



Fishin' Tales

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

October Meeting

- **When:**
Tuesday, October 27, 2015 7:30pm
- **Where:**
American Polish Cultural Center
NW corner, 15 Mile Rd. & Dequindre
- **Featured Guest Speaker:**
T.B.D.
- **Also Featured:**
Pot Luck Snack Night
- **Other Happenings:**
River, Surf & Pier Tournament/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 XXXX, Issue X

October 2015

Fish Farms Threaten Great Lakes

By Lydia Lohrer, Special to Detroit Free Press September 2015

LUDINGTON – The Lake Michigan waves are tossing us like popcorn. Although the waves — 3-to 5-foot high — exhilarate me, they terrify my companion. We move back to the bay, and it's all sunshine and peace.

The sweet inevitability of a screaming line and salmon rising for battle is the reason we're in Ludington. This promise also draws billions of dollars in business to the area.



Salmon are the unlikely miracle that occurred when biologist Howard Tanner thought out of the box to solve a stinking alewife problem. The invasive alewives reeked and plugged up waterways with their rotting flesh.

In the 1960s, Tanner brought in ocean-running chinook from the Pacific Northwest to eat the alewives. They thrived, and their arrival built business and fish tales. All anyone needed was a pole and a patch of shoreline to catch a "king," Today, that kingdom is under threat.

It has all been very hush-hush. Proposals to bring cage fishing culture to the Great Lakes are being considered by the state, and a panel comprised of plenty of pro-cage farming "experts" has been assembled to come up with recommendations.

Already the Department of Environmental Quality has approved a permit for a flow through a fish farm, which will put out hundreds of thousands of pounds of fish feces into the Au Sable River, a blue-ribbon trout stream providing thousands of jobs to the area.

Cages to house millions of fish in the open water are being endorsed by the generally neutral Michigan Sea Grant. Their parent organization, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, believes in developing sustainable aquaculture. They offer promises of a billion dollars in revenue, and a guilt trip few could ignore; the need to meet the food needs of the growing planet.

The problem is that it's all a bunch of lies. These proposed projects won't be feeding the world — they'll be feeding high-end Chicago restaurants rainbow trout that take more fish product to grow than they return.

"You have to feed and 6 million or 7 million pounds of food made out

Fish Farms (Cont'd on Pg.4)

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October Meeting Features Annual Pot Luck Snack Night

Now each, year, Members look forward to this very successful evening



It's that time of year for Pot Luck Snack night at the October membership meeting. It's become a tradition, so bring your favorite home-made snack item to share with your fellow DAS fishing buddies

We're not talking a full blown meal but something more along the lines of an hors d'oeuvres or appetizer. Maybe you have a secret recipe or just a simple quick-to-throw-together snack, just bring it to the October meeting. Even something that would be considered a desert like brownies

or cookies would be just fine. The pictures are meant to give you an idea of what we are talking about. We are hoping to get a great mix of snacks. The last two years this was a tremendous success and the BOD has decided to make it an annual event.



This will be in addition to our featured guest speaker. So don't be a party pooper, bring a little something to share. Hope to see everyone there!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Currently: **149 Members**

New Memberships Welcome!

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Re-Newed Memberships

JOSE D. ANGELES	JOEL GARINGER	DENNIS HOLOWAY	GEORGE VIDUSIC	
CHARLES EDDY	ROGER HINCHCLIFF	JOHN MEADE		

Memberships Expired

2 mo. Ago Last Reminder:	LOU BACSIKIN			
1 Mo. Ago First Reminder:	LYNN MARTIN			
This Month:	ROD ELNICK	FRED HYNICK	DAN TITUS & FAMILY	TY VOIGT
DAVID CHRISTENSON	BOB FEISEL	MIKE LOLLI	CARL VENTIMIGLIA	

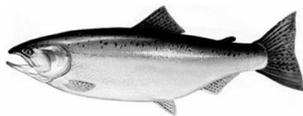
Tackle Matters



This month's two featured items are pictured above. A Shock 666 Walleye rod/reel combo Model DSH E662M 1/4 / 3/4 oz 6 6 14 lb. and a Ranger (made in Michigan) Big Game Net Model 9800T. I will be looking for non-fishing tackle items to add to the table in order to mix things up and keep it interesting for everyone. Good luck this month and thank you for supporting the clubs raffles.

Please let me know your ideas on what type of stuff you would like to see on the tackle raffle table.

Dan Chisholm



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

Sat., Oct. 24, 2015

Manistee River/Surf & Pier Outing

Sat., Oct. 31, 2015

Manistee River/Surf & Pier Tournament
(vs Metro-West Steelheaders)

Sat., Nov. 7, 2015

Manistee Lakeshore Motel Tournament

Sat., Dec. 12, 2015

Caseville Lake Trout River Outing

Sat., Jan. 30, 2016

Mitchell's Bay Perch Ice Fishing Outing

Sat., Feb. 20, 2016

Lake Erie Walleye Ice Fishing Outing
(Ohio Waters)

For More Information,
contact **Bob Paradise (586) 457-4073** or
Blaise Pewinski (248) 890-4517

This schedule may change because of weather or other reasons and/or other tournaments/outings may be scheduled. Check the DAS website for up-to-date information.



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

BOB JONES
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BOB KSIONZEK
Newsletter Editor, Website, Boat Trolling
586-531-9198

ANTHONY LEWIS
Coalition, Publicity
517-449-3036

JON MARTENS
Membership, Donations
586-246-7880

BOB PARADISE
River, Surf & Pier
586-781-2543

TOM THEIDA
Co-Membership, Meeting PA Sys.
586-206-5902

CARL VENTIMIGLIA
Wild Game Dinner
586-615-7459

MARK WILLIAMS
Speakers & Education
810-395-8789

JIM ZANKE
Special People
586-489-2041

Assistants
LINDA BANBURY
Special People

MARY KARAKAS
Special People

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	

DAS Board of Directors Election



DAS By-Laws call for Board of Directors election at the annual meeting each year. This year's annual meeting will occur on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at our normal meeting location American Polish Cultural Center (APCC) located on 15 Mile Road at Dequindre.

Any dues paying member or officer can place a nomination. A nomination should be submitted at least 20 days (November 25) before the election. It should be in writing and signed. If you wish to become involved in the operation of the DAS you are welcome to run for election to the Board of Directors (BOD). New people bring new ideas, different perspective, and enthusiasm. Your club needs you. Please consider placing yourself in nomination for a club BOD position.

To submit a name for this year's ballot:

Mail it - email it - or write it up and give it to me at any membership meeting. Include the person's name and contact information. Have the nominated person sign it so we all know he/she is willing to serve if elected.

Dan Chisholm
47833 Mallard Dr.
Chesterfield, MI. 48047 - 586-949-4215 - dan.chisholm223@gmail.com

The officers of the club consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These four officer positions are selected from among the at-large members during the first board meeting each year. At large board members are elected for a three year term and are assigned or volunteer to serve on one of the ten "standing committees":

- Fund Raising
- Publicity
- Speakers and Education
- Membership
- Newsletter
- Boat Tournaments
- River Tournaments
- Shows
- Political Action (Coalition)
- Special Events

The board meets at 7:00 pm at the APCC two Tuesday's prior to the general membership meeting each Month. Food and beverages are provided. The board does not meet in August so there are 11 board meetings each year.

Nomination for the 2016 Detroit Steelheaders Board of Directors

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Fish Farms (Cont'd from Pg.1) of fish to produce 3 million-4 million pounds of trout. Farming trout is not about sustainable development, and it won't help feed the world," said Bryan Burroughs, Trout Unlimited's executive director. "And sustainable aquaculture doesn't have to bring risk to existing fisheries."

Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, is introducing a bipartisan bill this week to stop all types of aquaculture that could potentially harm the great lakes.

"Concentrated fish poo is just not Pure Michigan," Jones said. "A typical 200,000-fish operation creates as much waste as a city of 65,000 people, which would make the Great Lakes a giant toilet bowl."

"The waste in a commercial fish farm would stay where Michigan families enjoy swimming, boating, fishing and paddling. Unlike ocean fish farms, where tides flush away the waste, it will stay in the coastal region of the Great Lakes."

Jones is not alone in his opposition.

"Every single environmental organization and every single sporting group we have spoken to is unanimously opposed," Burroughs said.

"There is a right way, a good way to raise fish. And it's not in an open system where fish and fish disease can escape. It's by using a closed system that won't ruin the rest of the fishery."

"If they really wanted to do this, to bring business to Michigan, they could do it. There is no shortage of inland ponds, pole barns and abandoned buildings for fish farmers to use, where they could destroy the waste properly. It would be a boon to the state, and we do not oppose it."

The problem is that less risk means more expense to set up the operation. Filtering water and removing waste are work. Fish farms would prefer to just dump them into public waterways without repercussions, and this is exactly what the cage culture permits would allow corporations to do.

"Regardless of how many safeguards are put in place, there is always some threat that will be unaccounted for, and one mistake here can threaten the entire Great Lakes economy," Jones said. "Asian Carp are just one horror story for the Great Lakes. They're a great example of the unintended consequences of aquaculture."

"These invasive fish were originally brought in to clean aquaculture and wastewater ponds. All it took was a flood and they established themselves as the greatest threat the Great Lakes has ever seen. We don't need to introduce these fish farms for something else to go wrong."

Jones said crowded fish cages are breeding grounds for disease that can spread to our wild fish population. In 2007, a virus wiped out 70% of the fish in Chile's huge salmon farming industry. Unlike Chile, Michigan has wild salmon.

"Imagine what could happen to our wild salmon population if such a virus was introduced into our waters. They'd be gone," Jones said.

Jones said that inevitably farm fish will escape. He is right. The Grayling Fish Hatchery already has had fish escape. After an angler noticed, the state investigated and the hatchery "self-reported" the event.

"They will escape," Jones said, "and when they do, they will destroy our Great Lakes fishery. British Columbia reports 400,000 fish escaping their nets and another 300,000 in Scotland. These fugitive fish compete with wild fish for food, disrupt their natural reproduction and interfere with their genetic diversity, ultimately making it very difficult for the wild fish to survive."

So who supports this? The defenders will surely come crawling out of the woodwork, appealing to the need to feed a starving world. They're just looking for a handout on the public dime. Don't believe a word of it.

Contact the author at lydiaoutdoors@gmail.com.

Salmon Population Plummeting in Lake Michigan

By Keith Matheny, Detroit Free Press September , 2015

They are the king of the Great Lakes sport fish, luring thousands of anglers to Michigan waters every year for a chance to try to land them - and helping fuel a multibillion-dollar fishing and boating tourism industry.

But the Chinook salmon's numbers are plummeting in Lake Michigan due to a combination of natural forces, unnatural invasive species, and the state Department of Natural Resources' own efforts to dial back the population and prevent a more permanent population crash as happened in Lake Huron about a decade ago.



The Department of Natural Resources reintroduced Chinook salmon to the Great Lakes in 1966. (Photo: Eric Sharp/Detroit Free Press)

The salmon population on Lake Michigan is down 75% from its 2012 peak, said Randy Claramunt, a DNR Great Lakes fishery biologist based in Charlevoix.

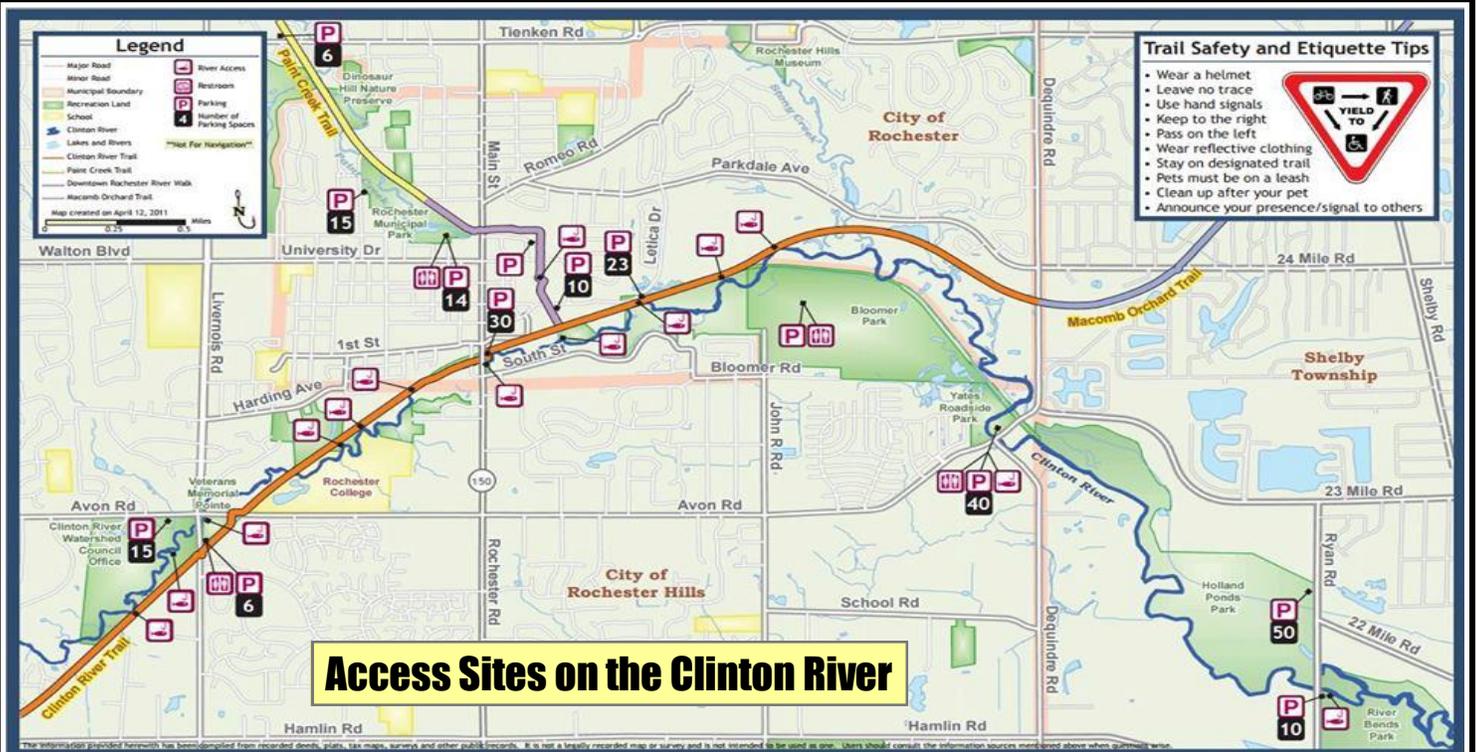
A leading cause is a reduction in alewives, a silvery fish up to 10 inches long that is the salmon's primary prey on the Great Lakes. The alewife population has been decimated by invasive zebra and quagga mussels that have changed the nutrient dynamics of the lakes.

And the salmon population matters for Michiganders, whether they fish or not: The DNR estimates fishermen spent \$2.4 billion in fishing trip-related expenses and equipment in the state in 2011.

"We all have a stake - it's not just the charter boat captains who do this for a living," said Denny Grinold, owner of Fish 'N' Grin Charter Service in Grand Haven. "Coastal communities, hotels, shopping will all be impacted."

The U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor conducts annual trawling and acoustic surveys on Lakes Michigan and Huron, looking at the populations of prey fish for the Chinook salmon and other sport fish.

"In recent years, basically what **Salmon Population** (Cont'd on Pg.5)



Salmon Population (Cont'd from Pg.4)

we're seeing is record- or near-record low biomass of alewife,"

said Science Center research fishery biologist David Warner. He attributes that to the record numbers of Chinook salmon on Lake Michigan in 2012, and their voracious appetite.

Since reintroducing Chinook salmon to the Great Lakes in 1966, the DNR has collected eggs and sperm from salmon migrating into rivers and streams to spawn every fall. The eggs are fertilized and raised in hatcheries, and juvenile fish - called fingerlings - are then stocked in the lakes in the spring to help boost naturally reproducing salmon populations.

The DNR has reduced stocking rates since 1999, from 7 million to 2.5 million Chinook salmon, as it saw the alewife populations sink.

The goal now is "to try to bring a better balance between salmon and the prey population in the lake," Claramunt said.

"We're back to 1970 stocking levels; we almost can't go any lower," he said.

In addition to stocking cuts, naturally spawning salmon from that peak year of 2012 also dropped dramatically, due in part to unusually warm conditions and shallow, inaccessible spawning streams that year, Claramunt said. The number of salmon surviving from the spawn that year dropped from 6 million to 1 million, he said.

Further complicating matters, the extremely cold winters of 2013 and 2014 increased the stress on alewife populations.

"We need the warm summers, good precipitation in the spring, and the nutrients coming out into the lakes and getting offshore - like this year," Claramunt said.

Why don't the Chinook salmon feed on another small fish that are thriving in the zebra and quagga mussel-changed lake environment - the invasive round goby? While lake trout and steelhead are doing just that, "Chinook are just hard-wired to feed on alewives," Claramunt said.

"They are meant to feed in open water on open schools of prey

fish. They aren't bottom-feeders, and that's where the round goby go."

The DNR has worked closely with state commercial and sport fishing groups on what to do in Lake Michigan.

"They said, 'Prevent a crash that will keep the fishery down for a decade or more. Take action if you can,'" Claramunt said.

A reduced salmon population is a tough reality, but most fishermen understand, Grinold said.

"The bottom line is, we don't want what happened on Lake Huron to happen on Lake Michigan," he said. "To avoid that collapse, this is something we may have to live through for awhile."

In Lake Huron, it was the same story, but happened sooner. DNR officials had an indicator of problems in the lake by 2003, Claramunt said. By 2005, the salmon population there had collapsed, and hasn't recovered.

"The consumption that happened by predators exceeded the ability of alewife to reproduce at a rate that was sustainable. And you had a crash," Warner said. "Historically, there was a larger biomass of alewife in Lake Huron than there was in Lake Michigan."

Despite the cuts in DNR salmon stocking and natural spawning, Grinold said fishing charters don't seem to be down in his area.

"Only time may tell whether or not that impacts clients booking charters; whether they are satisfied with five, seven fish or less; or do they expect those double-digit figures they may have had a couple of years ago."

There are hopeful signs a salmon crash can be averted in Lake Michigan, Claramunt said. After 2013 and 2014 were "a bust," alewives appear to have rebounded this year.

Whether the salmon population decrease happened in time on Lake Michigan to prevent a replay of the Lake Huron crash is "the key question for me," Warner said.

"That's something we're consistently working on."

Upcoming 2015 DAS Key Dates

Sat., Oct. 24, 2015	River, Surf & Pier Outing Manistee
Tues., Oct. 27, 2015 7:30pm	Membership Meeting American Polish Cultural Center
Sat., Oct. 31, 2015	River, Surf & Pier Tournament Manistee (vs Metro-West Steelheaders)
Sun., Nov. 1, 2015 2:00am	Daylight Savings Time Ends Eastern Time Zone
Sat., Nov. 7, 2015	Lakeshore Motel Tournament Manistee
Tues., Nov. 10, 2015 7:00pm	BOD Meeting American Polish Cultural Center

2015 August Membership Meeting Facts

Attendance:	55
Featured Speaker:	Roger Hinchcliff River Salmon Techniques
50/50 Raffle Winner:	\$104 - Don Jasmin
Every Member Draw:	Phil Leese/Kathleen Houser (Not Present)

Enjoy These Other Newsletters and Reports

Here are some links to other newsletters and reports:

Woods-N-Water News

(<http://www.woods-n-waternews.com/>)
(Press the CTRL key + click on the link to open the link)

Basin Report Newsletters

(<http://www.great-lakes.org/basinreports/basinreports.html>)
(Press the CTRL key + click on the link to open the link)

Published by the Great Lakes Sportfishing Council

Metro-West Steelheaders Newsletters

(<http://www.metroweststeelheaders.org/newsletters.php>)
(Press the CTRL key + click on the link to open the link)

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

BLAISE PEWINSKI
1475 BELLE RIVER
ALLENTON, MI 48002

Membership expires: 999068



PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE
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