



Fishin' Tales

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

- January Meeting**
- When:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016 7:30pm
 - Where:** American Polish Cultural Center
NW corner, 15 Mile Rd. & Dequindre
 - Featured Guest Speaker :**
Capt. Andy Gorske, Frank's Great Outdoors
"Ice fishing for Saginaw Bay Perch & Walleye"
 - Also Featured :**
Free Pizza Night
 - Other Happenings:**
Ice Fishing 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 I January 2016

Our President's Take on the DAS and 2015!

2015 was a very different year than most of us are used to, it started out very cold but the ice fishing we experienced was red hot.

As we moved to April and May we all thought the same kind of fishing would carry us through our first tournaments. What a let down that was, the lake never warmed up like it should have for that time of year. We all had problems catching those prized chrome Chinook. Most of us were happy the Lake trout seemed to fill the void most of the summer season. Even our best month of August was a let down. Let's hope we don't have a repeat for 2016.



Cassville for some harbor lake trout fishing, we had some success but the camaraderie at all our events make this club what we are. Even if fishing is tough we all stick together for a few good laughs as the day goes on, that's what clubs are meant to do.

In March we had our most successful wild game dinner ever. A lot of planning was done to make it work. Our board members along with participation from our club members made this happen. The benefits help our club to sponsor, Salmon in the classroom, youth fishing program, scholarships, special people outing to name a few.

As October and November rolled around the steelhead fishing fired up on the lake Michigan piers. That was a lot of fun, I got invited to go and fish with some of the best pier fisherman in the state, many were Detroit Steelheaders. I never could imagine that we had that great of a fall steelhead fishery. I will definitely plan on that for 2016, we all should. Our last club event was in

I can say this club definitely brings out the best of life friends you could ask for. With that in mind I hope to see more of you at club events in 2016. Get those hooks sharp and let's go fishing!

Your President for 2015
Blaise Pewinski

Sportsman's Dinner Right Around the Corner



The Annual Sportsman's Wild Game Dinner is almost here and this promises to be the best one yet.. This dinner means just about everything to the health of our club. Without this fundraiser, our club would not exist. It gives us the funds to donate to all the great charities and organizations to help protect and promote the Great Lakes Sport Fishery and to help pass it on for future generations. It also funds all the member benefits we receive each month (meeting place, newsletter, pizza nights) just to name a few.

NW corner of 15 Mile Rd. and Dequindre, the same place we have our monthly meetings.

Our new caterer Country Smoke House returns, featuring some WGD favorites. There will be an Impressive Display of Taxidermy which includes Deer, Caribou, Bobcat, Waterfowl. And, of course, the Table Raffles, Gun Draws, Meat Cooler Draws, 50/50 Raffles, Drawings for 4 HDTVs, and many more items!

Tickets are \$60/person and you can order them from Ticket Chairman Bob Jones at the next couple of monthly meetings or you can get them on our website on the Wild Game Dinner page under Tournaments & Events.. But if you want to get \$100 of \$1 Raffle tickets with the purchase of a full table (10 seats), that money needs to be turned in to Bob by the January Membership meeting (Jan. 26).

It's being held on March 5, 2016 at the beautiful American Polish Cultural Center on the

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS Currently: 149 Members

New Memberships Welcome!

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Re-Newed Memberships

GASPARE ARAGONA	ROD ELNICK		
DAVID CHRISTENSON	CARL VENTIMIGLIA		

Memberships Expired

2 mo. Ago Last Reminder:	TY VOIGT		
1 Mo. Ago First Reminder:	GARY RUPRICH		
This Month:	RABIH ABDALLAH	DONALD JASMAN	GREG PRATT
	FRED CHARTIER	PHIL LEESE	WINSTON SETO
	DAVID HOPCROFT	TED LEWICKI	CHRISTOPHER A. TURAK

Tackle Matters

The Detroit Area Steelheaders Year End Annual meeting on December 15, 2015 brought this year's raffle season to a very successful conclusion. As is our tradition, the Every Member drawing for \$100 was drawn until we found a member present. That lucky member in attendance was Tom Thieda who was happy to get an extra \$100 right around Christmas.

The annual meeting attendance was 110 people including members, guests, and children. The extra attendance led to people buying a lot of 50:50 raffle tickets. The total collection for 50:50 this month was \$539. With that much money we chose to make two winners of \$190 each and the club kept the remainder. Joe von Grabe won the first \$190 and Dennis Kellie won the other.

The door prizes this year were outstanding. Each member and guest (over 21 years of age) was given a free door prize ticket. The door prize tickets were drawn at random and the first ticket drawn got the first choice of door prizes and each successive ticket got to choose in the order drawn. As door prizes DAS provided 5 hams, 5 turkeys, 20 bottles of liquor, 6 packs of tickets to the Ultimate Fishing show with 4 tickets in each pack, and 3 \$10 gift cards.

The fun didn't end there. Families with chil-

dren got a visit with Salmon Clause who gladly passed out age and gender appropriate gifts to the children. Everyone who attended had a great time. Also, don't forget it was the annual meeting so awards for member of the year, director of the year, big fish, and captain of the year were all awarded. I'm sure you can read the details on all of those awards elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thank you for supporting our raffles throughout 2015 and I hope we can count on you to keep it up in 2016.

Dan Chisholm

**DAS 2015-2016 Fall/Winter
River, Surf, Pier & Ice Fishing
Tournaments/Outings**

- Sat., Dec. 12, 2015**
Caseville Lake Trout River Outing
 - Sat., Jan. 30, 2016**
Mitchell Bay Perch Ice Fishing Outing
 - Sat., Feb. 20, 2016**
Lake Erie (Ohio Waters) Walleye Ice Fishing Outing
- For More Information,**
contact **Bob Paradise (586) 457-4073** or
Blaise Pewinski (248) 890-4517

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

- BLAISE PEWINSKI**
President
Shows, Wild Game Dinner
248-890-4517
- TOM GORGUZE**
Vice-President
Hats, Shirts & Jackets
248-343-8397
- DAN CHISHOLM**
Secretary
Raffles, Elections
586-530-9171
- ROD ELNICK**
Treasurer
Salmon-In-Classroom, Scholarships
586-214-8812
- BOB FEISEL**
Boat Trolling, Photography
248-765-2504
- PAUL GJELDUM**
Trophies
(586) 615-1928
- RICH JANIS**
T.B.D.
586-215-6264
- BOB JONES**
WGD Tickets
734-751-1767
- BOB KSIONZEK**
Newsletter Editor, Website, Boat Trolling
586-531-9198
- ANTHONY LEWIS**
Coalition, Publicity
517-449-3036
- JON MARTENS**
Membership, Donations
586-246-7880
- CHRIS NYTKO**
T.B.D.
586-588-4551
- BOB PARADISE**
River, Surf & Pier
586-781-2543
- TOM THEIDA**
Co-Membership, Meeting PA Sys.
586-206-5902
- CHRIS TURAK**
T.B.D.
586-979-4898
- CARL VENTIMIGLIA**
Wild Game Dinner
586-615-7459
- JIM ZANKE**
Special People
586-489-2041
- Assistants**
LINDA BANBURY
Special People
- MARY KARAKAS**
Special People

Detroit Area Steelheaders Giving Hits \$80,000!

For 40 years the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. has contributed to numerous worthwhile causes which we believe serve our stated organizational goal of promoting and protecting Great Lakes sport fishing. Thanks to our members and contributors who have helped us raise funds to make these donations.

The following list of donations made in recent years may overlook some, but the overall impact is that the Detroit Area Steelheaders give!

January, September, November, 2015 - \$1254. To continue funding Salmon in the Classroom projects at Oakland Christian and Ladywood High schools and fund a new Salmon in the Classroom project at Pine Knob school.

April, 2015 - \$2,050. To the Michigan DNR's Salmon Ambassadors Program

April, 2015 - \$750. To the Youth Development Commission for their 2015 Detroit Area Kids Fishing Derby.

April, 2015 - \$500. To help fund the Farmington Optimist's Breakfast Club Project F-I-S-H program

May, 2015 - \$500. To Shelby Township Parks & Recreation for their kids fishing derby.

July, 2014 - \$500. To fund a \$500 college scholarship.

July, 2014 - \$250. To MUCC to help fund their operations.

July, 2014 - \$250. To the Clinton River Watershed Council for their Clinton River projects.

July, 2014 - \$250. To the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council for their operations.

June, 2014 - \$813. To fund our own Special People fishing outing.

May, 2014 - \$400. To Shelby Township Parks & Recreation for their kids fishing derby.

April - Oct, 2014 - \$1,231. To continue funding Salmon in the Classroom projects.

March, 2014 - \$1,000. To the Youth Development Commission for their 2014 Detroit Area Kids Fishing Derby.

September-December, 2013 - \$485. To continue funding a Salmon in the Classroom project at Andersonville Elementary School.

June, 2013 - \$584. To fund our own Special People fishing outing.

May, 2013 - \$1,000. To pay for 50 rods and reels for the Salvation Army Outdoors program.

May, 2013 - \$277. To pay for a bus to take students to release the salmon from their Salmon in the Classroom project at Andersonville Elementary School.

April, 2013 - \$400. To Shelby Township Parks & Recreation for their kids fishing derby.

April, 2013 - \$800. To the Youth Development Commission for their 2013 Detroit Area Kids Fishing Derby.

April, 2013 - \$105. To continue funding a Salmon in the Classroom project at Oakland Christian School.

December, 2012 - \$622. To fund a Salmon in the Classroom project at Andersonville Elementary School.

December, 2012 - \$984. To fund a Salmon in the Classroom project at Oakland Christian School.

August, 2012 - \$500. To fund a \$500 college scholarship for an approved student studying for an outdoors/conservation related degree.

June, 2012 - \$740. To fund our own Special People fishing outing.

June, 2012 - \$500. To fund a \$500 college scholarship for an approved student studying for an outdoors/conservation related degree.

June, 2012 - \$250. To Shelby Township Parks & Recreation for their kids fishing derby.

January, 2012 - \$250. To the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council for their operations.

January, 2012 - \$1,000. To the Youth Development Commission for

their 2012 Detroit Area Kids Fishing Derby.

January, 2012 - \$400. To the Armada Middle School for a Salmon in the Classroom project.

October, 2011 - \$2,000. To the Ludington Area Charterboat Association to fund operations of their salmon rearing net pens.

August, 2011 - \$1,200. To the Armada Middle School for a Salmon in the Classroom project.

July, 2011 - \$250. To the Clinton River Watershed Council for their Clinton River projects.

May, 2011 - \$250. To Shelby Township Parks & Recreation for their kids fishing derby.

January, 2011 - \$800. To the Youth Development Commission for their 2009 Detroit Area Kids Fishing Derby.

November, 2010 - \$500. To the Michigan Wildlife Service department of the USDA to help fund cormorant control/research.

June, 2010 - \$1,000. To fund two \$500 college scholarships for two deserving students studying for an outdoors/conservation related degree.

June, 2010 - \$1,000. To the Ludington Area Charterboat Association to fund operations of their salmon rearing net pens.

June, 2010 - \$234. Donation of Voluntary Youth Licenses to help DNR revenue.

May, 2010 - \$250. To the Clinton River Watershed Council for their Clinton River projects.

April, 2010 - \$250. To Shelby Township Parks & Recreation for their kids fishing derby.

January, 2010 - \$1,000. To Michigan State University to fund a scholarship for a deserving student studying for an outdoors/conservation related degree.

January, 2010 - \$1,000. To the Youth Development Commission for their 2010 Detroit Area Kids Fishing Derby.

October, 2009 - \$2,500. To the Ludington Area Charterboat Association to fund the replacement of their salmon rearing net pens.

October, 2009 - \$1,000. To the Michigan Wildlife Service department of the USDA to help fund cormorant control/research.

October, 2009 - \$200 Donation to the Big Ten Bass Fishing Tournament.

September-October, 2009 - \$222. Donation of Voluntary Youth Licenses to help DNR revenue.

June, 2009 - \$1,703. To fund our own Special People fishing outing.

May, 2009 - \$2,000. To fund two \$1,000 college scholarships for two deserving students studying for an outdoors/conservation related degree.

May, 2009 - \$1,795. To the City of Ludington for a Memorial Bench at the City Marina.

February, 2009 - \$250. To Shelby Township Parks & Recreation for their kids fishing derby.

January, 2009 - \$1,000. To the Michigan Wildlife Service department of the USDA to help fund cormorant control/research.

January, 2009 - \$250. To the Clinton River Watershed Council for their Clinton River projects.

January, 2009 - \$500. To the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council for their operations.

January, 2009 - \$1,000. To the Youth Development Commission for their 2009 Detroit Area Kids Fishing Derby.

October, 2008 - \$1,640. Lake Superior State University Aquatics Research Lab for their fish cam.

March, 2008 - \$1,000. To Project FISH for their teaching projects.

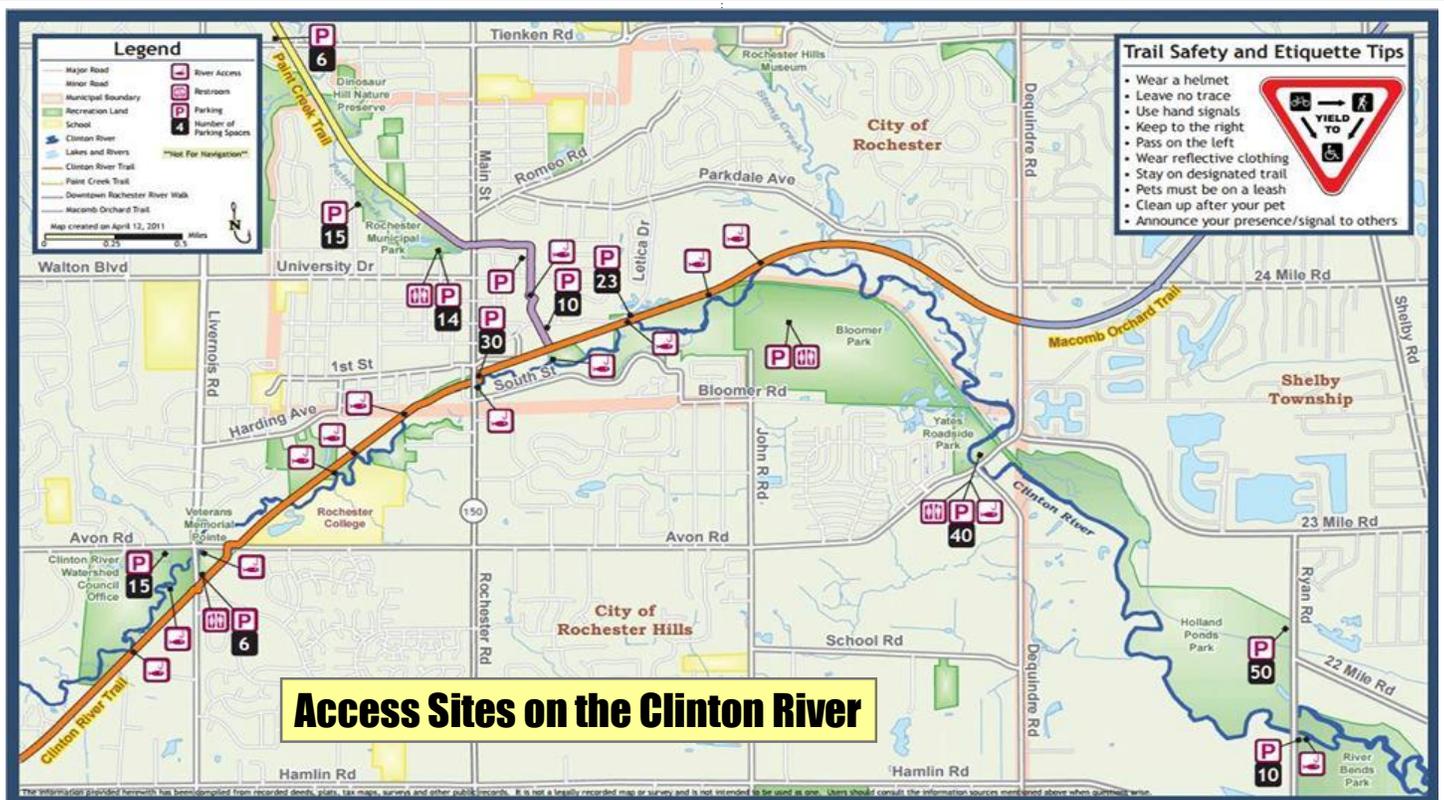
March, 2008 - \$200. To Shelby Township Parks & Recreation for their kids fishing derby.

January, 2008 - \$1,000. To the Youth Development Commission for their 2008 Detroit Area Kids Fishing Derby.

December, 2007 - \$1,000. To the Michigan Wildlife Service department of the USDA to help fund cormorant control/research.

.....**AND SO MUCH MORE!**

(Please see www.detroitsteelheaders.com for complete listing)



17TH ANNUAL SPORTSMAN'S DINNER

SATURDAY • MARCH 5TH, 2016

AMERICAN POLISH CULTURAL CENTER
2975 E. Maple Road • Troy, MI 48083
Doors open at 5:00 – Dinner at 6:00

Table Raffles, Gun Draws, Meat Coolers, 50/50 Raffle, 4 TVs, and many more items!

MENU

- WILD GAME MEAT & CHEESE TRAY (per table)
- COUNTRY SLAW WITH SMOKEY BACON VINAIGRETTE
- ASSORTED DINNER ROLLS & BUTTER
- BAKED GREEN BEANS WITH HAM & CRISPY ONIONS
- LOADED MASHED POTATOES
- SOUTHERN GRILL CHICKEN
- SOUTHERN STYLE PULLED BOAR
- ELK KIELBASA KAPUSTA
- ROAST VENISON
- SWEET & SOUR PHEASANT
- FRIED WALLEYE
- COOKIES & BROWNIES (per table)

TICKETS: \$60
INCLUDES BEER & SODA
(LIMITED TO 550 TICKETS)

All proceeds help Detroit Area Steelheaders to Promote, Educate, Preserve and Protect our Great Lakes Fisheries and Resources.

Guns from: Our Feature Caterer: Taxidermy Display by:

Tables of 10 paid in full by January 26th will receive \$100 in raffle tickets.

For tickets, contact Bob Jones: gtroller2003@yahoo.com • 734-751-1767

2016 Boat Trolling Tournaments

Date	Port	Port Captain
April 30 (6:00am - 1:00pm)	St. Joseph	Blaise Pewinski/Dan Chisholm <i>plus Fish Off vs. Huron Valley Sportfishing Club</i>
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

2016 DAS Membership Drive

With the New Year and the fishing shows upon us, the DAS is once again offering free tackle packs valued at \$35 with a fully paid new regular membership (\$35) or new senior membership (\$20).

This offer will begin with the Ultimate Fishing Show at the Suburban Collection Showplace held January 7th thru the 10th, 2016 and conclude on Tuesday, April 26, 2016, our April membership meeting. To qualify as a new membership, you must not have been a member of the DAS for a minimum of one year prior to your signing up.

The membership applications will be available at the Ultimate Fishing Show as well as at our membership meetings the last Tuesday of the month at the American Polish Cultural Center. You can also sign up on our website at www.detroitsteelheaders.com. You will receive your free tackle pack instantly at the Ultimate Fishing Show or our membership meetings. If you sign up online, you can collect your tackle pack at any following membership meeting.

Salmon in the Classroom

The Detroit Area Steelheaders is supporting three schools in the Salmon in the Classroom program. And a fourth school will be chosen in January for the 2016-2017 school year. Interestingly, our three tanks are demonstrating widely different hatch and development times. Ladywood High School, with instructor Michael, has his fish swimming in the column. This implies the stomach is near buttoned-up, small granular feeding has started, and the fish are swimming all over. Instructors Miss Katy and Miss Pam at Oakland Christian Schools have about 60% swimming in the column with the remaining laying in the bottom of the hatching baskets. Miss Janice and Miss Jill at Pine Knob Elementary, our newest school, has about 97% still in the hatching baskets with 6 or 8 in the gravel bottom. Wolf Lake Hatchery indicated that eggs were retrieved from different locations and different times, accounting for our differences.

The students at all three school locations were super excited during the hatching. The Pine Knob hatch lasted about 4 days with the classes and grades periodically visiting the tank to see what progress was made. At Oakland Christian the hatching fish were also visited continuously and additionally before and after school. Their tank is located in the vestibule of the lower grades entrance.

At this time, New Year's Eve, each school has lost only 3 to 5 eggs and 1 to 2 hatched fish. They each started with approximately 196 eggs. Last May, the Oakland Christian students released 145 smolts to the Clinton River and Ladywood students released 150 smolts to the Huron River. During these releases, the students were encouraged to learn casting techniques and all were instructed on how to make their own lure spoons. We very much appreciated Dreamweaver Lures for supplying spoon blanks and lure tape for the students' creations.

The Process: After hatching, the salmon will feed on their yolk sac for approximately one month before they "button-up". Buttoning up is the process by which the salmon absorb their yolk sac. As the salmon begin to grow and develop dark vertical

barring on their sides they are now referred to as parr. As the parr grow to approximately 2 to 4 inches, they start to lose their vertical barring and become more silver in appearance. This is when the salmon are smolting, ready to swim to the ocean (Great Lakes in our case).

For additional information on the Salmon in the Classroom program, look at Michigan.gov/dnr on the Web and do a search for "Salmon in the Classroom". For additional information from our club Directors, contact:

Rodney Elnick, 586-214-8812

Paul Gjeldum, 586-615-1928

Bob Jones, 734-751-1767



Salmon Eggs in the Hatching Basket



Newly Hatched Salmon Fry



"Buttoned Up" Salmon

2015 DAS Skipper of the Year & Big Fish



1st Place - John Meade - 'Saluki'



2nd Place - Bob Feisel - 'Vickie's Seacret'



3rd Place - Bob Jones - 'Bobby's Toy'



Big Fish - 17.95 lb. King - 'Bobby's Toy' - Caught by Bob Ksionzek

Skipper of the Year Standings 2015

FINAL

Best 5

Boat Name	Skipper Name	Lexington	St. Joe	Grand Haven	Harbor Beach	Muskegon	Olcott NY	Ludington	Manistee	Total Points	Best 6	Best 7	Best 8
1 Saluki	John Meade	3	2	2	7	2	75	4	4	13	17	24	99
2 Vicki's Seacret	Bob Feisel	4	8	4	5	4	75	1	7	18	29	104	108
3 Bobby's Toy	Bob Jones	75	7	6	6	3	50	2	6	23	30	80	155
4 Channing	Dan Chisolm	50	6	5	75	50	75	5	75	116	216	291	341
5 Sea Hag	Blaise Pewinski	2	1	75	4	75	75	75	75	157	305	380	382
6 Bad Dog	Tom Gorguze	1	10	75	75	75	75	75	2	163	312	387	388
7 Hardtop & Tails	Jim Zanke	50	4	1	75	75	50	75	75	180	280	355	405
8 Aquarius II	Chris Nytko	75	75	75	1	1	75	75	75	227	302	377	452
9 Sloppy Joe	Joe Von Grabe	75	75	3	2	75	75	75	75	230	305	380	455
10 Blue Horizon	Paul Gjeldum	75	5	75	3	75	75	75	75	233	308	383	458
11 Money Tree	Chuck Eddy	75	75	75	8	75	75	3	75	236	311	386	461
12 Loki-One	Dave Roehr	50	9	50	75	75	75	75	75	259	359	434	484
13 Almost Paradise	Bob Paradise	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	1	301	376	451	526
14 Lake Buzzard IV	Fred Chartier	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	3	303	378	453	528
15 Nite Moves	Carl Ventimiglia	75	3	75	75	75	75	75	75	303	378	453	528
16 Tyger	Ty Voigt	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	5	305	380	455	530
17 Just Wastin' Time	Don Jasmin	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	8	308	383	458	533



	Lexington	St. Joe	Grand Haven	Harbor Beach	Muskegon	Olcott NY	Ludington	Manistee	Total For Year
No. of Boats	7	10	7	8	5	2	5	8	52
Kings	1	2	27	1	4	0	10	30	75
Cohos	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	2	8
Lake Trout	5	30	4	71	2	0	3	9	124
Steelhead	2	1	0	2	1	0	7	0	13
Browns	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Atlantics	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pinks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	8	33	35	74	7	0	24	41	222

Species	Wgt. (lbs.)	Boat Name	Port
King	17.95	Bobby's Toy	Ludington
Coho	7.25	Bobby's Toy	Ludington
Lake Trout	13.30	Aquarius II	Harbor Beach
Steelhead	5.95	Vicki's Seacret	Ludington
Brown	4.45	Sloppy Joe	Grand Haven
Atlantic	0.00		
Pink	0.00		

DAS Skipper's Honor Roll

<p style="text-align: center;">1976</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John Makela Sisu 2. Murrell Blackburn Fish'n 5 3. Chuck Cartwright Tuna Boat 4. Paul Irvine Yellow Jacket 5. Steve Hamilton Valhalla 	<p style="text-align: center;">1989</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Mitchell Kemo 2. Steve Banovic Exaggerator 3. Ron Huey Half R's 4. Ron Hartman Molly Frair 5. Don Anton Happy Bare 	<p style="text-align: center;">2002</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chris Nytko Aquarius II 2. Doug Karakas Capt'n Hook 3. Joe Von Grabe Sloppy Joe 4. Bill Dunk Free Bird 5. Mark Bevans In-Seine
<p style="text-align: center;">1977</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chuck Cartwright Tuna Boat 2. John Makela Sisu 3. Murrell Blackburn Fish'n 5 4. Bob Kring Drifter 5. Larry Atwell Cobra 	<p style="text-align: center;">1990</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Mitchell Kemo 2. Dave Even Teacher's Pet 3. Dick Shirk Lil' Scratch 4. Rob Pinski Anticipation 5. Mike Wakulski Wet Paint 	<p style="text-align: center;">2003</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bill Dunk Free Bird 2. Mike Vigus Crusader 3. Joe Von Grabe Sloppy Joe 4. Blaise Pewinski Sea Hag 5. Mark Bevans In-Seine
<p style="text-align: center;">1978</p> <p>1. Jerry Lee Sea Screw</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Complete Standings For 1978 Are Unavailable</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1991</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Mitchell Kemo 2. Dave Even Teacher's Pet 3. Don Redmond Trena Dawn 4. Dick Shirk Lil' Scratch 5. Joe Golaszewski Lucky Falcon 	<p style="text-align: center;">2004</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blaise Pewinski Sea Hag 2. Chris Nytko Aquarius II 3. Joe Von Grabe Sloppy Joe 4. Mike Vigus Crusader 5. Bob Feisel Vicki's Seacret
<p style="text-align: center;">1979</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jerry Lee Sea Screw 2. Howard Mills Paramour 3. Larry Atwell Cobra 4. Jim Treadaway Okie Drifter 5. Bob Kring Drifter 	<p style="text-align: center;">1992</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Mitchell Kemo 2. Dave Even Teacher's Pet 3. Tom Moores Kefree 4. Dick Shirk Lil' Scratch 5. Mike Wakulski Wet Paint 	<p style="text-align: center;">2005</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Paradise Almost Paradise 2. Joe Von Grabe Sloppy Joe 3. Tom Gorguze Bad Dog 4. Dave Linder No Limit 5. Bob Feisel Vicki's Seacret
<p style="text-align: center;">1980</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jerry Lee Sea Screw 2. Terry Cholette Fishin' Fever 3. Toby Lampi Jessie III 4. Randy Cope Ouzo Too 5. Ed Yankowski II Least Likely 	<p style="text-align: center;">1993</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dave Even Teacher's Pet 2. Don Redmond Trena Dawn 3. Joe Golaszewski Lucky Falcon 4. Leon Van Eden Bull Head 5. Chris Nytko Aquarius II 	<p style="text-align: center;">2006</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joe Von Grabe Sloppy Joe 2. Mark Williams Silver Addiction 3. Tom Gorguze Bad Dog 4. Bob Jones Bobby's Toy 5. Dave Linder No Limit
<p style="text-align: center;">1981</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Kring Drifter 2. Toby Lampi Jessie III 3. Bob Kanas Least Likely 4. Jerry Lee Sea Screw 5. Jewell Harris Cannonball 	<p style="text-align: center;">1994</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joe Golaszewski Lucky Falcon 2. Jimmy Hardrick My Dream 3. Chris Nytko Aquarius II 4. Ron Hartman Molly Frair 5. Paul Schoenrade Eagle Two 	<p style="text-align: center;">2007</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Paradise Almost Paradise 2. Joe Von Grabe Sloppy Joe 3. Mark Williams Silver Addiction 4. Tim Robinson Pride N Joy 5. Bob Feisel Vicki's Seacret
<p style="text-align: center;">1982</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brian Glaser Least Likely 2. Toby Lampi Jessie III 3. Mike Curzenski Noonon 4. Bob Kring Drifter 5. R.J. Branham Seahawk 	<p style="text-align: center;">1995</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Mitchell Kemo 2. Don Redmond Trena Dawn 3. Daniel Dima Taz 4. Rob Golaszewski Lucky Falcon 5. Dave Roehr Floating Holiday 	<p style="text-align: center;">2008</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark Williams Silver Addiction 2. Tom Gorguze Bad Dog 3. Bob Feisel Vicki's Seacret 4. Dave Linder No Limit 5. Bob Jones Bobby's Toy
<p style="text-align: center;">1983</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gerry Ciurzenski Jawbuster 2. Mike Boroniec Horsefly 3. R.J. Branham Seahawk 4. Bob Kozar Snowman 5. Ed Yankowski II Least Likely 	<p style="text-align: center;">1996</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dick Shirk Lil' Scratch 2. Rob Golaszewski Lucky Falcon 3. Chris Nytko Aquarius II 4. Paul Nowak Nothin' But Fun 5. Don Redmond Trena Dawn 	<p style="text-align: center;">2009</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark Williams Silver Addiction 2. Blaise Pewinski Sea Hag 3. Bob Jones Bobby's Toy 4. Bob Paradise Almost Paradise 5. Bob Feisel Vicki's Seacret
<p style="text-align: center;">1984</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Kanas Least Likely 2. Ed Choinski Kneeknocker 3. Darrin Harris Cannonball 3. Bob Ksionzek Last Dime 3. Mike Zelkowski Elvira 	<p style="text-align: center;">1997</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rob Golaszewski Lucky Falcon 2. Chris Nytko Aquarius II 3. Paul Colone The Kidd 4. Bob Buero Mickey Mouse Club 5. Jimmy Hardrick My Dream 	<p style="text-align: center;">2010</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Paradise Almost Paradise 2. Tom Gorguze Bad Dog 3. Bob Jones Bobby's Toy 4. Joe Von Grabe Sloppy Joe 5. E-Fish-N-Sea Doug Karakas
<p style="text-align: center;">1985</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Darrin Harris Cannonball 2. Joel Garinger Fishbusters 3. Bruce Choinski Kneeknocker 4. Tom Chojnowski Sea Con 5. Ed McIntosh Sweet Lorraine 	<p style="text-align: center;">1998</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Don Redmond Trena Dawn 2. Chris Nytko Aquarius II 3. Dick Shirk Lil' Scratch 4. Rob Golaszewski Lucky Falcon 5. Paul Schoenrade Eagle III 	<p style="text-align: center;">2011</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tom Gorguze Bad Dog 2. Bob Paradise Almost Paradise 3. Blaise Pewinski Sea Hag 4. Bob Feisel Vicki's Seacret 5. Bob Jones Bobby's Toy
<p style="text-align: center;">1986</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Mitchell Kemo 2. Greg Clifford Outlaw 3. Chuck Wood Predator 4. Dave Even Teacher's Pet 5. Blaise Pewinski Sea Hag 	<p style="text-align: center;">1999</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark Stosiak Tomorrow's Dream 2. Stan Bilek Blue Star 3. Chris Nytko Aquarius II 4. Dick Shirk Lil' Scratch 5. Paul Schoenrade Eagle III 	<p style="text-align: center;">2012</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tom Gorguze Bad Dog 2. Bob Jones Bobby's Toy 3. Bob Feisel Vicki's Seacret 4. Blaise Pewinski Sea Hag 5. Miss Dipsey Jody Robinson
<p style="text-align: center;">1987</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greg Clifford Outlaw 2. Bob Mitchell Kemo 3. Don Redmond Trena Dawn 4. Steve Banovic Exaggerator 5. Dick Shirk Lil' Scratch 	<p style="text-align: center;">2000</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chris Nytko Aquarius II 2. Stan Bilek Blue Star 3. Mark Stosiak Tomorrow's Dream 4. Dick Shirk Lil' Scratch 5. Bill Nutting Just Once 	<p style="text-align: center;">2013</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Feisel Vicki's Seacret 2. Tom Gorguze Bad Dog 3. Joe Von Grabe Sloppy Joe 4. Blaise Pewinski Sea Hag 5. Blue Horizon Paul Gjeldum
<p style="text-align: center;">1988</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Mitchell Kemo 2. Dave Even Teacher's Pet 3. Dick Shirk Lil' Scratch 4. Don Redmond Trena Dawn 5. Steve Banovic Exaggerator 	<p style="text-align: center;">2001</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark Stosiak Tomorrow's Dream 2. Chris Nytko Aquarius II 3. Joe Von Grabe Sloppy Joe 4. Mike Vigus Crusader 5. Doug Karakas Capt'n Hook 	<p style="text-align: center;">2014</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paul Gjeldum Blue Horizon 2. Bob Feisel Vicki's Seacret 3. Bob Jones Bobby's Toy 4. Tom Gorguze Bad Dog 5. Joe Von Grabe Sloppy Joe

Alewife Crash on Lake Michigan Raises Concerns for Salmon Fishing

A Sept. 23 survey conducted off Port Washington that swept across nine sections of lakebed yielded a total of 18 alewives. A few of those sweeps netted no alewives at all.

By **Dan Egan** of the Journal Sentinel



United States Geological Survey biologist Chuck Madenjian counts and measures a handful of alewives caught in the waters off Port Washington in late September.

Aboard R/V Arcticus A decade after an alewife collapse on Lake Huron that has dramatically reduced that lake's salmon fishing, a similar alewife crash appears to be underway on Lake Michigan.

The results of the federal government's annual trawling survey of the Lake Michigan bottom conducted throughout September revealed a shockingly low number of alewives, which are an Atlantic Ocean native that invaded the Great Lakes in the middle of the last century.

The survey, which involves dragging a 40-foot-wide net across the lake bottom off seven different ports on Lake Michigan, from Michigan's Upper Peninsula down to Waukegan, Ill., just south of the Wisconsin state line, has been going on every year since 1973. The sweeps cover only a sliver of lake bottom, but like a political poll, biologists believe the trawl survey can get give them a rough picture of overall fish numbers in the lake, and the picture shaping up from deep beneath Lake Michigan's shimmering blue surface is not pretty.

Based on the bottom trawl survey results for 2014, biologists estimated Lake Michigan harbored about 1.6 kilotons of alewives,

which was a record low and well under the 29 kilotons estimated the year before, which was an unusually high number for recent years. The biologists have yet to run this year's harvest numbers through their computer programs, but early indications are that it may reflect up to a 90% drop from last year's record low. The estimated "biomass" of alewives

when the survey started more than four decades ago exceeded 100 kilotons.

"I wouldn't say we've crashed," said Chuck Madenjian, the United States Geological Survey biologist who conducts the annual surveys. "But at least we are in the process of crashing, you might say."

Each survey site is trawled at several depths beyond 300 feet and moving shoreward into depths as shallow as 30 feet. The Sept. 23 survey conducted off Port Washington that swept across nine sections of lake bed yielded a total of 18 alewives. A few of those

sweeps netted no alewives at all. Some netted no fish at all but only a few fistfuls of invasive quagga mussels.

A survey a few days later off Sturgeon Bay harvested fewer than 50 alewives, and the year's total for all seven survey areas was under 200. In previous years, the survey would sometimes harvest thousands of alewives, and sometimes more than 10,000. Num-

bers of the lake's other species of prey fish — the little fish that feed the big fish — were at a record low last year. One bright spot: There are signs are that the biomass native chub may show an uptick from 2014 to 2015.

When the trawl surveys began in the early 1970s, the lakewide prey fish "biomass" estimate exceeded 350 kilotons. Last year it had dropped to less than 5 kilotons, and this year it is expected to be well less than that.



One of the nets pulled during a Sept. 23 expedition off Port Washington yielded this single chub.

Biologists blame the plummet in prey fish on a number of factors, not the least of which is that the

lake bottom is now smothered with quagga mussels, which hog the plankton that sustains the bottom of the food chain — and everything above it. The trawl survey was never designed to collect quagga mussels in its nets, but those nets are now so commonly cluttered with the mollusks introduced into the lake by overseas ships sailing up the St. Lawrence Seaway that the survey biologists estimate there are as many as five times more mussels in the lake, by weight, than prey fish.

Despite the early results of this year's survey, fishermen aren't convinced an alewife crash is underway. In fact, the day before the federal team surveyed the Port Washington waters, local anglers said there had been loads of alewives in the harbor.

"I saw plenty, plenty of alewives yesterday," said fishing guide Dan Fox. "Now, that's just one day, but it was a good sign."

The Great Lakes salmon fishing industry started in the 1960s with the stocking of Pacific salmon to gobble up the invasive alewives. Biologists say there is some natural reproduction of salmon in Lake Michigan today, though the population is sustained by annual hatchery stockings. Alewives are the primary food source for salmon, and when their numbers crashed on Lake Huron, so did salmon numbers.

Fox is dubious a crash similar to what happened on Lake Huron is underway. He said the salmon fishing was good this year, though the weight of the salmon was off by about a third. He did not attribute that to a lack of prey fish but to two cold winters that he suspects suppressed salmon feeding.

DNR biologists have yet to analyze the condition of the salmon but say they appear to be smaller than normal.

"A very general observation is that the salmon look OK but may be smaller than we've seen in some years," said DNR fisheries biologist Nick Legler. "Fish body size is influenced by a number of factors, including food consumption, water temperatures, energy output, etc. Forage abundance is low in



Pickings were slim for the researchers doing their annual trawling survey on the bottom of Lake Michigan

Crash (Cont'd from Pg.8)

lake Michigan right now, so this will contribute to smaller body sizes."

The collapse of alewives on Lake Huron had one surprising consequence - it opened the door to a surge in native species like lake trout and walleye. A likely reason is the alewives prey on the young of native fish. Alewives also aren't a good food source for lake trout because they carry an enzyme that makes it difficult for lake trout to produce healthy offspring.

The cause of the alewife crash on Huron has long been a subject of debate among biologists. Some believe it was a function of too many stocked and naturally reproducing salmon for the alewife population to survive. Others say it was triggered by the invasive mussel population that stripped away the food that alewives depend on. Others believe it is a combination of the two. Some biologists have blamed the cold winter of 2003 for the Huron alewife crash.

The invasive mussels are one of just dozens of foreign species that have hitchhiked their way into the lakes in the ship-steadying ballast tanks of overseas freighters sailing up the St. Lawrence Seaway, which opened in 1959.

For decades, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency refused to regulate freighter ballast water as a pollutant under the Clean Water Act. Then in 2013, the agency, under court pressure, issued ballast water treatment measures for the shipping industry that conservation groups claimed were far too lax to actually stop the invasive species problem.

Last week, a federal Circuit Court of Appeals in New York ruled in favor of the environmental groups and ordered the EPA to get tougher on the shipping industry's ballast discharges.



Dan Egan
A reporter covering the Great Lakes. His reporting on invasive species and other issues has won numerous awards. He is a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist for explanatory reporting, in 2010 and 2013.

Anglers, Take Note: Wild Atlantic Salmon Breeding Discovered in St. Mary's River



Roger Greil, manager of LSSU's Aquatic Research Laboratory, holds up a container full of Atlantic salmon fry that were hatched in the wild, not in the lab's hatchery. Evidence of Atlantic salmon reproducing in the wild was discovered by a student who was doing research on lake sturgeon in the St. Mary's River. (John Shibley/LSSU) (Courtesy)

SAULT STE. MARIE, MI - A Lake Superior State University graduate from West Michigan has published the first documented evidence that Atlantic salmon are reproducing naturally in the upper Great Lakes.

Stefan Tucker, a Belmont native who graduated in 2012 with a degree in fisheries and wildlife management, found wild Atlantic salmon fry in the St. Mary's River while doing research on lake sturgeon for his undergraduate senior thesis. Tucker published his findings in October's Journal of Great Lakes Research.

A prized game fish, Atlantic salmon were once native to Lake Ontario but have been a stocked species elsewhere in the Great Lakes for several decades.

In 1987, LSSU and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources began stocking the fish in the St. Mary's River. The effort established a successful recreational fishery but the salmon weren't seen to be reproducing naturally.

The DNR has recently expanded its Atlantic salmon stocking program in the state and is hoping to see Atlantics step in for the once abundant chinook salmon, which were highly sought by anglers on Lake Huron.

According to Tucker's thesis, biologists wondered if competition from other salmonids spawning in the river in greater numbers, including chinook and pink salmon, was keeping Atlantics from thriving.



Lake Superior State University staff member Kaye Batho with a male Atlantic salmon. The university runs a salmon stocking program in the St. Mary's

While sorting through samples in the LSSU lab, Tucker and laboratory manager Roger Greil began to suspect the fry they were finding were Atlantics. They sent a few to Gerald Smith at the University of Michigan, who confirmed it.

Although Tucker writes that the extent of reproduction is unknown and warrants further study, a thiamine (Vitamin B1) deficiency is likely a factor limiting the natural population growth in various Great Lakes salmon species.

The thiamine deficiency reduces the ability of Great Lakes salmonid larvae to convert carbohydrates into energy, Tucker writes. In hatcheries, the deficiency - known as early mortality syndrome (EMS) - is overcome with thiamine baths.

The vitamin deficiency has been linked to an enzyme found at high levels in prey fish like alewives, a fish species prone to large-scale die-offs.

Declining alewife populations may be aiding the natural Atlantic salmon reproduction, Tucker wrote. Subsequent reduction in Lake Huron Chinook salmon, an alewife predator, may be reducing competition for salmon spawning grounds.

Ashley Moerke, co-director of LSSU's Aquatic Research Lab, called Tucker's research a fantastic example of unexpected scientific discovery that is leading to new questions and hypotheses about the life history of Atlantic salmon in the upper Great Lakes.



Garret Ellison covers business, government and breaking news for MLive/The Grand Rapids Press. Email him at gellison@mlive.com or follow on [Twitter](#) & [Instagram](#)



Ludington Regional Fishery Workshop

The Lake Michigan fishery has been changing dramatically in recent years. The annual Ludington Regional Fishery Workshop features presentations by scientists who work to understand how ecosystem changes affect salmon and trout.

This year's workshop will feature a presentation on the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program from the USFWS. Mass marking of stocked Chinook salmon and lake trout is now providing a greater understanding of when and where stocked and wild fish contribute to fisheries. Other topics include assessment of alewife and other baitfish and the controversial issue of aquaculture (fish farming) in Great Lakes net pens.

A unique feature of this year's workshop will be a facilitated discussion led by Michigan DNR. The discussion will utilize an audience response system and Q & A to help fishery managers understand what charter captains, anglers, and conservationists would like to see in a Lake Michigan Management Plan.

Time and location: Jan. 9, 2016, 8:30-3:30 p.m.
 West Shore Community College
 Administration Conference Building
 3000 North Stiles Road
 Scottville, MI 49454

This is a full-day event with hot lunch included.
 Cost: \$30.00; pre-registration is required by Dec. 30.
 Online pre-registration with credit card is preferred.
 Register online at: register.asapconnected.com/Calendar3.aspx?typecd=event

Note: You must use Mozilla or Google Chrome web browsers. Internet Explorer will not work.
Contact: Dan O'Keefe or Mary Frein at 616-994-4540 with itinerary questions.

Registration & location info or to register by phone: Cara Mitchell 231-843-5825, cemitchell@westshore.edu.

Ultimate Fishing Show Jan. 7 -10, 2016

The Ultimate Fishing Show-- It appeals to anglers of all ages and skill levels. the Midwest's biggest pure-fishing show in America's largest freshwater market. More than 200 booths of new rods, reels, lures and other tackle, plus outfitters, lodges, guides and charter fishing destinations are in the show, along with 200 new fishing boats representing 40 brands. This show is all about Fishing tackle, Fishing trips, Fishing boats and Features: Lake Ultimate, Trout Pond, Hawg Trough, Seminar Stages, Rock Wall, Fish Fry and more. Detroit is the largest freshwater fishing market in the U.S. and now it has the largest pure fishing show in the Midwest! The Ultimate Fishing Show . Detroit at the Suburban Collection Showplace.

Hours

Thur. 3pm - 9:30pm,
Fri. 11am - 9:30pm,
Sat. 10am - 9pm,
Sun. 10am - 5pm

MI DNR Steelhead Clinics April 2 & 9

DNR Outdoor Skills Academy's Steelhead Clinic starts at 10 am at the Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center. The OSA Pro-staff will be presenting various strategies and techniques for chasing Michigan's chrome torpedoes. Feel free to bring your own gear, if possible, or if you're new to steel-heading some equipment is available on a first come, first served basis. The hands on portion of the clinic will be at the Hunt and Fish Center, then Sunday morning we will hit the water and show you how to fish and what to look for on the beautiful Manistee River.

Cost for the Class is \$25.00.

[Register for this class on the Michigan e-store.](#) ✧

DAS Annual Big Fish					
Year	Species	Wgt. In Lbs.	Boat Name	Caught By	Tournament
2015	King	17.95	Bobby's Toy	Bob Ksionzek	Ludington
2014	King	22.9	Blue Horizon	Paul Gjeldum	Manistee
2013	King	28.65	Almost Paradise	Bob Paradise	Manistee
2012	King	29.45	Bobby's Toy	Tim Robinson	Olcott, NY
2011	King	26.35	Bobby's Toy	Bob Ksionzek	Ludington II
2010	King	19	Bobby's Toy	Bob Jones	Ludington II
2009	King	20.45	Almost Paradise	Bob Paradise	Manistee
2008	King	18.6	Silver Addiction	Mark Williams	Manistee II
2007	King	17.15	Thor's Hammer	Al Weichert	Manistee I
2006	King	22.1	Bad Dog	Tom Gorguze	Ludington Ladies Day
2005	King	19.45	Hawkeye	Larry Walter	Ludington Ladies Day
2004	King	22.05	Silver Addiction	Mark Williams	Ludington I
2003	King	26.3	The Office	Duane Dean	Manistee
2002	King	23.63	Rupe	Gary Ruprich	Manistee
2001	King	28.07	Sea Hag	Blaise Pewinski	Manistee
2000	King	27.44	Sloppy Joe	Joe Von Grabe	Manistee
1999	Coho	29.06	Eagle III	Dave Staniczewski	Manistee
1998	King	28.69	Molly Frair	Ron Hartman	Manistee
1997	King	24.44	My Dream	Jim Hardrick	Manistee
1996	King	26.44	Trena Dawn	Joel Garinger	Ludington
1995	King	27.06	Fish-N-Tails	Doug Fellows	Manistee
1994	King	26.12	Main Squeeze	Walt Pohorily	Rogers City
1993	King	27.25	Karefree	Tom Moores	Presque Isle
1992	King	25.5	Eagle II	Paul Schoenrade	Lexington
1991	King	25.5	Kemo	Bob Mitchell	Ludington
1990	King	26.14	Misery III	Al Schultz	Rogers City
1989	King	28.5	Molly Frair	Ron Hartman	Rogers City
1988	King	25	Trena Dawn	Don Redmond	Rogers City
1987	King	22.19	Cap't Hook	Doug Karakas	Rogers City
1986	King	22.11	Nuf-4-Me	Art Dennis	Ludington
1985	King	23.5	More-N-Likely	Bob Kanas	Harbor Beach
1984	King	25.5	Kneeknocker	Ed Choinski	Ludington
1983	King	26.38	Sea Esta	Bill Achtenburg	Ludington
1982	King	25.69	Sea Esta	Bill Achtenburg	Ludington
1981	King	28	Valhalla	Steve Hamilton	Ludington
1980	King	30.12	Fishing Fever	Terry Cholette	Ludington
1979	King	26.13	Drifter	Bob Kring	Unknown
1978	King	25.8	Valhalla	Steve Hamilton	Pentwater

Lake Huron Fishery on the Rebound, Creating New Opportunities for Anglers

With populations and catch rates for lake trout, walleye, steelhead and other species hovering near record levels in Lake Huron, the Department of Natural Resources is encouraging anglers to plan a trip to the lake this summer to take advantage of the rebound of this world-class fishery.

On the east side of Huron County, Art Farden, owner of Let's Go Fishing, says this has been an unusually good year.

“It's been the best season in the last 10 years,” Farden says. He estimates there may be around three or four times as many fish. The walleye are big and “they showed up early,” Farden notes. During one recent weekend, he notes, the fishing was so good that there was scarcely a night crawler to be had in the area.



Chinook Salmon can still be caught in Lake Huron but the fishery has shifted to Walleye in some areas and a mix of salmon and trout species in others.

On the downside, the salmon have slowed recently and the perch still haven't recovered and it seems that they are small, Farden notes.

On the west side of Huron County, there also are a lot more walleye, according to Todd Williams, owner of the Bay Port Fish Company, Bay Port. Williams attributes the rise in walleye to DNR stocking and favorable conditions for the fish.

Williams also says he's seeing more smallmouth bass and Sheepshead, but the area isn't seeing more steelhead or lake trout. The near Bay Port area of Saginaw Bay hasn't traditionally been steelhead waters, he notes.

According to the DNR, the Lake Huron Chinook salmon fishery declined dramatically beginning in 2003 - the result of a steep decline in a forage base of smelt and alewife. The crash was triggered, in part, by an explosion in zebra and quagga mussels and round goby populations, which affected the lake's food web. Chinook salmon feed heavily on alewife and smelt and subsequently dropped to historically low levels, greatly reducing angling opportunities.

The forage base is the food - smaller fishes, also called prey fish - in the food web that the lake trout, walleye, steelhead and other species feed upon, such as alewife and smelt.

The Great Lakes fishery is valued at \$7 billion annually and is a driving economic force for many communities. Despite the opportunities available to anglers on Lake Huron, most aren't taking advantage of it. In 1997 the DNR documented more than 1.3 million anglers' hours during open water season on 10 ports that are surveyed each year, while in 2013 that figure dropped to just under 300,000 hours.

“Many fish species are thriving in Lake Huron, offering world-class fishing opportunities for anglers,” said Todd Grischke, DNR Lake Huron basin coordinator. “Yet, we've seen a dramatic decline in angler use over the past 10 to 15 years. Essentially, the fish are there, but the anglers are not. We encourage people to get out on the water and have fun.”

Following the decline in Chinook salmon fishing, the DNR's Fisheries Division adapted its fisheries management to Lake Huron's changed ecosystem, starting with the near elimination of Chinook salmon and all brown trout stocking as neither species was thriving in Lake Huron. The focus shifted to native fish species, such as lake trout and walleye, and to species not so dependent on the previous food web such as steelhead and Atlantic salmon. These species have more diverse diets than Chinook salmon; a characteristic fisheries manager believed would translate into healthy populations and better opportunities for anglers.

That approach has worked well, as several species (lake trout, walleye, steelhead and Atlantic salmon) have become excellent targets for anglers.

“What's really interesting about the Lake Huron fishery is the diversity of the catch,” said Frank Krist, chair of the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee. “It's not unusual to go out fishing and come back with three or four different species of fish. It's exciting to see the lake is beginning to stabilize and provide such varied fishing opportunities.”

Walleye

Working in cooperation with constituent organizations in the Saginaw Bay region, the DNR stocked walleye in the bay for more than two decades without significant wild reproduction. Within one year of the alewife decline on Lake Huron, walleye started to flourish thanks to natural reproduction. As a result, in 2008 the DNR documented the highest population and catch rate of walleye recorded in the last 30 years. Today, Saginaw Bay's population remains at near record levels and provides benefits throughout the lake, creating walleye fishing opportunities along much of the Lake Huron coast from Lexington to Cheboygan.

Steelhead

With Chinook salmon as the primary fishery for 40 years, anglers didn't particularly target steelhead on Lake Huron. But since this species will eat a variety of prey items, it began to flourish with the help of stocking by the DNR. Annually about 500,000 steelhead are stocked in Lake Huron tributaries. The catch rate in 2012 was the highest recorded by the DNR in the 25 years data have been collected. While 2013 saw a slight drop in the catch rate, it was still the fourth-highest level recorded since 1997.

Additional Species

On top of steelhead, walleye and lake trout, additional opportunities are plentiful in Lake Huron, including for Atlantic salmon and yellow perch, especially in the Drummond Island and Les Cheneaux Islands area. Beginning in 2012, the DNR began an Atlantic salmon stocking program in Lake Huron and its tributaries, capitalizing on this species' feeding behavior and hoping to provide additional fishing opportunities for river, pier and off-shore anglers. Fisheries managers are anticipating returns from these stockings in the fall of 2014 and well into the future.

Upcoming 2016 DAS Key Dates

Tues., Jan. 12, 2016 7:00pm	BOD Meeting American Polish Cultural Center
Tues., Jan. 26, 2016 7:30pm	Membership Meeting/Xmas Party American Polish Cultural Center
Sat., Jan. 30, 2016	Perch Ice Fishing Outing Mitchell Bay
Sat., Feb. 20, 2016	Walleye Ice Fishing Outing Lake Erie (Ohio Waters)
Tues., Jan. 26, 2016 7:30pm	Membership Meeting American Polish Cultural Center

2015 December Membership Meeting Facts

<u>Attendance:</u>	110 (Adults & Children)
<u>Featured :</u>	'Salmon' Clause Skipper of the Year & Big Fish, Member and Director of the Year Awards
<u>Also Featured :</u>	Door prize Drawings - Turkeys, Hams, Liquor, Show Tickets
<u>50/50 Raffle Winner:</u>	\$190 - Joe Von Grabe \$190 - Dennis Kellie
<u>Every Member Draw:</u>	\$100 - Tom Theida Present

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(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.

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