries will be judged at the final board meeting of the year, with awards presented at the annual Christmas Party/Meeting.

Any of our tournaments (boat trolling, river, etc.) are excellent opportunities to create entries for the contest — just snap away. Remember, action shots or photos that capture the moment are

the best. And kids make excellent subjects — remember to bring your camera to the Special People Outing this coming June for some great shots.

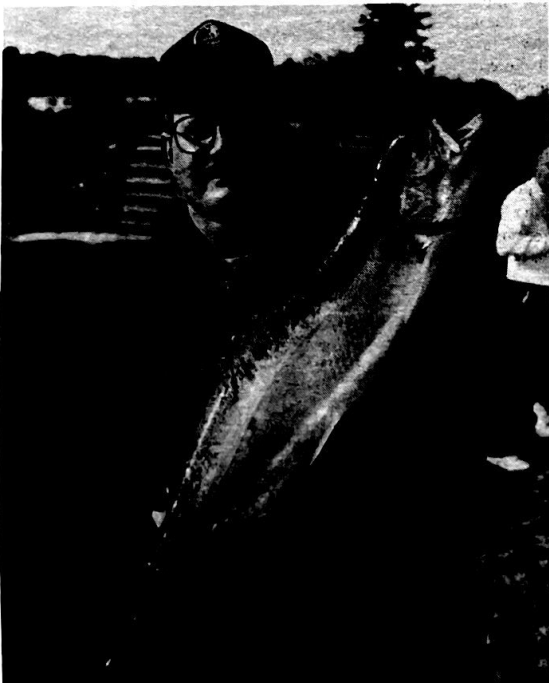
But don't take my word for it, just ask Fred Hynick, Bob Mitchell or Ken Kuhar, the winners of last year's contest (But, Bob did have excellent subject matter!). Congratulations to the top three photos of the 1993 Steelheader Photo Contest, shown here. They nicely capture the spirit and excitement of our great sport!

Thanks to everyone who entered a photo, and for those who didn't, get in on the fun and enter something in the 1994 Steelheader Photo Contest. Just remember to pack your camera on your next Steelheader outing and get to clicking. Who knows... you could be picking up your prize package at the Christmas meeting. But, you've got to enter to win!

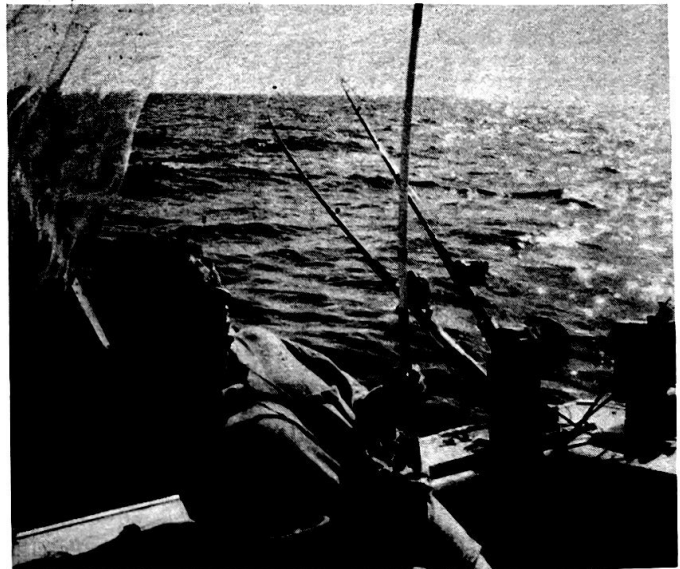
— Les Jump, "Alice's Angler"



1st (tie): FRED HYNICK



1st (tie): BOB MITCHELL



3rd: KEN KUHAR

To Tempotech or not to Tempotech

Much has been written over the past several months on the purchase of harvested salmon by Tempotech Industries, Inc. The following are excerpts from the latest paper issued by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.), explaining why the program was established, how the contract was awarded to Tempotech, and details on pricing strategy.

The salmon management program was introduced to the state in 1967 to control over-abundant alewife populations. Shortly after mature salmon began returning to spawning streams, significant problems began developing. Of particular concern was the potential habitat damage large numbers of salmon could inflict on small trout streams. In addition, there was evidence that salmonids were displacing resident populations of stream fish. Because of these growing problems, the first salmon management plan was approved in 1968.

That plan recognized the need for maintaining a viable off-shore fishery, replenishment of salmon stocks, and maintaining the integrity of resident stream fish populations. In 1968, excess harvested salmon were sold to a firm that had been awarded a contract by the state on a high bid basis. All funds generated by this contract were credited to the D.N.R.'s Game & Fish Protection Fund. The state was able to benefit from the process until the late 1970's, when contamination prevented their sale. The D.N.R., however, still incurred the costs of disposing of these excess salmonids without offsetting revenues.

By 1983, contaminant levels dropped off sufficiently to allow the sale of harvested salmon. The D.N.R. presented a salmon management plan that recommended shifting the actual salmon harvest from the State of Michigan to a private contractor. This change would allow D.N.R. employees to return to the work for which they were trained during the September/October salmon run. In June, 1983, Tempotech was the contractor selected under standard state bidding procedures, receiving a ten-year contract. Under that contract, Tempotech was to operate the state-owned weirs, dispose of the excess salmon, and provide all accounting records necessary to audit performance of the contract. There was also a provision in the contract allowing the state to renegotiate prices on a year-to-year basis.

In 1985, the Michigan Attorney General released an opinion that said the state lacked the authority to sell Great Lakes salmon. A bill was passed by the Legislature in the spring of 1986 giving the D.N.R. the authority they needed to sell the salmon. However, the contract with Tempotech was voided and new bids had to be taken. Tempotech was again the successful bidder and was awarded a contract similar to the 1983 agreement, but calling for annual price negotiations (not to exceed the current Consumer Price Index [C.P.I.]) and minimal accounting documentation.

Currently, the State of Michigan believes that, although the revenues received from Tempotech have been lower than anticipated, it saves between \$174,000 and \$400,000 each year. These savings are based on an estimate that the contractor provides between 14,000 and 18,000 man-hours per year to perform the terms of the contract. The state confirms that this benefit far exceeds the value that the state actually receives for the salmon.

The state provides several explanations for the decreased revenues from Tempotech. Because of changes in federal contamination regulations, salmon could not be sold for consumption in 1984, and consequently Tempotech was not charged for salmon taken from the weirs. In 1985 the salmon harvest decreased by over 500,000 pounds. In 1984 and 1985, in order to encourage Tempotech to sell low-cost salmon to Michigan residents, Tempotech was not charged for salmon sold through Michigan retail outlets.

While the D.N.R. paper provides some new insights into the process used to award the contract, several questions still remain. What about the alleged "kick-backs" to state employees? Why hasn't the State of Michigan ever audited Tempotech's financial records? Why is the State of Michigan still committed to working with a company that allegedly sold illegal salmon and salmon eggs? Hopefully we may get some answers to these questions and many more during the next several months.

A limited number of copies of the D.N.R.'s complete report will be available at the next membership meeting.

— Tim Graskewicz

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Steelheader points out that sometimes not everything goes as planned!

.../Continued from Page Nine

one how to hit a golf ball — ain't no amount of explaining going to do it. I do remember saying "Try to get under the fish," and "All you get is one chance!"

Eventually, the fish wore down and I had it up near the boat, lying on its side. It was time for action and not words. Call it inexperience, "buck fever", or whatever you like, but Jesse missed the fish and managed to tangle the lure in the net. Off came the fish!

To my surprise, it just lay on top of the water, floating there like an old dead carp!! Exhausted and unable to move, it was floating motionless and belly up. I shouted, "Quick, turn the boat around! Let's see if we can net it as we go by!!" Could we be lucky enough to get a second chance at such a nice prize that had beaten us fair and square?

I remember telling Jesse, "I've never seen anything like this before!" as we came by again, and this time Jesse didn't miss. The fish was in the net and quickly in the boat.

We fished some more, but I knew that the day was already one for the books. Jesse got his shot at about a 7-pounder that he horsed in, but, unlike other times when feisty fish wrap around downrigger wires and break off, this one didn't. We were two for two and each fish took some luck to land. We continued trolling, but I guess we had used up our quota of luck. We called it a day at about 3:00 p.m., pulled our lines and headed in.

Baits — The Bomber Dot with black/silver/orange took the big one. A light yellow/white body took the small one.

Results — 2 kings (the large one was about 18 pounds, the small one about 7 pounds).
Total Estimated Catch Weight — 25 pounds.

Date — June 27, 1986.

Place — Oscoda.

Crew — Marv, Andrea.

Boat — Alice's Angler.

Weather — Gusty, off shore and sunny, but the waves were only about a foot or so. It had been really windy off shore earlier.

Fishing Conditions — We were after lake trout at this time of the year. We got off to a bad start with the wind, though the wave action was calm for the way the wind was blowing off shore. We went north a bit, started over 80'-90' of water, and were just getting set when a rod with a Dipsy Diver came loose and went over the side. That sure put a damper on things, but we kept fishing. Andrea was quite tired by this time, so she mostly slept. Marv got mad because he kept getting tangled. Things weren't going too well. We had two knock-offs. One I got about halfway in, and one we lost right away. A few tangles later and we decided to quit early and make the most of it the next day, when it would really count (a Detroit Area Steelheader tournament).

Baits — We stuck with the usual line-up of Peanuts, Dodgers and trains. We ran some lines clean, and also tried some sliders.

Results — Our first skunking of the year fishing the big water.

Total Estimated Catch Weight — Zero pounds.

So, what do you think? I'm sure these stories I've just related could be matched by many in our club (if they just had the guts to tell the truth!). I don't mind admitting to a few fishing failures, especially because those set-backs provide an opportunity to learn and improve.

Still, you may ask, "What keeps we Steelheaders going, even in the face of myriad adversities of every kind imaginable?" The truth is that we know there is total truth in the saying, "A bad day of fishing is better than a good day of work!"

— Les Jump, "Alice's Angler"

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