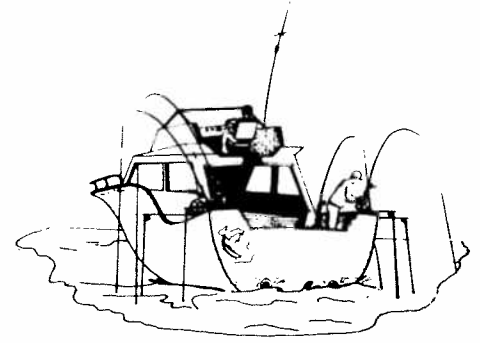


# FISHING TALES



DETROIT AREA CHAPTER  
MICHIGAN STEELHEAD AND SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED BY DETROIT AREA CHAPTER

VOLUME 2

NUMBER 3

JUNE 1977

## INDIAN GILL NETTING LAKE TROUT - PETOSKEY / CHARLEVOIX AREA

*reprint from Northwoods Call*

If tension continues to mount conservation officers could find themselves in a cross-fire between angry sportsmen and lake trout netting Indians in the Petoskey-Charlevoix area.

Local sportsmen are increasingly incensed at the refusal of the courts and politicians to halt the intensive netting of lakereels along the beaches, from Norwood north to Harbor Springs. Some have threatened to start shooting.

While crews of Bay Mills Indians set gill nets off the beaches with not attempt to hide what they are doing, conservation officers stand by. The lawmen take pictures of the netting operations and check the Indians for violations of other laws. Several have been cited for not having required life jackets.

If violence erupts, it will be the officers job to protect the Indians and subdue the responsible sportsmen.

District DNR law chief Frank Dufon says Indians are openly setting nets in Lake Michigan from Fisherman's Island State Park south of Charlevoix to the waterfront park in Petoskey. Other reports say they are netting from Grand Traverse Bay north to Goodhart.

Each crew, Dufon says, has been taking at least 200 lbs. of lake trout a night. One night, lawmen estimated that the several netting crews working the area took about 3,000 lbs. At a

continued on page 3

## TOURNAMENT JULY 16th CHANGED TO PORT AUSTIN

Due to low water conditions, the location of the July 16th boat tournament has been changed from Grindstone City to Port Austin. For info contact John Trofimuk, 781-5650.

*Bernie Zelinski, at right, won the 1977 Detroit Area Chapter Boat Raffle.*

*Robert Kring sold the most raffle tickets. Selling 95 books or approximately 1,400 tickets.*



*Captain Don Wainio and Tim Szymanski along with Mike Trevas won the Tawas Bay Tourney.*

## DON WAINIO WINS FIRST CHAPTER TOURNAMENT

The first of our 7 boat tournaments in Tawas Bay, April 23rd enjoyed a turnout of 32 chapter boats. The weather was clear but cool, and the wind was only at a nuisance level.

Most boats were underway from Jerry's Marina at the starting time of 6:00 am; and by 4:00 pm, when lines were pulled, the return to the warmth of shore was welcomed by most.

10 hours on the bay had produced 55 fish: lakereels, browns, coho and chinook. The weigh-in resulted in the following:

- 1st - Flyin' Finn, Don Wainio
- 2nd - Tuna Boat,  
Chuck Cartwright
- 3rd - Cobra, Larry Atwell
- 4th - Sea Screw, Jerry Lee
- 5th - Taxi II, Steve Hamilton
- 6th - R. J. Branham
- 7th - Pequod II, Jim Fenner
- 8th - Nooner, Gary Gray
- 9th - James R. Treadaway
- 10th - Jim's Joy, Jim Smith

## M.S.S.F.A. AGAINST SNAGGING !

*At the May Board of Directors Meeting the following recommendation was approved and will be sent to the DNR . . .*

SUBJECT:

Recommendation to DNR  
Regarding the  
Snagging Problem

Gentlemen:

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 environment 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 DNR to control snagging. We accept the concept of restricted areas open to snagging as long as the snagging is strictly enforced to these areas.

We, the MSSFA, recommend that the DNR open various areas to snagging, such as are in effect now, but with no regulation on the hook size or hook type in

continued on page 3

**FISHIN' TALES**

Published Monthly by the  
Detroit Area Chapter  
of the  
Michigan Steelhead and  
Salmon Fishermen's Association  
2818 VINSETTA BLVD.  
ROYAL OAK, MI 48073

\*\*\*\*\*  
The views expressed in this paper  
are those of the Chapter Mem-  
bers and the Editor. The pur-  
pose of this paper is to inform  
the Chapter Members of events  
which affect the sportsfishermen  
and the sportsmen. It is our in-  
tention to teach, inform and  
guide the members to respect and  
appreciate the animals and land  
around them.

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**1977 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Wednesdays 7:30 pm  
Bonnie Brook Country Club  
June 29, July 27, August 31

**THE CLUB**

**Hot Line 291-8249**

USE IT!

WEEKLY "HOT" TIPS ON WHERE TO FISH  
and THE LATEST CLUB NEWS -

**COMING EVENTS**

June 29 - Membership Meeting at  
Bonnie Brook Country Club  
Telegraph and 8 Mile Road  
July 26 - Port Austin Boat Tournament  
August 13 - Harrisville Boat Tournament

**COLD WEATHER AND  
STRONG WINDS FOR  
FIRST RESEARCH TRIP  
AT DECKER'S LANDING**

Approximately 12 boats show-  
ed up for the First Research Trip  
of the year. Cold weather and  
strong winds were once again  
evident, typical of our planned  
research trips.

The site was Decker's Land-  
ing on the North Channel west  
of Algonac, the facilities at  
Decker's proved to be excellent,  
lunches were reasonably priced  
and the cement launching ramp  
could accommodate any trailer-  
able boat.

Most of the boats were pick-  
ing up fish early in the morning,  
before the river traffic picked  
up. Gale Spallinger aboard  
Howard Mill's searay, the Para-  
mor landed a muskie as did  
Bob Bengal on his boat the  
Steelhead.

Tom Schneider and I, along  
with our wives, didn't arrive until  
the afternoon, but managed to  
land a few jacks in the evening.

The outstanding catch of the  
day proved to be a 14 lbs. 11 oz.  
brown trout, caught by Terry

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---

ENVIRONMENTAL  
HOTLINE  
1-517-373-7660

**BOAT TOURNAMENTS**

July 16 - Port Austin  
contact John Trofimuk  
781-5650  
August 13 - Harrisville  
contact Larry Atwell  
644-4574  
September 10 - Oscoda  
contact John Makela  
583-1910

October 1 - Tawas Bay  
contact Jerome Vaerten  
293-5862  
Tournament Registrar  
3500 Wards Point  
Orchard Lake, MI 48033  
682-5642 Don White  
Tournament Chairman  
Mike DeCamillo  
535-6737

**GOODBYE FROM  
THE EDITOR AND  
PUBLISHER . . .**

Janet and I will no longer be  
publishing the 'Fishin' Tales' for  
the club. (We've got another  
project this summer, building  
a house.)

We appreciate all the contri-  
butions by the club members in  
the way of stories and helping  
to mail. Please keep submitting  
stories, the newsletter needs your  
support and everyone is anxious  
to hear the latest fishin' tale . . .

Thanks, Janet & Paul Irvine

McCaffery and his crew. Terry  
had his catch certified and there-  
by becomes eligible for a Master  
Angler Award.

Most of the boats managed  
to land a few fish, picking up  
most of the fish in Anchor Bay  
itself. The color and choice of  
lures didn't seem to affect the  
fishing. Probably chartreuse and  
then blue on silver, made up the  
majority of the catch.

Thanks to all that came and  
here's hoping we can triple the  
number of participants on our  
next outing.  
(see pix, next page)

**ANYWHERE!**

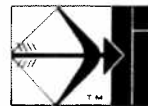
Prior to going fishing, call our  
Fishing "HOT LINE" or the  
DNR Fishing Report at:  
1-517-373-0908

When returning, call Murrell  
Blackburn 291-3881 and tell him  
how you did so he can update  
the club HOT LINE.

**Best  
Bets**

FISHING REPORT

**FID-LONG  
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STAINLESS STEEL ARROWS**



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INTERNATIONAL 313-774-4910

**MSSFA AGAINST SNAGGING**

continued from page 1 . . .

these areas. Once areas are designated areas, then regulations should be passed to make it illegal to have in one's possession a hook larger than 3/8" from point to barb to shank in areas not designated to snagging. These regulations should be strongly enforced. By not regulating the hook size in designated snagging areas, it would allow more enforcement time to the non-snagging areas. Whether the DNR continues with the present regulations regarding snagging area or adopts the MSSFA alternate proposal, 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 DNR proposal regarding egg taking, providing the monies generated under this proposal are directed back to the DNR for law enforcement and/or the Fisheries Division. We realize that the best solution to the snagging problem is the sometimes slow process of educating the public. The MSSFA will continue to support and expand our educational programs as our chapters grow with more shows, clinics and lectures.


**JUST A NOTE :**

Recreational anglers as if they needed it, once again have clear demonstration that commercial men given half a chance will destroy all fishing. Nationality seems to make no difference.

The US pulled out of the international agreement binding harvesting in the north Atlantic (ICNAF) on Dec. 31, 1976 in anticipation of the March 1, 1977 control of fishing under the 200 mile limit.

So what did American commercial men, who claimed the foreign fleets were raping the grounds, do?

According to the National Fisherman newspaper, "Yankee.. fishermen went to smaller mesh nets themselves and took advantages of large schools of ping-



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**ONLY ONE, BUT NICE!**

by Terry McCaffrey

On May 7, I fished my first research trip as a member of the MSSFA Detroit Area Chapter. The meeting place was Decker's Landing on the North Channel at Lake St. Clair.

Never fishing here for salmon or trout, it was a new experience, however it turned out to be a very enjoyable one.

Arriving at about 6 am, with my 7 yr. old son, my brother and his 10 yr. old son, we began fishing.

We were running four lines from 5' to 20' down and 60' to 80' out. We saw a few coho caught but couldn't seem to hook one ourselves. About 11:30 am we were beginning to think we were going to get "skunked" when the starboard downrigger rod began to dance.

Picking up the rod and setting the hook, the fish broke water.

pong haddock (as small haddock are locally known). Early in the new year, fishermen, free of previous restraints on endangered stocks, started fishing like there was no tomorrow. Heavy direct-

*14 lb. 10 oz. brown trout caught by Terry McCaffrey at the Decker's Research Trip*

Ten minutes later we brought to net a nice 14 lb. 11 oz. brown trout. The downrigger had been set 5' down with about 80' of line behind the ball, the lure was a Luhr Jensen Blue and Chrome No. 4 Manistee Wabblers, we were fishing near the edge of the channel around bouy 14A.

Continuing fishing we had no further luck around 5 pm we went to Decker's to see how the other members had done.

Meeting Tom Schneider and Larry Serafin, I asked them to look at my catch, I think they were almost as happy as I was.

Tom told me to fill out the Master Angler Award form which I was very happy to do.

We fished the rest of the evening without any further luck, but I was very happy as we only had one, but it was a nice one. See you on the lake and Good Fishing!

ed fishing began for haddock a depleted species just showing signs of recovery."

Got the picture? Imagine if it had been bluefin or even billfish, do you think that would have made any difference?

**INDIAN GILL NETTING**

continued from page 1 . . .

5 lb. per fish average that is 600 trout.

However, when more lakers move into the shoals any day now, each netting crew could take 1,000 or more pounds.

In northern Lake Huron, around the Les Cheneaux islands sportsmen are reported to have largely thwarted Indian netting by destroying their nets.

If sportsmen should force Indians out of the Little and Grand Traverse Bays area for Lake Michigan, DNR field men say the Indians will probably move across the state, to the Cheboygan/Alpena area on Lake Huron.

DNR officials say Indians moved their netting from the Whitefish Bay area of Lake Superior to Lake Michigan because they depleted the trout in Whitefish Bay.

Petoskey area sportsmen feel their last hope of getting civil authorities to end the Indian netting was wiped out at a meeting with their federal and state legislators in late May.

The sportsmen crowded into a Petoskey meeting with Congressman Phil Ruppe and state legislators Rep. Charles Varnum and Sen. Bob Davis, who represent their areas in Washington and Lansing. However, the politicians said they would do nothing. Varnum tried to shift blame for the Indian netting to the DNR.

The DNR has been trying for more than 5 yrs. to get court and political support for halting off-reservation Indian netting. Though a few local courts have ruled against the Indians, the majority have either refused to prosecute Indian netters of have ruled in their favor.

With the exception of US Rep. John Dingell, Detroit, politicians have turned their backs on the issue.

As a result, DNR lawmen say they can do nothing but monitor the Indian gill netting, which could put them between the Indians and sportsmen if the threatened shooting begins.

**SUPPORT OUR  
ADVERTISERS**

## DIRECTORS MEET

by John Makela

A hum-drum meeting of the Board of Directors was held on June 14th. Thankfully the urgent and mounting business during cold season has slowed to unble the board to take a deep breath and do some fishin'.

The next meeting will be in August.

- Some business taken care of:
1. The board regretfully heard the resignation of treasurer Karen Serafin. She kept a clean and neat set of books and bank accounts. (see story at right)
  2. Bonnie Brook Country Club on Telegraph Rd., just south of 8 Mile was approved as membership meeting place for the remainder of the year. On the last Wednesday of each month.
  3. "Fishin' Tales has lost its editor, publisher and advertising manager. The chapter's loss will be evident after this issue when Paul and Janet Irvine undertake to construct their new home. Ad man Larry Serafin has been transferred to Traverse City for the summer and his hustle will be hard to replace. The chapter president has inherited the editor and publisher jobs with the assistance of fishing editor Gary Gray (Nooner), who was appointed by the new editor. There will be no interruption in publication.
  4. The tournament committee reported that due to low water the July contest will be held at Port Austin, only a few miles west of the original port of Grindstone City.
  5. Our secretary, Bob Lindberg advised that the publicity/public relations efforts were successful at J.C. Penny Steelhead/Salmon seminars. Members who are not directors will be given awards for their involvement.

## DON WHITE NAMED NEW CHAPTER TREASURER

John Makela, Chapter President appointed Don White as a director and treasurer of the club. Don will assume the office around July 1st, when present treasurer Karen Serafin resigns.

White has been an active chapter member and is regarded as a troller. He is on the tournament committee as its registrar and bookkeeper.

Don's appointment as Director became effective June 14 and will be on the board at least through election time at the chapter annual meeting in Dec.

Don was the winner of the chapter raffle boat in 1976 and at the same time was recognized as one of the top three ticket sellers.

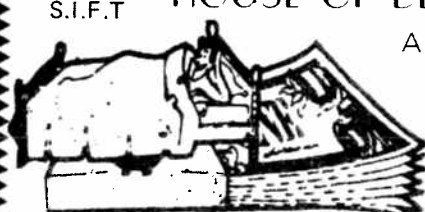
## CHAPTER JACKETS DELAYED

John Makela revealed at the June Board of Directors meeting that our spiffy new jackets won't be available until mid to late July. He said that all has been done to expedite shipments but nearly 100 members who ordered since the April meeting will be disappointed.

Cause of the delay was blamed on high unexpected demands for "royal blue" by baseball teams. The manufacturer has promised a late June ship date. The jackets will then be reshipped to the screener and returned to our source in Berkley.

All members can expect them at the July meeting at Bonnie Brook or call Makela after the 15th if you want to pick them up. John regrets the inconvenience and broken delivery promises.

S.I.F.T HOUSE OF BEDROOMS



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## TROLLING? JOIN FISHING PARTNERS —

The chapter tournament schedule has attracted large numbers of boats making them very successful contests. Many skippers however, have had to drop out at the last minute because their crew cancelled or the contestant was unable to fill his boat.

Other skippers have had to fish the tournaments with only one mate — making it more expensive, but more important, he's at a disadvantage with only two aboard. These skippers should contact Fishin' Partners at:

583-1910

All chapter members can sign up for the trolling; new members stream fishermen, boat owners who are looking for ideas on equipment and rigs can even learn new techniques for catching fish.

Most trips are for 2 days but many skippers take an occasional three day weekend. Many have motor homes or vans or campers and most boats will comfortably sleep 2 or 3. Arrangements can be made to ride with the skipper to save on gas.

Fishing with chapter members if fun, inexpensive and productive. Even during tournaments you're in contact with buddies on other boats by way of FM or CB to hear what they're doing to increase the catch.

All members are invited to get in on the trolling: fill out the card at membership meetings or call 583-1910 and we can do it on the phone. Members who are on file already are encouraged to phone for a trip any time. Just ask John.

## MURRELL BLACKBURN WINS SOUTH HAVEN TOURNAMENT

The Chapter had another successful boat tournament at South Haven on Saturday, May 28. . . even the local fishermen were impressed! A total of 118 fish were caught (814 lbs.) for an average weight of 6.9 lbs. The catch represented 78 lake trout, 38 salmon, and one each coho and splake. The perfect day was topped off with an excellent steak dinner at the South Haven Yacht Club.

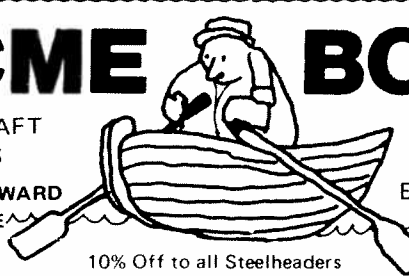
The tournament winners were:

- 1st — Murrell Blackburn  
Fishin Five
- 2nd — Howard Mills, Paramor
- 3rd — Clay Garrett, Blue Mist
- 4th — John Shubert,  
Easy Money
- 5th — Jim Treadaway,  
Okie Drifter
- 6th — Gary Gray, Nooner
- 7th — John Makela, Sisu
- 8th — Jerry Lee, Sea Screw
- 9th — Don Wainio, Flyin' Finn
- 10th — Jim Fenner, Pequod II

Sorry! No picture of winner.

Will include in next Fishin' Tales.

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**ACCURACY CLAIMS  
REGARDING FISHING  
GRAPHS**

*Reprinted from Electronics*

Most boat owners regard marine electronics as an esoteric, never-to-be-understood mixture of science and black magic, flavored with micro-volts, milliamps and decibels.

Consequently, when a manufacturer puts out a description of his latest electronic marvel, there's a natural tendency to accept every word as gospel. Now, I'm not one of your crusading Ralph Nader types, finding chicanery and deception in every claim made by a manufacturer for his product. But I am bothered by the all too frequent appearance of "elastic" accuracy figures in marine electronics sales literature written for pleasure boatmen.

Accuracy figures are elastic because while they may be theoretically applicable to the gadget being promoted, they have little chance of being achieved by the equipment after the owner installs in his boat.

**DEPTH SOUNDERS**

Depth sounders are a good case in point. Some sounders advertise accuracies of "better than one foot," or "within 6", or something similar. Indeed, I know people who own such units, and they'll swear on a stack of Nautical Almanacs that when their sounder reads 100', then the distance between the face of their transducer and the bottom is between 99', 6" and 100', 6".

Unfortunately, the truth is that unless you paid many 1,000 of dollars for your sounder, and you went through a fairly exacting calibration exercise before taking your reading, it is somewhat doubtful whether your bottom measurement in 100' of water will be much closer than 6' of the actual depth.

But, you say, the sales leaflet promised 6". It did indeed, and it was correct as far as it went, because it was actually describing the accuracy to which you could read its display (i.e. you can visually "split" the difference between the 1' marks on its face

or the 1' steps on its digits). This is known in the trade as instrument accuracy, or resolution, and while an important measure of the system's ability, it's only one part of the accuracy story. The other —and bigger— part is determined down in the water below the transducer where all sorts of things are going on to complicate the issue.

To start with, virtually all low to medium priced sounders are calibrated to an assumed speed of sound in water of 4,800 feet per second — an industry standard which provides a convenient common reference against which manufacturing, testing, calibration and subsequent service can be carried out. However, the actual speed of sound is closer to 4,930 feet per second—a small difference perhaps, but one which gives a slight positive error in your favor, like a car speedometer.

To add to this, the industry standard also makes certain other assumptions regarding salinity, density, pressure, temperature gradient (no nasty thermal inversions go into the calculations), and so forth. But, since the real world down under varies tremendously, it is generally accepted in the industry that most sounders will usually end up indicating a figure within about 5% of the actual depth.


Hence, the total or absolute accuracy of the sounder will be plus or minus 5% of the actual depth, plus or minus the 6" instrument error, so that, at a true depth of 100', your reading will usually fall some where between 94.5 and 105.5 feet, which is somewhat different from what you may have expected when you bought it.

In the science of electronic measurement, the more accuracy you want, the more it costs. There are sounders on the market which offer absolute accuracies of 6" and even less at 100', but they tend to be exorbitant in price. One model in wide use by hydrographers and other researchers costs about \$12,000.



FISH TIPS

**HANGING WADERS**  
A bent coat hanger is just the thing. Form the wire so heel fits snugly and use dowelling to hold up the toes. Hang in an airy spot.



Courtesy of D. Peltier, Member

**TEMPERATURE PREFERENCE OF THE COMMON FRESH WATER FISH AND THEIR ACTIVE FEEDING RANGE.**


SPECIES	PEAK FEEDING	ACTIVE RANGE
Brook Trout	58F	48-64F
Rainbow Trout	60F	50-65F
Brown Trout	60F	50-65F
Lake Trout	51F	44-53F
Coho Salmon	54F	44-58F
Chinook Salmon	54F	44-58F
Whitefish	52F	44-63F
Smelt	50F	43-65F
Alewife	54F	48-72F

**APPROXIMATE COLOR VISIBILITY**  
(clear water — maximum light)


Red	15'	Laboratory research evidence indicates fish prefer the warm colors (red, orange, yellow) when they can see those colors.
Orange	45'	
Yellow	85'	
Green	110'	
Blue	180'	
Purple	45'	
Ultra Violet	45'	

**LIGHT INTENSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

Maximum light intensity penetration — mid day sun. Early and late suns rays (at 30° angle or less) are all reflected rays — unless there is a choppy surface. Since fish are more active in low light intensity early AM late PM and cloudy days are the best times to fish.



**NEW U.S. RECORD  
57½ LB. LAKE TROUT  
CAUGHT ON A  
NO. 4 CHARGER**

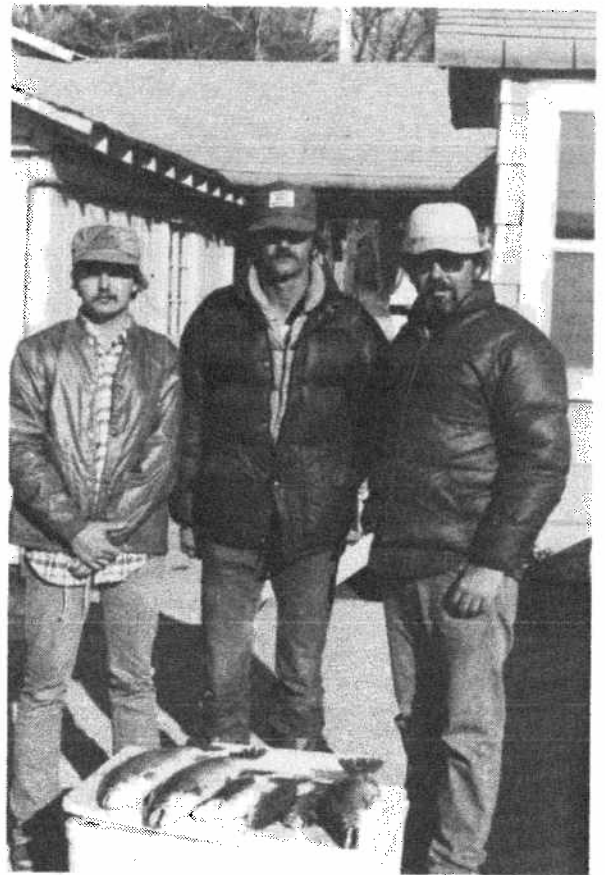


**Charger Lures**

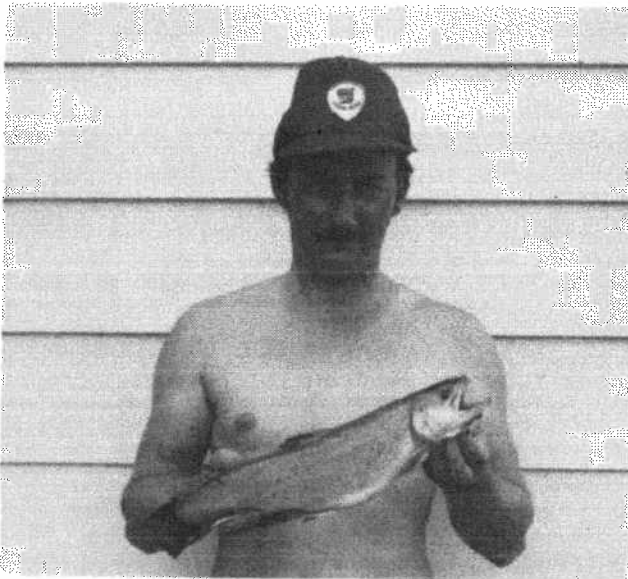
**LAKE PRODUCTS CO.**  
P.O. BOX 116  
UTICA, MI 48087



*Pictured here are the Captains and Crew who placed 4th through 9th in the Tawas Bay Boat Tournament. Included are: (4th place) Jerry Lee, Jeff Damitz, Jim Allen and Dave Burr, (5th place) Steve Hamilton, Bill Lafferty, (6th place) R. J. Branham and William Day, (9th place) Jim Treadaway, Bob Lindberg, (10th place) Jim Smith and Herb Zschering.*



*Charlie Cartwright on the Tuna Boat took 2nd place in the Tawas Bay Boat Tournament, shown here with his crew and catch.*



*R. J. Branham sent in this picture of his brook trout caught on the Black River, Alcona County on May 15th. It weighed 2 lbs., 4½ oz., 18" long.*

### WANTED

PHOTO OF YOU, YOUR CATCH  
AND CAPTION FOR PUBLICATION  
IN FISHIN' TALES. Send to Editor.



*Larry Atwell, Captain of the Cobra placed 3rd in the Tawas Bay Boat Tournament on April 23rd. His crew was Terry Atwell and Len Polive.*

## HANDLING DETERMINES FISH SURVIVAL

For avid anglers, fish are a gift of nature not to be wasted. As many sportsmen catch more than enough and have a hard time deciding what to do with leftovers, the practice of releasing fish is becoming popular among conscientious fishermen.

Follow these tips for proper release of fish:

One of the most commonly ignored rules is that the angler wet his hands before touching the fish. A very thin covering of mucus protects most species from bacterial infections. Dry hands immediately remove this covering leaving the fish wide open to a host of fungal diseases.

Ideally, the catch should remain in the water while the hook or lure is removed. In instances where this isn't practical, the lip hold is the most commonly used to prevent mortality. With wet hands, using the thumb and index finger, grasp the fish by the lower lip. The releasing of a toothier specie requires a tailhold or any other hold that does not touch the gills or eyes.

Studies show that artificial lures cause fewer mortalities than live or prepared baits. An experienced fisherman might allow the fish to swallow the bait before setting the hook, whereas a conscientious fisherman with an artificial lure practices the "hit em when they touch it" technique that hooks the fish in the jaw or roof of the mouth. Any fish hooked in these areas and released properly has an excellent chance to surviving.

Two factors which cause almost immediate mortality are either exhaustion or rapid temperature changes. Shock occurs in fish when they are removed from their environment.

Fatigue is the most rapid killer of all. When a fish is hooked and begins to fight, a breakdown of food occurs to produce energy. A by-product of this energy production is lactic acid, which when reaching a concentrated level makes it impossible for the fish to recover. The sport who brags how he fought a fish until it rolled up on its side, then gently released it, more than likely released a dead fish.

The best method is to use heavy line and "hoss" the fish in getting it in "green" will aid in survival.

Studies show the greatest mortality of released fish lies after the fourth day of being returned to water. This is when the subtle killers, Ichthyophthirius and Columnaris attack. Gray masses on fish or dead fish on the water's surface with their tails eaten off are signs of diseases which are natural and the common cause of old age in fish. When a fish's resistance is down from stress, the protective mucus has been removed from a portion of its body, it becomes susceptible to disease.

It still remains true, as advised by angling specialists, that the best thing a fisherman can do to insure survival of a catch is to handle it as little as possible and return it quickly to its own environment.

## MY OPINION :

by Paul Irvine

### Where has Sportsfishing 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 over abundance 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 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 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 over come tremendous obstacles in its struggle to move upstream to spawn. It would beat itself to death on rocks, rapids, and falls in hopes to reach 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 fishermen is upset if he can't get his limit and when he does, he wants more, and more, and more . . .



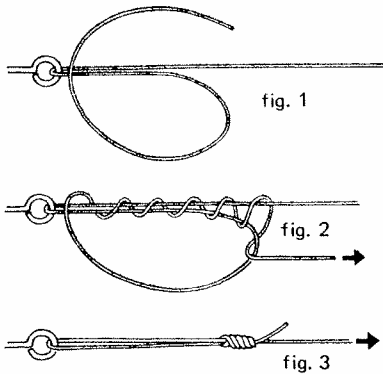
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In learning to use this system, the fisherman must first master the basic Uni-Knot, as used to tie line to the eye of a hook, swivel or lure. Here are the steps:

Run the line through the eye for at least 6". Fold it back to form a double line and make a circle back toward the hook or lure with the tag end.

(see figure 1)

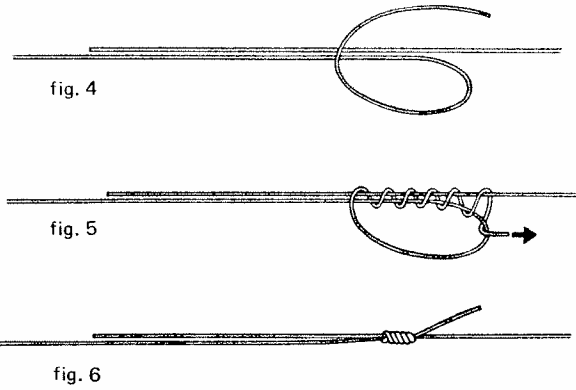
Make six turns with the tag end around the double line and through the circle. Holding the double line at the point where it passes through the eye, pull the tag end, as indicated by arrow, until the six turns are snugged into a tight barrel.

(see figure 2)

Now grasp the standing part of the line and pull (see arrow) to slide the knot up against the eye.

(see figure 3)

Continue to pull standing line until knot is tight. You can trim the tag end flush with the closest coil of the knot, because the Uni-Knot doesn't allow line slippage.



In joining two lines of about the same diameter, the Uni-Knot offers a much easier solution than the rather difficult blood knot, yet is every bit as strong. First, overlap the ends of the lines, about 6". With one of the ends form the Uni-Knot circle, crossing the two lines at about half the overlapped distance.

(see figure 4)

Make 6 turns around the two lines and through the circle, as in the basic knot. Pull tag end in direction indicated by arrow to snug knot up tight around the other line.

(see figure 5)

This will leave the other half of the overlap unknotted. Using loose end of overlapped line, tie another Uni-Knot and snug up.

Snelling a hook with the Uni-Knot is a bonus, because it permits making a snell with the end of the line, rather than a piece of leader material.

Insert the line or leader through the hook eye for about 6" and form the Uni-Knot circle. Make as many turns through the loop and around the line and hook shank as desired. Four or five are sufficient. Close the knot by pulling on the short end of line, but no need to snug the wraps up at this point.



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DEALER



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*Dear Editor:*

We have had discussions with many Steelheaders and also some non-members who have read Fishin' Tales. We do not agree with the editor's position on snagging. We feel Paul Irvine is entitled to his personal opinion as long as he makes it clear that the opinion is strictly his and not the position of the membership.

We consider ourselves to be good sportsmen and have supported every proposal to improve sportfishing in Michigan, i.e., increased cost of fishing licenses, elimination of PCB's, elimination of gill netting and control of commercial fishermen who we feel harvest fish at the expense of the sportfishermen who pay the tab. However, we do occasionally enjoy snagging in those areas where permitted. We do not waste any of the fish we harvest and we only take what we need. Accordingly, we supported the DNR's proposal to limit the taking and sale of

eggs.

We feel that most of the membership would not admit to snagging in a poll conducted by those opposed to snagging, when in fact we have personal knowledge of quite a few members, including some officers, who privately admit to either snagging or line fishing or both.

We sincerely appreciate the excellent job Paul does on the paper, and we all remember what it was like before he took over. We do, however, resent the representation that his views express the position of the membership in general. We also recognize that other members and officers are opposed to snagging. We feel they also have a right to their opinion.

I hope this letter successfully conveys the views of at least two members in good standing who are willing to work for the betterment of the club as time permits.

Very sincerely yours,  
Duane T. Myers, Member  
William G. Jewett, Member

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Or do you meet in private  
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part  
To help the work along,  
Or are you satisfied to  
Be the kind who just belongs?

Do you work on committees,  
To this there is no trick,  
Or leave the work to just a few,  
And tack about the clique?

So come to the meetings often,  
And help with hand and heart,  
Don't be just a member,  
But take an active part.

Think this over folks,  
You know whats right or wrong.

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*—donated by Ed Raquel*

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