



Fishin' Tales

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

April Meeting

- **When:**
Tuesday, April 26, 2016 7:30pm
- **Where:**
American Polish Cultural Center
NW corner, 15 Mile Rd. & Dequindre
- **Featured Guest Speaker :**
Dave Mull - Great Lakes Angler
Boating Safety
- **Other Happenings:**
Ice Fishing Outing & River Tournament reports., Outing Info., Tackle raffles, 50/50 raffle, Every Member Drawing
- **DAS website:** www.detroitsteelheaders.com
- **Be sure to check out**
The DAS Message Board on the website for the most up-to-date club news and information

Volume XXXXI, Issue IV

April 2016

Kick-off to 2016 DAS Trolling Season at St. Joseph

Saturday April 30, 2016.

Skippers Meeting and Weigh-In :

West Basin Marina 273 Marina Dr., St. Joseph, MI.

Meeting @ 5:00am, drop lines @ 6:00am.

Channel 72 for fish calls @ 9:00am and noon.

Pull lines @ 1:00pm & Be in the weigh-in line by 2:00pm.



This trolling season opening tournament will be a fish-off against the Huron Valley Sportfishing Club. The total weight of the top five boat's catches from each club will determine the winner of the Golden Salmon Challenge Trophy, pictured above. Post tournament shore lunch will be provided by port captains Blaise Pewinski and Dan Chisholm in cooperation with the Huron Valley Club. You must contact the port captain when you return to port at the end of the tournament or if you return to port for any reason during tournament hours.

The only rule change this year is that we will now count a maximum of 5 fish for each boat's weigh-in. We will weigh all fish but only the 5 largest weights will be counted. Tournament fees remain at \$10 per tournament and there is no annual fee discount. Big fish pool also remains at \$10 per boat and the largest fish takes the entire pool.

Random notes from our March meeting Featured Speaker Captain Tony of Morgan's Tackle:

This area is known for early season Coho and Lake Trout but Kings can also be plentiful. The surface water temperature is already warming indicating early season catches can be good for all species. This time of year lead up to 5 colors can be productive. The meat bite improves when the water temp rises to 50 degrees or above. Downriggers become more productive above 46 degrees. Early season divers at a number 3 setting. Body baits and spoons below 50 degrees, spoons and flies above 50 degrees.

I hope we have a good turnout for this first tournament of the year as we face off against a very good sport fishing club. See you in St. Joseph on April 30

Dan Chisholm
"Channing"

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Trout Outing at Island Lake Rec Area



We had a great trout outing at Island Lake State Recreation area! I believe there were 12 members in attendance on April 2nd. Pretty good turnout, especially considering the lousy weather. It was definitely not the weather that we would have ordered but we still had fun. It snowed, sleeted, and

hailed all in the same morning. I'm sure the weather was responsible for the rather slow fishing. Some of the members did manage to score on some nice fish, including Mark Carlson, Dennis Harper and Bob Paradise. I believe Bob caught the most but Dennis took the best picture, his 17lb Brown Trout is pictured here on the left.

The DAS crew had a great potluck BBQ! Member Mark Carlson was the grill master, Anthony Lewis donated some tasty venison brats and Italian Sausage, and Doug Karakas provided potato salad and entrainment. All in all, fun fishing and good fellowship was had by all.

Anthony Lewis
Non-Boat Committee Member

MEMBERSHIP NEWS**Currently: 149 Members****New Memberships Welcome!****Re-Newed Memberships**

LOU BACSKIN	ROBERT BUTKIEWICZ	JUSTIN HERBERT	ANDREW STOCKTON
RICHARD BARCH	DAN CHISHOLM	RON PISARSKI	

Memberships Expired

2 mo. Ago Last Reminder:	HERMANN CHRISTOPH	TOM LERNER	BILL RICHARDS	
	CALVIN DOCTOR	THOMAS OSENTOSKI	BRIAN ZAPORSKI	
1 Mo. Ago First Reminder:	NIC AMICONE	BRAD HENDERSON	ANTHONY LEWIS	DAVID MAYFIELD
	CHARLES DENNING	ERIC ISROW	JAMES LORENZETTI	BRUCE TURNAGE
This Month:	HENRY BACZYNSKI	NORM DAVIES	ED HILL	GARY ROWOLDT
	JEFF BUSTOS	STEPHEN GENOFF	ROBERT JONES	DARRELL SMITH
	MIKE & ANTHONY CORTIS	JOHN GESING	JAMES LEGENZOFF	ALLAN VAN BROCKLIN

Detroit Area Steelheaders is on Facebook.

To connect with Detroit Area Steelheaders sign up or Log in to Facebook to-

**Tackle Matters**

The April meeting topic is oboater safety. With that in mind the April tackle raffle table features safety items that every boat should have on-board. Things like an auto-inflate PFD, fire extinguisher, first aid kit, signal horn, and flares.

Many of these are required for a successful Coast Guard inspection and others are just a good, handy item to have near-by when needed. A throw-able flotation device can easily cost over \$100, or you can make your own out of an approved throw-able device with an attached nylon line that floats.

With luck none of these items will be needed in an emergency but they must be available just in case. The life you save may be your own or someone you care about. One final thought; PFDs are useless unless they are worn!

Dan Chisholm**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.**

P.O. Box 1255 Sterling Hgts., MI 48311-1255

Membership Application

New Member - \$35 Yearly

Renewal - \$35 Yearly

Senior (65 & over)- \$20 Yearly

Address Change only

Amt. Paid \$_____

NAME		DATE	
ADDRESS			
CITY, STATE ZIP		HOME PHONE	CELL PHONE
BOAT NAME		E-MAIL ADDRESS	

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS****TOM GORGUZE**

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Appropriations
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586-588-4551**BOB PARADISE**River, Surf & Pier
586-781-2543**TOM THEIDA**River, Surf & Pier, Membership
586-206-5902**CHRIS TURAK**

Website

586-979-4898**CARL VENTIMIGLIA**Wild Game Dinner
586-615-7459**JIM ZANKE**Special People, Shows
586-489-2041**Assistants****LINDA BANBURY**

Special People

MARY KARAKAS

Special People

DAS Grand Haven Tournament

Saturday May 21 & Sunday May 22, 2016

Grand Haven Municipal Marina.

101 N. Harbor Dr.,

Grand Haven, MI (616) 847-3478

Saturday: Skippers meeting at 5:00 am with tournament start at 6:00 am. Fish calls for Saturday are 9:00 am and 11:00 am. Pull lines by 1:00 pm with weigh-in at Municipal Marina on the hill at 2:00 pm.

Sunday: No skippers meeting on Sunday but tournament start remains at 6:00 am. We will do a radio check-in on the water Sunday at 6:00 am with one fish call @9:00 am. Pull lines @11:00 am with weigh-in @12:00 pm.



Check the Detroit Steelheaders message board (Tournaments) for additional details where you will find tournament rules, information on where to stay, local restaurants, marinas, and tactics to use.

Early spring in Grand Haven provides opportunities to fish for Coho, Kings, Steelhead, and Lake Trout. You get to pick your target and choose your tactics. You can target the shallow heavily stained mud line (10 to 20 feet) coming out from the Grand River, or possibly the 60 to 75 feet deep Trench off the Twin Sisters, or maybe you will go out to deeper waters for Steelhead or Kings. What you do is your decision and your choice, anything is possible. The waters are typically crystal clear so light conditions and lure size can make a big difference. Maybe go with darker colors early and brighten up when the sun comes out. Orange and gold and pearl and white are good combinations for this time of year.

As is always the case, lunch will be provided. Bring your appetite and your best attitude and let's have some fun at the club's second tournament stop in 2016 at the beautiful port of Grand Haven!

Bob Feisel
'Vickie's Seacret'
Port Captain



Capt. Tony Wiatrowski, from Morgan's Tackle Co., speaking to the March Membership meeting about early Spring fishing on Lake Michigan near St. Joe.

2016 Boat Trolling Tournaments

Date	Port	Port Captain
April 30 (6:00am - 1:00pm)	St. Joseph plus Fish Off vs. Huron Valley Sportfishing Club	Blaise Pewinski/Dan Chisholm
May 21 (6:00am - 1:00pm)	Grand Haven	Bob Feisel
May 22 (6:00am - 11:00am)		
June 4 (6:00am - 1:00pm)	Harbor Beach	Jim Zanke
July 30 (6:00am - 1:00pm)	Port Austin	Bob Jones/Bob Ksionzek
August 13 (6:00am - 1:00pm)	Manistee	Tom Gorguze
August 27 (6:00am - 1:00pm)	Ludington	Joe Von Grabe

Michigan King Salmon Stocking may Become a Thing of the Past



By Garret Ellison | gellison@mlive.com MLive.com

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on April 06, 2016 @8:35AM, updated April 06, 2016 @ 8:36AM



Coho salmon fingerings at the Platte River State Fish Hatchery on Monday, April 4, 2015 during a 50-year anniversary celebration of Michigan's Pacific salmon stocking program initiated in 1966. (Garret Ellison | MLive.com)

BEULAH, MI — The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is considering another reduction in the number of chinook salmon being stocked in Lake Michigan and fishery managers say the practice may be eliminated altogether if the population of the prized catch continues to decline.

"If we make one more cut, and then have to make another cut, it'll be done," said Jim Dexter, DNR fisheries division chief.

Dexter spoke on Monday, April 4, during an event at the Platte River State Fish Hatchery celebrating the [50-year anniversary of Michigan's salmon stocking program](#), a controversial experiment launched in 1966 to control invasive species that spawned a \$7 billion Great Lakes sport fishery.

The stocking projects started with Pacific Coho salmon, but chinook — known as öking salmonö because of their size in the aquatic food chain and value as a sport fish — were added to the program two years later. Since then, chinooks have become a cornerstone of the state's lauded recreational fishery.

Unfortunately, their numbers are down — [way down](#) — in Lake Michigan, which the DNR says is inevitably going the way of Lake Huron, where the chinook population [crashed](#) in 2003 and 2004 and has yet to recover.

The chinook population in Lake Michigan has dropped about 75 percent from its peak in 2012 and the fall 2015 fish harvest at weirs in Manistee and Traverse City was down more than 80 percent since 2014. That has major implications on tourism around Michigan lakeshores, where charter boats, bait shops, restaurants, hotels and other businesses rely on anglers.

Lake Michigan salmon fishing is a "mere skeleton" of what it was five, 10 years ago, when daily fishing trips would average 8 to 12 salmon per family of four, said Eric Anderson, president of the Michigan Charter Boat Association.

While new customers seem satisfied fishing a different species, for customers who remember the chinook catch heyday, "it's hard for them to accept."

"[It's hurting the charter industry](#)," he said. "I don't know of guys closing up shop, but I do know of about four or five older captains who have decided to give it up."

Dexter and former fisheries chief Howard Tanner, [who pioneered the salmon fish stocking program](#), blame the decline on a drop in alewife baitfish, which are dwindling as eye-popping numbers invasive quagga mussels reduce nutrients, phytoplankton and other sources of fish food on the lake bed.

As quagga mussels have surpassed densities of [35,000 per square-meter](#) in parts of Lake Michigan, tiny shrimp called Diporeia — a baitfish food source — have dropped from an average of 5,200 per square meter to about 82 per square meter, according to 2010 data from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration.

This hasn't gone unnoticed by the DNR, which has been trying to manage the decline by stocking fewer salmon in the lake. Since 1999, the DNR has dropped the chinook stock three times, from 7 million to 1.5 million.

But with each reduction, the baitfish continue to decline.

"The mussels are absolutely at the core of the issue," said Dexter. "They are basically sucking all the energy out of the system so there's no forage available for the other critters that feed the entire food chain."

Alewives, a species of herring, invaded the Great Lakes in the 1940s and exploded in population because the invasive sea lamprey had decimated lake trout and other predator fish populations. Originally, salmon stocking was meant to reduce alewife numbers, which were fouling beaches in the 1960s from massive die-offs.

But, while coho have turned to other prey fish as alewives dwindle, the chinooks have not. They are picky eaters and don't hunt on the lake bottom, where a potential source of food is waiting — the invasive round goby.



Former Michigan DNR fisheries chief Howard Tanner at a 50-year anniversary celebration of the Pacific salmon stocking program that he initiated in 1966, at the Platte River State Fish Hatchery on Monday, April 4, 2015. (Garret Ellison | MLive.com)

"There's almost no evidence of chinook feeding on round goby," said Tanner. "The goby is almost a perfect food source. It doesn't swim well. It's slow. It doesn't have a lot of spines. It's a good baitfish if you go where it is."

Dexter said the 2012 chinook catch, while fantastic for anglers,

was something of a mirage. The fish were hitting any lure in the water because there was nothing to eat. The state recorded the highest catch rate — 36 salmon for every 100 hours fished. Last year, that rate fell to about five salmon for every 100 hours fished.

"It crashed," said Dexter.

The DNR has begun shifting its focus to other fish species. Anderson said lake trout are coming back — some anglers have

Salmon Stocking (Cont'd on Pg.5)

Salmon Stocking (From Pg.4)

landed "trophy class" 18-pounders ♂ and summer deepwater steelhead fishing was "phenomenal" last year.

In its latest budgetary request, the DNR wants an increase in funding to begin rearing an additional 200,000 steelhead at its Thompson hatchery. They are also mulling whether to stock Atlantic salmon in Lake Michigan.

Both Tanner and Dexter say chinooks won't disappear entirely from the lakes even if Michigan quits stocking them. Wild salmon stocks now represent more than 50 percent of the Great Lakes population and Michigan rivers now produce "more than what we can grow, more than likely."

Anderson, however, isn't quite sold on that.

"In my opinion, natural reproduction hasn't met up with their expectations."

Regardless, both charter captains and fishery managers agree that the days of catching 20 salmon in the morning and another 20 in the afternoon **are gone**.

"Those days are over," said Anderson. "You're going to keep catching the kings, but not in the same numbers. It's just the way it is."

Garret Ellison covers government, environment & the Great Lakes for MLive Media Group. Email him at gelli-son@mlive.com or follow on [Twitter](#) & [Instagram](#)

Michigan Sea Grant Fisheries Workshops

Michigan Sea Grant, in partnership with fisheries agencies and stakeholder organizations, hosts public information workshops annually. The workshops focus on current research and information related to the regional status of Great Lakes fisheries. These workshops are open to the public and provide valuable information for anglers, charter captains, resource professionals and other interested stakeholders.

All of the workshops are free and the public is encouraged to attend. If you're interested in attending a workshop, please register on-line at <http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/explore/fisheries/fishery-workshops/> so the organizers can plan accordingly.

About the Workshops

The annual Great Lakes Fisheries Workshops bring communities together with fisheries research and management partners to discuss research findings, management updates and fishing trends. Fisheries and natural resource managers provide big picture context to what's happening in the lakes and how it will affect fish populations for recreational, commercial and sustenance fishers.

2016 Workshop Schedule

Lake Erie/Detroit River Fishery Workshop

Taylor

Date: Thursday, April 21, 2016

Time: 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Where: American Legion Post #200, 11800 Michael St., Taylor, MI

Lake Huron Fisheries Workshop

Bay City

Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Time: 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Where: Knights of Columbus Hall, 360 S. River Rd. (M-13), Bay City, MI 48708

Uby/Bad Axe

Date: Thursday, April 21, 2016

Time: 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Where: Uby Fox Hunter's Club, 2153 Uby Rd, Uby, MI 48475

Cedarville

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Time: 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Where: Clark Township Community Center, 133 E. M-134, Cedarville, MI 49719

Alpena

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Time: 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Where: NOAA Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, 500 W. Fletcher St., Alpena, MI 49707

Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop

Date: Thursday, April 21st, 2016

Time: 7:00 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

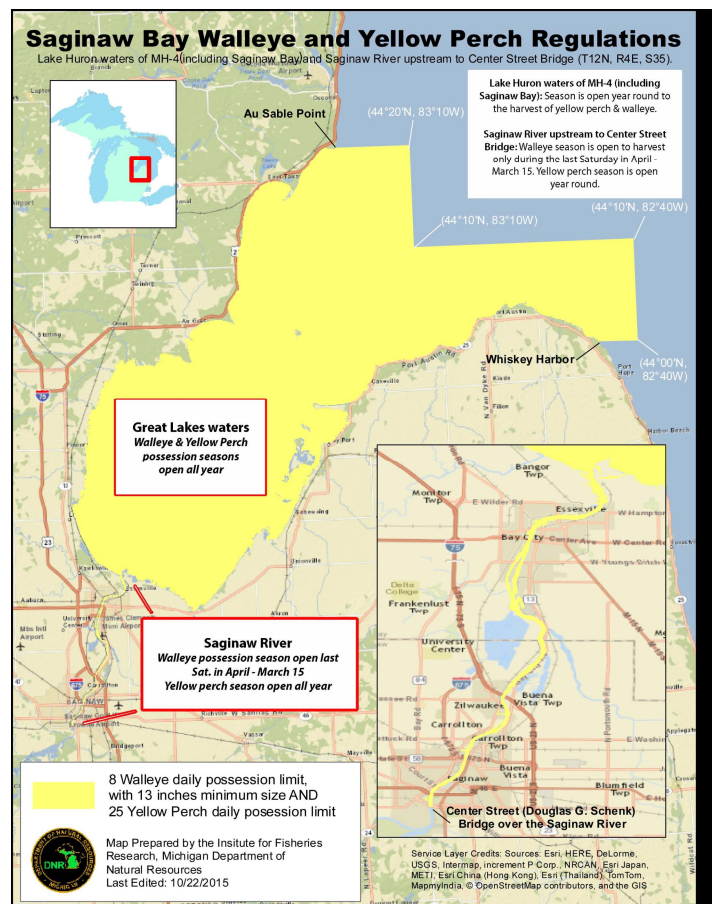
Where: South Haven Moose Lodge, 1025 Wells St., South Haven, MI

Lake St. Clair Fisheries Workshop

Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016

Time: 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Where: Sportsmen's Direct, 38989 Jefferson Ave., Harrison Township, MI





We will be offering DAS shirts, hats, and outerwear on our web store again this year. You can choose from long and short sleeve annual t-shirts, three different hat styles, a traditional fishing shirt, his n' hers ¼ zip performance shirts, and a two tone hooded sweatshirt. This year's logo items will only be available for purchase on the internet....and only for a limited time. The web store offers a convenient way to shop. Just enter <http://www.freshhotshirts.com/steelheaders> into your browser, or follow the link on the DAS homepage or message board. The web store is open for orders now until May 15th. Purchases can be paid for by most credit cards or PayPal. Size information is listed for each item. Your selections will be ready for pick-up at the May 31st membership meeting. Deliveries arrangements will be made for out of own shoppers. Sample garments in assorted sizes will be available at the April membership meeting. We'll also have a computer you can use to place orders if you don't have a computer at home. For assistance in placing your order, you can also call the web store during normal business hours at 248 335-7015.

This year's t-shirts are silk screened front and back. We have two different styles of ball caps. A flat bill and also traditional style are both offered in black. Each comes with our embroidered logo, as well as optional personalization. For colder weather we are offering a watch cap style beanie with our embroidered logo. Back from last year is the Eddie Bauer fishing shirt at a reduced price. If you missed it last year, here is your opportunity to order one. The ¼ zip performance pullover comes in a mens and ladies style. It is synthetic moisture wicking performance blend, with the DAS logo on the upper left chest.

www.freshhotshirts.com/steelheaders



\$15



\$50



\$20



\$20



+ \$4 to add a name

\$45



\$40

NEW!! Angler of the Year Rules and Qualifications

Alright here it is, the Angler of the Year (AOY). If you wish to participate and have outing results count towards your AOY score, you must have your membership dues up to date and paid before you fish an event. Results for any outing fished between January and November will count towards AOY. The winner will be announced at our annual December membership meeting.

Here is how events will be scored. Rules for individual events and weigh in results will be scored by the port captain. Port captains coordinate events, establish event rules, settle disputes, record weigh in results, determine the event winner, and report event results. Fisherman weigh their three biggest fish to count towards an event score. If an event is fished from a boat, the individual who reels in the fish will count it towards his score. Fish placed in a common cooler should be tagged or marked to identify the angler.

First place will receive 5 points

Second place will receive 3 points

Third place will Receive 1 point

This will open up the club awards to people who may not have a boat or may not be into the skipper of the year as much as they would outings in river ice pier etc. If there is a tie, points will be evenly dispersed for that event.

For more information please contact me Christopher Turak chairman for Angler of Year, or contact Tom Gorguze co chair for any other information.

Angler of the year will have a special prize and a plaque. Let's make this a successful idea. Hope we get plenty more participation with events!

Good luck to all and tight lines

FISH ON!

Chris Turak

Where's the Bait?



Lake Michigan anglers can now share fish finder images with USGS scientists. Dr. David Warner (dmwarner@usgs.gov) is accepting e-mailed images of bait balls along with the following info:

ÉDate

ÉTime

ÉLocation

ÉDepth

ÉLatitude/Longitude

Are anglers seeing bait where biologists are not? Is it possible that anglers are seeing something different than the biologists who monitor baitfish abundance trends? The short answer is

yes. The longer answer is that long-term trawl and hydro-acoustic surveys used to monitor baitfish are extremely valuable and should not be dismissed by anglers concerned with the health of the lake. Even so, the long-term surveys used by biologists do have their limitations just as any sampling protocol does. Lake Michigan is immense, and it is not practical to expect scientists to be able to sample fish at all locations all of the time.

That is where anglers might be able to help. Dr. David Warner is interested in finding out just what anglers are seeing on their fish finders. This may help to piece together a better picture of when and where baitfish schools (or ðbait ballsö) are showing up.

Warner is a Research Fisheries Biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center. The USGS has been involved in bottom trawl surveys of Lake Michigan dating back to 1973. Since so much effort has gone into this program for so many years, Warner is very concerned when anglers report seeing trends that seem to be at odds with trawl data showing alewife and total baitfish biomass at all-time lows.

The problem is that angler reports do not mean much unless they are collected carefully over an extended period of time. That is why Warner is interested in enlisting anglers to send in photos of fish finders when they find bait balls, along with the date, time, location, depth, latitude, and longitude.

Upcoming 2016 DAS Key Dates

Tues., Apr. 26, 2016 7:30pm	Membership Meeting American Polish Cultural Center
Sat., Apr. 30, 2016 6:00am - 1:00pm	Boat Trolling Tournament St. Joseph
Tues., May 17, 2016 7:00pm	BOD Meeting American Polish Cultural Center
Sat., May 21, 2016 6:00am - 1:00pm	Boat Trolling Tournament Grand Haven
Sun., May 22, 2016 6:00am - 11:00am	
Tues., May 31, 2016 7:30pm	Membership Meeting American Polish Cultural Center

2016 March Membership Meeting Facts

<u>Attendance:</u>	56
<u>Featured Speakers:</u>	Tony Wiatrowski Morgan's Tackle "Spring Fishing near St. Joe"
<u>50/50 Raffle Winner:</u>	\$121 - Jim Zanke
<u>Every Member Draw:</u>	Nic Amicone Not Present

Enjoy These Other Newsletters and Reports

Here are some links to other newsletters and reports:

Woods-N-Water News

(<http://www.woods-n-waternews.com/>)

(Press the CTRL key + click on the link to open the link)

Basin Report Newsletters

(<http://www.great-lakes.org/basinreports/basinreports.html>)

(Press the CTRL key + click on the link to open the link)

Published by the Great Lakes Sportfishing Council

Metro-West Steelheaders Newsletters

(<http://www.metroweststeelheaders.org/newsletters.php>)

(Press the CTRL key + click on the link to open the link)

Newsletters of the Metro-West Steelheaders, a Chapter of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishing Association (MSSFA). From this page of their website you can also link to newsletters published by other chapters of MSSFA.

ROYAL OAK, MI 48067
200 N LAFAYETTE
TOM GORGUZE

Membership expires: 516

We're on the Web:
www.detroitsteelheaders.com

1974
GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE
PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE

MEETING NOTICE—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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