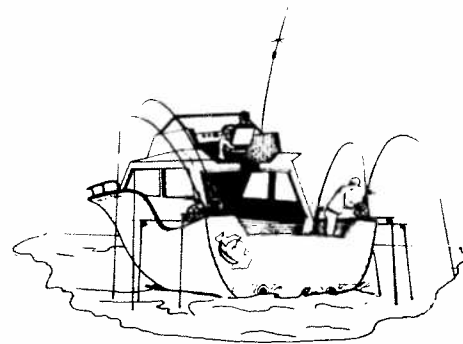
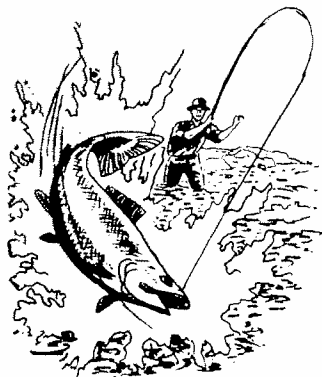


SPECIAL ISSUE

FISHING TALES



DETROIT AREA CHAPTER
MICHIGAN STEELHEAD AND SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED BY THE DETROIT AREA CHAPTER

1976 ANNUAL

THE DETROIT CHAPTER

What we're all about.

SPECIAL ISSUE

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

The Detroit Chapter was formed a little over two years ago. Today there are eight chapters with the Detroit area the largest chapter.

From the very beginning the Detroit Chapter was destined 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 now all other chapter shows are modeled after. It was the Detroit Chapter who last year took over forty outdoor editors for salmon in the Detroit River, which brought public attention to the MSSFA from all over the . . .

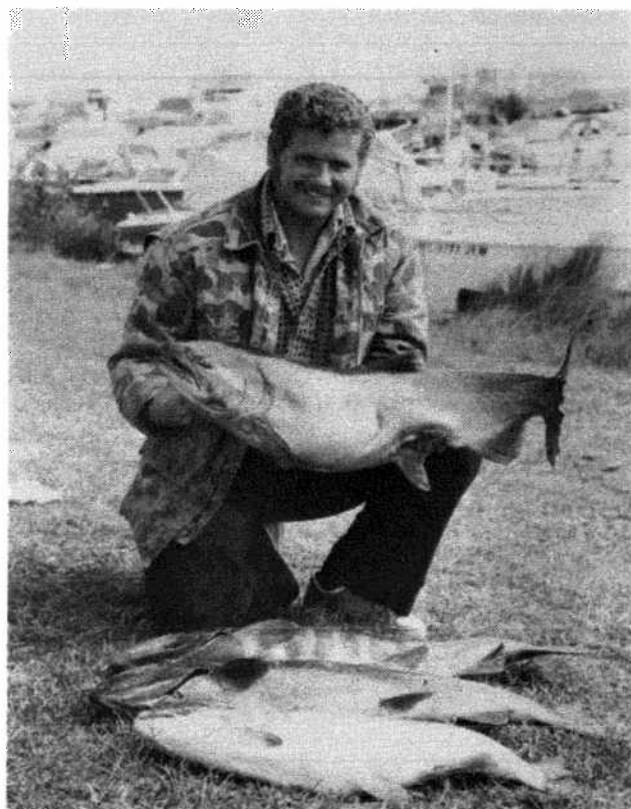
continued on page 2

DETROIT AREA CHAPTER HOLDS SUPER SPRING MEETING / SHOW

The Detroit Area Chapter of the MSSFA will hold its very popular Super Spring Meeting / Show open to the public on Saturday, March 26th from noon to 9pm. The location will be announced at a later date, or call 755-5975.

Last year more than 2,000 people attended the Detroit Chapter's Show to look and ask about everything they wanted to know about steelhead and salmon fishing.

The latest equipment from all popular manufacturers and the best fishermen in Michigan manning various booths from "fly tying", "rod building", to "lake trolling" will be on hand to answer all your questions. See you at the Super Show!



Gary Gray, member of the Detroit Area Chapter, displays 4 chinook caught this fall at the mouth of the AuSable River in Oscoda, Michigan.



DETROIT CHAPTER HOLDS 2nd ANNUAL FISHING BOAT RAFFLE

The Detroit Area Chapter of the MSSFA will again raffle off a fully equipped lake trolling boat this spring. The boat in the picture at left is last year's boat. This year we are raffling off a 1977 16' Starcraft console control "King Fisher" fully equipped with a 25hp Johnson motor, controls and the newest Aqua Scope on the market, a

Model 1300, straight-line, four inch paper, variable speed, 0-90' graph, along with (2) Luhr Jensen, long arm, swivel base downriggers and a Pampco trailer.

The boat will be on display at the Boat Show — February 5-13th, Sportsmen Show March 5-13th and the Detroit Area Chapter Spring Show, March 26th.

FISHIN' TALES

Published Monthly by the
Detroit Area Chapter
of the
Michigan Steelhead and
Salmon Fishermen's Association

1501 MANSFIELD
BIRMINGHAM, MI 48008

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 sportsfishermen and the sportsmen. It is our intention 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, Troy Hilton
February 23, March 30,
April 27, May 25, June 29,
July 27, August 31,

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*Detroit's Mayor Coleman Young aboard Larry Serafin's boat
the Pequod during the Detroit River Research "Drift" Trip in 1975.*

WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT continued from pg. 1 . . .

United States. It was the Detroit Chapter who first started research trips throughout the Great Lakes, and this year is planning six to eight research trips in Lake Huron, Lake St. Clair and inland 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 sportfishing industry and the sportsfisherman. Join us and work with us. We hold monthly meetings at the Troy Hilton, Stephenson Hwy. & 15 Mile Rd., Troy, Michigan.

**DETROIT RIVER
RESEARCH TRIP
NO SALMON**

by Larry Serafin

Weather conditions were ideal to catch salmon. 28 boats were set up to catch salmon. The experience was there to catch salmon. But where are the elusive Detroit River Chinook Salmon?

My experience tells me that they're not in the Detroit vicinity.

Maybe they'll show up in a couple of weeks, maybe in a month; maybe, maybe. I'm asked that question many times a week and I don't have the answer. After all the effort expended, I still hope they show up.

The Detroit Chapter showed up Saturday, September 25th to find the fish, we didn't. They caught Walleye, Muskie and Sheepshead using salmon technique. Tom Schneider caught a Muskie drifting a Corky.

I don't know if we learned anything Saturday, maybe we were too early.

I personally would like to thank all the guys who showed up and gave up a weekend of prime fishing. Thanks go to Lindy and Yakima for the free lures. To Ken Fischer for contacting and receiving the lures passed out, and the city support. To Mike DeCamillo, Mike Trevas and the "Ola I" (who aren't even members yet) for taking out city officials at short notice. To Terry Jackson and his crew from Canada for coming out and lending a hand. To Jerry Lee and Tom Schneider for bringing in fish to be weighed, even though they weren't salmon. And, lastly to the Stroh brewery for canceling our free beer the day before, so that no one woke up with headaches Sunday morning.

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RON SPITLER'S 13 LB. STEELHEAD



TOM SCHNEIDER'S 11 LB. STEELHEAD

BETSIE RIVER CLINIC / FANTASTIC SUCCESS

We would like to thank the estimated 150 fishermen who turned up to make our first Steelhead river fishing clinic on the Betsie River, at Homstead Resort, a great success. We would also like to thank Mother Nature for her help, the weather was beautiful.

Even though the 150 fishermen only caught approximately fifteen steelhead, the knowledge learned was invaluable. Ron Spitler, DNR fisheries biologist, must have paid special attention because he went out Sunday and caught a beautiful 13 lb. steelhead on a "corky" lure. Tom Schneider was right behind with another beautiful 11 lb. fish.

The methods taught for catching steelhead were discussed by Tom Schneider, Gary Marshall, Dick Swan, Archy Sweet and Paul Irvine. Tom discussed proper techniques in using the 'corkys' lure, spawn bag and demonstrated how to snell a hook. Gary Marshall of Lansing showed the proper use of single egg fishing. Dick Swan of Clare explained wiggler fishing with his custom-made 14' spinning rod. Archy Sweet of Midland showed us how he uses pencil-shaped bobbers to keep the bait just bouncing off the bottom.

Paul Irvine demonstrated techniques of using a fly rod with sinker fly line to fish for steelhead with flies.

Tom Jansen of Midland landed three steelhead on a long, custom-made spinning rod with two pound test line. The last we saw of Tom he was chasing a big steelhead he hooked downstream with Dick Swan, landing net in hand, in close pursuit.

Speaking of the last we saw of people, it was reported that George Ishimaru was last seen floating down the Betsie towards Lake Michigan in his inner-tube without a paddle. Maybe he decided to try trolling for steelhead.

James A.O. Crowe, Detroit News Outdoor Editor, was on hand to cover the story for his paper. A very fine article was in Sunday's Mar. 7th issue. Thanks Jim for your support of our organization, it is truly appreciated and your company always welcome.

On Sat. night a buffet dinner was held at the Sail Inn where we presented a trophy for the three largest fish caught the day of the clinic. The largest fish was caught by Buck Ryder of Plymouth. We would like to add a special thanks to Buck for all his work in making this clinic

the success it was. Thanks also to the good people at the Homstead Resort.

Frank Arleth of Roscommon caught a 8 lb. steelhead and Tom Jansen of Midland caught a 7½ lb. steelhead. We had close to 100 people at the dinner.

Additional entertainment was offered by Bob Lindberg who gave us all an exhibition of the Australian crawl. Larry Serafin and Mike Trevas set up hospitality house in Larry's Winebago. We expect this to be a permanent part of all future Steelhead functions. Also there was rumor that a Tom somebody was fooling around and broke his good steelhead rod; not confirmed as of this writing.

Thanks again for all your support. We all had a great weekend.

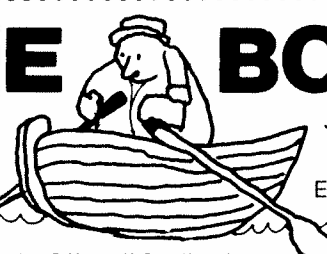
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WHEN YOU'RE ASKED....

BY JIM HULET

The next time someone notices your MSSFA decal, why not tell them what it represents.

You might say that it signifies your support of ethical sport fishing regulations, conservation practices, and aid to the research so desperately needed for sound management of game fish populations.

You might say that your membership in MSSFA brings you publications which help keep you informed of fishing activities throughout the state and legislative developments related to your sport.

You could mention that MSSFA believes it is imperative that the angler's needs and concerns are recognized and that recreational fishermen have fair representation on deliberations concerning fisheries policies.

The more recreational anglers MSSFA represents, the better our services will be, and the stronger our voice will be in fisheries affairs.

You can help make 1976 a year of action for the fishermen by convincing a friend or associate to join the MSSFA. Member applications and literature describing our organization are available for this purpose.

A little effort on your part will contribute substantially to the future of our work and your recreational sport. The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association represents and works for you, the angler. Please help spread the word.

A LETTER OF THANKS TO THE DETROIT CHAPTER

by Steve Hamilton

Prior to 1975 I had never caught a steelhead, lake or brown trout, chinook or coho salmon. I was frustrated in not knowing how or where to fish. Then I met Tom Schneider at the 1975 Ourdoorama and saw a display on terminal tackle for stream fishing. Impressed, I went to the March 1975, MSSFA meeting at the old Northwood Inn and became a member. My knowledge and skill improved, but my fishing was still fishless.

Then I was lucky enough to win a \$2 raffle for a charter on Dave Gresham's "TAXI II". At 6 am on July 5th, I met Dave and Bob (the other winner) at Manistee's launch. We had a great day: 14 "fish on" and 7 nice lakers in the boat.

There were several other trips where I was fortunate to fish on other member's boats. I enjoyed these thoroughly, and even though I didn't catch any fish I learned a great deal.

On Dec. 27th, I entered the AuSable river tournament, I had no bait, few sinkers, and no knowledge of the river. One of the Keene brothers gave me 2 dozen spawn bags; Ken and Bob gave me cinch sinkers and showed me where to fish. About 2 pm a huge pink striped steelhead jumped out of the water - it was on my line. After a climatic struggle of over 5 minutes the No. 12 hook pulled out. I enjoyed that fight more than landing any previous fish.

This year I decided to go all out and bought Dave's old "TAXI II" (does anyone know how to remove permanent reflective lettering without removing the paint?). I started fishing in April and haven't ended yet. I spent my summer traveling our state and fished over 12 ports. Many others boated more fish than I (over 60), but I caught my first browns, cohos, and chinooks. My largest laker was 15 lb., brown - 11½ lb.; chinook - 31 lb. (see photos) From what our club taught me, I was able to catch my limit of lakers in 45 minutes by fishing temperature and the top 10 ft. when others were fishless due to inverted July weather.



Steve Hamilton started fishing the Great Lakes this summer traveling to 12 ports with his new boat and landed more than 60 browns, coho and chinook. Shown here is an 11½ lb. brown from Alpena and a 15 lb. laker from Charlevoix.

This was my most memorable summer and I must thank our club for making it possible. I look forward to stream fishing and landing my first steelhead. KEEP A TIGHT LINE !

LARGEST TURNOUT IN CLUB HISTORY ! THE SUPER SPRING CHAPTER SHOW !

The meeting of Wednesday, March 24 will be one meeting few will forget. It was the largest public turnout to attend a Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's meeting in the history of the club. More than two thousand fishermen, and interested public attended the Detroit Chapter of the MSSFA meeting.

The Gordon Ballroom at the Troy Hilton was the scene. All the tables were situated around the four walls where displays on how, why, where and when to catch salmon and trout were manned by various experts of the club. Rod building, fly tying, fish smoking and egg curing were also demonstrated.

A very informative talk on river fishing was given by Tom Schneider. A comprehensive talk on lake fishing for trout and salmon was given by Paul Irvine and Larry Serafin. Larry and Paul spoke of various methods, where to go and what to use starting in April and progressing through October.



Paul Irvine (middle) and Larry Serafin (right) gave a speech on lake fishing for trout and salmon while Tony Reechia (left) watches. Speeches and booths were setup at the Super Spring Meeting to tell how, why, where and when to catch salmon, and were manned by several club members.

A big thanks for all the members who helped out. And a special thanks to Bruce Gibson for his idea to have the show, his leadership in arranging the details and his help in getting all the manufacturers to come.

We apologize for only one thing, and that was we did not expect such a large turnout and because of this the displays were very difficult for everyone to see. Next year arrangements will be such that everyone will have ample room to see all displays.

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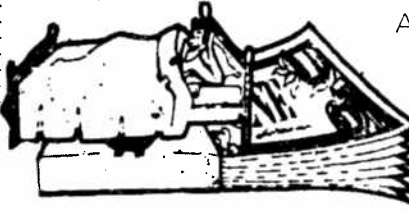
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TROLLING COMBINATIONS

by Murrell Blackburn

Have you ever wondered when and when not to use attractors? Here are some methods and thoughts that might help your trolling.

Early in the morning before the sun is up and its rays start to penetrate the water is one such time to use attractors. Remember, it is very dark in deep water early in the morning and late in the evening. When you are fishing alone it is also wise to try as many as three or four attractors to find which is most productive. When the day is dark and overcast is another time to try attractors.

There are times when I feel you shouldn't use any attractors. One such instance is when you are in a pack of boats. I feel the boats disturb the fish and your chances are better when you run all your lines clean. This has been an experience we have had many times. This, I suppose would be a matter of fishing conditions at any given time.

When fishing lake trout, especially deep, we always use cowbells; not necessarily the long string but one with three or four blades. For some reason the trout will hit this rig almost always before anything else. My records show that the "Doctor" lure fished behind the cowbells is a favorite of lake trout. The small fireplug is a favorite also.

The Heddon Schoolie and Luhr Jensen six pak are favorites of mine. I have been successful fishing both of these attractors. It has been said the Chinook will rarely hit anything but clean

lines. I disagree with this. Running either of these two attractors with a variety of spoons has proven to us that the Chinook would hit these when they would take nothing else. Our best luck was running our spoons about three to six feet back of the attractor. These attractors are also good on coho and lake trout.

I think when fishing for coho the herring dodger is probably the most effective. It is a fact, however, that feeding coho will hit just about anything moving. When using the dodger we fish flies within 8" of the dodger and close to the cannonball to give the lure more action. I have what I call a super attractor, which I made myself. It is about five feet long with stainless steel blades. The blades are shaped much like the Colorado spinners and are 5" long by 3" wide. I attach the attractor to the end of the cannonball. This rig has proven to be most effective in attracting coho. The idea of this type of attractor is not new, as it has been used in salt water fishing for years.

I have an idea that certain combinations of attractors will attract fish much better than others. Some of my friends are of the same opinion. When I hit upon such a combination I make a note of it in my log. We have found about three of these that have proven to be something special. One such combination going from left to right; "0" dodger with yellow fly about 4' back from the weight; next, chartreuse with red spotted Coho Charger about 30' to 40' back fished clean; next the Heddon School of minnows with a white with red striped Coho Charger

about 15' to 20' back, (run about a 4' leader on the charger); last, a Loco, Manistee Wobbler, flutter spoon, or another charger in the color of blue and silver fished clean about 20' to 30' back. The depths are staggered with the inside lines fished deeper than the outside. Why this combination? I have some theories on this. Noise of the dodger along with the two chargers and the attraction of the dodger and school of minnows seems to really do the job. I believe it creates some special effect of feeding fish and attracts others. One day last August we had a triple, three doubles and many other hits while fishing for Chinook on this combination. I try it almost every trip we take.

I hope some of these ideas will help your fishing. Above all try different things and try to be versatile and adapt to each different situation. Don't be afraid to try anything and everything. The more you fish the more you will learn. I am sure there are others that have had similar experiences. I invite you to try the combination that I have mentioned. Drop us a line with the combination you have found most productive.

LAKE HURON GETS 1 MILLION LAKE TROUT

State and federal fisheries workers planted about 1,025,000 lake trout in Lake Huron this spring.

This spring anglers started catching lake trout consistently off Harrisville, Hammond Bay and Cheboygan.

It is expected to take another two years for the Lake Huron lakes fishery to fully blossom. The fish planted this spring will not be sporting size until 1979.

This spring's plantings, as reported by Jordon River National Fish Hatchery manager Charles Hiltz:

SITE	NUMBER
Port Sanilac *	100,000
Grindstone City *	100,000
Tawas City *	100,000
Potaganissing Bay +	25,000
Adams Point *	75,000
Greenbush *	75,000
Hammond Bay *	75,000
Black River Island +	79,000
Scare Crow Island +	79,000
Middle Island +	50,000
Reynolds Reef +	25,000
Zela Shoal +	54,000
North Graham Shoal	54,000
Goose Island Shoal +	29,000
Pomeroy Reef +	27,000
Round Island Shoal +	54,000
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GOOD FELLOWSHIP GOOD FISHING

by Sid Goodfriend

The past weekend I was thinking neat thoughts about my membership in the Detroit Chapter of MSSFA. I reflected on an organization which I joined blind no having been solicited by any one member, and not knowing anyone. It was just plain luck having seen the club name somewhere, somehow.

Having fished all of my life, approximately 50 years, I felt quite knowledgeable in or at this sport, but have found in less than one year I have gained so much more additional knowledge in our chosen art due to the members of MSSFA. In their generosity, ability to communicate and just being good people and good sports, in the finest sense of the word, I know of no equal. No one asks. "Are you green white or black?" or "What do you do?" or who you are. The only criteria is good fellowship and good fishing.

Our officers and directors who put in many hours planning meetings, the logistics of the tournaments, and the research trips etc., are to be commended for all of their efforts.

I distinctly remember the tournament trip to Ludington. First of all, I needed a crew as my son could not make it that trip. I called John Makela and Larry Serafin who gave me the names of some members to get in touch with. I also spoke with Tom Schneider and Paul Irvine. I called the people at home during the evening, I disturbed them at what they may have been doing, but a warmer reception no one could have received. All they wanted to know was "Are you a member?". Suffice it to say that both Mike Trevas and Mark Oblak fished with me that weekend and I could not have enjoyed their company more.

They are two really nice guys to be with. On Sunday morning we were not doing too well and spotted the SISU. I asked John the usual "How ya doin'?" and he said he was doin' just fine and told us what he was using and how. We switched baits and techniques as John suggested and within 20 minutes we had a nice King on and shortly after had a double header. Needless to say the day went well and as this was my first salmon trip, did I have a ball!

The Oscoda trip was great also. Paul Irvine is the sort of fellow that does not wait but asks "Can I help or do anything?", knowing you may be a novice at salmon fishing. "With people like these how can one fail?"

I am sure I speak not only for myself, but for the membership when I say thank you to the officers and directors of our Detroit Chapter for a great year of pleasure and pleasant memories with more to come.

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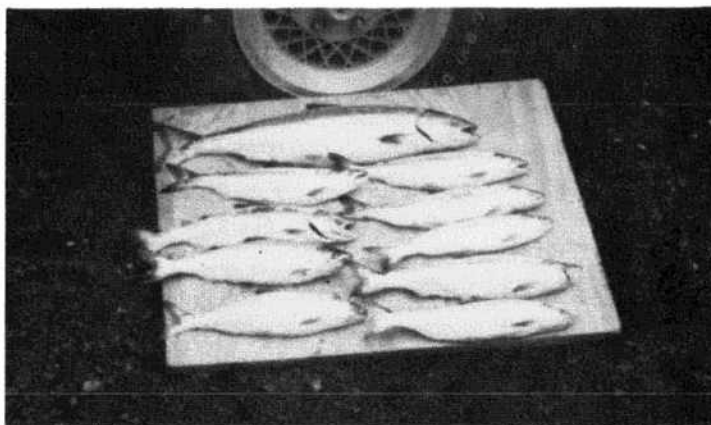
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Detroit Area Spring Salmon a Reality



by Tom Schneider

Early this spring my friend and well-known muskie guide, Bill Walters of Algonac, gave me a call to rouse my curiosity, "Tom, I was out trying my new Aqua Scope and I marked a large school of fish below Decker's Landing. Could they be salmon?" In return, I invited Bill to join me on my boat the next Saturday for a little research.

Saturday morning I met Bill at the somewhat primitive DNR launching site at Decker's Landing to find out if those fish were salmon or not. The day was an exceptionally fine one with the sun shining and shirt sleeve weather greeting us. We headed downstream from the launch site toward the spot where the North Channel runs into Lake St. Clair. After rigging up rods and bait on the downriggers, away we went -- temperature 46° top to bottom in forty feet of water, so I tried the old 20-20 trick, 20' down and 20' back.

Not 10 minutes later, one of the riggers went off. "Fish on", I yelled, and soon a bright 3 lb. salmon was landed. By noon Bill and I had landed six salmon and one brown trout. The largest salmon was 7½ lbs., the brown over 5 lb. and we had lost several more fish. Thus ended our first day of salmon fishing, forty minutes from home.

For 3 weeks following we limited out on salmon before noon each time we went out. The lures effective were blue and silver No. 3 Andy Reekers; small Krockadiles, all colors, blue and silver devil dogs; chartreuse with red dot Chargers; and chartreuse with red dot Jiffy Plugs.

The prime things learned this spring were that conventional Great Lakes techniques do work in the rivers near Detroit and that smaller boats that have the ability to follow the channel edges have a little advantage. Secondly, it has brought a viable spring fishery into an area that previously just didn't have any fishing in it in the spring. Last but not least, to those people who say don't stock salmon in Lake St. Clair--the salmon eat our walleye and bass fry, "Baloney"! Out of all the fish I caught, not one had anything in its stomach but small alewives. Tight lines !!

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THE AU SABLE PRIMER

by Bob Lindberg and Tom Schneider

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 with you hitting the river and missing the fish.

This article is intended for steelheaders who would like to take on the brawling AuSable, but doesn't want to walk into a local coffee shop/taco stand after a tough day with zero fish and have that sinking feeling in the pit of his stomach while listening to the conversations of other guys who were on the same river at the same time and had fish on the stringer. Even worse than this is, knowing that you weren't even close to productive water but 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 4 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 stop light in Oscoda (River Road), approx. 9 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 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 there is a parking area past the bridge on the left hand 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 4 water control wheels which usually open between 7:30 am and 9:00 am. Once the first wheel opens, the remaining three wheels open in 15 minutes intervals. A warning to the novice; 5 minutes prior to the wheels opening, 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 being 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 1 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 of 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 the following two reasons:

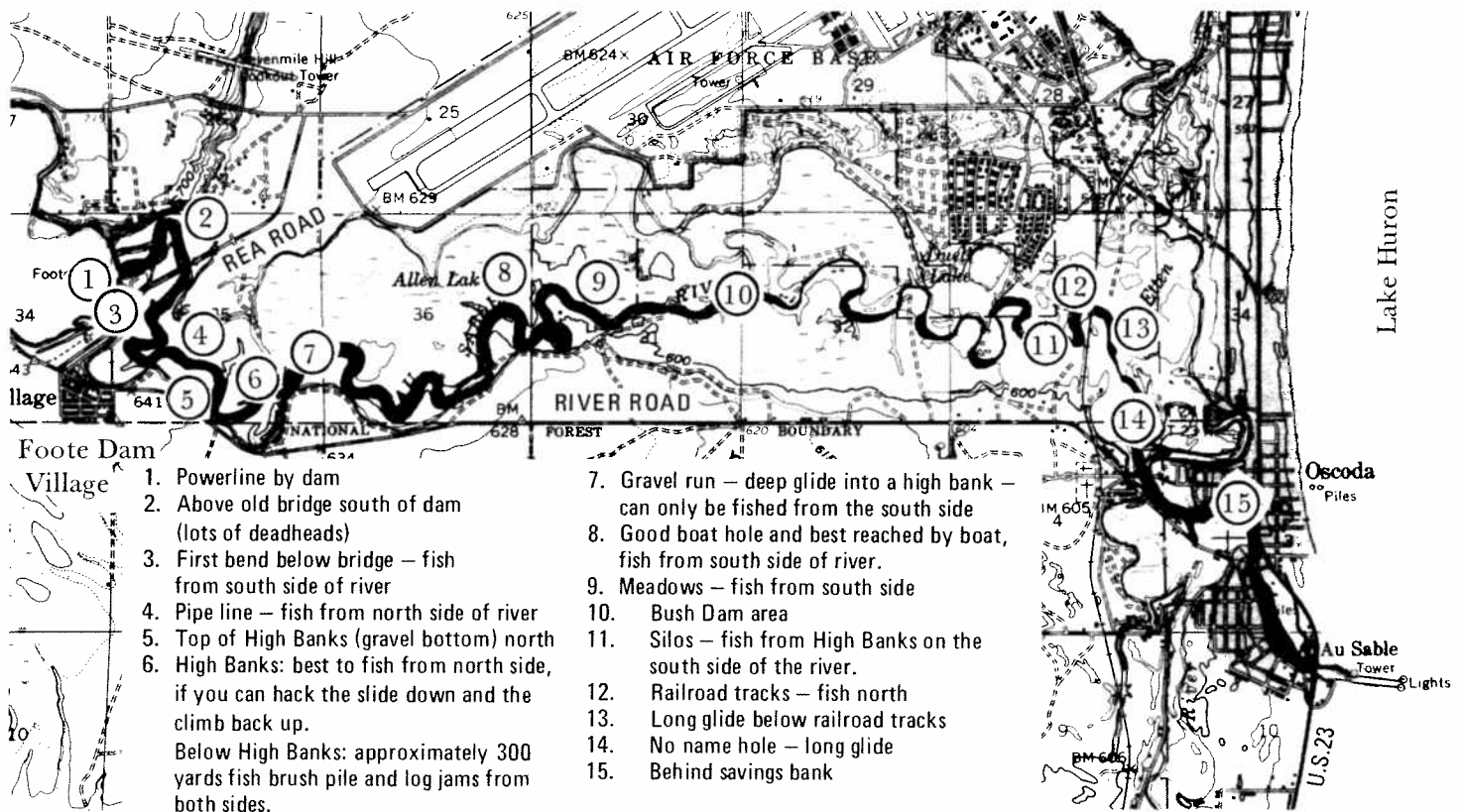
First, it will save you a large amount of terminal tackle by knowing where the snags and deadheads are located. You may not see them at high water and if you're not careful, you'll hang up every cast. Second, it will help you locate the deeper holes where the fish will be holding under high water conditions. 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 fall fish are in this type of water structure to spawn (they may have been spooked off of their redds and are seeking near by 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 draw back 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 night crawler 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 in the low water condition section. Remember, you are fishing slow, relatively clear water during this time of day; therefore, terminal tackle should be selected accordingly. Terminal tackle for all of these baits should consist of a maximum of 6 lb. leader at least 3' long. Hook size should not exceed a No. 10 short shank wire salmon egg hook. A No. 10 three way swivel with 2 lb. drop-per line (for split shot) is the most widely used. For further explanations, see attached diagram.

These baits should be fished on bottom with the sinker sliding over bottom at a slow steady pace. Some prefer to watch the line for any unusual movement, others prefer to 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 the same techniques — but in the deeper holes. Reason: the fall spawning salmon are gone and the steelhead are striking out of instinct rather than in 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, high water at the Meadows starts at about 11:00 and crests at 12:30, further down stream 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.

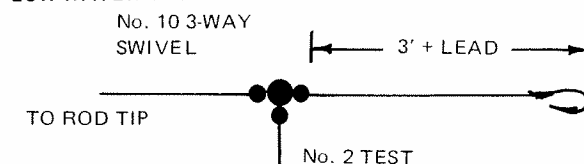
During rising and high water, we have found the traditional Cherry Bobber to be the most effective bait. There are many varieties; Corky, Spin and Glow, Bob and Glow and Wobble Glow, all manufactured by Yakima Bait of Granger, Washington and the Okie Drifter manufactured by Luhr Jensen of Hood River, 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 to be the best producer of arm jarring hits often producing 10 lb. plus 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, 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 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", we prefer leaders from 12 to 15" in length.

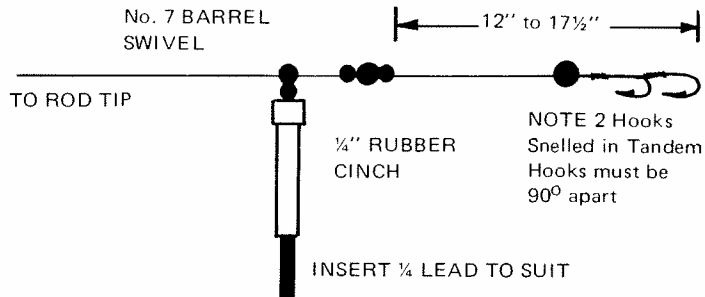
When fishing this technique, remember the bait must move rapidly through the hole. We do not believe in the time honored tap-tap drift pattern, the sinker must skip on the bottom every three or four feet to give the proper action to the bait. in the right drift pattern.



SKETCH 1 LOW WATER TECHNIQUES



SKETCH 2 HIGH WATER TECHNIQUES



A word about casting. Cast upstream enough so that you can feel the sinker hitting 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 trying different sizes, colors, run the bait clean or dress it up with a spawn sack or yarn. The productive AuSable yarn colors are florescent 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 3/4" in length.

How do steelhead hit these types of 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 is hit with such ferocity that the rod will be nearly ripped from your hands. Also, larger fish are taken with Corky's etc., than with natural bait.

Now after you've read the last paragraph, and if you haven't fished Corky's, 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 the techniques and hooked into those big never-say-die steelhead.

One of our fondest memories was guiding a neophyte river fisherman (he's a hell of a boat troll-er) 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 in the beginning of this article, we decided that this type of information exchange was needed and long overdue. This is the first article (we believe) written which opens up the mystique of one of the great Michigan Steelhead Rivers — we encourage other Steelheaders to do the same on their favorite rivers — the Big Manistee, anyone?

See other picture on page 7.
Tom Schneider and catch!

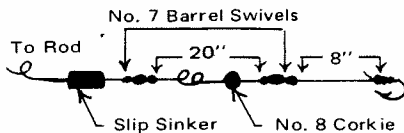
Bob Lindberg with
14 lb. AuSable Steelhead.

SHORE FISHING FOR SPRING TROUT

Tom Schneider

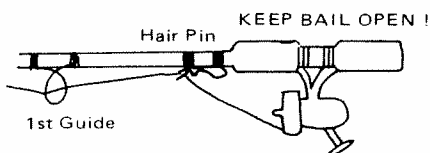
Spring presents a fine opportunity for the fisherman to catch large trout without the use of a boat. One method is using spoons and spinners. Your nine foot rod will be excellent for this. I recommend long casts from shore and giving a count of ten to allow your lure to sink. The retrieve should be very 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, white with bluish red, 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 the rig.

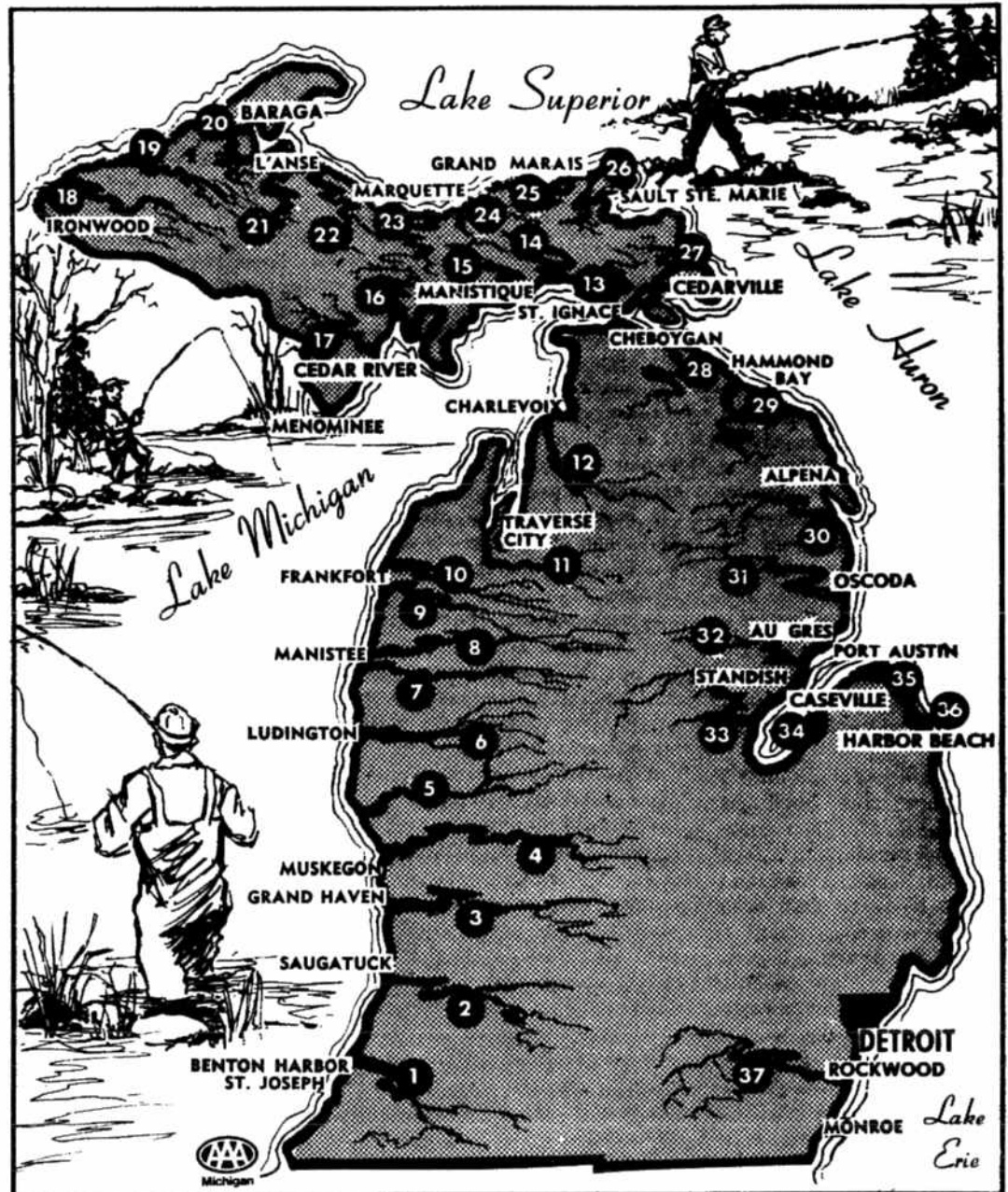


The baits I use are nitecrawlers, raw chuck spawn, single eggs, and whole kernel corn. Nite crawlers are best for browns and single eggs or chunk spawn for the steelhead. Try chumming with corn.

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



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. I will demonstrate this at the next meeting.



YOUR STEELHEAD GUIDE

RIVER

- 1 - St. Joseph River
- 2 - Kalamazoo River
- 3 - Grand River
- 4 - Muskegon River
- 5 - North Br., White River
- 6 - Pere Marquette River
- 7 - Little Manistee
- 8 - Big Manistee River
- 9 - Betsie River
- 10 - Platte River
- 11 - Boardman River
- 12 - Jordan River
- 13 - Brevort River
- 14 - Black River
- 15 - Manistique River
- 16 - Whitefish River
- 17 - Big Cedar River

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

UPSTREAM LIMIT*

- Buchanan Dam
- Allagan Dam
- Webber Dam
- Croton Dam
- Arthur Rd.
- M37 Bridge
- Johnson's Bridge
- US131
- Kurick Rd.
- US31 Bridge
- Cass Street Dam
- Webster Bridge
- Brevort Lake
- Peter's Truck Trail Bldg.
- Paper Mill Dam
- Headwaters
- Veterans Park Dam

RIVER

- 18 - Black River
- 19 - Presque Isle River
- 20 - Sturgeon River
- 21 - Falls River
- 22 - Huron River
- 23 - Anna River
- 24 - Miners River
- 25 - Sucker River
- 26 - Two Hearted River
- 27 - Carp River
- 28 - Cheboygan River
- 29 - Ocqueoc River
- 30 - Thunder Bay River
- 31 - Au Sable River
- 32 - East Br. Au Gres River
- 33 - Rifle River
- 34 - Caseville Harbor
- 35 - Port Austin Harbor
- 36 - Harbor Beach Harbor
- 37 - Huron River

UPSTREAM LIMIT*

- Rainbow Falls
- Manbezho Falls
- Prickett Dam
- US 41
- Big Eric's Bridge
- Railroad Bridge
- Falls
- Deer Park Truck Trail
- Reed & Green Bridge
- Mud Lake Outlet
- Cheboygan Dam
- Barnhart Lake
- 9th St. Dam
- Footo Dam
- M55 Bridge
- Sage Lake Rd.
- Flat Rock Dam



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Five chinook all over 27 lbs. caught by Tom Schening and Paul Irvine on the "Yellow Jacket" last year in Oscoda all on the Luhr Jensen J-Plug.

Oscoda Tournament Biggest and Best To Come

by John Makela

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 VISABILITY

(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.

September and Oscoda go together like a dodger and fly, but for best Chinook results don't use that combination. The chapter's most popular tournament will be on September 11th at Lake Huron's most exciting trolling port — Oscoda.

The fishing promises to be even better this year - about ten times better than last year, if I can use numbers, because the return will be from a plant of over 400,000 king salmon. We can all look forward to giant 35-40 lb. fish this fall and for years to come.

Oscoda is very popular with Detroit Chapter Steelheaders because of the catch and the fact that it's on "our side" of the state not to mention the likelihood of favorable weather conditions. Also, the formation of a chapter in Oscoda, Detroit members can now be assured of a hundred new friends and Steelheaders to provide us with time-saving and fish-catching information.

The dodger/fly combination has never caught me a fish in Lake Huron! The flutterspoons boss-plug, fireplug and chargers behind a double however, have been good combinations. Clean lures include the Wabler, Flutterspoons, crocodile, doctor spoon and red-head white wobblers.

For best techniques with reekers call Bob on "My Harem"; ask Chuck on the "Aloha" about the '5 of diamonds'; Bob on the "Steelhead" and Howard on the "Paramour" beat 'em with crocodiles. Chuck on the new "Tuna Boat" never misses with the j-plug the "Fishin 5" is sold on the flutterspoons — just ask for Murrell. Gale on the "Sisu" favors the 12B Coho Charger for constant 25-35 pounders; "Gusto" prefers canned gusto but catches kings on rattle spoons and Chargers; Bob's mate aboard the new "White Water" is beer (John Beer) and catches a bunch on reekers and plugs.

These and many more chapter members spend a lot of time in Oscoda, especially the last week of August through Labor Day. There are others too who are straight shooters with fishing info: Elton on the "Compromise"; Jim's "Big Orange"; our editor on the "Yellow Jacket II"; "Jims Joy", "Sue Ya", "TMB II (Too Much Beer); For more information consult the chapter boat directory.

So, don't take my word alone. You'll see all these guys up there in Oscoda this year - and for one overriding reason - catchable giant chinook. See you there, before, during and after the tournament.

JOHN MAKELA**1976****SKIPPER OF THE YEAR**

Our second annual "Skipper of the Year" award went to John Makela, captain of the fishing boat, SISU. John is not only a state director but is President of the Detroit Area Chapter.

John has been an active member of the Detroit Chapter since its formation two years ago, as well as being the driving force in the formation of this monthly newsletter.

The total points John won to give him the honor of "Skipper of the Year" was an impressive 41 points out of a possible 50. He caught a total of 28 fish weighing 266 lb., the largest was a 23 pounder. John is an excellent fisherman who has given his time and expertise to take many members out fishing on weekends.

Hats off to John and his boat the SISU!

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DOUBLE HOOK UP by Murrell Blackburn

The following is some methods and ideas that a lot of us take for granted.

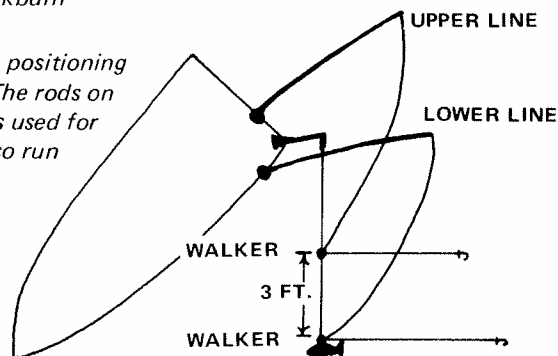
Utilize all of your equipment to the fullest is number one on the list. I think due to lack of experience more than anything else we do not practice this rule. When we first started fishing we used only two downriggers, then four, and later outriggers as well as dolphin divers, deep sixes, etc. This gives you more versatility in covering more water by putting more lures down, and increases your chances for catching fish. One way is to run 4 lines off 2 downriggers. If they are setup right it can be very effective. The illustration shows the method:

Make up a length of wire 3' long with a loop on each end. Attach the Walker release to the end of your wire and the 3' length below it. Attach another Walker release here or you can use a button release, and then attach the weight. This looks quite complicated but is relatively simple. The trick is the positioning of the rods. The rod on the inside is used for the upper line. Run this line closer to the wire than the lower one. A heavier lure is run on the bottom. A light lure such as a flutter spoon is run on top. I do not recommend running dodgers or attractors on this setup. If you want to run an attractor run it on the other downrigger.

We now have 3 or 4 lines in so bring out your dolphin diver in the "O" or No. 1 size. I like to run 2 of the same size, one off each side of the boat. By running them different lengths back you can vary your depth and therefore cover more water. This is very effective in the spring. You can also run one rod straight off the back. Use a bigger diver on this rod. One word of caution here, don't make any tight turns or you will find yourself untangling tackle.

Another thing I have seen some do, is to use too heavy of a rod, and line that is also too heavy. You are only defeating yourself by doing this. The heavy rod does not allow you to play the fish, this results in broken line and lost fish. A rod

The trick is positioning the rods. The rods on the inside is used for upper line so run it closer to wire.



I use and recommend is the Heddon No. 7842, 8½' long. It is light enough to let a small Coho give you a good fight and heavy enough to take 40 lb. or better fish. This rod also lets you use light line. The lighter line gives your lure more action and thus more strikes. I use 10 to 12 lb. early and go to heavier line later in the year. One more little tip is to pay more attention to your hooks, split rings, and the way you tie that line on the lure. This makes all the difference in the percentage of fish you hook and land. Go over your tackle and make sure everything is in top condition, for its that little flaw that costs you a fish, maybe even a new record. Think about it...

Murrell Blackburn

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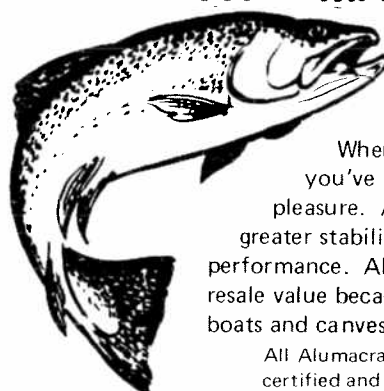
Everyone takes advantage of the service - boat owners, non-owners and inland water fishing members. We're in the busy season now (salmon runs) and we all want a poke at a King.

Our chapter is big. We have a big fleet and lots of big boats. so, we have room for stream fishermen and new-comers to big-lake trolling. Most trollers have favorite techniques and ports and fish as often as possible at this time of year.

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FLAT BOARD TROLLING

by Murrel Blackburn

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 for the first design:

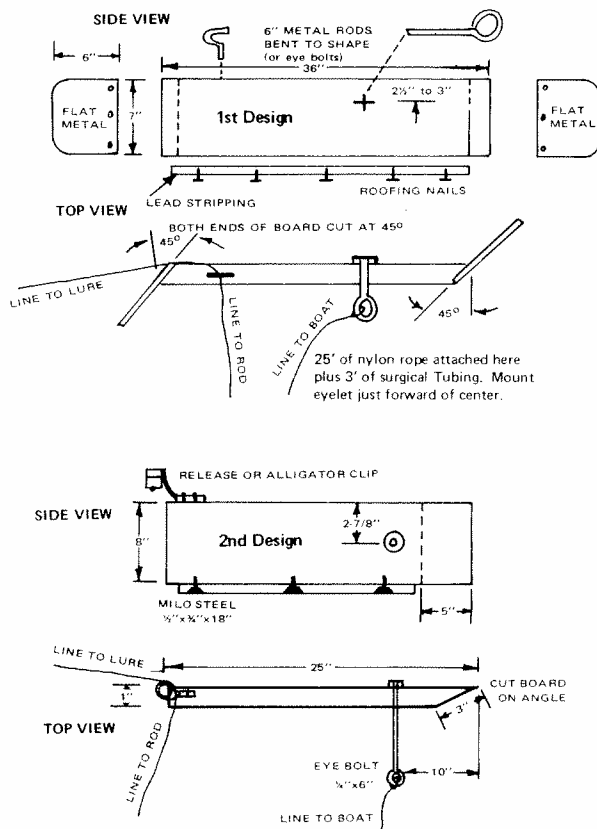
- 2— 1" x 7" x 3ft. boards
- 4— sheet metal plates (steel or aluminum) 6"x7"
- 12— brass screws
- 4— stout metal rods, 6" long (bend these to shape required)
- 2 to 3 lbs.— strip lead (use roofing nails to attach to bottom of board) for each board.
- 25 ft. — nylon rope
- 3 ft. — surgical twine

List of materials for the second design:

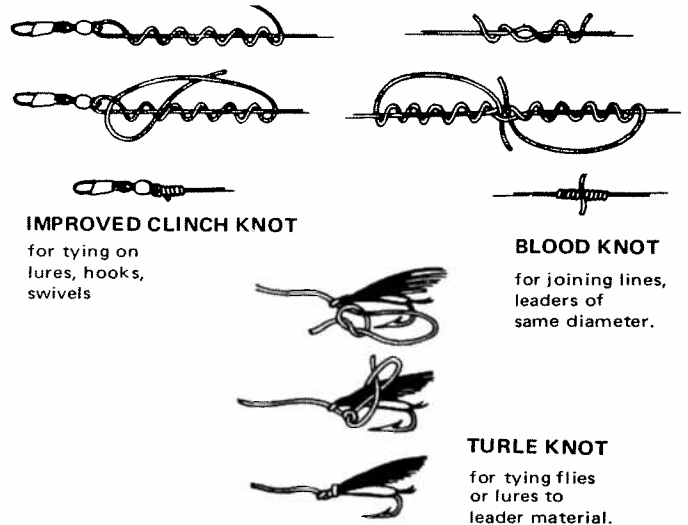
- 2— 1" x 8" x 25" boards
- 2— 1/2" x 3/4" x 18" mild steel
- 2— 1/4" x 6" eye bolts
- 6— brass screws
- 2— releases
- 25 ft. — nylon twine
- 3 ft. — surgical tubing

Use light wood for boards such as redwood or cedar. Many coats of varnish and paint will prevent waterlogging. After varnish paint them a bright color to help keep them in sight. The release can be the Rivera-type or 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 success or failures you have. This should give you more depth and a feeling of pride in making something your self. Good Fishing.

Murrel Blackburn



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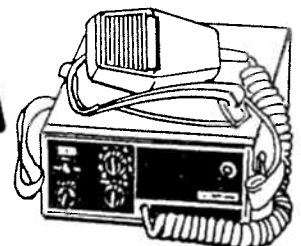
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TAWAS CITY — FALL FISHING

by John Makela

Like many chapter trollers I prefer to fish on "our side" whenever possible. That's why, in mid-September when I heard the coho were in, the 'ole SISU was drug south to Jerry's Marina on Tawas Bay. Fishing on "our side" means Lake Huron and the reason I prefer it is the likelihood that you won't get blown-off the lake even when it's real windy. Especially Tawas Bay because 95% of the time it's blowing off-shore. An even better reason to fish there is the coho run, the browns and steelhead. They're all in there at the same time in October.

This fall I had lots of good news and plenty of bad news. First, the good news: steelhead in early October. My catch of steelhead cam from the mouth of the AuSable in September, and that was IT! But they were in Tawas later on as we witnessed when Dale Kotila on his super-duper super-charger 'Interceptor' "Bleu Finn" caught six on his very first trip and fishing only half mile away. (J-plugs and planers. He went home and gloated that same Saturday.)

Jerry's launch, slips, fish cleaning and other facilities are are pretty good; it's only a few minutes run to where the fish are; best trolling is in 10-15 feet (near shore under the wind) and downriggers are not essential. The best, and maybe only, trolling accessory you can have aboard are a pair of side surface planers. Eighty to ninety percent of all the fish I caught were on lures trailing 10 feet behind those planers, about 100 feet out on both sides of the boat. Plugs work the best! Outriggers aren't necessary but they catch more than downriggers here. The downriggers took only 5% of the catch.

I've never been much of a brown trout troller even though I put in a lot of time at it in Thunder Bay this summer. Either the fish weren't there while I was or I didn't get the lures far enough away from the boat. I suspect the former because too many boats were catching too few fish. On the other hand the only browns I caught at Tawas in October were taken off planers. I slayed'em, even using No. 25 leader and main line, to and from the planers. The next time I fish Alpena (April?) watch out for plastic planers at 45° angles off the boat.

Coho were plentiful in Tawas this year and provided most of the catch. They hit consistently on the favorite lures, but the shallow water ruled out dodger combinations. Most coho luck was off high lines and outriggers and planers with a few from downriggers. Best lures in my opinion were J-plugs sockeye chargers and flutter-type spoons. I ran everything at least 200 feet behind the boat. The worst weekend was 15 fish.

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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
1817 Barrett
Royal Oak, MI 48067

A
Chapter Fund Raiser
Thank You....

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POSSIBLE PROBLEMS AND THEIR REMEDIES

You may experience one of these common problems.

PROBLEM	REMEDY
Condensation	Wear natural fiber clothing which will absorb moisture and hold body heat away from the inside surface of the waders. Similar to wrapping a cold water pipe.
Unable to Pick Up Knees	Wader is either too short in inseam or too small around seat or thigh or both. You may need a custom wader.
Wear in Crotch and Between Knees	Waders do not fit properly. You may need a custom wader.
Unable to Catch Fish	You may need a guide!

REPAIR AND FINDING A LEAK

These are the most successful ways to find a leak:

1. Examine the surface carefully for punctures, small cuts or tears.
2. In a dark room, shine a flashlight from the inside of the wader toward the fabric and look from the outside to see any holes.
3. Slowly walk into the water until you feel the water coming in. Mark the depth on the outside with chalk or crayon and examine closely.
4. Securely tie the waders up so that the feet touch the ground, fill with water until leaks are found. Completely dry after this test.

SAFETY

We recommend that a person put on his waders and learn how to swim in them and take them off while treading water. Be sure you are accompanied by a capable assistant while doing this.

Remember that the water inside the wader is no heavier than the water outside the wader and will not cause you to sink. We also do not believe there is enough air in the wader to make you float by picking up your legs.

The major problem is PANIC. Be sure that you can handle yourself safely before you attempt wading in the water depths that waders will allow you to enter.

HOW TO CARE FOR THOSE WADERS

Steelhead and salmon will be entering the rivers soon so you should get those good 'ole waders out and give them a once over to make sure they are ready for this fall and winter fishing.

Here are a few tips on how to care for waders:

1. Wash any grease or oils off with soap and warm water. If you have the misfortune to take a spill wash the inside of the wader and boot.
2. Rinse off any salt water or mud.
3. Dry the wader inside and out. This can be done by pulling the tops down over the boots inside

out. Stuff newspaper inside the boots to absorb the moisture, repeat until the boot is dry. Wipe the tops dry with a towel, if you use foot powder in your regular shoes, also do so in your waders to help prevent deterioration from bacteria and mildew.

4. After the waders are dry either use a boot hanger (upside down) or fold and put them back in box. Marathon waders manufactures do not recommend hanging their waders up to dry. I've owned a pair of Converse Hodgmans, which I just retired after 15 years of constant use and I hung them up without a problem for 15 years. Enough said.
5. Keep waders away from direct sunlight while in the car.



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MICHIGAN STEELHEAD AND SALMON
FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

DETROIT AREA CHAPTER

1817 BARRETT
ROYAL OAK, MI 48067



Non-Profit Organization

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¼c Boric Acid —
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1 ea. Lead Sinkers
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34° F Water Temperature
1 pt. Schnapps

Take one steelhead 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.

Corner

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