



FISHIN' TALES

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY FOR OVER 35 YEARS

April Meeting

When:

Tuesday, April 29, 2014 7:30pm

Where:

American Polish Cultural Center
North West corner
15 Mile Rd. & Dequindre

Featured Speaker:

David 'Bo' Bunnell
USGS Research Fishery Biologist

Other Happenings:

Boat trolling tournament info.,
River tournament info, Tackle
raffles, 50/50 raffle, Every mem-
ber drawing

Up-To-Date Information on the DAS website at:

www.detroitsteelheaders.com

Volume XXXIX, Issue IV

April 2014

USGS Research Fishery Biologist to Talk At April Meeting

Status of the Prey Fish in Lakes Huron & Lake Michigan will be his topic.

David Bunnell

Research Fishery Biologist
USGS Great Lakes Science
Center, Ann Arbor, MI

Short Biography

Trained as an Aquatic Ecologist, I am most interested in trophic interactions occurring between fish and their prey. I am particularly interested in how these interactions are influenced by anthropogenic stressors, such as nonindigenous species and climate change. I



am also interested in life history strategies and how these can evolve to influence the population dynamics of managed fish species. Within the USGS Great Lakes Science Center, I am assigned to the Lake Michigan section, but am fortunate to have had the opportunity to collaborate on research questions across the Great Lakes basin.

Mr. Bunnell will be speaking about the status of the prey fish in the Great Lakes, primarily Lake Huron & Lake Michigan. Because of his research, he should be able to shed some light on the reasons behind the decline in the prey fish populations. This should be a very interesting meeting that you don't want to miss.

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St. Joe 2014: The Start of a New Season

AT LAST IT'S FINALLY HERE! After a winter like this last one, I'm glad to put my ice rods away and get back in to the fishing that makes your reels scream, rods bend and arms hurt. I shouldn't complain the ice fishing was the best I have ever seen, many a jumbo perch fell victim to my presentation. Now is the time of year, I believe all of us have been waiting for, the 2014 DAS boat trolling tournament opener, the ST. JOE area of Lake Michigan. This port has been one of the top producing fisheries the lake has to offer the last 30 years or so. It can be a very diverse fishery; from fishing shallow clean water, fishing the mud line of the St Joe river, to going offshore and finding small pockets of clean warm water or fishing the bottom for some large Lake Trout. You name it, St. Joe has a lot of opportunities for a great day of fishing. Last year the DAS club boats caught fish in all these methods.

Lets start with the shallow clean water fishery, this area is what I would call any water under 40 ft. This water is the first to warm up, which draws salmon in to feed on the alewife that come in from the deep water to spawn after a long cold winter. The area south of the river about 2 miles, called the -Easter Egg House because of its colors, all the way down to Cook Power Plant, about 9 miles, is the area first to warm and can be very productive early in the day. Downriggers, divers and lead core fished with your favorite spoons or body baits will do the trick in this water.

The next area, the mud line can be a little tricky because of boat traffic but will produce plenty of silver fish hiding on the edge or just below the mud line

waiting to ambush forage fish in the warm muddy water. This area is very productive with riggers and divers, the use of lead core can be a pain with all the boat traffic in such a small area.

Offshore has been the go to method the last few years. Seems the big kings prefer 80 to 150 FOW, if you can find warm water pockets. The last presentation was lake trout on the bottom. Last year, after the morning bite died in shallow water, the -Sea Hag heard some good info of a decent Laker bite in 60 to 90 FOW, using dodgers and spin-n-glows right on bottom, and we pulled out some real big fish in the middle of the day.

Lures that seem to work well at this port are Blue Dolphin, Green Dolphin, Bumble Bee, Smurf, Mixed Veggie and Michael Jackson. Watch the size of the bait you see on the water or ask any charter Captain or club boat; Match the Hatch!

The Skippers meeting will be held at West Basin Marina at 5:30am, with the tournament start time at 6:30 am. Fish Calls are at 9:00am and Noon and we'll pull lines at 1:30pm. Once again, we will be doing a fish off with our friends from the Huron Valley Sportfishing Club, so fish hard so we can keep the Golden Salmon Sonar trophy in our hands. Dinner will be supplied as usual, the Main dish will be supplied by the DAS and the HVSC will provide the sides. Should be a great time. Hope to see all the club boats on the water!

Blaise Pewinski
'Sea Hag'
248-890-4517

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Memberships

WELCOME!

RICHARD BARCH	CHIP DIAMOND	ROBERT PINSKEY	JIM TOOHEY
SCOTT BECKINGTON	STEVEN HENKEL	SHANE TAYLOR	

Re-Newed Memberships

JOHN GESING	KURT NOFZ	MIKE VERMEESCH
DAVID MAYFIELD	GARY ROWOLDT	DARRELL SMITH

Memberships Expired or Soon to be Expired

GASPARE ARAGONA	DAN CHISHOLM	TOM GORGUZE	BOB KSIONZEK	TOM MOORES
HENRY BACZYNSKI	KEN CIONE	GARY GROSS	JIM LEGENZOFF	DICK SHIRK
JEFF BUSTOS	ANTONIO COSBEY	KEVIN GROSS	ANTHONY LEWIS	ALLAN VAN BROCKLIN
CHARLES CABBLE	CHARLES DENNING	DENNIS HAYDEN	BRYAN MCKNIGHT	
TOM CAPICCHIONI	MARK GAZDA	DENNIS HOLOWAY	JOHN MEADE	
MARK CARLSON	STEPHEN GENOFF	BOB JONES	LEROY MIKOLOWSKI	

Membership Is The Key to This Great Organization

2014 Membership Drive from now thru April 29, 2014

Current Annual members sponsoring a new member get their next annual membership free

Lifetime Members sponsoring a new member will receive a Tackle pack worth \$35

As an incentive for new members, the Board of Directors has begun a new membership drive for 2014. From now through April 29, 2014 (the April membership meeting date), any current annual member who sponsors a new member will receive his next annual membership for free. Likewise, any Lifetime member who sponsors a new member will receive a tackle pack worth \$35.

So, members, please do your part to keep the DAS a thriving, growing club to protect and promote the Great Lakes fishery that we all have enjoyed for over 35 years!

River News!

Clinton River Outing

We had a great Clinton River outing on March 22nd. There were five of us. The river crew fished hard, but came up empty. The recent rain and cold snap didn't help. It was a good, not crowded opportunity for us to explore and learn the local fishing grounds. Additionally, grill-master Don Mikros whipped up venison Italian sausage, pasta salad, warm beverages, and desert! That really hit the spot, thanks Don!

Island Lake Recreation Area Trout Trip:

-We had a wonderful time on our rescheduled outing on 4/12/14. We were originally schedule for April 5th but had to cancel due to the pond being frozen! . It finally thawed out this week and the DNR stocked large breeder trout. The fish are surprisingly hard to catch, but Mark, Bob, and Anthony scored on jigs and flies. Mark Carlson had the fish of the day, but this was a catch and release only outing. We could not have picked a better day to be outside: 70 . sunny, and a little wind. We saw cranes, ducks, geese, and hawks.

Anthony Lewis
River, Surf & Pier Director

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, Publicity

248-343-8397

DAN CHISHOLM

Secretary

Raffles, Elections

586-530-9171

STEVE HAMILTON

Treasurer

Coalition, Donations & Appropriations

313-881-3871

GASPARE ARAGONA

Meeting - PA System

248-656-8478

ROD ELNICK

Co-Treasurer, Salmon -In-Classroom

586-214-8812

BOB FEISEL

Boat Trolling, Photography

248-765-2504

ANTHONY LEWIS

River, Surf & Pier ; Special People

517-449-3036

BOB KSIONZEK

Newsletter Editor, Boat Trolling

586-531-9198

JON MARTENS

Membership

586-246-7880

BOB PARADISE

River, Surf & Pier; Boat Trolling

586-781-2543

JODY ROBINSON

Salmon-In-The Classroom, Scholarship

248-922-1466

TOM THEIDA

Co-Membership, Raffles

586-206-5902

CARL VENTIMIGLIA

Wild Game Dinner

586-615-7459

586-615-7459

MARK WILLIAMS

Speakers & Education

810-395-8789

Assistants

LINDA BANBURY

Special People

PAUL GJELDUM

Trophies

MARY KARAKAS

Special People

March 22, 2014 - Clinton River Outing

**No
Fish
but It
Looks
Like
a
Good
Time!**



2014 DAS T-Shirts

Nifty Dark Gray Tees
Large Full Color DAS Logo with
Michigan Map Showing
Tournament Ports
Front Pocket with
2-Color DAS Logo

S, M, L & XL - \$15
XXL & XXXL - \$16

**Available at April
Membership Meeting**

Diver Rods – Roller Guide vs. Twillie Tip

While there are some who dislike roller rods, I like them for one reason – they handle the line much better. Yes, they can cause problems if the line jumps off the roller but the rewards are often worth it. Years ago I did a side by side test (2) 8'6" rods; one was a Okuma Blue Diamond roller the other was a Heartland with a Twillie Tip. I set the drag on both reels at 12 lbs. straight line pull off the reel, then put the rods in holders on my boat on the trailer at 45deg angles. I Walked out about 100' of line from each and hooked my scale up. The roller rod bounced between 12 and 14 lbs. of drag every time – about 14 to break it loose and 12 rolling. The Heartland bounced between 16 and 18 lbs., which is not a lot, but if you're running 20 lb. leaders it is. If you use 80% of line strength for your knot, which is a good knot, you are maxing out your knots with the reel set at 12 lbs. Raise the rod angle and the numbers go up.

With the rods vertical, I was able to break off 20 lb. leaders on the Heartland. With these, you can't safely set your drags at 12 lbs. Now consider how much pressure you put on a fish pulling it into the net and you will see why so many people lose fish at the back of the boat. That actually affects all rod and reel types and line types. Once you shorten up to land the fish, your angles are high and pressure is at maximum. It is also why most big water boats hand line to land the fish especially big fish.

I ran across this article and fully agree with the findings. I always suspected that the roller guides were better, however, I didn't think that it would be that drastic. This

difference should enter into the decision making process when deciding what type of rod you want to run. I know in my own charter and tournament experience, hand lining the fish, when they are on a diver rod, has certainly eliminated a lot of lost fish at the back of the boat.

Capt. Craig Coleman
Capt. Chucks of Ludington
Silver Addiction Charters

MI DNR to Discuss Lake Michigan Lake Trout Regs

On April 23, at 5 p.m., Frankfort City Hall, 412 Main St., Frankfort, Michigan. DNR fisheries staff will present information and take comments on possible changes to lake trout size and daily catch limits for northern Lake Michigan lake trout management zones MM-3, 4 and 5. Comments received will inform potential lake trout regulation changes in 2015.

2014 Boat Trolling Tournaments

<u>Date</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Port Captain</u>
May 3 (6:30am - 1:30pm)	St. Joseph <i>plus Fish Off vs. Huron Valley Sportfishing Club</i>	Blaise Pewinski
May 17 (6:00am - 1:00pm)	Grand Haven	Dan Chisholm
May 18 (6:00am - 11:00am)		
June 28 (6:00am - 2:00pm)	Olcott, NY	Jim Zanke
July 12 (7:00am - 2:00pm)	Erieau, ONT	Carl Ventimiglia
July 19 (6:00am - 1:00pm)	Port Austin	Bob Ksionzek
August 2 (6:00am - 1:00pm)	Ludington <i>Ladies Day</i>	Bob Feisel
August 9 (6:00am - 2:00pm)	Ludington II	Joe Von Grabe
August 23 (6:00am - 2:00pm)	Manistee	Bob Paradise

ST. CLAIR RIVER WALLEYE OUTING

Hosted By Mr. Hospitality Tom Gorguza aka 'Bad Dog'!

Date:

Saturday, April 26th

Starting Time:

Sunrise at the DNR launch

Directions:

I-94 East to 23 mile Rd

Take M-29/23 mile rd East to Algonac

The ramp is about 18.5 miles from the exit on the right (across from the Kroger).

Lunch:

Bad Dog's place

2815 Pte. Tremble, Algonac, MI

Across from the Bank of America.

For questions, concerns, or more information, or to RSVP:

Contact Tom Gorguza at 248-343-8397 or

Bob Paradise at 586-457-4073

DAS Grand Haven Tournament

Saturday May 17 and Sunday May 18, 2014 (2-day tournament)

Grand Haven Municipal Marina, 101 N. Harbor Dr., Grand Haven (616) 847-3478

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

Sunday: There is no skippers meeting on Sunday but tournament start remains at 6:00 am. We will do a radio check-in on the water Sunday at 6:00 am with one fish call at 8:30 am. Pull lines by 11:00 am with weigh-in at 12:00 pm.

Check the Detroit Steelheaders message board (Tournaments) for additional details where you will find tournament rules, information on where to stay, local restaurants, marinas, and tactics to use while fishing Grand Haven. Take note, the pull lines and weigh in times are earlier this year.

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

Lunch will be grilled chicken breast on a roll with, tossed salad, chips and cookies. Bring your appetite and your best attitude and let's have some fun at the clubs second tournament stop in 2014 at Grand Haven.



Dan Chisholm
'Channing'
Port Captain



April 12, 2014
Island Lake
Trout Trip



Nice Fish
and
It Looks Like
a Good Time!

MI DNR Says Fish Kills May Be Common: Following Winter's Extreme Conditions

The Michigan DNR recently issued a statement that after the heavy ice and snow cover melts on Michigan's lakes in early spring, it may be common to discover dead fish or other aquatic creatures. This year's severe winter, with heavy snow and ice cover, will create conditions that cause fish and other creatures such as turtles, frogs, toads and crayfish to die.

"Winterkill is the most common type of fish kill," said Gary Whelan, DNR fish production manager. "Given the harsh conditions this winter with thick ice and deep snow cover, it will be particularly common in shallow lakes and streams and ponds. These kills are localized and typically do not affect the overall health of the fish populations or fishing quality."

Winterkill occurs during especially long, harsh winters—similar to the one experienced this year. Shallow lakes with excess aquatic vegetation and soft bottoms are particularly prone to this problem. Fish and other aquatic life typically die in late winter, but may not be noticed until a month after the ice leaves the lake because the dead fish and other aquatic life are temporarily preserved by the cold water.

"Winterkill begins with distressed fish gasping for air at holes in the ice and often ends with large numbers of dead fish that bloat as the water warms in early spring," Whelan explained. "Dead fish and other aquatic life may appear fuzzy because of secondary infection by fungus, but the fungus was not the cause of death. The fish actually suffocated from a lack of dissolved oxygen from decaying plants and other dead aquatic animals under the ice."

Dissolved oxygen is required by fish and all other forms of aquatic life. Once the daylight is greatly reduced by thick ice and deep snow cover, aquatic plants stop producing oxygen and many die. The bacteria that decompose organic materials on the bottom of the lake use the remaining oxygen in the water. Once the oxygen is reduced other aquatic animals die and start decomposing, the rate that oxygen is used for decomposition is additionally increased and dissolved oxygen levels in the water decrease even more leading to increasing winterkill.

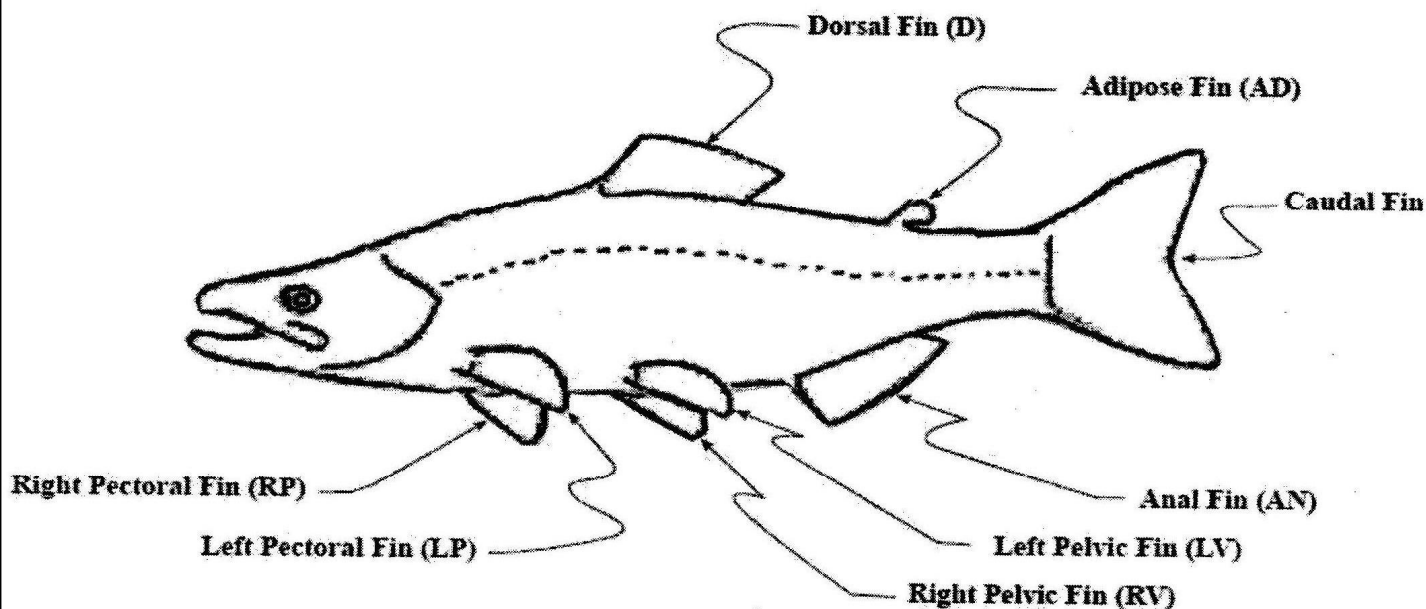
For more info on fish kills visit: www.michigan.gov/fishing. If you suspect a fish kill is caused by non-natural causes, please call the nearest DNR office or Michigan's Pollution Emergency Alert System at 1-800-292-4706. ☐

MI DNR Again Stocks Steelhead in Red Cedar River Will Enhance Fishing on MSU Campus

The Michigan DNR says 3,200 steelhead were recently stocked in the Red Cedar River at Michigan State U. In 2013, an ordinance was changed by the MSU board of trustees to allow hook-and-line fishing on campus grounds between the western edge of Brody Complex and what's sometimes referred to as the Sparty bridge connecting West Circle Drive to Chestnut Road. Prior to that, anglers had not been allowed to fish from the Red Cedar's shores since the 1960s.

Fishing from the designated area, on the north bank of the river only, is part of a three-year test period. Good angling opportunities will include steelhead and sucker fishing in the spring, small-mouth bass in the summer, salmon in the fall, and a host of other native species throughout the open season. ☐

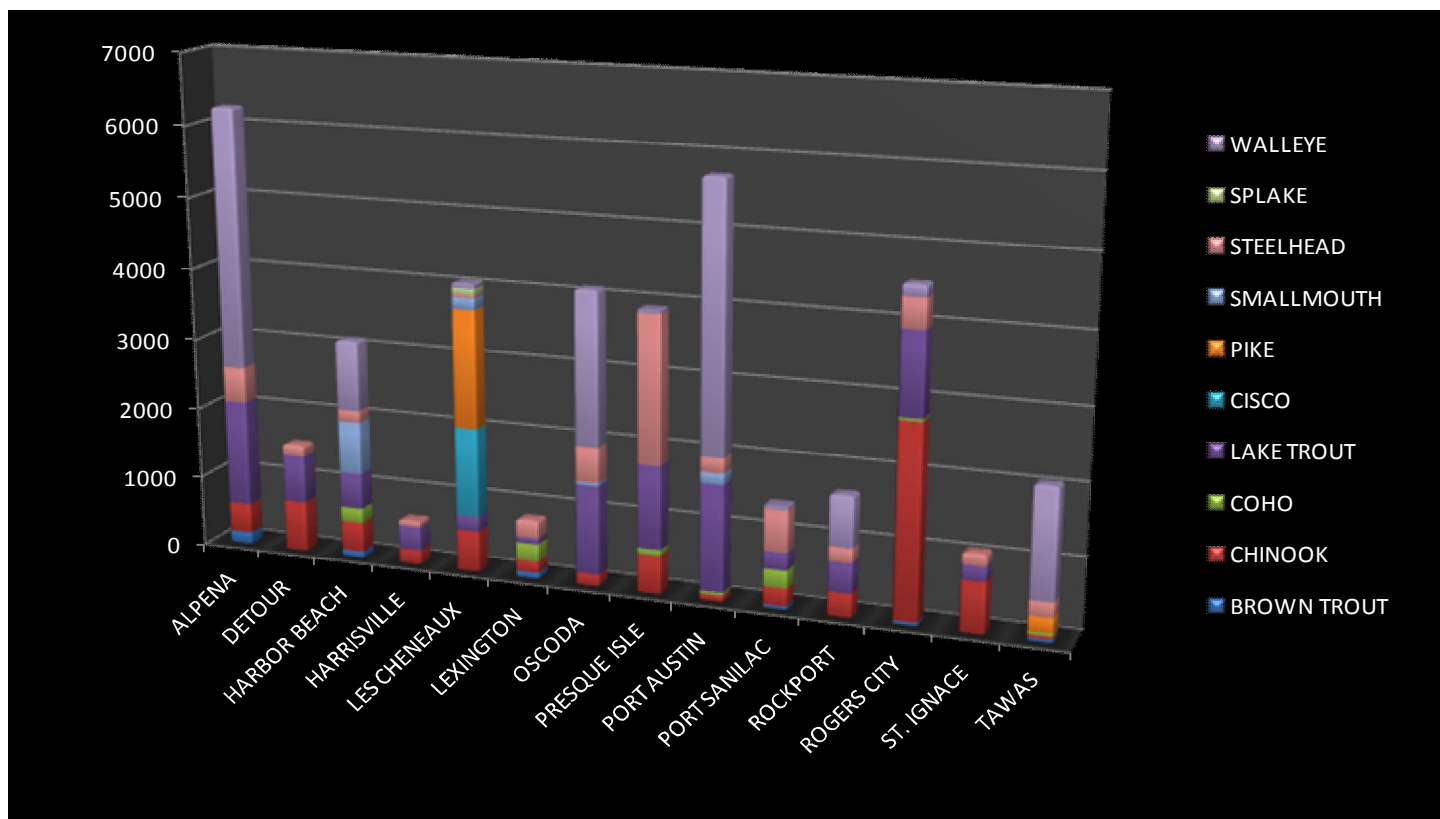
Names of Fish Fins and Their Abbreviations in Parenthesis



Note:

Marked fish can have several combinations of fins clipped and missing but fish that have the adipose fin clipped usually have a coded wire tag in the nose.

Comparison of major species in the catch (excluding yellow perch) of creel survey ports on the Main Basin of Lake Huron in 2013. Chinook salmon continued to contribute importantly at the more northerly ports, while walleye and lake trout were more prominent in central and southern ports.



2014 Great Lake Harbor and River Stockings Southern Lake Huron Fisheries Management Unit

These are the current 2014 Fish Stocking Requests for various ports and rivers in Southern Lake Huron. The actual numbers stocked depend upon hatchery inventories, but are usually very close to the stocking requests.

Iosco County	What Planted
Tawas Bay	10,000 Steelhead Trout - Tawas River
East Branch Au Gres River	30,000 Steelhead Trout - 4.5 mi. west of Lake Huron
	10,000 Brown Trout - North of M-55
Ogemaw County	
Rifle River	50,000 Steelhead Trout - at Selkirk
	15,000 Brown Trout - Spread over 5 sites
Isabella County	
Chippewa River	12,650 Steelhead Trout - West of Mt. Pleasant
Huron County	
Caseville: Pigeon River	6,300 Steelhead Trout
Pinnebog River	15,850 Steelhead Trout - at M-25
Harbor Beach	30,000 Steelhead Trout
	(15,000 in net pens, 15,000 stocked at DTE)
	62,700 Lake Trout (from MDNR hatchery program)
	Federal lake trout plants rotate between ports and vary year to year
Sanilac County	
Port Sanilac	30,000 Rainbow Trout (Eagle Lake, domestic strain)
Lexington	30,000 Rainbow Trout (Eagle Lake, domestic strain)
	20,000 Atlantic Salmon (Landlocked)

Upcoming 2014 DAS Key Dates

Sat., Apr. 26, 2014 **Walleye Outing**
St Clair River (See Pg. 3 for details)

Tues., Apr. 29, 2014 **Membership Meeting**
7:30pm American Polish Cultural Center

Sat., May. 3, 2014 **Boat Trolling Tournament**
6:30am - 1:30pm St. Joe - West Basin Marina

Tues., May 13, 2014 **BOD Meeting**
7:00pm American Polish Cultural Center

Sat., May. 17, 2014 **Boat Trolling Tournament**
6:00am - 1:00pm Grand Haven - Municipal Marina
Sun, May 18, 2014
6:00am - 11:00am

Tues., May. 27, 2014 **Membership Meeting**
7:30pm American Polish Cultural Center

2014 March Membership Meeting FactsAttendance: 50Featured Speaker: Dan O'Keefe
Michigan Sea Grant50/50 Raffle Winner: \$100 Ray BanburyEvery Member Drawing : Mike Lolli
Not Present**Number of spring yearling Atlantic salmon stocked by the DNR and LSSU into Lake Huron and the fin clips**

	St. Marys River LSSU		St. Marys River DNR		Au Sable River		Thunder Bay River		Lexington Harbor	
	Number	Fin	Number	Fin	Number	Fin	Number	Fin	Number	Fin
Year	Stocked	Clip	Stocked	Clip	Stocked	Clip	Stocked	Clip	Stocked	Clip
2011	31,100	RP	21,741	None						
2012	35,230	RV	35,120	None						
2013	35,000	LP	35,000	AD	30,000	AD	20,773	AD	15,092	AD
2014*	35,000	Pending	50,000	AD	35,000	AD	25,000	AD	20,000	AD
2015*	35,000	Pending	50,000	Pending	40,000	Pending	30,000	Pending	30,000	Pending

*Projected stocking numbers depending on the availability from the hatcheries.

BLAISE PEWINSKI
14755 BELLE RIVER
ALLENTON, MI 48002

Membership expires: 9999068

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

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE
GREAT LAKES SPORTSHERY FOR
OVER 35 YEARS

MEETING NOTICE—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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