



## February Meeting



**When:**  
Tuesday, March 26, 2013 7:30pm

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

**Featured :**  
Brian Butts, Sea Flea Charters  
Topic - Spring Fishing

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

**Up-To-Date Information on the DAS website at:**  
[www.detroitsteelheaders.com](http://www.detroitsteelheaders.com)

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# Fishin' Tales

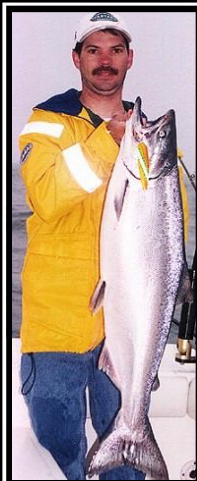
PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY FOR OVER 35 YEARS

Volume XXXVIII, Issue III

March 2013

## Capt. Brian Butts Talks About Spring Fishing at March Meeting

(Because the snowstorm caused the cancellation of the February Meeting, Capt. Brian Butts rescheduled for March)



Our guest speaker for the March Membership meeting will be Capt. Brian Butts of Sea Flea Charters out of Grand Haven, MI. As a full time licensed charter Captain from April to October, Brian has fished Lake Michigan for over 20 years and has fished most all ports from Michigan City, IN to Grand Traverse bay.

During the past 3 years Team Sea Flea has fished many of the Salmon tournaments with great success. They have 6 first place wins and have finished in the Top Five 11 times. Their latest wins were the Holland Salmon Slam, the Saugatuck Waypoint Tournament, the Big Jon Tri-Port Challenge and the Grand Haven Offshore Challenge.

To provide his customers with the ultimate fishing and boating experience, "Sea Flea" is a luxurious 31 ft. Tiara Open. This twin engine boat is large enough to comfortably and safely accommodate 6 people. It has all the latest safety equipment and state of the art electronic navigational and fishing gear: GPS, radar, auto-pilot, fish finders, temperature monitors, speed indicators and a VHF radio. He uses all the latest fishing poles, reels, downriggers, baits etc and everything is maintained in top condition.

Brian's topic will be Spring fishing. He will be sharing some of the secrets he has learned fishing out of Grand Haven. He will also discuss the equipment and techniques he uses. Don't miss the chance to take notes and put the techniques to use at this year's DAS Spring tournaments in St. Joe and Grand Haven.

For more charter information, you can call (616) 886-1306

## Wild Game Dinner ..... "Best One Yet"

This was the comment heard more than just a few times from guests, DAS Directors and even, Richard from Michi-GUN, who provides all the guns used in our gun raffles, thought it was "one helluva dinner".

The 2013 Edition of the Detroit Area Steelheaders' "Sportsman's Dinner" definitely was one for the record books with 544 dinner tickets sold. This compares with 412 sold in 2012 and 435 in 2013. The \$1, \$5 and Ladies Raffle Tables were filled with more and better prizes than ever. 5 separate 50/50 raffles, the most ever, helped to make this, the Club's only fund raiser, a very successful evening. An unbelievable 25 Card Draws ..... 23 for Guns and 2 for Premium Meat Selections courtesy of the Country Smokehouse in Almont ..... also were most ever.

Our caterers, Mark & Mike Ruhlig of the Villagers Restaurant in Holly provided as tasty a meal as ever

featuring: Pheasant Cacciatore, Elk Pepper Steak, Venison Stuffed Meatloaf, Fallow Deer Ravioli and Boar Sweet Baby Rays BBQ. A Great Big thanks to them for the excellent menu! Mark Williams, as usual, did a FANTASTIC job as emcee.



Photo Courtesy of Don Mikros

Thanks, also to Michi-GUN for a great selection of rifles and handguns despite the overwhelming demand from gun enthusiast's which has definitely put a strain on their inventory.

Thanks to American Polish Cultural Center for the use of their facility, wait staff and bartenders. Thank you, of course, to all those guests who bought a ticket and spent their hard earned

money at the Raffle Tables and Card Draws.

Thanks to all the directors and volunteers for their hard work especially Blaise Pewinski, Carl Ventimiglia and Mark Williams who chaired the event. I personally can't wait until next year!

The Editor

## Membership News

### New Memberships

**CHARLES CABBLE**

**DENNIS HAYDEN**

### Renewed Memberships

**HERMAN CHRISTOPH**

**CHARLES DENNING**

### Memberships Expired or Soon to be Expired

**MARK & COLLEEN BEVANS**

**BOB BUTKIEWICZ**

**DAN CHISHOLM**

**KEN CIONE**

**ANTONIO COSBEY**

**ANGELO D'ANNA**

**MARK GAZDA**

### WELCOME!

**KEVIN GROSS**

**BRYAN McKNIGHT**

**BILL STANLEY**

**CARL VENTIMIGLIA SR.**

**BRUCE HAYWOOD**

**RON HUEY**

**GALEN HULL**

**LARRY LATRA**

**TED LEWICKI**

**ANTHONY LEWIS**

**DAVID MAYFIELD**

**NANCY WOOD**

**NATHAN MUELER**

**THOMAS OSENTOSKI**

**BRUCE TURNAGE**

**DWAYNE WELDER**

**HOWARD YORK**

## DAS March Field Test Deal



This month's test item is a field sharpener for keeping up the edge on those filet knives and all your edged tools. The Work Sharp is the complete knife sharpener for field, home or shop use. It is the first Angle Guided, 5 stage sharpening solution designed for

sportsmen who need a complete, robust and compact field sharpening solution. So make sure you make it to the meeting for your chance at this great item, that is if the weather cooperates.

**Carl Ventimiglia**  
"NITEMOVES"

## Field Testers Report

### Product: CLAM Ice Spooler Reel

I was given this reel at our January meeting. I had hopes that this reel was everything that had been published in many Ice Fishing magazines. To say I gave it a fair chance the first time I used it would not be true. The feel of the reel mounted on my favorite ice rod was great, well balanced, light weight, everything you want for catching jumbo perch. This is where I began to dislike the Spooler Reel, the first time I lowered my jig was a pain, it took forever just to get 10 feet of line out, let alone the anti -reverse function was not user friendly. It took over a minute just to lower it that far, now a new problem, FISH ON. This reel has a 1 to 1 retrieval ratio, each crank only 4 to 5 inches of line gets spooled up. That's not what you need when perching, you need to be able to get your fish in quick and get your line back in the water before the school of Jumbos swim away looking for an easy meal. With that said, I will not even think of using it in the deep waters of Lake Simcoe. Sorry to say it the cost was \$25, with that amount a person can buy 2 decent small spinning reels and have a lot more fun catching slab perch. Just my 2 cents!

**Blaise Pewinski**  
"SEA HAG"

## DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.

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

### Membership Application

- ☐ New Member - \$25 Yearly      ☐ Renewal - \$25 Yearly      ☐ Lifetime - \$150  
☐ Senior (65 & over)- \$10 Yearly      ☐ Address Change only      Amt. Paid \_\_\_\_\_

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



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President

River, Surf & Pier Fishing  
**517-449-3036**

**CARL VENTIMIGLIA**  
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Wild Game Dinner  
**586-615-7459**

**DAN CHISHOLM**  
Secretary  
Raffles, Special People, Elections  
**586-530-9171**

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**ROD ELNICK**  
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**248-765-2504**

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Hats, Shirts & Jackets, Publicity  
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Newsletter Editor, Boat Trolling  
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Membership, Scholarship  
**248-634-5789**

**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**

**MARK WILLIAMS**  
Speakers & Education,  
Wild Game Dinner  
**810-395-8789**

### Assistants

**PAUL GJELDUM**  
Trophies

**MARY KARAKAS**  
Special People

**Don Mikros**  
Photography

## Upcoming River, Surf & Pier Events

### Manistee River, Surf, Pier:

For questions, concerns, or more information, contact Anthony Lewis at 517-449-3036 or [ajlews6@gmail.com](mailto:ajlews6@gmail.com)

#### Date/Time/RSVP:

- Saturday, March 23th, however early you prefer.....
- RSVP for the dinner count to Anthony Lewis at 517-449-3036

#### Where to Fish:

- The Manistee river watershed, from the pier to the dam

#### Weigh in:

- 5:30pm dinner with Metro West at the Cabin
- The Farm  
10490 Yates Road  
Copemish, Mi. 49625
- If you get lost, call the landline at 231-362-3646

#### Directions to Manistee:

- Take I 75 North to M-10 East to M-155 West to M-55 to Town

#### Where to fish:

- The pier
- The upper river by the dam
- Also see map for suggestions



#### Where to stay:

##### Days Inn Manistee

1462 Manistee St, Manistee, MI  
(231) 723-8385 () · [daysinn.com](http://daysinn.com)

##### Super 8 Manistee

220 Arthur St, Manistee, MI  
(231) 398-8888 () · [super8.com](http://super8.com)

##### Microtel Manistee

226 East Parkdale Avenue, Manistee, MI  
(231) 398-0008 () · [microtelinn.com](http://microtelinn.com)

##### The Ramsdell Inn

399 River St, Manistee, MI  
(231) 398-7901 () · [ramsdellinn.net](http://ramsdellinn.net)

##### Manistee Inn & Marina

378 River Street, Manistee, MI  
(231) 723-4000 () · [manisteeinn.com](http://manisteeinn.com)

##### Lake Shore Motel

101 Lakeshore Dr S, Manistee, MI  
(231) 723-2667 () · [lakeshoremotel-manistee.com](http://lakeshoremotel-manistee.com)

##### Little River Casino Resort

2700 Orchard Hwy, Manistee, MI  
(231) 723-1535 () · [lrcr.com](http://lrcr.com)

##### River Side Motel & Marina

520 Water Street, Manistee, MI  
(231) 723-3554 ()

### Island Lake info

- General Info: <http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/Details.aspx?id=462&type=SPRK>
- Map [http://www.michigandnr.com/Publications/PDFS/RecreationCamping/Island\\_lake\\_map.pdf](http://www.michigandnr.com/Publications/PDFS/RecreationCamping/Island_lake_map.pdf)

#### Tips:

- Try small spinners, spoons, or flies.
- Especially white spinner

### St. Clair River Walleye Jigging!

For questions, concerns, or more information, contact Anthony Lewis at 517-449-3036 or [ajlews6@gmail.com](mailto:ajlews6@gmail.com) or Tom Gorguze at [tgorguze@aol.com](mailto:tgorguze@aol.com)

#### Date/Time/RSVP:

- April 13<sup>th</sup>
- First light

#### Where to Fish:

- St.Clair River

#### Weigh in/Lunch:

- Hosted by Tom Gorguze at his lovely river home

#### Directions to Algonac:

Take the I-94, 23 mile/M-29 exit# 243 and go right. The ramp is about 18.5 miles from the exit on the right (across from the Kroger)

## 2013 Boat Trolling Tournaments

Date	Port	Port Captain
May 4 (6:30am - 2:30pm)	St. Joseph	Blaise Pewinski <i>plus Fish Off vs. Huron Valley Sportfishing Club</i>
May 18 (6:00am - 2:00pm)	Grand Haven	Dan Chisholm
May 19 (6:00am - 12:00pm)		
June 22 (6:00am - 2:00pm)	Olcott, NY	Bob Ksionzek
July 13 (7:00am - 2:00pm)	Erieau, ONT	Carl Ventimiglia
August 3 (6:00am - 1:00pm)	Ludington	Jody Robinson <i>Ladies Day</i>
August 10 (6:00am - 2:00pm)	Ludington II	Tom Gorguze
August 24 (6:00am - 2:00pm)	Manistee	Bob Paradise
September 7 (6:30am - 2:30pm)	Frankfort	Joe Von Grabe

### Island Lake State Park Trout Fish Fun!

For questions, concerns, or more information, contact Anthony Lewis at 517-449-3036 or [ajlews6@gmail.com](mailto:ajlews6@gmail.com)

#### Date/Time/RSVP:

- Saturday, April 6th
- RSVP to Anthony Lewis at 517-449-3036 or [ajlews6@gmail.com](mailto:ajlews6@gmail.com)

#### Where to Fish:

- Spring Mill Pond

#### Weigh in

- No Weigh in. This is a catch and release only outing.

#### Directions to Island Lake:

- Take I-96 West to Exit 151 to Kensington Rd
- Turn right to Kensington Rd and follow signs to Recreation area

**Lunch graciously provided by Don Mikros!**



## A Few Scenes from the 2013 DAS Wild Game Dinner



Photos Courtesy of Don Mikros

## Bottoming Out? Lake Michigan Forage Still At All-Time Low

(Reprinted From <http://howardmeyerson.com/> Posted on [February 28, 2013](#) by [Howard Meyerson](#))

ANN ARBOR – Lake Michigan's prey fish population grew in 2012, but not enough to put aside concerns about the potential for collapse, according to federal scientists who conduct annual prey fish assessments on the Great Lakes.



Alewives, the primary forage for Chinook salmon in Lake Michigan.  
Illustration: Duane Raver, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Findings from 2012 acoustic surveys and bottom trawls, conducted by staff with the U.S. Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor, show prey fish populations continue at an all-time low; the slight uptick proved statistically insignificant; and alewife populations, a primary food source for Chinook salmon, remain in tenuous condition.

"It's pretty clear that we have far less fish biomass in Lake Michigan than we had in the 1990's," said Dave Warner the GLSC leader for the annual acoustic survey effort on Lake Michigan. "The years 2011 and 2012 are the lowest and second lowest biomass years respectively in the 17 years since we started surveying the lake, he said." Biomass refers to total volume or tonnage of prey fish. An August 2012 acoustic survey of Lake Michigan found 31 kilotons of prey fish, up from 21 kilotons in 2011. It was an average year, according to Warner, and the increase is due to a large 2010 alewife year class that survived and grew. Another increase is likely in 2013 resulting from alewives born in 2012.

But Warner and others suggest that those increases are not likely to offset the potential for a collapse. Other conditions exist that have scientists concerned. The alewife population is now dominated by two-year classes where there were once many. The oldest fish found was 5 years old and there was just one. Nearly all of the rest were born in 2010 and 2011.

"Most of the alewife biomass was made up of 2-year old fish," Warner said. They made up 60 percent of the alewife biomass and almost 90 percent of the fish age one and older.

"A few years ago we would have had fish as old as age 9 and a good spread. Between 2007 and 2010 we had at least three age classes that contributed to the biomass."

[See Bottoming Out? on Pg. 6](#)

## Mixed Blessing: Wild Lake Michigan Salmon Challenge Fish Managers

(Reprinted from The Outdoor Journal posted on February 5, 2013)

By Howard Meyerson



Jay Koehler holds up a nice rainy day Chinook Salmon caught on the Manistee River with a Thunderstick. Photo by Howard Meyerson

PENTWATER – As Lake Michigan states prepare to cut Chinook salmon stocking by 50 percent on Lake Michigan, researchers are looking closely at the growing number of wild fish that swim there. Determining their abundance will prove increasingly important to Great Lakes fish managers.

Chinook salmon now reproduce naturally in Michigan shoreline streams from Charlevoix south to the Muskegon River. Those naturalized populations add substantially to the Lake Michigan fishery, according to a Michigan Department of Natural Resource (MDNR) study that found wild fish made up 63 percent of the 2010 Chinook salmon year class in the lake, a total of more than 5 million wild smolts.

"We don't know exactly where they come from, or how many of them come from Canada, but we thought the level of natural reproduction would be more variable. The lack of variability has been a surprise," said Randy Clarmunt, with the MDNR's Charlevoix Fisheries Station.

Clarmunt recently addressed the Ludington Charter Boat Association at an annual Michigan Sea Grant workshop. He

described the findings of a 2006 to 2010 study that examined more than 5,000 Chinook salmon collected from anglers fishing in tournaments all over Lake Michigan.

The study showed 53 to 56 percent of the one-year-old Chinooks caught between 2006 and 2009 were wild. Wild two-year-olds made up 62 to 69 percent of the catch while three-year-olds made up 61 to 66 percent of the catch.

*"If natural reproduction were to jump to 90 percent we would have 15 to 20 million wild smolts in the lake and that would devastate the prey fish community within a year."*

—Randy Clarmunt, MDNR Fisheries

Wild salmon have become a hot-topic in fisheries circles. Chinook salmon was once a put-and-take fishery that relied on state hatcheries. If fisheries managers wanted more, they grew them and stocked them. But as the data from mass-marking studies accumulated over the years, fish managers became increasingly aware that wild fish were turning up in angler catches. Further studies have since confirmed that finding – and that the percentage of wild fish has increased.

That development, combined with record low numbers of alewives in recent years, due to the influx of invasive mussels filtering out food alewives need to survive, led to the 2012 decision by Lake Michigan states to reduce hatchery stocking in an attempt to assure that salmon have enough to eat.

Wild salmon is a mixed blessing, according to Lake Michigan fisheries managers. Their

presence reduces the need for hatchery stock and associated costs, but they also introduce a wild-card into planning.

"Natural fish are better for the system and are more adaptable and in some ways that is good," said Jay Wesley, the DNR's southwest Michigan fisheries coordinator. "We are asked by anglers to control the conditions in the lake and with wild fish out there we are losing control.

"In the past, I could plant more fish and anglers would end up with more in the box, but now we are at the mercy of natural reproduction. A bad reproductive year could affect the population."

Too many wild salmon can also be a problem, he said. There is only so much food for them to eat.

"If natural reproduction were to jump to 90 percent we would have 15 to 20 million wild smolts in the lake and that would devastate the prey fish community within a year," Clarmunt said. "We would cut back on stocking, but we might not have a fishery left.

That scenario is unlikely, according to Clarmunt. He and others think the available spawning habitat has been saturated.

That wild fish make up a higher percentage of two and three-year-old fish in the lake does not come as a surprise to Clarmunt. He has two theories about why it happens.



**Mixed Blessing** cont'd from Pg. 5

Hatchery fish are bigger when they are stocked which gives them a head-start, he said. They grow faster and die earlier than wild fish, which grow and mature more slowly.

The second theory is that wild salmon are migrating into Lake Michigan from Canadian waters in Lake Huron. Researchers roughly estimate that Canadian waters produce 14 million wild smolts every year. Just how many make to Lake Michigan is unknown.



A Chinook salmon in the retention ponds at the Little Manistee River egg take facility operated by the MDNR. Photo by Howard Meyerson

Rick Clark, the retired head of DNR fisheries research, who now conducts research for the Quantitative Fisheries Center at Michigan State University where he is an adjunct professor, theorizes that wild Canadian salmon could be showing up in Lake Michigan.

Wild salmon behave the same as hatchery salmon, according to Clark. And coded wire-tag studies in the 1990's and 2000s showed a dramatic increase in the number of Lake Huron stocked salmon that got caught in Lake Michigan.

"Coded wire tag data showed that five to six percent of the hatchery fish stocked in Lake Huron showed up in Lake Michigan in the 1990's," Clark said. "Between 2000 and 2008 that rate increased greatly to 20 percent."

Those same studies also showed that the percentage of wild fish in Lake Huron rose rapidly from 15 percent in the 1990's to 80 percent in 2000. Some of those fish may also be traveling into Lake Michigan, Clark said.

New research being proposed would examine chemical isotopes that are absorbed in salmon otoliths, a small structure in the head. Those isotopes are unique to certain waters. If the research is funded, work would begin next year to begin identifying where wild fish are born: whether in Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, The Georgian Bay and potentially different streams.

Computer modeling determined the need to make salmon stocking cuts on Lake Michigan in 2013, but those models, he said, do not account for wild fish coming in from Canada.

"Wild fish are becoming more and more important to the fishery," Clark said. This (new research) would give us a pretty comprehensive look at where adult salmon are coming from in Lake Michigan."

**Bottoming Out?** Cont'd from Pg. 4

The physical "condition" of alewives has also declined, according to Chuck Madenjian a research biologist with GLSC and the co-leader for annual bottom-trawl effort on Lake Michigan. That means they are less plump than they were and less energy-rich. Alewife growth rates have also declined and those that remain are smaller.

Predation has also intensified. Salmon now eat greater numbers because they are smaller and less energy-rich, Madenjian said. Scientists think that change is due to the disappearance of diporeia, a tiny, energy-dense shrimp-like creature that was an important part of the alewife diet. Their disappearance is thought related to the presence of zebra and quagga mussels in Lake Michigan which filter out important phytoplankton that diporeia feed upon. The exact reason for their disappearance is not known, according to Madenjian, but the outcome is that alewives are less energy-rich and so salmon eat more to meet their caloric needs.



The shrimp-like diporeia is an energy-rich food source for alewives.  
Photo: Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab

"We noticed the condition (plumpness) of large alewives decreased right about 1995 and 1996," Madenjian said. "We think that reflects a decrease in the importance of diporeia in the alewife diet. It went from 30 percent to 10 to 12 percent."

There may also be more salmon feeding on the diminishing forage base. Scientists say Lake Michigan gets an influx of Chinook salmon from Canadian waters of Lake Huron and wild salmon from Lake Michigan tributaries. Chinooks also had more food choices in past years. They fed on alewives, bloaters, chubs and rainbow smelt. But that's not the case now.

"As far as salmon goes, alewives are the most important prey fish," Madenjian said "Their diet is over 90 percent alewives on average."

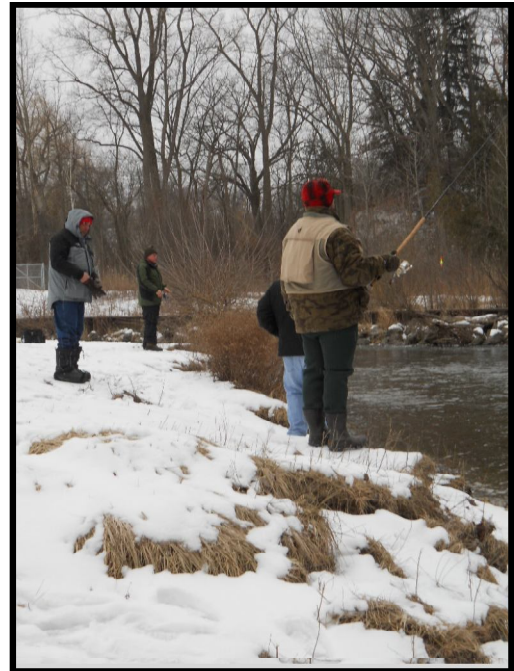
Bottom trawls are less effective than acoustic surveys for identifying age zero fish, according to Madenjian, but they are effective for finding age 1 or older fish in the bottom 2-feet of the lake where nets are deployed over a limited area. Those results, however, may or may not be "reliable," because fish can move deeper or shallower and may be present but not at that depth," Madenjian said. The 2012 GLSC bottom trawl showed a 20-percent decrease in fish compared to 2011 and most of those were age 2 alewives, the 2010 year class.

"It means there aren't many age one alewives and not many age three and very little age four," Madenjian said. "There are not a lot of year classes out there. We're at a low again. For total biomass I think it was the lowest on record since 1973."



# Clinton River Outing Sat. March 2, 2013

(Maybe Next Time There Will Be Some Pictures of Fish!)



Photos Courtesy of Don Mikros



**Upcoming 2013 DAS Key Dates**

Sat., March 23, 2013	<b>Manistee River, Surf &amp; Pier Outing Manistee River Watershed</b>
Tues. March. 26, 2013 7:30pm	<b>Membership Meeting American Polish Cultural Center</b>
Sat. April 6, 2013	<b>Trout Fish Fun Island lake State park</b>
Sat. April 13, 2013	<b>Walleye Jigging Outing St. Clair River</b>
Tues. April 16, 2013 7:00pm	<b>DAS BOD Meeting American Polish Cultural Center</b>

**February Membership Meeting Facts****(February meeting was cancelled due to snowstorm)**Attendance: N/AFeatured: N/A50/50 Raffle Winner: N/AEvery Member Drawing: N/A**Make Sure Your Prepared for the Upcoming Boat Trolling Tournament Season**

If you haven't already done so, now's a good time to double check on things needing doing for the upcoming trolling season. This may seem like stating the obvious, but you'd be surprised!

- Make sure to re-spool all those trolling reels with fresh line. You don't want that big one to break off, do you?
- Take inventory of your tackle; spoons, plugs, flashers, flies, snap swivels, etc. Make sure you have what you think. Get what your lacking. No excuses for not having the right equipment.
- Sharpen all those hooks! This is a great thing to do while your watching some silly reality TV show!
- Get new batteries for your flash unit, flash lights, any electronic device that uses them. You certainly don't want to discover dead batteries at the St. Joseph tournament. Be sure those boat batteries are charged up and ready to go or replace if need be.
- Don't forget to buy your new fishing license and make sure your crew does the same.

ANTHONY LEWIS  
8160 CONSTITUTION BLVD  
APT #3  
STERLING HGTS, MI 48313

Membership expires: 313

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

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE  
GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY FOR  
OVER 35 YEARS

MEETING NOTICE—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Detroit Area Steelheaders  
P.O. Box 1255  
Sterling Hgts, MI 48311-1255

Non-Profit  
Org.  
Place Stamp  
Here