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**DETROIT AREA**  
  
**STEELHEADERS**

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

# A look back at 1997: The year in review

Nineteen ninety-seven was another good year for the Detroit Area Steelheaders. In keeping with the season, at our January meeting, we had an officer of the Oakland County Sheriff Marine Patrol in to speak about safety on ice. Also, river guide John Hunter spoke on different techniques of river fishing for Steelhead.

In February, we held our annual Dinner Dance, one of our club's primary social events of the year. The Dinner Dance featured a Mexican theme, and once again, the event was a major success due to the efforts of Doug and Mary Karakas, Bob Mitchell and all their many helpers. The 1998 Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday, February 8. This social event is an excellent opportunity for club members to enjoy an evening of fun and excitement, so plan to be there!

February is also the month we began our participation at all the major sport and fishing shows, with members representing our club before the public. Thanks go to those members who volunteered their time to inform the general public about Salmon and Steelhead fishing, and the benefits of belonging to the Detroit Area Steelheaders.

Also in February, we were honored to have K.L. Cool, top man of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.), and John Robertson, director of the Fisheries Division, D.N.R., as speakers at our meeting. They each spoke on how Salmon and Steelhead fisheries have been improving the past couple of years.

In late March, another fun social occasion took place, our Las Vegas Night event. Mary Karakas put in a ton of effort organizing the entire evening, with the help of about 35 other Steelheaders, and it turned out to be a first-class night of fun and a huge success for the club. This year's Las Vegas Night is set for March 21.

The highlight of our March meeting was guest speaker Gary Towns, D.N.R. fisheries biologist for southeast Michigan. Gary spoke about the Huron River and the new fish ladder near Flat Rock that will open up miles of river



**THE SPECIAL PEOPLE OUTING** offers Detroit Area Steelheaders warm memories.

to a new Steelhead fishery, certainly an exciting prospect to metro Detroit fishermen.

At our April meeting, Captain Fred McDonald and Captain Kevin Hughes of the Manistee County Sportfishing Association (M.C.S.A.) were guest speakers, giving us a great presentation on how the Orsini Fish Hatchery on the Betsie River is operated. Our club made a \$250 donation to the M.C.S.A. to help defray their expenses in running the hatchery.

April also saw the kick-off of our boat trolling tournament season with our club's participation in the Chuck Muer's River Crab Salmon Stakes tournament. Unfortunately, this event did not produce good numbers for the Detroit Area Steelheaders. Our friends in the Bluewater Sportfishing Association entered 65 boats, with 39 of them weighing in a total catch of 851.3 pounds. Our club showed up with a fleet of 60 boats, and ended up with 35 boats weighing in a total catch of 525.85 pounds. This great tournament has raised more than \$900,000 for charities since its inception in 1985 by the late Chuck Muer, and our club is

delighted to participate. We expect to do better against our Canadian brethren this year when we renew our long-standing rivalry at the 1998 River Crab on May 2.

The month of May began with our tournament at Lexington early in the month (which was delayed by one day due to bad weather). Stan Bilek claimed his first tournament win aboard "Blue Star" with a catch of seven nice King Salmon. Later that same month, our

tournament schedule took us to Port Sanilac, where new club member Paul Colone, skipper of "The Kidd" notched his first tournament win in only his second tournament. Nice going, Paul and Stan!



**DOUG & MARY KARAKAS** accept their shared "Director of the Year" award from President Don Redmond.

At the May meeting, long-time Steelheader and seven-time "Skipper of the Year" winner Bob Mitchell gave a dynamite presentation on fishing for Lake Trout and King Salmon at Port Austin.

Early June found our tourney fleet at Port Austin for a two-day event. Jimmy Hardrick and "My Dream" won the Saturday regular tournament, while the team of Ken Kuhar and "Mary K," and Rob Pinsky and "Anticipation" took the Team Doubles on Sunday.

The next weekend we hit Lake Erie for Walleye in our annual Special People Outing. A total of 23 Detroit Area Steelheader skippers and their crews treated 31 physically challenged guests to a day of walleye fishing, complete with a cookout, trophy awards, and gift packs with a lot of fun surprises.

David Jude, biologist for the Sea Grant Program was our guest speaker at the June meeting. Dave spoke in detail about the impact of the round and tube nose Goby and other exotic (non-native) species on our Great Lakes.

June also featured our annual Ladies Day tournament, at Oscoda. Mother Nature and the Fish Fairy were in complete agreement that this one would be a great day for the ladies. Chris Nytko and his ladies aboard "Aquarius II" won this event with a catch of eight nice Lake Trout and Kings.

A light July schedule was highlighted by our Lake Ontario outing to Erieau, Ontario for walleye, which, unfortunately, had not yet arrived. Most skippers ended up fishing for Kings and Steelhead, which, thankfully, were in ample supply. Our July meeting speaker was Paul Seelbach, who spoke about our Steelhead fishery and the discontinuing of Skamania program on some rivers.

August kicked off with great weather and lots of fish for our Ludington tournament. Stan Bilek and "Blue Star" fished his way to his second tournament victory of 1997 with a nice

catch of seven Kings and a Brown Trout. Incidentally, Stan was penalized 10 points for being late to the pre-tourney Skippers meeting. Nice catch, Stan!

Later in the month, our fleet paid a visit to the port of Manistee for our next-to-last tournament of 1997. Another new member, Fred Kaul and "Tail Walker," won this event with a nice catch of six Kings. Fred also won despite being penalized 10 points for missing the Skippers meeting. Maybe this is something to try at my next tournament . . . !

Dave Kastner from K & D Marine was our August meeting speaker. Dave gave our membership some very helpful tips on winterizing their boats for winter storage.

We wrapped up the boat trolling tournament season in early September at Harbor Beach. Paul Colone and "The Kidd" managed to find enough fish to become a two-time winner in 1997. For the September meeting, Steve Hamilton presented a very good video on different techniques of river Steelhead fishing.

October saw the start of river, pier and surf tournament season, with the first action at St. Joseph. Our October speaker was "Mr. Lightliner" himself, the legendary Dick Swan. Dick spoke on the advantages of using light line and long rods for Steelhead and Kings, both in the river and on the big lakes.

The November highlight was a presentation by Robert Hass, district D.N.R. biologist for Lake St. Clair on the round and tube nose goby, the zebra mussel, and other exotic species, and D.N.R. observations of various species of fish in Lake St. Clair.

December brought our annual Christmas Party and Awards night. "Salmon" Claus made his much-anticipated appearance with his goodies for all the little boy and girl Steelheaders. We held our election that night, as well, welcoming two new members, Ken Kuhar and Paul Colone, to the Board of Directors, and saying "Thanks" to outgoing Directors Mark Luff and Joe Braggs.


The winner of the popular "Cooler Full of Cheer" raffle was won by John Zuniga of Canton. Foremost among individual award winners was Robert Golaszewski, winner of 1997 "Skipper of the Year" honors, and Steve Domino, named "Member of the Year."

After much consideration, the Board of Directors is happy to award the "Director of the Year" trophy jointly to Doug and Mary Karakas. Doug handles the CREWS line, the river and surf tournaments, served as a Port Captain, ran the weigh-ins at the boat trolling tournaments, and worked on the Dinner Dance, Las Vegas Night, and the show booth. Mary worked at the tournaments, set up the Dinner Dance, ran Las Vegas night, worked the show booth, and helped out with many other functions. Talk about hard-working! Thanks and congratulations to Doug and Mary - well done!!

Finally, in 1997, the Detroit Area Steelheaders made a \$250 donation to the Grand Traverse Area Sportfishing Club, to be used for the legal defense fund against tribal gill nets. In addition, Captain Bob Kring, representing the Ludington Charter Boat Association, accepted a \$200 donation to help with the purchase of new net pens to replace the worn out ones on the Sable River.


All in all, 1997 was a busy, fun-filled fishing year for the Detroit Area Steelheaders, and we are all looking forward to an even better year with more of the same in 1998!

- Don Redmond, President  
Detroit Area Steelheaders



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

In 1998, the Detroit Area Steelheaders begins its twenty-fourth 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 sport fishing. 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 expenses involved in the negotiating of Indian fishing rights and gill netting.
- 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.
- Participating in various conservation projects.

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 recognized 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 and join us, and **GET IN ON ALL THE FUN!!**



DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS know that fishing's more fun when YOU CATCH FISH!

*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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Officers and 1998 committee assignments will be published in the next issue of *FISHIN' TALES*.

Submit all materials for publication to:  
**BOB MITCHELL, Editor**  
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 Troy, Michigan 48098

## Prize drawing for new, former members set

If your membership in the Detroit Area Steelheaders lapsed before January 1, 1997, or if you have never been a member before, you are eligible to participate in a prize drawing by joining (or rejoining) the Detroit Area Steelheaders today!

If you join by the April 28 membership meeting, you'll be entered in a drawing for an Eagle Explorer hand-held GPS unit. This GPS unit stores 250 way points, has a detailed course plotter and a ten-year internal battery back-up, and handles data from up to 12 satellites simultaneously.

To qualify for this drawing, just complete the Membership Application below and turn it in at our Steelheader booth at the Silverdome, Palace, or Novi outdoor shows, or just show up at our regular membership meetings the last Tuesday of each month (see map). I hope to welcome you real soon!

- Tom Moores, Membership Director

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

### NEW LOCATION!



# COMING EVENTS

## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Last Tuesday of month at 7:30 p.m. K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren  
**JANUARY 27, 1998 • FEBRUARY 24, 1998 • MARCH 31, 1998**

## SPECIAL STEELHEADER EVENTS

**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS ANNUAL DINNER DANCE** (K. of C. Hall, Warren) **February 7**  
**PONTIAC BOAT & FISHING SHOW** (Silverdome) **February 18-22**  
**OUTDOORAMA** (Novi Expo Center) **February 20-March 1**  
**PROFESSIONAL FISHING SHOW** (The Palace) **March 3-5**  
**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS LAS VEGAS NIGHT** (K. of C. Hall, Warren) **March 21**

## WINTER FISHING EVENTS

| DATE         | EVENT                      | CONTACT                      |
|--------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| February TBA | HIGGINS LAKE — Ice Fishing | Doug Karakas, (248) 545-1181 |
| March TBA    | MANISTEE RIVER             | Doug Karakas, (248) 545-1181 |

## BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENTS

| DATE      | EVENT                              | PORT CAPTAIN                       |
|-----------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| April 25  | LEXINGTON                          | Robert Golaszewski, (810) 778-0927 |
| May 2     | RIVER CRAB (Lexington/Pt. Sanilac) | Chris Nytko (810) 254-7426         |
| May 16    | GRAND HAVEN                        | Paul Colone, (248) 547-0004        |
| May 30    | PORT AUSTIN (Team Doubles)         | Ron Hartman, (248) 542-4873        |
| June 13   | SPECIAL PEOPLE OUTING (Lake Erie)  | Dick Shirk, (810) 749-9493         |
| June 27   | OSCODA (Ladies Day)                | Doug Karakas, (248) 545-1181       |
| July 25   | PORT AUSTIN (Walleye Outing)       | Don Redmond, (810) 469-8344        |
| August 1  | PRESQUE ISLE                       | Mark Stosiak, (810) 777-9833       |
| August 15 | LUDINGTON                          | Bob Mitchell, (248) 828-8034       |
| August 29 | MANISTEE                           | Paul Schoenrade, (810) 773-6477    |
| Sept. 12  | HARBOR BEACH                       | Stan Bilek, (248) 828-4159         |

## Membership Application

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# In fishing, as in real estate, location is everything!

There's an old saying that "90% of the fish are in 10% of the water." Another one goes like this: "The most important element in catching fish is that you have to be over the fish." Easy enough. But where are the fish and how do I find them? This is the \$64,000 question!

There are many aspects to consider when you are trying to find fish. First is the season. In general, Salmon tend to be in the southern ends of Lakes Michigan and Huron in the spring, having migrated there over the winter. Through the summer, they move offshore and north, eventually returning to their spawning rivers.

About ten years ago, Salmon just disappeared as far as fishermen were concerned. Everyone switched over to Lakers and awaited their return in late July. At that time, we all 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 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 at the river mouths and run the rivers. They first start to school in deep water off the mouths of the rivers. This phenomenon occurs because the fish were originally from the ocean.

If a fish were to immediately move from salt water to fresh, it would die. They school in the mixture of salt and fresh water, slowly getting used to the fresh. Salmon transform, forming a protective mucous covering on their bodies, often turning dark when the protective covering forms. Only then do they run the rivers. In the Great Lakes, the Salmon do the same thing. No one told them there aren'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-thirties into the forties, there are pockets of water that are warmer than the surrounding water. These may be near



**AUTHOR BOB MITCHELL (left) definitely knows where to find the big ones!**

shore, at the mouth of a river or creek, or at the discharge of a power plant. Regardless, these warm water pockets hold bait fish, and Salmon anxious to feed on them.

As waters warm, fish move north and offshore. Places to look for them are the thermal bars where the surface water changes temperatures by a couple of degrees. The best spots are where you find a narrow band of 54° F water on the surface. Often this band will exhibit a visible "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 is usually found in quite shallow depths, the upper 25 feet. Steelhead are also present in great numbers in these areas. Eventually, the warm water from one side meets the other side of the lake and the thermal bar disappears.

Once the Salmon return to shallower water (less than 200 feet) temperature can still play an active role in finding the fish. Again, 54° F is the key. That's the temperature where water undergoes physical changes in density. This causes it to layer with colder water below, warmer water above, and a rapid change in

temperature over a 5' to 20' band. Find this band with a temperature probe and you have a major key in trying to find fish. They may be above or below the band, but the odds are that they and the bait fish will be near it.

One standby rule is to find the depth that is 54° F, add 15 feet to that depth and start fishing there. It's amazing how often that technique works. For Lake Trout, the rule is to find where 48° F water intersects with the bottom and start there. These suggestions are not guarantees by any means - treat them as starting points.

Salmon are eating machines. If you want to find weighty people, go to a buffet. If you want to find weighty King Salmon, go to their snack bar: schools of . 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 is worth looking around some more. If the buffet is bare, people leave. So do the Salmon.

As we learn more about Salmon, it is becoming more and more apparent that they relate to structure on the bottom and also to water currents. Think about the great Salmon

ports on Lakes Michigan and Huron and you will notice a common thread among them, structure: The Point at Ludington, the Herring Hole at Frankfort, the area around the Nordmar wreck off Rockport, the Grindstone Reef, etc. All of these areas have tremendous structure. They hold fish because of their structure. Just remember, structure is a 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 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're fishing in the same direction a deep current is running, you need to troll faster to ensure that your baits are running at optimum speed. If you're fishing against the current, slow down. The angle of your cables will give you a clue about speed and current.

There are other ways to find fish. There's the "bait shop" report. Some are good; some aren't. One of the best sources of information is the guys fishing for a living, the charters. They generally fish every day and follow the schools. Their information or presence is a positive sign. Just be courteous and stay out of their way. You're 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 looked, there was plenty of lake 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 boats are reporting good action not far away, don't keep doing what you're doing. Go there! As first stated, there is no surefire way to catch fish all the time. But get over the fish and your odds in finding the 10% will improve. Good Fishing!

- Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"

## Onward to a successful 1998 Boat Trolling Tournament season!

Now that the '97 season is over and the awards are all passed out, we can now look forward to an exciting new year of Detroit Area Steelheader boat trolling tournaments.

The top 15 skippers of 1997 met in early December to discuss next year's tournament schedule and boat trolling rules, and here is the tournament line-up they established.

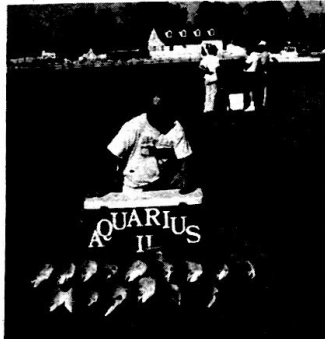
Our first outing for the 1998 season will take us to the Lake Huron port of Lexington on April 25. This area usually produces good King Salmon action, as well as some Brown Trout and Coho Salmon, and will be a good warm-up for the 1998 River Crab tourney.

One week later, on May 2, we go to our annual visit to Chuck Muer's River Crab Salmon Stakes in the Lexington/Port Sanilac area. This is a charitable event that supports a good cause. The Blue Water Clinic, Blue Water Sport Fishing Association, and C.A. Muer Corporation (River Crab Restaurant) co-sponsors donate proceeds from the tourney to the Blue Water Clinic's McKinnon Family Center and other child abuse/neglect programs throughout Michigan.

The key element for success in both these tournaments will be the weather in the few days leading up to the tournament. The most important consideration will be the bait fish, which are mostly smelt. Look for reports of smelt running and you will know where to concentrate your efforts. Remember, keep your options open and be flexible as to where you decide to launch.

After receiving good fishing reports for the last couple of years, the Boat Trolling Committee decided to return to the port of Grand Haven, on May 16, after an absence of several years. This one should be interesting.

This year our Team Doubles tournament will take place on May 31 at Port Austin,



**CHRIS NYTKO shows off the results of a day's fishing during a 1997 tournament.**

following our regular tournament on May 30. Last year, Port Austin proved to be the best tourney of the year, with 122 fish caught and a total weight of 955 pounds!

The annual Special People Outing is set for June 13 on Lake Erie, out of Toledo Beach Marina. This non-tournament outing is designed to provide a real fun day out on the water for a great group of very Special People, and this is the event on our club schedule for 1998 that I sincerely hope will draw the most participation from our club members.

We next move on to Oscoda for the highly popular Ladies Day tournament, on June 27. This is the day when all our ladies get to display and show off their fishing skills, as well as their cooking abilities at the traditional picnic meal after the weigh-in.

For the first time, we've scheduled a Wall-eye outing at Port Austin, on July 25. This non-tournament outing should provide great fishing action for some very large walleye.

The next week, on August 1, the fleet will head for Presque Isle. After a couple of research trips to that port, with excellent fishing results, the Committee decided to try an official tournament there. This should prove to be another very interesting event.

The port of Ludington has always been a club favorite, and we'll be there on August 15. You can end up with a nice 'mixed bag' catch at this port. There's usually good action at the Project to the south, or north toward the Bath House and the Point.

Late August keeps us in western Michigan, at Manistee on August 29. This port delivers a nice variety fish. Once on the water, you never know what might hit - Lakers, Brown Trout, Coho, Steelhead, and, of course, King Salmon.

For the first time, the Boat Trolling Committee has scheduled a make-up date for any previously cancelled tournament. This event will be at Harbor Beach on September 12.

As you can see, we've got a great line-up for 1998. As we progress through the schedule, we will have information packets available, containing maps, charts, and contacts to assist you in making your tournament outings more enjoyable. I hope all of you will again be able to participate in all, or most, of these great tournaments and outings on our schedule.

May you all enjoy a safe and successful fishing season in 1998. Good luck to all, and I'll see you on the lake!

- Chris Nytko  
Boat Trolling Chairman

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# Detroit Area Steelheaders

## "Top Five" Skippers 1976-1997

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1997</b></p> <p>1) .... Rob Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"</p> <p>2) ..... Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"</p> <p>3) ..... Paul Colone, "The Kidd"</p> <p>4) ..... Bob Buero, "Mickey Mouse"</p> <p>5) ..... Jimmy Hardrick, "My Dream"</p>         | <p><b>1996</b></p> <p>1) ..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"</p> <p>2) .... Rob Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"</p> <p>3) ..... Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"</p> <p>4) ..... Paul Nowak, "Nothin' But Fun"</p> <p>5) ..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"</p> |
| <p><b>1995</b></p> <p>1) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"</p> <p>2) ..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"</p> <p>3) ..... Daniel Dima, "Taz"</p> <p>4) .... Rob Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"</p> <p>5) ..... Dave Roehr, "Floating Holiday"</p>                | <p><b>1994</b></p> <p>1) .... Joe Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"</p> <p>2) ..... Jimmy Hardrick, "My Dream"</p> <p>3) ..... Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"</p> <p>4) ..... Ron Hartman, "Molly Frair"</p> <p>5) ..... Paul Schoenrade, "Eagle Two"</p> |
| <p><b>1993</b></p> <p>1) ..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"</p> <p>2) ..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"</p> <p>3) .... Joe Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"</p> <p>4) ..... Leon Van Eden, "Bullhead"</p> <p>5) ..... Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"</p>       | <p><b>1992</b></p> <p>1) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"</p> <p>2) ..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"</p> <p>3) ..... Tom Moores, "Karefree"</p> <p>4) ..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"</p> <p>5) ..... Mike Wakulski, "Wet Paint"</p>                 |
| <p><b>1991</b></p> <p>1) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"</p> <p>2) ..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"</p> <p>3) ..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"</p> <p>4) ..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"</p> <p>5) .... Joe Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"</p>            | <p><b>1990</b></p> <p>1) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"</p> <p>2) ..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"</p> <p>3) ..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"</p> <p>4) ..... Rob Pinskey, "Anticipation"</p> <p>5) ..... Mike Wakulski, "Wet Paint"</p>            |
| <p><b>1989</b></p> <p>1) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"</p> <p>2) ..... Steve Banovic, "Exaggerator"</p> <p>3) ..... Ron Huey, "Half R's"</p> <p>4) ..... Ron Hartman, "Molly Frair"</p> <p>5) ..... Don Anton, "Happy Bare"</p>                      | <p><b>1988</b></p> <p>1) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"</p> <p>2) ..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"</p> <p>3) ..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"</p> <p>4) ..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"</p> <p>5) ..... Steve Banovic, "Exaggerator"</p>            |
| <p><b>1987</b></p> <p>1) ..... Greg Clifford, "Outlaw"</p> <p>2) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"</p> <p>3) ..... Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"</p> <p>4) ..... Steve Banovic, "Exaggerator"</p> <p>5) ..... Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"</p>                 | <p><b>1986</b></p> <p>1) ..... Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"</p> <p>2) ..... Greg Clifford, "Outlaw"</p> <p>3) ..... Chuck Wood, "Predator"</p> <p>4) ..... Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"</p> <p>5) ..... Blaise Pewinski, "Sea Hag"</p>                    |
| <p><b>1985</b></p> <p>1) ..... Darrin Harris, "Cannonball"</p> <p>2) ..... Joel Garinger, "Fishbusters"</p> <p>3) ..... Bruce Choinski, "Kneeknocker"</p> <p>4) ..... Tom Chojnowski, "Sea Con"</p> <p>5) ..... Ed McIntosh, "Sweet Lorraine"</p> | <p><b>1984</b></p> <p>1) ..... Bob Kanas, "Least Likely"</p> <p>2) ..... Ed Choinski, "Kneeknocker"</p> <p>3) ..... Darrin Harris, "Cannonball"</p> <p>4) ..... Bob Ksionzek, "Last Dime"</p> <p>5) ..... Mike Zelkowski, "Elvira"</p>          |
| <p><b>1983</b></p> <p>1) ..... Gerry Ciurzenski, "Jawbuster"</p> <p>2) ..... Mike Boroniec, "Horsefly"</p> <p>3) ..... R. J. Branham, "Seahawk"</p> <p>4) ..... Bob Kozar, "Snowman"</p> <p>5) ..... Ed Yankoski II, "Least Likely"</p>           | <p><b>1982</b></p> <p>1) ..... Brian Glaser, "Least Likely"</p> <p>2) ..... Toby Lampi, "Jessie III"</p> <p>3) ..... Mike Curzenski, "Nooner"</p> <p>4) ..... Bob Kring, "Drifter"</p> <p>5) ..... R. J. Branham, "Seahawk"</p>                 |
| <p><b>1981</b></p> <p>1) ..... Bob Kring, "Drifter"</p> <p>2) ..... Toby Lampi, "Jessie III"</p> <p>3) ..... Bob Kanas, "Least Likely"</p> <p>4) ..... Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"</p> <p>5) ..... Jewell Harris, "Cannonball"</p>                     | <p><b>1980</b></p> <p>1) ..... Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"</p> <p>2) ..... Terry Cholette, "Fishing Fever"</p> <p>3) ..... Toby Lampi, "Jessie III"</p> <p>4) ..... Randy Cope, "Ouzo Too"</p> <p>5) ..... Ed Yankoski II, "Least Likely"</p>        |
| <p><b>1979</b></p> <p>1) ..... Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"</p> <p>2) ..... Howard Mills, "Paramour"</p> <p>3) ..... Larry Atwell, "Cobra"</p> <p>4) ..... Jim Treadaway, "Okie Drifter"</p> <p>5) ..... Bob Kring, "Drifter"</p>                       | <p><b>1978</b></p> <p>1) ..... Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"</p>   |
| <p><b>1977</b></p> <p>1) ..... Chuck Cartwright, "Tuna Boat"</p> <p>2) ..... John Makela, "Sisu"</p> <p>3) ..... Murrell Blackburn, "Fish'n 5"</p> <p>4) ..... Bob Kring, "Drifter"</p> <p>5) ..... Larry Atwell, "Cobra"</p>                     | <p><b>1976</b></p> <p>1) ..... John Makela, "Sisu"</p> <p>2) ..... Murrell Blackburn, "Fish'n 5"</p> <p>3) ..... Chuck Cartwright, "Tuna Boat"</p> <p>4) ... Paul Irvine (boat name unavailable)</p> <p>5) ..... Steve Hamilton, "Valhalla"</p> |

First place finishers are annual "Skipper of the Year" award winners

# GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

## BROWN TROUT RECORDS SET FOR LAKE MICHIGAN AND LAKE ONTARIO DURING 1997

One month after shore angler Manny Paolinetti netted an Illinois state record 29.81-pound Brown Trout from the Waukegan rocks, on June 22 Deva Vranek shattered that mark with a massive 36.72-pound Brown caught five miles off Chicago's Burnham Harbors southwest of the P-marker.

Meanwhile, on June 10 at the other end of the Great Lakes Basin, in Lake Ontario off the shore of Oswego County, New York, angler Tony Brown of Schenectady caught a 33.20-pound male Brown Trout in 24 feet of water. Brown's Brown was 38 inches long with a girth of 25 inches, surpassing by more than two pounds the previous record, set in 1993, also off Oswego County.

Brown caught his record on a black and silver Smithwick Rogue lure. He and his father Tom were fishing with Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council (G.L.S.F.C.) member, Captain Gerry Bresadola of B & B Charters, Mexico. Brown used 8-pound test line with a 6-pound leader and a custom 'noodle' rod built by Ernie Lantignie, also of Mexico.

Not having a cooler large enough to hold his fish, Vranek tied it to the net, then tied the net and fish to the back of the boat to keep it fresh while he hauled it in. "It may have lost a little weight en route," said Vranek. "We were fishing for Coho and never expected to haul in a fish this big."

Vranek's Brown Trout was 40 1/4 inches long, with a girth of 26 1/4 inches. This fish not only dwarfed the month-old record by nearly seven pounds, but it was also six inches longer, slightly fatter and is potentially the Great Lakes Brown Trout record.

Paolinetti caught his Brown on an alewife using 8-pound test line. Fortunately he had 300 yards spooled on his reel, because his battle took around 30 minutes and drew quite a crowd. Coincidentally, Paolinetti was registered in the Evinrude Salmon Classic, run by G.L.S.F.C. member Tony Portincasso, and he came in first.

For catching the biggest fish in the tournament, Manny won a 14-foot Prince Craft Fisherman boat with an 8-horsepower Evinrude outboard motor, both manufactured by the OMC Corporation, another G.L.S.F.C. supporter, and a Shorelander trailer. Over 4,300 anglers were registered in the free tournament.

Vranek was trolling in 48 feet of water with a 6-foot spinning rod, a deep-diving blue-green Arbogast crank bait and 20-pound test Fireline, the new 'high tech', no memory, no stretch MicroDyneema line from Berkley. The fish originally weighed in at 36.14 pounds at Henry's Bait and Marine, whose proprietor and G.L.S.F.C. support Henry Palmisano immediately contacted Illinois Department of Natural Resources authorities. To make sure all the formalities were observed, Palmisano checked the certification of his scale and then re-weighed the frozen specimen. It had lost 2 1/2 ounces overnight.

"It's an amazing fish," said fisheries biologist Tom Trudeau. "It's interesting to me that anglers are catching these fish, especially because Brown Trout are not targeted too often." Trudeau pointed out that scale samples showed both the Paolinetti and Vranek fish were six years old, "which I think is an amazing growth rate," noted Trudeau.

Although unconfirmed, the two Illinois Browns may be the Seeforellen strain, which

Wisconsin has been planting since the fall of 1991, and are estimated to reach upwards of 50 pounds at full maturity. It is generally acknowledged in the area that the new world record Brown Trout, when caught, will be a Seeforellen planted by Wisconsin in Lake Michigan waters.

The current Wisconsin record Brown, set in 1996, is 35.12 pounds, and Michigan's record is 34.60 pounds. The current world record is 40.4 pounds, caught in 1992 in the Little Red River in Arkansas.

The largest sport-caught fish coming out of the Great Lakes region to date is the 47.13-pound Chinook Salmon caught in the Salmon River, Oswego County, New York in 1991.

Seeforellens were originally brought from New York and tend to live longer and grow faster than other strains. They spawn later in the fall and are not susceptible to the fungus that take other strains early in their life-cycle.

It will be interesting to see who gets bragging rights for the next record Brown Trout, Lake Michigan or Lake Ontario. For now, it's the Illinois waters of Lake Michigan.

Reprinted from Great Lakes Basin Report, July 15, 1997.

## CREEL SURVEY SHOWS CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN LAKE MICHIGAN FISHERY IN 1997

During 1997, Lake Michigan Salmon and Trout anglers enjoyed another great season.

Angler effort in the traditional salmonid fishing statistical districts increased by 12% as compared to 1996. A total of 374,355 salmonines were estimated harvested by the charter and non-charter fisheries on Lake Michigan. The catch rate (13.3 fish per 100 angler hours) for all salmonines combined in 1997 was the second-best year of the 13-year data series, and was 19% greater than the 1985-96 average catch rate.

The harvest and catch rate of Coho Salmon (+24% and +15%), Chinook Salmon (+12% and +7%), and Brown Trout (+52% and +43%) increased in 1997 as compared to 1996. The 1997 Lake Trout harvest increased by 15%, while the catch rate remained unchanged as compared to the previous year.

Rainbow Trout was the only salmonine category whose harvest (-24%) and catch rate (-30%) declined in 1997 as compared to 1996. However, the 1997 catch rate for Rainbow Trout of 1.6 fish per 100 angler hours was virtually unchanged compared to the previous 12-year average.

Some highlights of the 1997 Lake Michigan fishery included the above-average Salmon fishery in Grand Haven and Muskegon. In that area, anglers harvested nearly ten times more Coho Salmon and approximately two times more Chinook Salmon, Brown Trout and Lake Trout than in 1996. The good fishery caused a 53% increase in angler effort there during 1997 as compared to 1996.

In Grand Traverse Bay, the sport harvest of lake Whitefish during 1997 increased over 100% as compared to 1996, and was the best catch and catch rate estimated since 1987.

The 1997 Yellow Perch harvest and catch rate declined compared to 1996, and were at the lowest levels of the data series.

The survey was again conducted by the Michigan D.N.R.'s Jerry Rakoczy from the same nine Lake Michigan index ports: New Buffalo, St. Joseph, Grand Haven, Muskegon, Ludington, Manistee, Frankfort, West Grand Traverse Bay, and Charlevoix.

Reprinted from Great Lakes Basin Report, Dec. 15, 1997.

# 1997 "SKIPPER OF THE YEAR"

## Final Standings - Best 5 of 8

| PLACE/SKIPPER         | A  | B  | C  | D  | E  | F  | G  | H    | Total |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|-------|
| 1) ROBERT GOLASZEWSKI | 29 | 1  | 3  | 2  | 6  | 6  | 8  | 10   | 18    |
| 2) CHRIS NYTKO        | 8  | 10 | 12 | 6  | 1  | 5  | 7  | 13   | 27    |
| 3) PAUL COLONE        | 5  | 50 | 1  | 7  | 75 | 50 | 14 | 1    | 28    |
| 4) BOB BUERO          | 2  | 12 | 75 | 4  | 2  | 14 | 75 | 15   | 34*   |
| 5) JIMMY HARDRICK     | 11 | 75 | 2  | 1  | 75 | 11 | 9  | 50   | 34*   |
| 6) GARY RUPRICH       | 33 | 2  | 50 | 15 | 3  | 7  | 10 | 75   | 37    |
| 7) PAUL SCHOENRADE    | 50 | 4  | 13 | 8  | 4  | 12 | 17 | 16   | 41*   |
| 8) HOWARD YORK        | 50 | 3  | 10 | 16 | 75 | 21 | 6  | 6    | 41*   |
| 9) DON REDMOND        | 7  | 5  | 11 | 75 | 75 | 15 | 11 | 11   | 45    |
| 10) STAN BILEK        | 9  | 75 | 50 | 75 | 12 | 1  | 21 | 3    | 46    |
| 11) TOM MOORES        | 24 | 75 | 50 | 75 | 7  | 9  | 2  | 7    | 49    |
| 12) ED HILL           | 50 | 50 | 8  | 17 | 19 | 13 | 15 | 2    | 55*   |
| 13) KEN KUHAR         | 19 | 8  | 9  | 19 | 11 | 8  | 75 | 75   | 55*   |
| 14) DICK SHIRK        | 12 | 13 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 10 | 16 | 5    | 56    |
| 15) MARK STOSIAK      | 13 | 50 | 6  | 12 | 18 | 75 | 22 | 14   | 63    |
| 16) ED MORRIS         | 23 | 50 | 7  | 21 | 75 | 3  | 75 | 12   | 66    |
| 17) RON HARTMAN       | 30 | 11 | 75 | 13 | 14 | 25 | 13 | 18   | 69    |
| 18) DAVE ROEHR        | 21 | 15 | 14 | 10 | 15 | 75 | 75 | 20   | 74    |
| 19) DWAYNE WELDER     | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 17 | 17 | 5  | 9    | 123   |
| 20) GASPER RANDAZZO   | 75 | 6  | 75 | 11 | 75 | 18 | 50 | 50   | 135   |
| 21) FRED KAUL         | 50 | 7  | 5  | 75 | 75 | 75 | 1  | 75   | 138   |
| 22) DON ANTON         | 17 | 11 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 24 | 19 | 75   | 146   |
| 23) BOB BRESLER       | 27 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 9  | 75 | 20 | 17   | 148   |
| 24) DOUG KARAKAS      | 50 | 75 | 4  | 75 | 5  | 75 | 75 | 19   | 153   |
| 25) HANK BACZYNSKI    | 35 | 50 | 50 | 5  | 75 | 75 | 75 | 21   | 161   |
| 26) DALE LUFF         | 31 | 50 | 15 | 75 | 16 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 187   |
| 27) DAVE EVEN         | 22 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 13 | 16 | 75 | 75   | 201   |
| 28) DARWIN GREGG      | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 2  | 4  | 75   | 206   |
| 29) JOE VON GRABE     | 13 | 75 | 50 | 20 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 233   |
| 30) LES JUMP          | 18 | 75 | 50 | 75 | 75 | 20 | 75 | 75   | 238   |
| 31) RON MASCHKE       | 50 | 75 | 75 | 18 | 75 | 50 | 75 | 50   | 243   |
| 32) MIKE LEHTO        | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 4  | 18 | 75   | 247   |
| 33) ROB PINSKEY       | 20 | 75 | 75 | 3  | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 248   |
| 34) ED WILCZEK        | 10 | 14 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 249   |
| 35) DANIEL DIMA       | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 22 | 3  | 75   | 250   |
| 36) JOE GOLASZEWSKI   | 25 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 8  | 75 | 75 | 75   | 258   |
| 37) TY VOIGT          | 50 | 75 | 50 | 75 | 75 | 50 | 50 | 75   | 275   |
| 38) LARRY WALTER      | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 8    | 283   |
| 39) CHRIS DIMA        | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 50 | 12 | 75   | 287   |
| 40) RICHARD KITTLE    | 50 | 75 | 75 | 14 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 289   |
| 41) RON HUEY          | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 19 | 75 | 75   | 294   |
| 42) BOB KSIONZEK      | 1  | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 301   |
| 43) ROB HELZER        | 3  | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 303   |
| 44) DEWIS HARPER      | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 304   |
| 45) MIKE WAKULSKI     | 6  | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 306   |
| 46) PAUL NIENALTOWSKI | 75 | 75 | 75 | 9  | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 309   |
| 47) MIKE CHIMELAK     | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 10 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 310   |
| 48) JIM FITCH         | 15 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 315   |
| 49) RICHARD WONG      | 16 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 316   |
| 50) GARY PYSZ         | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 23 | 75 | 75   | 323   |
| 51) VERN FAHRENKRUG   | 26 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 326   |
| 52) RONALD KOSCIELSKI | 28 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 328   |
| 53) GARY SMEDES       | 32 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 332   |
| 54) LYNN MARTIN       | 34 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 334   |
| 55) RON BUGAJ         | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 350*  |
| 56) LEON VAN EDEN     | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 350*  |
| 57) GEORGE DANIELS    | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 350*  |
| 58) JOEL GARINGER     | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75   | 350*  |
| 59) LARRY TRAYNOR     | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 50 | 350* |       |
| 60) GREG ZACCARDELLI  | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 350* |       |
| 61) LOUIS MOORE       | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 350* |       |
| 62) WALT POHORILY     | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 350* |       |
| 63) TOM MIJAL         | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 350* |       |
| 64) NELSON CALDWELL   | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 350* |       |
| 65) JOE MANDEVILLE    | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 350* |       |
| 66) RICH KIEMOISTY    | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 350* |       |
| 67) SCOTT OBARZANEK   | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 350* |       |
| 68) BILL HOFFMAN      | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 350* |       |
| 69) BOB ZDANIO        | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 350* |       |
| 70) STEVE HAMILTON    | 50 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 350* |       |

\* TIE-BREAKER: Rule III, Section G 50 = See Rule IV-E 75 = See Rule IV-F  
 A = River Crab B = Lexington C = Port Sanilac D = Port Austin E = Oscoda  
 F = Ludington G = Manistee H = Harbor Beach

# 1997 TOURNAMENT RESULTS

## RIVER CRAB (105 total fish caught):

| King Salmon | Lake Trout | Steelhead | Brown Trout | Coho Salmon |
|-------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 94 Fish     | -0-        | 2 Fish    | 6 Fish      | 3 Fish      |
| 470.08 lbs. | -0-        | 8.03 lbs. | 37.00 lbs.  | 7.01 lbs.   |

## LEXINGTON (52 total fish caught):

| King Salmon | Lake Trout | Steelhead | Brown Trout | Coho Salmon |
|-------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 52 Fish     | -0-        | -0-       | -0-         | -0-         |
| 248.03 lbs. | -0-        | -0-       | -0-         | -0-         |

## PORT SANILAC (80 total fish caught):

| King Salmon | Lake Trout | Steelhead  | Brown Trout | Coho Salmon |
|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 61 Fish     | 11 Fish    | 8 Fish     | -0-         | -0-         |
| 478.03 lbs. | 55.10 lbs. | 33.10 lbs. | -0-         | -0-         |

## PORT AUSTIN (122 total fish caught):

| King Salmon | Lake Trout  | Steelhead  | Brown Trout | Coho Salmon |
|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 39 Fish     | 79 Fish     | 4 Fish     | -0-         | -0-         |
| 345.00 lbs. | 589.09 lbs. | 21.14 lbs. | -0-         | -0-         |

## OSCODA (90 total fish caught):

| King Salmon | Lake Trout  | Steelhead | Brown Trout | Coho Salmon |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 32 Fish     | 56 Fish     | 1 Fish    | 1 Fish      | -0-         |
| 161.00 lbs. | 223.07 lbs. | 5.00 lbs. | 10.04 lbs.  | -0-         |

## LUDINGTON (111 total fish caught):

| King Salmon | Lake Trout | Steelhead  | Brown Trout | Coho Salmon |
|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 61 Fish     | 17 Fish    | 12 Fish    | 9 Fish      | 12 Fish     |
| 650.09 lbs. | 91.06 lbs. | 83.09 lbs. | 59.08 lbs.  | 36.14 lbs.  |

## MANISTEE (65 total fish caught):

| King Salmon | Lake Trout | Steelhead  | Brown Trout | Coho Salmon |
|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 57 Fish     | 5 Fish     | 2 Fish     | 1 Fish      | -0-         |
| 731.09 lbs. | 22.08 lbs. | 17.09 lbs. | 5.00 lbs.   | -0-         |

## HARBOR BEACH (42 total fish caught):

| King Salmon | Lake Trout | Steelhead  | Brown Trout | Coho Salmon |
|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 35 Fish     | -0-        | 6 Fish     | -0-         | 1 Fish      |
| 257.10 lbs. | -0-        | 37.01 lbs. | -0-         | 6.11 lbs.   |

## 1997 TOURNAMENT TOTALS:

| King Salmon  | Lake Trout  | Steelhead   | Brown Trout | Coho Salmon |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 431 Fish     | 168 Fish    | 35 Fish     | 17 Fish     | 16 Fish     |
| 3342.10 lbs. | 982.08 lbs. | 206.14 lbs. | 111.12 lbs. | 50.10 lbs.  |

Grand Totals: Fish caught - 667 • Weight - 4694.06 lbs. • Boats participating - 246

# 1997 BIG FISH WINNERS

Largest Fish taken during 1997 Tournament Season

## KING SALMON

Fisherman **JIM HARDRICK** Boat "My Dream" Weight 24 lbs., 7 oz.

## STEELHEAD

Fisherman **CHRIS NYTKO** Boat "Aquarius II" Weight 9 lbs., 7 oz.

## LAKE TROUT

Fisherman **PAUL COLONE** Boat "The Kidd" Weight 20 lbs., 2 oz.

## COHO SALMON

Fisherman **DICK SHIRK** Boat "Lil' Scratch" Weight 6 lbs., 11 oz.

## BROWN TROUT

Fisherman **DOUG KARAKAS** Boat "Capt'n Hook" Weight 10 lbs., 4 oz.



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# REPORT

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# POACHING

# "1997 - It was a 'Lucky' year for the Falcon!"

When the 1997 fishing season began back in mid-April, my crew and I were full of high hopes and anticipation. The high hopes were of catching many fish, and the anticipation was of catching some large ones!

Our first tournament (the River Crab) proved that winning the "Skipper of the Year" award for 1997 wasn't going to be easy. We didn't do so well. The fishing for us was slow, but we all seemed to have a great time trying. As the crew and I sat enjoying a great meal at the River Crab Restaurant, we began to talk about a way we could rebound and prove to ourselves that we could do it.

Our first step: take each tournament one at a time. Step two was to remember what we all have learned from our past fishing trips. Step three was to put it all together, and remember that we are a team.

Our next tournament showed the first-class effort that my crew and I needed to prove. We landed all but one fish (7 for 8). Lexington seemed to give us what we needed to run with.

Port Sanilac was our next objective, and with a little help from the Lord Almighty Himself, we brought eleven fish to the scales.

Our next trip was to the 'Tip-of-the-Thumb', Port Austin. Being the Port Captain and anticipating good weather, I felt that not only would we do well but I had a strong feeling that all of our Detroit Area Steelheader skippers were going to catch a mess of fish. My prediction came true, as all of the boats in this tournament caught fish. It turned out to be one of our premier trips of the entire year!

My team put it all together, again weighing in eleven fish and having a ball doing it. That evening was also a great one, or should I say, a 'Stanley' one. The Red Wings won the Stanley Cup, and I and my fellow Detroit Steelheaders all got to tip a few cups!

### "THERE WAS FUN FOR ALL"

The ladies got to show what they were made of when we made our next trip, to Oscoda. The weather turned out great, and the girls brought some great luck to the "Lucky Falcon." Seven fish in the box made this skipper extremely happy. The picnic after the tournament was great, and the craft show on the beach was a great end to a fun weekend.

It was an entire month before we got the boat wet again. Lake Huron had been very good to us all, and it was now time to fish the great LAKE MICHIGAN!



ROBERT GOLASZEWSKI (left) happily accepts his 1997 "Skipper of the Year" award from Detroit Area Steelheaders President Don Redmond.

Ludington always sends goose bumps up my spine because it's such a great port to fish, and also a great place to visit. The beaches and the sand dunes are really beautiful. My crew and I were getting itchy, itchy, itchy to catch some fish. It was a beautiful morning and the rest of the day stayed the same. We brought seven fish to the scales, one of them a 23-pound King Salmon, a real whopper! The Dipsy was just screaming with that big guy on it!!

A couple of weeks later, the crew and I were in a familiar city called Manistee. At this port, as long as the weather holds up, fishing is second to none. Needless to say, it was a great fishing trip. We put seven fish in the box and weighed in six. Most of our fish were really nice kings.

### "IT WAS THRILLING"

I didn't want to say this, but I have no choice... I have to tell you guys and gals about the one that got away. The first one that we lost was on for approximately a good 15 minutes. We estimated this fish to be 25 pounds plus. When the tail of this fish slapped the surface once, it

looked like a small whale!

### "WHAT A HEARTBREAKER!"

After losing that fish, we made another pass through that spot where we had hooked "the Manistee Legend." It was the Dipsy's turn next, screaming so loud that I had to cover my ears. We fought this hog for a good ten minutes before it decided to give us our lure back. We estimated this fish to be 20 pounds plus.

We re-grouped and made another pass. This time it was the number three downrigger. Set 25' down, 75' back, the rod started dancing. We managed to get this fish about one foot away from the net before it decided to personally hand us our lure back.

We went from the height of ecstasy to the pit of despair, all within one hour. But, I tell you it was great!! I will always love the port of Manistee because it gives us such great thrills.

As September came around, we found ourselves traveling up to that most unpredictable port of Harbor Beach. The weather wasn't very good, but most of the boats still managed to catch some fish. We caught a couple of nice

Steelhead and had a good time doing it.

### "OVERALL, THE YEAR 1997 WAS FANTASTIC"

I would like to give a great big "Thank You" and a great big kiss to all of my crew members, who really made it happen for me in 1997!

- Robert Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"  
1997 Detroit Area Steelheader  
"Skipper of the Year"

### 1997 "LUCKY FALCON" CREW

- My awesome wife, Becky (love ya)
  - My father, Joe Golaszewski (A former "Skipper of the Year" - it must be genetics)
  - "Chene" (Specio)
  - Lee Locklear (The Chief)
  - Jessica Locklear
  - Larry Walter (Lima)
  - Nancy Kowalski (The Godmother)
  - Danny (The Boy)
  - Bob Cooper (Slaughter)
  - Mark Lubowski (Big Intentions)
  - Walt Pohorily (Main Squeeze)
  - Myron D. and Nickolai
- "LOVE & GOD BLESS YOU ALL!"

## 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?

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DOUG KARAKAS: (248) 545-1181  
LEON VAN EDEN: (810) 293-1261

CREWS HOT LINE is a service for Detroit Area Steelheader members

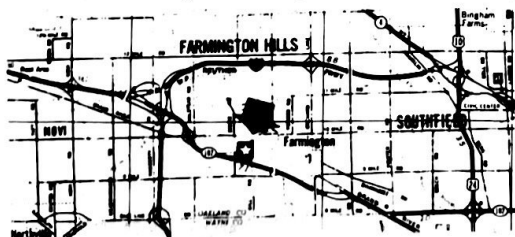
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# Great Lakes flasher and bait Salmon system

Rotating flashers trailed with bait have long been recognized by West Coast trollers as one of the most effective fishing techniques for Coho and Chinook Salmon. The same technique, properly applied, is deadly on the Great Lakes and large inland reservoirs where Pacific Salmon have been transplanted.

Chinook and Coho Salmon, and other species, including Lake Trout, Brown Trout, Steelhead and Atlantic Salmon, have been stocked in the Great Lakes since the 1960's. Today, these vast freshwater seas, located in the north-eastern and north central United States produce some of the finest, easily accessible Trout and Salmon fishing in North America.

Chinook and Coho Salmon, because of their large size, fighting ability and fine eating quality, often are placed at the top of the premier game fish list by Great Lakes anglers. Over the years since Pacific Salmon were introduced, increasingly effective angling techniques have evolved. Today, anglers have found that trolling rotating flashers and bait is one of the deadliest Great Lakes Salmon angling methods as well. Flashers also are effective for Lake Trout and Brown Trout.

A flasher is simply an attractor designed to sway from side to side at slow speed, or fully rotate when trolled at medium speeds. It reflects light, which makes it visible to Salmon and produces sound, which fish can detect through their lateral lines. The flasher is trailed by a bait or lure on a monofilament leader of varying lengths. Although there are many good lures, such as Flutter Spoons, whole bait, plug-cut herring, herring strips, or plastic squids baited with herring strips are often the most effective with flashers.

The principle is simple. The flash and sound of a flasher slowly rotating at optimum speed mimics a feeding Salmon. The trailing bait, with either its own action, and/or action imparted by the flasher, is easy Salmon pickings. Perhaps the trailer imitates a crippled bait from a school of herring or alewives just attacked by a marauding Coho or King Salmon.

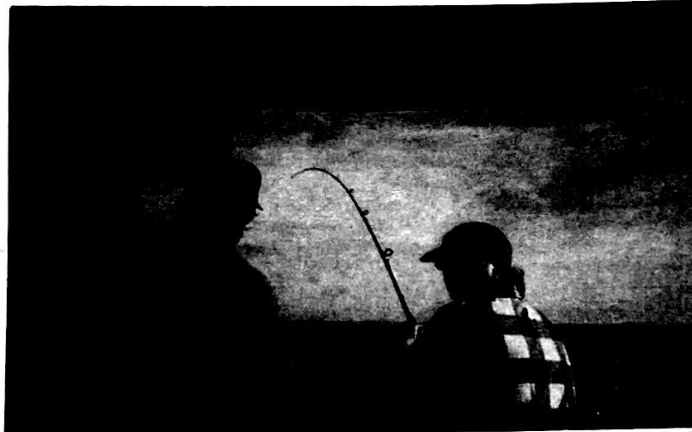
Responding to the stimulus of the flasher, the Salmon moves in closer to investigate the sight and sound. It spots the flicker of the trailing bait, swings behind it, senses the smell of fresh herring, moves forward, mouths the tasty bait and... wham! To predatory fish such as Salmon, the flasher and bait system appeals to all its senses - sight, smell, sound and taste.

## FLASHERS

Rotating flashers such as the spring brass Abe 'n Al and the plastic Alaskan Eagle were designed specifically as trolling attractors for Trout and Salmon. The larger size flashers like the Luhr Jensen 10-inch #10 Abe 'n Al and the Luhr Jensen 11-inch #003 Alaskan Eagle generally work best for Great Lakes and Salmon. They are most effective when trolled at speeds allowing the attractor to just barely roll in a wide arc. However, metal flashers in sizes #010, #001 and #002 also are effective when trolled ahead of bait at slower speeds, which produces a wobbling, dodger-type action. This slower movement is especially good if the bait is cut to produce a rolling action.

Proper trolling speed is critical. What you are looking for is a slow roll alternating with an occasional wobble and then a roll in the reverse direction. Avoid high trolling speeds which make a flasher constantly turn over. Hard-spinning flashers may take occasional Cohos and small Chinooks, but they usually are avoided by big Kings. The trolling speed required to produce optimum flasher action varies with the size and type of flasher and the size and/or profile of the trailing bait. Flasher action also varies with the length of line between a sinker or downrigger release and the flasher. The longer the distance between, the slower the flasher will spin. Most Great Lakes anglers troll flashers from downriggers.

To determine optimum trolling speed, watch the action of your flasher in the water, and adjust your trolling speed until the action is



right. Large metal flashers, particularly the #001 Abe 'n Al, have a heavy action that is transmitted to your rod tip if a "soft" downrigger release like a rubber band or Offshore release is used. At slow speeds when the metal flasher is only wobbling from side to side, your rod tip will bounce erratically. As the flasher begins to rotate, rod tip action will change to a rhythmic bobbing motion. Plastic flasher action is not as easily detected through rod tip movement.

One of the greatest aids to flasher trolling is the use of a downrigger speed/temperature unit such as the Fish Hawk, which radios trolling speed and temperature at the downrigger weight back to the boat as a digital readout. Knowing speed at the downrigger weight is especially important when dealing with subsurface currents in the Great Lakes.

All flashers, especially the metal ones, should be fished with a 30-inch length of 50-pound test leader attached to the forward end. A liberal coating of herring oil increases success.

## BAIT

Chinook and Coho Salmon in most of the Great Lakes grow to trophy size, feeding primarily on forage fish like alewives and smelt. Alewives, a species of herring native to the Atlantic Ocean, invaded the Great Lakes when the canal system was constructed. Even though Pacific herring don't reside in the Great Lakes, experience has shown that this bait, favored by West Coast salmon trollers, is equally effective in fresh water.

The most productive baits for trolling with flashers in the Great Lakes are whole herring, plug-cut herring, herring strips and plastic squids baited with herring strip. Fresh-frozen Pacific herring are available for bait at select Great Lakes bait shops. Resident alewives, which also are effective bait, are available, but generally on a more limited basis. A frozen herring should be thawed just prior to fishing with it. All baits work best when liberally coated with a good quality herring oil.

Proper rigging of bait is critical to successful flasher/bait trolling for Chinook and Coho. Rigged correctly, a whole herring will roll in a slight arc at a rate of one to two revolutions per second. Fast spinning, or pinwheeling, baits are not as effective. However, baits which do not spin at all are effective if fished correctly, generally at 1/4 to 1/3 of the leader lengths used with rotating baits.

The Herring Aid is one of the simplest, most effective ways to rig whole herring to produce an effective rolling action at slow trolling speeds. Although the device is available in sizes #1, #2 and #3, the #1 size for 5"-7" bait and size #2 for 6"-7" bait work best in the Great Lakes where alewives average 6"-7" in length.

Rigging whole herring in a #2 Herring Aid is simple. Just insert the head of the bait in the plastic bait holder as far forward as possible and pin it in place by inserting a toothpick firmly through the holes in the bait holder. Grasp the leader near the hooks and pull it through the Herring Aid to provide enough

slack to hook the bait with the leading single hook directly through the body, just above the lateral line and behind the dorsal fin. With proper hook placement, when the leader is tightened so the leading single hook rests against the inside curl of the Herring Aid, the bait will have a slight curve in it. The treble hook at the end of the leader trails freely along the tail of the bait. This treble hook SHOULD NOT be hooked in the tail of the bait. Leaders should be at least 30-pound test.

The curve of the bait is adjusted by placement of the hook. The further back the hook is placed, the greater the curve in the bait. The more curve, the faster it will spin. If the bait is rolling too fast, remove the hook carefully and place it further forward. Whole bait positioned in a Herring Aid harness works best with a rolling action of one to two turns per second. Attach a ball bearing swivel or #3 Luxon swivel chain to the end of the Herring Aid leader to prevent line twist.

## HERRING AID WITH BAIT

To rig the #1 Herring Aid, insert the nose of the bait into the device, pin it with a toothpick and trim the toothpick flush with the plastic. Pull approximately one foot of leader through the Herring Aid and pin the leader with a toothpick by firmly inserting it in the blister on the curved trailing edge of the Aid. Insert the leading single hook on the leader through the back of the bait above the lateral line and behind the dorsal fin so the trailing treble hook is even with the tail of the herring. Then slowly tighten the leader (held firmly by the toothpick) until the curve in the bait produces the desired one to two turns per second. The #2 Herring Aid is also effective fished with a plug-cut herring or herring strip.

For best results with a herring strip, use a leader with either a single 5/0 beak-style (turned-up eye) hook or a single treble hook no larger than size #1. As with the #1 Herring Aid, the leader is pinned in the blister with a toothpick which places tension on the leader in order to adjust length of leader in the hook. Ideally, depending on the length of the herring strip, the hook should be adjusted to be even with the tail of the bait. If the strip doesn't resolve fast enough, shorten the amount of leader between the Herring Aid and the hook. If it revolves too quickly, lengthen the leader.

Baited plastic squids also are extremely effective fished with flashers. To bait a squid, trim an elongated, diamond-shaped strip of bait from the side of a herring or alewife. Place pre-cut strips of herring in a container of canning salt to firm them up. Slide the squid body up the leader, away from the double hooks. Insert a 6-inch piece of light-gauge wire through the eye of the leading hook on the squid leader and snug it up with several wraps until about two inches of each end of the wire remains, along with the hook shank. Then lay the short end of the diamond-shaped bait skin down against the hook and secure it by wrapping the

light wire firmly around the bait. Slide the squid back down over the hook and bait, properly adjusted, should lie inside the squid with approximately one inch of the tip of the bait extending beyond the skirt. Eagle Squids in Glow/Green Stripe, Green, and Lime Green, as well as Alpena Squids in Glow/Blue, Glow/Green, Green/Yellow, and Black/White plus others are effective when baited. Squid leaders should be 50- to 60-pound test.

## LEADER LENGTH

Length of leader between the flasher and squid or bait is critical to the success of Salmon trolling. The following is a list of approximate leader lengths for fishing bait and squids with rotating flashers.

### BAITED SQUIDS

Average Chinook - 32 inches  
Active Chinook - 30 inches  
Lazy or pre-spawning Chinook - 34" to 36"  
Coho - 24" to 30"

### HERRING -

Whole, Strips & Plug Cut  
Average Chinook - 48 inches  
Active Chinook - 42 inches  
Adult or pre-spawning Chinook - 60" to 72"  
Coho - 30" to 36"

## FLASHER AND LURE SELECTION

As all fishermen know, lure selection varies as a result of many factors, including inherent behavior and color preference of individual species. One of the most important factors, however, is prevailing light conditions and the penetration of light into the water depending on depth, water turbidity, etc. Experience with flashers has shown some colors to be more effective for Coho and Chinook Salmon than others in certain conditions. For instance, if you're fishing plastic flasher, try Chartreuse with Silver Mylar on sunny days, and White with Silver Mylar or Green with Glow Ice tape on overcast days. Chrome flashers generally work best in bright light, especially with a combination of Blue and Silver Prism-Lite.

The same can be said of squids and baits fished with flashers. If a Clear or Pink Crystal Herring Aid isn't working, experiment with various colors of tapes, and eyes. A favorite in sunny conditions is a Herring Aid taped with light Chartreuse with a Black eye. Try Glow/Green tape in overcast conditions. Glow/Green or Glow/Blue squids work well in low light conditions while Black/White or Blue are favorites when it's sunny.

## FISH LOCATION AND LURE PRESENTATION

The best combination of flashers and bait or squids will not produce unless properly presented. This includes proper trolling speed as well as proper depth. Downriggers, combined with modern-day electronics have made deep-water trolling with flashers and squids more simple than ever before. The formula is simple. Locate the preferred temperature of 54° F for Coho and Chinook, and the active temperature zone of 44° F-58° F with a dependable unit such as the Fish Hawk. Control the depth fished using the downrigger control. Control trolling speed, again, by using the Fish Hawk, producing optimum flasher action.

Use a dependable, heavy-tension downrigger release such as the Offshore, or simpler yet, double size #12 rubber bands. Top-quality 10-pound test line, a good level-wind reel with at least a 300-yard capacity, and an 8 1/2-foot medium-heavy action rod will do the job. Generally, a flasher should be fished about ten feet behind a downrigger weight, but for certain situations, distances up to 40- to 75-feet behind the weight will take fish.

Use a good fish finder and a hydrographic map, along with experience and local information to locate concentrations of salmon.

- Ernie Lantegne

Fish Doctor Charters, Mexico, NY  
Compiled from the Diaries and Logs of the Luhr Jensen Fishing Research Team

# Better lamprey control due

The most massive assault on sea lamprey in the 40-year history of the program starts next spring in the St. Mary's River. As a consequence, Lake Trout and other salmonids are expected to show signs of recovery by the turn of the century.

On the down side, tribal gill netters, anticipating victory in the lamprey war, are already pressing for restoration of Lake Trout plants in northern Lake Huron. Those plants were halted when it became evident that they were being sacrificed to lamprey.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission (G.L.F.C.) recently reversed policy and concurred with Michigan fisheries officials that St. Mary's River lamprey chemical treatment should begin next spring. Michigan's lead Lake Huron fisheries biologist Jim Johnson reports.

He expects the river's lamprey production will be cut in half by the end of 1999, due to the use of the pelletized chemical Bayer, starting with three to four of the hottest lamprey spawning areas in the spring. Initial testing of the Bayer technique on a 40-acre test site proved successful. The technique will be refined by expanding treatments to around 200 acres, according to Johnson. Then, in the spring and summer of 1999, it will be expanded to all 2,000 acres where lamprey production peaks.

Due to costs, the G.L.F.C. had previously decided to rely only on introduction of sterilized male lamprey. Johnson, and others, convinced the commission that this strategy is unacceptably slow and uncertain.

The sterile male program will continue. It was bolstered in 1997, when 16,000 sterile male lamprey were released, up from about 3,000 per year since 1991. In this program, males are captured in streams with lamprey barriers, and then sterilized and released.

With the continuing introduction of 16,000 males or so, Johnson says, chemical treatment should no longer be necessary after 1999.

When released from a helicopter, the Bayer granules sink rapidly to sediments harboring young lamprey. These, Johnson points out, are in slackwater areas, mostly in the upper river.

Researchers concluded the it would be impossible to reach hot spots with the liquid chemical TFM, which is the mainstay in the

lamprey-fighting arsenal. It is also prohibitively expensive. Johnson estimates that it would cost around \$15 per lamprey killed with TFM. That compares to \$2 to \$3 with Bayer.

Bayer can be substituted for TFM because researchers spent years surveying the vast river ecosystem, locating the lamprey hot spots. They identified about 2,200 acres as primary sites.

Using global positioning satellite system technology, Bayer can be released onto those hot spots with pinpoint accuracy. The sites vary in depth from three to 15 feet of water.

The St. Mary's River is estimated to hold millions of young lamprey, producing about 300,000 adults each year to prey on fish in the Great Lakes. This annual figure is more than all other spawning streams in the Great Lakes.

Biologists predicted that Great Lakes fisheries would ultimately be devastated without effective control in the St. Mary's.

With successful lamprey control on the horizon, the conflict over improving the fisheries is expected to shift back to tribal gill nets.

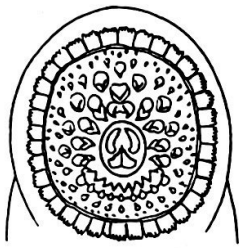
Lake Trout plants were halted in the tribal treaty waters (roughly north of Rockport) when it became evident survival was virtually nonexistent. The tribes are now pushing for immediate resumption of plants, with a target date of 2003 for renewing gill netting.

If the tribes get their way, shifting Lake Trout stocking from non-treaty waters to the north will cut into the dramatically improved sport fishery, from Alpena south.

Ideally, biologists say, Lake Trout would be managed in the northernmost end of the lake to produce self-sustaining stocks. The habitat is there to support natural reproduction and recruitment, they point out.

Citing the proven collapse of self-sustaining Lake Trout stocks wherever gill nets are used, biologists say this goal is unreachable if tribal netting renews, unless trap nets are used and strict quotas enforced.

On the plus side, Johnson points out that increased stocking in recent years has produced enough maturing Lakers in some southern waters that natural reproduction will kick in to replace some of the lost hatchery fish. Reprinted from *The North Woods Call*, Dec. 17, 1997.



# Mess'n around with eggs

No doubt about it, eggs are great. The trouble for many, though, comes in preserving fresh eggs or spawn for later use. 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. 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, which pierce the egg's shell during the freezing process, and in turn causes the eggs to 'milk' prematurely and, thus, create a mess.

Are there proven mixtures for treating eggs to catch fish? You bet. Nearly all Steelheaders have a favorite 'brew'. Allow me to pass along a few tested tonics which can be used to treat single eggs and skeins.

## 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 5-7 hours. Drain well, store in the refrigerator. Eggs last up to 8 months.

## RECIPE #2 (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 baby bottle liner bags.

## RECIPE #3 (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 10 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 thus prepared are ideal for roe bag use. Eggs can also be dyed during solution submersion.

## RECIPE #4 (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 #5 (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 skeins to membrane. Try to cut as few eggs as possible. Lay skeins egg-side down on paper towel, wrap in newspaper, and store in refrigerator for 12 hours. Remove eggs. Cut into chunk size, pack and dry again for additional 2 hours. Blend mixture of Jell-O and borax, and dust chunks completely with it. Divide chunks and bag in Ziploc bags. Remove air. Store in refrigerator or freezer.

## RECIPE #6 (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 #7 (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 8 hours. Mix solution of water, salt and sugar, and soak eggs in it for 1 hour. Remove eggs from solution and roll in borax. Let sit for 6 hours. Cut chunks to desired size and place in glass jars. Each layer of eggs should be separated by a layer of borax. Eggs last up to 2 years.

— Darryl Choronzey  
From Ontario Fisherman, Feb.-March 1994.



SEA LAMPREY: *Petromyzon marinus* Linnaeus

The DEADLINE for the FEBRUARY ISSUE of FISHIN' TALES is JANUARY 27, 1998

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Hold the lines side by side, allowing at least 6 inches of each tag end to extend past the intersection.

Loop tag end of the leader back to the left and make at least 6 wraps around both lines. Pull slowly on the tag end until the loop disappears. Repeat with superline tag end.

Pull on the tag end and standing part of each line to tighten knots.

Pull on the standing part of both lines to draw knots together, forming a strong connection. Trim tag ends.



# A complete guide to trolling the directional Dipsy Diver®

The directional Dipsy Diver® is the most advanced trolling sinker available today. Its round shape allows for multi-directional trolling and also facilitates (with a special O-ring) instant changes in diving capability, providing the angler with two different size divers in one.

Like all planers, the directional Dipsy Diver® is held in planing position by a lead weight. But with the Dipsy Diver® this weight is molded into an adjustable base plate. Rotating this plate to the right or left tilts the planing surface, causing the diver to move to either the port or starboard side when trolled. By leaving the weight at center, the diver will track straight behind your boat.

## DIVERS vs. LEAD

Lead weights are widely used to take a lure deep, but when compared with a diver (especially a multi-directional one), they leave much to be desired.

Unlike lead, a diver loses its resistance in the water when tripped, allowing easy retrieval of your gear. This loss of pressure or drag also provides extra sport and enjoyment when fighting a fish, as there will be almost no terminal gear resistance. Perhaps even more important, because the diver loses pressure against the water when tripped, fish are prevented from gaining leverage and throwing your hook. Prior to divers, the only way an angler could accomplish this reduction of water pressure was to use a break-away lead, a very expensive and cumbersome way to fish.

Another big advantage of divers over lead weights to easily get a lure down to a pre-determined depth, is that they act as fish attractors because of their color and shape. This is another big plus when trolling, or exploring unknown waters, or where fish are scattered and a little extra something is needed to attract them.

The special round shape and resulting multi-directional feature sets Dipsy Divers® apart from other divers/planers. Being able to add or subtract depth capability with the unique O-ring (on sizes #0 and #1) is yet another outstanding feature of this diver. It's like getting two separate divers for the price of one.

Divers are easy to use, reset easily, always work, apply to trolling everywhere - whether salt water or fresh - and are simple to rig and fish. Any angler can use a diver successfully the first time out, and it requires a minimum of terminal gear and storage space.

Dipsy Divers® come in 13 colors: Fire, Glo, Chartreuse, Kelly Green, Clear (Stealth!), Silver, Black/Purple Prism-Lite®, and the Metallics - Blue, Pink, Purple, Green, Red and Copper.

## HOW DIVERS WORK

After you've tied your line to the barrel swivel at the front end of the diver and locked the adjustable trip mechanism in place, the diver is ready to fish. When trolled, water pressure against the diver's planing surface causes it to dive. Shifting the base plate weight to the left or right tilts the planing surface and results in the diver descending at a pre-determined angle. This multi-directional feature works because the base plate contains a moulded-in weight which can be shifted by degrees. Each degree of shift will cause a change in the angle of descent. A shift right or left, as indicated on the base plate arrow, will cause the diver to track straight, to port, or to starboard. Maximum side movement can be achieved by rotating the base plate past the edge of the numbered scale and then elevating your rod as high as possible.

Because the Dipsy Diver® is directional, it gives you the following advantages not obtainable with other divers or planers:

- It doubles your trolling area, thereby exposing your lures to fish which might not otherwise have been seen.
- More lures can be trolled and sharp turns made without the fear of tangling.
- Downrigger anglers particularly can take advantage of the Dipsy Diver® because it will troll to the side and not interfere with cables, allowing the use of more lines than previously possible.
- It can be used for trolling just beneath the surface, and is easily tripped from the boat.

Size #0 and #1 Dipsy Divers® come with a special removable "O-ring" which, when in position, creates extra planing surface and delivers up to 20% more depth. The depth your diver attains will depend on trolling speed, diameter of line, length of line out, and weight of your lure and/or added attractor, such as a dodger. Light lines and small lures will produce more depth, while heavy lines and large lures and/or dodgers will give less. It is also important to note that the angle of your line from boat to water DOES NOT indicate the underwater position of the Dipsy Diver®, because of the phenomenon known as "line belly." A table is available from the manufacturer for calculating true side angle and depth location of your trolled Dipsy Diver®.

## RIGGING

Rig your Dipsy Diver® for fishing by allowing at least four to six feet of leader between the diver and lure, or, when using a dodger, have at least 48 inches of leader between it and the diver. Adjust tension screw #1 to hold the release pin in place while trolling, but be careful not to overtighten it. Because this trip mechanism is adjustable, you'll be able to set just right for the gear you're using. A slight tug on the line, or strike by a fish, should cause the pin to release. The base plate is held in position by tension screw #2, which should be tightened just enough to hold the plate in position and still permit easy rotation to make a new setting. **NOTE: The best results with a dodger are obtained using base plate settings 0 and 2.**

## TROLLING TIPS

Trolling is a most efficient fishing method, particularly on big or unknown waters, as you can cover the greatest amount of water in the

shortest time, allowing you to locate concentrations of fish quickly and easily. The multi-directional aspect of the Dipsy Diver® means that you can cover an extremely wide swath of water on each trolling pass and draw strikes from fish that otherwise would have been missed. Because the diver can be set to run at pre-determined depths, you also have the ability to cover not only a wide section of water, but also several layers of water depth. Once fish have been located, you can then select the right depth and begin concentrating on that particular depth and area.

Running a straight line is the least effective trolling path you can take once fish have been located. Trolling in a zig-zag or "S" pattern between to points will impart both changes of speed and depth to the Dipsy Diver® and its trailing lure... the kind of erratic action that shouts "Easy Meal" to nearby fish.

## NEW MINI DIPSY®

Luhr Jensen's Mini Dipsy Diver® is the answer to Salmon and Walleye anglers' need for a small, yet efficient diving device that retains the multi-directional advantage of the original Dipsy Diver®. Directional settings are particularly useful when trolling for boat-shy species such as suspended Walleye, which scatter to port or starboard when a boat passes overhead. A side-running Mini Dipsy Diver® will consistently intercept those fish.

The 2 1/4" diameter Mini can be effectively trolled as fast as 4 miles per hour, and will cover the 14- to 20-foot depth range with a 100- to 120-foot let-back. It easily handles 1/8- to 1/2-ounce crankbaits, taking them down to depths not reachable alone. It will also effectively tow thin-bladed Flutter Spoons, Diamond Kings® and various weighted spoons in the 1/8- to 1/2-ounce range. Mini Dipsy Divers® have no more pulling resistance than regular, large crankbaits and are available in all the regular Dipsy Diver® colors.

## SHARP HOOKS

One of the easiest things you can do to improve your catch is to maintain super-sharp hooks at all times. A small file, such as the Sharp Hook File, has proved to be the absolute best fish hook sharpening tool available, and will produce a needle-sharp point in seconds. Hold the file parallel to the hook point and, with gentle, one-way strokes, remove a small amount of metal from at least two sides of the point. This will create both a sticky-sharp point and a knife-like cutting edge.

## DEPTH FINDERS

There probably is no one accessory item as important as a good-quality depth finder, such as those made by Lowrance, for producing optimum trolling results.

A flasher unit will pinpoint the level at which fish are suspended, thereby allowing you to get your lure to the right depth without guesswork.

A paper chart recorder unit will provide the above advantages plus give you a permanent record for future reference. You can chart specific areas, bottom contours and the like, and actually see fish. Schools of fish which are only momentary blips on a flasher unit can be seen and followed with a chart recorder. It's an investment which will pay for itself in both fish and fishing enjoyment.

Adapted from Luhr Jensen's Tech Report #12.

• • •  
If you would like to receive a complete set of more than twenty detailed technique reports produced by Luhr Jensen & Sons, along with a patch for your jacket or cap, and a price list and catalogue showing the entire line of Luhr Jensen fishing tackle and accessories, send your name and address, along with a payment of \$5 to:

**Luhr Jensen & Sons**  
P.O. Box 297  
Hood River, OR 97031  
Attn: Customer Service

You will be credited \$3 toward your first order of \$20 or more.

## DEPTHS REACHED BY THE LUHR JENSEN DIPSY DIVER®

| Diver Size      | 25' Line Out      | 50' Line Out | 75' Line Out | 100' Line Out | 125' Line Out | Side Set |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| Size 3/0        | Not yet available |              |              |               |               |          |
| Size 0          | 13.0              | 20.9         | 26.7         | 31.3          | 34.3          | None     |
| Size 0 side set | 7.1               | 13.6         | 18.7         | 22.8          | 27.5          | 3 (max.) |
| Size 1          | 17.9              | 32.1         | 43.6         | 52.6          | 59.6          | None     |
| Size 1 side set | 13.5              | 24.2         | 32.2         | 39.1          | 45.4          | 3 (max.) |

NOTE: ALL FIGURES BASED ON USE OF 15-POUND TEST LINE

## The Detroit Area Steelheaders really GIVE!

Our club, the Detroit Area Steelheaders (D.A.S.) has contributed to numerous worthwhile causes which serve our stated organizational goal of promoting and protecting Great Lakes Salmon and Trout fishing. The following list of our donations over the years may overlook some, but the overall impact of the list is that the Detroit Area Steelheaders really 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 Samia, 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.
  - **April 1997 - \$300 Grant.** Donated to Manistee County Sportfishing Association for the Orsini Hatchery.
  - **December 1997 - \$200 Grant.** Donated to Ludington Area Charter Boat Association for their net-pen project.
  - **December 1997 - \$250 Grant.** Donated to Grand Traverse Area Sportfishing Association to fight gill nets.
- D.A.S. donations and grants to date total MORE THAN \$11,000!!! So, we can all feel good about belonging to the Detroit Area Steelheaders because, as an organization, we live up to our stated purpose to help the fishery!
- Steve Hamilton



# Detroit Area Steelheaders know how to have fun!!

ATTENTION ALL DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, SPOUSES, SIGNIFICANT OTHERS, FRIENDS AND RELATIVES! Get ready to really enjoy yourselves and have a great time 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 7, 1998 at the K. of C. Hall, St. Pius X Council No. 3848, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren, the 1998 site of our monthly club meetings (please refer to the map on Page Three). In addition to 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 top social event of the year. There have already been some donations of prizes from businesses and companies, but 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 COME AND JOIN IN THE FESTIVITIES!!

top-name entertainers, so she is encouraging all club members to come to the bash and to decide that **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 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 (248) 545-1181.

## WE CERTAINLY ENJOYED SOME GREAT FISHING IN 1997 . . .



# 15th Annual Pontiac Silverdome Boat, Sport & Fishing Show is set for Feb. 18-22

They call Michigan the Great Lakes State, but it should be called the Great Fishing, Boating, Hunting and Outdoor Recreation State. I guess that wouldn't easily fit on a license plate, but it's true!

Michigan is the leading state in the sale and use of recreational boats, motors, and personal watercraft. Michigan is also a leader in the sale of sport fishing equipment, camping gear, hunting products, off-road vehicles, and just about anything else to do with the great outdoors.

Now imagine all these outdoor activities featured under one roof, and you've got the Pontiac Silverdome Boat, Sport and Fishing Show, scheduled this year to run from February 18-22.

Clearly eastern Michigan's premier outdoor sports show and best described as a 'Super Show', the Silverdome Show presents fishing boats, recreational boats, personal watercraft, ORV's, fishing, hunting and camping gear, hunting and fishing outfitters and lodge owners, plus more seminars and special events than any two shows combined!

More than 400 boats from dozens of leading dealers will pack the Silverdome arena level, including such brands as Ranger, Champion, Pro Line, Sport Craft, Four Winns, Stratos, Sea Nymph and many others. In fact, over 75 manufacturers will be represented! Everything from the hottest new bass and walleye rigs to pontoons, runabouts, deck boats, ski boats, and Great Lakes trolling boats will be on display. On the spot financing will be available, making it easy and painless to shop for and purchase a boat or personal watercraft.

If it's fishing tackle you're interested in, the Silverdome will host retailers stocking the all the leading brands and lots of specialty items only available during the show season. Some of the top fishing tackle booths include Best Chance Charters with trolling equipment and marine electronics, Bud Erhardt with custom fishing rods, the Professional Fishing Center with musky, walleye and bass tackle, Richey's Custom Flies with Great Lakes trolling equipment, Wolverine Tackle with trolling spoons, plus many others.

Once you've purchased a supply of new tackle, you'll need some place to use it. One visit to Outfitters Expo, and anglers will have dozens of top quality fishing lodges, resorts, guides, charter captains, and camps to consider. The booths in this area of the show cater to anglers interested in walleye, northern pike, trout, smallmouth bass, panfish, Great Lakes salmon, musky, plus a wealth of hunting opportunities in Canada and the western United States.

The Silverdome show is also known for its outstanding line-up of seminar speakers. Visitors to this year's show will enjoy over a dozen

different seminar speakers at the Show's "Fishing Academy," including some new faces, such as Tri-State bass pro Randy Ramsey, and walleye guru Al Lesh. Familiar sport fishing experts scheduled to appear include: Kim Stricker, Ron Peterson, Mark Martin, Mark Romanack, Mike Gnatkowski, Steve Jones, Don Miller, George Richey, and others.

In addition to the Silverdome Show's regular seminar line-up, a special "Panel of the Pros" brings a new twist to the Fishing Academy seminar stage. Jerry Chiapetta and Jim Bernardin from the "Jeep Outdoors" television series will host a panel discussion with the leading names in walleye fishing on Friday evening, and on Saturday afternoon with a panel of bass fishing experts. Both segments of the "Panel of the Pros" will be videotaped by "Jeep Outdoors" to be aired on future programs. Come early to be sure of good seats.

The Silverdome Show's commitment doesn't stop with retail booths. There are also lots of fun activities and entertainment. Don't miss the Rubbermaid/B.A.S.S. Casting Kids Competition. This free event allows children to work on their casting skills while working toward a shot at the state finals, to be held in Lansing on March 15.

For the ultimate in virtual reality, try the Michigan Charter Boat Association Video Fishing Simulator. Take the rod in hand, watch the video monitor and get ready for the fight of your life! Your job, should you take the challenge, is to land a king salmon using this newest technology.

Other fun displays can be found at the Michigan Taxidermist Association booth, and the National Fishing Lure Collectors club. This year, the Silverdome offers not one, but two trout ponds. Catch one of the 50 tagged fish and you'll win a special prize.

Another new addition to the Silverdome Show this year is the All-American High Dive Show. Dana Kunze, holder of the world high dive record, will be on hand with other champion divers to display springboard skills, with a finale dive from the heights of the Silverdome!

Boats, fishing tackle, outfitters, educational seminars, fun activities and entertainment—the Silverdome Boat, Sport and Fishing Show has something for everyone who enjoys life in the Great Fishing, Hunting, Boating and Outdoor Recreation state.

Tickets are \$6.50 for adults, and \$3.00 for children 6-14 years of age. Kids age 5 and under are admitted free. Show hours are 3:00-9:30 p.m. February 18 and 19; 11:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m. on February 20; 10:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m. on February 21; and 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on February 22.

I hope to see you all at the show!

— Mark Romanack

## A Rookie's Retrospective

I have been a member of the Detroit Area Steelheaders (D.A.S.) for about a year now, and it has been a fun one. I found out about the club through an old-timer named Howard, who convinced me to show up at meeting to see what the club was all about. I really liked what I saw at that meeting: a bunch of guys who are crazy about big water fishing.

I'll never forget walking into the D.A.S. meeting hall and saying to my buddy, "I think there's an age limit... and we're on the young side!" Nevertheless, we were welcomed with open arms and made friends

and one fully comatose. We went north to fish at the start, while the rest of the fleet went east. We ended up winning that tournament, despite "Heavy D" and "Lumpy" battling seasickness the whole time! Chris Nytko joked over the radio and at the weigh-in that we were cheating, "chumming the waters" and "creating our own scum line," after translation. The whole weekend was great!

During the rest of the tournament schedule, we dragged our boat all over God's green acres, and even though we needed two new transmissions and a major repair to my



PAUL COLONE, skipper of "The Kidd" and crew mate Dave Dobis scored a win at Port Austin in 1997 in only their second Detroit Area Steelheader tournament!

quickly. The rest of the winter was spent listening to tales of this guy catching this fish or doing well with that bait, all the while soaking up information. We were able to pick the brains of these wise old grizzled sea vets for tidbits, tips and methods to catch fish, all new to us!

Spring arrived, and the fishing finally began. In our second tournament, at Port Sanilac, we pulled it all together. Fishing was cancelled on Saturday, and my reliable, faithful, positive crew, Dave "Heavy D" Dobis and Mark "Lumpy" Bradley, figured Sunday would be cancelled, too, so they killed the keg! Furthermore, that night, after getting a bite to eat, I said, "Hey guys, let's hit the hay." The reply went as follows: "Screw you, Colone, you're not our Dad. We're partying!"

The next morning, things got started as scheduled and I had one semi-comatose

boat, and endured a bunch of broken tackle ("Heavy D"), we made it through the season.

With that said, I feel that being a member of the Detroit Area Steelheaders during the 1997 fishing season was a great experience. My crew and I learned new ports, made a lot of new friends, had some great fishing times, and caught a mess of fish! As skipper of "The Kidd," I would like to thank my crew for sticking with me throughout the season. I would also like to thank Paul Schoenrade, Howard York, Ken Kuhar, Chris Nytko, Doug Karakas, and all the rest of the club members for welcoming us into the club.

I look forward to spring and the start of the new season, so think positive, sharpen those hooks, and stock up on those spoons because it'll be time to go fishing before you know it! And if you want to learn big water fishing, join the Detroit Area Steelheaders!

— Paul Colone, "The Kidd"

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

In 1992, the Detroit Area Steelheaders became affiliated with the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council (G.L.S.F.C.).

A confederation of organizations and individuals who have banded together in the Great Lakes region, the G.L.S.F.C. 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 game fish
- Scientific research and what it means to anglers
- Economic impacts
- Tourism enhancement



- Exotics of the Great Lakes region
- Proposed legislation and rules
- Commercial or sport fishing abuses

In short, the Council helps inform us on all pertinent subjects so we can inform others on matters that interest or affect them. You can also find them at: [www.great-lakes.org](http://www.great-lakes.org).

## DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS

present

# LAS VEGAS NIGHT

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