

ANNUAL ISSUE



# FISHING TALES

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1997 ANNUAL

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# Lake Michigan Chinook, Steelhead make outstanding '96 recovery!

The previously proclaimed soaring Lake Michigan fishery has now been confirmed with hard data.

"Based on catch rates — the number of fish landed for every 100 hours of fishing — the 1996 season on Lake Michigan was the best of the last eleven years," say Michigan Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.) Great Lakes creel census supervisor Jerry Rakoczy. "Angling for salmon as a group yielded a 14.59 catch rate for 1996, up from 12.29 in 1995, and the best since the remarkable 18.44 catch rate recorded in 1986."

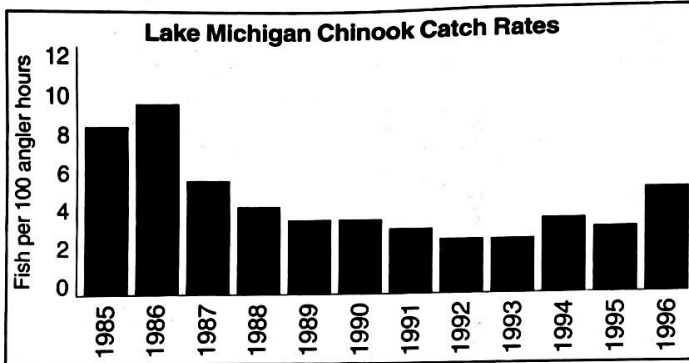
Success was up in 1996 for every species except Lake Trout Catch rates during 1996 increased for Chinook Salmon by 60 percent, Coho Salmon by 16 percent, Steelhead by 94 percent and Brown Trout by 26 percent, compared to 1995. The 1996 Chinook catch rate ended up being the best since 1987!

Lake Trout catch rates last year decreased by 30 percent, compared to 1995, and was the third-lowest year since 1988. This decline probably had more to do with the fact that anglers spent less time targeting Lake Trout due to the good fishing for other species than any decrease in Lake Trout abundance, according to the D.N.R.'s Rakoczy.

It may also be indicative of the strong feelings and preferences of Big Lake anglers for Chinook, Cohos, Browns and Steelhead when available over Lake Trout. For example, Chinook Salmon when hooked are often referred to as a runaway locomotive, while Lake Trout have been called slime-balls, limp wash rags, or worse!

The name-calling of sport fishermen toward Lake Trout doesn't seem to faze the feds or D.N.R. fishery managers, many of whom are enamored with Lake Trout. One thing is certain — many charter captains around the Great Lakes have lost fishing customers when they target Lakers.

Wisconsin's retiring D.N.R. fish chief Lee Kernan, referencing Lake Trout programs at



the 125th annual American Fisheries Society conference noted. "The present status of Lake Michigan may threaten sustainability, but it won't threaten productivity. Every year, there are thousands of pounds of fish flesh produced. It may not be what we want, but there's nothing wrong with that lake, or the Salmon it's producing. Meanwhile, we'll continue to work on the Lake Trout restoration program. If it takes 20-30 more years, so what."

The data are randomly gathered from April through October, and are based on interviews with fishermen at nine major ports and mandatory trip reports submitted by charter captains. The Lake Michigan index ports are New Buffalo, St. Joseph, Grand Haven, Muskegon, Ludington, Manistee, Frankfort, Grand Traverse Bay, and Charlevoix.

The catch comparisons date back to the 1985 season, when the creel census began.

Thousands of fishermen who had mothballed their big water boats due to the weak Chinook fishery over the past decade, didn't catch on that there was a major rebound going on until July and August. Fishing effort surged 80 percent in July and August, Rakoczy pointed out.

Limit catches became almost common well

into October. And, unlike 1995 when Chinook fishing improved at a few ports, 1996 improvement showed up at all ports in the survey.

When he completes final tabulation of actual catch figures for the 1996 season, Rakoczy expects the Chinook Salmon catch at the nine surveyed ports to top 100,000 fish for the first time since the mid-1980's. Chinook will end up being the second-most caught fish in Lake Michigan in 1996, next to Perch.

And Chinook were running bigger, with more 30-pounders taken, both in the fishery, and last fall, at the weirs. "We've never seen such a turnaround!" said Rakoczy.

Will it last? It should, he stated, but then he added a cautionary note. At the same time that he and other D.N.R. biologists gawk at the stunning 1996 Chinook recovery, they warn that the stage is being set for another collapse. They are now convinced, though they may not yet be able to prove, that the bacterial kidney disease (BKD) which ravaged the Chinook population was sparked by a decline in alewife, their primary prey, which stressed the fish.

BKD, they point out, has always been in the Chinook population. It did not flare up until the Chinook came under stress.

Alewife numbers, though they vary natu-

rally, were driven down by too much predation, biologists are convinced. This was caused by too many Salmon, from hatcheries and natural reproduction. Due to improved habitat in rivers, natural reproduction of both Chinook and Coho Salmon has spurred recently.

To prevent overloading the system again, possibly sparking another BKD outbreak, biologists favor reducing hatchery contributions to the population. This, however, is politically unpopular. The scenario they fear is that public opinion will force them to recklessly continue hatchery plantings at excessive levels, resulting in another collapse of alewife and the return of BKD.

Last fall, the number of fish infected with BKD returning to the weirs dropped to as low as one percent, from a high of 30 percent in the late 1980's, when biologists started rejecting infected fish as a source for eggs to be reared in the hatcheries.

In other Lake Michigan angling news, the declining Perch population has anglers and fisheries managers perplexed. But in the meantime, the near-shore fishery is showing a larger abundance of other game fish, especially Smallmouth Bass and Walleye. Crappie, Northern Pike, and Rock Bass are also showing up in larger numbers in the Lake, due in part to more vegetation from increased water clarity.

This article includes material from an article in The Northwoods Call of October 23, 1996, and Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council updates.

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## Lake Michigan Angler Success Rates, 1985-1996

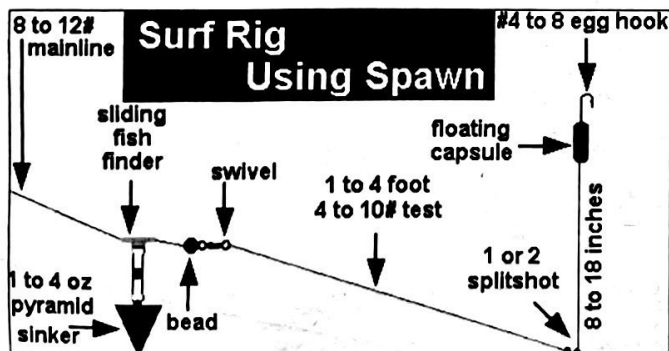
Catch Rates (fish per 100 angler hours) at nine index ports, April through August, 1985-1995

Species	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Coho Salmon	1.65	2.67	1.55	1.30	3.40	1.91	1.72	2.38	2.66	1.05	1.46	1.58
Chinook Salmon	8.40	9.73	5.69	4.04	3.45	3.44	3.20	2.19	1.75	1.78	3.33	5.34
Rainbow Trout	0.33	0.52	0.30	0.96	0.99	1.58	2.91	2.70	2.03	1.88	1.24	2.41
Brown Trout	0.93	1.57	0.53	0.72	0.71	0.89	0.99	0.59	1.13	2.37	1.22	1.54
Lake Trout	2.59	3.59	3.03	3.38	4.41	3.82	4.38	2.57	3.10	3.89	5.03	3.51
All Salmonids	13.90	18.09	11.11	10.41	12.96	11.64	13.20	10.43	10.66	10.97	12.27	14.38

## Surf Fishing Tips

Here's a tip you may find helpful in improving your success rate when fishing the surf. On rough days, try an 18"-36" leader with no split shot and a medium capsule. This rig will tangle very little in rough surf conditions — give it a try!

Take a look at this surf rig when you're using spawn:



## DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS 1996 RIVER CRAB SALMON STAKES HONOR ROLL

The skippers listed below proudly represented our club in the 1996 River Crab Salmon Stakes charity tournament:

- |                    |                   |                  |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Don Anton*         | Ron Hartman       | Chris Nytko*     |
| Hank Baczynski*    | Bob Herman*       | Rob Pinskey*     |
| Robert Betts       | Bill Hoffman*     | Don Redmond*     |
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| Dave Even*         | Bob Ksionzek      | Gary Smedes      |
| Vern Fahrenkrug*   | Ken Kuhar*        | Larry Traynor*   |
| Joel Garinger*     | Dale Luff*        | Joe Von Grebe    |
| Joe Golaszewski    | Lynn Martin*      | Mike Wakulski*   |
| Robert Golaszewski | Ron Mashke        | Ed Wilczek*      |
| Darwin Gregg       | Greg McCann       | Richard Wong     |
| Richard Grix*      | Bob Mitchell*     | Howard York*     |
| Steve Hamilton*    | Tom Moores*       | Bob Zdanio       |
| Jim Hardrick       | Paul Nowak*       |                  |

\* These skippers weighed in fish

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

In 1997, the Detroit Area Steelheaders begins its twenty-third year 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 (our annual Special People outings).
- 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 ex-



"SALMON CLAUS" (alias Mike Wakulski) made his traditional visit with goodies for all good Detroit Area Steelheaders at last year's annual Christmas Party/Meeting!

- penses 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!!**

*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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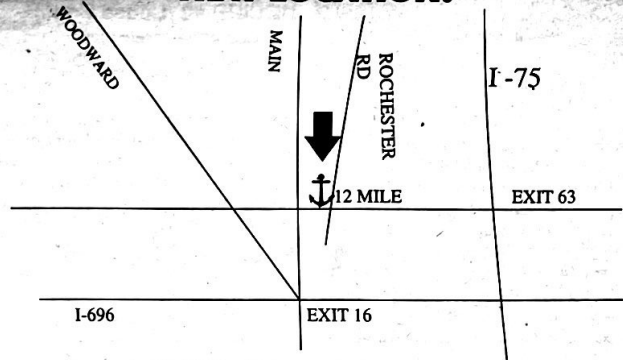
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Officers and 1997 committee assignments will be published in the next issue of *FISHIN' TALES*.

Submit all materials for publication to:  
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Here's how to get to  
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**AMERICAN LEGION HALL**  
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## COMING EVENTS

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

Last Tuesday of month at 7:30 p.m. American Legion Hall, 1815 Rochester Rd., Royal Oak  
**JANUARY 28, 1997 • FEBRUARY 25, 1997 • MARCH 25, 1997**  
 NOTE: D.N.R. Director K.L. Cool & John Robertson are scheduled to speak at the February meeting - **DON'T MISS IT!**

**SPECIAL STEELHEADER EVENTS**

- DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS ANNUAL DINNER DANCE** (American Legion Hall, Royal Oak) February 15
- PONTIAC BOAT & FISHING SHOW** (Silverdome) February 12-16
- OUTDOORAMA** (Novi Expo Center) February 21-March 2
- PROFESSIONAL FISHING SHOW** (The Palace) March 6-9
- DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS LAS VEGAS NIGHT** (American Legion Hall, Royal Oak) March 22

**WINTER FISHING EVENT SCHEDULE**

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
February TBA	HIGGINS LAKE — Ice Fishing	Doug Karakas, (810) 545-1181
March TBA	MANISTEE RIVER	Doug Karakas, (810) 545-1181

**BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
April 26	RIVER CRAB (Lexington/Pt. Sanilac)	Don Redmond, (810) 469-8344
May 3	ST. JOSEPH/BENTON HARBOR	Ken Kuhar, (810) 949-4365
May 17	PORT SANILAC	Paul Schoenrade, (810) 773-6477
June 7	PORT AUSTIN (Team Doubles)	Robert Golaszewski, (810) 778-0927
June 14	SPECIAL PEOPLE OUTING (Lake Erie)	Dick Shirk, (810) 749-9493
June 28	OSCODA (Ladies Day)	Doug Karakas, (810) 545-1181
July TBA	ERIEAU, ONTARIO (Walleye Outing)	Steve Hamilton, (313) 881-3871
August 2	LUDINGTON	Bob Mitchell, (810) 828-8034
August 23	MANISTEE	Daniel Dima, (313) 996-2503
Sept. 6	HARBOR BEACH II	Stan Bilek, (810) 828-4159

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# The Steelheader's first coice: Mess 'n around with eggs

At least, that's the choice of most Ontario Steelheaders when it comes to selecting an all-purpose Rainbow Trout bait. Those big migratory Trout just love eggs. Eggs can be presented in the skein, in the bag, or just slipped separately on the hook.

No doubt about it, eggs are great. The trouble for many, though, comes in preserving fresh eggs or spawn for use at a later date. Learn a method of treating eggs properly and your success ratio on the stream will improve dramatically. Don't take the time to do it properly, and you'll have eggs that burst prematurely in the bag, on the hook, or in the freezer. Believe me, tying spawn bags and fishing for Steelhead doesn't have to be a messy sport.

Without some form of hardening, eggs will not freeze properly for later use. Freezer burn is always a problem, but "soft" eggs are especially susceptible to ice crystals. These ice crystals pierce the egg's shell during the freezing process, which in turn causes the eggs to "milk" prematurely and, thus, create the mess. Here's my favorite method of preserving eggs — it is the choice of many "River Rats."

This method doesn't call for any special chemicals, just a little common sense. The technique is referred to, simply, as water hardening. In the wild, almost as soon as the female Rainbow Trout deposits mature eggs and the male fertilizes them, a natural water hardening begins to take place. This hardening, or toughening, of the egg is Nature's way of protecting the eggs from the crush of gravel and pounding of the current. Anglers utilize the river in much the same way to harden their bait.

It's important to first remember that the egg must be "mature," or ripe in order to use this technique. Immediately after beaching a Trout or Salmon, check the female for ripeness. If the eggs are loose, proceed to strip the eggs into a pail or plastic bag. Ziploc, sandwich bags are excellent for this method of preserving. After all the eggs are in a container, fill it with cold spring or lake water. Allow the eggs to settle for approximately 15 to 30 minutes.

Next, carefully drain off the water, removing any foreign matter at the same time. Fill the container of eggs with water once again, and let it sit for an additional 60 minutes. Again, drain carefully. At this stage the eggs should be adequately hardened for tying into sacks, storing in the refrigerator, or freezing for long-term storage. Water-hardened eggs will keep cool on the shelf of a refrigerator for up to two weeks. If you are planning to freeze the eggs, baby food jars make the best containers. Place an amount of eggs in each jar sufficient to meet the needs of a day's fishing.

Still, some anglers will go a step or two further to preserve their baits even longer. A guaranteed method is to use a store-bought mixtures available at tackle shops. Pro Cure of Salem, Oregon, is popular with West Coast guides and successful big river fishermen.

Home brews work wonders on eggs, and catch Trout, too. Acids, salts and borax are used to preserve spawn. Some mixes are simple, and others almost require a Ph.D. to concoct.

Here's a simple one that just might be the best of all. It calls for a box of Twenty-Mule Team Borax, the same as found in the local grocery store's soap department. Super-saturate a quart of water with borax. Pour water-hardened or fresh ripe eggs into the solution. Water-hardened eggs should be left in the mixture for one hour, while fresh ripe eggs require two hours. Then strain the eggs of all water, rinse again in cold water, drain and pack into small containers. Place just enough in each container for one day's outing. Once again, baby food jars are always best, but those plastic, snap-top pill containers work well, and are quite convenient, too.

The borax method also works well with nearly matured, partially skinned eggs. Remove as much of the skein from the eggs as possible. Once the eggs are treated for the proper amount of time, use a spoon or dull knife



to scrape the eggs away from the remaining pieces of membrane. Allow the eggs to stand in the borax solution for an additional 15 minutes. Rinse, drain, pack in jars and store.

Trout or Salmon eggs treated with borax, packed in containers and stored on the refrigerator shelf, will last from six months to a year.

Are there other proven mixtures for treating eggs to trick fish? You bet. Almost every Steelheader has his own favorite "brew". Allow me to pass along a few other tested tonics which can be used to treat those all-important single eggs, and skeins as well.

## RECIPE #1 (Loose Eggs)

1 quart of loose Salmon or Steelhead eggs  
1 cup of salt  
1 cup of brown sugar  
1 quart of water

Add eggs to salt, sugar and water solution. Let stand for five to seven hours. Drain well, store in the refrigerator. Eggs last up to eight months.

## RECIPE #2 (Loose Eggs)

2 cups of ripe single eggs  
2 tablespoons of phosphoric acid  
2 1/2 cups of water  
Anise oil or cod liver oil

Mix phosphoric acid and water in a quart jar. Add eggs. Continually check for firmness using a hook. Once the eggs have reached the desired texture, remove the eggs from the solution and bathe in cold tap water. Store in baby bottle jars. Add scent as desired.

## RECIPE #3 (Loose Eggs)

1 cup of loose spawn  
2 pints of water  
4 tablespoons of formaldehyde  
1/2 cup of brown sugar

Mix solution of formaldehyde, water and brown sugar in a glass jar. Add eggs and let stand for 30 minutes. Drain and store eggs in small plastic containers. Shelf life in the refrigerator is three weeks, and longer if frozen.

## RECIPE #4 (Loose Eggs)

5 cups of loose ripe eggs  
4 cups of water  
Enough salt to float a hen's egg

Mix solution. Allow eggs to rest in solution for four to six hours. Drain eggs. Store eggs in baby food jars, or in bags that are used as baby bottle liners.

## RECIPE #5 (Loose Eggs)

1 pound of loose roe  
4 tablespoons of pickling salt  
5 tablespoons of brown sugar  
2 cups of cold water

Mix solution in glass jar. Add eggs. Chill for eight hours. Drain eggs and store in freezer bags or baby food jars.

## RECIPE #6 (Loose Eggs)

Mature Steelhead, Brown, Coho or Chinook eggs  
2 tablespoons of Epsom salts  
1 tablespoon of boric acid salt  
1 pint of cool river water

Mix a saturated solution of Epsom salts, boric salt, and river water in a Tupperware bowl. Add loose eggs, stir gently. Refrigerate mixture for ten hours. Remove eggs from refrigerator, drain off solution and package eggs in baby food jars or Ziploc freezer bags for short-term storage in the freezer. Eggs prepared in this manner are ideal for roe bag use. Eggs can also be dyed during solution submersion.

## RECIPE #7 (Skein)

Pre-ripened Trout or Salmon skeins  
2 cups of borax  
1 cup of cherry Jell-O

With a sharp knife, carefully cut down the center of the skeins to the membrane. Try to cut as few eggs as possible. Lay the skeins egg-side down on a paper towel, wrap in newspaper, and store in the refrigerator for 12 hours. Remove eggs. Cut into chunk size, pack and dry again for additional two hours. Blend mixture of Jell-O and borax, and dust chunks completely with the it. Divide chunks and bag in Ziploc bags. Remove air. Store in refrigerator or freezer.

## RECIPE #8 (Loose Eggs)

3 cups of eggs  
1 tablespoon of salt  
3 cups of water  
1 tablespoon of powdered borax  
1 tablespoon of benzoate of soda  
Preferred color dye

Place all ingredients in a pan and bring to a slow boil. Stir frequently and test eggs with a hook for firmness every 30 second after boiling begins. Outer skin of the eggs should be tough, and the inner egg should be soft but not liquid. Once desired texture is achieved, remove eggs from heat and set in cold water. Place eggs in freezer bags and cover with glycerine. An ideal recipe for single egg fishing.

## RECIPE #9 (Skein)

1/2 cup of sodium sulfite  
1/2 cup of white sugar  
1/2 cup of salt

Rinse skeins in cold water, wipe and pat dry. Cut skeins in fishable chunks. Wrap in newspaper and store in refrigerator for six to eight hours. Combine the mixture of sodium sulfite, white sugar, and salt. Sprinkle mixture over chunks, being certain to cover chunks completely. Place eggs in glass containers and refrigerate. Do not freeze.

## RECIPE #10 (Skein)

Trout or Salmon skeins  
1/2 cup of water  
1/2 cup of pickling salt  
1/2 cup of brown sugar

Rinse skeins in water. Pat dry, wrap in paper toweling. Store in refrigerator for eight hours. Mix solution of water, salt and sugar, and soak eggs in it for one hour. Remove eggs from solution and roll in borax. Let sit for six hours. Cut chunks to desired size and place in glass jars. Each layer of eggs should be separated by a layer of borax. Eggs will last up to two years.

— Darryl Choronzey  
Reprinted from Ontario Fisherman, February-March 1994.


PONTIAC SILVERDOME 14TH ANNUAL

# BOAT SPORT & FISHING SHOW

FEBRUARY 12-16, 1997

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- Jerry Chiappetta - Thursday & Friday
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## Go To The Silverdome!



# GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

## MICHIGAN WANTS "5-3-2" SALMON & TROUT LIMITS

Michigan has again raised the issue of standardization of Trout and Salmon regulations for Lake Michigan.

Indiana and Illinois are interested in pursuing a 5-3-2 limit, Michigan's present bag limit. Wisconsin will not make any change from their present 5-2 limit.

John Robertson of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.) points out that Michigan's concerns are substantially different because of natural reproduction in Trout and Salmon. Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana have little or no natural reproduction. Michigan has upwards of 30 percent naturally reproduced stocks of Steelhead and Chinook and some Coho and Brown Trout, and wants to go to a 3-2 limit.

Michigan has also proposed marking all stocked fish, not just Steelhead. Indiana and Illinois currently do so, but Wisconsin doesn't.

Michigan D.N.R. suggests that there are huge implications in information gathering on all species, and this would allow for protection of natural stocks where and when needed.

## LAKE ERIE PERCH HATCHES WAY UP

SANDUSKY, OHIO — The 1996 Lake Erie Yellow Perch class is the best in at least ten years, and just might be the largest year class of Yellow Perch in recent history. It may be so large we have nothing to compare it to!

Research scientists are keeping their fingers crossed, but they are having a hard time disguising their excitement over the 1996 spring hatch of Yellow Perch in Lake Erie.

After several lean years in which Yellow Perch stocks appeared to be in trouble, the 1996 year class looks as though it may exceed the 1984 and 1986 hatches.

Trawls across Lake Erie showed that 1996's Walleye hatch was very good, and the Yellow Perch hatch was excellent.

"We are quite pleased with the hatches of both Walleye and Yellow Perch in 1996, considering the cold conditions they experienced in the spring," says Roger Knight, supervisor of Lake Erie Fisheries Research Unit at Sandusky, Ohio. "The Yellow Perch hatch is probably the best we've seen in a decade, while the Walleye hatch is likely the second-highest in the past five years. We hope these fish will survive to become part of the fishable population two to three years down the road."

Environmental factors play a big part in spawning success. Cold, windy weather and rough lake conditions tend to destroy larvae, especially that of Walleye. Other factors affecting the survival rate of young-of-year, include summer water temperatures and conditions, abundance and quality of food, and the abundance of predators and competitors.

Commercial fishermen are reporting incidents of Yellow Perch cannibalism in which

mature Yellow Perch are found with young Perch in their mouths or stomachs. This may contribute to Yellow Perch mortality, but it may also be taken as an indicator of the abundance of young-of-year Yellow Perch.

## STEELHEAD FEARS APPEAR GROUNDLESS

Fears that Great Lakes trollers targeting offshore Steelhead are adversely affecting Steelhead populations would seem to be unfounded if returns to the Little Manistee River weir during the past year are any indication.

Cadillac D.N.R. district fisheries biologist Tom Rozich said a total of 5,222 fall-run Steelhead were passed over the weir before it was pulled on November 6. The average fall Steelhead run is 2,650, and the 1996 figure represents the fifth-best fall total recorded since records have been kept, and follows a near-record spring run of 9,057 Steelies.

The number of Chinook Salmon harvested last fall at the weir was also up, with 17,090 taken in 1996, compared to 13,004 in 1995. Coho Salmon harvested were up from 1,960 in 1995 to 2,572 last fall. Salmon numbers were up substantially at all weir harvest sites, according to Rozich. Evidence of bacterial kidney disease (BKD) was also down. Chinook at Swan Creek near Rogers City were analyzed using the FELIZA test and showed an infection rate between 6.7 percent and 0.5 percent daily during harvesting operations.

## GREAT LAKES FISHERY TRUST RECEIVES INITIAL SETTLEMENT PAYMENT

The Great Lakes Fishery Trust has received an initial \$5 million payment, to be used for enhancement, propagation, protection, and replacement of Michigan's Great Lakes fishery resources. Created as part of an historic 1994 settlement regarding fish kills at Consumers Power's Ludington Pumped Storage Plant, the Trust will receive an additional \$3.75 million payment within 90 days.

The settlement also requires that Consumers Power Company convey to the State of Michigan and the Great Lakes Fishery Trust approximately 26,000 acres of land for public use in 28 counties, including 75 miles of waterfront property. Properties transferred to the Trust may be sold to local or federal resources and parks management interests, or to the public. The settlement also calls for the development of public access sites on Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River, and Lake Erie.

Other elements of the settlement call for continued use of a barrier net to minimize fish losses, and a continuing review and refinement of plant operations to minimize future adverse fisheries impacts.

## MORE RAINBOW TROUT STOCKINGS URGED FOR LAKE MICHIGAN

Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin



**BIG SALMON** like this beautiful 26-pound, 7-ounce King taken by Joel Garinger at Ludington in August were the story in 1996!

should "stock Lake Michigan with more Rainbow Trout and fewer Lake Trout so fish eaters would be exposed to lower amounts of chemical contaminants," says a University of Wisconsin-Madison researcher.

"The Rainbow Trout, also known as Steelhead, accumulate only one-eighth as much of certain chemicals, particularly PCB's, in their bodies as do Lake Trout," said Stephen Carpenter, a professor of limnology and zoology.

Consequently, the potential risk of health problems facing fish eaters could be significantly reduced by changing stocking patterns in the Lake, Carpenter said in a report published in the journal *Bioscience*.

PCB's are stored in the fat of old, large Lake Trout. No one should eat Lake Trout more than 23 inches long, according to the most recent fish consumption advisories issued by state Departments of Natural Resources. Women and children should not eat Lake Trout exceeding 20 inches in length, the advisories note. By contrast, Rainbow Trout of any size pose a very low health risk.

Lake Trout are native to Lake Michigan, but had become extinct by 1950 due to over-exploitation by commercial fishermen and the arrival of sea lampreys. Stocking of various Trout and Salmon species began in the early 1960's to control alewife populations. Fish managers pushed greater numbers of Lake Trout into the Lake because of a desire to restore a native species, Carpenter said.

## MICHIGAN STATE WINS D.N.R. STUDY GRANT

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.) has awarded a four-year contract to Michigan State University to study effects of fish passage, particularly Steelhead, past the Custer weir on the Pere Marquette River. The study will determine the effects of the electrical field on fish passage and how it might inhibit Steelhead runs. Plans are to capture 100 Steelhead in the lower Pere Marquette River and in Pere Marquette Lake, and implant them with digitally encoded transmitters during spring spawning runs for a period of two years before and two years after the weir becomes operational. Receivers will record how long it takes the fish to traverse the river, what they do upon approaching the electrical field, and how long it takes them to pass the weir.

## PERE MARQUETTE FISH LADDER PLANS ON HOLD

Plans to construct a fish ladder to facilitate fish passage around the pulsed-current lamprey barrier on the Pere Marquette River near Custer have been put on hold, according to Denny Lavis, station supervisor for sea lamprey control with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S.F.&W.S.).

Construction of the fish ladder was originally supposed to begin last fall, but design changes have caused a construction postponement until this summer, at least. One major design change by the contractor, Smith Root, is the use of steel sheet piling instead of

poured concrete for the raceway ladder to facilitate changes that may have to be made once the ladder becomes operational.

A lamprey trap will be incorporated into the ladder to provide captures for the U.S.F.&W.S.'s sterile male program. The weir is scheduled to become fully operational in the year 2000, following a final treatment of TFM in 1999 or 2000.

## BOAT/U.S. OFFERS TAX TIP FOR BOAT OWNERS

The filing deadline for 1995 income tax returns is approaching and BOAT/U.S. (Boat Owners Association of the United States) advises boat owners to remember that interest paid on a secured boat loan is tax deductible if the boat meets Internal Revenue Service (IRS) criteria for a "second home."

"For tax purposes, many boats are used and qualify as second homes, just like weekend cabins in the country, beachfront condos, and mobile homes," said BOAT/U.S. Government Affairs Director Michael Sciulla.

The IRS defines a second home as having "basic living accommodations such as sleeping space, toilet and cooking facilities." A secured loan is one in which a lending institution holds the boat as collateral. Interest on the loan should be reported on your Form 1040, Schedule A. If you received a Form 1098 from your bank, enter that amount on line 10. If you did not receive a Form 1098, enter the amount on line 11.

For specific information, boat owners should consult their financial or tax advisor. **NOTE: The Detroit Area Steelheaders are a co-operating group of BOAT/U.S., which means you can become a BOAT/U.S. member for \$8.50 per year instead of the regular \$17.00 membership fee. The D.A.S. group member number is GA82750B.**

## MICHIGAN EGG HARVEST BOON FOR ANGLERS

More than 15,800,000 Chinook Salmon eggs were collected from weirs on Michigan's Little Manistee and Swan rivers, and another 6,726,000 Coho Salmon eggs were taken from Platte River and Thompson Creek weirs.

Items for this article were taken from the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council Website, Michigan Out-of-Doors, and BOAT/U.S. publications.

## The Detroit Area Steelheaders are on the move . . . AGAIN!

Formed in 1974, the Detroit Area Steelheaders held initial meetings at the Northwood Inn. In the years since, we've met in six other locations, and in late 1996 we moved to our eighth meeting location.

I've been to meetings at all of these locations, and some were better than others. I wonder how many you can remember?

- **September 1974** - Northwood Inn on Woodward, Royal Oak
- **July 1975** - Troy Hilton on Stephenson Highway near 15 Mile Road, Troy
- **May 1977** - Bonnie Brook Country Club at Telegraph & Eight Mile Road, Detroit
- **July 1979** - Vladimir's Restaurant at Grand River & Eight Mile Rd., Farmington
- **August 1980** - American Legion Hall on 12 Mile Rd. near Coolidge, Berkeley
- **July 1982** - Behnan Social Hall on Lahser Rd. near Ten Mile Rd., Southfield
- **January 1985** - Knights of Columbus Hall on Chicago Rd., Warren
- **November 1996** - American Legion Hall on 12 Mile Rd. at Rochester Rd., Royal Oak

You'll find a map on Page Three showing you just how to get to our new home. I hope to see you there in the months ahead!

— Steve Hamilton

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➔ **ADULT BOATING COURSE:** At Grosse Pointe North High School in the cafeteria beginning Monday, April 14, 1997 at 7:30 p.m.

Call the G.P.P.S. Information Line: (313) 885-5005

➔ **YOUTH BOATING COURSE (Ages 12-16):** At Grosse Pointe South High School in Small Auditorium, beginning Monday, April 28, 1997 at 4:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

THIS 3-SESSION COURSE IS STATE OF MICHIGAN-CERTIFIED!

Call Grosse Pointe Community Education: (313) 343-2178

# It was an excellent 1996 . . . Will 1997 be as good??

With excellent fishing being the rule for Detroit Area Steelheaders in 1996, the big question now becomes, "Can we expect the same thing in 1997?"

The Boat Trolling Committee met in early December and came up with a schedule that should be just as good, if not better, for 1997.

Our first outing will again be the Chuck Muer Salmon Stakes River Crab Tournament. This event not only helps support a good cause (various charities involved with child abuse prevention), but the club prize, which goes to the participating fishing club weighing in the heaviest total catch, could sure come in handy. The River Crab tourney traditionally has featured the greatest participation by our club members, and we hope to see another huge turnout of Detroit Area Steelheader skippers and crew at this important tournament in 1997.

On May 3, the club fleet travels over to St. Joseph/Benton Harbor. Coho Salmon are the main target at that time of year, but the chance of also catching spring Kings, Steelhead and Brown Trout makes this an exciting event. Also, there will be some large Lake Trout available. The warm-water discharge off the Cook Nuclear Power Plant will usually hold fish. You can also try off the chalets and junk cars to the south, or go north toward the clay banks. And don't overlook the pier heads.

Club skippers and crews return to Port Sanilac for our third 1997 tourney, on May 17. There should be plenty of Kings, Steelhead and Brown Trout available off the pier heads, clay banks to the south, and at the ship wreck in 100 feet of water about halfway between Port Sanilac and Lexington.

We move on to Port Austin the weekend of June 7. In 1996, this port again proved to be the



OUR ANNUAL LADIES DAY TOURNAMENT is one of the most popular stops on the tournament trail, and you sure don't want to miss the picnic following the weigh-in! Detroit Area Steelheaders President Doug Karakas kept busy grilling 'dogs at last year's event.

best on our entire schedule! There's usually great fishing for Lake Trout off the many reefs in the area. You also want to keep some baits up high for the Kings and Steelhead. Sunday will feature the only Team Doubles even for 1997.

On June 17, the Detroit Area Steelheaders 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 deserves 100% CLUB PAR-

TICIPATION, and I hope to see everyone in the club taking part!

The annual Ladies Day tournament takes place on June 28 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 at this fun event is something you sure don't want to miss.

We will have a Walleye outing at Erieau, Ontario on July 19. This is another non-tournament event which should provide some great

fishing action for very large Walleyes (5-10 pounds average size!), along with the odd Steelhead. Hopefully, we will have better weather this time around.

Our fleet will travel to one of our favorite ports on August 2. Ludington provided the three largest Kings caught during our tournaments in 1996! You can end up with a 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 the Bath House and the Point to the north.

Late August will find us back in western Michigan, at Manistee on August 23. This port was the second-best tournament on our 1996 schedule. This port also delivers a nice mixed cooler of fish for the weigh-in. Out on the water, you never know what might hit your lures. It could be a Laker, Steelhead, Coho, Brown Trout, and, of course, the King Salmon. Best areas to try are south off Gurney Creek, off the clay banks, all along the 90-foot ledge, and most important, off the pier heads.

The final tournament of the year will be at Harbor Beach on September 6. This port should provide some good, fall-run Salmon action close to home. You can also expect the occasional Brown Trout and Steelhead there at that time of the year.

Overall, I think we enjoyed excellent fishing in 1996, and I believe it will improve even more in 1997. I hope all of you will be able to participate in all or most of the great tournaments and outings we have scheduled.

May the Fishing Gods shine on you, and may you all enjoy a safe and successful boating season in 1997.

— Don Redmond  
Boat Trolling Chairman

## 1996 "Skipper of the Year"



1996 SKIPPER OF THE YEAR WINNER DICK SHIRK (left) is shown here with his "Lil' Scratch" crew after a successful 1996 tournament outing!

### FINAL 1996 STANDINGS (BEST 5 OF 8)

PLACE/SKIPPER	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Total
1) DICK SHIRK	4	12	5	50	75	2	2	—	25
2) ROBERT GOLASZEWSKI	50	1	50	3	3	4	15	—	26*
3) CHRIS NYTKO	4	75	50	4	7	7	4	—	26*
4) PAUL NOWAK	2	75	75	6	11	14	1	—	34
5) DON REDMOND	10	75	3	9	13	1	75	—	36
6) BOB MITCHELL	17	7	75	19	4	5	5	—	38
7) TOM MOORES	7	4	13	11	10	20	9	—	41
8) DON ANTON	14	50	6	7	14	6	14	—	47
9) DANIEL DIMA	12	13	50	20	9	9	16	—	59*
10) KEN KUCHAR	30	2	50	5	50	12	10	—	59*
11) STAN BILEK	50	11	13	12	16	10	75	—	62
12) HOWARD YORK	20	9	50	22	12	17	11	—	69
13) PAUL SCHOENRADE	25	14	50	15	50	16	3	—	73
14) DAVE ROEHR	22	15	10	17	15	75	75	—	79*
15) JIM HARDRICK	50	8	2	13	6	75	75	—	79*
16) MIKE WAKULSKI	3	75	75	1	17	75	7	—	103
17) RON HUEY	29	75	4	10	75	3	75	—	121
18) GARY RUPRICH	19	3	75	75	19	75	6	—	122
19) TIM GRASKEWICZ	50	75	8	75	5	8	75	—	146
20) RON HARTMAN	50	75	75	21	50	15	18	—	154

\* TIE-BREAKER: Rule III, Section G  
 A = River Crab B = St. Joseph C = Harbor Beach D = Port Austin E = Oscoda  
 F = Ludington G = Manistee H = Harbor Beach (†Tourney cancelled)

## BIG FISH STANDINGS

Largest Fish taken during 1996 Tournament Season

KING SALMON				Weight
Fisherman	Boat	Port		
JOEL GARINGER	"Trena Dawn"	Ludington		26 lbs., 7 oz.
BOB MITCHELL	"Kemo"	Ludington		25 lbs., 6 oz.
PAUL NOWAK	"Nothing But Fun"	Ludington		23 lbs., 9 oz.
STEELHEAD				Weight
Fisherman	Boat	Port		
CHRIS NYTKO	"Aquarius II"	Ludington		11 lbs., 3 oz.
BOB RUPRICH	"Rupe"	Manistee		11 lbs., 3 oz.
LARRY WALTER	"Lucky Falcon"	Ludington		11 lbs., 3 oz.
DWAYNE WELDER	"S.S. Guppy"	Manistee		10 lbs., 11 oz.
BOB MITCHELL	"Kemo"	Manistee		10 lbs., 6 oz.
LAKE TROUT				Weight
Fisherman	Boat	Port		
DOUG MONDT	"Wet Paint"	Port Austin		18 lbs., 6 oz.
KEN KUCHAR	"Mary Kay"	Manistee		16 lbs., 7 oz.
CHRIS NYTKO	"Aquarius II"	Ludington		16 lbs., 2 oz.
COHO SALMON				Weight
Fisherman	Boat	Port		
PAUL SCHOENRADE	"Eagle III"	Manistee		11 lbs., 7 oz.
MIKE LEHTO	"Capias"	Manistee		10 lbs., 6 oz.
PAUL NOWAK	"Nothing But Fun"	Manistee		7 lbs., 12 oz.
BROWN TROUT				Weight
Fisherman	Boat	Port		
KENT MARTIN	"Twin Lynn"	Port Sanilac (R.C.)		10.88 lbs.
CHRIS NYTKO	"Aquarius II"	Ludington		10 lbs., 9 oz.
BILL HOFFMAN	"Steele"	Lexington (R.C.)		9.18 lbs.

# REPORT

# ALL

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# POACHING



# The economic impact of sport fishing

The sport fishing community has, for many years, been represented by an educated and informed group of anglers. Conservationists and environmentalists long concerned with our natural and sustainable resources, anglers and hunters have yet to be recognized as a force with concerns and economic clout.

Nationally, the economic impact of sport fishing is in excess of \$69 billion, with the Great Lakes states contributing over \$11 billion annually, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior (1991 figures). The province of Ontario generates another \$2.3 billion toward our region's economy.

Yet, with rare exceptions, state and federal legislators and politicians, as well as local tourist and visitors bureaus fail, or refuse, to recognize the economic clout generated by the sport fishing community. They overlook the dollars spent on license sales, which support jobs, and state natural resource departments. They ignore the dollars

spent at restaurants, gas stations, clothing, food and curio stores, and bait/tackle shops.

They ignore the thousands of motel rooms booked through the charter fishing industry, and they overlook the jobs created and sales taxes generated by this recreational economy.

Wisconsin's Department of Tourism, an agency funded by state taxes, refuses to recognize the contribution of sport fishing to the state's economy. A day on a charter is not considered an adventure by Wisconsin Tourism Director Moose Speros or his staff.

Wisconsin is not alone here. Yet the U.S. Department of the Interior will spend big bucks to conduct their five-year survey on the 1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

It's time to stand up and be counted. It's time to let our politicians know who we are, what we represent, and what our economic impact is to our communities.

—Dan Thomas, *President*  
Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council

## A word about the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council...

In 1992, the Detroit Area Steelheaders became affiliated with the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council (GLSFC).

A confederation of organizations and individuals who have banded together in the Great Lakes region, the GLSFC is a non-profit advocacy organization whose members are concerned about the present and future of sport fishing and its economic benefits in the area of the Great Lakes and adjoining waters. It is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the regional sport fishery and its wetlands, habitat and environment.

Established in 1972, the Council has a combined membership of over 325,000 family anglers in all eight of the Great Lakes states, and Canada. It is run by its member clubs for its members. Meetings are held at various ports on the Great Lakes, hosted by a local Council member club, with timely seminars, workshops and conferences highlighting the gatherings.

Much time at these meetings, however, is

devoted to reports by biologists, limnologists, and spokespersons and representatives from state Department of Natural Resources, federal agencies, and other organizations.

These Council briefings cover a wide range of topics, including:

- State & federal fish stocking programs
- New or revised fishing regulations



- Outlook reports on the forage base and the sport fishery in general
- Environmental problems and initiatives
- Illegal trafficking in gamefish
- Scientific research and what it means to anglers
- Economic impacts
- Commercial or sport fishing abuses

- Exotics of the Great Lakes region
- Proposed legislation and rules
- Tourism enhancement

In short, the Council helps inform us on all pertinent subjects so we can inform others on matters that interest or affect them.

## TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 1995 vs. 1996

### 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



### 1996

- 1) St. Joseph — May 4  
16 Boats Entered • 59 Fish Caught
- 2) Harbor Beach — May 18  
26 Boats Entered • 38 Fish Caught
- 3) Port Austin — June 1  
24 Boats Entered • 140 Fish Caught
- 4) Oscoda — June 29  
25 Boats Entered • 61 Fish Caught
- 5) Ludington — August 3  
16 Boats Entered • 56 Fish Caught
- 6) Manistee — August 24  
20 Boats Entered • 119 Fish Caught
- 7) Harbor Beach — September 9  
Tournament cancelled

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# The Ideal Great Lakes Fishing Vest

It was a beautiful late October day on Michigan's Little Manistee River, and the Steelies were pounding my spinners. The fish were also fighting spectacularly, as they usually do in the fall with the water temperature still close to 50° F. Less than one-half of my encounters had been brought to net because the 'Silver Bullets' either blasted through the logs or tossed the lure on a head-shaking leap.

I was about to land my fourth Steelhead when the great morning was shattered, literally. Lots of pressure had been put on the bright hen during the battle to keep her out of trouble, but now I was just guiding her to the net. The fish still had a little fight left, and I was having trouble getting her upstream of me so the current would take her into the meshes.

Suddenly, I thought someone had touched off a deer rifle, as my seven-foot graphite rod became a "three piecer." The rod had been pointed away from the fish, and the sharp angle must have been too much. The break was in the butt section just below the ferrule, and the whole works had slid down to the Steelie. It was not easy, but eventually the Steelhead was captured and the rod tip retrieved.

Now I had a real dilemma — the Steelhead were very turned on and concentrated in the water I was fishing, while my car was a mile of tough walking away. Conservatively, it was going to cost me 90 minutes to get to the vehicle for another rod and walk back.

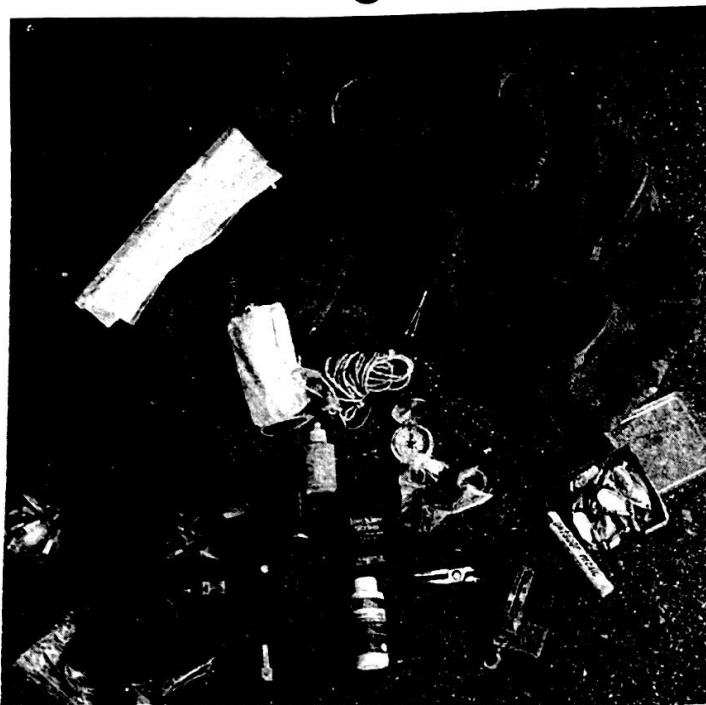
Digging into my fishing vest, I pulled out my crude rod repair kit. It contained extra tip tops, guides, ferrule cement, matches, and a roll of electrical tape. I lined up the tip and butt sections and overlapped them about four inches, with the tip underneath. Then I wrapped about half the roll of tape around the splinted rod.

Casting went pretty well, but setting the hook put quite a strain on the rod, since even with a fairly tight wrap, there was still some side to side "play." With the bandaged rod, I managed to land two more Steelhead by gingerly finessing them to the net, as I worked my way back to the car. Fishing slowed down toward midday, so my choice to repair the rod was correct. Of course, you've got to have the repair materials with you or it is not an option.

The fishing vest is the wading angler's tackle box, and having the right items stowed in it can be critical to a successful outing. General articles on loading a fishing vest have been published before, but this one has a Great Lakes accent, and I bet there will be some items you haven't thought of or did not know were available. I hope this article will get you thinking about optimizing the tackle in your vest.

My goal is to always have the right items available for the fish and conditions, and to have the "fix-it" materials if something breaks down or leaks. Being prepared maximizes your productive time on the river. Of course, the kitchen sink can get pretty heavy, so you also have to be selective and not try to carry everything you own.

Terminal gear is obviously a very important part of the tackle that you stow in your vest. If



**FISHING VESTS** are a wading angler's tackle box, and a well-stocked vest can make or break your river fishing outing.

you are a drift angler, you'll want your hooks, sinkers, leaders, swivels, drift bobbers, yarn, flies, bait jars, and attractor scents all organized and easy to get to. Good-sized pockets allow for leader cards and pre-tied rigs. It's a little simpler for the lure tosser since except, perhaps, for a few snaps and swivels, all you need are a couple of boxes of spinners, plugs, and/or spoons. By taking note of the river size, depth, and water clarity, you can focus your terminal tackle for the conditions and leave some of that tackle behind in the car. For example, I only carry two to three dozen spinners on the river, but they are chosen from a stock of over 100 lures that I carry in my duffel.

Keeping your terminal tackle in good shape requires having several tools in your vest. A hook sharpener allows you to touch up those points dulled by rocks. Either a hone or fine file will do the job, and my favorite is the thumb file with a hole in the handle so it can be attached to a "D" ring and be secured from being dropped into the river. A File Saver pouch impregnated with WD-40 will prevent rust, and also keep the file from wearing a hole in your vest pocket.

Needle-nose pliers are handy for straightening hooks, squeezing lead, and flattening barbs. Line clippers or small scissors will save your teeth, and the scissors can also be used to trim yarn or spawn sack material.

While a good many of the items being described here for inclusion in a well-stocked

vest are optional, the above-mentioned pliers, or sturdy hemostats, are a must for aiding in the unhooking of fish. All members of the Trout and Salmon family have sharp teeth and tough mouths. Struggling to unhook a Steelhead or stream Trout with just your hands usually results in an over-stressed or injured fish, and sliced-up fingers.

Some other handy tools to have include a reel wrench, and a screwdriver. In addition to these take-down tools, I also carry extra bail springs, as this is the part most likely to fail on my spinning reels. A small bottle of oil should also be carried to help keep the reel running smoothly. And even though I'm using the silkkest, most dependable reels ever build, the original Swedish Cardinals, I still carry a spare reel. You never know when you might get sand in the reel or dunk it in the river in below freezing weather. While a spare reel could be placed in the big pocket in the back of your vest, I prefer to stash the extra reel in the large pouch created by my wader belt. I also carry extra reel spools filled with different strength lines.

Good vision is really important to the river angler, so polarized sunglasses should always be tucked away in your vest. I often carry two pairs — one with a light amber tint, which I wear most of the time, and a darker pair for those really bright days. Don't forget to wear a hat with a wide brim or long visor to help keep glare off the sunglasses.

A small first aid/personal comfort kit can make your day on the river more pleasant. Mine includes Chapstick, Band-Aids, aspirin, toilet paper, and, during June, antihistamines for grass pollen allergy. In summer in the Midwest, mosquito repellent is a necessity, and I usually also wear a thin nylon shell jacket to reduce the amount of exposed skin requiring repellent. As the sun breaks out and the mosquitoes retreat a bit, the jacket can be stowed in the back of your vest. On some of my favorite summer Steelhead creeks, poison ivy is extremely lush, so Oak 'n Ivy cleanser is added to my vest so I can wash up when it's likely I've been in contact with this "evil" plant.

I carry a nylon stringer so I can tow a fish if I happen to injure a Trout, or decide to keep a hatchery Steelhead, and I also include a long, narrow plastic fish bag, along with a smaller one for litter or carrying fish entrails from the river up to a trash barrel.

I record notes on size, location, river condi-

tions, etc. for fish caught using a pen and old, outdated business cards stored in a small plastic bag. A 'De-Liar'-type scale and tape measure lets you determine fish vital statistics right on the river. Water temperatures are also taken and recorded, using a cased pocket thermometer. Usually I stay with the river when walking, but for those times when you have to cut out across country, you'll find a compass something very useful to have in your vest. A small flashlight will help you see the trail or read your compass when the fishing is so good that it keeps you on the river after sunset.

The large back pouch in your vest is a great place to store a wading rain jacket. If it is cool, or threatening rain, I just wear the rain jacket on the way to the river, but if the rain stops and warm sunshine emerges, it is great to have a place to stash the waterproof coat.

As long as we're talking about staying dry, it is important to be able to patch your boots streamside if you have a bad encounter with barbed wire or a sharp snag. The flexible hot melt ferrule cement in your rod repair kit can also serve as a temporary wader patch. In cold weather, when leaks become more than just an inconvenience, Aquaseal plus its accelerator Cotal will allow you to make a permanent repair, and it even works on wet waders.

While it is especially important to me as an outdoor writer, I think a camera belongs in the vests of all wading anglers. It allows you to capture action shots, as well as fish when they are freshly caught and still alive. Having proof of your catches also makes it easier to release those big Steelies! Point-and-shoot, auto-everything cameras are ideal but even single-use cameras take surprisingly good photos if there is plenty of light available. A reclosable plastic bag will protect the camera when it is not in use. Waterproof cameras are also available.

There are lots of vests to choose from on the market. Pick one that has the right number and size of pockets for your gear. If you fish in both summer and winter, and in between, you may need two vest — a lightweight, smaller-capacity nylon mesh model for hot weather, and a larger-capacity one for winter. Based on my experience, plain cotton vests are very comfortable but don't last long. So I suggest sticking with polyester blends for greater durability.

I hope this article has given you some ideas on how to stock your vest, including some items you may not have considered before. I bet you've come up with other pieces of equipment I have not listed that help to make you better prepared for your outings on the river. One invisible item that should always be carried in a fishing vest is an abundant supply of positive attitude — confidence that you are going to fish. Knowing you're wearing a well-stocked vest can help with that confidence!

— Jim Bedford

Reprinted from **Salmon Trout Steelheader**, February-March 1996.

## 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 1997 season.

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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 and fresh water 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



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

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 anxiously 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 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"

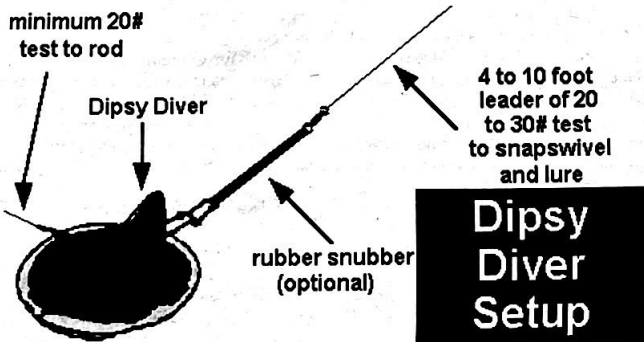
## Dipsy Diver Tips

If you troll on the Big Lakes and are not fishing Dipsy Divers, YOU ARE ONLY CATCHING 50 PERCENT of what you could be catching!! Here are some tips for using Dipsy Divers that you may find useful:

- Three feet of line for one foot of depth on setting three. For example, 150 feet of line equals 50 feet deep. This is a very general rule.
- Line counter reels make running Dipsy Divers much easier. If you are forgetful, try resetting the line counter after setting a Dipsy. After a fish hits, let the Dipsy back out to zero.
- Use a braided main line. This makes releasing the diver much easier. Thirty-pound test Spiderwire or 20-pound test Fireline are good, but Spiderwire will dig into guides and spinning reels. Remember, thinner diameter lines will get deeper.
- Use a long, stiff rod — 10' rods made specifi-

- cally for Dipsys are great.
- Don't go too light — 20-pound minimum.
- Use the Dipsy's dial on the back correctly. It is made to be read facing the boat's bow.
- Keep Dipsy Diver rods away from down-

- riggers — try them a few feet from the stern where the downriggers are located.
- Place rods low to the water. Placing the rods almost parallel to the water leaves less line above the water for fish to tangle.



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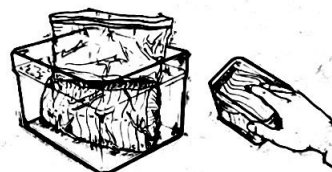
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FEBRUARY ISSUE  
of  
FISHIN' TALES  
JANUARY 28, 1997

## Freezing Fish Fillets

When freezing your catch, package the fish so as to minimize exposure of flesh to air. This can be done with a vacuum sealer machine.

If you don't own one, try this method: Place the fish in a Ziploc-type freezer bag, leaving the top open. Dip or dunk the bagged fish in a bucket of water, which forces out all the air, then close the bag. Another way that works is to freeze the fish in a heavy plastic bag or small container filled with water.



From Salt Water Sportsman, February 1996.



# So you think you want to be a Salmon fisherman!

I know you. I've been on your boat. You're one of two guys. Either you're the guy who's been thinking of buying a boat and rigging it for salmon fishing, or you're the guy who's taken the plunge, bought the boat, and are out there on the water doing a great job of washing lures.

Let's talk about Guy Number One first. You've probably been out on a friend's boat or on a few charters and you've been thinking, "This kind of fishing is the cat's whiskers!" But do you know what's involved in just the price?

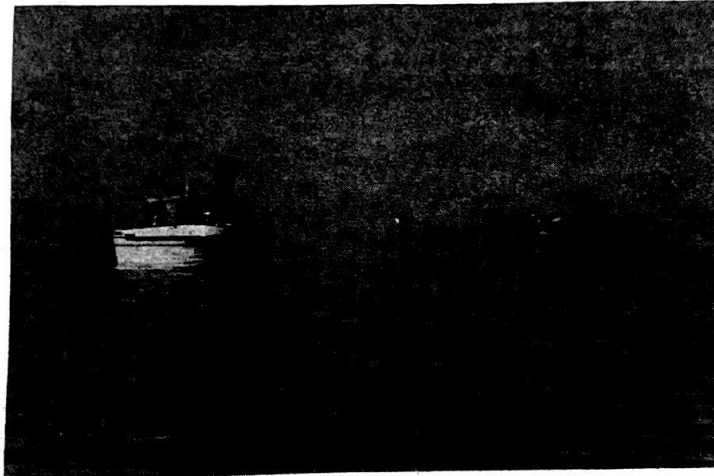
Let's start with the boat. You can probably buy a small, 18-foot aluminum boat with a 15- or 20-horsepower outboard motor for about \$3,000-\$6,000, depending on its condition. But be forewarned. With a boat of this size, unless you are taking Dr. Death along for the ride, you're going to have to stay within about two miles of the pier heads. The weather on the Big Lakes can change in the blink of an eye. If you're in a small boat six miles out where the fish are, you can kiss your buns good-bye and, in the finest tradition of the sea, go down with the ship if weather kicks up!

So, if you are going to go further out, this requires a bigger boat. If you're going trailer it, a 21-foot used glass boat is not the best shape will start at about \$7,000-\$8,000. And as to the price of a new 26-foot glass job, well the salesman will say, "If you have to ask the price, you can't afford it."

This takes us next to what may be the most costly part of your outfit. Using computer lingo, if the boat is your hardware, all the fishing equipment is your software. Without the software, your fishing boat will make a great landmark in your driveway.

First, you can start with a set of downriggers. At the low end, a set of manual downriggers will set you back about \$200. But at the other end of the cost spectrum, a good set of electric downriggers will run you somewhere in the area of \$1,000. Now, you don't need to spend a grand on downriggers, but after a year of dragging ten-pound cannonballs up and down, an electric downrigger will look better than a Super Bowl weekend alone, with the wife and kids at the mother-in-law's!

Rods are next on list, from about \$25-\$100 per rod, with reels extra, at about \$35-\$200 each for some of the very best ones on the market. The aforementioned cannonballs are about ten bucks per, and that doesn't count the real 'heavy' stuff, like a GPS unit or a LORAN, ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 or more. Now comes the marine radio that is a must to have, to call your friends on the water or the Coast



A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER MORNING ON THE GREAT LAKES, a scene sure to inspire all would-be Salmon Fishermen!

Guard if you're sinking, say \$150.

But all these don't compare in cost to the things that stick you just about every time you go out on the water. Lures in most stores will run you anywhere from \$3-\$4 a pop, and most guys have 100 or more in their tackle boxes. And let me tell you, it makes no difference which port you go to. You will not have in your tackle box "THE LURE" the big ones are hitting. THAT one will be the one that the tackle store man just got in a big shipment of, and he'll sell you all you want for the SALE PRICE of \$7 each!

Okay, now let's look at a new truck to pull your rig, the insurance to cover it, the gasoline to get you back and forth to port, the fuel for the boat, the room rent for the motel when you get there, or a motor home or travel trailer so you have a roof over your head. . . . And the maintenance. . . well, DON'T ASK!

This brings us to Guy Number Two. You remember Guy Number Two, don't you? He's the one who has already gone out and bought all the stuff we were just talking about, but try as he may he only gets a fish or two every third or fourth trip. He's about ready to sell the whole thing to take up something a little cheaper, like collecting vintage Rolls Royce automobiles.

Well, at this point, you might be saying to yourself, "Here we are, reading a fishing newspaper and this guy is trying to convince me not to go fishing!" Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, nothing

could be further from the truth.

I am what could be called the fisherman's Ralph Nader. I think the most important part of a fishing trip is the training you get long before you ever set foot on the deck of your new boat. You don't fly an airplane without training, you don't drive a car without training, you don't have sex without. . . well we won't go into that, but you get my drift.

Now where do I go to get this kind of training, you may ask. I'm glad you asked that question. My club, the Detroit Area Steelheaders, is a great place to start.

For the guy who doesn't yet have a boat, Guy Number One, our club has what is called a Crews List and a Crews Hot Line. For some unknown reason, most of our club skippers have, at one time or another, had a boat full of people all lined up and ready to go fishing, and within 30 minutes, they get phone calls from their 'crew members' saying, "I can't go, my bunions are acting up. . . . My dog is having kittens. . . . The boss is making me work overtime for the first time in 38 years. . . ." You get the idea. If that skipper wants to go fishing, he's going to have to find some bodies, or new crew members somewhere.

This is where the Crew List and Hot Line comes in. With one or two phone calls, the skipper gets a crew and you can get a whole weekend of fishing. Best of all, you'll be a crew

member on a working boat learning all the tricks of the trade, finding out how it's really done, and fishing with guys who have hundreds of hours of fishing under their belts. Some guys in the club started out as a crew member for a certain captain and then became a permanent partner. After a year or two of this, you'll have a better idea if you want to mortgage the kids to pay for a boat of your own.

The learning continues the last Tuesday of each month, when we all get together at our monthly meetings and listen to all kinds of expert speakers talking about everything concerning fishing. Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.) officials, pro fishermen, charter captains, and members of the Coast Guard are only the tip of the iceberg (Don't say iceberg around boat captains!). We also have a monthly newsletter covering club activities, with lots of stories about fishing written by club members, along with reprints of useful articles relating to our sport from all over the state.

For a guy with a boat, Guy Number Two, one of the most important things to consider is safety. With 20-30 boats on the water at once, as happens during our boat trolling tournaments, you have 20-30 boats ready to help you if you need it, rather than having to call a towing service to get you back to the dock.

The club has eight or nine tournaments per year all over Michigan, from Rogers City to Lake Erie, St. Joe to Frankfort, and all the ports in between. If you are not satisfied with just eight or nine outings, you can always find three or four club members who are going to some port on the weekends the club's not fishing.

For those of you who like to "fish the river," we also have a bunch of River Rats who hit the rivers all winter long, even fishing through the ice on Higgins Lake for Lake Trout.

Finally, after the outings are over, back at the weigh-in, we get out the grill and blacken a few weenies, have a few pops, and tell a few lies to some good friends.

Don't get me wrong. You can buy a boat, go out on the water over a couple of years, read every magazine and book you can find on the subject, and follow the charter boats all over the Lake, and sooner or later you'll start to catch a few fish. But as someone once said, "The best money you'll ever spend is on your education." And if you do decide to start down the road to becoming a Salmon Fisherman, a membership in the Detroit Area Steelheaders is the best true bargain you will ever find!

I hope to see you on the water!

— Ray Banbury

## The Detroit Area Steelheaders really GIVE!

Our club, the Detroit Area Steelheaders (D.A.S.) has contributed to worthwhile causes which serve our stated goal of promoting and protecting Great Lakes Salmon and Trout fishing. The following list of our past donations may overlook some, but the overall impact of the list is the Detroit Area Steelheaders give!

- August 1977 - Aquascope Depthfinder. Donated to D.N.R. Fisheries, S.E. Michigan.
- 1977 - Reworking fish ladder on Huron River at Flat Rock. D.A.S. paid the costs for the D.N.R. Fisheries, S.E. Michigan.
- From 1978 through 1984, we had no funds left to donate after operations.
- June 1985 - \$500 Grant. Donated to M.S.U. Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- 1985 - \$250 Legal Debt. Paid as a member club of the Michigan Salmon & Steelhead Fisherman's Association (M.S.S.F.A.).
- October 1985 - \$500 Grant. Donated to Sanilac Steelheaders for Lexington Fish Cleaning Station.
- April 1986 - \$250 Legal Debt. Paid as a member club of the M.S.S.F.A.
- July 1987 - \$200 Legal Debt. Paid as a member club of the M.S.S.F.A.

- 1987 - Backpack Fish Shocker. Donated to M.S.U. Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- September 1987 - \$800 Grant. Proceeds from D.A.S. cookbook donated to M.S.U. Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- October 1988 - \$600 Legal Debt. Paid as a member club of the M.S.S.F.A.
- September 1989 - \$500 Legal Debt. Paid as a member club of the M.S.S.F.A.
- September 1990 - \$1,000 Grant. Donated to Bluewater Sportfishing Association for reef construction.
- September 1990 - Two Riviera Downriggers. Donated to M.S.U. Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- December 1990 - \$155 Grant. Donated to N.E. Michigan Steelheaders to fight Hammond Bay gill nets.
- March 1991 - \$100 Grant. Donated to N.E. Michigan Steelheaders to fight Hammond Bay gill nets.
- February 1992 - \$500 Grant. Donated to Benzie County Fish Hatchery.
- April 1992 - \$500 Grant. Donated to M.S.U. Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- May 1993 - \$250 Grant. Donated to Benzie

- County Fish Hatchery.
- June 1993 - \$500 Grant. Donated to M.S.U. Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- March 1994 - \$400 Grant. Donated to M.S.U. Betsie River Project.
- March 1995 - \$100 Grant. Donated to Great Lakes Sportfishing Council.
- July 1995 - \$250 Grant. Donated to Bluewater Sportfishing Association for Sarnia, Ontario Hatchery.
- September 1995 - \$500 Grant. Donated to M.S.U. Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- November 1995 - \$500 Grant. Donated to Grand Traverse Area Sportfishing Association to fight gill nets.
- September 1996 - \$100 Grant. Donated to Great Lakes Sportfishing Council.
- October 1996 - \$250 Grant. Donated to Grand Traverse Area Sportfishing Association to fight gill nets.

D.A.S. donations and grants to date total MORE THAN \$10,000!!! So, we can all feel good about belonging to the Detroit Area Steelheaders because, as an organization, we live up to our stated purpose and give to help the fishery!

— Steve Hamilton

## Broiled Trout with Parmesan

4 filets Trout, 8 ounces or more each  
Salt & Pepper to taste  
Adobo Seasoning to taste (see note below)  
1/2 cup Mayonnaise, Italian Salad Dressing, or Sour Cream  
Parmesan Cheese

Turn oven broiler on high. Spray broiler pan with no-stick spray. Sprinkle salt, pepper and adobo seasoning to taste on each trout filet. Place filets on broiler pan and broil for a few minutes until the fish starts to separate (become flaky). Remove filets from oven and coat with either Italian salad dressing, mayonnaise, or sour cream. Return fish to the broiler and broil for a few more minutes until fish is done (flakes with a fork). Remove from oven and sprinkle fish liberally with Parmesan cheese. Total cooking time averages about 15 minutes, depending upon size of fish. Serves 4.

— Emil Dean, Owner of Mary-E Charter Service, Bear Lake, Mich.  
NOTE: Adobo seasoning is a dry mixture of herbs, spices and chiles found in specialty food stores. For this recipe, it should not be confused with adobo marinade or sauce, a vinegar-based liquid with similar flavorings.



# Detroit Area Steelheaders know how to have

ATTENTION ALL DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, SPOUSES, SIGNIFICANT OTHERS, FRIENDS AND RELATIVES! Get ready to enjoy yourselves at the annual Detroit Area Steelheaders Dinner Dance!!

This year's edition of one of our most enjoyable club activities will take place on Saturday, February 15, 1997 at the American Legion Hall, Frank Wentland Post No. 253 in Royal Oak, the new site of our monthly club meetings (please refer to the map on Page Three). In addition to some great music, we will again be featuring the good food and drinks that have become fixtures of this highly popular affair.

Detroit Area Steelheaders Dinner Dance Chairperson Mary Karakas is currently hard at work preparing for our club's outstanding social event of the year. There have already been some donations of prizes from businesses and companies. However, more are needed, so please call Mary if you can help out with this.

Mary reports that a highlight of this year's affair will be special renditions of songs of



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!!

top-name entertainers, so she is... all club members to come to the bas... make that decision RIGHT NOW, so acc... rate 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 Steelheaders Dinner Dance continue to grow as it has in recent years, 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 \$35 per person or \$70 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, would like to contribute a door prize, or want to order your Dinner Dance tickets, please call Mary Karakas at (810) 545-1181.

## TOURNAMENT FISHING IN 1996 CONTINUED TO IMPROVE . . .



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## Pontiac Silverdome Boat, Sport & Fishing Show is set for February 12-16

When the winds are cold, the lakes frozen, and spring looms weeks away, it's got to be outdoor show season!

Outdoor enthusiasts look forward to sport and boat shows. An oasis of fun among the snow and ice, visiting an outdoor show is the next best thing to enjoying a favorite fishing, hunting or boating adventure.

The Pontiac Silverdome show is Michigan's largest combined boat, sport and fishing show. Coming to the Silverdome February 12-16, 1997, show visitors will be treated to bulging displays of fishing and pleasure boats, hundreds of fishing tackle booths, seminars from the nation's leading tournament anglers, guides and outdoor writers, plus more 'hands on' and family activities than ever before.

More than 4,000 square feet of retail fishing tackle lines the halls of the Silverdome. The larger exhibits, from Lunker's, Oxford Outfitters, Best Chance Charters, and the Professional Fishing Center, are stocked with fishing lures, reels, rods, landing nets, electronics and every accessory an angler could wish for. This is your chance to check out the newest tackle items for 1997, plus specialty baits, custom fishing rods and accessories only sold at the Silverdome.

Boat lovers will find over 300 trailerable fishing, runabout, ski, pontoon and deck boats on the arena floor. Shop the hottest fishing boats from Champion, Ranger, Tracker, Lund,

and Lowe, to name just a few. In addition, Mercury, Mariner, Johnson, Evinrude and Yamaha motors will be on display.

Silverdome show visitors will be able to view more jet boats, ski boats and deck boats than at any other boat and sport show. The dozens of dealers on hand offering on-the-spot financing, make the Silverdome show the obvious place to shop for a new boat or personal watercraft.

The Silverdome show is also famous for the nationally known seminar speakers it brings to town. Collectively known as "Fishing Academy," it takes three stages to handle all the educational seminars scheduled! Big names in fishing scheduled to appear include:

- B.A.S.S. Angler Of The Year Kevin VanDam
- Touring pro Kim Stricker
- Television hosts Jerry Chiapetta and Ron Peterson
- Bassin' Gals Penny Berryman, Fredda Lee and Linda England
- Walleye pros Mike McClelland, Mark Martin, Mark Romanack and Tom Irwin
- Musky guides Steve Jones, Don Miller and Bob Brunner
- Great Lakes guide Mike Gnatkowski

There will be many other speakers too numerous to list who will also be conducting

educational seminars that are free with your admission ticket.

Many sportsmen come to the Pontiac Silverdome Boat, Sport & Fishing Show simply to visit the Outfitters Expo. A collection of hunting and fishing guides, outfitters and travel bureau booths, the Expo houses some of the leading lodges catering to Canadian and western U.S. big game hunts, plus fishing opportunities that range from Graylings to Stripers. When you visit Outfitters Expo, you'll meet the outfitters and guides in person to help you make your plans for an exciting hunting or fishing adventure.

The Silverdome show is also a family-pleaser. In addition to all the retail booths, families will find a wealth of activities that kids and parents are sure to enjoy. The always popular Trout Pond is stocked and ready for fishing fun. Proceeds from the Trout Pond help the Harper Creek Optimist Club with their children's causes. Rubbermaid and B.A.S.S. are also sponsoring the Casting Kids Competition, a free competition that helps kids develop fishing skills, coached by Michigan B.A.S.S. club anglers.

If all this isn't enough, the National Fishing Lure Collector's Club is sponsoring a beautiful display of antique fishing lures, and the Michigan Taxidermy Association will also have some of their finest award-winning work on exhibition.

All this and more is available at very modest ticket prices: \$6.50 for adults, and \$3.00 for children 6-14 years of age. Kids age 5 and under are admitted free.

Dates for the 1997 Pontiac Silverdome Boat, Sport & Fishing Show are: Wednesday, February 12 through February 16. Show hours are: Wednesday-Thursday, 3:00-9:30 p.m.; Friday, 11:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

I hope to see you all at the show!

— Mark Romanack

## Lake Huron fishery is on the upswing

Despite a late spring and an improved Lake Michigan fishery, Lake Huron trout and salmon fishermen enjoyed a slightly better fishery in 1996, compared with 1995.

Based on preliminary data, D.N.R. creel census supervisor Jerry Rakoczy reports that Lake Huron trollers had their best season since record-keeping began eight years ago, creeling 13.42 Trout or Salmon per 100 hours of fishing in 1996. That's up from a 12.43 catch rate in 1995, and more than double the 1992 rate of 6.23.

The Lake Huron catch rate of 13.42 compares to a 14.38 rate on Lake Michigan in 1996 (See Page Four for an in-depth look at the Lake Michigan fishery in 1996).

Angler effort, Rakoczy points out, was down 18 percent, due, it is suspected, to the cold, windy spring and improved Lake Michigan fishery in 1996.

The only down side to the Lake Huron fishery picture last year, Rakoczy adds, was the spring Brown Trout fishery. The Brown Trout catch at the nine ports surveyed in 1996 dropped 55 percent, from 10,236 in 1995 to 4,669 this year, again due, presumably, due to the weather.

The estimated catch of other species at the nine ports (with figures for 1995 in parentheses) are as follows: Coho Salmon—1,946 (1,897); Chinook Salmon—81,431 (94,341); Rainbow Trout—14,024 (17,068); and Lake Trout—34,173 (33,242).

Though, fewer Chinook and Rainbows were taken in 1996, Rakoczy notes that the success rate was as good or better than in prior years, due to the fewer number of hours spent fishing. The Lake Trout and Chinook fisheries have been improving steadily.

From The Northwoods Call, Dec. 18, 1996.

### TOP 10 REASONS THAT YOU MAY HAVE BOUGHT THE WRONG BOAT!!!

- 10) The service manual gives an address to get warranty work done and it's a McDonald's
- 9) Every time you tell someone the make of your boat you can't help but notice that people start giggling
- 8) The bottom of your boat is covered with salmon graffiti
- 7) When at the factory to see them build your new boat, you notice the jel coat comes out of a can with "Smuckers" on the label
- 6) A malfunction in the bilge blower sucked your cock-a-poo up and sent him skipping across the bay
- 5) The boat's engine is attached with Velcro
- 4) The computer chip in your boat's engine is manufactured by Frijo-Lay
- 3) Your boat's engine is not an O.M.C. but a D.O.A.
- 2) The electronics come from a place called "Sparks-R-Us"
- 1) Your fishing boat was manufactured by P.E.T.A.

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