



January Meeting

When:
Tuesday, January 28, 2014 7:30pm

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

Featured:
T.B.D.

Also: FREE PIZZA NIGHT!

Other Happenings:
Tackle raffles, 50/50 raffle, Every member drawing

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



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FISHIN' TALES

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY FOR OVER 35 YEARS

Volume XXXIX, Issue I

January 2014



A Letter from the President

DAS: Great 2013 and Looking Forward to 2014

Hello All Members!

Happy New Year!

It's been my pleasure to serve as your President for 2013. We had a wonderful year and I am looking forward to 2014!

In 2013, DAS fished in the Detroit area, Western Michigan, New York and Canada. We had ice outings, river outings, and big lake fishing. On the river fishing side, we had very good participation at our annual Manistee Fish Off with the Metro West Steelheaders. Our 1st Annual Trout Outing in Brighton was wonderful as well. The guys did great both places. The boat trolling guys had a very good season as well. Trips to Grand Haven, Ontario, New York, and Manistee were fantastic! Members were able to catch plenty of salmon, steelhead, and even a few good walleyes this year.

The 2013 Wild Game Dinner was a great success! We had a record 550 people show up to support the club. We had excellent food, great prizes, and lots of fun. The 2014 dinner will be even better. Please consider buying a ticket or a table to support the club.

We had outstanding and very informative speakers in 2013: Dan Keating, Lance Valentine, Mark Williams, Justin Chiotti and others. We plan to have more great speakers on fish and fishing in 2014.

2014 should be a fun year as well. I am sure the trolling committee will come up with a fine schedule and take the club members to some fish-catching destinations. Ice and river outings are planned as well. The ever popular Brighton and Manistee trips will definitely be on that schedule. We plan to have a great dinner, good meetings, and fun fishing. Stop on by a meeting! We look forward to seeing you there.

Anthony Lewis
DAS President

Ice Fishing Outings 2014

1st DAS Ice Outing of the Season

On January 25, 2014, the DAS will have its first ice outing on the American side of Lake St. Clair. The location has not yet been determined. Most likely it will be at Metro or Gino's. A Decision will be made soon and announced.

The ice should be nice and thick this year with our cold temps so early in the season. Keep an eye on Gaspare, who can be counted on to find the big ones.

There will be a \$5.00 entry fee with a prize for big fish. We will fish from 8a.m. til 3p.m. and return to our chosen destination.

Hoping for a big turnout!

2nd Ice Outing

The DAS will have our 2nd outing on the Canadian side of Lake St. Clair on Feb. 15, 2014. We will be fishing out of St. Lukes (Tom's Duck Club) at the end of Rivard Rd.

Buying a Canadian license is quite expensive but can be used year round in different locations such as Erieau, the Canadian side of the Detroit River, etc. We will have a big fish prize for \$5.00. Fishing will most likely end at 3pm with the weigh in to follow.

This type of fishing requires some type of transportation (ATV, snowmobile, or car) to get to the fishing grounds usually 1 to 7 miles out. Make sure your auger is sharp because the ice can be pretty thick by this time.

The fishing here can be fantastic with jumbo perch the norm. The trick is to be mobile; keep an eye on where the people are moving to stay on top of the fish. Everything works here; jigging spoons seem to catch the big ones. Silver, brass, copper, with colored beads, Ken's Hook Slab Grabbers or Gusters can do the trick. Bait stores can be found at: Lighthouse Cove, Ducky's at Stoney Point, Mitchell's Bay and Bass Haven.

Contact Bob Paradise with any questions at 586-457-4073, or Blaise Pewinski at 248-890-4517

Bob Paradise

Membership News

Renewed Memberships

WILLIAM PEARCH

DAN WHITMILL

Memberships Expired or Soon to be Expired

ROBERT BUTKIEWICZ

KEVIN GROSS

GARY RUPRICH

BOB BUTKIEWICZ

DENNIS HAYDEN

CARL VENTIMIGLIA SR.

CHARLES CABLE

BRUCE HAYWOOD

NANCY WOOD

HERMANN CHRISTOPH

CAPT. STEVE JONES

ANTONIO COSBEY

MIKE LEHTO

CHARLES DENNING

BRIAN McKNIGHT

MARK GAZDA

THOMAS OSENTOSKI

JANUARY 2014 DAS FIELD TEST ITEM

This month we have the 7 inch bubba blade filet knife just in time for cleaning all those perch you take home from our ice outings. See you at the meeting!!



Bubba Blade

- 7" Blade with 6" handle for a total length of 13"
- Full tang construction from a single piece of steel provides strength and stability and balances the knife
- Coated with a non stick surface that is bonded with Titanium that will help prevent rusting & pitting and let the meat slide off the blade effortlessly
- Trigger grip lets you put some heat on the knife when needed
- Thumb & finger pads ensure total control
- Safety guards for protection from the blade & spines of fish
- High carbon stainless steel
- Large patented textured no slip grip handle made from thermoplastic polymer then wrapped with a special synthetic rubber that stays sticky when wet for total grip security
- Factory sharpened by hand to razor sharpness
- Rockwell hardness rating 56-58

2013 Detroit Area Steelheaders Board Of Directors - Official Election Results

Date: December 17, 2013

Location: American Polish Cultural Center

Occasion: Annual Meeting &
Board of Directors Election

Ballots: 46 member ballots

Bob Feisel 43

Bob Ksionzek 44

Jon Martens 43

Tom Theida 42

These four members have been elected for a three year term to expire in January 2017.

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

ANTHONY LEWIS

President

River, Surf & Pier Fishing

517-449-3036

CARL VENTIMIGLIA

Vice-President

Wild Game Dinner

586-615-7459

DAN CHISHOLM

Secretary

Raffles, Special People, Elections

586-530-9171

STEVE HAMILTON

Treasurer

Coalition, Donations & Appropriations

313-881-3871

GASPAR ARAGONA

Meeting - PA System

248-656-8478

ROD ELNICK

Salmon-In The Classroom, Scholarship

586-214-8812

BOB FEISEL

Boat Trolling, Photography

248-765-2504

TOM GORGUZE

Hats, Shirts & Jackets, Publicity

248-343-8397

BOB KSIONZEK

Newsletter Editor, Boat Trolling

586-531-9198

JON MARTENS

T.B.D.

586-246-7880

BOB PARADISE

River, Surf & Pier Fishing; Boat Trolling

586-781-2543

BLAISE PEWINSKI

Shows, Wild Game Dinner

(248) 890-4517

JODY ROBINSON

Deputy Treasury,

Salmon-In-The Classroom

248-922-1466

TOM THEIDA

T.B.D.

(586) 206-5902

MARK WILLIAMS

Speakers & Education,

Wild Game Dinner

810-395-8789

Assistants

LINDA BANBURY

Special People

PAUL GJELDUM

Trophies

MARY KARAKAS

Special People

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

The Detroit Area Steelheaders (DAS) was originally organized as the Detroit Area chapter of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishing Association (MSSFA). Tom Schneider, John Makela, Ed Raquel and Joe Sizemore, as a committee of four, founded the club in September, 1974. The first organizational meeting was held on October 16, 1974. Forty one people attended that first gathering at the Northwood Inn. It was decided that the first annual meeting would be held on December 4, 1974, and that date would be the official beginning of the chapter.

DAS quickly became the largest of all MSSFA chapters. It was DAS's Super Spring Show that all other chapter shows were modeled after. The DAS started the first research trips on the Great Lakes, introduced river tournaments, and held salmon and steelhead river fishing clinics to teach the proper techniques in catching river run fish. This had never been done before.

In January, 1990, due to conflicts with MSSFA 96% of the members voted to withdraw DAS from MSSFA and be an independent organization. Our official name became the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. a Michigan non-profit corporation.

Just how important were those 4 members who organized this club? Well, simply stated, without them the DAS would not exist. And all the members who have joined over the years are what has kept this club evolving and growing into what it has become today. Their participation in all the Boat Trolling and River and Surf tournaments is what has made this club. Among those members were those who stepped up and became Directors and Committee Chairmen to lead and guide this organization. *Again, just as with those 4 founding members, without our membership the Detroit Area Steelheaders would not exist.*

We need new members! For various reasons, such as the dreadful economy of the past 5 years, the price of gas, the state of the fishery, etc., we have had a difficult time getting new members. Just as throughout the club's history, the membership is needed to help influence how we will remain one of the premier fishing organizations in the state. Our voice has been very strong in how the fishery has grown and evolved.

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!

Mich-Ohio Sportfishing EXPO
 Saturday, February 8 • 9:00am-6:00pm
 Sunday, February 9 • 9:00am-5:00pm
 MBT Expo Center,
 Monroe County Fairgrounds
www.huronvalleysc.org

Study: Food Supplies Drop in Lakes Huron, Michigan

by John Flesher

(Reprinted From Dec. 12, 2013 Detroit Free Press On-line)

TRAVERSE CITY, MICH. — Food supplies for fish and other organisms are declining in some areas of the Great Lakes, particularly Lakes Huron and Michigan, according to a newly released scientific report.

The study, based on years of data compiled by government agencies and university researchers, found evidence of drop-offs in phytoplankton — tiny plants essential to many food chains — since the late 1990s. A decline in tiny invertebrates and prey fish, such as alewives and round gobies, also was detected.

It's likely that invasive quagga and zebra mussels have played a significant role by gobbling plankton, according to the paper, which was published online this month in the journal *BioScience*. The mussels arrived in the Great Lakes in the 1980s after being scooped into cargo ships' ballast tanks in foreign ports and hauled across the Atlantic.

Another crucial factor is government policies that have reduced the flow of phosphorus — a key food source for plankton — as a means of preventing runaway algae blooms.

"As we shrink the base of the food web, it ultimately will constrain the amount of fish we have," said David "Bo" Bunnell, lead author of the report and a fishery biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor. The salmon population already has crashed in Lake Huron because of steep declines in the forage fish they eat.

The study was designed to document trends in Great Lakes food webs and determine whether the webs were influenced more by the feeding habits of top predator fish or by developments at the lower end of the chains.

For the most part, "bottom-up" factors were found to have a greater effect. The phosphorus shortfall in deeper waters and the mussel infestation closer to shore were most evident in Lakes Huron and Michigan. Invertebrates that feed prey fish were noticeably absent in both, along with Lake Ontario.

Declines in prey fish numbers were documented in Lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior. But only in Lake Michigan was it evident that the heavy appetites of predator fish at least partly caused the drops.

"Food isn't available for those prey fish, and it's not because we've overstocked" bigger fish, said Tom Nalepa, a scientist with the University of Michigan Water Center. "It's because of changes in the lower food web."

While each lake has unique characteristics, the data revealed increased water clarity everywhere except in Lake Erie, which has been plagued by excessive algae. Clear water can be a telltale sign of invasive mussels.

Despite the massive amounts of information used to compile the report, the scientists said there were significant data shortages that show the need for more intensive monitoring of Great Lakes ecosystems.

"The biggest gap in the study is that we need to do a better job of estimating mussel populations," Nalepa said.

Follow John Flesher on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/JohnFlesher>

Ludington Fishery Workshop

Registration Now Open

This annual, full-day workshop is open to the public and highlights the latest information on Lake Michigan fisheries issues. Presentations will address Asian carp prevention, lake trout reproduction, lower food web trends and management outlook.

The workshop will be held Saturday, January 11, 2014, 9-3:30 PM at the Baymont Inn & Suites in Ludington (formerly Ramada), 4079 West U.S. Highway 10, Ludington, MI 49431.

Registration is required. The workshop is free, but there will be a \$15 per person charge for lunch provided by Baymont Inn & Suites. Cash or credit for lunch will be accepted at the door. Please pre-register by Wednesday, January 8, 2014 by calling 616-994-4540. Provide names of all that will be attending in your party.

Michigan Free Fishing Weekend

The 2014 Winter Free Fishing Weekend will be held on February 15-16. As part of these weekends, all fishing license fees are waived for two days with residents and out-of-state visitors allowed to enjoy fishing on both inland and Great Lakes waters for all species of fish during their respective open seasons. Please note all regulations will still apply during that time. □

Looking For The Right Strain of Brown Trout

(Reprinted from Great Lakes Basin Report December 2013)

Is it possible that no one strain of brown trout is best for Michigan's state fish hatchery system? Fisheries biologists are beginning to wonder.

A four-year research project that compares two strains of brown trout that have been stocked in a pair of rivers, a handful of inland lakes and four Lake Michigan ports, is heading into the homestretch and is preliminarily showing that neither strain is best in all situations, according to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) biologist Todd Wills.

The DNR has long used Wild Rose-strain brown trout for stocking across the state. Fisheries officials have become concerned about diminishing returns from the stockings of the Wild Rose strain, which has been in the system for many years.

So the DNR launched an experiment in which similar numbers of Sturgeon River-strain browns, taken from wild broodstock, were stocked in various bodies of water. The fish were fin-clipped (right ventral fin clip for Wild Rose strain,



left ventral fin clip for Sturgeon River browns) for easy identification. The rivers (both tailwater fisheries, the Au Sable River below Mio Dam and the Manistee River below Hodenpyl Dam) have been subject to electro-fishing surveys for the last four years.

"In the two tailwaters, the Sturgeon River strain is far outperforming the Wild Rose strain," Wills said. "We're getting better survival with the Sturgeon River fish and good growth."

The Sturgeon River strain fish go into the river a little bit smaller than the Wild Rose strain and seem to grow more quickly than the Sturgeon River fish while in the system. But the Sturgeon River fish are nearly as long as the Wild Rose fish after a year in the river, showing the kind of vigor biologists like to see.

Results from the five inland lakes, however, where both species have been stocked (Bear Lake and Starvation Lake in Kalkaska County, Lake 15 and McCormick Lake in Montmorency County and Bridge Lake in Otsego County) are just the opposite.

"In the inland lakes, the Wild Rose strain fish are doing better," Wills said.

Added DNR fisheries biologist Tim Cwalinski: "Anglers report catching more Wild Roses than Sturgeon Rivers. That backs up what we're seeing when we shock the lakes."

Returns of the fish from stocking at the four Lake Michigan ports (Frankfort, Ludington, Cedar River and Menominee) have been disappointing.

"In three years we've only seen four fin-clipped fish," explained Wills. "With that amount of data we really can't say much of anything other than we're not seeing a lot of returns to the creel. I don't think that's much of a surprise; brown trout have not done well in the Great Lakes in recent years. And that's doesn't seem to be a strain thing; it's more likely a changing-ecosystem issue."

"We spend a lot of time and money raising fish in the hatchery and we want to know that what we're stocking is surviving well enough and living long enough to be worth the effort," Wills said. "The project will be finished within the next 18 months and fisheries managers should have a better idea of what they want to stock to benefit their anglers."

In mark-and-recapture studies, DNR fisheries crews work the stream with electro-fishing boats. The fish are netted and the crew collects length and weight data, as well as noting fin clips. They take scale samples for age studies in the laboratory. Before the fish are released back into the river, fisheries workers cut off the tip of the upper edge of the fish's tail fin.

See **Brown Trout** (Cont'd on Pg. 12)

The Detroit Area Steelheaders
Present The 15th Annual 2014

Sportsman's Wild Game Dinner

Saturday March 8, 2014 - Troy, MI

American Polish Cultural Center
NW Corner 15 Mile & Dequindre

Fundraiser Dinner to support
the protection and promotion
of fisheries in the
Great Lakes Region.



AGENDA

Reception, Doors Open 5:00 PM
Dinner Begins Promptly 6:00 PM
Sportsman's Raffle Program follows

MENU

Last year's highly praised caterer
returns with at least five hot, wild
game entrees such as pheasant,
caribou, emu, elk, venison, etc.

Impressive Display of Taxidermy includes Deer, Caribou,
Bobcat, Waterfowl, and MUCH MORE!

Table Raffles, 50/50 Raffles,
Gun Draws, Premium Meat Draws.
Prizes include: Guns, Great Lakes Fishing Tackle, Tools,
(4) 1080p HDTVs - 32", 42", 42" & 50", Framed Prints,
Outdoor Items, Sporting Tickets, and much more.

Tickets are \$50 per person for dinner including pop and
beer.

A cash bar will be provided for other cocktails.

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS
Promoting & Protecting our
Great Lakes sportfishery

2014 DAS Sportsman's Dinner & Raffle Registration

For Tickets, Send this form with your
check by Feb. 27, 2014 to:
Detroit Area Steelheaders
c/o Bob Jones
315 Eagle Way
South Lyon, MI 48178

For Info Call:
Bob Jones @ (734) 751-1767

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____
Number of Tickets _____ X \$50 = \$ _____ Total Paid

E-Mail for info: bjones@detroitsteelheaders.com

www.detroitsteelheaders.com

Detroit Area Steelheaders Giving Tops \$70,000

For 39 years the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. has contributed to numerous worthwhile causes which we believe serve our stated organizational goal of promoting and protecting Great Lakes sportfishing. Thanks to our members and contributors who have helped us raise funds to make these donations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

January, 2012 - \$1,000. To the Youth Development Commission for their 2012 Detroit Area Kids Fishing Derby.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

kids fishing derby.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

November, 2007 - \$250. To the Clinton River Watershed Council for their Clinton River projects.

October, 2007 - \$500. To the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council for their operations.

September, 2007 - \$250. To the Sporting Lands Alliance to help with their operations.

September, 2007 - \$500. To fund a college scholarship for a deserving student studying for an outdoors/conservation related degree.

September, 2007 - \$150. To Fish Pointe Wildlife Association to help with their operations.

June, 2007 - \$698. To fund our own Special People fishing outing.

February, 2007 - \$1,000 Grant. To the Youth Development Commission for their 2007 Detroit Area Kids Fishing Derby.

November, 2006 - \$1,000 Grant. To the Michigan Wildlife Service department of the USDA to help fund cormorant control/research.

June, 2006 - \$5,000 Grant. To "The Coalition to Protect Michigan's Resources" (formerly the Michigan Fisheries Resource Conservation Coalition) to help fund their Indian inland fishing negotiations within the Federal court directives.

April, 2006 - \$1,000 Grant. To Sterling Heights High School to initiate a "Salmon in the Classroom" program.

January, 2006 - \$1,000 Grant. To the Detroit Area Kids Fishing Derby for their 2006 derby.

..... And So Much More!!

Skipper of the Year Standings 2013

FINAL

Best 5

	Boat Name	Skipper Name	St. Joe	Grand Haven	Olcott NY	Erieau, ONT	Ladies Day	Ludington II	Manistee	Frankfort	Total Points	Best 6	Best 7	Best 8	Best 9
1	Vicki's Seacret	Bob Feisel	2	1	2	7	2	5	75	2	9	14	21	96	96
2	Bad Dog	Tom Gorguze	75	4	6	3	3	2	2	1	11	15	21	96	96
3	Sloppy Joe	Joe Von Grabe	75	5	3	5	1	3	4	75	16	21	96	171	171
4	Sea Hag	Blaise Pewinski	1	75	1	4	4	6	75	75	16	91	166	241	241
5	Blue Horizon	Paul Gjeldum	3	2	5	2	75	75	5	75	17	92	167	242	242
6	Bobby's Toy	Bob Jones	4	7	7	6	75	4	3	50	24	31	81	156	156
7	Hardtop & Tails	Jim Zanke	75	9	4	75	75	75	7	50	145	220	295	370	370
8	Nite Moves	Carl Ventimiglia	6	3	75	1	75	75	75	75	160	235	310	385	385
9	Channing	Dan Chisolm	75	6	9	75	6	75	75	75	171	246	321	396	396
10	Loki-One	Dave Roehr	7	8	75	75	75	75	6	75	171	246	321	396	396
11	Almost Paradise	Bob Paradise	75	75	75	75	75	1	1	75	227	302	377	452	452
12	Saluki	John Meade	50	75	75	75	75	7	75	50	257	332	407	482	482
13	Crews Inn	Larry Walter	75	75	75	75	5	75	75	75	305	380	455	530	530
14	Thor's Hammer	Al Wiechert	5	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	305	380	455	530	530
15	Miss Dipsey	Jody Robinson	75	75	8	75	75	75	75	75	308	383	458	533	533
16	Piece of Cake	Charles Denning	75	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	350	425	500	575	575

	Weight	Species	Boat Name
Big Fish	28.65	King	Almost Paradise
Largest Of Each Species	28.65	King	Almost Paradise
	9.60	Coho	Sloppy Joe
	15.90	Lake Trout	Hardtop & Tails
	14.15	Steelhead	Bad Dog
	0.00	Brown	
	0.00	Atlantic	
	0.00	Pink	

	St. Joe	Grand Haven	Olcott NY	Erieau, ONT	Ladies Day	Ludington II	Manistee	Frankfort	Year
Number of Boats	8	9	9	7	6	8	7	5	59
Number Caught	Kings	13	119	18	0	15	13	23	206
	Cohos	25	26	0	0	2	9	6	69
	Lake Trout	8	2	4	0	2	3	0	19
	Steelhead	5	7	8	26	2	9	1	59
	Browns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Atlantics	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pinks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	51	154	30	26	21	34	30	353

2013 Boat Trolling Tournament Review

In terms of number of fish, the 2013 DAS Boat Trolling season paled in comparison to the 2012 season. But what it lacked in numbers it made up in quality as the fish caught were definitely on the large side especially later into the summer. The 8 tournament schedule took us to ports on Lakes Erie, Ontario & Michigan but again as a result of the status of that fishery, no events took place on Lake Huron.

Probably, unusual would best describe the fishing the DAS boat trollers experienced at St. Joe for the first tournament of the 2013 season. Fishing conditions were good for the tournament start with 10-20 waves with an offshore wind. Some boats found plenty of coho & small steelhead out in 97 to 115 deep water. Other boats found some kings in 40 to 60 but not too many of them. What was surprising was the size of the kings, especially for the spring time.



The first-ever 'Golden Salmon Sonar Challenge' travelling trophy captured by the DAS

This was also the first ever Golden Salmon Sonar Challenge, a friendly competition against the Huron Valley Sportfishing Club (HVSC). At the 3:00 weigh-in at West Basin Marina, the DAS and HVSC took turns weighing in each boat's catch and then each club's Top 5 boat's best 3 fish

were totaled to see who had the best total weight. Convincingly, the DAS trollers managed to beat the HVSC trollers 173.6 lbs to 69.8 lbs. So the travelling trophy, a pretty nifty award made by Tom Cunningham from the Huron Valley club, will stay with the DAS for the upcoming year.

As far as the DAS tournament itself, the Sea Hag team skippered by Blaise Pewinski pulled off the win over Vickie's Seacret crew and captain Bob Feisel, 107.6 pts. to 86.7 pts. Big Fish was weighed in by Skipper Paul Gjeldum and his Blue Horizon crew, a very nice spring time King, 17.15 lbs. good for \$80.

For the luncheon following the weigh-in a fantastic meal was enjoyed by the 56 crew members from both clubs. Bob Bilski from the HVSC slow grilled some beef tenderloin along with some peppers, mushrooms and onions and served it on butter-covered grilled hoagie-style buns. Delicious sandwiches! DAS Port Captain Blaise Pewinski with plenty of help at home from his wife made potato salad and macaroni salad and coleslaw. There was plenty of cold pops and water. Charlie Denning also served cup cakes and muffins from his bakery. This all made for a tremendous meal. Thanks to Bob, Blaise, Charlie and their helpers!

This was truly a great event! The weather was good, the fishing was pretty decent, the turn-out was good from both clubs and the meal was outstanding. The guys from the Huron Valley Sportfishing Club are a great bunch and I am sure they want to get that trophy back. I'd like to thank all those who participated. I know that I really enjoyed it and am looking forward to next year!

The DAS Grand Haven tournament turned out to be a huge success in every way. Everyone caught fish and the weather was so perfect we were wishing we had some wave action to enhance our spoon action. The numbers were not as good as we have come to expect from this port although the Top 3 Finishers did weigh-in very good 2-day catches.

The Vickie's Seacret team with Skipper Bob Feisel weighed-in 15 fish for the 2 days and captured 1st Place with 259.15 pts. Skipper of

2013 DAS Skipper of the Year & Big Fish



1st Place - "Vickie's Seacret" - Skipper Bob Feisel



2nd Place - "Bad Dog" - Skipper Tom Gorguze



3rd Place - "Sloppy Joe" - Skipper Joe Von Grabe



4th Place - "Sea Hag" - Skipper Blaise Pewinski



5th Place - "Blue Horizon" - Skipper Paul Gjeldum



**Big Fish
28.65# King
Caught
aboard
"Almost
Paradise"
By
Tom Theida**

Tournament Review from Pg. 6

the Blue Horizon, Paul Gjeldum and his crew weighed a total of 16 fish worth 245.25 pts good for 2nd place followed closely by Skipper Carl Ventimiglia and the Nite Moves crew with a 16 fish 2-day total of 241.90 pts.

Port Captain Dan Chisholm and crew worked their butts off to cook hamburgers along with potato salad, garden salad, chips, and the oh so important selection of cookies. Everyone ate their fill and we still had enough left over on Sunday for a shore lunch of potato salad and garden salad. Overall a good fishing experience and everyone went home happy with some fish in the cooler.

The Spring weather was no different along the New York shoreline of Lake Ontario than it was in Michigan on Lakes Huron and Michigan. This was probably the main reason why the fishing the DAS boats experienced was not quite as good as we had here the year before. But just like last year, you could not ask for a nicer 3 days of fishing. 1-2 seas - mostly 1 and under - were the case with fair skies and pleasant temperatures. A good turnout of nine boats showed up at the Town of Newfane Marina in Olcott, our tournament headquarters.



Blaise Pewinski, skipper of the "Sea Hag" shows off another Olcott Hog, a 25.5 lb. King

30 fish were caught by those nine boats, definitely off by 40% from the previous year. But the big Kings we came here looking for did show up as Sea Hag weighed in a 25.1 lbs. Hog which took Big Fish and Vickie's Seacret had a King that went 21.75 lbs. on the club's scale. Four other fish weighed in between 14.05 lbs. and 16.05 lbs. No one could catch the Sea Hag crew with 6 fish and 87.10 points. Vickie's Seacret was just about 22 points behind that mark with 65.15 points for 2nd place while Sloppy Joe was real close with 63.90 points good for 3rd place.

Prior to the weigh-in, we all enjoyed the delicious pizzas and chicken wings with fresh garden salads served up by Wilson's Sub Shoppe in Newfane. Thanks to Wendy and her crew there for the fine meal! All in all everyone had a good time and enjoyed the great meal and fine weather. We look forward to coming back here again next year.

Once again, the DAS returned to Erieau, ONT. for the 4th tournament of the year but more Eyes than Steel was the story. We had seven boats make it out for the tournament. Friday pre-fishing was good. Most boats found some steelhead but everyone found some very nice walleye. Saturday morning came and after the captains meeting and sharing of the info from Friday's pre-fishing, we went out to find some slightly angry seas. Some boats went southwest and a couple went south. At the first fish call Bad Dog was in the lead with 3 steelhead, but everybody had success finding a steelhead or two and some very big walleye. Sloppy Joe took a 10 plus pound walleye which won for big fish for the walleye category. The seas stayed about the same all day. We pulled lines at 2pm and headed for the weigh in at 3pm.

After the weigh in, Carl Ventimiglia, skipper of the Nite Moves was excited by his 1st tournament win and was followed by Blue Horizon and Bad Dog. The big steelhead prize went to Paul Gjeldum of Blue Horizon with a 7.75 lb. steelhead. After a fun day at sea, Port Captain Carl Ventimiglia had some very good brick oven pizza from the new brewery in town along with salad and cookies.

On Saturday, August 3 it was the Ladies' turn to show their stuff at the annual Ladies Day tournament in Ludington. We enjoyed great weather for this popular outing. We all had a fun time and some big Kings were brought to the weigh-in, in spite of the slow fishing action. The ladies on Joe Von Grabe's Sloppy Joe won the tournament, and also won the Big Fish prize with a 23 lb King. Congratulations to Joe & his Ladies! Blaise Pewinski surprised everyone with a Master Angler Sheephead weighing in at 10.35 lbs.

The Ludington II tournament held the following weekend was certainly disappointing when we think back to the catches made here in recent years. Eight boats weighed in 34 fish. It seems the water temperatures were all screwed up from the normal at this time of the year.

The Top 3 boats did however have pretty good catches considering the circumstances. Bob Paradise and the Almost Paradise crew weighed in 7 fish for 149.55 pts and 1st place beating out the Bad Dog crew and Skipper Tom Gorguza who had 8 fish weighing 104.3 lbs. Close behind for 3rd place was Skipper Joe Von Grabe of Sloppy Joe with 6 fish weighing 101.45.

Everyone enjoyed a great meal provided by Port Captain Al Wiechert.

The DAS boat trolling fleet traveled up to Frankfort for our final tournament of the 2013 season. Earlier in the week there had been a strong blow from the north that pushed out the warm water and brought cold water close to shore. On Thursday evening the water temperature just outside the pier heads was 51 degrees on the surface. The cold water created the right conditions for a large push of mature salmon to enter Betsie Lake and run up the river. A lot of salmon were in Betsie Lake, and there were LOTS of small boats trolling, casting, and jigging with good success.

We had 5 boats register for the tournament at the Captains' meeting on Saturday morning. We could hear the distant roar of the surf pounding on the Lake Michigan shoreline. We decided to delay the start of the tournament until there was enough light in the sky to scout out the conditions on the lake. At 7 am Tom Gorguza, Jim Zanke, and Bob Feisel took Vickie's Seacret out to the pier heads. On the way out we watched as waves washed over the top of the pier. However, we found that the waves were 2 - 4 ft. with some well spaced rollers. Several other boats were already fishing on the lake. We determined that the conditions were safely fishable. We decided to start the tournament at 8:00 and try to get in 5 hours of fishing, pulling lines at 1:00. Some boats fished close to port, hoping to find some of the mature salmon that had not yet moved up the river. Other boats went south to the Herring Hole and Arcadia.

At the weigh-in, 3 boats did not weigh fish, Bad Dog weighed 3, and Vickie's Seacret had 4. But Bad Dog's fish were mature Kings weighing 20-23 pounds each and Tom Gorguza and crew managed to win first place. Tom also won the \$50 Big Fish prize with a 22.65 pound King. Congratulations Tom!

Once again, on behalf of Bob Feisel and myself, I would like to thank all those captains and crews who participated this past tournament season. We would also like to thank all the Port captains who provided the great luncheons at the weigh-ins. Without this participation, we could not have experienced the successful season that we did. By the time this is published, we will have had the boat trolling committee meeting and the 2014 schedule will have been set. Here's to a great 2014 Boat Trolling season!

Co-Tournament Director

Bob Ksionzek

DAS Skipper's Honor Roll

1	1. John Makela	Sisu
9	2. Murrell Blackburn	Fish'n 5
7	3. Chuck Cartwright	Tuna Boat
6	4. Paul Irvine	Yellow Jacket
	5. Steve Hamilton	Valhalla

1	1. Chuck Cartwright	Tuna Boat
9	2. John Makela	Sisu
7	3. Murrell Blackburn	Fish'n 5
7	4. Bob Kring	Drifter
	5. Larry Atwell	Cobra

1	1. Jerry Lee	Sea Screw
9	Complete Standings	
7	For 1978 Are Not Available	
8		

1	1. Jerry Lee	Sea Screw
9	2. Howard Mills	Paramour
7	3. Larry Atwell	Cobra
9	4. Jim Treadaway	Okie Drifter
	5. Bob Kring	Drifter

1	1. Jerry Lee	Sea Screw
9	2. Terry Cholette	Fishin' Fever
8	3. Toby Lampi	Jessie III
0	4. Randy Cope	Ouzo Too
	5. Ed Yankowski II	Least Likely

1	1. Bob Kring	Drifter
9	2. Toby Lampi	Jessie III
8	3. Bob Kanas	Least Likely
1	4. Jerry Lee	Sea Screw
	5. Jewell Harris	Cannonball

1	1. Brian Glaser	Least Likely
9	2. Toby Lampi	Jessie III
8	3. Mike Curzenski	Nooner
2	4. Bob Kring	Drifter
	5. R.J. Branham	Seahawk

1	1. Gerry Ciurzenski	Jawbuster
9	2. Mike Boroniec	Horsefly
8	3. R.J. Branham	Seahawk
3	4. Bob Kozar	Snowman
	5. Ed Yankowski II	Least Likely

1	1. Bob Kanas	Least Likely
9	2. Ed Choinski	Kneeknocker
8	3. Darrin Harris	Cannonball
4	3. Bob Ksionzek	Last Dime
	3. Mike Zelkowski	Eivra

1	1. Darrin Harris	Cannonball
9	2. Joel Garinger	Fishbusters
8	3. Bruce Choinski	Kneeknocker
5	4. Tom Chojnowski	Sea Con
	5. Ed McIntosh	Sweet Lorraine

1	1. Bob Mitchell	Kemo
9	2. Greg Clifford	Outlaw
8	3. Chuck Wood	Predator
6	4. Dave Even	Teacher's Pet
	5. Blaise Pewinski	Sea Hag

1	1. Bob Mitchell	Kemo
9	2. Steve Banovic	Exaggerator
8	3. Ron Huey	Half R's
9	4. Ron Hartman	Molly Frair
	5. Don Anton	Happy Bare

1	1. Bob Mitchell	Kemo
9	2. Dave Even	Teacher's Pet
9	3. Dick Shirk	Lil' Scratch
0	4. Rob Pinski	Anticipation
	5. Mike Wakulski	Wet Paint

1	1. Bob Mitchell	Kemo
9	2. Dave Even	Teacher's Pet
9	3. Don Redmond	Trena Dawn
1	4. Dick Shirk	Lil' Scratch
	5. Joe Golaszewski	Lucky Falcon

1	1. Bob Mitchell	Kemo
9	2. Dave Even	Teacher's Pet
9	3. Tom Moores	Karefree
2	4. Dick Shirk	Lil' Scratch
	5. Mike Wakulski	Wet Paint

1	1. Dave Even	Teacher's Pet
9	2. Don Redmond	Trena Dawn
9	3. Joe Golaszewski	Lucky Falcon
3	4. Leon Van Eden	Bull Head
	5. Chris Nytko	Aquarius II

1	1. Joe Golaszewski	Lucky Falcon
9	2. Jimmy Hardrick	My Dream
9	3. Chris Nytko	Aquarius II
4	4. Ron Hartman	Molly Frair
	5. Paul Schoenrade	Eagle Two

1	1. Bob Mitchell	Kemo
9	2. Don Redmond	Trena Dawn
9	3. Daniel Dima	Taz
5	4. Rob Golaszewski	Lucky Falcon
	5. Dave Roehr	Floating Holiday

1	1. Dick Shirk	Lil' Scratch
9	2. Rob Golaszewski	Lucky Falcon
9	3. Chris Nytko	Aquarius II
6	4. Paul Nowak	Nothin' But Fun
	5. Don Redmond	Trena Dawn

1	1. Rob Golaszewski	Lucky Falcon
9	2. Chris Nytko	Aquarius II
9	3. Paul Colone	The Kidd
7	4. Bob Buero	Mickey Mouse Club
	5. Jimmy Hardrick	My Dream

1	1. Don Redmond	Trena Dawn
9	2. Chris Nytko	Aquarius II
9	3. Dick Shirk	Lil' Scratch
8	4. Rob Golaszewski	Lucky Falcon
	5. Paul Schoenrade	Eagle III

1	1. Mark Stosiak	Tomorrow's Dream
9	2. Stan Bilek	Blue Star
9	3. Chris Nytko	Aquarius II
9	4. Dick Shirk	Lil' Scratch
9	5. Paul Schoenrade	Eagle III

2	1. Chris Nytko	Aquarius II
0	2. Doug Karakas	Capt'n Hook
0	3. Joe Von Grabe	Sloppy Joe
2	4. Bill Dunk	Free Bird
	5. Mark Bevans	In-Seine

2	1. Bill Dunk	Free Bird
0	2. Mike Vigus	Crusader
0	3. Joe Von Grabe	Sloppy Joe
3	4. Blaise Pewinski	Sea Hag
	5. Mark Bevans	In-Seine

2	1. Blaise Pewinski	Sea Hag
0	2. Chris Nytko	Aquarius II
0	3. Joe Von Grabe	Sloppy Joe
4	4. Mike Vigus	Crusader
	5. Bob Feisel	Vicki's Seacret

2	1. Bob Paradise	Almost Paradise
0	2. Joe Von Grabe	Sloppy Joe
0	3. Tom Gorguze	Bad Dog
5	4. Dave Linder	No Limit
	5. Bob Feisel	Vicki's Seacret

2	1. Joe Von Grabe	Sloppy Joe
0	2. Mark Williams	Silver Addiction
0	3. Tom Gorguze	Bad Dog
6	4. Bob Jones	Bobby's Toy
	5. Dave Linder	No Limit

2	1. Bob Paradise	Almost Paradise
0	2. Joe Von Grabe	Sloppy Joe
0	3. Mark Williams	Silver Addiction
7	4. Tim Robinson	Pride N Joy
	5. Bob Feisel	Vicki's Seacret

2	1. Mark Williams	Silver Addiction
0	2. Tom Gorguze	Bad Dog
8	3. Bob Feisel	Vicki's Seacret
	4. Dave Linder	No Limit
	5. Bob Jones	Bobby's Toy

2	1. Mark Williams	Silver Addiction
0	2. Blaise Pewinski	Sea Hag
0	3. Bob Jones	Bobby's Toy
9	4. Bob Paradise	Almost Paradise
	5. Bob Feisel	Vicki's Seacret

2	1. Bob Paradise	Almost Paradise
0	2. Tom Gorguze	Bad Dog
1	3. Bob Jones	Bobby's Toy
0	4. Joe Von Grabe	Sloppy Joe
	5. E-Fish-N-Sea	Doug Karakas

2	1. Tom Gorguze	Bad Dog
0	2. Bob Paradise	Almost Paradise
1	3. Blaise Pewinski	Sea Hag
1	4. Bob Feisel	Vicki's Seacret
	5. Bob Jones	Bobby's Toy

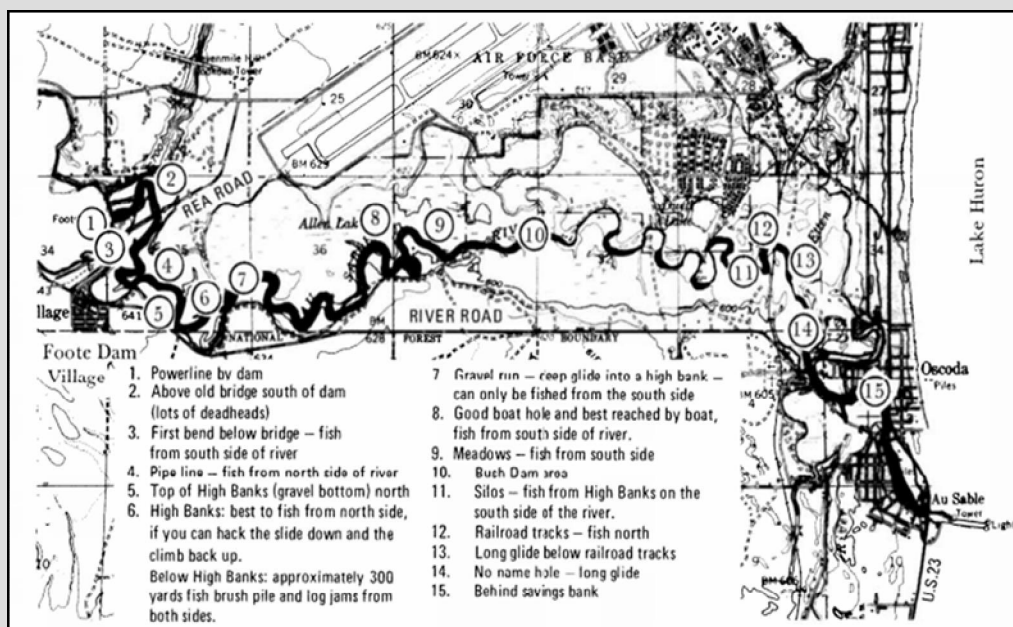
2	1. Tom Gorguze	Bad Dog
0	2. Bob Jones	Bobby's Toy
1	3. Bob Feisel	Vicki's Seacret
2	4. Blaise Pewinski	Sea Hag
	5. Miss Dipsey	Jody Robinson

STEELHEAD FEVER

(Reprinted from www.dwfonline.com)

They were lurking everywhere; behind every logjam, along every deep pool or gravel run, and around every bend or curve of the mighty Au Sable. They were of different sizes and each seemed to have its own particular holding area, but they were all of the same species. Some were easily spotted while others were nearly hidden in their annual spring environment. Much has been written about them, and one thing is for certain. Steelhead fishermen are a breed apart.

Fisherman? That's right, steelhead fishermen. At this time of year they pack their waders, rods, vests and anything else they can stuff into their northbound vehicles in order to match wits with the high jumping, drag burning steelhead trout. The destination could be almost anywhere. Northern Michigan is abounding with quality streams that are steelhead havens in the spring. Along the Lake Michigan shoreline the Big Manistee, Little Manistee, Betsie, Platte, Pere Marquette, and White Rivers all hold large numbers of migrating steelhead. However, along the Lake Huron coast the AuSable River is king. From the mouth at Oscoda upstream to the Foote Dam, the AuSable is home to some legendary steelhead haunts. The bang, the apple tree, the trestle bridge, three pipes, whirlpool, and the high banks are just a few of these. There are also many "secret" spots that only a few hundred thousand anglers have fished before. Every year people still whisper about them. It is a fisherman's prerogative to keep secrets and tell lies.



Last spring this was demonstrated to perfection by a "Hollywood" steelhead fisherman at the trestle bridge. This guy looked like he walked right out of an L.L. Bean catalog. Somebody who looks like that has to be really good or really rich. He was wading just upstream from the bridge in his tan neoprene boot foot waders when two fishermen walked up to the bank behind him.

"Anything happenin' around here," the older of the two asked?

"No, I've been here all morning and haven't caught a thing or seen anything caught in any of those boats," Hollywood said while pointing with his fingerless wool gloves toward the line of four boats anchored downstream from him.

"Really? The guy at the tackle shop said this should be the hottest spot on the river."

"It's usually pretty good but today everyone's knocking 'em dead up at the dam I guess," he said as he glanced down his 9 foot graphite rod at the fly dangling on the end of his line.

"What kind of fly is that," the younger fisherman asked?

"I think they call it a spring wiggler. I don't think it'll catch anything, but nobody's catching anything anyway."

"Yeah, I know what you mean. Take care, I guess we're going to the dam."

"Okay, take 'er easy." As the two fishermen walked away, Mr. Hollywood made a cast up under the trestle bridge and within seconds was head to head with a 4 pound scrappy male. The battle was short but sweet and ended when he slipped the fish into his custom, wood landing net. As he walked back toward the bank he reached down and grabbed a thin, gold colored rope. At the end were four of the prettiest fresh run steelhead you would ever want to see! Obviously nothing was happening around there, not anymore that is. Hollywood walked down the railroad tracks and out of sight with his limit.

Limit catches are the exception on any river. However, one fisherman could do no wrong. There were a group of five middle-aged men camping on the point across from high banks. Anyone who has fished there knows the difficulty of landing a steelhead over, under, and around all of the logs once its hooked. Many fish were hooked by the other four men but few were landed. The fifth guy, however, put on a clinic playing these powerful fish. In fact, after landing at least 10 or 15 he went back into the tent and slept for awhile. When he came out about an hour later he proceeded to wade back into the river and catch a 14 pound female on his first cast. This was the only fish he kept all day. The other fish were all released to outwit lesser fishermen someday. He also proved that you don't have to look the part in order to catch these fish. He wore old, steel shank, green rubber waders, a navy blue ski jacket and a Detroit Tigers baseball cap. This is far from the neoprene waders, gore-tex coat, and up-downer cap that Hollywood wore.

Throughout the years steelhead fishermen have come and gone, but one thing remains constant. There has to be a greater variety of personalities among participants of this sport than any other.

This is evident in the way they fish. Take casting for instance. There is at least one "whipper" in every crowd. This person seems to be in a constant contest both to make a lot of noise with his rod and to set a world record for casting three split shot.

"Hey Bruce, watch this." After a loud whipping crack the line flies off the spool and the bait promptly lands in the sumac on the far bank.

"Top that one, eh eh eh."

"Why would I want to Jimmy?"

"Aw, you're just jealous, eh eh eh."

The opposite method is the finesse approach. This type of caster will usually look similar to Mr. Hollywood and cast as if there was never any stress or anxiety in his life. He just raises his rod in one hand and slowly tosses his bait into the middle of the current. He is here to relax and it makes the muscles in the back of your neck tense up just watching him. This type will also be the ones that slowly reel their bait in at the end of their drift and hook three or four lines in the process.

Personality differences also show up in the type of equipment that the fishermen use. A person has to have a great disposition to fish for steelhead with a level wind reel. Not only that, but he must also come up with excuse after excuse as to why he backlashed again. Some of the excuses include, "Boy is it windy!", "The lure must be too light", or the always famous, "My son must have been playing with this thing." Other fisherman with spinning tackle listen just hoping to hear one they haven't heard before.

"Yeah I know. I wonder if his wife had anything to do with this one."

Of all the peculiar people along a steelhead stream, the best ones to watch are always the dedicated bass fishermen. They are out of their element on a steelhead trip. It is always fun to watch an overweight man sliding sideways down a 100 foot high, 60° sand bank. All the while carrying a flippin' stick and a 73 pound tackle box, and never even thinking as to how he is going to get back up. When he reaches the river he opens his box and hula poppers, jitterbugs, buzz baits, and 8" plastic worms fall out all over the sand. After replacing everything in its proper slot, he reaches down and picks up a hook and a foam coffee cup. This holds the dried out spawn sacs he found at the top of the mountain he just tumbled down. Now that he is ready he latches the tackle box shut and turns to face the river.

"Shoot! I knew I shouldn't have let Jethro borrow my waders to go froggin'."

He is now out of casting range and his only hope is to entice a fish out of one of the man-made holes in front of him. These footprints of wading anglers don't hold too many steelhead, however. As you can tell, people watching can be more fun than fishing itself. Even so, listening to their fish stories is even better. Usually a story may catch the attention of one or two people, but last spring on a gravel run of the AuSable a dozen or so were "hooked" at once. They were shoulder to shoulder all casting in hopes of fighting an aggressive fish when the story began.



"What are they using?" the blond woman asked as she stood up on the bank.

"Well, do you know anything about steelhead miss," a dark haired man puffing of a cigar asked?

"Only that they drive my husband crazy this time of year. He calls it steelhead fever and I agree with him."

The man, shirtless, leaned back against a tree and adjusted his waders so they wouldn't dig into his bare skin. "A steelhead is a very unique fish, ma'am. They got their name for a reason and that's why these fellas have switched to magnets as bait."

"Magnets?"

"That's right. You see, steelhead are frequently attracted to magnets." By this time the whole group of fishermen turned around and were listening to the wise

man talk. "There is one thing to watch out for," he said. "If there is any negative polarity involved it could shoot the steelhead right up onto the opposite bank."

Needless to say, this brought cheers of laughter up from the river below and it slowly brought a smile to the woman's face once she realized she had heard her first fish story.

Steelhead fever has caught a lot of people for a lot of years and it will continue to do so as long as a fish of this power, beauty, and mystique is allowed to survive. This spring, next spring, and every spring thereafter will bring these anglers north to the streams that harbor steelhead. Once arriving they will find their particular holding area and fish until their bodies ache. All the while watching and listening to everything around them. That's what fish stories are made of.

Upcoming 2014 DAS Key Dates

Thur. Jan. 9, 2014 (3 - 9:30) Ultimate Fishing Show
 Fri. Jan. 10, 2014 (11 - 9:30) Suburban Collection Showplace
 Sat. Jan. 11, 2014 (10 - 9)
 Sun. Jan. 12, 2014 (10 - 5)

Tues. Jan. 14, 2014
 7:00pm **BOD Meeting**
 American Polish Cultural Center

Sat. Jan. 25, 2014
 8:00am - 3:00pm **Ice Fishing Outing**
 T.B.D. American Side Lake St. Clair

Tues. Jan. 28, 2014
 7:30pm **Membership Meeting**
 American Polish Cultural Center

2013 December Membership Meeting Facts

Attendance: 98 adults, 22 children

Featured: %Salmon Clause+

50/50 Raffle Winner: \$200 Jon Dixon
 \$100 Bill Stanley

Every Member Drawing : \$100 Richard Janis

Almost everyone in attendance won something as lots of door prizes were given away.

Brown Trout (Cont'd From Pg. 4)

The next day, the crew surveys the same stretch of river, noting the percentage of fish that are marked versus those that aren't. The resulting ratio gives fisheries biologists a tool with which to estimate the population of trout in the river.

Although the data haven't been completely worked up yet, fish with left ventral fin clips (Sturgeon River strain) far outnumbered fish with right ventral clips (Wild Rose strain) during the recent survey below the dam at Mio. And unclipped fish outnumbered clipped ones. That adds some information that the DNR never really had before.

"If you get an 18-inch brown trout with no fin clips, that could be a fish that's from before the study started," Cwalinski said. "But we were getting quite a few 5-inch fish that were not clipped those are wild fish. So fish are reproducing in there. There's probably a lot

of spawning, but there's also a lot of mortality due to high summer water temperatures. Still, some of those fish make it."

Fisheries biologists always assumed there was little natural reproduction below the dam at Mio, where water temperatures can get quite high some summers.

"Until we started clipping fish, we didn't see it," Cwalinski said. "So we can finally go in there and say, 'There's more wild production in here than we knew.' That's not a bad thing. We are stocking to supplement a wild population that could probably swing up and down pretty heavily in any given year."

The final report, available soon, will be at www.michigan.gov/fishresearch. To learn more about Michigan's fish production system and individual hatchery work, visit www.michigan.gov/

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