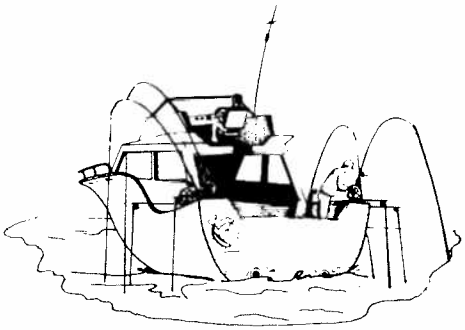
ANNUAL ISSUE

FISH TALES



DETROIT AREA CHAPTER

MICHIGAN STEELHEAD AND SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED BY THE DETROIT AREA CHAPTER | VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 1 | 1977 ANNUAL

Detroit Chapter Wins On AuSable

photo/Don White

DETROIT CHAPTER MEMBERS SHOW FISH caught at Au Sable River Tournament. (Left to right) Butch Wasser, Tom Schneider, Dan Martin, Bill Muirhead, Gary Gray and Steve Legant.

OSCODA – Saturday, January 7 saw a stout crew of 43 steelheaders from both the Detroit and Oscoda chapters at Desi's Taco Lounge for sign-in for the AuSable river tournament. After the crews from each chapter had breakfast and shared insults, we hit the river.

Spawn, Corkies and Wobble-Glos, along with wigglers and Okie Drifters took fish from Foote Dam down to the mouth. During dinner at the Van Etten Sportsmen's Club that night, the results were tabulated.

While there were reports of many more fish lost than landed, there were a total of 17 fish caught – 14 steelhead and three browns. The Detroit Chapter landed 10 fish, and Oscoda seven, making the guys from Detroit the champs AND recipients of the free beer! However,

. . . /continued on page 3

photo/Don White

BILL MUIRHEAD, Chapter Member, displays this 10½ lb. steelhead caught during the " Detroit-Oscoda " river tournament on the AuSable.

THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN RAFFLES!

3rd annual sportfishing show set

The Detroit Area Chapter of the MSSFA will hold its Annual Spring Fishing Clinic/Seminar on March 25th at East Hills Jr. High School, 2800 Kensington Rd. at Opdyke (M-24, Lapeer Rd.), Bloomfield Hills, MI. (See map on p. 3)

More than 2,000 interested fishermen have attended this show each year, which is not surprising considering what is offered. No other fishing clinic has available more experts on sport fishing than the Detroit Chapter Spring Show. With more than 700 members, the Chapter draws from the best steelhead and salmon fishermen in the U.S.

The public will be able to see the latest equipment from tackle manufacturers, and a series of booths, manned by some of Michigan's best fishermen, demonstrating stream fishing and lake trolling equipment. Other demonstrations include egg curing, spawn bag tying, rod building and graph reading, plus the best lures for all types of steelhead fishing. Chapter members who fish every weekend will be on hand with the most accurate, up to date reports on the best places to fish around the state.

Thousands of dollars in door prizes will be raffled, and special raffle tickets on a completely outfitted 18 ft. Starcraft Mariner with 55 hp. Johnson, trailer, graph, downriggers and rods will be available for purchase.

Keep March 25 open! Come to the 1978 Detroit Area Chapter Spring Fishing Show!

FISHIN' TALES
Published Monthly by Detroit Area Chapter of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association
6315 Archdale
Detroit, Mi. 48228

The views expressed in this paper are those of the Chapter Members and the Editor. The purpose of this paper is to inform the Chapter Members of events which affect the Sportfishermen. It is our intention to teach, inform and guide the members to respect and appreciate the Great Lakes, Rivers and Land around us.

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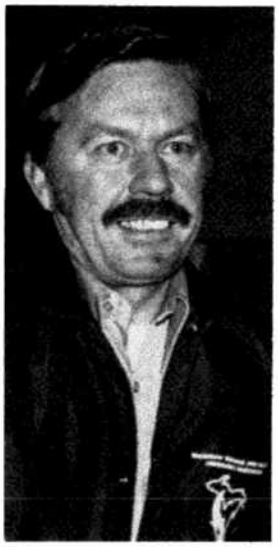


JOHN MAKELA

I received a response from the Waterways Div., DNR, after completing their boating questionnaire. It said in part . . . "You mention the need for launching facilities at Port Austin; between Rogers City and Alpena; and between Port Huron and Lexington. In addition you state the existing launch at Harrison is insufficient.

"We have purchased and plan to develop in 1979 property on the east shore of Bird Creek in Port Austin. We also have plans to develop a launch at Rockport between Alpena and Rogers City, again in 1979.

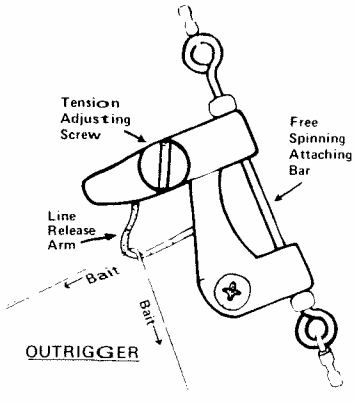
"The shoreline between Lexington and Port Huron is of such a nature that it would not be feasible to construct boat launching facilities and, therefore, none are being planned. There is so much shifting sand in the area that it would be prohibitively expensive to maintain. Instead we are planning a launch within the completed harbor at Lexington."

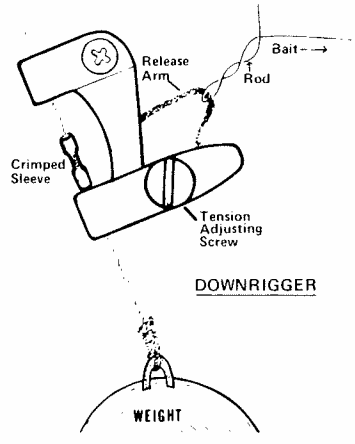
There was no comment on Harrisville. The Port Austin work is welcome news but it's my opinion that the chapter should suspend trolling tournaments there until a decent launch is available.

THISA & THATA . . . . . chinook fishing at Oscoda will continue to be lousy in '78 and '79. Fisheries biologists reported recently that we can expect no improvement at the once-hot Lake Huron port . . . . . the same biologists recommend reducing the daily lake trout limit to three fish on Lake Huron. Chief John Scott, DNR, will keep the limit at five, at least through 1978 . . . . . the Feds planted 100,000 of our lakers in Superior's Whitefish Bay for the Indians to net. Seems the 'super-citizens' wiped out existing fish populations and want more lakers to keep operating the Fed-paid fish processing factory . . . . . tackle sales up 10½% last year to an estimated total of 550 million bucks . . . . . committee chairmen for our shows are waiting to hear from you. If you want to work the Boat Show, contact Larry Serafin. For more boat raffle tickets and Outdoorama scheduling, contact Jim Boyer. Tom Schneider is handling the booths for clinics and displays at the Spring Show. Their phone numbers are on this page . . . . . director Tony Recchia has resigned from the local board. Personal and health reasons prompted the move and we'll miss him very much. The officers and board members wish Tony well . . . . . a newly revised Marine Radiotelephone Handbook has been published. Order by sending $3.00 to RTCM, Box 19087, Washington 20036 . . . . . *the "New Products" selection this month features a line release suitable for outriggers and downriggers. Any size lure can be used by employing the tension adjusting screw. The release arm enables the fisherman to change lure distance without retrieving the release. A free-spinning attachment bar prevents fouling the fishing line with outrigger lines if the rigger line wants to spin. Manufactured by Black Marine Products, Box 3172, Marathon Shores, FL 33052.*

Tom Schneider, field tester for Yakima Bait Co., says more help is on the way. They've developed a new walleye fishing lure, 'Lil Corky' Walleye Rig. It's an automatic depth setting lure that enables fishermen to fish the bottom with minimum hook loss and line breaks. By placing a slip sinker on the rig about 12-22" from the hook, the natural cork body raises the bait off the bottom within eay reach of feeding walleyes. You can use crawlers, leeches, salamanders or minnows on the rig. Yakima Bait Co., Box 310, Granger, WA 98932.

BLACK'S ANTI-FOULING RELEASE CLIP



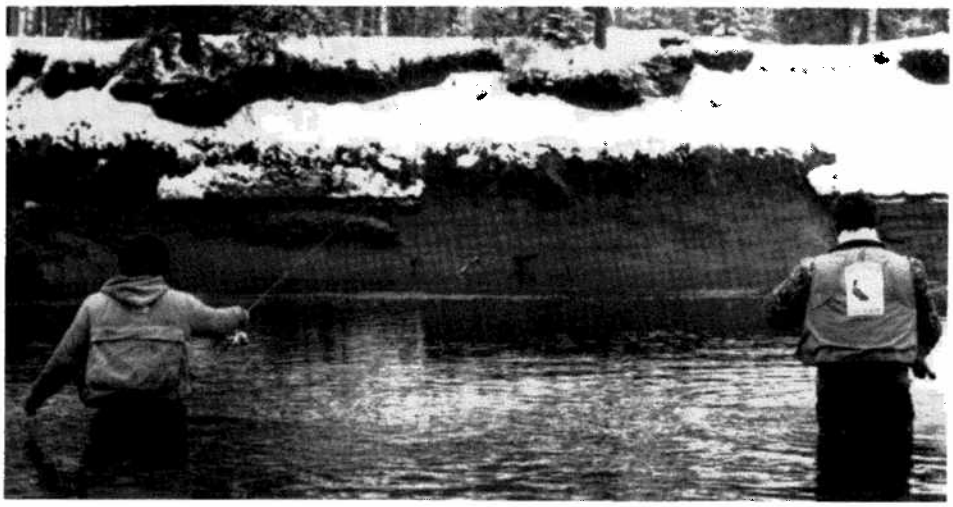


Worden's
LIL CORKY WALLEYE RIG

Lil Corky walleye rig is an automatic depth setting lure. A slip sinker puts you on the bottom and the cork ball automatically raises the bait off the bottom to the desired depth.

Saturday Session Planned

Betsie River Clinic Set for Feb. 18



photo/Don White

The RIVER CLINIC will start at 9:00 a.m. at the Holmstead Dam on the Betsie River. This year as in the past, the Clinic will be featuring some of the state's most outstanding fishermen, to explain and demonstrate their techniques. Among subjects to be covered are: Bobber fishing; flies; yarn; drift baits; single eggs; wigglers and spawn; spinners and spoons; ecology of the river; and how to dress properly.

After the clinic a dinner will be held at the Cold Creek Inn in Beulah. There are still rooms available at the Holmstead Resort. Contact Jim Matus – (616) 882-4163.

The river should produce some pretty good fish this time of year, so don't miss out on all the TIPS and FUN. Hope to see you there--dress warmly!

Chapter team scores win at Oscoda

/ Continued from Page One

since the winners outnumbered the hosts, we picked up the tab for the second keg.

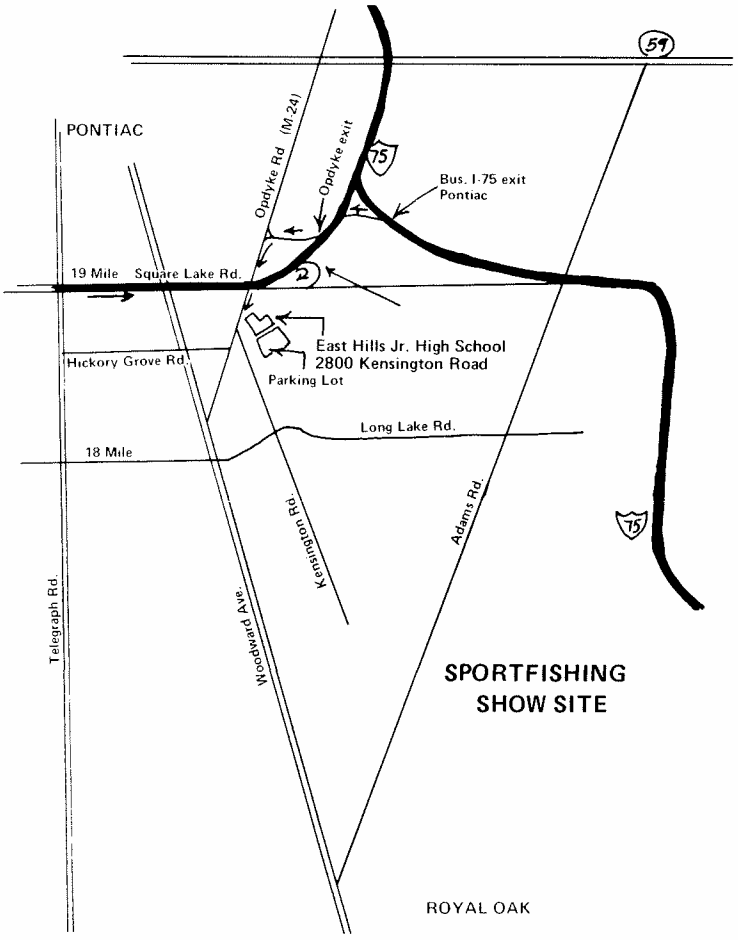
The AuSable Chapter supplied 40 lbs. of smoked steelhead and salmon for the party while the results were being tabulated. The individual winner of the tournament was Steve Legant with an 11 pound steelhead, his first ever. Second place went to Bill Muirhead with a 10½ lb. steelie. Bill also caught the most fish of the day, three. Butch Wasser took third place with a 9½ lb. steelhead.

The Detroit Chapter would like to thank the members of the AuSable Chapter for their kindness in sharing their holes and techniques with us, and for the swell party after the fishing. They are hereby challenged to another tournament next year.

A special thanks to Buck Ryder and Jerry Blanton for their work in organizing things on this end.

– Tom Schneider

. . . /See Story on Page One



3 EVENTS IN ONE WEEK AT ALPENA, JULY 29-AUGUST 6

'Big Brownie' worth $10,000 at Brown Trout Festival

ALPENA — The dates for the 1978 Michigan Brown Trout Festival to be held here have been announced by the Alpena Chamber of Commerce. The Festival will begin Saturday, July 29 and run through Sunday, August 6.

There are three separate fishing events comprising the Festival: The Super Tournament, the regular tournament and the "Big Brownie" event. Although the regular tournament runs during the entire festival, (and you can fish as many or as few days as you wish), the Super Tournament will take place the first two days--Saturday, July 29 and Sunday, July 30.

With an entry fee of $100 per boat, it offers the serious money competitor an opportunity to compete for cash prizes in the thousand-dollar-plus range. In 1977 (the first year for the Super Tournament), the first place winner, Chuck Schiefle of the Irex, from Alpena, won $1400. The second place finisher, Bob Bennett of the Wasted Days, from Detroit, won $875. Third place went to Dick Marchinski of the Born Free, from Alpena, who won $350. This year's Super Tournament should draw even more entrants, resulting in even bigger cash prizes.

Fishermen entering the regular tournament compete for savings bond prizes. In 1977, there were eight $100 bonds given away, one $750 bond, one $1500 bond and one $3000 bond. The first place winner, Larry Seaman of Alpena, captured the $3000 top prize with a 16 pound 7 ounce Brown Trout. A $500 savings bond was also awarded to Robert O. Hines of Alpena for the largest fish other than a Brown Trout--a 21 pound 6½ ounce Chinook Salmon.

The Big Brownie event generates a lot of enthusiasm and excitement during the Festival. Again this year, a Brown Trout will be tagged and released somewhere within Thunder Bay just prior to the Festival and will bring $10,000 to some lucky angler if caught during the Festival dates. During the 1977 Festival, Big Brownie was caught by an unlucky fisherman . . . unlucky because Big Brownie was lost at the boat! It was subsequently found three days later, floating dead in the bay. Better luck in 1978!

We remind you again that the dates for the 1978 Brown Trout Festival are Saturday, July 29 through Sunday, August 6. Plan to attend and try your hand at winning some very sizeable prizes.

— Mike DeCamillo

Ladies Day Tournament leads to lunker 'Kings' at Oscoda

OSCODA — The second annual Ladies Day Tournament was held here on September 17, 1977. The turnout of 28 boats was larger than first expected. Gary Gray, Editor of our Chapter Newsletter **Fishin' Tales** handled all of the registrations as well as the picnic lunch, dinner and trophy presentation that followed at the Oscoda Yacht Club.

The day began with participant ribbons given to the ladies, with high expectations of good fishing under cloud-covered skies. With a starting time of 7:00 a.m., most of the boats chose to fish the pier heads first, before going to deeper water. J-plugs seemed to be the most popular lure run from the surface down about 7 or 8 feet. Action was seen almost immediately, but only a few fish got into the box. (The blame for the lost fish rested not on the ladies, but on the fish themselves for not hitting the lure hard enough to set the hook.) As the day progressed, not too many fish were landed.

The weigh-in at 1:00 p.m. was held at Fellows Marina. It didn't take too long for the ladies to put their fine catches of Kings on the scales, only to surprise themselves with the weight of some of their fish.

Immediately following the weigh-in, the picnic was held at the beautiful Oscoda Yacht Club. That evening, everybody returned to enjoy a fine dinner and the ladies of the top ten boats received their trophies.

"Congratulations, Gary". The effort you put forth made the Ladies Day Tournament one of the Club's most successful events that will long be remembered by those who participated.

—Don White

photo/Don White

THE LADIES PROVED THAT THEY too can battle the "King" beast of the Great Lakes, as they display this fine catch of Chinook salmon. It was a day to remember for many of the ladies, as most of these fish weighed over 20 lbs.

☆

STANDINGS OF "LADIES DAY" TOURNAMENT, OSCODA

	BOAT	POINTS
1.	Cobra	120¾
2.	Sisu	94½
3.	Big "O"	75½
4.	The Boat	62¼
5.	Okie Drifter	44
6.	The Fisherman Too	37½
7.	Nooner	37
8.	Polish Pride	35¼
9.	Fish'n 5	34
10.	Alabratrose	33¼

STEELHEAD, BROWNS PLENTIFUL

Fall river fishing fine

Until a couple of years ago, my experience of stream trout fishing was very limited. Like many other steelhead anglers, my fishing was concentrated on the Spring season. That left me with only about a month's worth of prime fishing.

Back then I was unaware of the excellent Fall river fishery.

During this fall season we are all aware of what occurs in nearly every stream and river that empties into the Great Lakes. The salmon runs—well, the salmon aren't the only migrating fish that enter the waters at this time. Along with the coho and chinook are thousands of steelhead and brown trout that also venture upriver.

Primarily what attracts the trout into the streams and rivers is the great number of eggs that are dropped by the salmon.

The steelhead especially, are trailing the salmon feeding on their spilled eggs which have filtered through the spawning beds. Many of the steelhead entering these waters now will remain all winter and spawn the following spring.

Brown trout also enter the rivers now, coming up from the big lakes, usually after the spawning salmon runs are well under way. Browns may be observed feeding on dropped roe but they also are moving upriver with the intention of later spawning — sometimes after winter has set in.

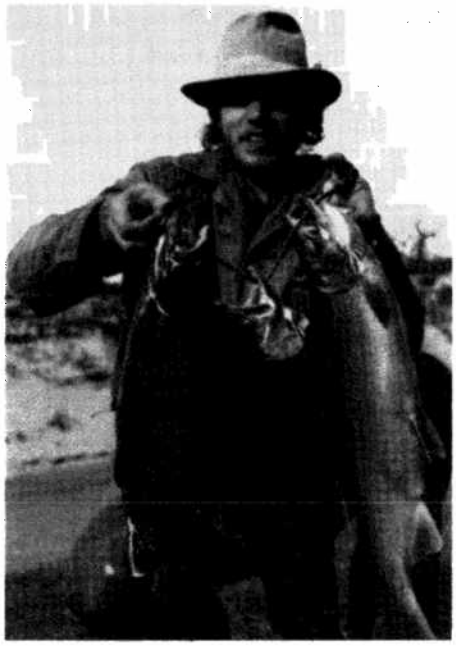
Personally, I can't suggest attempting to seriously fish a popular hole or run in the early fall season. Chances are you'll have to contend with crowds of snaggers. I like to wait until the salmon runs slack off, say mid-October and later. More trout will venture upriver in the cooling waters and the crowds will have thinned out.

The first deep hole upriver from the lake will be a good bet for holding salmon or trout. Spawn, either single, bagged or in skin clusters, bumped along the bottom is a grand producer, fished the same as in the spring. Imitation eggs, single or in small clusters, work very well also. Night fishing can be very productive too, especially for "Big Browns".

On my favorite river, the run of steelhead is not as intense as that of the spring season, but the fish are generally more aggressive toward bait presentations if they are not spooked.

When the snow begins to fly and the salmon runs have ended, you'll have to draw the line between Fall and Winter Fishing. But don't think you have to give up, there is still decent river fishing to cash in on for some diehards all winter long.

— Mark Lattimore



MARK LATTIMORE with Brown, Steelhead and Coho, all taken from same hole in October.

Lake Michigan yields Rare pink salmon

THIS FISH WAS caught by Laurie Lattimore on October 22, 1977. The strange-looking fish is a pink or "humpback" salmon. It was caught while surf fishing in Lake Michigan near Glen Arbor in Leelanau County.

The bait used was one of Burl's Golden Nugget clusters, fished with a slip sinker rig, light line and small hook, just off the bottom.

The fish was taken to the Platte River Weir, where a state fish biologist positively identified it. He also claimed that as of that date, no pinks had been harvested at the Weir, but a few pinks have shown up in other northern streams flowing into Lake Michigan and Lake Superior.

Litter kills fish, ruins fishing grounds

Experienced sportfishermen often make strange discoveries while cleaning their catch! They find that the fish have gobbled all kinds of man-made objects that have fallen into the water. Key rings, false teeth, bottle tops, paper and plastic objects are just a few.

Many things that boaters casually toss overboard can be lethal to fish. Especially items that resemble familiar foods: filter tips from cigarettes can look tempting like grubs; crumpled bits of foil from candy wrappers become attention-getting reflectors of light as they flutter down through the water; wads of chewing gum look like fish eggs or other morsels.

Often a hungry fish will swallow any such item tossed overboard. As most of these objects are indigestible, they can harm or even kill a fish.

Also, as a part of the sportfishing scene, it's a fact that litter from unconcerned boaters often helps to ruin the fishing grounds.

As the above examples so clearly show, littering by some pleasureboaters does happen and it has all kinds of unhappy consequences. Be a boater who cares.

DON'T LITTER!

WHERE & HOW ON INLAND LAKES

There's good rainbow fishing nearby

Many of us Detroit Area Chapter Steelheaders do not always get the chance to fish the "big waters" of the Great Lakes. Either we do not own a large enough boat or we are unable to take the "long weekends" required to travel to various ports around the State. I am one of these, but I've found a substitute fishery which I find to be most enjoyable.

It's no secret, but many of Southeast Michigan's lakes have been planted with various species of trout which surprisingly reach relatively large sizes. The rainbow trout is my personal favorite, and I've found a few lakes which offer good fishing for them. Orchard and Deer Lakes in Oakland County and Appleton and Murray in Livingston County are my top choices. These lakes are easily accessable with a 12 or 14-foot boat and are within short driving distances of most of our homes.

For the fishing I do, I use a 12-foot aluminum boat and a 5.5 hp motor, although a 14-footer would probably be more suitable. My boat is requipped with downriggers and a flasher-type depth finder--both very valuable tools.

I've found my most productive method for larger rainbows to be trolling. My basic tackle set-up consists of a medium action seven-foot spinning rod and a good quality spinning reel filled with top grade 8-10 lb. test monofilament. To a snap swivel on the end of the line, I attach a set of four or five-bladed cowbells. These attractors, I feel, are the key to successful fishing. I prefer the hammered all-nickel cowbells, such as those made by Les Davis.

For terminal tackle, I have two choices. First, the Flatfish in sizes F-3 thru F-6 and X-5 in colors of yellow with red spots, silver, gold and pearl. I attach these baits to the cowbells with about 18 inches of 4-6 lb. test mono. The other choice is "sewn" minnows (see sketch). I prefer 2-3 inch long shiners. With these minnows, I use a 12-inch leader. Both of these baits work well. The Flatfish produces more fish, but the "sewn" minnows are better for larger fish.

Depending on the season, there are different trolling techniques I use. In spring and fall when the surface waters are cool, the rainbows usually cruise all over the lake within 10 feet of the surface. At this time, I simply "long line it". I'll troll the baits about 100-150 feet behind the boat in water 15-20 feet deep. A very slow trolling speed is necessary--just enough to keep the blades on the cowbells turning.

In summer, when water temperatures drive the fish deep, I search out the deeper holes in the lake. I've found water depths of 35-45 feet to be the best. The fish at this time are usually within 10 feet of the bottom. This is when I use downriggers. These make it easier to maintain a specific depth, as we all know. I'll usually run the baits the same distances behind the boat and again, at a very slow speed.

My personal record, fishing these smaller inland lakes, is a 20-inch, 5 lb. beautifully colored rainbow. Knowing these lakes contain larger fish, as I've witnessed 8 and 10 lb. fish being caught, I'll continue to fish them. I suggest to anyone who wants good action close to home, not to overlook this fishery.

Bob Ksionek

DNR thanks Detroit Chapter

Mr. Bob Lindberg
Secretary,
Detroit Area Chapter

Dear Bob:

Thank you very much for the Steelheaders' offer of assistance in reworking the old fish ladder on the Huron River at Flat Rock.

We have completed a general cleanup of the ladder, replaced all wooden "gates" (blocking water flow through the old-unworkable passageways at the base of each step), and cut a slice of concrete out of the first step in order to pass more water and fish through the ladder. My crew did the work, as we were on private property doing a sometimes risky job, but I appreciate your offer of physical assistance too.

We very much appreciate you paying these bills. They amount to much less than the $1500 offered, but the job, for now and perhaps next year, is done. We will monitor the fishery and ladder use again this fall as we have in the past.

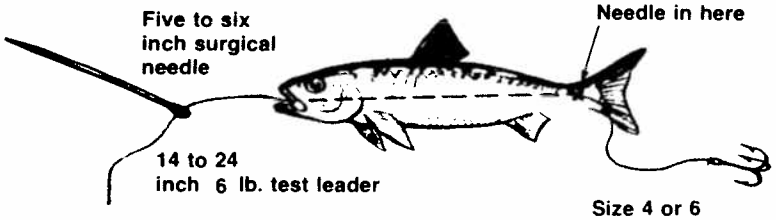
One way the remainder of the fund might be spent would be to support an engineering study of the Flat Rock Dam to determine feasibility and costs, etc. of a new ladder on the mainstream side of the dam. You might want to wait and see how the "refined" ladder works out first. At any rate, I will keep in touch with you on the matter.

Again, thank you for helping us out and for the tremendous support the Steelheaders have expressed toward better fishing in this area.

Sincerely,
Ronald J. Spitler
District Fisheries Biologist

How to sew a minnow

FIG. 1



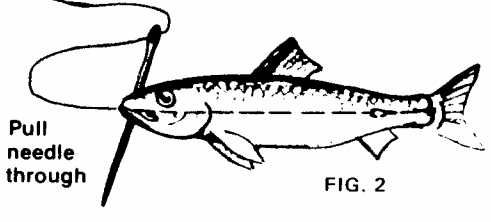


FIG. 2

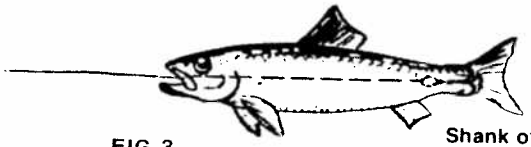


FIG. 3

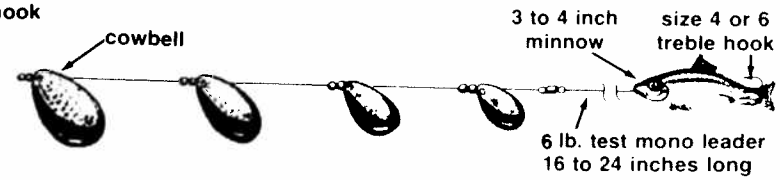


FIG. 4

Cowbell Rig
An excellent rig for attracting deep water trout

THERMOMETER IS A MUST

Troller says let temperature be your guide

Fishing temperature is probably one of the most important aspects of trolling. This holds true for most of the fishing season until the salmon start to spawn. It holds true for lake trout throughout the year. Prime temperature for salmon is 54° F., with an active range from 44° F. to 58° F. Lake trout prime temperature is 51° F., with an active range from 44° F. to 53° F. It is important to take into consideration the active temperature range of both the baitfish and the species of fish you are trying to catch.

Lake trout are predominantly bottom feeders, but will 'suspend' when the temperature and baitfish are found off the bottom. Chinook are bottom feeders also, and can be caught wherever their prime temperature intersects the bottom; they 'suspend' as well. Coho 'suspend' more than either lake trout or chinook, and they are caught in the open water more than any other fish.

It seems relatively easy to take the temperature of the water, and fish where it is ideal. This is true up to a point, but as we learn more, we find that the temperature may change hourly as the weather changes. This is why you must recheck the temperature frequently and change your depth accordingly.

Let's back up here, and go through a few basics that will help us understand how to find the correct temperature. When the ice goes out in the spring, the water is usually the same temperature from top to bottom. As the days warm up, the sun and the warmer air warm the top layer of water. If there are no drastic weather changes, this process goes on, and the stratification of the lake begins. Eventually, this causes three different layers of water to form.

The top layer is called the epilimnion, the middle layer is called the thermocline, and the bottom layer is called the hypolimnion. What we are interested in is the

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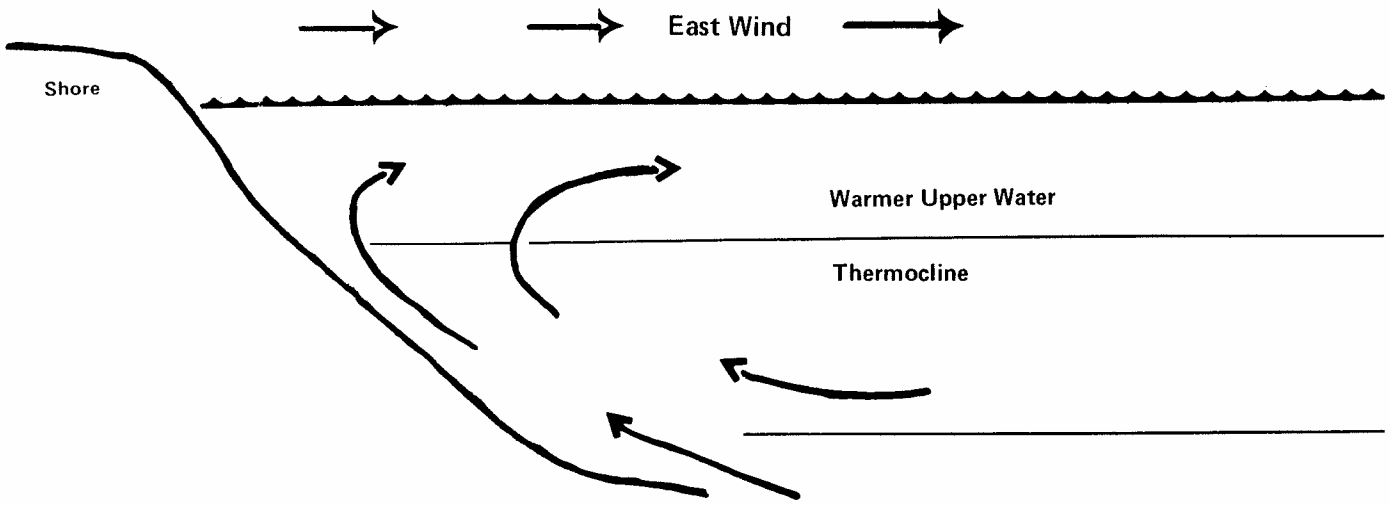
Figure 1



thermocline, for this is where game fish spend the most time. This thermocline, or break, may be as narrow as two feet or as wide as forty feet. This would mean that the fish are in a band two feet wide, or scattered throughout the forty foot span.

If you are fishing in an area that has a flat bottom, then the thermocline will run parallel with the bottom. If the area has drop-offs, depressions, or both, then the thermocline will vary with the bottom.

Another variation will occur when you move from shallow to deep water. The deeper the water, the closer to the surface the thermocline will be. The reason for this is that the shallow water is not as stable as the deeper water.

Another factor in the change of the thermocline is the weather, primarily the wind. In the spring, the wind is not as big a factor because the water is nearly the same temperature from top to bottom. It does, however, change the water temperature by a few degrees. As the summer progresses, the wind becomes, I feel, the biggest determinant of the location of the thermocline.

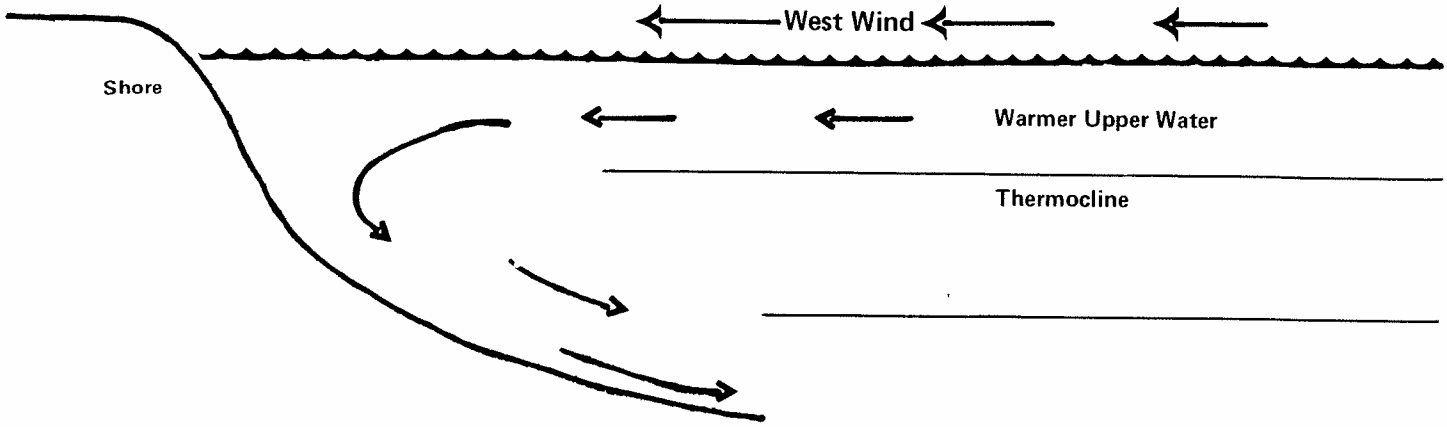
Applying this knowledge to fishing, we find in the spring that the fish will seek their ideal temperature. At this time, the fish will be off river or creek mouths, or around warm water discharges. These areas will hold the baitfish as well. This is when you must stagger your lines from top to bottom. Use of high lines, outriggers, and planer boards come into play early in the year for surface fishing. As the thermocline gradually deepens, downriggers come into use. If you find the ideal temperature at forty feet, place your downriggers at 35, 40, 45 and 50 feet. This will usually cover any variation of the bottom contour.

Here's a practical application. When we start out in the morning, we run out to a certain depth, attach the temperature probe to the downrigger weight and lower it, while checking the water temperature every five feet. Upon reaching the right temperature, we recheck it above and below to make sure of its exact location. We then set our lines, as I said before, from five feet above to ten feet below the ideal temperature.

This length difference among the downriggers almost always holds true, the exception being when the thermocline band is very narrow. Then you must run your lines within a very small area. This sounds simple, and is, in calm water. But in rough water, you will get tangled wire and tangled lures. Your best bet under rough conditions is to run in a straight line, and at a constant depth.

. . . /Continued on Page Nine

Figure 2



Another factor worth discussing is the way the wind changes the thermocline. On Lake Michigan an offshore, or east, wind will push the warm water out and pull the cold water to the top along the shore. **See illustration No. 1.**

Cold water moves up and shoreward as warm water is moved out. Some fish move in, but some will move out to find the more stable thermocline.

Warmer upper water is pushed deeper, dropping the thermocline along shore. Fish will move out to deeper water, following the thermocline. Again, some will move way out to find a more stable temperature; these will usually 'suspend'.

A south wind will usually move the thermocline deeper, but more slowly. North winds will change the thermocline drastically and quickly, depending upon the force of the wind. On a north wind, the fish usually scatter more. This is when you must search for the proper temperature further out, in deeper, more stable water. When the water changes this way,

"Fish will move . . . , following the thermocline."

the fishing can get very frustrating. The best method here, when you move out, is to fish toward deeper water until you get a strike. When you get the strike, determine your depth and fish in and out of it until you can find where the best fishing is at that time.

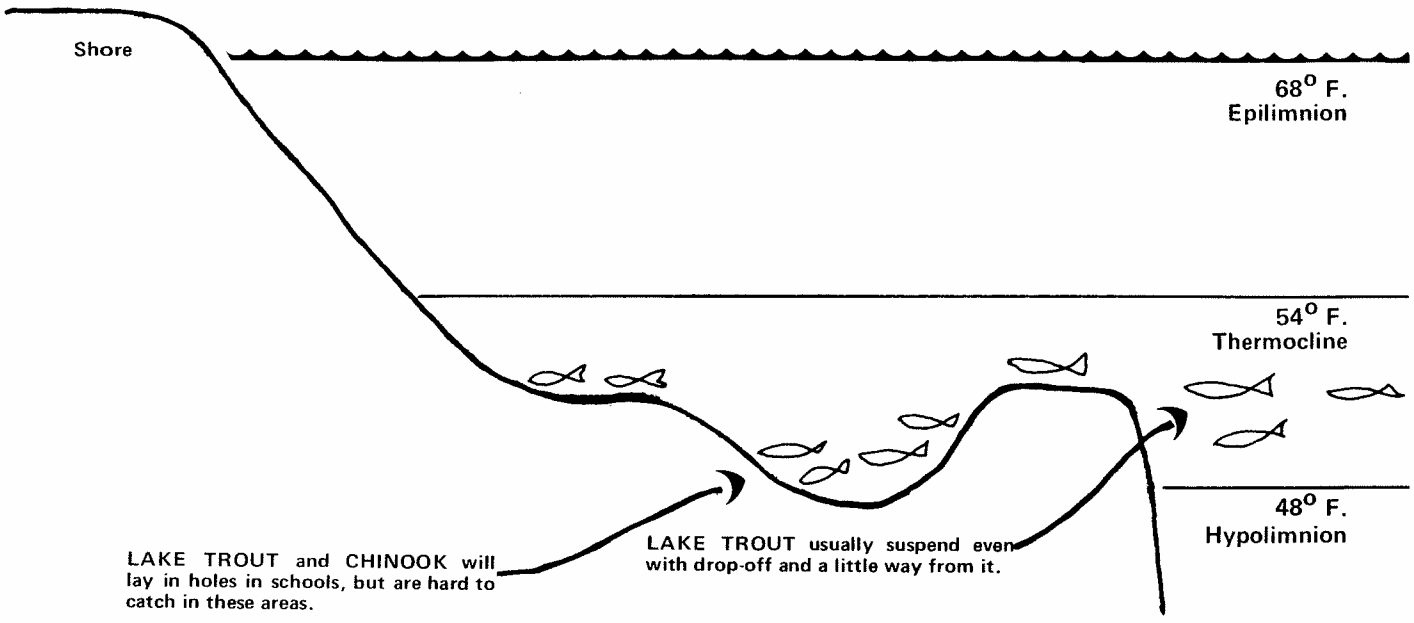
All this seems like a lot of trouble, but it becomes necessary if you want to consistently catch fish. The point is that the fish will find the most comfortable temperature zone, and they will only occupy that small percentage of the water.

So this is where you must start; the temperature is the most important thing to consider. Use a temperature gauge, for it is more valuable than an expensive graph or any other equipment you can use. As you continue your fishing, you will learn more and more about what effects the weather has on the depth of water the fish occupy.

It is up to you to study these changes and use them. You will help yourself have more fun and become a better fisherman if you do.

— Murrell Blackburn

Figure 3



YOUR STEELHEAD GUIDE

	RIVER	UPSTREAM LIMIT*
1.	St. Joseph River	Buchanan Dam
2.	Kalamazoo River	Allegan Dam
3.	Grand River	Webber Dam
4.	Muskegon River	Croton Dam
5.	North Br., White River	Arthur Road
6.	Pere Marquette River	M-37 Bridge
7.	Little Manistee	Johnson's Bridge
8.	Big Manistee River	US-131
9.	Betsie River	Kurick Road
10.	Platte River	US-31 Bridge
11.	Boardman River	Cass Street Dam
12.	Jordan River	Webster Bridge
13.	Brevort River	Brevort Lake
14.	Black River	Peter's Truck Tr. Br.
15.	Manistique River	Paper Mill Dam
16.	Whitefish River	Headwaters
17.	Big Cedar River	Veteran's Park Dam
18.	Black River	Rainbow Falls
19.	Presque Isle River	Manbezho Falls
20.	Sturgeon River	Prickett Dam
21.	Falls River	US-41
22.	Huron River	Big Eric's Bridge
23.	Anna River	Railroad Bridge
24.	Miner's River	Falls
25.	Sucker River	Deer Pk. Truck Tr.
26.	Two Hearted River	Reed & Green Br.
27.	Carp River	Mud Lake Outlet
28.	Cheboygan River	Cheboygan Dam
29.	Ocqueoc River	Barnhart Lake
30.	Thunder Bay River	9th Street Dam
31.	AuSable River	Foote Dam
32.	East Br., AuGres River	M-55 Bridge
33.	Rifle River	Sage Lake Road
34.	Caseville Harbor	
35.	Port Austin Harbor	
36.	Harbor Beach Harbor	
37.	Huron River	

* Upstream limits denote man-made barriers to spawning fish or those imposed by State Department of Natural Resources.

Try shore fishing for Spring trout

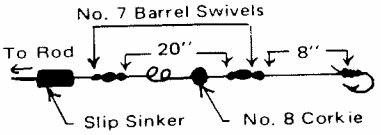
Spring presents a fine opportunity for the fisherman to catch big trout without the use of a boat.

One method is using spoons and spinners. Your nine foot rod will be excellent for this. I recommend long casts from shore and giving a count of ten to allow your lure to sink. The retrieve should be very rapid. This is very important.

I do not retrieve a lure with a jerk or a twitch. Very simply stated, a fast retrieve works best for me.

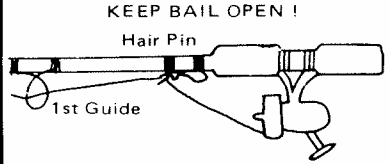
The lures I recommend are Devil Dogs in blue and silver, Little Cleos in red and gold and white with blush red, and Little Jewels with prism tape. For spinners, I use rooster tails in both yellow and the coachdog colors.

Bait fishing is a great way to catch spring trout. I use a special rig to hold my bait off the bottom. The rig uses the ole' slip sinker, two barrel swivels, and a corkie to keep the bait off the bottom. The sketch below will help you understand this rig.



The baits I use are nightcrawlers, raw chunk spawn, single eggs, and whole kernel corn. Nightcrawlers are best for browns and single eggs or chunk spawn for the steelhead. Try chumming with corn.

An important part of the slip sinker rig is to use an open bail. It allows the fish to pick up the bait without feeling any resistance. In order to do this and still maintain some control over my line, I tape a hairpin near the handle and run my line through it. The sketch below illustrates this technique.



Allow the fish to run with the bait for a short while, then close the bail and reel gently until you feel the fish. Set the hook and fish on. The rest is up to you.

— Tom Schneider

SNAGGING: It's destroying Sportfishing

A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

TOM SCHNEIDER, Detroit Area Chapter. Chairman of MSSFA River Fishing Committee. Tom read into minutes of the last directors meeting his committee report. The state board approved a motion that the following text be our position on snagging.

The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association disapproves of snagging in any form. Snagging is an unethical method of fishing and causes unsportsmanlike conduct. The ineffective enforcement of the present snagging rules and hook size creates disrespect for the law altogether. Snagging corrupts and undermines the values of the young and contributes to future violation problems. The environmental abuse such as riverside litter, bank erosion and damage, removal of natural obstructions, stream litter and miles of heavy fishing line on stream bottoms is appalling. Uncontrolled snagging, as it now stands, leads to indiscriminate snagging of other game fish besides salmon and, unfortunately, snag hooks are unable to discriminate.

We realize that at the present time it is not possible to stop snagging, but we feel that there are alternatives that can be taken by the Department of Natural Resources to control snagging. We accept the concept of restricted areas open to snagging as long as the snagging is strictly enforced to these areas.

In areas that are designated as snagging areas, regulations should be passed to make it illegal to have in one's possession a hook larger than 3/8" from point of barb to shank. The regulations should be strongly enforced. Whether the Department of Natural Resources continues with the present regulations regarding snagging areas or adopts the Michigan Steelhead Fishermen's Association's alternate proposal, we strongly urge that the law be strictly enforced. Also, we strongly recommend that the profit be taken out of salmon snagging by banning the sale of eggs by fishermen.

In conclusion, we would like to state that we will support the Department of Natural Resources' proposal regarding egg taking, providing the monies generated under this proposal are directed back to the Department of Natural Resources for law enforcement. We realize that the best solution to the snagging problem is the sometimes slow process of educating the public. The Michigan Steelhead Salmon Fishermen's Association will continue to support and expand our educational programs as our chapters grow with more shows, clinics and lectures, as we hope the Department of Natural Resources will do.

Snagger scofflaws routed at Foote Dam

One night at our Board of Directors meeting of Trout Unlimited, Midland Chapter, Bob Phillip of Scientific Anglers told us of an event one of his employees witnessed at Foote Dam.

A C. O. ticketed a guy for selling snag hooks to snaggers along the shoreline at Foote. The disgruntled panhandler headed for the parking lot and proceeded to smash windows in the C. O.'s auto. The C. O. reached the car later—got on the radio, and within minutes, the parking lot was wall-to-wall with Bears—D. N. R., Super Troopers and County Mounties. They sealed off the parking lot and proceeded to shake down parked cars—ticketed **VIOLATORS**—(97 in one hour) and two Troopers took to the road and ticketed the long lines of illegally parked cars.

In talking to the C. O. later in Desi's, the C. O. related that they would go back to the Dam in a few minutes and *"DO IT AGAIN"* until they "run out of tickets or people".

To most stream fishermen, law enforcement is the Number One concern, and it is reported events like this one that put a mile-wide smile on our faces. A **HUGE** pat-on-the-back to the Oscoda Area Law Enforcement Personnel.

To those of you who feel indifferent, or do not oppose snagging – try this. Pick out a warm, sunny day – put your wife and children in the car and drive up to Foote Dam. Pull in about 12:00 Noon to 1:30 p.m. and park at the entrance to the parking lot. Walk together (hand in hand) the full length of the lot . . . turn around and walk back to your car (don't even concern yourself with what's going on at the water's edge). Then put in writing the feelings that went through your bodies – and send them to Gary to publish in **"FISHIN' TALES"** for all members to read – and yes – even John Scott and other D. N. R. Lawmakers!

– Dick Swan

★★★★★

Designed by N. F. Pettingill, 1507 E. 4th Street, Superior, Wisconsin

THE DETROIT CHAPTER

What we're all about . . .

The Detroit Area Chapter of the MSSFA was the first chapter to print a monthly newsletter. This is our 2nd Annual Issue. In this issue we have reprinted our favorite and most informative articles of the last year.

The Detroit Chapter was formed in the fall of 1974. Today there are twelve chapters, with the Detroit Area the largest chapter.

From the very beginning, the Detroit Chapter was designed to become the leading force in the future of the Steelheaders. It was the Detroit Chapter's Super Spring Show -- the largest in the club's history -- that all other chapter shows are now modeled after. It was the Detroit Chapter who took over forty outdoor editors for salmon in the Detroit River, which brought public attention to the MSSFA from all over the United States. It was the Detroit Chapter who first started research trips throughout the Great Lakes. It was the Detroit Chapter who first introduced river tournaments and then steelhead and salmon river fishing clinics to teach others the proper techniques in catching the river run fish. This had never been done before.

The Detroit Chapter has always been an independent-acting chapter with no qualms about speaking out against the DNR and, at the same time, praising their good accomplishments. The Detroit Chapter will continue to speak out against organizations or persons who it feels are endangering the sport-fishing industry and the sport-fisherman.

Join us and work with us. We hold monthly meetings at the Bonnie Brook Country Club, 8 Mile and Telegraph Road.

Fishing Facts — Fishing Tales

How many of you read the latest survey released by the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service? Seems that every five years they survey hunting-fishing as to the number of people participating in each. Their 1975 figures show that 18 out of 100 women fished — 41 out of 100 men fished (no kids?) for a total of 53.9 million sportfishing people in the U.S. The 1975 money figure reads $15.2 billion spent on sport fishing.

How many of you read the current issue of **The North Woods Call** where the same U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents "stole" 100,000 lake trout--marked for Lake Huron fishermen--and planted tham in Whitefish Bay — yeah! for the Bay Mill Indians to take in their gill nets. The government even put up a $250,000 fish processing plant to handle their booty.

How's that for a kick in the face, you 53.9 million sportfishing people? Let's all give **Jack Hemphill** (Regional Fish and Wildlife Director) a big ——— for his role in stealing from the Michigan sportfishermen.

How many of you recall the past court case involving a Bay Mills Big-Thief Chief? Remember when he related how the Indians were capable of managing their own fishery--that after all, they were (are) the original conservationists of natural resources?

How many of you read the Petoskey newspaper last summer when a band of local vigilantes "way-layed" two Bay Mills gill netters on the beach at Charlevoix? Yeah, you guessed it, the great native conservationists overplayed their greedy hand and caused a sterile fishery in the Whitefish Bay waters — so, go south young warriors — to more fertile waters. Speak now Chief "Full of Bull".

How many of you were aware that agents from the same Fish and Wildlife just recently were aiding the Michigan DNR by threatening to "expose" out-of-state wholesalers who were buying black market — PCB-laden — Michigan lake trout from the Indians? These wholesalers knocked it off, thus the outlets for Michigan fish slowed down. Just as the DNR dealt the final blow to stop fish sales — a Great White Father emerged and spoke of "blatant" things against the DNR's stand. Now, the Federal agents go home — put their uniforms on "the other way" — and steal 100,000 lake trout from the DNR and give them to the Bay Mills people for them to net and sell.

John Scott figures the "Feds" know that these native conservationists will again wipe out this plant of lakers as soon as the fish are large enough to "hit and stick" in the mesh of their nets. It shouldn't take too long then for some more Fishing Facts or Fishing Tales to come to light again — meantime, try to rest easy, you 53.9 million sportfishing people. —**Dick Swan**

1978 MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Bonnie Brook Country Club

January 31, 1978
February 28, 1978
March 28, 1978

VISITORS WELCOME
BRING A FRIEND

MORE FISH THAN FISHERMEN

Summer fish and fun at the Straits of Mackinac

Fishing vacation 1977. Where to go? When to go? Decisions! Decisions!

After much discussion, studying planting lists and listening to Stan Lievense at an early 1977 club meeting, Bob Crosby and I decided to go to the Straits area in mid-July (as it turned out, the hottest week of the summer).

Leaving early Saturday, July 16, we headed north to Cheboygan, our base of operations. We first secured a slip in town at the Anchor In Marina. It was here that we encountered the first of several problems that hampered an otherwise fine trip–no launches suitable for our twenty-four foot "White Water".

Micki the marina owner told us we would have to trailer upriver to his boat storage yard to have her lifted in. When we arrived at the yard, we found that the building with the hoist had an impossible, screwed-up entrance. A hard left to avoid smacking a building support, then forward thirty-five feet, then back the whole rig down an eight and one-half foot wide aisle to the hoist.

A piece of cake. Right? Wrong! Bob and I must have spent an hour sweating over it in one hundred degree heat. No luck! It took the marina man, using his tractor, another half an hour to get the boat and trailer in and down to the hoist. Finally, after two hours and a six pack, we got her launched. All this 'fun' only cost us twenty-five dollars.

We headed downriver through the paper company's lock, to our berth. The sixteen foot drop down to lake level was certainly one of the trip's high points.

Sunday dawned bright, calm and clear, so we headed for the Straits, some eighteen miles north. With lines in the water by nine, we made CB contact with the only other fishing boat we were to see all week, "Culligan Man", out of St. Ignace. The only FM traffic we heard was the Chicago to Mackinac race. Very restful.

After the first hour with no hits, we called "Culligan Man" to see what he was using. Back to basics! Ten minutes after re-rigging–Wham! The first rod popped. We boated our first "Straits Laker".

In the next ninety minutes, we boated four more and lost three – all ranging from four to ten pounds, fishing eighty-five to one hundred-ten feet in one hundred-twenty to one hundred-eighty feet of water.

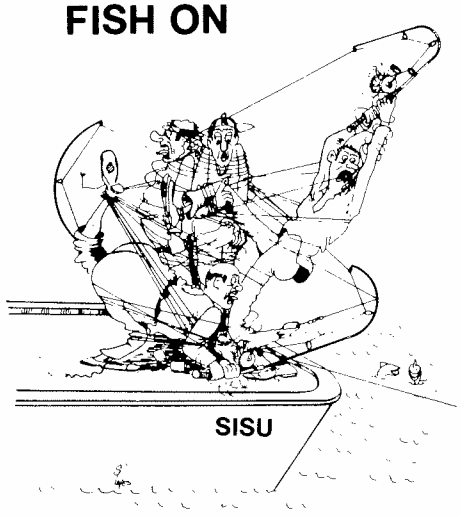
Damn! Just when it was getting good, engine trouble! Overheating! Back to port. Looks like a bad impeller. Try and fix it ourselves? How? Micki to the rescue, first the use of the large yacht repair hoist. We sweated over it for the next hour. No luck. Wrong damn tools! Hung up? Not yet. Micki to the rescue again. He called around and finally located a mechanic willing to look at it. In the meantime we killed a twelve pack and went swimming. Man! It was hot. We were operational by eight that night.

Monday morning was excellent. We were off to the Straits to try our luck again. I couldn't get all the lines down or keep them that way. We boated seven lakers in ninety minutes and lost six or seven more. Man, what a fight! Almost like lake run Coho. Doubles and triples were the order of the day.

Tuesday was another scorcher. We left at eight a.m. for the Les Cheneaux Islands, twenty-nine miles away and arrived seventy minutes later. The channel entrance was very tricky, shoaling from one hundred-twenty feet to four and one-half feet in fifty yards and studded with large rocks. Just inside were many perch fishermen who were skunked.

We decided to play tourist. We stopped at Hessel. Lovely port, but damn little else. Heading toward Cedarville we went through some winding channels, their shores heavily forested and sprinkled with very beautiful old mansions and private resorts. Cedarville was about as exciting as Hessel so we moved on.

FISH ON



St. Joe Chapter once said the membership of an organization is made up of four bones: There are the Wishbones who spend all of their time wishing someone else would do the work. There are the Jawbones who do all the talking but very little of anything else. Next come the Knucklebones, who knock everything that everybody else tries to do. And finally, the Backbones who get the load and do the work. What bone are you??

Turning south down the main channel, we beached on Government Island, an unspoiled wilderness for boaters only. Fantastic place.

Turning east toward port, we stopped periodically to run the graph which recorded depths of two hundred-fifty feet, but no fish. We took temperature off Bois Blanc Island and set lines twenty to forty feet down in two hundred twenty-five feet of water. Ten minutes later; FISH ON! A nice four pound laker on a black-with-pink spots, Happy Hooker behind a "00 Red Rodger". A threatening squall became a reality, so we headed for port.

Wednesday, we headed for Nine Mile Point, seventeen miles south. Turning on the graph, we marked heavy concentration of fish in eighty to ninety feet of water. Lines set and ready for our first strike. Disaster! We were stopped dead. Bob backs the "White Water" down against the wind and waves while I try to raise the walkers. No go. Again and again we tried but no luck. The wind and waves were rising. We were fouled in something.

Looking around, we noticed two small beach bottles. Buoys? Oh–Expletive deleted! A net (who expects one in the middle of nowhere). We finally got one downrigger free, but had to cut the other three loose. Money down the drink.

When we returned to port, we went directly to the DNR District Office to report the incident. They thought it might be a legal net, but their Patrol Boat would be happy to investigate. They asked us to check back with them later.

Bob and I thanked the officers and headed to the local tackle shops to purchase replacement cannon balls and releases.

The second unpleasant surprise of the day came when we discovered that none of the shops visited had what we were looking for. Fortunately, we had enough spare cannonballs and clip releases to get by, (moral No. 1: Carry plenty of spares when you fish an unknown area; moral No. 2: Don't go net fishing).

At four thirty p.m., we returned to the DNR office where we were told that it was a legal trap net, although rather poorly marked.

Thursday was a replay of Monday, with fishing excellent. During the course of the morning we confirmed one of our suspicions–these fish are unionized. At eleven a.m. sharp they stop working. After a two hour dry spell we gave up and went to Mackinac Island to play tourist again. . . . /Continued on Page Seventeen

Cook's Corner

SALMON-TOMATO SOUP

¼ cup vegetable oil
1 medium onion, finely chopped
½ green pepper, finely chopped
3 cups peeled potatoes in ½" dice
2 bouillion cubes
1 can (16 oz.) tomatoes
½ tsp. crumbled thyme leaves
1½ teaspoons salt
¼ tsp. pepper
1 can (16 oz.) salmon
2 tbs. sherry (optional)

Heat oil in heavy 3 to 4-quart kettle or Dutch oven. Add next 3 ingredients and saute, stirring, 5 mins. Add 3 cups of water and next 5 ingredients. Bring to boil and simmer, covered, 20 mins, or until potatoes are tender. Add salmon, broken in chunks, and the salmon liquid. Add sherry and heat. Makes about 2 quarts.

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CANNED SALMON

Cut fish in small pieces, soak in salt brine for 1 hour, then drain for 5 mins. Place salmon in jars, skin side to glass. Seal pressure can at 10 lbs for 1 hr and 40 mins.

SPRING SHAKEDOWN CRUISE

Coho action on the St. Clair River

By Jim Boyer

Spring, ah Spring! It's the time of year to forget the long, cold winter just past and to look forward to the warm days that are just around the corner. It's time for the trout opener, and for getting the boat out of mothballs and ready for another great year of lake trolling.

This year, the warm spell during the last week in March found a lot of us busily working to get our boats ready to meet the first warm Spring breezes of April.

Sometime after midnight on April 2, mine was finally ready for her shakedown cruise on the St. Clair River. My crew arrived promptly at 7 a.m. and, amongst all the good-natured bantering that goes along with high expectations, we were off for a day of fishing.

After picking up Tom Schneider and following him and his new boat to Decker's Landing we finally put in and made the invigorating run up-river to Marine City. A quick glance at the graph indicated about 25' of water so the downriggers were dropped to 8-15 feet and we were finally fishing for the first time this year.

Time went by very quickly as we were sitting back enjoying the beautiful Spring day and renewing friendships on the radio, but when the first downrigger went off, my mate was right there, ready for the first battle. After a short hard-fought battle and superb net handling by the captain, our first catch of the year was finally put into the box—a beautiful 6oz. clam. After resetting the line, a lot of ribbing and a dose of "Snake Bite" medicine, we were again ready to do battle with those finny creatures of the deep. This time we didn't have long to wait, as within a few minutes we had a fine silvery coho to add to our growing collection.

After this, the fishing slowed to the point that even Jim on the Pequod II wasn't picking up anything. But with the warm Spring sun shining no one really minded. Finally, as the mid-afternoon sun was causing the shadows to creep out on to the river and the breeze was starting to pick up, another nice coho "jack" was put into the box and we reluctantly pulled out lines for the run back to Deckers.

As soon as the boats were put snugly back on their trailers, we retired to the lounge to compare notes and enjoy a little libation, as is sometimes done at the close of a fine day on the water.

After talking to the "Corky-Man", Tom Schneider, and Howard Mills we found that almost all of our fish were taken on Krocidiles and Little Cleos, 15-25 pulls behind downriggers 8-18 feet down. You must fish close to, or even right over the drop-off, between 10 and 25 feet. The best color was blue and chrome, followed by chartreuse and red.

The fish should be around for the next couple of weeks and thanks to our much misused DNR, and with the cooperation of our fickle weatherman, should provide some pretty good Spring Fishing within an hour of Detroit.

MICHIGAN PICKLED LAKE TROUT

If frozen, thaw 2 lbs. lake trout fillets. Cut into serving portions. In large skillet melt 2 tbs. butter. Add ½ cup minced onion and cook until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in 1½ cups apple jiuce, 1 cup cider vinegar, 2/3 cup firm-packed brown sugar, ½ cup raisins, 2 bay leaves and 1 tsp. salt. Add fish, cover and simmer 3 to 5 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Remove fish into serving dish. Gradually add ½ cup crushed gingersnaps to liquid, stirring until smooth and thickened.

Serve over fish. Makes 3 servings.

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FINNISH SMOKED SALMON SOUP

2 cans (13¾ oz. size) chicken broth
10 fresh dill stalks
½ tsp. dill seeds
¾ lb. new potatoes, pared and sliced
1 cup sliced, washed leek
¾ lb. smoked salmon, cubed
½ cup fresh dill leaves
2 Tbs. butter
¼ tsp. white pepper

In 6 qt. Dutch oven or kettle, combine chicken broth, dill stalks (reserve leaves) and dill seeds; bring to boiling, covered. Reduce heat; simmer 15 mins. Strain; discard dill stalks and seed.

Return to kettle. Add potato, carrot and leek to broth. Bring to boiling. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, 30 mins, or just until the vegetables are soft.

Add salmon, dill leaves, butter and pepper. Remove from heat. Let stand, covered, 15 mins. to blend flavors.

To serve: simmer uncovered, 10 to 15 mins. or until hot. Makes 8 servings.

★ ★ ★ ★

See Page Seventeen for another popular 'recipe' from Anne . . .

THE BASICS

Trolling the lure

The chapter enlists many new members each season. They, along with present members who have purchased their first boat, are anxious to buy the right tackle. This article deals with lures, and some successful ways to troll them.

Flutter-type spoons: When trolling 30 feet down or less, a great many fish are caught 'long-lining' – running the lure 90 feet or more behind the downrigger weight. During the warmer months, when lakers are lazy and the water is still and clear, it's a good idea to remove swivels and attach your line directly to the '0' ring. Always test the action of thin spoons and drop your trolling speed if the lure spins or revolves. Twelve pound test line is not too heavy, and will accomodate the salmon that take a poke at it.

Thin spoons also work well behind dodgers. Try 18 to 23 inches behind the '0' size. When using '00' dodgers, be sure to try spacing a chartreuse spoon three to four feet behind a red dodger. It has saved the day many times. The leader weight behind attractors should decrease as you lengthen it.

Flutterspoons can be exceptional producers when trolled behind divers. Vary leader lengths from two feet to twelve feet behind the device. Action divers that sway back and forth and flash create maximum movement and attraction to the lure.

Best colors on flutterspoons vary from day to day, but there are some more popular than others. Chartreuse with red dots, chrome and blue, luminescent with green edge, 'easter egg' or 'clown' pastels, and all chrome with chrome prism on both sides (covering 75% of each side) are colors in constant use.

Remember this – the best results will come from these lures if they have chrome undersides. They are not always available, so be sure to have a supply of scale-pattern chrome prism tape for that purpose.

A club like ours will have many 'expert' trollers and there will be other opinions as to the best way to run certain lures. The beginner would be well advised to seek more hints from trollers who use the same lures.

For more on Trolling – see Page Nineteen

photo/Don White

GARY GRAY (left) AND BILL MUIRHEAD (right) display a 5 lb brown caught on a spawn bag on the AuSable River during the "Detroit" "Oscoda" River Tournament.

Gary Gray is picked as Member of the Year

The president's award to the Detroit Area Chapter's "Member of the Year" was presented last month to newsletter editor Gary Gray. The presentation was made at the December (Annual) meeting.

In awarding the plaque, Pres. John Makela said, ". . . my selection for recipient of this plaque – representing my thanks, and recognizing valuable service and obvious enthusiasm – has been a member since the chapter was chartered in 1974."

Gary is skipper of the "Nooner" and has been at all the chapter tournaments. He handled the successful Oscoda Ladies Day Tournament, fishes all our river tournaments and frequently trolls the lower Detroit River for walleyes.

The membership elected Gary to a two year term as chapter director in December.

Proper cleaning can lower PCB threat

The PCB threat in fish can be greatly reduced by removing the fatty parts where PCB tends to be concentrated. The illustration below shows the two most important areas that should be removed. The fatty area around the dorsal fin, and the entire belly flap are the areas of greatest concentration.

Another thing you can do to protect yourself is to skin all your fish. Under the skin, there is a fine layer of fat, which turns into oil when the fish is cooked. Precautions should be extended to the methods by which the fish are cooked and smoked. Cooking styles should allow the runoff of all fish oils. Don't nest your fish in foil. Instead, cook them on some kind of grill, so the fats and oils can drip below. In order to keep fish from burning, basting is required.

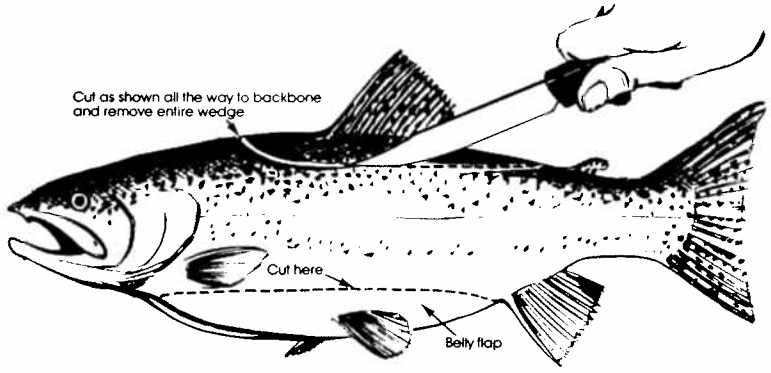
Despite all these precautions, High Risk fish shouldn't be eaten at all by pregnant women, and children. Don't be fooled by the size of the fish. A small fish **can** be contaminated with higher levels of PCB and other contaminants than a large fish, depending on its habitation.

To properly transport, freeze and store your fish, keep these points well in mind. Fresh fish are very perishable. Before wrapping your fish, make sure that all the blood has been thoroughly rinsed off with clean, fresh water. Wrap your fish in a moisture-proof paper, or place in a tightly-covered container, and place in the coldest part of your cooler or refrigerator. On all of your fishing trips, do not have fish frozen unless you can maintain them frozen. Once thawed, do not re-freeze and use immediately.

Keep canned fish in a cool, dry place. Once opened, refrigerate. Wrap smoked fish and refrigerate. Pickled fish should also be refrigerated. Dried fish should be kept in a cool, dry place, also. Fresh fish will keep on a refrigerator shelf one or two days. Smoked fish will keep one to two weeks on a refrigerator shelf.

Fish properly prepared for freezing will keep in the freezer for one year. Fish kept in a freezer should be rotated whenever fresher fish are added.

– Gary Gray (Editor)



1978 Boat Raffle

The Detroit Area Chapter's Third Annual Fishing Boat Raffle is the biggest yet.

The total package will have a retail value of about $6,000, including all accessories. The unveiling will be at our January membership meeting.

The boat that was chosen for our raffle is an 18 foot Starcraft Mariner. It will be equipped with a 55 h.p. electric-start Johnson and a Pamco trailer. This fine fishing rig will be completely equipped for Great Lakes fishing with two downriggers, a new graph and two Eagle Claw rods and reels.

When it is raffled off at our April meeting, it will have been inspected and approved by the Coast Guard Auxiliary for up to three fishermen. The boat will also be equipped with a horn, fire extinguisher, anchor, three personal flotation devices and a ring buoy.

Raffle ticket sales will start with a mailing to all Chapter members in January.

There will be FIVE PRIZES for those selling the most raffle tickets. Last year's winner, Bob Kring, sold 95 books to win the top prize.

Raffle tickets will be available by calling me at 542-9073, or by writing:

Jim Boyer, 1817 Barrett, Royal Oak, Mich. 48067

Chuck Cartwright claims award

CHUCK CARTWRIGHT WON 1977 "Skipper of the Year" Award. Detroit Area Chapter President John Makela presents the trophy.

TOP TEN SKIPPERS OF THE YEAR

	SKIPPER	BOAT	POINTS
1.	Chuck Cartwright	Tuna Boat	36
2.	John Makela	Sisu	32
3.	Murrell Blackburn	Fish'n 5	31
4.	Bob Kring	Drifter	30
5.	Larry Atwell	Cobra	27
6.	Jerry Lee	Sea Screw	23
7.	Don Wainio	Flying Finn	22
8.	Clay Garrett	Blue Mist	22
9.	Jim Treadaway	Okie Drifter	20
10.	John Schubert	Easy Money	17

COOK'S CORNER Continued/ . . .

STEWED FISHERMAN

1 cup spawn
¼ cup boric acid - to flavor and preserve
No. 4 short shank hook
200 yds. 10 lb. mono-filament line
18" 8 lb. leader
1 ea. swivel
1 ea. lead sinker
20° F. Winter Weather
34° F. Water Temperature
1 pint Schnapps

Take one steel head fisherman, place in water up to his hips. Put rod and reel in his hands and the spawn bag on the hook. The recipe is complete – one jerk at the end of the line, waiting for another jerk.

--Anne Makela

Good time at Mackinac

. . . /Continued from Page Fourteen

We arrived in port about six thirty p.m. to the greetings of some people on a sumptuous 40-foot sailing yacht. They wanted to buy some fish, but instead we gave them some. In gratitude, these very friendly (and rich) seafarers wined and dined us on their lovely vessel for the rest of the evening.

Friday, Bob and I headed south to see what was happening at Harrisville. Not a hell of a lot! One laker, some very clean lures, and we towed two disabled boats back to port.

Sunday brought rain and our reluctant departure for home. There's some excellent Lake Trout fishing within sight of the Grand Hotel. This area is, by and large, underfished. Maybe these plants should be moved closer to the people--perhaps southern Lake Huron . . . .

– John H. Beer

A MEMBER STATES HIS VIEW

Where has Sportfishing gone?

Michigan has now become the greatest sports fishery in the world. Our Great Lakes overall have more catchable salmon and trout than anywhere else in the world. Reports from just about every port in Michigan state the fishing has never been better. Limit catches and big fish are not unusual. One couldn't ask for a better place to live and fish—right? Wrong . . .

With the overabundance of fish, the new methods and techniques, the fish are pretty easy to catch. It doesn't take a great deal of money to equip a 14' boat and catch fish in the spring and early summer close to shore, and when fall comes, the salmon are no problem to catch when they congregate at the river mouth. And here lies the problem.

Since our first run of coho salmon up the Platte River in 1967, the "fishermen" have devised numerous ways, legal and illegal, to catch the fish. Today the problem has spread to almost every major river where the salmon run in the fall. The easy pickings have brought the worst kind of slob into the woods and his trail can be easily followed. When salmon eggs started selling for .75 to $1.25 a lb. a few years ago, the money-hungry slobs from Michigan—as well as Ohio, Indiana, New York and Canada--began to reap the profits.

The snagging problem did not confine itself to salmon. Brown trout and steelhead spawning in rivers on their redds (beds) were also snagged. And now I'm hearing more and more reports of fishermen catching their limit of fish going into shore, dropping off their fish and returning to catch more fish. I'm also hearing of fishermen and some club members, selling the fish for profit. Where does it end?

It has been shown that man is a basically a greedy person. When you make something very easy to get and offer it for a relatively small price and also throw in the possibility of a profit, somewhere along the line the basic respect is lost. It makes me sick to see the fish in the Great Lakes abused and thought of as nothing more than a hunk of meat or eggs for profit, and treated as they are.

The salmon lives three or four years and does so for one purpose—to spawn and die; In the Pacific Northwest, the salmon would overcome tremendous obstacles in its struggle to move upstream to spawn. It would beat itself to death on rocks, rapids and falls in hopes of reaching its goal.

The DNR wants to plant more fish, and more fish. The DNR in the more than ten years of salmon planting has allowed this disrespect for the salmon to continue. Snagging was encouraged until it was too late to stop. Egg selling went uncontrolled for years and now the DNR makes a big show of how it will take over the egg sales. Big deal. This won't stop the illegal taking of salmon for their eggs; all it will do is cut out the licensed egg buyers. Another farce by the DNR.

Smart move guys. Why don't you try facing the issue instead of making another farce of the law like you did when you brought out your liberalized salmon fishing rules that limited the size of hooks to be used when snagging salmon, and then allowed the snagger to use what he pleases? Talk about causing disrespect for the laws in the young; the DNR holds a pretty good record.

Where does it end? It doesn't in the near future. I hate to be a pessimist, but I have visions of our rivers being slowly devastated by the uncontrolled, greedy fishermen. There was a time when my Dad used to go lake trout fishing and if they caught two lake trout in a morning fishing trip they were thrilled. Today, the fisherman is upset if he can't get his limit and when he does, he wants more, and more and more . . . .

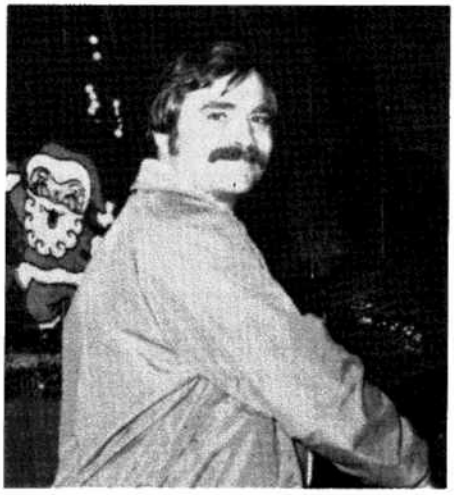
By Paul Irvine

Jim Boyer named Director of the Year

The President's Award to the Detroit Area Chapter's "Director of the Year" was presented to long-time Steelheader Jim Boyer. The presentation was made at the annual meeting in December.

In awarding the plaque, Pres. John Makela said, ". . . .the director of the year is extremely hard-working in handling the membership committee, the boat raffle committee, and Outdoorama; he provides us with mailing labels for the newsletter and volunteers for tournament and research trips work."

Jim is skipper of the "Big O" and fishes in the chapter tournaments. The membership elected him as a chapter director in 1975. In early December, Jim was appointed to a seat on the state MSSFA Board of Directors.



HOW ITS REALLY DONE

'Inside' a great river: The mystique of fishing the famed AuSable

It's tough to learn to fish a new river. Tough, unless you're lucky enough to have a fishing buddy who's familiar with the river and patient enough to guide you. If this is not the case, then you'll have to subject yourself to the old highly fallible technique of hit and miss. This, of course, usually results, at least for the first several trips, in you hitting the river and missing the fish.

This article is intended for steelheaders who would like to take on the brawling AuSable, but don't want to walk into a local coffee shop/taco stand after a tough day with zero fish and that sinking feeling in the pit of the stomach, while listening to the conversations of other guys who were on the same river at the same time and have fish on the stringer. Even worse than this is knowing that you weren't even close to productive water, or perhaps you were on the right type of water but using the wrong technique.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Driving time from the Detroit area to Oscoda is approximately four hours (or let your conscience be your guide). Plan your trip (if it is a one day excursion) to be on the river at first light. Turn left at the only stoplight in Oscoda (River Road). Approximately nine miles down the road, just past Foote Dam Village, turn right on the first paved road (Rea Road). Traveling these few miles from Oscoda to Foote Dam, you've passed some of the best steelhead waters on the river. The access to Foote Dam is about ½ mile down Rea Rd. This access is for south side fishing. To fish the north side, continue down Rea Rd., cross the bridge, and you'll find a parking area past the bridge on the left side of the road.

Foote Dam, operated by Consumers Power Co., controls the flow of water on the AuSable from Foote Dam to Lake Huron. The dam has four water control wheels which usually open between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.. Once the first wheel opens, the remaining three wheels open at 15 minute intervals. A warning to the novice: five minutes prior to the opening of the wheels, a warning siren will sound – heed the warning! Be aware of the increased water intensity (especially down stream where it is hard to hear the siren). When the water starts to rise, start backing out of the river. Don't do yourself the injustice of allowing yourself to be caught in the middle of the river when the water is rising – you may not make it back to shore, unless you are accomplished at the "AuSable free style" stroke.

THE MAP

The map accompanying this article has some of the major steelhead holes marked. These productive areas of water can be large. For instance, "The Meadows", a long holding hole is about one mile long. We advise you to use the map and become familiar with not only the marked holes and their access roads, but more importantly, explore the river up and down stream after you've finished with one particular stretch of water. A word about the access roads (indicated on the map by dotted lines): these roads are sandy, unimproved fire trails wide enough to accomodate the normal car/camper-type vehicle, up to a medium size recreational vehicle. Travel on these roads is possible during the fall and winter until the first heavy snow.

GENERAL FISHING FACTS

Basic AuSable river fishing knowledge for the novice includes being on the river, at the hole of his choice, during low water conditions. This is important for two reasons. First, it will save you a large amount of terminal tackle by knowing where the snags and deadheads are located. You may not see them at high water and if you're not careful, you'll hang up every cast. Second, it will help you locate the deeper holes where the fish will be holding under high water conditions. Using these two pieces of information, you can position yourself in the proper spot when the river water starts to rise.

The remainder of this article is divided into two parts: low water techniques and high water techniques.

LOW WATER TECHNIQUES

Under these conditions, especially in the late fall and early winter, we have found it productive to fish the upstream gravel runs. Fish the riffles, potholes, reeds, and, if possible, fish behind the large black salmon (in the fall), stumps, deadheads or any other natural obstruction. The reason behind this is that these

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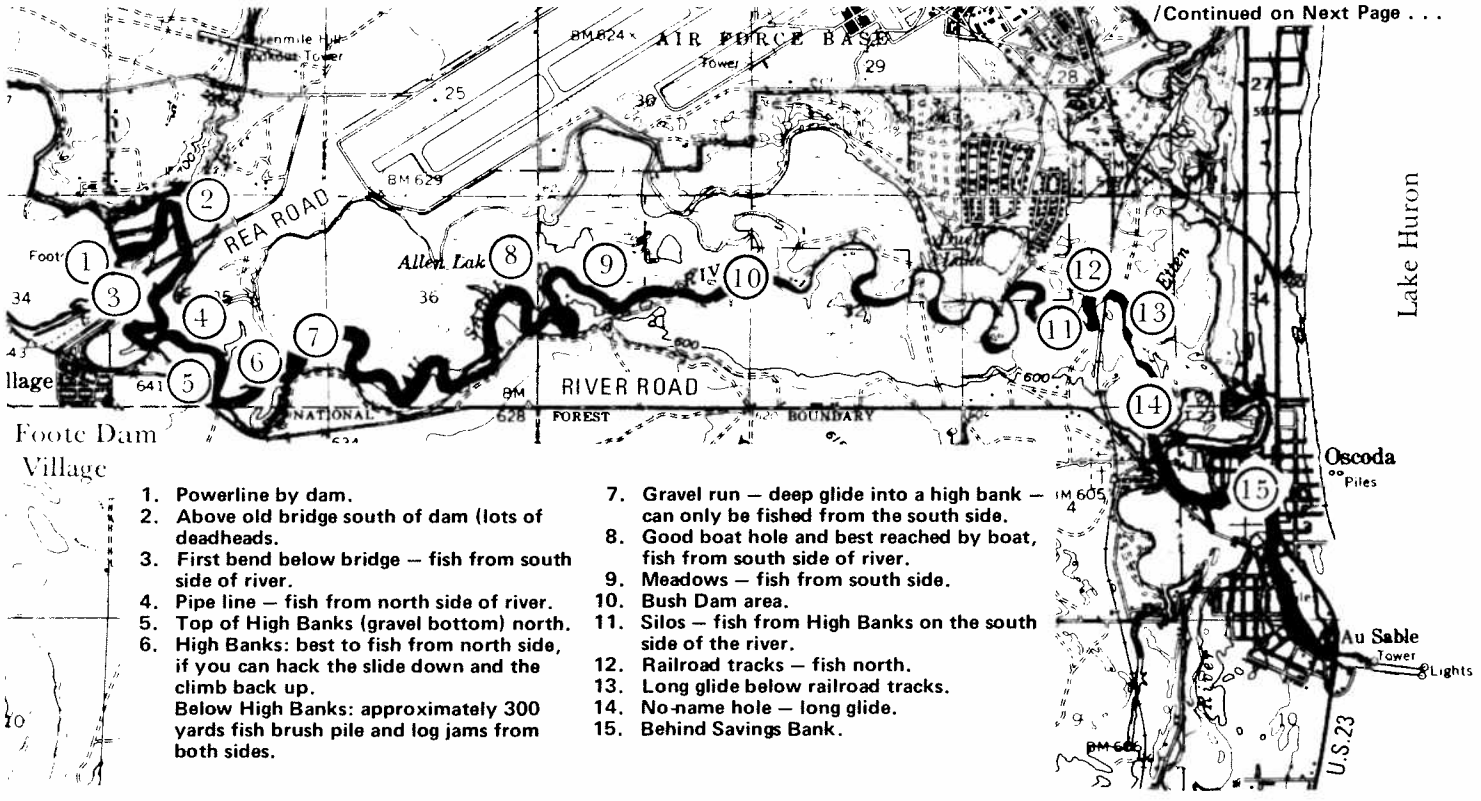


1. Powerline by dam.
2. Above old bridge south of dam (lots of deadheads.
3. First bend below bridge – fish from south side of river.
4. Pipe line – fish from north side of river.
5. Top of High Banks (gravel bottom) north.
6. High Banks: best to fish from north side, if you can hack the slide down and the climb back up.
   Below High Banks: approximately 300 yards fish brush pile and log jams from both sides.
7. Gravel run – deep glide into a high bank – can only be fished from the south side.
8. Good boat hole and best reached by boat, fish from south side of river.
9. Meadows – fish from south side.
10. Bush Dam area.
11. Silos – fish from High Banks on the south side of the river.
12. Railroad tracks – fish north.
13. Long glide below railroad tracks.
14. No-name hole – long glide.
15. Behind Savings Bank.

Techniques, tactics, and tips for the troller

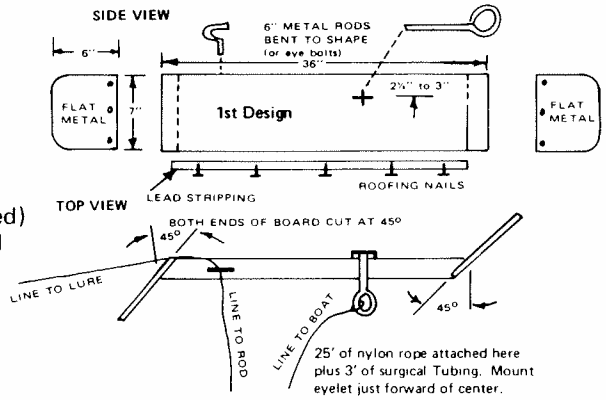
Make your own Flat Board

Hey, all you trolling guys, here's a way to add some depth and another method to your trolling boats. Most everyone has downriggers, dolphin divers, and some use outriggers. Early in spring, or fishing shallow water, you need to get the lure quite a ways away from the boat. Hence the use of trolling boards or the new item just out called the "Yellow Bird". Both have their advantages and some disadvantages.

Here I will give you two designs for the trolling board that you can make yourself. Now is the time for such projects, as it seems you never have enough time during fishing season. Most of the materials are quite cheap and can be obtained easily.

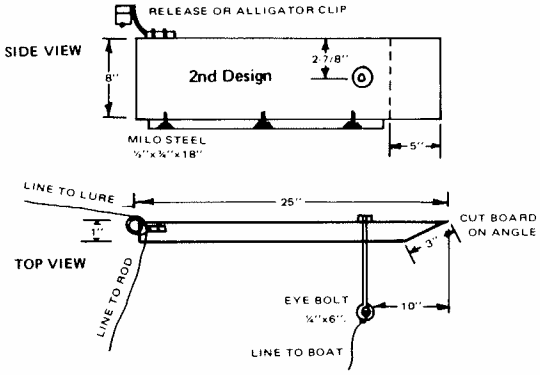
List of materials, first design:

2 – 1" x 7" x 3 ft. boards
4 – sheet metal plates 6" x 7" (steel or aluminum)
12 – brass screws
4 – stout metal rods, 6" long (bend these to shape required)
2 to 3 lbs. – strip lead per board (use roofing nails to attach to bottom of board)
25 ft. – nylon rope
3 ft. – surgical twine



List of materials, second design:

2 – 1" x 8" x 25" boards
2 – ½" x ¾" x 18" mild steel
2 – ¼" x 6" eye bolts
6 – brass screws
2 – releases
25 ft. – nylon twine
3 ft. – surgical tubing



Use light wood such as redwood or cedar for the boards. Many coats of varnish and paint will prevent waterlogging. After varnishing, paint them a bright color to help keep them in sight.

The release can be the Rivera type or the button type. Any can be used, as this is a matter of preference, plus trial and error. The surgical tubing allows the board to ride big waves without losing position. A small flag mounted on the front will help other boats to see your boards.

OK, here's the designs; others will probably work as well. If you make up one of them, let me know how you make out and what successes or failures you have. These should give you more depth and a feeling of pride in making something yourself.

Good Fishing!

— Murrell Blackburn

TROLLING TIPS

INCREASE YOUR CATCHES USE LIGHTER LINE!

Month	Test	Fish
April	4 lb.	Browns, Steelheads
May	6 lb.	Browns, Steelheads, Small Kings
June	8 lb.	Lakers, Splake
July	8 lb.	Lakers, Splake
Aug.	12 lb.	Lakers, Kings
Sept.	14-17 lbs.	Big Kings
Oct.	12 lb.	Coho

Of course this is not possible unless you have the proper rods for various line weights. Check with your dealer before purchasing. One restriction is the amount of hardware (cowbells, Dodgers, etc.) you're planning on using.

●■●

LAKE TROUT TROLLING:

The use of attractors will fill a cooler much faster than clean baits. Best bets are cowbells w/3 foot leader and ¼ oz. tadpollys or fireplugs. "0" Dodger w/18 inch leader and bucktail fly. Cowbells w/"0" Dodger directly behind cowbells w/18 inch leader and fly "00" Dodger w/18 inch to 24 inch leader and Flutterspoon. "000" Dodgers w/12 inch leader and small Andy Reekers..

■●■

TIPS ON FLY SELECTION:

Green & white, blue & white with a streak of black are very good bets.

Variation of speeds with an occasional neutral will increase your action.

To effectively bounce bottom with few to no snags, attach from your release a 3 foot leader of 80 lb. mono. Then attach your cannonball. Then limit the line from your release to 15' to 20', leaving the drag on your reel very light. Slowly lower and raise your downrigger to maintain your bait on bottom. Be sure to use a cannonball and not a Tommy or Herbie due to the beating. The bottom will damage these type of weights.

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AuSable secrets revealed

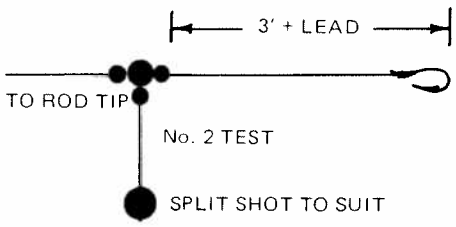
/Continued from Page Twenty

fall fish are in this type of water structure to spawn (they may have been spooked off their redds and are seeking nearby cover) or they are gorging themselves on salmon eggs being dropped by the salmon.

HOW TO FISH 'EM

The first choice of bait should be spawn, either single egg or dime size spawn sacks. If spawn is not available, we have found an artificial spawn substitute created and manufactured by Burl Brown of Capac, Michigan called **BURLS GOLDEN NUGGETS** to work well. Another bait to try is wigglers (Mayfly larvae). The only drawback with wigglers is that they're not only hard to find in the Oscoda area, but are also rather expensive. Last, but not least, after a warm thaw, we have found the old-fashioned nightcrawler to be extremely effective when drifted through the slow moving holes. Drift all these baits through the type of water structure previously mentioned in this article. Remember, you are fishing slow, relatively clear water during this time of day; therefore, terminal tackle should be selected accordingly. Terminal tackle for all these baits should consist of a maximum 6 lb. test leader at least 3 ft. long. Hook size should not exceed a No. 10 short shank wire salmon egg hook. A No. 10 three-way swivel with 2 lb. test dropper line (for split shot) is the most widely used. For further explanation, see diagram below.

SKETCH 1
LOW WATER TECHNIQUES



These baits should be fished on the bottom, with the sinker sliding over the bottom at a slow, steady pace. Some prefer to watch the line for any unusual movement, while others use their fingers to detect any hesitation in the drift pattern. Either way, whenever there is any hesitation or odd feeling – set the hook! You may suddenly get warmed up when you see one of those AuSable River battling steelhead leap into the air, or you may get steamed knowing that you just donated another hook to a river snag.

During mid-winter, we have found it best to fish with the same techniques – but in the deeper holes. Reason: the fall spawning salmon are gone, and the steelhead are striking from instinct rather than from a feeding frenzy.

HIGH WATER TECHNIQUES

The most important fact to be aware of is that the prime fishing time is during the initial stages of rising water, usually the first 30 minutes – don't waste time! For this reason we encourage you to follow the rising water downstream from hole to hole. If the wheels open at 8:30, high water at the Dam crests at 9:30. It starts at "The Meadows" at about 11:00 and crests by 12:30. Further downstream, high water at the railroad tracks crests around 2:00. Therefore, you have plenty of time to fish the rising water. Move downstream and take advantage of high water at the next hole. For lowering water, work the same technique, but upstream.

During rising and high water, we have found the traditonal Cherry Bobber to be the most effective bait. There are many varieties: Corky, Spin and Glow, Bob and Glow and Wobble Glow (all manufactured by Yakima Bait Co. of Granger Washington) and the Okie Drifter (manufactured by Luhr Jensen of Hood River, Oregon). They all come in an eye-dazzling variety of colors and hues. We have found that the Corky family of baits in sizes 8 and 10 is the best producer of arm-jarring hits and 10 lb.+ steelhead. Our favorite colors are pearl blush, clown, chartreuse and red, peach, hot pink and chrome.

For this type of fishing, we strongly suggest the following tackle line-up: main line of 10 lb. test or better, pencil lead cinch, barrel swivel, 8 lb. test leader (clarity of the water is no longer an important factor), your choice of Cherry Bobber bait and two No. 2 short shank salmon hooks snelled offset and in series (see Sketch 2). Leader length should not exceed 17 inches, and we prefer 12 to 15 inches in length.

When fishing this technique, remember the bait must move rapidly through the hole. We do not believe in the time-honored tap-tap drift pattern. The sinker must skip on the bottom every three or four feet to give the proper action to the bait in the right drift pattern.

A word about casting. Cast upstream enough so that you can feel the sinker hitting the bottom as the line comes parallel with you in the water. As the bait comes downstream to you, reel enough line in to keep a tight line in the water without moving the bait toward you.

Don't be disheartened if immediate hits do not result. Change the pattern by tying different sizes or colors, run the bait clean, or dress it up with a spawn sack or yarn. The productive AuSable yarn colors are fluorescent green, chartreuse and orange. When using yarn, tie it on the leader between the Corky and the first hook. The length of the yarn should not exceed ¾ inch in length.

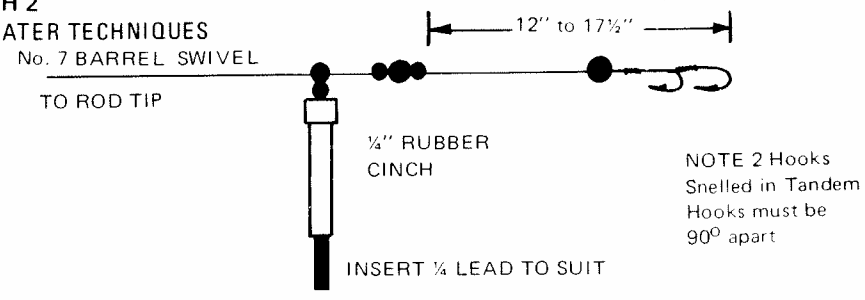
How do steelhead hit these baits? In a word, HARD! Using these baits, you need not concern yourself with the light tap-tap of a steelhead mouthing the bait. Rather, you'll be in a drift pattern and your line will start to move against the current, or away from you, or a fish will start jumping and, as your eyes are drawn to the aerial acrobatics of the steelhead, you suddenly realize that your line is moving in the direction of the fish. Better yet, you'll be in a drift pattern and your bait will be hit with such ferocity that the rod will be nearly ripped from your hands. Also, larger fish are taken with Corkys, etc. than with natural bait.

Now after you've read the last paragraph, and if you haven't fished Corkys, you may be saying that the authors have digressed from fact and are now in the never-never land of fishing tales. We know that it is hard to believe. We even get the same vibes when we talk to people about this technique. However, we also get many "I didn't believe it but you were right!" comments from the same people after they tried these techniques and hooked into those big never-say-die steelhead.

One of our fondest memories is of guiding a neophyte river fisherman (he's a hell of a boat troller) on the AuSable last winter. After explaining the basic techniques contained in this article, we guided him from spot to spot and took a great deal of delight in observing him hooking into his first winter river steelhead. Recalling this experience, and the other experiences mentioned at the beginning of this article, we decided that this type of information exchange is needed and long overdue. This is the first article written (we believe) which opens up the mystique of one of the great Michigan Steelhead Rivers – we encourage other Steelheaders to do the same with their favorite rivers – the Big Manistee anyone?

–Bob Lindberg and Tom Schneider

SKETCH 2
HIGH WATER TECHNIQUES



DO IT YOUR'SELF, YOU'LL LIKE THE RESULTS

Preserving and using salmon eggs for bait

Single salmon eggs are used for bait by fishermen in all parts of the country, and the fisherman who is willing to put forth a little time and effort can prepare a suitable bait from salmon roe. The only requirement is a reasonably large egg size and proper care before preparation.

Eggs in tight skeins may be separated from the membrane by immersing in water at a temperature of 115°-120° F. and hand manipulating the egg mass. The membrane coagulates at this temperature and allows the eggs to be separated easily without damage.

Materials needed to prepare single eggs include:

1. **Preservative bath** consisting of one part commercial (40%) formalin (available at most drug stores) to 20 parts water at about 90° F.
2. **Dye** (if red eggs are desired) consisting of 1/4 teaspoon of powdered Safranin-O (available at many drugstores) dissolved in two quarts of water.
3. **Neutralizing and fixing bath** consisting of eight tablespoons of sodium bisulfite (available from photo supply dealers and at some drug stores) dissolved in a gallon of water at 60° F.
4. **Glycerine** with six drops 40% formalin added per ounce.
5. **Fish-attracting flavors**, such as anise, may be added to glycerine if desired.

Immerse single eggs in the preservative bath for 30-45 minutes. Since processing characteristics of eggs will vary, these treatment times are guides. The sportsman should process small batches until the correct treatment for his eggs is obtained. Remove single eggs from the formalin solution while still soft, but with no trace of a liquid center when sliced in half. The fixing and glycerine treatments will have an additional firming effect. Eggs left in the bath too long are rubbery and undesirable for bait.

Eggs may be dyed at this point by dipping in a dye solution for a few minutes. It is thought by some that fish are more readily attracted to brightly-colored eggs. The degree of redness depends on the strength of the dye solution and the time of immersion. When the desired color is obtained, rinse excess dye off the eggs with water.

Immerse eggs in a neutralizing-fixing bath for 20-30 minutes to neutralize any further action of the formalin. This prevents undue hardening during storage.

Drain and place in screw-cap jars for storage. Do not rinse or allow surface of eggs to dry before sealing. Formalin (6 drops /ounce glycerine) and, if desired, anise, is added to the glycerine before it is poured in the jars of eggs.

Pour enough glycerine, with additives, into the jars to moisten the eggs but not cause a noticeable accumulation at bottom of jar. Eggs treated in this way will keep for weeks in a warm room and may be stored for over a year in the refrigerator.

Salmon eggs make good bait. Properly processed and packaged eggs may be frozen or preserved for a year or more. Depending on the stage of maturity, the roe may be in "loose" or "tight" skeins when taken from the fish. Eggs in loose skeins have reached the stage where they can be readily separated from the enclosing membrane without special treatment. These are excellent for preserving as single salmon eggs. Eggs in tight skeins can be used in preparing cluster egg baits.

The roe should be carefully removed from the fish at place of catch and put into plastic bags. The bags of eggs should be kept cold to ensure high quality. Pack in ice at place of catch before transporting home.

After thawing at room temperature, frozen roe appear to be as satisfactory for making bait as fresh eggs. Fast freezing at -10° to -35° is important for maintaining original appearance, texture and odor of the eggs. Slow freezing results in the formation of large ice crystals which break down cellular structure and cause eggs to become soft and mushy.

To package fresh eggs, double wrap in plastic freezer wrap or locker paper or seal in plastic bags to exclude air. If eggs are exposed to air during frozen storage, dehydration and oxidation will change their color, consistency and odor and eventually make them unfit for bait.

PRESERVING EGG CLUSTERS

The use of powdered borax on salmon eggs is a common practice among West Coast winter steelhead fishermen. It toughens the eggs, preserves their appearance and prevents the growth of bacteria. The tougher clusters stay on the hook longer than fresh ones.

Preparation of boraxed eggs is simple. It takes very little time to prepare soft or medium-soft clusters that readily "milk" while in the water. Being soft, the eggs within the cluster crush easily and give off odors readily.

- Spread out a sheet of paper large enough to scatter the egg clusters on and cover it with borax.
- Skeins of eggs may either be cut into bait-size pieces with scissors or pulled apart with fingers along the natural connective tissue cleavage lines. Use a sharp pair of scissors to snip off pieces from the dangling end of a skein.
- Thoroughly dust clusters with borax and allow to stand in a cool, dry place for 12-36 hours.
- After the clusters have obtained the desired firmness (overnight), pack in large-mouth jars with airtight seals for storage. Cluster egg baits may be refrigerated for shorter periods or frozen in the jar for longer storage times.

Soft egg clusters tied in a piece of nylon stocking stay on the hook better and are popular Lake Michigan bait for trout and steelhead. These are easily prepared by simply tying clusters in discarded nylon stockings. They are then refrigerated or frozen in suitable containers.

Anglers overlook many awards

How many times have you been out fishing and come in with a "big one", only to find out after you've filleted it that it would have won some kind of award? I know it has happened to me a number of times with various fish.

Some of the most popular fishing contests in the state include the American Salmon Derby-Lake Michigan from St. Joseph to Manistee, Lake Huron King Derby-Lake Huron from Whitestone Point to Sturgeon Point Light, M.U.C.C.'s Fisharama, and the DNR's Master Angler Award Program.

M.U.C.C.'s Fisharama is open to all licensed fishermen after paying a $1.00 entry fee, and awards $1,000 for any State record fish and $10,000 for any world record.

The DNR's Master Angler Award Program awards the angler a jacket patch for any fish meeting the minimum requirements and an award suitable for framing for the five largest fish in each species.

The table below lists some of the most popular fish, the current state record, minimum weights for Master Angler award, and the weight of the smallest fish that currently would qualify for a Master Angler award. **Jim Boyer**

	STATE RECORD	MIN.	5TH LARGEST
COHO	30 lbs. 7 oz.	14 lbs	No entries
CHINOOK	44 lbs. 2 oz.	30 lbs	No entries
ATLANTIC	22 lbs. 1 oz	12 lbs.	No entries
LAKE TROUT	53 lbs.	16 lbs.	16 lbs. 8 oz.
SPLAKE	12 lbs. 8 oz.	14 lbs. *	13 lbs. 2 oz.
BROWN	31 lbs. 8 oz.	14 lbs. *	14 lbs. 11 oz.
RAINBOW	26 lbs. 1 oz.	14 lbs.	14 lbs. 10 oz.

* 5 lbs. Inland Waters

BILL MUIRHEAD (left) AND GARY GRAY (right), caught 2 cohos, 3 steelhead and 1 brown trout for a day's catch and hours of fun, laughs and excitement. photo/Don White

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO NEW MEMBERS

A few CHAPTER JACKETS (those dashing blue beauties) have turned up and we'd like to see you in one. Ask for John at 583-1910. Immediate delivery.

Neglected Muskegon hot spot for early brown trout

One hot spot overlooked by many anglers is Muskegon. Early April this year at Muskegon I, along with my various crew members consisting of men who had nothing but bass baits in their tackle boxes and young boys who had never caught anything larger than 9" perch, consistently limited out on Browns daily.

Our best trip was the Saturday before Easter, when our crew of 5 landed 33 Browns and lost 4 fish. Our action consisted of 3 doubles and 1 triple.

The secret? No secret at all. Rapalas! Size G-13. Colors: Gold & Black, Silver & Black, a few fish taking Blue & Silver, Orange & Gold, but the hottest one of all was an altered 6" Rebel filed smooth and painted chartreuse with flaming red dots.

We ran just 4 lines – all of which were run off our downriggers from 3 to 8 feet down, running back from the cannonball 70 to 150 feet. The rods we were using were the Olympic 9' Steelhead Special with Shakespeare 1810s equipped with approximately 450 yards of 4 lb. test. With the aid of Walker releases set light, and setting lines with only ¾ of a wrap, we had no problems at all.

One other thing I would like to mention is that 90% of our fish were caught inside the harbor mouth – permitting boats of any size to fish, regardless of weather or wind conditions.

So, don't delay in preparing your boat next Spring and I hope to see you out there! I will be aboard the "Nooner". Give me a shout! **Gary Gray**

Membership Application

Membership includes = Free Line for Two Reels, Chapter Newsletter, State Newsletter, Boat Decal, Car Decal, Arm Patch, Annual Guide Book, Membership Card.

☐ Chapter Dues – $ 5.00
(State MSSFA Membership required)

☐ Chapter & State Dues – $12.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COMPLETE FORM AND SEND WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: DETROIT AREA CHAPTER

THANK YOU!

1817 Barrett
Royal Oak, MI 48067

patches & decals

SIZE	ITEM	PRICE	Quantity	Cost
3" X 4"	ARM PATCH	1.00 ea.		
3" X 4"	WINDOW DECAL	.25 ea.		
3" X 4"	TACKLE BOX DECAL	.25 ea.		
11" X 14"	BOAT DECAL	1.00 ea.		
8" x 11"	BACK PATCH	2.00 ea.		
			MAILING	.25
			TOTAL	

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO DETROIT AREA CHAPTER

MAIL TO: MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS
DETROIT AREA CHAPTER
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Royal Oak, MI 48067

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Thank You....

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MEETING NOTICE – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Want Ads:

1972 SEA RAY WEEKENDER w/twin 165 hp Mercruisers, E-Z Loader trailer w/electric winch, 20' Plath outriggers, four electric Walker downriggers, Vexilar 155 Sonagraph, Lowrance 460 Sonar, VHF Radio, Power Hailer/Alarm, plus much, much more . . . $12,500.
Mike DeCamillo.
Phone (313) 535-6737 evenings only.

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(2) RIVER A ELECTRIC DOWNRIGGERS, Pearce-Simpson 12 Channel Radio, Vexilar model No. 510 Graph, with extra paper, downrigger weights, 9½ lbs.
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283-4684 after 8:00 p.m.

"77" SEA RAY SRV 240-SEDAN Cruiser (hard top) 250 hp Mercruiser, Benneth trim tabs-Hy Gain VHF Radio, depth sounders, 110 volt deck-side power, galley & complete head --$14,000. **Richard Lei**
357-4200 weekdays
937-8196 weekends & evenings

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(2) 4 ft. MANUAL WALKER Downriggers complete with swivel bases and mount plates--$130.00 for the pair.
Tom Schneider
756-7452

PROP 15 x 15 (Mich. Wheel) fits Volvo 270, like new --$30.00. **John – 583-1910**

FREE! LURE TAPE SAMPLES, 15 colors including 6 prisms & glotape. Closeout! Discounts on J-Plugs, line releases and Dancer Divers. **Lurtape, Box 1235-A**
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NOTICE

The "Swap Shop" and sales will be held after the membership meeting instead of during the membership activities.

From the Editor . . .

I would like to thank ALL of those who throughout the past year submitted News, Stories, Photos and Fishing Tips. Those of you who did send material helped very much in maintaining the continued issues of **our** newsletter **Fishin' Tales.**

I would also like to thank everyone who help support our club through their Want Ads and Advertising. With the same kind of support and more, the ((Detroit Chapter" can have the best newsletter in the state next year.

Good Luck and Good Fishing!

GARY GRAY

COMING EVENTS

CHAPTER	OTHER	
CHAPTER MEETINGS January 31 February 28 March 28	**20th ANNUAL GREATER MICHIGAN MARINE DEALERS BOAT SHOW** Cobo Hall February 3-12	**WEST MICHIGAN SPORTLAND BOAT SHOW** Grand Rapids Civic Auditorium February 21-26
BETSIE RIVER CLINIC February 18		
DETROIT CHAPTER SPRING FISHING SHOW March 25	**DETROIT CAMPER & TRAVEL TRAILER SHOW** 8 Mile Armory February 10-19	**OUTDOORAMA** 8 Mile Armory March 4-12