# FISHIN' TALES

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

Volume XXXX, Issue II — February 2015


**February Meeting**

**When:**
Tuesday, February 24, 2015 7:30pm

**•Where:**
American Polish Cultural Center
NW corner, 15 Mile Rd. & Dequindre

**•Featured :**
Guest Speaker:

**Other Happenings:**
River/Surf/Pier Tournament info., Ice Outing info., Tackle raffles, 50/50 raffle, Every member drawing

**•Up-To-Date Information on the DAS website at:**
www.detroitsteelheaders.com

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## Steelhead River Guide Speaks at February Meeting


Bob Ison Jr., captain of Another Limit Charters, will be our featured guest speaker at the February membership meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2015.

Bob is an experienced and licensed guide that specializes in salmon, steelhead, walleye and small mouth bass. He does his guiding from a comfortable, fully equipped, insured 20 foot jet boat along the Big Manistee and Tittabawassee Rivers.

Come hear what Bob has to offer from his many years of guiding clients along the Big Manistee. I am sure you won't be disappointed. Meanwhile, take the time to visit anotherlimitcharters.com or check him out on Facebook for the latest updated fishing reports.

## Saginaw Bay Ice Fishing Outing

### Planned for Saturday, Feb. 15, 2015

This should be a different event for a lot of DAS Nomads. We are used to chasing perch on LSC. I think it's time we take a visit to Linwood and see if we can catch a few of the perch's cousins. Saginaw bay offers up a very healthy population of walleye; both large and small just waiting for the right offering to be jigged in front of them.

Over the last 20 years I have made the trek up to the bay a couple of times each winter and I even took the Mark Martin ice fishing school to fine tune my ability of catching a few walleye on each of my outings. One thing I have learned about the bay, is do a little homework by following the web and ask just not how the fishing is but how are the ice conditions. The ice does move with every wind that comes up, some times a little and some times a lot.

With that in mind I try to never cross a crack to get to the fishing grounds, you will find that there are plenty of fish on the safe side of the crack. By being mobile you can cover ice, move until you find active fish or blood on the ice. That's a great giveaway by other anglers that there were fish in the area not long ago.

Walleye's can be taken on a variety of lures; jigging Rapalas, round jigs, Crocodile spoons, Slender spoons , Northland rattling spoons to name a few. All tipped with a whole minnow or minnow head. A good fish finder is a must, to help locate fish in the water column or to determine if you are over productive water or not. I have caught most of my walleye within a foot of bottom but on some trips while fishing close to cracks or shove ice I have found them to be just under the ice.

Other equipment needed for an enjoyable day on the ice, GPS to find your way back in, ice shanty to keep the wind off, 2 or 3 short jigging rods with top quality line and snap swivels, gas auger, gaffe and transportation on the ice,. Quad, snowmobile or Argo all fit the bill.

The plan is to meet at 6.30 am at Linwood Beach Marina on Feb 15. We will fish until noon or so, maybe have lunch on the ice and compare success stories of the morning bite. At that time I would figure some guys will want to leave but myself I will likely stay for the night bite, all are welcome to stay.

For more info contact me at 248 890 4517.

**Blaise Pewinski**

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **New Memberships** | | | | |
| RABIH ABDALLAH | DONALD JASMAN | PHIL LEESE | WINSTON SETO | |
| FRED CHARTIER | KATHLEEN HOUSLER | GREG PRATT | | |
| **Re-Newed Memberships** | | | | |
| None | | | | |
| **Memberships Expired** | | | | |
| **2 mo. Ago Last Reminder:** | MIKE LEHTO | JIM FITCH | TED LEWICKI | GARY RUPRICH |
| **I Mo. Ago First Reminder:** | NELSON CALDWELL | BRUCE HAYWOOD | RONALD PISARSKI | CHRISTOPHER TURAK |
| | TOM GODEK | DAVID HOPCROFT | CHRISTOPHER A. TURAK | PETER WASZKIEWICZ |
| **This Month:** | None | | | |

# 2015 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 8th thru the 11th, 2015 and conclude on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, 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.

# DAS Logo Store Coming Soon!

This year DAS club members will have the opportunity to shop for personalized logo items from our online store. The store will open for a limited time, orders processed, and available for delivery at a general membership meeting. You will be able to access the store from the detroitsteelheaders.com website shortly. Orders and payments are made by PayPal online

We have had requests for several types of items. With an online store we can offer multiple items and styles. In addition to our annual t-shirt, the store will offer Steelheader decals, a traditional style fishing shirt, a long sleeve performance style fishing shirt, fitted hats, a crew sweatshirt and also a hoodie . Samples of the items offered will be available at our February meeting for sizing. A tentative deadline for accepting orders will be sometime in March with products available for delivery at our April meeting.

**Tom Gorguze**
**248 343-8397**

## DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.

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

Membership Application

Ĭ New Member - $35 Yearly Ĭ Renewal - $35 Yearly
Ĭ Senior (65 & over)- $20 Yearly Ĭ Address Change only Amt. Paid $_____

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

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**248-343-8397**

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**586-214-8812**

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**Assistants**

**LINDA BANBURY**
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**MARY KARAKAS**
Special People

Because there was no mail delivery of the January issue of **Fishin' Tales,** the following article has been published in it's entirety this month. It was originally scheduled to be run as two parts spanning the January and February issues. It was just too good of a reading to miss.

Howard Tanner, right, changed the ecology of the Great Lakes in 1966 when he imported Pacific Ocean salmon in order to control invasive alewives -- and create a salmon fishery like none other on the planet. He is shown here with a group of friends, along with his father (second from left), near the eastern shore of Lake Michigan, with a prized catch at the dawn of the salmon era.

# The Man with the Salmon Plan

One biologist's radical dream for the Great Lakes came true when millions of salmon were brought in from the Pacific. The world's largest freshwater ecosystem has been a giant science experiment ever since.

**By Dan Egan of the Journal Sentinel staff**

**Harrisville, Mich.** ð The author of the bumper sticker maxim that "A Bad Day Fishing is Better than a Good Day Working" never sat on the shore of Lake Huron with Jay Hall during the fall salmon run.

Jay Hall of Flint, Mich., drove about two hours from his home to go salmon fishing in Harrisville on Oct. 1. Hall didn't get a bite but remembers Harrisville swarming with salmon fisherman in 1989.

The 47-year-old mechanic from Flint was perched on a collapsible chair on a windless fall day, hands stuffed in his jacket pockets, fishing pole propped in the crotch of a twig stuck in lakeshore muck. His gear would have been dragged out to sea had a salmon hit, but Hall wasn't much worried about that. He was at the end of a bad fishing trip, one that had yielded not a nibble.

"It's just ð it's just depressing," he said in a voice as flat as the glassy harbor. "Man it is."

To grasp the depth of Hall's disappointment, you have to understand where he was coming from: Fall, 1989, the last time he went salmon fishing along the shoreline in Harrisville.

Like so many of eastern Michigan's coastal towns back then, Harrisville swarmed each fall with shoreline anglers plucking chinook out of the lake with such regularity it was as if they were coming off a General Motors assembly line. Reeling in "king" salmon back then was blue-collar sport ð all you needed was a pole and patch of public shoreline.

Hall remembered the carnival of the harbor parking lot. Beer flowed; car radios blared. But what he recalled most vividly was the crisp fall air tinged with the scent of burning hardwood from a nearby salmon smokehouse. And the old guy who filleted mounds of bronze carcasses for a dollar apiece ð slicing and slinging fish skins into garbage cans with what seemed to be one fluid motion.

Hall and a friend rolled home to Flint that 1989 day, arms sore from fighting the 20-pounders, the back seat of their Geo Metro folded down to make space for coolers loaded with pale-orange fillets. Hall moved away soon after and only recently returned to Michigan to care for his aging mother. He figured one upside to landing back in his home state was that he could once again hit Lake Huron's fall salmon run.

But now that the day had finally come, he didn't feel any of the old exhilaration. All he felt was foolish. On the drive up from Flint, Hall had worried aloud to his brother-in-law that the shoreline might be too packed to find a good spot. When they arrived, the sprawling boat-launch parking lots were empty. Not a single angler could be found on the shore. Only a lone pontoon boat puttered about the harbor.

The fish fillet station was gone. So was the old bait shop, and the only smoke in the air was from Hall's sad cigarette exhales.

"This used to be the hot spot," he kept trying to convince his brother-in-law. "It used to be. It really did!"

After less than two hours they grabbed their gear and headed for the parking lot feeling as hollow as the three coolers in the back of the Dodge minivan.

The lake of Hall's memory is dead, its salmon all but vanished in the past decade ð a collapse so swift that fisheries biologists have likened it to driving off a cliff.

For a brief few decades, those biologists had turned this Great Lake into a Pacific chinook factory, taking a wildly popular sport fish from faraway ocean waters and setting it loose to gorge upon the swarms of invasive alewives that had decimated native fish species. In the end, the salmon program proved to be a

**Salmon Plan** ( Contd. on Pg. 4)

**Salmon Plan** (Contd. from Pg. 3) leaky bandage on a massive biological hemorrhage ð the onslaught of invasive species that have infested the Great Lakes since the St. Lawrence Seaway opened the long-isolated freshwater seas to all manner of ecological contagia from around the globe.

Yet what's happened on Lake Huron is not just a story about the death of its man-made Pacific salmon fishery.

It's also about the rise of something nobody expected ð Mother Nature herself.

This Great Lake, it turns out, possessed a remarkable ability to heal itself; the salmon and their preferred prey ð the alewives ð ultimately succumbed to wave after wave of new invasions since the early 1990s. But the lake's native fish species, built to thrive in its frigid and relatively sterile waters, have figured out how to thrive amid all this fresh ecological chaos by feasting on the new intruders. The questions now:

Will this resurrection of native fish spread across the Great Lakes?

And will it even matter if we fail to close the doors to the next invasion?

## Turning a Lake Upside Down

Perhaps no single person has had a bigger impact on the Great Lakes as we know them than Howard Tanner.


In the Great Lakes, Howard Tanner is considered 'Father of the Coho'

Born on Sept. 4, 1923, the son of a grocer in northern Michigan started fishing on Sunday mornings with his father at age 5. The two chased brook trout near the railroad tracks along the Jordan River in Antrim County ð the same region of northwest Michigan fished by a young Ernest Hemingway just several years earlier. Tanner remembers the catch limit at the time was 15 per day, and the Tanners, like everyone else in those days, were not catch-and-release guys. Especially after the country entered the Great Depression, his father lost the store, became sheriff and moved the family into the living quarters of the county jail.

"We ate all we caught," the 91-year-old Tanner told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. "There was no question about that."

By age 15, Tanner had printed up business cards declaring himself a professional fishing guide and was taking wealthy city anglers to inland lakes to chase smallmouth bass, or fly fishing on the Jordan River.

By age 23, Tanner was a World War II veteran who had helped carve airstrips out of the jungles of the South Pacific.

By age 29, Tanner had acquired a doctorate in fisheries biology from Michigan State University.

His first job after graduation was as portentous as it was ambitious. He literally turned life upside down in a little lake in the middle of a Michigan state forest using a generator, a pump and a pipe to suck the water 40 feet up from the bottom to the surface.

"The research reason for that was the nutrients would gradually settle to the bottom of the lake, but there was no oxygen down there for biological activity and the question was: What would happen if you pumped that nutrient-rich water back up on the surface where there was sunlight and life?"

As the junior scientist in the experiment, it was Tanner's job to maintain the generator that ran around the clock on the shore of West Lost Lake. He still vividly remembers one early summer morning in 1952.

"There was a fisherman sitting on the bank with his rod, smoking a pipe as I put gas in and checked the oil, and I went over to say good morning. He said: 'Could you tell me what you're doing?' And I said: 'Yes, we're sucking the water off the bottom of the lake and putting it up on the top.' He looked at me and said: 'That's just exactly what I thought,' and walked away," Tanner said with a wry smile. "I can hear him in the bar saying, 'You know what I saw today?'"

The experiment did what was expected ð it sparked a bloom of plankton near the surface. But the flicker of life flared out once the scientists turned off the pump.

"It probably resumed its normal situation in a week or two," Tanner said, though he did not stick around long enough to find out.

At summer's end, he headed with his wife and two young sons to Colorado, where he had landed a job at what is now Colorado State University. Since Michigan's state conservation department paid for his education, Tanner had expected the department would hire him. He was a bit disappointed at the time. But looking back more than a half-century later, he said that move was exactly what was needed for his own professional development ð and for the future of the Great Lakes.

He found the Western approach to fishery management "totally different, in almost every way" from how biologists approached the job in the Great Lakes region.

Perhaps the most important distinction is that so many water bodies out West are vast man-made pools created by concrete and earthen dams. This made them blank canvasses for fishery managers to construct an ecosystem almost from scratch.

"When you create new water and there is nothing in it," said Tanner, "you plant something."

Hatchery-raised sport fish like trout and bass were planted with abandon, the fish eggs shared in a manner that created bonds between fishery managers and researchers stretching across state lines.

This build-it-yourself approach to fishery management, and the friends Tanner made in top state fishery jobs across the West, proved immensely important not long after a phone call

**Salmon Plan** (Contd. on Pg. 5)

**Salmon Plan** (Contd. from Pg. 4) came in 1964 from one of his old professors. He told Tanner that his home state needed a fisheries chief. Tanner's career was thriving in Colorado, where he had become chief of fisheries research. But there were lures. His father back in Michigan was battling cancer and his father-in-law also had been ill. The money was better and, perhaps most significantly, there was the vastness of the Great Lakes ð the world's largest freshwater system.

"I immediately began to think about all the water back there," Tanner said.

Colorado's largest lake at the time was 7,200-acre Lake Granby ð scarcely a puddle on a Great Lakes scale.

"About 50% of the surface freshwater in the 50 states are within the boundaries of Michigan, and the other 49 states shared the rest of it," Tanner said. "It was a big job."

And he took it.

## Inheriting a Mess

The Great Lakes had undergone a devastating ecological transformation in the 12 years Tanner had been gone, particularly Lakes Michigan and Huron. Both had been overrun by alewives, a herring native to the Atlantic Ocean. Like salmon, alewives have a freshwater and saltwater phase in their life cycle. Both species are born in freshwater and then descend to the sea before returning to their native waters to spawn. Typically.

The alewives that had wriggled their way around Niagara Falls via the Welland Canal found life-sustaining zooplankton and baby fish to feast upon in Lakes Michigan and Huron ð enough for them serve as surrogate "seas" for their adult lives.

The fish first made it into Lake Huron in the 1930s, but their numbers exploded in the late 1950s in the wake of the demise of the Great Lakes' native lake trout. Consider lake trout the wolf of the freshwater deep. The beasts atop the food chain could grow to 80 pounds by feasting upon all the smaller fish below ð including the newly arrived alewives.

Lake trout might have kept alewife numbers in check. But the king of the lake was toppled by a nearly simultaneous invasion of the Atlantic Ocean sea lamprey, which also slithered into the lakes through the Welland Canal.

These eel-like parasites destroy their prey by swimming up alongside and then latching onto the fish with suction-cup mouths. They use a tongue rough as sandpaper to rasp away their host's skin and scales, then suck the life out of the fish. One 18-inch-long, bratwurst-thick lamprey can destroy up to 40 pounds of fish during the 12 to 20 months it lives in open waters.

By the time Tanner returned to Michigan in the fall of 1964, decades of commercial overfishing and the lamprey invasion had combined to decimate Huron and Michigan's lake trout population.

With the disappearance of this top predator, alewife numbers exploded as they outcompeted the lakes' other smaller fish. Alewives eventually accounted for up to 90% of the fish biomass in Lake Michigan. That means that for every 10 pounds of fish swimming in the lake, nine of those pounds were alewives.

Dominant as they were, alewives did not evolve to withstand the Great Lakes' wild temperature swings. That led to frequent die-offs by the billions that plugged city drinking water intakes and smothered beaches under reeking mounds of rotting flesh that had to be cleared with bulldozers and dump trucks.

Trying to counter the one-two punch of the alewife and lamprey invasions, Great Lakes biologists seized on a chink in the lamprey life cycle: The parasites don't reproduce in open waters but spawn in a relatively small number of rivers that feed the lakes.

This allowed researchers to concoct a lamprey-specific poison that was pumped into key rivers and streams. By the time Tanner returned to Michigan in 1964, biologists were dispensing this "lampricide" ð essentially an ecosystem-scale chemotherapy ð on tributaries across the Great Lakes. The poisoning program, which continues today, ultimately suppressed lamprey numbers to about 10% of their late 1950s' peak.

Despite the initial decline in lamprey, the alewife infestation was raging when Tanner returned to Michigan because the lakes still lacked enough predators to keep their numbers in check.

On one of his first days on the job, Tanner grasped the scope of the trouble he had inherited. He was touring northern Lake Michigan in an airplane west of Beaver Island. There was a massive white blob on the water, which the pilot identified as one of the lake's dead alewife slicks. Tanner asked the pilot to bank the twin-engine plane so he could get a closer look. Amazed by the scale of the alabaster blotch floating upon the vast blue sea, Tanner asked the pilot how big of a mess of alewives he was looking at.

The pilot told him it was about seven miles long and two-thirds of a mile across. The surface area of this single slick of dead alewives was nearly the size of Tanner's largest lake in Colorado.

"That was the first eyeball experience I had," said Tanner, who has written a soon-to-be-published book on the history of Great Lakes salmon.

"That was a very, very impressive sight."

While most considered the alewife explosion a natural disaster, Tanner assessed it as an opportunity. His boss, after all, had given him one primary directive:

"The fish division hasn't done anything new in 20 years. Get out there and do something big and spectacular."

**Salmon Plan** (Contd. on Pg. 6)

**Salmon Plan** (Contd. from Pg. 5)

## Crowning a new king

The natural choice for a top predator after the lampreys were thinned was the native lake trout, small populations of which continued to hang on in parts of Lake Superior and northern Lake Huron.

Great Lakes Lake Trout Photo by Mark Hoffman

**History**
The top native predator in the Great Lakes. Although they all but disappeared around the mid-1950s due to the invasive sea lamprey and commercial overfishing, lake trout have been stocked for decades and continue to be one the most important native sport species in the lakes.

**Diet**
Lake trout have recently adapted to eating invasive round gobies. Unlike alewives, gobies do not appear to cause a thiamine deficiency in lake trout that has stymied efforts to establish a naturally reproducing population.

**Restoration**
The lake trout rehabilitation program in Lake Michigan began in the mid-1960s. Since then, federal funding has allowed 2 to 3 million lake trout to be stocked each year. With the decline of alewives, some trout are now naturally reproducing on Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

The torpedo-shaped trout can grow as long as three feet and take the better part of a century doing it. This is important, because the cold waters of the upper Great Lakes were historically prone to booms and busts in prey fish populations. This is not a problem for slow-growing lake trout, which are able to throttle down their metabolism in tough times and wait it out until another bumper crop of little fish arrives.

What is a problem for lake trout is that they were never hugely popular with sport fishermen on the deep waters of the Great Lakes. This is because some strains of lake trout can become something of a dead weight on the end of a fishing line if they are hooked in deep water.

It's not for lack of heart, but an inability to quickly expel the air in a swim bladder that allows them to adjust buoyancy so they can swim at greatly varying depths. The rapid loss of pressure as one is reeled from the deep can inflate that bladder to the point that some fish pop to the surface after mustering a relatively feeble fight for such a large fish.

Licensed to manage with audacity, Tanner thought a better option for the Great Lakes would be Pacific salmon, tailor-made to feast on species like the alewife ð prey fish that swim by the thousands in massive schools high up in the water column.

Salmon feed with such ferocity that they can grow to 40 pounds during their three-year life cycle. It can take a lumbering lake trout 40 or 50 years to reach that weight, carrying much of it as belly fat.

Pacific salmon, on the other hand, are essentially swimming muscles that can chase their prey for thousands of miles before fighting hundreds of miles upstream against tumbling mountain rivers to spawn and die. Salmon also can burp out their swim bladder gas to allow them to take their fight against a fisherman all the way to the deck of a boat, as Tanner had thrillingly learned firsthand from an earlier fishing trip on the Pacific Ocean.

Tanner's goal wasn't to just alter the species composition of the lakes; he wanted to change the public's relationship with the lakes themselves. Beyond pier fishing for perch and smallmouth bass, fishing in the lakes primarily had been the domain of relatively few commercial fishing crews using big boats and nets to harvest lake trout, perch, whitefish and chubs for restaurants and stores.

But because these commercially fished native species had been so destroyed by overfishing and the lamprey and alewife infestations, Tanner inherited something of a blank slate ð almost like a freshly filled reservoir in the West. He had little interest in trying to repaint the same old picture, but wanted instead to turn the waters over to large numbers of sportsmen who fished as much for thrill as fillet.

"You manage the resource to produce the greatest good for the greatest number for the longest period of time," Tanner said, borrowing the axiom of the first boss of the U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot, a champion of squeezing as much economic benefit from the nation's public forests as was sustainable.

"And for a century, probably, commercial fishing fit that criteria," Tanner said. "But in 1964 it was long past."

## 'If I chose to do it, we could do it'

There had been dozens of earlier attempts to plant salmon in the lakes dating back to the 1870s. All had flickered and failed, save for one tiny population in Lake Superior. The previous stocking programs failed because they were not

**Salmon Plan** (Contd. on Pg. 7)

**Salmon Plan** (Contd. from Pg. 6)

sustained year after year, or included salmon species ill-suited for the waters of the Great Lakes, or because the stocking was done in the wrong place or at the wrong time of salmon's life cycle.

But, most importantly, those stocking experiments happened before the lakes were bursting with alewives.

Tanner thought there was a chance Pacific salmon, like alewives, would reproduce on their own once they got a foothold in the Great Lakes. But he was not banking on it and was prepared to embark on an annual stocking program that could last years, decades, even longer.

He just did not know how to get it started. Tanner had tried for years back in Colorado to acquire coho salmon eggs from colleagues in the Pacific Northwest to plant in Rocky Mountain reservoirs. For years he had been rebuffed.

**History**
The Pacific Ocean natives were introduced into Lake Michigan on April 2, 1966, in a move aimed at controlling invasive alewives and establishing a sport fishery.

**Diet**
In the Great Lakes, the adult coho diet is dominated by small alewives.

**Management**
Officials have reduced stockings in recent years due to the decline in alewife populations. Coho, which are much smaller than chinook, are more expensive to stock, since it takes 18 months ï instead of six ï to go from fertilized egg to fingerling

Coho Salmon Photo by Mark Hoffman

The northwest hatchery workers, trying to bolster wild stocks ravaged by dams that plugged migration routes to the sea, were having a hard time figuring out how to keep hatchery salmon fed. Hatchery workers had to grind things like salmon eggs, liver and spleens each day to feed the baby fish. It was a work-intensive, hit-or-miss process that brought too-little success in raising fish that could actually survive a trip to the ocean ð and back to where they were planted.

But the emergence in the early 1960s of a vitamin-dosed, pasteurized fish pellet made of things like wheat germ and herring guts suddenly changed that. It could be whipped up in industrial-size batches and dispensed daily. It led to a boom in raising salmon out West and that, eventually, led to a phone call Tanner got barely six weeks after he took the Michigan job. An old colleague said Oregon might have some coho eggs to share, a salmon species similar to chinook, though smaller.

"I didn't believe it," Tanner said. "I'm thinking if that was true, then the opportunity was there. It was ð it just was crystal clear. I mean, everything would fit. There would be a food supply. The waters were suitable in temperature. ... And if I chose to do it, we could do it."

Tanner made a call to Oregon the next day and found biologists really did have salmon eggs to share, due largely to the newly concocted fish food.

He went to his bosses at the Michigan Department of Conservation and got their approval almost immediately. In December 1964 ð less than four months after he took the job ð the first batch of an initial gift from Oregon of 1 million coho eggs was loaded on a plane bound for Michigan.

Tanner's push to plant in Michigan waters an exotic fish that could, theoretically, roam from one end of the Great Lakes to the other had obvious ramifications for the other Great Lakes states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York as well as the Province of Ontario. The U.S. government, meanwhile, had its own plan to restore native lake trout to help revive the lakes' commercial fishing industry.

But once Tanner got approval from the board overseeing the Michigan conservation department, he and his superiors acted alone ð with a focus and purposefulness that reflected their collective war experiences.

Tanner had helped carve airstrips from jungles as a member of the Army's Signal Corps. His boss had led Marines ashore. And that guy's boss had been a bomber pilot over Germany.

"If something needed to be done, you did it," Tanner said of the battle-hardened group.

Coho would be just the first wave of plantings, an enterprise Tanner and his colleagues referred to as "farming" the Great Lakes to create an unmatched recreational fishery.

"The ultimate aim is to convert an estimated annual production of 200 million pounds of low-value fishes ð mainly alewives ð that now teem in the upper Great Lakes into an abundance of sport fishes for recreational fishermen," Tanner and his assistant Wayne Tody wrote in a 1966 report issued just two months before the first salmon crop was planted in Lake Michigan.

Just like the experiment on West Lost Lake 14 years earlier, Tanner again set out to turn life upside down in a lake. But now the scope

**Salmon Plan** (Contd. on Pg. 8)

Salmon Plan (Contd. from Pg. 7) of his ambitions had reached a Great Lakes scale.

"All my life I have marveled that one person, that happened to be me, was given the opportunity and the authority to make a decision of this magnitude," he said.

## 'A hero or a bum'

On a snowy April 2, 1966, Tanner, wearing a tie and overcoat, took a microphone on a makeshift stage on the banks of the Platte River flowing into Lake Michigan southwest of Traverse City. Dignitaries sat on card table chairs behind him for a brief ceremony before a state legislator picked up a ceremonial golden bucket and dumped a load of finger-sized cohos into the river.

Later that day, Tanner tipped his own bucket of coho into a nearby creek ð one of the very creeks where Hemingway had fished for trout a half-century earlier. It was a bittersweet moment; Tanner had already quietly agreed to take a new job as a professor at Michigan State University.

"I stood at the banks of Bear Creek and the truck left and the photographers left and I stood there in the snow watching those fish go down to the main stream wondering ð how soon and how big?"

Would the fish survive to adulthood, and if so would they return to the river and stream in which they were planted? Would they, as some scoffed, swim east instead for the salty allure of the Atlantic Ocean? Would they just become fish food?

Or would they alter life in the Great Lakes in a manner no one could predict?

Tanner took his worries home and confessed them to his wife as they sipped cocktails. "I remember telling her, I'm going to be either a hero or a bum," he said. "Whichever it is, it's going to be loud and clear. And it's going to reverberate for a long time."

**Editors Note:**

**Sunday**: The man with the salmon plan

*This article was actually the first of three parts*
*Published Dec. 7, 2014 by the Journal Sentinel*

**Monday**: Salmon crowned king, but its reign is wobbly
http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/Salmon-crowned-king-but-its-reign-is-wobbly-b99397825z1-284550501.html

**Tuesday**: A Great Lake revival
http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/A-Great-Lake-revival-b99397836z1-284551621.html

# Changes to Master Angler Program for 2015

The Michigan DNR announced effective January 1, 2015 multiple changes have been made to Michigan's Master Angler program, which allows anglers to submit large fish they have caught for recognition. The program has been in place since 1973.

The Master Angler program recognizes two categories of catches: catch-and-keep and catch-and-immediate-release. Previously, the catch-and-keep category was determined by the weight of the fish caught, but that requirement has been removed and replaced with a length requirement. Now recognition in both categories will be awarded based on an established minimum length for each recognized species. Verified entries will receive the Master Angler patch. Only one patch will be awarded for both entries. No more than one patch per species will be awarded to each angler per year.

"Eliminating the weight requirement for part of the Master Angler program really helps to streamline both the application and the verification process, especially as anglers will no longer have to find a certified scale to have their catch weighed," explained Lynne Thoma, the program's coordinator. "We hope this change will make it even easier for anglers to have their large fish recognized."

In addition to the change to the category criteria, some changes were made to the submission procedures. A witness signature is no longer required and each application must have a color photo submitted with it. Anglers can now submit their applications in hard-copy or electronic formats.

Please note, state-record fish still are recognized by weight and still require identification by a DNR fisheries biologist.

The 2015 Master Angler entry application is available online at www.michigan.gov/masterangler. ✧

# DNR Cautions about Ice Dams, Sudden Changes in River Flow

The Michigan DNR is urging anglers to use caution when planning trips on rivers and streams this winter. Winter fishing for trout and steelhead can be challenging and rewarding, but cold air temperatures can cause sudden and significant changes in flows in rivers and streams.

Temperature effects are Ice Dams (Contd. on Pg. 9)

**Ice Dams** (Contôd. from Pg. 8)

most pronounced at times of very cold air temperatures, particularly below 10 degrees Fahrenheit, especially if areas with extreme nighttime cold temperatures alternate with warmer days. When nights are very cold and clear, rivers can see extensive freezing and often ice dams form," Kruger said. "These dams cause water to back up the streams, reducing flow downstream, and can be quickly released if temperatures rise above freezing during the daytime hours. This can cause unpredictable and often sudden flow changes.

Biologists say this phenomenon is noticeable on the middle to lower Au Sable River in Michiganôs northern Lower Peninsula. The middle Au Sable River is particularly susceptible to the influences of cold weather, more so than some of the stateôs other winter steelhead streams.

Extensive ice damming and anchor ice formation can occur below Mio Dam, particularly in the area around McKinley, during periods when air temperatures are below 10 degrees. Typically, these ice-damming events cause unusually low flows to be seen below Foote Dam.

DNR fisheries staff strongly recommends when planning for a winter fishing trip to one of the stateôs streams, anglers should check on river conditions and weather forecasts locally. Air temperatures below 10 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit are likely to create conditions for more difficult fishing, particularly from a boat.

There also are many weather-related websites that can provide forecasts for anticipated air temperatures that can help you better plan for expected conditions.


# 2015 Boat Trolling Tournaments

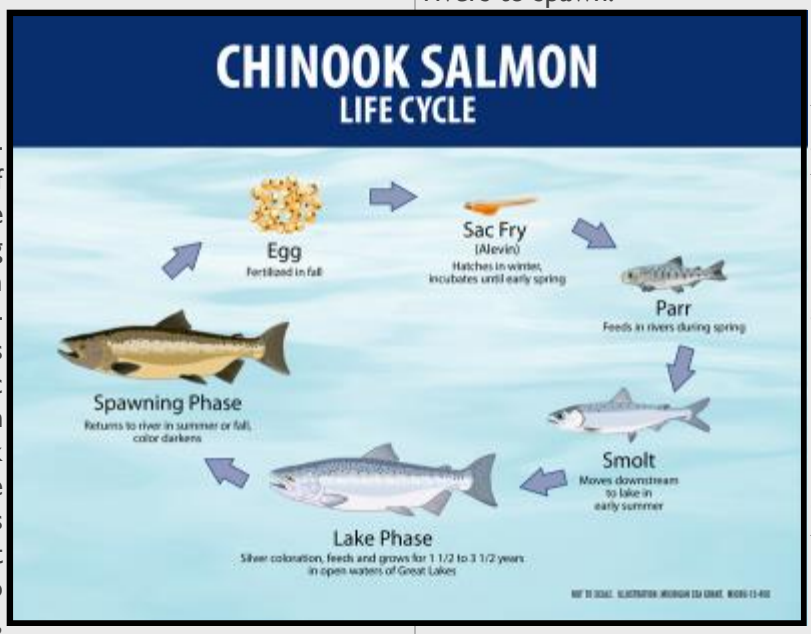
| Date | Port | Port Captain |
|---|---|---|
| April 18 (6:30am - 1:30pm) | Lexington | Dan Chisholm |
| May 2 (6:00am - 1:00pm) | St. Joseph plus Fish Off vs. Huron Valley Sportfishing Club | Blaise Pewinski |
| May 16 (6:00am - 1:00pm) May 17 (6:00am - 11:00am) | Grand Haven | Bob Feisel |
| June 13 (6:00am - 1:00pm) | Harbor Beach | Paul Gjeldum |
| July 18 (6:00am - 1:00pm) | Muskegon | John Meade |
| August 1 (6:00am - 1:00pm) | Olcott, NY | Jim Zanke |
| August 15 (6:00am - 1:00pm) | Ludington | Joe Von Grabe |
| August 29 (6:00am - 1:00pm) | Manistee | Bob Paradise |

# Great Lakes Migrants: More Than Just Salmon

**The fall salmon run is a powerful reminder that backyard creeks and streams are connected to the Great Lakes. Salmon are one of many fish that move between habitat types.**

Posted on **December 5, 2014** by **Dan O'Keefe**, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Sea Grant

As an employee of Michigan State University Extension and Michigan Sea Grant, I often have the opportunity to talk informally with anglers. Fishing reports and concerns for the future of the fishery due to invasive species and other threats often dominate the discussion. Sometimes concepts or basic definitions from ecology and fisheries science come to the forefront and provide what educators might call a "teachable moment."




Such was the case recently when the subject of anadromous fish came up. It got me thinking about how the term "anadromous" was imported to the Great Lakes region from the Pacific Northwest along with coho salmon and Chinook salmon in the 1960s. The term "anadromous" is commonly used by Great Lakes anglers to refer to salmon and trout species, and particularly to those that enter rivers to spawn but spend most of their life in the Great Lakes.

In their native range, these Pacific salmon live most of their lives in saltwater but at the end of their life cycle they return to the freshwater streams where they were born to spawn. This is an example of anadromous migratory behavior – which is defined specifically as the movement from saltwater to freshwater for spawning. In other words, salmon could be called an anadromous species but their behavior in the Great Lakes doesn't quite meet the definition of anadromous because Great Lakes salmon spend their entire life in freshwater.

"Who cares?" you might well ask. "What does it matter if they are anadromous or not?"

To my mind, the answer is that "anadromous" is a term that carries with it a certain special status in the minds of anglers and other fish enthusiasts. Salmon certainly are special in many ways, but there is another term that more accurately describes their behavior in the Great Lakes, and it also applies to many other species. This term is "potamodromous" and it more broadly refers to behavior that involves moving from one freshwater habitat to another as a regular part of the life cycle.

Like salmon, many native species exhibit potamodromous behavior when they move into rivers to spawn. Walleye and lake sturgeon are good examples of species that (at least in some areas) enter rivers only for spawning, but the list is much longer than that. Even some populations of white sucker and the colorful long nose sucker make impressive migrations from the Great Lakes into creeks and rivers to spawn.

Does it really matter if our Great Lakes salmon meet the technical definition of anadromous? Maybe not to the average angler, but scientists recognize that other species make connections between creeks and Great Lakes environments, too.

In some nutrient-poor Great Lakes streams, the migration of native fish could play the same role as the salmon run does in maintaining the health of streams in the Pacific Northwest. One study even found that nutrients from decaying suckers and sucker eggs stimulated the growth of aquatic insects in a Lake Michigan tributary. The caddisflies that benefit from sucker runs can in turn provide food for stream trout and other fish.

This article was published by **Michigan State University Extension**. For more information, visit http://www.msue.msu.edu. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit http://bit.ly/MSUENews. To contact an expert in your area, visit http://expert.msue.msu.edu, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

The life cycle of Chinook salmon in the Great Lakes doesn't quite meet the definition of anadromous because Great Lakes salmon spend their entire life in freshwater. Todd Marsee | Michigan Sea Grant

# 2014 DAS Raffle Report

| 2014 | | Membership** | | Tackle Raffle | | | 50:50 Raffle | | | Bottom Line | | | Inventory |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Month | Attend | Name | Payout | Collection | Prizes Cost | Net Profit | Collection | Pay Out | Net Profit | Total In | To DAS | Net Profit | Value |
| Beginning Inventory | | | | | | | | | | | | | $695.28 |
| Jan | 50 | G Piesczak | $ - | $ 150.00 | $ 182.68 | $ (32.68) | $ 152.00 | $ 76.00 | $ 76.00 | $ 302.00 | $ 226.00 | $ 43.32 | $640.28 |
| Feb | 53 | A Weichert | $ - | $ 172.00 | $ 182.46 | $ (10.46) | $ 221.00 | $ 111.00 | $ 110.00 | $ 393.00 | $ 282.00 | $ 99.54 | $421.10 |
| Mar | 50 | M. Lolli | $ - | $ 161.00 | $ 186.99 | $ (25.99) | $ 195.00 | $ 100.00 | $ 95.00 | $ 356.00 | $ 256.00 | $ 69.01 | $338.75 |
| Apr | 59 | M.Curzews | $ - | $ 227.00 | $ 166.59 | $ 60.41 | $ 225.00 | $ 115.00 | $ 110.00 | $ 452.00 | $ 337.00 | $ 170.41 | $2,109.69 |
| May | 48 | D. Linder | $ - | $ 150.00 | $ 181.66 | $ (31.66) | $ 185.00 | $ 95.00 | $ 90.00 | $ 335.00 | $ 240.00 | $ 58.34 | $2,034.00 |
| June | 44 | T. Nesbitt | $ - | $ 157.00 | $ 203.17 | $ (46.17) | $ 165.00 | $ 85.00 | $ 80.00 | $ 322.00 | $ 237.00 | $ 33.83 | $1,773.91 |
| July | 50 | T. Nesbitt | $ - | $ 210.00 | $ 174.40 | $ 35.60 | $ 170.00 | $ 85.00 | $ 85.00 | $ 380.00 | $ 295.00 | $ 120.60 | $2,424.03 |
| Aug | 37 | T.Capicchi | $ - | $ 144.00 | $ 189.50 | $ (45.50) | $ 130.00 | $ 65.00 | $ 65.00 | $ 274.00 | $ 209.00 | $ 19.50 | $2,242.12 |
| Sept | 49 | M. Lolli | $ - | $ 150.00 | $ 163.57 | $ (13.57) | $ 220.00 | $ 110.00 | $ 110.00 | $ 370.00 | $ 260.00 | $ 96.43 | $2,259.01 |
| Oct | 48 | R.Banbury | $100.00 | $ 170.00 | $ 196.58 | $ (26.58) | $ 180.00 | $ 90.00 | $ 90.00 | $ 350.00 | $ 160.00 | $ (36.58) | $2,062.43 |
| Nov | 51 | M.Rymar | | $ 230.00 | $ 173.35 | $ 56.65 | $ 210.00 | $ 105.00 | $ 105.00 | $ 440.00 | $ 335.00 | $ 161.65 | $2,024.42 |
| Dec* | 115 | D.Roehr | $100.00 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 526.00 | $ 520.00 | $ 6.00 | $ 526.00 | $ (94.00) | $ (94.00) | $2,024.42 |
| Totals | 654 | | $200.00 | $ 1,921.00 | $ 2,000.95 | $ (79.95) | $ 2,579.00 | $ 1,557.00 | $1,022.00 | $ 4,500.00 | $ 2,743.00 | $ 742.05 | 2024.42 |

* No tackle Raffle

** Member must be present at meeting to win $100 member drawing

Ticket prices for tackle raffle and 50:50: $1.00 each, 7 tickets for $5.00, and 15 tickets for $10.00.

| December | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Winners | 50:50 | Raffle | $130 | Anthony | Lewis |
| | | | $130 | Bob | Feisel |
| | | | $130 | Glenda | Hartman |
| | | | $130 | Sandy | Williams |
| Total | | | $520 | | |

Thank you Detroit Steelheaders for another successful year of tackle and 50:50 raffles. The support you guys show the club is amazing and I hope you have as much fun with this as I do. I wish the every member drawing for $100 was won more often and I especially wish my name was drawn a couple of times but maybe we will have better luck next year.

As you can see in the summary below the club lost close to $80 on the tackle raffle during 2014 but we don't fret over that because the tackle raffle is intended to be something we have a little fun with and it's a member benefit.

The 50:50 drawing is a little different. We intend that as a small fund raiser and use those funds to pay off the every member drawing and help to fund the other functions of the club. This year we collected $2,579 in 50:50 and paid out $1,557 during the year to 50:50 winners at the monthly meetings. We made the Christmas annual meeting 50:50 drawing a fun event this year by collecting $526 and paying out (4) 50:50 winners of $130 each ($520 paid out).

If you have any questions or suggestions to improve our raffles in 2015 please let me know at the member meetings.

**Have a very great New Year!.....Dan Chisholm**

# JANUARY MEETING PIX


Guest Speaker Roger Hinchcliff shown during his excellent presentation on River Fishing for Steelhead

Member Ken Cione getting ready to enjoy some slices from Free Pizza Night courtesy of Tony's Pizzeria

## Upcoming 2015 DAS Key Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sat., Feb. 15, 2015**<br>6:30am - 12:00pm | **Saginaw Bay Ice Fishing Outing**<br>Linwood Beach Marina |
| **Tues., Feb. 24, 2015**<br>7:30pm | **Membership Meeting**<br>American Polish Cultural Center |
| **Sat., Mar. 7, 2015**<br>5:00pm - 10:00pm | **Sporstmen's Dinner**<br>American Polish Cultural Center |
| **Tues., Mar. 17, 2015**<br>7:00pm | **BOD Meeting**<br>American Polish Cultural Center |
| **Tues., Mar. 31, 2015**<br>7:30pm | **Membership Meeting**<br>American Polish Cultural Center |

## 2015 January Membership Meeting Facts

| | |
|---|---|
| **Attendance:** | **62** |
| **Featured Speaker:** | **Roger Hinchcliff**<br>**"Steelhead Manifesto"** |
| **50/50 Raffle Winner:** | **$130 Mark Williams** |
| **Every Member Draw:** | **Mike Rymar - Not Present** |

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