

ANNUAL ISSUE

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# FISHING TALES



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1996 ANNUAL

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**MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!**

# Lake Michigan's Chinook fishery is on the rebound!

While they didn't strike the Mother Lode, Lake Michigan Chinook Salmon anglers started on their way back up during the summer and fall of 1995.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Great Lakes creel census supervisor Jerry Rakoczy reports that the Chinook Salmon catch rate (the number of fish caught per 100 angler-hours) improved 87 percent in 1995, compared to 1994. This was the first year since 1986 that an improvement in this number (year to year) was noted, and the figure itself was the best since 1989.

The Lake Trout fishery also hit a high note in 1995, with the best results reported since the creel census was started 11 years ago, noted Rakoczy.

Unfortunately, Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout and Coho Salmon fisheries slumped in 1995, while the Perch fishery hit rock bottom, according to Rakoczy.

The creel census is conducted by DNR clerks who systematically interview anglers when they return to port, and by a mandatory monthly catch report filed by all charter boat operators.

On Lake Michigan, the census clerks check fishermen from April through October at these nine ports: New Buffalo, St. Joseph, Grand Haven, Muskegon, Ludington, Manistee, Frankfort, West Grand Traverse Bay and Charlevoix.

Data are compared from year to year, and provide an estimated total catch for each species, and the catch per species per 100 hours of fishing.

Biologists gauge the fishery by the catch rate. Even if the total number of fish creeled is up, the fishery is judged to be degraded if a large increase in fishermen results in each catching fewer fish per hour.

In 1995, angler effort at the nine survey



**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS** enjoyed the improved Lake Michigan Chinook Salmon fishing reported in 1995.

ports declined 24 percent, but the catch rate for Chinook Salmon was up from 1.82 fish per hundred fishing hours in 1994 to 3.41 fish per hundred fishing hours in 1995. This, Rakoczy notes, is "down only about 25 percent" from the ten-year average.

Rakoczy estimates that 34,718 Chinook Salmon were creeled at the survey ports in 1995, compared to an estimated 24,501 in 1994, the lowest catch on record.

The 1995 catch and success rate is still leagues away from the pace-setting year of 1986, when anglers creeled an estimated 404,035 Chinook Salmon at the nine survey ports, with a catch rate of 10.26 fish per 100

angler hours.

DNR biologists are cautiously predicting that the improved 1995 fishery may mean that a turning point has been reached in the decade-long battle against bacterial kidney disease (BKD). They hope improved egg-taking and hatchery techniques are finally bringing under control the disease which devastated the Chinook Salmon fishery.

They are quick to point out, however, that BKD will not be eradicated.

With a catch of only 15,005, and a success rate of 1.47 fish per hundred angler hours, the Coho Salmon fishery was 32 percent below the ten-year average. The Coho Salmon fishery peaked in 1989, when anglers caught 75,364, at a rate of 3.20 per hundred hours of fishing effort.

The open-water Steelhead fishery slumped sharply from its peak in the early 1990's. In 1995, Lake Michigan fishermen at the nine survey ports landed only an estimated 13,473 Steelhead, or 1.32 fish per hundred fishing hours. The Steelhead fishery peaked in 1992, with an estimated 53,582 Steelhead creeled and a catch rate of 2.94.

Stream Steelhead fishermen have been complaining for several years that open water trollers are overharvesting the Steelhead. DNR Fisheries chief John Robertson has advocated fin clipping all hatchery-reared Steelhead, and requiring anglers to release any unclipped fish they may catch, a change designed to retain the vigor of wild Steelhead strains.

Rakoczy, who concentrates on the "scum line" Steelhead, points out that high winds and the improved Lake Trout and Chinook Salmon fisheries probably helped to reduce fishing pressure from open water trollers on Steelhead in 1995.

The Brown Trout fishery also took a tumble last year, with an estimated 11,228 creeled, compared to an estimated 27,109 in 1994. But, Rakoczy points out, the 1.10 Brown Trout catch rate, while down from 2.02 in 1994, is still 21 percent above the ten-year catch rate average.

The 1995 Lake Trout fishery was 43 percent better than the ten-year average, according to Rakoczy's estimates. Anglers creeled 38,584 Lake Trout for a catch rate of 4.98, the best recorded at the nine ports since the survey began in 1985.

If you want to feel pain, just look at the perch catch rate. At the nine surveyed Lake Michigan ports the 1995 catch rate was only 13.74 per hundred angler hours, compared to 31.74 in 1994 and the all-time creel census high of 71.86, recorded in 1988.

Lake Michigan states have curbed both the sport and commercial perch fisheries in an attempt to rescue the failing fishery. Reprinted from the **North Woods Call**, November 22, 1995.

## TOURNAMENT RETROSPECTIVES

When I think back over the past 15 years of tournament fishing, I find there have been some changes.

First, the 'first team' lures have changed. Today, our bread and butter lures are mostly Silver Streak spoons. We used to run a lot of Lucky Lures and Northport Nailers. Both still catch fish, but Streaks or NK's out-produce those old standbys. We rarely run J-Plugs anymore. We used to run them a lot, especially in August and September. They still catch fish, too, but the spoons prevail.

Second, we always have Dipsey Divers out these days. These devices allow us to run two more lures well out from the sides of the boat. When we started 15 years ago, some guys ran Pink Ladies, some ran outriggers, and some ran flat lines. The Dipseys are easier to use and more effective. In the past year, we have also gone to the new braided lines like Spiderwire on our Dipseys. It works great. The Dipseys can be easily tripped at any distance. Having a big King on a Dipsey with no-stretch line is a thrill you will not forget.

Today's rods and reels are much better. The old standby combination was a Penn #209 reel and Eagle Claw fiberglass rod. The line always got nicked in the side of the spool, and the Eagle Claws weren't always as tough as the conditions. Today, the reel and rod combo of choice is probably a Daiwa Linecounter and an Uglystick graphite rod. The price difference is about \$100 per set-up, but oh, what a difference!

The biggest change over the years has been in electronics. We started out with two manual downriggers, a Lowrance flasher, and a CB radio. Later, we went first class and bought a marine radio and a paper graph. Our primary navigational aid was a compass.

Today, we have a high-resolution LCR sonar graph with no paper. The paper smell is gone, and the information available from that

LCD graph is amazing. The LORAN and now the GPS are tremendous tools for navigation and fishing. They are also a great help in getting back to port safely.

They are also good at marking schools of bait fish for salmon. I can't tell you how frustrating it was in the past to throw out a jug and then have a swarm of boats run it over. The LORAN revolutionized fishing with its ability to return to a school of fish or a piece of structure.

When I look to the future, I see further improvements in navigation and sonar. It will not be too long until even cheaper GPS's are available that will be able to mark a spot within a few yards or feet. Mapping capabilities and built-in charts will be common, if not standard, in these units. On the sonar front, expect to have 3-D sonar. The 3-D units available today are either way too expensive or simply don't perform up to expectations.

I also predict that radar will come down in price to the point that everyone will have it. There is a lot of development going into radar for cars to help prevent accidents. That work will lead to cheap, compact radar units for boats, too. All of these capabilities will likely be incorporated into one box, also.

The past year has brought major changes in fishing lines. Lines introduced recently promise to be even better, making up for some of the shortcomings of the first Spectra lines and doing so at a lower cost. If you haven't tried them, you ought to do so.

I keep waiting for the next breakthrough in fishing lures. People keep trying. Will it be scents, coloring, texture, size, reflectance, action? I can't wait!

One of the aspects of fishing that I like best is that it keeps changing as we learn more about fish and their behavior. In reality, we have only scratched the surface.

- Bob Mitchell

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## Go To The Silverdome!

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

In 1995, the Detroit Area Steelheaders began its third decade of existence. 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 completed the formation of 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
- Raising money for fisheries research at Michigan State University (including donating cash and equipment such as fish shockers, etc.).
- Donating money for fish cleaning stations, artificial fishing reef construction, etc.
- Contributing toward legal fees and expenses



**THE DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER Membership Booth is a regular sight at the winter outdoors shows. Shown here are Steelheaders Bill Shackleton (left) and Chris Coffey at a recent winter show. Stop by and talk fishing with us any time!**

involved in the negotiating of Indian fishing rights and gill netting.

- Participating in various conservation projects.
- 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.

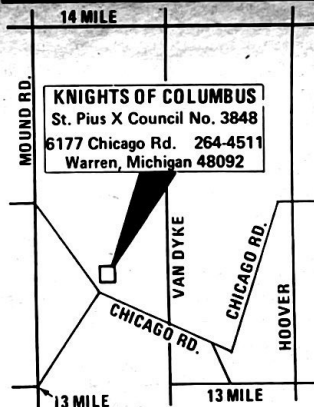
As part of our club activities, we stage an extensive schedule of boat trolling, river and surf fishing tournaments, with the emphasis on sharing fishing knowledge, camaraderie and good times. We always include a Ladies Day boat trolling event for great family fun, and we offer a member hot line (CREWS 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.

Our *Fishin' Tales* club newsletter is rec-

ognized as one of the finest in the state, and there are monthly meetings with great speakers, programs, and other activities.

With a current membership of more than 200, we offer the best package of benefits available in a salmon/steelhead fishing organization. Come join us, and **JOIN THE FUN!!**

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



*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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- 1996 Officers and Committee assignments will be published in the next issue of *FISHIN' TALES*.

## CREWS Hot Line

### NEED A CREW?

Looking for crew members to fish with you in Detroit Area Steelheader Boat Trolling Tournaments?

### WANT TO CREW?

Want to fish in Detroit Area Steelheader Boat Trolling Tournaments but don't have a boat?

Call the Crews Hot Line to match up with a Skipper looking for crew members, or to get crew members for your boat during the 1996 season.

TO SIGN UP, CONTACT —

- LARRY BOYER: (313) 495-1342
- DOUG KARAKAS: (810) 545-1181
- LEON VAN EDEN: (810) 293-1261

CREWS HOT LINE is a service for Detroit Area Steelheader members

# COMING EVENTS

## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Last Tuesday of month at 7:30 p.m. K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren  
**JANUARY 30, 1996 • FEBRUARY 27, 1996 • MARCH 26, 1996**

## SPECIAL STEELHEADER EVENTS

- DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS ANNUAL DINNER DANCE** (K. of C. Hall, Warren) February 10
- PONTIAC BOAT & FISHING SHOW** (Silverdome) February 14-18
- OUTDOORAMA** (Novi Expo Center) February 23-March 3
- PROFESSIONAL FISHING SHOW** (The Palace) February 29-March 3
- DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS LAS VEGAS NIGHT** (K. of C. Hall, Warren) March 30

## WINTER FISHING EVENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
February 3	HIGGINS LAKE — Ice Fishing	Doug Karakas, (810) 545-1181
Early March	MANISTEE RIVER (W.A.T.A.)	Doug Karakas, (810) 545-1181

## BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
April 27	RIVER CRAB (Lexington/Pt. Sanilac)	Don Redmond, (810) 469-8344
May 4	ST. JOSEPH/BENTON HARBOR	Doug Karakas, (810) 545-1181
May 18	HARBOR BEACH	Chris Nytko, (810) 254-7426
June 1-2	PORT AUSTIN	Ray Banbury, (810) 542-8007
June 15	SPECIAL PEOPLE OUTING (Lake Erie)	To Be Announced
June 29	OSCODA (Ladies Day)	Ken Kuhar, (810) 949-4365
July 20	ERIEAU, ONTARIO (Walleye Outing)	Dick Shirk, (810) 749-9493 & Steve Hamilton (313) 881-3871
August 3	LUDINGTON	Bob Mitchell, (810) 828-8034
August 24	MANISTEE	Daniel Dima, (313) 996-2503
Sept. 7	HARBOR BEACH II	Dave Roehr, (810) 547-6083

## Membership Application

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# Getting started fishing the Great Lakes for Salmon & Trout

You just went on your first Great Lakes Salmon charter or you helped crew a buddy's boat. Now the fishing bug has bitten, and you find yourself thinking, "I want to fish for salmon on my own boat!" The very next thought you have is, "What tackle do I need?"

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 fin with a big King, and he'll give you your first lesson on tackle.

Buy good stuff! If you just go out and buy the cheapest equipment you can find, it will cost you more in the long run. Find out what the "right stuff" is and buy it. You'll be better off.

## RODS & REELS

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. Buy four to six graphite rods from a reputable manufacturer. The rod action should be light to medium. My personal favorite is a Shakespeare Ugly Stick, but they will cost about \$50 each. You can buy adequate rods for about half that price, and you may even find some on clearance for around \$20.

Buy good reels. A big King can easily steal all your line if you are using a cheap reel, burning up the reel drag in the process. Good reels will probably cost about \$50 each. I'd suggest the Daiwa #47H, Shimano #GT2000, or Penn #GT1320. Cheaper reels are often hard on your line, too. A lot of guys buy Penn #209's, but those have a bad habit of allowing the line to get between the spool and the frame, cutting it in the process.

It is better to buy a used quality reel than to buy a new cheap one. Buy cheap reels and when you finally decide you want good ones (and you will decide that eventually!), your cheap ones will be worthless. Buy good reels and if you decide you want 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. This might be considered overkill, but line is cheap in the overall scheme of things. Buy a bulk spool of name-brand line: Stren, Berkley Trilene XT, Ande, or Silver Thread. Most guys use 20-pound test. I occasionally go to 17-pound test.

Try 30-pound Trilene Solar on Dipsey Divers. It makes it really easy to see exactly where your lines are. For the past year I have also been using the new Spectra braided lines (i.e., Spider Wire) on my Dipseys. They are 50-pound to 75-pound test with the diameter of 20-pound to 25-pound test monofilament. I really like them for Dipseys, which are much easier to trip with the no-stretch Spectra. However, some guys don't like them.

## LURES

Guys waste more of their money buying lures than anything else. Lots of fishermen have tackle boxes stuffed full of "secret" lures that were used once and have been rusting ever



SKIPPER BOB MITCHELL and his "Kemo" crew are a familiar sight at Detroit Area Steelheader tournaments. Pictured here with Bob are Christy and Linda Mitchell and Leslie and Carrie Gilbert.

since. Don't buy cheap lures. They'll end up sitting in your tackle box. It is better to spend \$3 per spoon on proven lures than to spend \$1.50 on a spoon you use once.

## SPOONS

Spoons are the most versatile lures. I have great confidence in several manufacturers of spoons. I'd recommend Silver Streaks, NK 47'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 is best to stick with one or two brands and buy a variety of colors, rather than mixing and matching brands. Otherwise, you will be fishing one brand of spoon running at its optimum speed and the other brand not at its optimum speed.

For colors, I'd suggest silver-plated spoons accented with greens and/or yellows as the first choice. Be sure to include reds or oranges if you plan to target Steelhead. A couple of blacks with red tape and white or pearl should round out your selections. Also, when you go fishing, take the time to walk the docks and see which colors are hanging from poles on the top boats.

## 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, I'd suggest getting a selection of Long A Bombers. You never know which colors will turn out to be hot on a given day, but chartreuse, pearl, Wonderbread (white with multi-colored dots), and gold with an orange back are good starters. Remove the front hook and they will snag less on the bottom. Hot-N-Tots are also good

choices, especially in magnus or regular sizes in silver plate or gold plate.

For the fall, you may want to try some J-Plugs. They haven't been that popular lately, but they do work in August and September for big Kings. I'd suggest chrome #4 Silver Bullets, gold plate, or lime green. For fishing the pier heads, I prefer a black J-Plug or two. Keep your eyes open. You can often find J-Plugs for \$2 when they used to cost \$5. I have faith in J-Plugs because they are used by West Coast commercial fishermen. They still work!

## FISHING "JUNK"

The last category of equipment is what I call "junk." These are lures and attractors you will need for mid-summer Lake Trout fishing, and for Kings when they are really deep: 80'-100'. There are a number of 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 "O" size. White dodgers with pearl tape are also good. The Number One squid is Richey's Michigan Glow Squid. That combo will work 90% of the time. You can buy lots of other colors of dodgers and squids, but I bet you will run that setup 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. Last, cow bells sometimes out-produce dodgers. I like the real big ones (J

&N's) trolled at a speed of 1 knot.

You will still need other miscellaneous items. Buy quality swivel snaps. Don't try to save 50 cents on swivels and end up losing \$10 worth of lures. Buy various-sized rubber core sinkers to use with flat lines. Be sure to check each sinker to make sure it doesn't have a sharp edge that will cut or nick your line. Get a couple of Dipsey Divers; I prefer the big ones. They will add to your ability to run more lines and sometimes they are the hot setup.

This list will help get you started. Talk to other guys in our club. Ask them to point out their personal "hot" colors. Then get ready, because that big King is ready to take you on!  
- "Kemo"

## Giant Salmon research ends

A Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Michigan State University (MSU) joint project to develop larger, longer-lived Great Lakes Salmon has fallen prey to the same disease that wiped out many of the fish themselves.

The triploid Salmon project was discontinued, explained Don Garling, MSU fisheries specialist, after the fish suffered high mortality rates due to bacterial kidney disease (BKD). The eggs used to produce the fish were found to be contaminated with the bacterium. The disease killed the fish at all stages of their lives.

In spite of the disease, the DNR successfully raised the modified Salmon for several years and released them in Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, and Lake Superior. Significant numbers of the tagged fish were returned, though none reached the great size the developers hoped for.

The intent of the project was to produce fish that would grow larger than normal - 50 to 100 pounds, perhaps, rather than the normal 30 to 40 pounds, Garling explains.

The triploid Salmon has the potential to reach the size because it has three full sets of chromosomes rather than a normal two sets. The result is a fish that continues to grow after it reaches sexual maturity. Normal Salmon do not. In spite of that potential, no fish weighing more than 50 pounds has been returned. The program to produce the large fish may be reinstated in the future.

We didn't prove that it would work, but we didn't prove that it wouldn't, either, noted MSU's Garling.

Reprinted from North Woods Call, Jan. 3, 1996.

## DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS 1995 RIVER CRAB SALMON STAKES HONOR ROLL

The skippers listed below proudly represented our club in the 1995 River Crab Salmon Stakes charity tournament:

- |                     |               |                  |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Don Anton*          | Bill Hoffman  | Walt Poborily*   |
| Hank Baczynski      | Ed Horen      | Don Redmond*     |
| Robert Buero*       | Ron Huey*     | Warren Renando*  |
| Mike Chimelak       | Dick Jackson  | Dave Roehr*      |
| Greg Clifford*      | Les Jump      | Gary Ruprich     |
| Chris Coffey        | Doug Karakas  | Jeff Rust        |
| Daniel Dima         | Bob Koronsky  | Paul Schoenrade* |
| Rodney Elnick*      | Bob Ksionzek  | Bob Segraves*    |
| Dave Even*          | Ken Kuhar*    | Dick Shirk*      |
| Joel Ganger         | Mike Lehto*   | Gary Smedes      |
| Joe Golaszewski*    | Dale Luff     | Larry Traynor*   |
| Robert Golaszewski* | Lynn Martin*  | Joe Von Grebe    |
| Darwin Gregg        | Bob Mitchell* | Mike Wakulski*   |
| Richard Grix*       | Tom Moores*   | Ed Wilczek       |
| Steve Hamilton      | Paul Nowak*   | Richard Wong     |
| Jim Hardrick        | Chris Nytko*  | Howard York      |
| Ron Hartman         | Ed Pabisz*    | Greg Zaccardelli |
| Bob Herman          | Rob Pinskey*  | Bob Zdanio       |

\* These skippers weighed in fish

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# Clear water tactics for Lake Ontario Salmon and Trout

Lake Ontario is a body of water deserving of more respect, especially for Salmon and Trout fishing. Most anglers agree that the time between bites is an important indicator of the quality of the fishing experience. Using harvest data obtained annually through New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) creel census, catch rates are determined by dividing the number of fishing trips into the number of fish caught. During the last three years, the quality of angling on Lake Ontario has never been better, boasting some of the highest harvest rates ever! Still, people don't want to believe... partially because anglers now have to work for their fish.

The old adage that ten percent of fishermen catch 90 percent of the fish certainly seems to be coming into reality on Lake Ontario. The last couple of years, anglers have had to learn to adapt to changing lake conditions resulting from exotic invasions such as the zebra and quagga mussels. More stringent pollution controls have helped water quality. Water clarity has improved tremendously - over 1000 percent in the last decade - so different techniques have needed to be applied to catch fish that have become more wary in their surrounding environment. The same methods that worked ten years ago simply won't work today with the same consistency and success.

When anglers aren't catching fish, most would rather blame other things. One excuse at the top of the list involves stocking. Yes, the state of New York and the province of Ontario have cut back from nearly 8,000,000 Salmon and Trout to roughly 5,000,000, based on forage considerations. But 5,000,000 fish is still a bunch for this body of water that is the smallest in surface area of the five Great Lakes.

Chinook Salmon stockings have been affected the most. From a high of 2,700,000 fish, fish over 1,000,000 King is now the annual stocking. Negative impact is still only speculation at this point. When you consider the fact that these Salmon are being stocked at anywhere from 80 to 150 fish to a pound, survival rates could be greatly increased by reducing the competition for food. And that's not taking into consideration natural reproduction that the lake may be getting!

The forage base is also rebounding, based on work done by DEC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Some year classes of smelt are at their highest numbers since 1987, and alewives are starting to recover in both numbers and health condition. In fact, year-old alewives had the most dramatic growth rate recovery ever recorded. Of course, this is all good news as far as the biology of the lake is concerned... but this isn't going to help you catch more fish. Waters are still extremely clear, and there's no changing that!



Lake Ontario steelhead action in the summer is normally a July and August time frame for deepwater trolling action

## TIPS FROM THE PROS

Who better to ask on how to adapt to a changing fishery than the people who make their living off it, the professional charter captains. In order to succeed as both an angler and a business, they've been forced to adapt and solve the Lake Ontario puzzle, one piece at a time. Here are a few of those pieces.

When fishing turns tough, and water clarity is a contributing factor, Captain Bob Cinelli of Olcott, New York drops his program to three downriggers. Cable noise and clutter can help shut fish down, so eliminate some of the problems. Also, Cinelli has been running longer leaders than what he's done over the last ten years he's been chartering on the Lake.

His leaders may extend from 40'-100' back behind the downrigger ball, but it's always the shortest allowable leader that will still let him reach fish. The longer the leader, the more line stretch you're going to get from monofilament.

Bait size varies on any given day. You try to match bait size for your area at the time, and you may have to use the smallest baits you have. Cinelli seems to be running more silver baits, primarily spoons, than what he's been used to. Michigan Stinger spoons worked well during the 1995 fishing season, and he had an excellent year - when the weather co-operated.

One secret bait that's worked for him is a Storm Rattlin' Thin Fish Shad in red or black/chrome, run 50'-100' behind a Yellow Bird surface planer. Yellow Birds have made a bit of a resurgence of late, primarily due to the water clarity. It gets your lure away from the boat, and puts less hardware in the water.

Another important factor that has resulted from clear water is that when the sun gets high over a relatively flat water surface, Salmon and Trout will have a tendency to drop down and

actually move out of temperature. Pay attention to your graph or video screen. If you see that happening, don't be afraid to fish them down there.

Cinelli also likes using Dipsey Divers with wire line. Not only are they easier to trip, but it allows him to get deeper much quicker and more effectively. Of course, spring, summer and fall techniques will vary, and anglers will need to adapt and change to meet the wants and needs of the fish... just like Cinelli has.

Captain Vince Pierleoni of Kent, New York charts out of Oak Orchard. However, his clear water program worked well no matter where he fished on the lake, as evidenced by his Lake Ontario Challenge Cup victory last summer. The Challenge Cup is the culmination of a three-tournament series challenge at Olcott, Rochester and Oswego along the lakeshore at different times. Total point accumulations, based on tournament rules (10 points per fish, 1 point per pound) allowed him and his team to run away with the first-ever Challenge Cup.

The ability to read the water, and adapting to the changing conditions, was the key to their success. Pierleoni is always changing baits until he finds what the fish want. For the Rochester tournament, which was the icing on the cake for his performance, they ended up using black and silver Michigan Stinger spoons to take primarily Brown Trout 80'-130' down over 95'-150' of water. The most interesting note is that big spoons worked the first day, and small- and medium-size baits worked for day two. A "match the hatch" mentality is certainly an appropriate adage for Lake Ontario.

In the spring, Pierleoni insists on staying away from the pack as much as possible. That even applies to the rest of the fishing now, with boat noise a contributing factor. Use techniques and equipment that will help you get your lures out away from your boat, such as lead core lines, Dipsey Divers, Yellow Birds, and drop weights. He, too, will employ longer leaders now that the clear water is here to stay.

Five years ago, Captain Tony Buffa of Bridgeport, New York resisted using cut bait in any way, shape or form. Today, it is not only an important weapon for fall Salmon fishing out of Oswego, but it also works to his advantage in the spring and summer. He feels the clear water allows this to happen.

Cut bait, a West Coast tactic, arrived on the Great Lakes several years ago. Buffa was shamed into using it when his peers humbled him with an on-water lesson. Since then, late August to early September has been the preferred time for cut bait tactics on the Lake.

Using attractors such as Okies or Salmon Slashers in the larger sizes, the cut bait rigs will vary in leader length, from 3'-8'. Longer lengths are used to dampen action when there's rough water; you should get more hook-ups as a result of this adaptation. The harness used for the cut bait is also doctored up to entice a fish smash.

Paint or tape are both used to make the rig more appealing, and adding a red eye is almost

standard. One tip Buffa offers is to try painting a gill plate on some of the heads to simulate a flared gill plate of an excited bait fish, instead of just painting the red eye on the head. This also seems to trigger fish hits in clearer waters.

Another technique that Buffa uses is to run cut bait down deep, with one rod running just below his program or set, whatever that may be. This will act as an attractor, and bring fish in to check out the set, especially since fish can see much further in the ultra-clear waters of the Lake. He'll also run the cut bait off the Dipsey Divers in the fall, preferring to use wire line instead of monofilament or braided. With the Dipsey set at a 1 1/2' setting, he runs clean (without an attractor) cut bait at 160'-260' back. Using just the harness and bait, he tries to keep his rig with as little bend as possible, to avoid spinning. It's during this time that he runs a bit quicker - up to 3.5-3.7 miles per hour - to cover as much water as possible, another reason why the attractor isn't included in this enticement.

"I used to be upset when I wasn't marking fish on the screen," reflects Buffa, a 20-year veteran of the lake. "In the last few years, though, we've been catching more and more fish we're not marking on our electronics, probably because of the clearer waters. Now, I just try and cover as much water as possible."

Buffa has taken the same cut bait principle and applied it to his spring fishing, too. As soon as the Brown Trout move out to deeper water after their spring harbor staging, he sets up a program involving dark-colored 41- and 51-size Alpena Diamond spoons. If he's running five downriggers, he takes the center one and puts down a piece of cut bait 4'-5' below his deepest spoon, using a small (6"-7") attractor. This brings fish to his set and gets them to strike.

In clear water, though, five downriggers may simply be too many, with excessive cable noise affecting fish co-operation. Buffa will then run only four riggers, running cut bait off one of the corner "controlled depth devices." As an example, the outside riggers might have spoons with 55'-65' leads, 15'-20' down; the corner riggers will have 30'-40' leaders and be set a bit deeper. Although the cut bait doesn't actually catch a lot of fish in the spring, it sure helps bring fish into the set, which triggers strikes on his other lures.

Buffa also feels the darker colors for his lures will help improve his chances for hooking up. Black and purple combinations, as well as red variations, have worked well for him. Again he likes to doctor his lures up with tape. There's no question that the clear water has changed his lure and color selection for his Lake Ontario way of thinking, in addition to how he fishes for Salmon and Trout.

- Bill Hilts, Jr.

Reprinted from *Salmon Trout Steelhead*, Dec.-Jan., 1996.

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## Salmon Corn Chowder

- 1/2 cup Butter or Margarine
- 1 Large Onion, chopped
- 1 cup Celery, diced
- 1 clove Garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons All-Purpose Flour
- 3 1/2 cups Chicken Broth
- 2 cups Half-and-Half
- 1 can Creamed Corn (17 ounces)
- 1/2 teaspoon Salt (or to taste)
- 1/2 teaspoon White Pepper
- 1 can Pink or Red Salmon (1 1/2 pounds), drained and flaked
- Parsley, chopped

Melt butter in large, heavy saucepan over medium heat. Add onion, celery and garlic; cook 4-5 minutes until onion is translucent. Stir in flour until blended. Gradually stir in 1 cup broth. Stir until boiling and thickened. Stir in remaining broth, half-and-half, corn, salt and pepper. Simmer uncovered 15 minutes; do not boil. Remove from heat, add salmon. Garnish each serving with parsley. Makes 8 cups.

- Jim Legenzoff, Detroit

# With 1995 gone, let's 'leap' into 1996!

With the '95 season over and the awards passed out, it's time to look forward to what the new year of 1996 holds for us. The boat trolling committee met in early December, and has come up with what we hope will be an excellent schedule for the upcoming season.

Our first outing of the year will once again be the River Crab Salmon Stakes charity tournament on April 27. This event not only helps support a good cause (charities involved with child abuse prevention) but the club prize which goes to the club weighing in the heaviest catch sure comes in handy. The River Crab tourney traditionally has featured the greatest participation by our club members, and we hope to see another huge turnout in 1996 of Detroit Area Steelheader skippers and crews at this important tournament.

Next on our schedule is the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor tournament on May 4. Early Coho Salmon are the main target at this time of the year, but the chance of spring Kings, Steelhead and Brown Trout make this an exciting event. Also, there should be some large Lake Trout available, too. The warm water discharge off the Cook Nuclear Power Plant will usually hold fish. You can try off the chalets and junk cars to the south, or go north toward the clay banks. And don't overlook the pier heads for great fishing.

The third tournament stop of the season will again be Harbor Beach, on May 18 (this stop may end up as a two-day tournament on our final schedule). This port should serve up some exciting fishing for Kings, Steelhead, Lake Trout and Browns. Check out the reefs off Harbor Beach, off Port Hope to the north, and off the cemetery and White Rock to the south.

We move on to Port Austin the weekend of



THE ANNUAL LADIES DAY TOURNAMENT is one of the most popular stops on the Detroit Area Steelheader Boat Trolling Tournament trail, and the picnic following the weigh-in is something you don't want to miss!

June 1-2. Last year, this port proved to be the best one on our entire schedule! There's usually great Lake Trout fishing off the many reefs in the area. You'll also want to keep some baits up high for those odd Kings and Steelhead. Sunday will feature the only Team Doubles event of the year.

On June 15, our club will hold its annual Special People walleye outing on Lake Erie. This is a non-tournament event designed to provide a real fun day out on the water for a great group of very Special People. This is the

one event on our club schedule that I hope will draw the most participation from our club members. Also, the walleye action should be great!

The ever-popular annual Ladies Day Tournament takes place on June 29 at Oscoda. Our ladies always seem to enjoy the opportunity to display not only their fishing skills, but their prowess in the culinary arts as well. The traditional picnic meal following the weigh-in here is something you sure don't want to miss.

We have added a walleye outing at Ericau,

Ontario on July 20. This is another non-tournament outing which should provide great fishing action for very large walleyes (5 lbs.-8 lbs. average size), along with the odd Steelhead.

The port of Ludington is always a club favorite, and our fleet will be there on August 3. You can end up with a nice mixed bag catch here, making this an exciting port to fish. There's usually good action to be found at the Project to the south, or north toward the Bath House and the Point.

Late August will find us back in western Michigan, at Manistee on August 24. This port also usually delivers a nice variety of fish for the weigh-in. Out on the water, you never know what might hit - it could be a Laker, Brown Trout, Coho, Steelhead, and, of course, the mighty King Salmon - this tournament should produce the largest Kings of the year! Best areas are south off Gurney's Creek, off the Clay Banks, all along the 90-foot ledge, and, most important, off the pier heads.

The final event for the 1996 Boat Trolling Tournament season will take place September 7, back at Harbor Beach. We decided to return to this port again this year for some fall-run King Salmon action close to home. You can also look for the occasional Brown Trout and Steelhead at this time of year at this port.

Overall, I think the club enjoyed improved fishing in 1995, and I believe it will improve even more in 1996. We hope all of you will be able to participate in all or most of the great tournaments and outings we have scheduled.

May the Fish Gods shine on you, and may you all enjoy a safe and successful boating season in 1996.

- Don Redmond  
Boat Trolling Chairman

## 1995 "Skipper of the Year"

(FINAL STANDINGS — BEST 6 OF 9)

PLACE/SKIPPER	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	TOT.
1) BOB MITCHELL	3	6	1	5	5	7	1	75	3	18
2) DON REDMOND	5	7	3	7	15	6	10	10	8	36
3) DANIEL DIMA	50	9	50	4	12	3	2	9	10	37
4) ROBERT GOLASZEWSKI	9	1	75	1	8	13	6	13	75	38
5) DAVE ROEHR	14	5	4	12	1	75	50	50	5	41
6) STAN BILEK	75	4	12	13	11	75	75	2	2	44
7) CHRIS NYTKO	10	11	13	11	7	75	50	11	1	51
8) JIM HARDRICK	50	3	8	15	14	10	5	12	13	51
9) KEN KUCHAR	15	2	15	17	19	75	12	1	19	62
10) RON HUEY	22	75	10	75	75	2	11	7	18	70
11) PAUL SCHOENRADE	16	12	14	21	20	12	7	75	11	72
12) HOWARD YORK	50	50	7	20	10	5	50	75	14	86
13) DON ANTON	6	75	6	75	75	1	9	75	4	101
14) DAVE EVEN	2	75	9	9	16	8	75	75	75	119
15) RON HARTMAN	50	50	50	16	17	50	8	15	16	122
16) PAUL NOWAK	20	75	75	10	4	75	75	5	12	126
17) HANK BACZYNSKI	50	10	18	14	75	75	75	75	50	219
18) ROB PINSKEY	4	75	75	6	13	75	75	75	50	223
19) TOM MOORES	11	75	75	2	6	75	75	75	75	244
20) DARWIN GREGG	50	75	50	75	75	14	75	50	6	245

50 = See Rule IV-E

75 = See Rule IV-F

A = River Crab B = St. Joseph C = Harbor Beach D = Port Austin E = Oscoda  
F = Manistee G = Ludington H = Rogers City I = Harbor Beach

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### BIG FISH STANDINGS

Largest Fish taken during 1995 Tournament Season

Fisherman	Boat	Port	Weight
<b>KING SALMON</b>			
DOUG FELLOWS	"Fish-N-Tails"	Manistee	27 lbs., 10 oz.
JOE VON GREBE	"Sloppy Joe"	Rogers City	22 lbs., 3 oz.
STAN BILEK	"Blue Star"	Rogers City	21 lbs., 15 oz.
<b>LAKE TROUT</b>			
JOE GOLASZEWSKI	"Lucky Falcon"	Port Austin	16 lbs., 2 oz.
DON REDMOND	"Trena Dawn"	Harbor Beach	13 lbs., 9 oz.
PAUL SCHOENRADE	"Eagle II"	Harbor Beach	13 lbs., 7 oz.
<b>STEELHEAD</b>			
ED HALL, JR.	"Trena Dawn"	Manistee	12 lbs., 14 oz.
GARY RUPRICH	"Rupe"	Ludington	12 lbs., 1 oz.
GARY RUPRICH	"Rupe"	Ludington	10 lbs., 7 oz.
DAVE ROEHR	"Floating Holiday"	Port Austin	9 lbs., 10 oz.
<b>BROWN TROUT</b>			
RICH MORRIS	"Sinsation"	St. Joseph	9 lbs., 8 oz.
PAUL SCHOENRADE	"Eagle II"	Manistee	6 lbs., 3 oz.
LARRY TRAYNOR	"Fish-N-Tails"	Manistee	5 lbs., 11 oz.
<b>COHO SALMON</b>			
DON REDMOND	"Trena Dawn"	Manistee	8 lbs., 2 oz.
BOB MITCHELL	"Kemo"	Port Austin	3 lbs., 13 oz.
HANK BACZYNSKI	"Sinsation"	St. Joseph	3 lbs., 7 oz.
<b>ATLANTIC SALMON</b>			
HOWARD YORK	"Golden Oldie"	Harbor Beach	5 lbs., 15 oz.

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# Mitchell claims 1995 "Skipper of the Year" award Page Seven

Winning the "Skipper of the Year" award in 1995 was a great thrill. Each of my 15 years of tournament fishing has posed different challenges and different opportunities, and 1995 was no exception.

I started 1995 with the idea that I might not be able to fish all of the tournaments. My two kids, Jamie and Kristi, both made traveling soccer teams, and I knew that I would want to go to their soccer tournaments if there was a schedule conflict. My chief crew mate, Bob Gilbert, was facing similar conflicts. Children just grow up so fast! As a result, I knew we had to fish right out of the box in order to be able to place well. Further, we might not be able to fish the last tournaments.

In retrospect, 1995 was really a great salmon fishing year. In my opinion, it was the best year in about the last six or seven years. The "Kemo" crew targeted Kings at every tournament. Even at the traditional Laker ports such as Port Austin and Oscoda, we ran spoons, hoping to catch kings. In 15 years of tournament fishing, I don't ever remember doing that.

In recent years we have gotten a reputation for being able to score on Lakers. In 1995, we did not target them at even one tournament.



SKIPPER BOB MITCHELL (right) and steadfast "Kemo" crew members Bob and Leslie Gilbert show off another nice 1995 tournament catch.

Like most Steelheaders, I would prefer to tangle with a Chinook! It's great to have those 'big guys' back in numbers again. I'm just keeping my fingers crossed that 1995's King salmon action is the start of a new trend, and not just a one-year fluke.

The "Kemo" crew has done very well in tournaments, winning seven of the past ten "Skipper of the Year" honors. I have been fortunate to have had essentially the same crew over that period. The best decision I ever made as a captain was to make sure that my family was involved, first my father and mother-in-law, and then my brother and sister-in-law. We have been able to spend a lot of family time together that would not have happened without us fishing together. My wife Linda loves Ladies Day. If there is one tip I can give to new members, it is to get your families involved in your sport.

In closing I would like to thank Bob Gilbert (again!), Leslie Gilbert, Rob Gilbert, John Fair, Uncle Glen, Jamie, Kristi, my wife Linda, and everyone else who helped crew on "Kemo" in 1995. It's been a great ride!

- Bob Mitchell  
"Kemo"

## TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 1994 vs. 1995

### 1994

- 1) St. Joseph, May 13-14  
19 Boats Entered • 170 Fish Caught
- 2) Harbor Beach, May 21  
30 Boats Entered • 73 Fish Caught
- 3) Port Austin, June 4  
21 Boats Entered • 78 Fish Caught
- 4) Oscoda, June 26  
19 Fish Caught
- 5) Manistee, July 23  
19 Boats Entered • 49 Fish Caught
- 6) Ludington, August 6-7  
25 Boats Entered • 93 Fish Caught
- 7) Rogers City, August 20  
23 Boats Entered • 28 Fish Caught
- 8) Frankfort, September 10  
18 Boats Entered • 14 Fish Caught

### 1995

- 1) St. Joseph — May 5  
15 Boats Entered • 32 Fish Caught
- 2) Harbor Beach — May 20-21  
24 Boats Entered • 54 Fish Caught
- 3) Port Austin — June 3  
22 Boats Entered • 158 Fish Caught
- 4) Oscoda — June 24  
23 Boats Entered • 76 Fish Caught
- 5) Manistee — July 22  
16 Boats Entered • 56 Fish Caught
- 6) Ludington — August 8  
18 Boats Entered • 45 Fish Caught
- 7) Rogers City — August 26  
17 Boats Entered • 36 Fish Caught
- 8) Harbor Beach — September 9  
26 Boats Entered • 45 Fish Caught

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# The world's best spinner for four bits!

The water rushed so fast that most anglers were queued up 100 yards below, but I knew a spot where fresh springers liked to hang out near the head of the chute.

By casting my 1/2-ounce green-chartreuse in-line spinner 30 degrees upstream, I was able to fish deep enough to bump bottom occasionally. The spinner stopped and my line came taut. Was I snagged? Then all hell broke loose as an irate Chinook Salmon hit the air and cartwheeled down river. It was an average 15-pounder that I managed to beach in a tiny pocket 50 yards below where I hooked him. A young bearded fisherman, with a huge gob of eggs dangling from his rod tip, hustled over to admire my fish.

"What the devil are you using?" he asked. I showed him my homemade 50-cent spinner. "I'll be darned," he said, peering at it curiously. "Where do you get these?"

I told him that I had made it myself, and then I cut it off my line and handed it to him. Later, after losing two more fish and then landing a 22-pounder, I could have sold a bucketful of my homemade spinners to that bearded fisherman's group.

The materials are now available to make the World's Best Spinners (WBS) in seconds from just five simple components. I started making my own lures when the manufacturer of my favorites finally priced me out of the market. Thank goodness. Otherwise, I would never have discovered that I could make even better spinners very easily, at a cost of about four bits!

Spinners are my kind of bait. You don't have to chase, trap, pump, pickle or dig them. They don't smell, stick, squish, wriggle, bite, or fall off every other cast. They can be used to cover a lot of water, and, on average, they will produce about as many fish as messier offerings. Often I have fished next to good fishermen who were drifting eggs or shrimp and hooked fish while they didn't. Moreover, I don't get hung up as often or waste half my fishing time fooling around with leaders, sinkers, or bait. Besides, homemade spinners are much cheaper than bait and all the terminal paraphernalia that goes with it.

However, there are many different designs. I discovered years ago that compact lead-bodied spinners with in-line blades fish deeper, flutter better, and catch fish. The prices crept upward inexorably, forcing me to switch to heavier line so that I could straighten the hooks to save snagged lures.

When I flip a spinner into a Salmon or Steelhead hangout, I want three things to happen. First, that spinner has to get down to the fish. Next, it must continuously revolve while moving down current. Finally, it must entice a fish to strike. At that point, the spinner



**HOMEMADE SPINNERS are much cheaper than bait and all the paraphernalia that goes with it.**

has done its part, and I'm responsible for any lack of success.

The crucial part of the spinner is the blade. In-line spinner blades are absolutely necessary for the WBS. They revolve better than other types of blades when moving down current or when retrieved very slowly. But that is not their best quality. The in-line spinner blade tilts away from the spinner body, enabling you to use a larger diameter body without interfering with the blade's action. This is the big secret of the WBS. It also provides another important benefit - reduced line drag.

I have tried making spinners for years with only moderate success. I was unable to find in-line blades. Other blades would hit a plump body, so of course they would not turn freely and I ended up using skinny bodies (mostly of brass, which is too light). In order to make a skinny body heavy enough to sink a spinner in fast water, it became disproportionately long, and the hook was far removed from the blade. If a fish came from behind and engulfed the entire apparatus, fine. However, some fish would dash in at an angle and grab the blade. Then the hook would come by and snag it in the ear, if at all. A pretty sorry contraption, actually. So much for other blades.

If you cannot find in-line spinner blades locally, you can order them from Cabela's (1-800-237-4444). Use bass casting sinkers for bodies - they are the best shape. The No. 6 blades match 1/2-ounce bodies, while No. 5 blades are best for 3/8-ounce or 1/4-ounce bodies. I have made much larger-bodied spinners, but very seldom use them. I like the 1/2-ounce size in high water, the 3/8-ounce when it slows some, and the 1/4-ounce for most of the summer. The blades and bodies are the important parts for which there are no satisfactory substitutes. Let's look at the rest.

I prefer a 3", .026-diameter wire shaft with an eye on one end. Because I do not use a professional spinner-making tool, I find the light wire much easier to work with.

You will need two sizes of solid brass beads, 1/8" and 5/32". I've found that plastic ones wear out, so forget them. I use one 1/8" bead with a 1/4-ounce or smaller body, one 5/32" bead with a 3/8-ounce body, and one of each with the 1/2-ounce bodies.

The fifth and final ingredient is the hook. You may prefer single hooks (which are supposed to hold better), or treble hooks (which will hook more fish, if only temporarily). If you are fishing catch-and-eat, hooks should be 2X strong. I prefer bronze to nickel-plated. The VMC Round Heavy Trebles (#9650PS) which have a galvanized appearance are excellent in size 1 or 2, which I use with 1/2-ounce spinners. I use the Mustad No. 35678 2X strong size 6 for the 3/8- or 1/4-ouncers.

Check all hooks for proper bend. If the point is bent inward past parallel to the shank, it will not hook as many fish. Sharpen all hooks so that they will stick in your thumbnail. New hooks are not sharp.

Painting bodies takes more time than build-

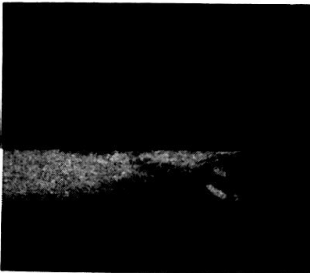
ing the spinners so it's a good idea to spend a few minutes now and then doing this. Use vinyl lure and jig finish. If you can't find it at your local tackle store, you can get it from Cabela's, or Gander Mountain (1-800-558-9410). Gander Mountain offers my favorite color, green/chartreuse.

Bass-casting sinkers have wire through them, with loops on top. Wearing a rubber glove to keep the lead clean, cut the wire and remove it. Cut several 12" lengths of a fine flexible wire that bends easily. Insert each end through a body and bend over the last 1/2".

You must first undercoat, or prime, them with white to get good color. Hang them somewhere to dry. Next, dip them in the color of your choice. When they have dried, you can add spots or other designs and then dip them in a clear sealer to make them even tougher.

I put dots on some blades and color others. I'm not convinced the fish notice, but I like them. When the bodies and blades are ready, you're nearly finished.

Now, let's build my favorite green/chartreuse Whopper Whomper, in about 20 seconds. Grasp a wire shaft with the loop on one end and insert it through a No. 5 nickel-plated blade (with three small green/chartreuse spots) from the convex top side. Then slip on a 5/32" solid brass bead. Add a 3/8-ounce green/chartreuse body with the pointed end toward the bead. Finally, slip on the hook, a No. 6, 2X strong treble.



**AUTHOR'S HOMEMADE SPINNER fooled this summer-run Steelhead.**

Using a pair of small needle-nosed pliers, bend the shaft back as sharply as you can an inch below the body. Hold it against itself with one hand and squeeze it together with the pliers until you have it doubled back. Then slide the eye of the hook onto the doubled-over part of the shaft. Grip the eye of the hook with the pliers, grasp the free end of the wire shaft with your other hand, and wrap it tightly around itself once, close to the pliers. Trim off the excess with side cutters, and don't forget to sharpen the hook.

I've used several color combinations for my spinners. They're fun to make and they catch fish. But as I grow older, I also grow lazier, and most of the time I use only two patterns. You already know about the green/chartreuse. My other favorite is built with a plain brass blade and black body with some small yellow dots. But I also plan to try some purple, and hot pink.

This WBS, in the appropriate weight and cast at the correct angle to the current, will get down to the fish even in fast water. The fish will take it, the hook will not straighten and, if you left plenty of shaft as specified, the fish will not be able to bite your line in two.

- Gary Starbuck

Reprinted from *Salmon-Trout-Steelheader*, June/July, 1992.

The  
**DEADLINE**  
for the  
**FEBRUARY ISSUE**  
of *FISHIN' TALES* is  
**JANUARY 30, 1996**

## "Cyber-Fishing" for Steelheaders

Pick up any newspaper or newsweekly magazine and you are likely to see an article about the Information Superhighway, or the Internet, or the World Wide Web. At first glance, you might think it has nothing to do with fishing, but if you think that, you would be mistaken.

A big part of fishing is information, about fishing conditions, weather, environmental issues, government actions, etc. All of these subjects and more can be found on the Internet. To get on the World Wide Web, you need a computer and an on line service such as Compuserve, America On Line, or Prodigy.

If you do have a personal computer and a service, the best suggestion about how to get started that I can give you is to tell you to ask a kid how it works. I won't try to cover that subject here. Much of what you read below won't make sense to you, but it will to a Cyber Surfer.

Let me describe a number of sites which I think may be of interest to Steelheader Web Surfers.

There are a couple of places where you can get product information or even order equipment on-line. One is **CYBER-WHARF**, located at:

<http://www.cybermalls.com/cywharf/>  
Then click on Continuous Boat Show. Another is **MARINET** at:

<http://www.gsn.com/>  
Anyone looking for more information than you ever thought you would need about GPS should check out page from the University of Texas. It is located at:

<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/grg/gcraft/notes/gps/gps.html>  
That's a lot of characters to type, but the visit is well worth the effort.

Steelhead fishermen know about surface temperature changes. The government's infrared satellite imaging info can be found at the Great Lakes Coast Watch Program, at:

<http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/cw/cw.html>  
Then there is the Sea Ray site at:

<http://www.searay.com/boats/>  
There is also The Boat Show site at:  
<http://www.boatnet.com/boatnet/show/showtop.html>

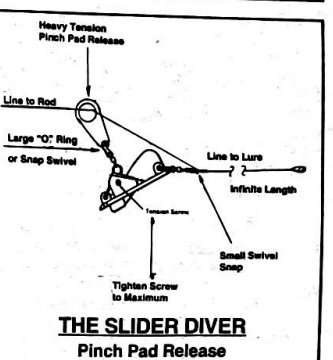
A favorite site of mine is the Salmon River & Eastern Lake Ontario Sportfishing Reports, at:

<http://www.maine.com/fish-ny/welcome.html>

Finally, there is a site that lists numerous other fishing-oriented sites. It has everything from the Anadromous site to spinner making to bass fishing. It can be found at:  
<http://www.peak.org/~robertr/morelink.html>

Well, there you have it, Cyber Dudes. If you know of, or discover, any other web sites which you think would be of value to fellow club members, please forward them to me and we'll include them in future issues of *Fishin' Tales*.

- Bob Mitchell



**WORLD'S BEST SPINNER**

3-inch .026 diameter wire shaft with formed end.

Solid brass beads: 1/8", 5/32".

In-line spinner blade: No. 5 and 6.

Bass casting sinkers: 1/2, 3/8, 1/4 ounces.

## Lake Huron is tops for Salmon, Trout in 1995

If you are a Lake Michigan troller, be smart. Buy yourself some Lake Huron charts before spring. That is where the action is.

Final 1995 Great Lakes creel census figures tab Lake Huron as the place to drag your lines. And fishermen had caught on to this development by last summer, putting in more hours on the east side than they did on the west side.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources creel census supervisor Jerry Rakoczy reports the Chinook Salmon catch rate in Lake Huron was almost double that of Lake Michigan - and 1995 was Lake Michigan's best year since 1989!

Lake Huron trollers landed an estimated 94,341 Chinook Salmon at the nine ports where creel census clerks keep score. That's the highest catch since the creel census started in 1986. That figure compares to an estimated Chinook Salmon catch at nine Lake Michigan ports of 34,718 for last year. Measured as fish caught per hundred hours of angler effort, Lake Huron anglers creeled 7.10 Chinook Salmon in 1995, compared to 3.41 Chinook Salmon caught in Lake Michigan.

The Lake Huron ports surveyed are Rogers City, Rockport, Alpena, Harrisville, Oscoda, Port Austin, Grindstone City/Harbor Beach, Port Sanilac, and Lexington.

The overall catch rate in 1995 for all salmon and trout per hundred hours of fishing was 12.43 in Lake Huron, compared to 12.29 in Lake Michigan.

Fishermen spent 1,328,600 hours pursuing Salmon and Trout out of the nine Lake Huron survey ports, compared to 1,017,725 hours out of the Lake Michigan survey ports (New Buffalo, St. Joseph, Grand Haven, Muskegon, Ludington, Manistee, Frankfort, West Grand Traverse Bay, and Charlevoix).

rapidly rebounding, due in large measure to fish plantings being shifted from the far northern end of the Lake, where they were lost to gill nets and intensive lamprey predation, to near-shore plants to the south.

The 1995 Lake Huron estimated catch of 33,242 Lake Trout compares to an estimated catch of only 6,546 as recently as 1993, and is 121 percent better than 1994's estimated catch of 11,711.

The estimated 17,068 Rainbow Trout caught in 1995 from the Lake Huron survey ports is itself 110 percent more than 1994's estimated catch of 6,890, and more than the 13,473 landed from Lake Michigan survey ports in 1995.

The Lake Huron Brown Trout catch for 1995 was an estimated 10,236, virtually unchanged from 1994, but the best total since the creel census was established in 1986.

While Lake Huron's big water trollers had a banner year, Saginaw Bay anglers saw sharp declines in the Walleye and Perch fisheries in 1995. The estimated 777,701 Perch landed in 1995 was down 46 percent from 1994, and the estimated Walleye catch of 47,887 was down 30 percent from the previous year.

Reprinted from *The North Woods Call*, January 3, 1996.

## Pere Marquette lamprey weir concerns conservationists

After a frustrating attempt in 1990, resource agencies once again will try to block sea lampreys from their spawning grounds in the Pere Marquette River, the largest contributor of the trout and salmon parasite to Lake Michigan.

Since 1964, the Pere Marquette has been treated about every four years with the chemical TFM to kill the lamprey larvae living in the stream. The applications are highly effective because the larvae's riverine period extends beyond the treatment intervals.

Several problems exist with the chemical, however. First, it is not completely effective. Some lampreys escape. Second, TFM's toxicity affects other life besides lampreys.

A ten-year Indiana University study, commissioned by the Pere Marquette Watershed Council and now nearing completion, indicates populations of aquatic insects remain unaffected in the long term. But members of some insect species, though they quickly recolonize, are killed off by the chemical.

In addition, says Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fisheries biologist Tom Rozich, who oversees the Pere Marquette, dumping chemicals into clean waters is becoming less accepted by the public.

And third, TFM is now terribly expensive. Its cost has quadrupled since the late 1970's. Last summer's (1995's) treatment of the Pere Marquette ran \$478,000.

There is an alternative to TFM, however. Ideas have long been floated about installing a barrier to block lampreys.

But when the Pere Marquette was designated a federally protected Wild and Scenic River in 1978, that law mandated that the river remain "free flowing." Six years later, the law was amended to allow a lowhead lamprey barrier on the river.

Nevertheless, subsequent proposals for a lowhead dam ran into fierce opposition. So, in 1987 the DNR proposed an electrical barrier at

steelhead around the grids. Whether due to an unusually small run or ineffective methods, workers were able to transport only 367 Steelhead above the barrier.

The DNR agreed to install a fishway. But during the 1990 Steelhead run, it too failed - none of the trout used it! Scientist believe that the fishway's flow was insufficient to attract the Steelhead. Since that spring run, the grids have been idled.

Now, a modified weir with a new fishway, costing about \$400,000, has been proposed. The barrier will have improved electronics, a backup generator, and better grounding to prevent interference with local television reception. And the flow from the new fish ladder will be 15 times greater than that of the old one.

But sportsmen still worry about Steelhead passage. Two western rivers in Oregon and Washington, had this new system installed for taking Salmon eggs. Scientists estimate that 85 percent to 95 percent of the spawning Steelhead and Salmon climbed the ladders. That represents more than sufficient numbers to sustain the Pere Marquette River fishery. But those percentages are only unproven estimates. So the DNR proposes to monitor the weir's impact on Steelhead through three methods.

Crews would trap Steelhead far downstream of the grids. All would wear spaghetti tags, to be turned in by anglers who later caught the fish. Some of these Steelhead would also have an electronically activated chip placed in their cheek. When the trout ascend the fishway, a remote sensing device would count them. The spaghetti tag results would double-check this program. A final subgroup of the tagged fish would have radio transmitters implanted. Each transmitter would tell researchers exactly where each fish was. Finally, a fish-triggered camera would count and record the sizes of all fish climbing the fish ladder.

Of particular interest is how the fish react when they encounter the barrier's electrical field. Does it turn and head for the lake? Does it sulk for days? Or does it seem to ignore the charge completely?

The DNR requested bids to conduct the study. Only Michigan State University (MSU) responded, but its \$223,000 proposal lacks the remote sensing and camera phases of the study. In addition, it calls for only 90 Pere Marquette

River fish to carry transmitters over the three-year study, with 30 implanted each year. Also, 30 Betsy River fish would also have them to see their reaction to the Betsy's lowhead dam.

Watershed Council president Dick Schwikert says, "We supported the weir on two conditions. One, the DNR gives us a written protocol explaining exactly how they intend to measure the percentage of fish passing. We want to be sure a substantial majority of the run gets through."

But the MSU proposal falls short in providing reliable results, says Schwikert. There is no remote sensing to verify the spaghetti tag program. No one knows how conscientious anglers will be about turning in tags.

Further, the number of Pere Marquette River fish implanted with transmitters is too few, in Schwikert's judgment, to provide meaningful data. The data gained from the Betsy River fish, though interesting, will have little relevance to how Steelhead react to the Pere Marquette's electrical grids.

"There's also a worry that the spring sucker run may be largely halted by the weir," Schwikert says. "If true, it may upset the ecological dynamics of the upper river. The camera provided a means to learn how many suckers were passing the weir. The proposed study ignores the sucker run."

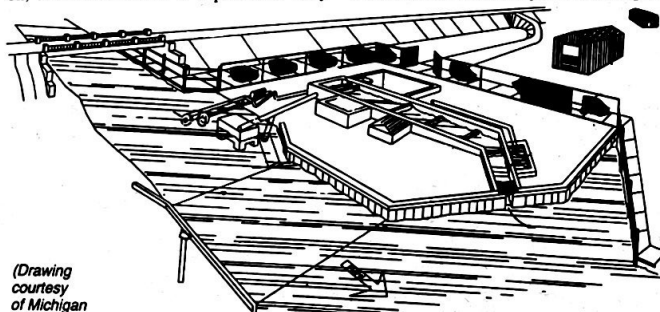
The second condition the Watershed Council wants met to secure its support concerns the weir's future use. It might be used for purposes other than just barring lampreys, such as egg taking and blocking other fish, such as Salmon. The Council wants a DNR management plan written for the river, so the agency's intentions for the weir and the river are known.

A meeting of all interested parties to resolve concerns was scheduled for late December. Reprinted from *Michigan Trout*, Winter, 1995.

the stream floor were built for just \$80,000.

But sportsmen worried about the barrier blocking the spring Steelhead run. The DNR has maintained that the bulk of the run is over before the lamprey migration and before the electricity would flow.

In 1989, however, when the weir was turned on, DNR crews tried to capture and carry



(Drawing courtesy of Michigan DNR)

PROPOSED PERE MARQUETTE LAMPREY BARRIER

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## Charcoal Broiled Salmon

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1/2 pound Butter  
1 teaspoon Onion Powder  
1/2 teaspoon Pepper  
1 teaspoon Salt  
1 teaspoon Garlic Powder  
1/2 teaspoon Paprika  
1 1/2 teaspoons Worcestershire Sauce  
Melt butter and add rest of ingredients. Put steaks on grill. Generously spread sauce over fish with basting brush. Cook until crispy, brown on both sides.

- Linda Mitchell, Troy

## Salmon Slaw

2 cans Salmon or Tuna (6 oz. each)  
hard-cooked Eggs, diced  
3 tablespoons Green Peas, drained  
2 tablespoons Onion, chopped  
2 cups Cabbage, shredded  
1/2 cup Mayonnaise or Salad Dressing  
1/2 teaspoon Salt  
1 teaspoon Celery Salt  
Celery Leaves  
Combine all ingredients except lettuce. Being careful not to break fish into too small pieces. Place on lettuce leaves. Serve cold.

- Dr. Howard Fennel

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# Here's everything you need to know about trailer wiring

Figuring out trailer wiring can be a nightmare. However, it doesn't need to be if you have a basic idea of how a tow vehicle and trailer are wired. The three basic things you need to know are: 1) How a trailer wiring system works; 2) How to maintain your trailer wiring system; and 3) How to troubleshoot trailer wiring problems.

## HOW TRAILER WIRING WORKS

By law, you must have running lights (tail-lights and/or marker lights), turn signals and brake lights. The way to do that is to tap into the tow vehicle's electrical system and transfer it power, through a connector plug, to the trailer wiring system.

Wiring is similar from one tow vehicle to another, except for foreign vehicles, which require a converter. The biggest difference in wiring is how vehicle wires connect to a trailer.

Connectors between tow vehicle and trailer consist of two plugs. A female plug, found on the tow vehicle, has holes that mate with a male plug, found on the trailer, which has prongs, or pins. There may be anywhere from four to nine pins on a trailer plug, depending on the electrical requirements of the trailer.

The material which follows will look at the most common connectors, those with from four to nine pins, as well as flashers.

## FOUR-WAY CONNECTORS

The most basic and least expensive of all trailer wiring connectors is a flat, four-way, plastic plug. This connector transfers electrical power from the tow vehicle to operate the trailer running lights, turn signals, and brakes. The fourth pin on this plug serves as a ground.

This is the type of plug found on the majority of rental trailers, boat trailers and utility trailers, which are the majority of trailers in use

today. This is why, if your tow vehicle comes with a "towing package" that includes a wiring harness, it may also include a flat, four-way plastic connector.

Flat connectors are easy to plug together when ready to tow, but most people don't want to rely on a plug that dangles from the rear of the tow vehicle. It can not only scrape on the ground but, because it must be wrapped around hitch parts, it can crack and cause electrical shorts, cracked wires and connectors that can be pulled apart. However, special aftermarket clips are available to hold a flat plug securely on a tow vehicle.

Round, chrome-plated, four-way connectors are favored by many. These are permanently attached to the vehicle and have a lid to keep the female connectors clean. But, should the connectors get dirty, they're not as easy to clean as plastic plugs are. With a plastic plug, a few in-and-out twisting motions with the male connector will free the female plug of dirt. With a chrome-plated connector, you will need to use contact cleaner to do the job, and to keep the door lid from sticking.

The wires on flat, four-way plugs are usually hooked up in standard fashion using a standard color code. Brown is for taillights and side marker lights. Yellow is for left turn signal and brake light. Green is for right turn signal and brake light, and white is for ground.

Round four-way plugs don't always have a consistent color code, so you may have to figure it out for yourself.

## SIX-WAY CONNECTORS

Horse trailers consistently use a six-way connector. The two additional prongs or pins are for electric brakes and a charge wire for the auxiliary battery used to light the dressing/tack

room in larger units. If no auxiliary battery is used, the extra wire connector is left open.

## SEVEN-WAY CONNECTORS

Newer travel trailers will probably need a seven-way connector. This plug comes in either flat or round configurations, and, in addition to four-way wires for the lighting system previously described, includes wires for trailer back-up lights, auxiliary battery-charging system, and electric brakes. It's a bit more complicated to wire, but mandatory for such trailers.

## NINE-WAY CONNECTORS

There is also a nine-way connector, round or flat, that is generally found on older, larger travel trailers and fifth wheel trailers, where there is a second auxiliary battery or electric refrigerator that needs more charging juice than can be supplied by the single charge wire in the seven-way plug. The two extra lines are for the refrigerator, and for all other 12-volt trailer accessories.

## FLASHERS

A flasher controls how the turn signal lights "flash." The flasher that comes in a tow vehicle

as standard equipment is not intended to take the additional load of the trailer's turn signal lights. This overloading causes the tow vehicle and trailer turn signals to flash rapidly and faintly, and they are usually hard to see by motorists driving behind you.

Changing to a heavy-duty flasher will solve most flasher problems. Be sure you get the correct heavy-duty replacement by reading the package carefully to make certain it is designed for heavy-duty trailering applications. Foreign vehicles generally come equipped with heavy-duty flashers. However, if a heavy-duty flasher is required for a foreign vehicle, it will probably have to be purchased from one of that vehicle's dealers, or an parts store that specializes in foreign vehicle parts.

Flashers are usually located under the dashboard. On most new vehicles, it is connected to the fuse box and pulls out for easy replacement.

I hope this article and the accompanying chart and illustrations will make it easier for you to handle trailer wiring problems.

- Steve Henkel

Reprinted from *Towing Guide & Directory*.

### COMMON WIRE COLORS & FUNCTIONS

CONNECTOR TYPE	WIRE FUNCTION	WIRE COLOR
4-WAY	Dual-Purpose Bulb System	
	Right Turn & Brake Lights	Green
	Left Turn & Brake Lights	Yellow
	Tail (Running) & Lights	Brown
	Ground	White
	Backup Lights	Red
	Electric Trailer Brakes	Blue

CONNECTOR TYPE	WIRE FUNCTION	WIRE COLOR
5-WAY	Dual-Purpose Bulb System	
	Right Turn & Brake Lights	Brown
	Left Turn & Brake Lights	Red
	Tail (Running) & Lights	Green
	Ground	White
	Backup Lights	Yellow
	Electric Trailer Brakes	Blue
	Auxiliary Power/ Battery Charge	Black

# The story of a great Chinook!

It was spring in Oregon. The alarm went off in the darkness, and my brother Gray and I climbed out of bed, rubbing the sleep out of our eyes. We pulled on our blue jeans, gathered up rod, reel, tackle box and gaff and crept quietly out of the house so as not to wake the family. It was misty and gray outside with the odor of fir trees in the air. The dark mass of the mountains loomed on both sides of the canyon, and grass and ferns slapped wetly against our legs as we picked our way down the rocky path to the bank of the Umpqua River.

The smooth-gliding water always startles you a little, coming to it out of the shrouding mist. There is a frightening power to these big, fast-moving rivers of the West, a power emphasized that morning by the full-throated roar of the rapids a quarter-mile below.

On the gravel shore we clumped into the flat-bottom boat that we had made out of Douglas fir lumber from father's sawmill. The tops of the hills to the east were just getting clearly outlined against the sky as we shoved the oars into the oar locks.

My brother and I always take turns rowing and fishing. Gray had caught the last Salmon, so he took the oars while I rigged up the rod. It was a Bristol steel muskellunge rod with a Vom Hoffe reel and 600 feet of 24-pound test silk line. I'd earned the money for it working in father's mill and was very proud of the outfit. A big, fluted, silver Skinner spoon painted red on the end completed the tackle.

Dawn was bringing a lighter gray to the mists over the river as we shoved off into the current. Gray kept the bow upstream and I paced out line from the reel. In this type of Salmon fishing you row upstream but the current is so fast that, in spite of the oarsman, the boat zig-zags stern first downstream.

I could feel the throb of the spoon. My brother kept the light boat breasting the fast-moving water back and forth across the current as we worked down the pool. The memory



of those fir-covered mountain sides rising up in the dawn five or six hundred feet on both sides of that wild rushing trout river is something I have never forgotten. I can close my eyes and almost feel the river mists right now.

About halfway down the pool, I got a vicious strike, but missed it. We then went through a shallower piece of water, not really a rapids but only a rocky bar, and Gray rowed hard to hold the boat just to the south side of the current tongue below the bar. This brought the spoon about a hundred feet downstream at the tail of the main current where it went over the rock ledge into the deep pool below.

As the spoon swung down over the rock ledge I got a lunging strike that pulled the rod tip down to the water. I didn't have to strike back because the fish tore downstream so fast he made the leather drag on the reel smoke as I thumbed the spool.

My brother and I were used to playing big

Salmon in the Umpqua because we had been getting good ones nearly every day of the spring run. But this fish surprised us by the amount of line he got out before we could follow him downstream. He went straight into the big rapids. We went right in after him. The spray from the two-foot waves spilled over into the boat. I feared we were might be swamped.

We got through okay, and, in the deep current below, the Salmon went to the bottom and sulked. That gave me a chance to get back a lot of the line I had lost, while Gray swung the boat toward the south bank where there was less current. We got a little below the fish and I pumped hard to bring him out of the fast water. For about five minutes I worked without moving that fish an inch! Every time I pumped the rod, the boat would move out into the river but the Salmon didn't move at all. Gray said he thought I was snagged on a rock, but I could still feel the fish "chugging" against the line.

As far as we could tell, that Salmon might have stayed there all day, but suddenly he started a run upstream. I shoved down hard on the leather drag and we had a regular "knock-down, drag-out" fight there in the current for another four or five minutes. This time, the full power of the Umpqua was on our side. The Salmon got about halfway up the big rapids before he gave that up.

He made a smashing run downstream and, when he reached the deep pool, went into the air in three tremendous jumps, one right after the other. He was so big he had both of us almost ready to give him up.

After the three jumps, that Salmon plowed straight down the river, through the next rapids, along a smooth slide on the north bank, then straight through a third pool and another rapids. We hung right with him and were now farther down the river than we'd ever been carried by a Salmon before.

This fourth pool was a wide, deep, rather slow stretch, almost still water. It was the best place yet for a tough battle, and I was glad that the Salmon was sulking again. We got below him to make him pull against the current.

He began to take wild runs all over that big pool, jumping repeatedly clear up into the air. I lost track of time but I think it must have been about 40 minutes before this wild-horse of a fish finally calmed down to a more orderly sort of fight. At last, Gray worked the boat into a shelving gravel bar on the north bank, reached it and got out the gaff.

I climbed carefully, and wearily, out into the shallow water and back up on the shore. The Salmon looked like a submarine coming into dock. He made two desperate lunges into the current again before my brother gaffed him . . . and dragged up onto the beach the biggest Salmon we ever saw. That was the world's record Chinook Salmon - 83 pounds!

- Frank R. Steel



# Detroit Area Steelheaders know how to have fun!!

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Get out your poodle skirts and blue jeans, t-shirts and leather jackets, letter sweaters, Brylcreem, beatnik or flower power outfits and come dressed to the 50's and 60's theme, ready to enjoy yourselves at the annual Detroit Area Steelheaders Dinner Dance!!

This year's Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday, February 10, 1996 at the St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Hall in Warren, the site of our monthly club meetings (see map on Page Three). In addition to the great Rock and Roll music, we will again feature the good food and drinks that have become fixtures of this popular affair.

Detroit Area Steelheader Dinner Dance Chairperson Mary Karakas is hard at work preparing for our club's outstanding social event of the year. There have been some donations of prizes from businesses and companies, and more are needed. Homemade craft items would also be welcome. Please



**THE ANNUAL STEELHEADER DINNER DANCE is always a fun occasion, with good food, music, and friends adding up to A GREAT TIME! Each year, those who attend really enjoy themselves, so PLAN TO BE THERE!!**

call Mary if you can help out with this. Mary reports that there will be special reditions of top-name entertainers, so she 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.

"Participation should not be limited to just Detroit Area Steelheader club members and their spouses," says Mary. "We would like to 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 Mary Karakas at (810) 545-1181.

## 1995 TOURNAMENT FISHING WAS PRETTY GOOD . . .



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## Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference meets in Detroit

The 57th annual Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference was held at the Westin Renaissance Hotel in Detroit early last December. Co-hosted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), well over 1,000 resource managers, biologists, researchers and interested parties from Midwestern states and Canadian provinces were in attendance to hear more than 275 different presentations, with many running concurrently. It was by far the most informative and interesting conference of 1995, with many opportunities for interaction among individuals representing various resource departments and other agencies.

Following are program highlights and news reports of particular interest to Michigan fishermen and fisherwomen which emerged during the conference.

### STUDIES ON PLANTING BROOK TROUT ARE PLANNED

USFWS and the Salmonid Technical Committee are planning some studies on re-establishing the native "coaster" Brook Trout. Two key issues on this question needing answers include whether re-introducing the "coasters" would displace other salmonids, and determining how they would interact with existing fish communities in rivers.

### \$2 MILLION DOLLARS NEEDED FOR TFM ST. MARYS RIVER LAMPREY TREATMENT

The Michigan DNR's Jim Johnson, based in Alpena, reported that more lampreys can be killed in the St. Marys River than in all other streams infested with them. According to Johnson, approximately \$2 million is needed to do the job annually, and it would restore northern Lake Huron above the 45th Parallel as a viable fish community habitat.

### ARE HUMANS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES?

"We need to weave humans into our pro-

grams or we are asking for trouble," said Gary K. Meffe, Ph.D., an associate professor from the University of Georgia. Meffe, who was one of the keynote speakers at the conference, admonished his audience and reminded them that there are ethical and practical reasons for human inclusion in ecosystem restoration and conservation.

### ACADEMIA SPEAKS OUT ON THE PERCH ISSUE

Tom McComish, a member of Ball State University's academic community, spoke out about the Lake Michigan Yellow Perch situation, saying we should close it (harvesting) down now. McComish contends that trap nets are devastating the perch population, and asserts that sportsmen ARE NOT IMPACTING the Perch population.

He also alluded to the growing alewife population, stating that when alewife populations are up, Yellow Perch populations are down, and alewives eat Yellow Perch. During last May and June, alewives were dying all over the place, due to unexplained apparent natural phenomena.

### ARE 'HUMPERS' COMING TO LAKE MICHIGAN?

Citing an alleged desire to fill that huge void in the deep open offshore waters of Lake Michigan and other Great Lakes, and to control the burgeoning burbot population, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) and the USFWS still are seeking to plant that fattest strain of Lake Trout - 'Humpers' - into the Great Lakes. While acknowledging that the strain, coming from Lake Superior, is not native to Lake Michigan, GLFC Secretary Chris Goddard still thinks it would be a good idea. Admittedly, those advocating this proposed introduction do not know how Humpers will interact with the rest of Lake Michigan's fish community.

There is some suspicion that the USFWS may have mixed Humper eggs with lean Lake Trout eggs when they were delivered to the

new tribal Keweenaw Bay fish hatchery.

### LAKE ST. CLAIR FISHERY IS BOOMING

With Yellow Perch and other fish stocks show disturbing trends of decline throughout the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair's fishery is booming.

Notwithstanding the fact that Lake St. Clair waters were the first in the Great Lakes system to be introduced to zebra mussels and gobies, and that it has more than its share of alewives, fishing Yellow Perch, Smallmouth Bass and Muskie's has never been better. With an exploding growth of aquatic vegetation to protect them from a large and ravenous population of alewives, targeted game fish and bait fish are thriving. Daily Yellow Perch catch limits on Lake St. Clair remain at 100 per day.

### FEDS LOSE 4,000,000 LAKE TROUT FRY

During the time when non-essential federal government employees were furloughed last November, approximately 4,000,000 Lake Trout eggs hatched before they could be planted in Great Lakes water. Since none of the state resource agencies were willing, or able, to pick up the \$40,000 additional costs for shipping charges, the fry had to be disposed of in a garbage dump.

In other Lake Trout news which emerged at the conference, USFWS's deputy director for fisheries Gary Edwards addressed the issue of the closing of federal hatcheries. According to Edwards, "The last hatcheries to close in the federal hatchery system will be the Lake Trout hatcheries."

This year's conference will be held in Omaha, Nebraska December 8-11, hosted by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Those dates are right in the middle of Nebraska's pheasant, duck, goose, cottontail, etc. hunting season. For more information, call Darrell Feit at (402) 332-3901.

Reprinted from *Great Lakes Basin Report*, GLSFC, January 15, 1996.

## SALMON SMOKING

This recipe for smoking Salmon has been a favorite of club members over the years. It will make enough to smoke about 10 pounds of fish.

### BRINE INGREDIENTS

- 1 quart Water
- 2 cups Brown Sugar
- 1 cup Kosher Curing Salt
- 1 cup Rock Salt
- 1/4 tsp. Pepper
- 2 capsfull Lemon Juice
- 2 Bay Leaves
- 5 shakes Onion Salt
- 5 shakes Garlic Salt

**NOTE:** Be sure to mix these ingredients in a crock, or a glass or Tupperware container ONLY.

### BRINING METHOD

Place the fish in a crock, or Tupperware or glass container skin side up and cover with brine. Place something on top of the pieces of fish to hold them down under the surface of the brine (do NOT use anything made out of metal!). Cure the fish in the brine for five to six hours. Thoroughly rinse each piece of fish separately in cold water, and then air on paper toweling for one hour with the skin side down. At this time, plug in your smoker to pre-heat it. The fish will get a tacky glaze on the outside of the flesh when it is ready to place into the smoker.

### SMOKING METHOD

Arrange the fish pieces on racks skin side down, with thick pieces on the bottom racks and thinner ones toward the top of the smoker. The pieces should not touch each other. Do not oil the racks. Smoke the fish for five to six hours. Place one pan of apple wood chips in the smoker every 90 minutes. Use a total of three pans of wood only. Chill the fish to room temperature before placing in refrigerator or freezer.

- Roger Rice

## GREAT LAKES WATERSHED TRIVIA

- The Great Lakes watershed as we know it was formed only about 2,000 years ago.
- One-third of the 295,000-square-mile Great Lakes watershed is under water.
- Until the early 19th century, the land surrounding Lake Erie was completely covered by trees.
- There are more than 1,000 species of flora in just the Lake Erie island region.
- About one-third of the wild plants growing in Ohio today are naturalized alien species.
- In the 16th century - before Europeans "discovered" the Great Lakes - an estimated 120,000 people lived in the Great Lakes watershed. Today, there are more than 40 million people living in the watershed.
- Because the Great Lakes are located in the middle of the continent - halfway between the Equator and the North Pole - the climate in the watershed is colder during much of the year than that of other areas located at the same latitude.

## DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS

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