



# Fishin' Tales

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

## March Meeting

- **When:**  
Tuesday, March 29, 2016 7:30pm
- **Where:**  
American Polish Cultural Center  
NW corner, 15 Mile Rd. & Dequindre
- **Featured Guest Speaker:**  
Tony Wiatrowski - Morgan's Tackle  
Spring Fishing at St. Joe
- **Other Happenings:**  
Ice Fishing Outing & River Tournament reports., Outing Info., Tackle raffles, 50/50 raffle, Every Member Drawing
- **DAS website:** [www.detroitsteelheaders.com](http://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

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Volume XXXXI, Issue III

March 2016

## Higgins Lake Outing - 2/20/2016



The day started early as members of the Detroit Area Steelheaders gathered at the Ventimiglia lodge for a briefing on the day's events. After a quick meeting and a hardy breakfast, the group of 14 suited up and headed for the DNR ramp on the west side of the lake.

In short order, everyone unloaded the ATV's, and worked their way down to the lake. Day was just starting to break as we hit the ice. After a short drive over the water covered ice. We spread out and started setting up over 100 FOW. The set-up of choice was tip-ups with Gray Shiners set near the bottom. Other methods used were dead sticks and jigging with spoons.

We had a brisk westerly breeze and heavy skies for most of the day. Dan Chisholm was the first to ice a Lake Trout just a little short on one end. Blaise Pewinski iced and released 2. Carl Ventimiglia #2 and his sons (Chris and Carl#3) iced 3 keepers and returned 5. Bob Paradise iced 1, Kurt Nofz iced 1. Don Evans iced a 26 incher and took the big fish payout. Don Mikros, Gaspare Aragona, Carl Ventimiglia(#1), Bill Stanley, Tom Gorguze and Rabi Abdallah all tried really, really hard to hook up on one of these creatures of the deep but ran out of time.



Although the fishing was a little on the slow side we iced 9 small Lakers and 5 keepers. Carl #2, knowing how important Gray Shiners are for Lake Trout fishing, bought every Gray in the county. We were thankful for the great supply of minnows. This lake is also known for its Perch. About noon Dan headed to the north shore to try his luck on these yellow belly gems. Dan found some small perch nothing worth keeping.

About 2:00 pm most of the group head back to the lodge for a hot lunch of Mac and Cheese, Green Beans and Kale Slaw. For dessert were Chocolate and Coconut pies. Great big thanks have to go to the Ventimiglias for hosting this wonderful outing. Events like this one make me proud to be a part of the Detroit Area Steelheaders.

**Hard Waters**  
**Don Mikros**  
**'Big MaMa'**

## 2016 Sportsman's Wild Game Dinner

The DAS 17th annual Wild Game Dinner í .. Definitely, the best one yet thanks to Country Smoke House, Michi-gun, Lombardo's Taxidermy, the Polish Cultural center, the DAS board and all the volunteers who helped everything go so smooth.

I truly feel Chef Brent and Chef Ray knocked it out of the park. When preparing a meal for almost 600 people and keeping the same results as cooking for a family of 4 really shows these guys are talented, I would recommend the Smokehouse to

anybody looking to step up there event as long as it's not the same day as ours.

Michi-gun as always handles our crowd great and brings the right product to keep our guests buying tickets, 2016 = most gun draws ever. Big thanks to Shirley and Rich for the continued support of the Steelheaders.

What game dinner wouldn't be complete without a great taxidermy display. If you are looking for the best work around go check John Lombardo out. I know a couple of our guests

**WGD** (Cont'd on Pg.2)

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS****Currently: 149 Members****New Memberships Welcome!**

DON EVAN	FRED MANKE			
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**Re-Newed Memberships**

RABIH ABDALLAH	ROGER HINCHCLIFF	TED LEWICKI	GIL PIESCZAK	
MARK GAZDA	DALE HOEPFNER	DAN O'KEEFE	CARL VENTIMIGLIA	

**Memberships Expired**

<b>2 mo. Ago Last Reminder:</b>	DAVID HOPCROFT	GREG PRATT	CHRISTOPHER A. TURAK	
	PHIL LEESE	WINSTON SETO		

<b>1 Mo. Ago First Reminder:</b>	ROBERT BUTKIEWICZ	CALVIN DOCTOR	THOMAS OSENTOSKI	BRIAN ZAPORSKI
	HERMANN CHRISTOPH	TOM LERNER	BILL RICHARDS	

<b>This Month:</b>	NIC AMICONE	BRAD HENDERSON	JAMES LORENZETTI	BRUCE TURNAGE
	DAN CHISHOLM	ERIC ISROW	DAVID MAYFIELD	
	CHARLES DENNING	ANTHONY LEWIS	ANDREW STOCKTON	

**Detroit Area Steelheaders is on Facebook. To connect with Detroit Area Steelheaders sign up or Log in to Facebook today.**

**Tackle Matters**

Our featured speaker for the March meeting will be Tony Wiatrowski of Morgan Tackle talking about early season fishing in St. Joseph.

With that in mind, the March tackle raffle mostly involves items for big water trolling fishing.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter the featured item is a 9 foot Shimano Talora dipsey combo with an Okuma Convactor CV 45 D reel. I have added a pair of Church TX-44 Super Planer boards. These boards are large enough to get your presentation out away from the boat and out of the way of other lines. They also handle lead, copper, and even dipsey divers.

Thanks to you the raffles are going well allowing me to place better stuff on the raffle table. Have fun with it!

**Dan Chisholm**

**WGD (From Pg.1)** will because John generously donated a couple of gift cards to us, and also brings his work at no charge to us. For an event like this to go off as good as it does it takes a lot of prep and planning most of the year. Then when the big day comes the rest of the board who was there puts in big work to make this dinner a great success. Now that it's in the

books it's time for us to spread our hard earned profits to great causes and organizations and further help promote, protect, and preserve the resources in this great state of Michigan.

**Your WGD Chairman,  
Carl Ventimiglia**

**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.**

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

**Membership Application**

New Member - \$35 Yearly

Renewal - \$35 Yearly

Senior (65 &amp; 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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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

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586-489-2041**Assistants****LINDA BANBURY**

Special People

**MARY KARAKAS**

Special People



## 2/20/16 - Higgins Lake Outing Photos



## Lake Huron Salmon Unlikely to Rebound, Study Says

Ann Arbor — Lake Huron's glory days as a salmon fishery are likely gone forever, according to a study whose lead researcher says Lake Michigan is following a similar pattern.

Lake Huron's population of the alewife, the herring-like fish that are the Chinook salmon's main food source, collapsed in 2003, according to researchers. Heavy stocking of Chinook in Lake Huron contributed to increased predation of alewives; the sharp Chinook decline started soon after.

In Lake Michigan, populations of alewives and salmon are both declining.



The increase in non-native mussels is also blamed for the decline of alewives and other small fish that are food sources for salmon.  
(Photo: Dale G Young / The Detroit News)

The study, published Monday in *Ecosystems*, used a food-web modeling approach to determine factors on the decline of salmon in Lake Huron. It determined that heavy stocking of salmon led to increased predation of alewives. The increase in non-native mussels also competed with small fish — such as alewives and rainbow smelt, another salmon food — for nutrients.

“We are seeing all the same warning signs in lakes Michigan and Ontario,” said Yu-Chun Kao in a release. Kao conducted the work for his doctoral dissertation at UM under study co-author Sara Adlerstein-Gonzalez. “We’re seeing decreasing nutrient loads, a decrease in soft-bodied, bottom-dwelling invertebrates due to the mussels, a decrease in rainbow smelt and, as a result, Chinook salmon feeding almost solely on alewives.”

Kao is working to follow this research with a study that focuses on Lake Michigan. He is now a post-doctoral researcher at Michigan State University who works at the U.S. Geological Survey in Ann Arbor.

Additional modeling work will be needed to determine if the pressure on the alewives population is as high in Lake Michigan as it was in Lake Huron, said study co-author Ed Rutherford, a fisheries biologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. No single factor contributed to the decline, he said.

“It took a sort of perfect storm,” he said.

While there is a fear that there will be an alewives collapse in Lake Michigan, it is possible that the population could rebound, he said.

“Some are worried it’s happening right before our eyes,” Rutherford said, referring to the Lake Michigan alewives population. “Alewives tend to have reproductive events in years that are warm. I think it’s a little too early to tell if they are going to collapse and not rebound.”

Rutherford said alewives are notorious for having wide swings in population size.

A September report from the Michigan DNR said that the Lake Michigan salmon population is down 75 percent from its peak in 2012, due partly to reduced stocking rates and declines in reproduction from a lack of prey.

“DNR biologists believe the only way to keep Lake Michigan from following Lake Huron is to manage the fisheries by balancing predator (salmon) and prey (alewife) so neither collapse,” that report said.

Rutherford said it can be tough to find a balance.

“What we know a little bit sooner is what’s going with the fish population,” he said. “The ability for management to respond very quickly is harder to do.”

Pacific salmon were introduced into the Great Lakes in the 1960s to control non-native alewives. But the alewife and rainbow smelt populations crashed in the early 2000s for reasons that included the invasion of foreign mussels that disrupted aquatic food chains.

Researchers say Lake Huron resource managers should focus their efforts on restoring native fish such as lake trout, walleye, whitefish and lake herring.

Staff Writer Candice Williams contributed.

## Closure for Walleye on Inland Waters Around Saginaw Bay

The Michigan DNR reminds anglers that regulations approved by the Natural Resources Commission in October 2015 impact walleye and yellow perch recreational fishing in Saginaw Bay. The new regulations had immediate effect and will remain in place for the 2016 fishing season.

For walleye, the daily possession limit is eight (8) fish and the minimum size limit is 13 inches. For yellow perch, the daily possession limit is reduced from 50 to 25 fish.

The waters where these walleye and yellow perch size-limit and bag-limit regulations apply are known as Lake Huron management unit MH-4 but also include the Saginaw River up to the Center Street Bridge, which is immediately upstream of the Rust Avenue boat launch in Saginaw.

It is very important for anglers to remember that fishing seasons for walleye were not changed for these waters. The Saginaw River is considered inland water, so walleye season closes Tuesday, March 15, whereas the waters of MH-4 are considered Great Lakes waters and are open year round.

These regulation changes will be the starting point for a new management process where future possession and size limits will be tied to the status of the walleye population. If the population diminishes, the regulations will become more conservative, but if the population remains high, then regulations will remain liberal.

For more information, check out the DNR's October press release, the 2016-2017 Michigan Fishing Guide, or call the Southern Lake Huron Management Unit at 989-684-9141.

## 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**

### 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's Bay

Perch Ice Fishing Outing

**Sat., Feb. 20, 2016**

Higgins Lake

Ice Fishing Outing

Contact: Blaise Pewinski (248) 890-4517

**Sat., Mar. 16, 2016**

Manistee Watershed

Tournament vs. Metro-West Steelheaders

Contact: Bob Paradise (586) 457-4073

**Sat., Apr. 2, 2016**

Island Lake

Trout Outing (Catch & Release)

Contact: Anthony Lewis (517) 449-3036

### 2016 Boat Trolling Tournaments

#### **Date**

**April 30**

(6:00am - 1:00pm)

#### **Port**

**St. Joseph**

plus Fish Off vs. Huron Valley Sportfishing Club

#### **Port Captain**

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**



**Upcoming 2016 DAS Key Dates**

<b>Tues., Mar. 29, 2016</b> 7:30pm	<b>Membership Meeting</b> American Polish Cultural Center
<b>Sat., Apr. 2, 2016</b>	<b>Trout Outing (Catch &amp; Release)</b> Island Lake Recreation Area
<b>Tues., Apr. 12, 2016</b> 7:00pm	<b>BOD Meeting</b> American Polish Cultural Center
<b>Tues., Apr. 26, 2016</b> 7:30pm	<b>Membership Meeting</b> American Polish Cultural Center
<b>Sat., Apr. 30, 2016</b> 6:00am - 1:00pm	<b>Boat Trolling Tournament</b> St. Joseph

**2016 February Membership Meeting Facts**

<b><u>Attendance:</u></b>	<b>68</b>
<b><u>Featured Speakers:</u></b>	<b>Dan O'Keefe</b> <b>Michigan Sea Grant</b>  <b>Roger Hinchcliff</b> <b>Steelhead Manifesto</b>
<b><u>50/50 Raffle Winner:</u></b>	<b>\$125 - Carl Ventimiglia Sr.</b>
<b><u>Every Member Draw:</u></b>	<b>Brian Glaser</b> <b>Not Present</b>

**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.

**TOM GORGUZE**  
**200 N LAFAYETTE**  
**ROYAL OAK, MI 48067**

**Membership expires: 516**

**We're on the Web:**  
**[www.detroitsteelheaders.com](http://www.detroitsteelheaders.com)**

**PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE**  
**GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE**  
**1974**

**MEETING NOTICE—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**Detroit Area Steelheaders**  
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