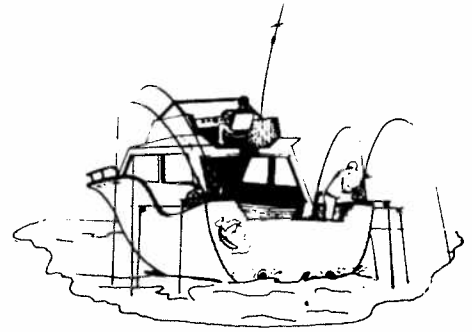




# FISHIN' TALES



DETROIT AREA CHAPTER  
MICHIGAN STEELHEAD AND SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE DETROIT AREA CHAPTER

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 11

DECEMBER 1976



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

### CHAPTER DIRECTORS ELECTED

Ballots were sent out in the October Fishin' Tales for the election of Chapter Directors whose terms had expired. Members were asked to bring their ballots to the October meeting.

#### New Directors:

3 year term — Elton Luckritz  
Murrell Blackburn, Larry Serafin  
2 year term — Tony Recchia  
Jim Boyer

1 year term — Mike De Camillo  
Mike Trevas

### PRE-CHRISTMAS

#### ANNUAL MEETING

#### ON DECEMBER 22nd

The Annual December Membership meeting has always seemed to be our biggest and most fun. Because of the festive Christmas mood everyone is in, the meeting is a great success.

Not only will there be twice as many door prizes, but extra large raffle prizes and a special free ticket will be given to all ladies present to be used in the Christmas tree decorated with all types of lures.

Good people, good talk, good fun. See you all December 22nd at the Troy Hilton!

### GREAT DAY FOR MICHIGAN VOTERS

As warned in earlier issues of Fishin' Tales the public would be besieged with slanted propaganda prior to the election by the beer and soft drink industry in hopes to discredit Proposal A—to ban throwaways.

Though threatened with high costs, loss of jobs and inconvenience, the people of Michigan stood firm in favor of a cleaner environment. In an overwhelming vote the Michigan voters elected to ban throwaways.

Credit goes to thousands of citizens and dozens of organizations who took the time to convince their friends and whoever they met to vote for Proposal A. We should give special thanks to Michigan United Conservation Clubs and its executive director Tom Washington without whose support and money Proposal A most surely would not have passed. A big thanks to all Steelheaders who pushed for Proposal A's passage.

Though I think we all agree that Proposal A did not take into consideration the retail shops

continued on page 11 ...

### IMPORTANT - MAIL TODAY CHAPTER QUESTIONNAIRE

The annual 1977 chapter questionnaire is included with this newsletter. Our fishing holes are constantly changing and our club management changes each year. That's why each member is sent the inquiry every year. Please make it a point to complete the form and mail it as soon as possible or bring it to the Dec. 22nd meeting.

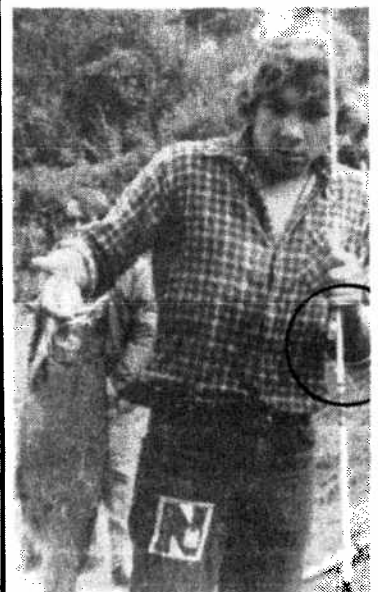
Among the questions asked is query about jackets that can be made available to each member. If the questionnaire indicates sufficient interest, a sample jacket will be shown at the next meeting. Price, wording and designs to be printed on them will also be available.

There are many important subjects on the questionnaire to help the directors decide in what direction the chapter should head in 1977. Space on the back of the page can be used for additional comments. Lend your voice and hand to the Detroit Chapter.

### DNR UNABLE TO ENFORCE SNAGGING

Every major river and most small streams that have any population of salmon in them are being subjected to the worst abuse possible by the snagger and egg seller.

Uncontrolled, widespread, illegal snagging and egg harvesting is ignored by DNR. The DNR under Dr. Wayne Tody, has lost all control to regulate fishing rules and regulations. Because of Dr. Tody's approval of salmon snagging the DNR now has on its hands one of the worst problems confronting our rivers and environment today. The snagging



continued on page 2 ...

*This young lad is holding a steelhead trout illegally snagged with Spider (see inside half-circle). This picture was taken on a sunny afternoon in September '76 at the Foote Dam, AuSable River.*

**FISHIN' TALES**

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

3240 Chase  
Warren, Michigan 48091

\*\*\*\*\*

A decidedly biased paper acknowledging the editor's viewpoint that there's only one way permissible to catch the planted anadromous strain and lake trout — hook and line; and those employing any other method be eyed with suspicion nay, cast into the lot of outlaws and be regarded as such.

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

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Tom Schneider	755-5975
Karen Serafin —	537-6926
Karry Serafin	537-6926
Mike Trevas	563-9541

**DIRECTORS MEET**

The chapter directors held their monthly meeting Nov. 11th. Those present included newly elected directors Jim Boyer, Membership Chairman; Mike DiCamillo, Tournament Co-chairman; and Mike Trevas.

Highlights of the meeting included approval of new chapter by-laws, authored and presented by Bob Rutt. The directors decided that the annual membership meeting will be held on December 22nd, where the new by-laws will be read and available. The board voted to elect Elton Luckritz as chapter representative to the state MSSFA board of directors; and the first river tournament is planned at the Big Manistee river on Dec. 11th.

# THE CLUB

# Hot Line 291-8249

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**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 Vice 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!

**DNR UNABLE TO ENFORCE SNAGGING**

continued from page 1

problem will only become worse unless drastic action is taken by the DNR now. (See accompany story about salmon snagging on page 3.)

We urge all sportsmen and clubs to write to Dr. Howard Tanner and tell him he must control the snagging and immediately begin to enforce the fishing regulations controlling snagging. He must also immediately begin to formulate a new plan in regards to salmon snagging in conjunction with approval from major fishing clubs who are at this time joining together to formulate a plan of their own to present to the DNR.

As a footnote, we would like to thank the DNR for not enforcing the illegal snagging of spawning brown trout on Stoney Creek this fall; also this spring go up to any steelhead river and watch the snaggers snag steelhead off their spawning beds. You'll see the snaggers but you won't see the DNR, so be sure to call the DNR Hot Line 1-800-292-7800. Snitch on a snagger save our rivers!

**THROWAWAYS ARE BANNED AT PARKS**

reprint from Northwoods Call

Waiting until they could be sure their move would be popular with the public, the Natural Resources Commission has banned the sale of throwaway beverage containers at DNR facilities.

The move means that concessions at state parks, recreation areas and harbors of refuge will no longer sell soft drinks in no-deposit containers. It also means pop machines in DNR office buildings will dispense returnable bottles. Visitors and office workers will be able to bring throwaway containers onto DNR property.

The move is to be implemented immediately.

The Commission ordered the ban on throwaways after the statewide election landslide outlawing non-returnable soda and beer containers. The bottle bill does not take effect for two years.

Some critics charged that the DNR should have taken this action long ago, but the Commissioners did not have the courage to do so until it determined what voters thought.

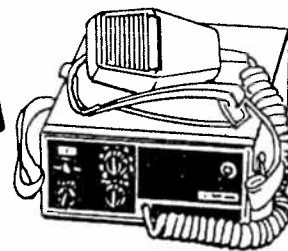
In ordering throwaways out of DNR facilities, the Commission urged Gov. Milliken to take the same action at all state facilities. Milliken's administrative assistant, George Weeks, said the governor is studying the proposal.

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## **PRESIDENT FORD ELIMINATES PCB'S DISCHARGE IN GREAT LAKES**

by Ken Bonin

The Federal Toxic Substance Control Act (S3149), which is considered to be the final piece of legislation required to eliminate the discharge of PCB's into the Great Lakes and the environment, was signed by President Ford on October 13, 1976. This Act imposes the following restrictions on PCB's:

1. Effective one year after enactment (10-13-77) no person may manufacture, process or distribute PCB's except for use in a totally enclosed manner. (i.e. - electrical capacitors)

2. Effective two years after enactment (10-13-78) no person may manufacture any PCB's.

3. Effective 2½ years after enactment (4-13-79) no person may process or distribute PCB's.

Exemptions may be granted to Items 2 and 3 if it is determined by the EPA Administrator that:

a) The exemption is necessary for the protection of human health (i.e.- electrical capacitors, other compounds are a fire hazard).

b) Good faith efforts are being made to develop a substitute chemical compound to ultimately eliminate the need for the use of PCB's.

The overall effect of the Toxic Substance Control Act is the requirement that all potentially dangerous chemicals be tested, and proven to be not harmful to public health and the environment, before marketing. This requirement should eliminate the possibility of other PCB, DDT and mercury type chemicals being discovered in the nation's waters in the future.

The Toxic Substance Control Act marks the successful end point of the Steelheader's recent efforts to obtain legislation to solve the PCB problem. Enforcement of the legislation is our next objective. In Michigan, enforcement should not be a problem based on the excellent record of the DNR Water Resources Commission in cleaning up Michigan Waters.

## **UGH! THE FILTH SNAGGERS LEAVE**

reprint from *Northwoods Calls*

How filthy are salmon snaggers? It is impossible to comprehend. Staggering.

DNR field men who had to clean up behind the 10,000's of snaggers below Foote Dam this fall say that if all of the filth were stacked in one pile it would be as high as a big-city skyscraper.

More than 3,000 drums, each with a 55-gallon capacity, of cans, bottles and paper stuff were hauled away from the site. That is more than 165,000 gallons of crud—the overwhelming bulk of it throwaway bottles and cans.

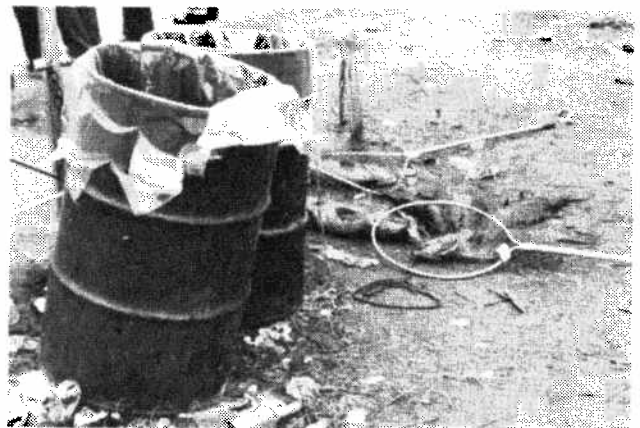
But don't be misled. That 165,000 gallons by no means represents all of the filth left by snaggers. Probably not much more than 50%. In addition, dozens of huge Dempsey Dumpsters full of trash were hauled away commercially. Tons of dead salmon, ripped open for their eggs and discarded, were hauled away.

And there's still plenty left. Large quantities of litter remains on the river bottom and in the brush. Miles of monofilament line covers the bottom and is snagged in stumps and logs. DNR field men say they have no idea how they will get rid of it. Ugh!



*Snaggers at the Foote Dam this fall produced 3,000 55-gallon drums of garbage ( cans, bottles, paper stuff ).*

*Dead and rotting fish with their egg sacks cut out, lay on the ground while kids play with the miles of monofilament line left in the bushes and lining the bottom of the once beautiful AuSable River bed.*




## **DNR FISHERIES' CHIEF AWARDED**


Fishin' Tales has awarded Dr. Wayne Tody the "Silver Spider Award" for his contribution to the encouragement of salmon snagging.

Dr. Tody may pick up his award at any of the Detroit Area Chapter Steelhead Meetings held the last Wednesday of every month at Troy Hilton, Troy Michigan.

We hope that Dr. Tody's successor, Mr. John Scott will not be the second recipient of the annual award.



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# THE AUSABLE 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:

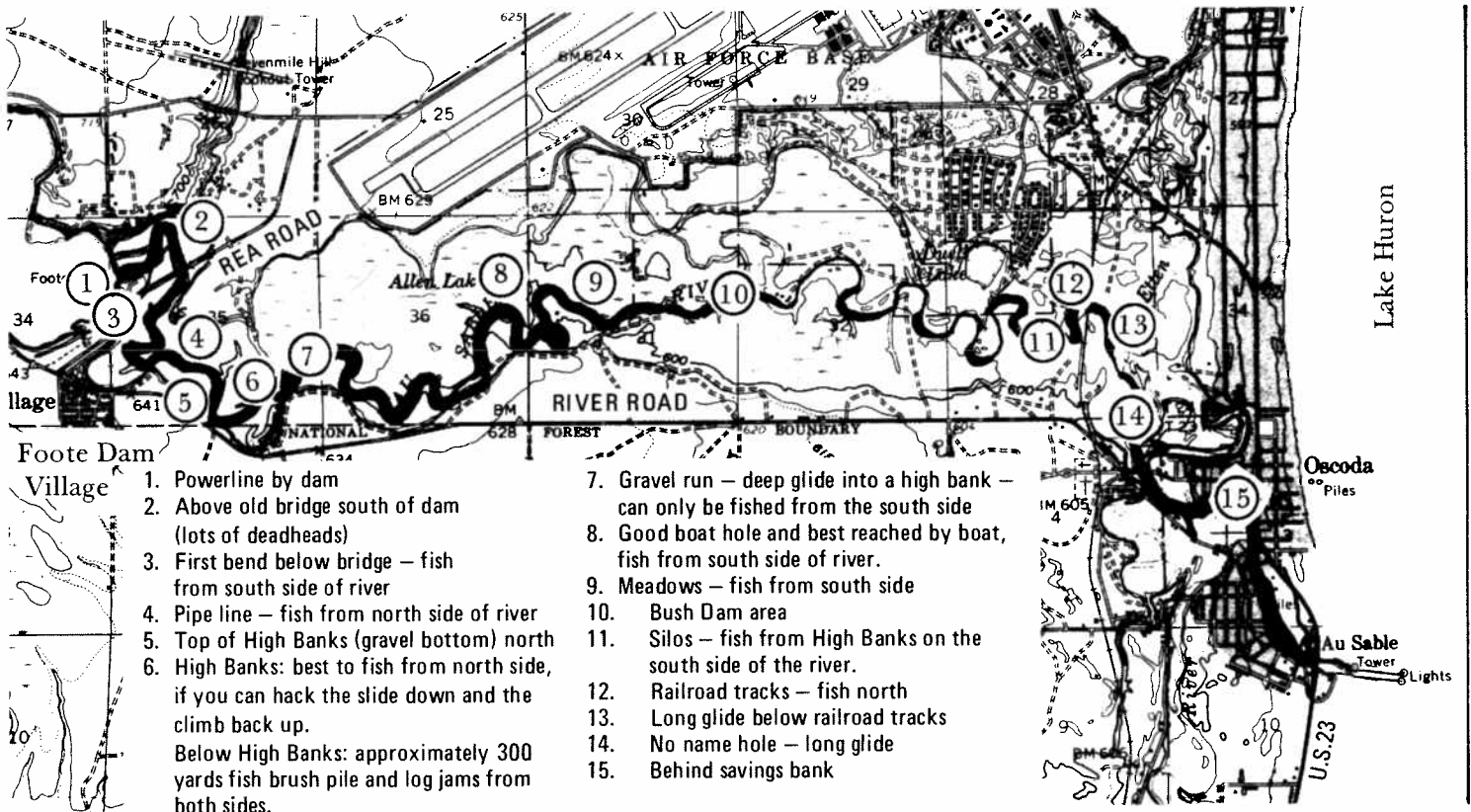
First, it will save you a large amount of terminal tackle by knowing where the snags and deadheads are located. You may not see them at high water and if you're not careful, you'll hang up every cast. Second, it will help you locate the deeper holes where the fish will be holding under high water conditions. 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 when ever 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.

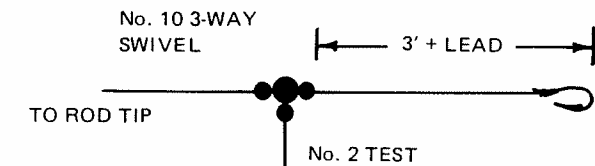
During rising and high water, we have found the traditional Cherry Bobber to be the most effective bait. There are many varieties; Corky, Spin and Glow, Bob and Glow and Wobble Glow, all manufactured by Yakima Bait of Granger, Washington and the Okie Drifter manufactured by Luhr Jensen of Hood River, 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.

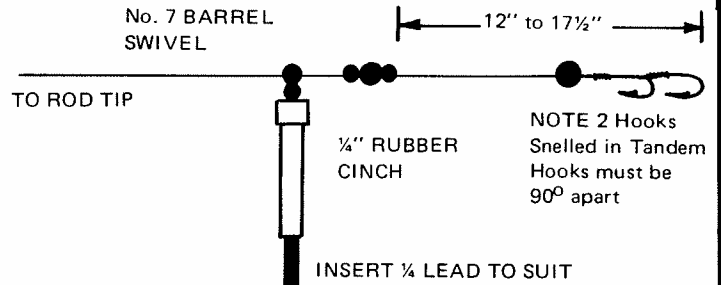
When fishing this technique, remember the bait must move rapidly through the hole. We do not believe in the time honored tap-tap drift pattern, the sinker must skip on the bottom every three or four feet to give the proper action to the bait in the right drift pattern.



#### 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.*



## 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.



Tom Schneider displays 11½ lb. winter steelhead.

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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## WAS IT ONLY A YEAR AGO . . . . .

that the Detroit Chapter held its first river fishing tournament on the AuSable river December 27th. Do you remember that Pete Jonas? You ought to you won it.

Murrell Blackburn, Gale Spalinger, Tony Recchia, and Larry Serafin were elected for one year terms.

Some of our first women joined the club — Anne Makela, Karen Serafin and Janet Irvine. Karen has since become Treasurer of the club, Janet — Publisher of Fishin' Tales and Anne the mother of a brand new baby boy.

February — the chapter decided to buy a boat to raffle off.

The Detroit Chapter added its support to the Indian fishing issue. Chapter officers elected — Tom Schneider, President; John Makela, VP; Dave Gresham, Sec.; Ed Raquel Treasurer. The very successful Betsie River Fishing Clinic was held. Southeastern Michigan Fishing Council formed. The Tuna Boat is for sale.

March — The Detroit Chapter holds its first Steelhead Show for general public. This show will turn into the largest public turnout in the club's history. From this show all other state and chapter shows will use our format. Another star for the progressive Detroit Chapter.

The Tuna Boat is still for sale.

April — Brown trout fishing



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excellent in Thunder Bay off the cement plant. Don White wins boat raffle. Eugene Budde sells 900 tickets for number one ticket seller for the raffle.

May — Sen. Faust presents Senate Bill 1376 to ban depthfinders. At this writing I think the bill rests at the bottom of Lake Michigan. Throwaways petition drive sponsored by the MUCC to obtain 300,000 signatures by June 1st. Makela wins first tournament at South Haven.

June — Cass Lake Research Trip. Irvine wins Charlevoix tournament. The suggestion box begins.

July — Elton Luckritz wins at Alpena tournament. Chinook salmon being caught off Ludington. Bottle bill petition passed. Court of Appeals refused to reject the petition. Ladies and Gents tournament held at Alpena. Anne Makela caught the only fish. A 4 lb. brown.

August — Chuck Cartwright wins tournament at Ludington. Chapter Hot Line is great success, thanks to Murrell Blackburn.

September — Chapter Research trip to Detroit river hailed biggest flop since last year's DRIFT. Irvine wins Oscoda tournament.

November — Proposal Apasses. Throwaways are banned.

Thank you all very much for making this year a great year. Please give your club your support in the year ahead. You're all a great bunch of people.



## A LETTER OF THANKS TO THE DETROIT CHAPTER

by Steve Hamilton

Prior to 1976 I had never caught a steelhead, ~~herring~~ 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 lakery 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 lakery 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!

## SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

### HOT LINE REPORT

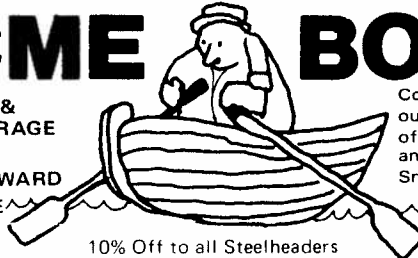
by Murrell Blackburn

So far this year our "Hot Line" has been very successful. During the summer months calls were averaging from 20 + to 30 a day. We feel this is a good response since it only started in July. Here I want to make everyone aware that the report every week is expensive and should be used by everyone. Any information that is called in will help defray our telephone expense.

Now that all the trolling and lake fishing is over the river steelhead fishermen take over. This is the first time anyone has tried to report on the river steelhead fishing. We hope it will be as good as the summer report. The area we are lacking information in is the southwest part of the state. If you fish over there, or know anyone that does please have them call and relay the information, or contact me and I can make the calls.

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Another way we utilize the Hot Line is the announcements of our tournaments and meetings. If anyone has any suggestions that will help us to improve the Hot Line, call me at home or contact me at the meetings. My

home phone is 291-3881. The Hot Line is 291-8249.

I want to thank everyone that has called and given me information. This contribution seems small but it helps us determine where the best fishing will be.



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## SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN FISHING COUNCIL HOLDS SECOND MEETING

On November 10th the second meeting of the S.E.M.F.C. was held at the Telegraph House with eight clubs being represented. Tom Schneider and Paul Irvine were present to represent the Detroit Area Chapter.

The guest speaker was Ron Spitler, DNR Pontiac, and Carman McLarty DNR District Waterways Supervisor. Ron gave a very optimistic view on preservation of the St. John Marsh. Ron stated that the DNR was in favor of preserving the Marsh and that land filling was doubtful. Good News!

Mr. McLarty spoke on launch sites and launch site fees, the cost involved in acquiring prospective launch sites, construction and upkeep in comparison with small charge to boat owners. Mr. McLarty also stated that he would look into extending launch site hours from 4 am to 11 pm.

The issue of snagging was discussed and what could be done to control the snaggers. Paul Irvine and John Pinto volunteered to coordinate efforts with other clubs throughout the state in joining together to apply pressure on the DNR to start doing their job. In the next year we hope you will see some drastic measures taken to control the snagging to only designated areas.

## SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT HARRISVILLE SPLAKE FISHING

by Mike Seckman

After reading the August issue of Fishin' Tales on Splake Trout fishing I felt I could add some additional information. Many fishermen spend a lot of money and travel long distances to fish and I feel that all the facts will help them be more successful.

From our experience the last 3 years, the best time to fish the splake at Harrisville is August 15 to September 20. Now keeping the time of year in mind I am going to give you some interesting figures we came up with in a fishing survey this year.

Early one morning 11 of us left Galdwin for a 2 day fishing trip with the intentions of catching 100 splake trout for our survey. Four days later we caught our 100th splake trout, 13 chinook salmon and 2 steelhead. We returned to our understanding wives and compiled the following figures:

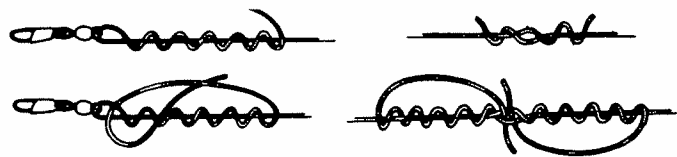
Out of the 100 splake, 91 were hooked on the outside of the mouth with the barb pointing in, 6 were hooked in the front fin and were released. Only 3 were hooked on the inside of the mouth.

Out of 13 chinook, 12 were hooked on the outside of the mouth and one in the fin. None of the chinook were hooked inside the mouth.

The only fish we caught that we felt actually bit, were 2 steelhead.

Another interesting fact, is out of the 100 splake trout caught I caught 17 of them and I was using a small piece of brown cork to float my hook with NO bait

## Frequently Used Fisherman's Knots

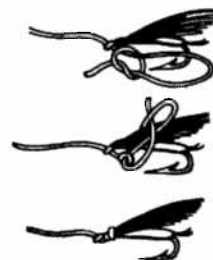


### IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT

for tying on lures, hooks, swivels

### BLOOD KNOT

for joining lines, leaders of same diameter.



### TURLE KNOT

for tying flies or lures to leader material.



Larry Sveen with a 14 lb. king and Bobby with a 11 lb. king caught in October on the AuGres River using globs of spawn. A total of 5 kings were caught in all.

at all. The only advantage of using bait is you might catch an occasional steelhead.

Here are some tips on the type of rig we used.

1. Wrap your drop line around main line a couple of times they tie it on with a knot but be careful not to use a knot in your main line as it will weaken it.

2. Make sure your weight hangs an inch or two below your hook so the sinker does not touch the fish before the hook.

3. Use a small single hook because they are easier to float.

4. Don't use any more weight than necessary to hold you on

bottom, that way when a fish is running your line he won't feel the sinker dragging bottom.

5. Use spawn floated with a marshmallow, an inflated nite crawler or a piece of cork but make sure you float your hook for best results.

6. Fish in the current, either toss a marshmallow in the mouth of the creek and watch its travel or watch the fishermen that are already there.

7. Be patient with other fishermen and don't rush them when they have a fish on, remember you may be the next to holler fish on!

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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.

Now, the bad news: the weather this year turned cold very fast. Long-johns and ski-mobile suits were used later in October, but's also a bonus when cold temperatures bring-in the lake trout to Tawas Bay. In 10-12 feet of water, long lines off downriggers, use chargers and flutterspoons. The lakere were small because they're young. Next year we'll catch average 8-11 pounders. I missed one weekend this year — the event was the steelheader's annual meeting and dinner. The weekend just prior was pleasant and mild. I didn't drain the engine. The week after the meeting saw temperatures in Tawas drop way down. I fished the following weekend for a mix of 20 browns, coho and lakere. I also fished with a cracked block and leaky out-drive. Damn! I always wondered what those little "thingamajigs" on the engine were. Petcocks! (Let me know if you see a 6-cylinder Volvo around.)

However eventful the last trip good and bad, the biggest was yet to come. The day after I got home I took ma for a trip — the following morning I had another 8 pound 'feller. That was the final event to close my trolling season.

See youseguys in Alpena in April.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A special congratulations to John and Anne on the birth of their 8 lb. boy — He's a "keeper"!

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Thank You....

## LETTERS TO THE CLUB ...

Dear Editor:

Regarding your "My Opinion" article in the October Newsletter.

I'm in complete agreement with your views. We have resorted to AuGres because of the AuSable slops which are not only near the dam but from the dam to Oscoda.

The snagging problem is not only effecting the morals of the children but also adults who are trying fishing for the first time. Snagging is the only way they know to fish!

A few weeks ago a teenage boy about 17 was trying in vain to net some salmon in a shallow area of the AuSable. While he was resting I asked him to watch while I put a flatfish in the water and let it wash down to the fish. He was amazed when the king snapped at it. He said he was told they wouldn't bite.

I can only hope that this boy will pass this info on to others and they will try fishing and not snagging.

Larry Sveen

Member of Detroit Area Chapter

Dear Editor:

I have read your article about salmon snagging at the Foote Dam and I agree that snagging as it is now must change.

Why don't we just stop planting the salmon and then the problem will be solved.

This is not the answer, but your idea of a tough enforcement of present laws is the answer to the problem.

I know that since 1967 when I first fished for the salmon I have not been able to get one to take my bait when they are on the fall spawning run.

I feel the answer to our problem lies more in getting both sides together, discussing the problem and creating new laws to control the problem that would be favorable to both sides.

Frank M. Prach

Member of Detroit Area Chapter

Dear Sir:

A mutual friend sent us a copy of your October newsletter. Thereport on the 1976 D.R.I.F.T. project was very disturbing to us.

Although the Stroh Brewery Company and your organization were on opposite sides of Proposal "A", the disagreement was one of the best methods to be used, not that there isn't a real litter problem that requires our mutual efforts to eliminate.

It is apparent from your report, that someone at Stroh's did not understand the Company's policy supporting projects such as yours that enhance the recreational and sporting opportunities in the Metropolitan area.

I apologize for this misunderstanding. If you could provide the details of your original request and the subsequent refusal of help, it would help us insure against future problems of this nature.

I look forward to seeing you on the river when the run finally does materialize — good fishing!

Sincerley,  
W. V. Weatherston  
Asst. to the President &  
Executive Vice President  
Strohs Brewery Company,  
Detroit, Michigan

## The Cook's Corner

### FINISH SMOKED SALMON SOUP "Helsinki Style"

by Anne Makela

2 cans (13 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. size) chicken broth

10 fresh dill stalks

$\frac{1}{2}$  t. dill seeds

$\frac{3}{4}$  lb. new potatoes, pared and sliced

1 C sliced washed leek

$\frac{3}{4}$  lb. smoked salmon, cubed

$\frac{1}{2}$  C fresh dill leaves

2 T. butter

$\frac{1}{4}$  t. white pepper

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

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

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

To serve: simmer, uncovered, 10 to 15 minutes, or until hot. Make 8 servings.

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**GREAT DAY FOR  
MICHIGAN VOTERS**

continued from page 1

who would have to spend extra money and inconvenience with regard to the returnable, unfortunately there will always be those hurt to better the majority. I'm sorry there could not be a compromise, but in this issue there can not be a compromise.

The great importance of the bottle bill victory will be seen in years to come much more than can be realized now. I take my hat off to all of you.

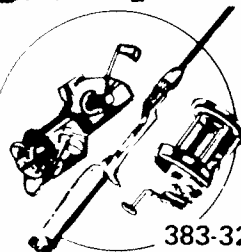
The Editor



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