

Fishin' Tales

August 2004
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www.detroitsteelheaders.org

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Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.
P.O. Box 1255
Sterling Heights, Mi. 48311-1255



Celebrating 30 years

Member Meeting

The next Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. club meeting takes place on Tuesday July 27, 2004 at 7:30 P.M. in the hall at 6177 Chicago Rd. (east of Mound Rd., North of 13 Mile Rd.)- Warren, Michigan. Our meetings are always open to the public. A tentative speaker is Sate Rep. Susan Tabor. Last year she made a captivating presentation. Our technique speaker for July will be former President and Charter Captain Dave Even. Dave will come here directly from Ludington to give us the latest information on fishing the port of Ludington. What are the hot baits, colors, presentations. Where are the fish? With two upcoming tournaments in

Ludington, this will be valuable insider information. Don't miss this presentation.

2004 Boat Trolling Schedule

**Manistee
Club Tournament
8- 28-2004
Port Captain: Bob Paradise**

**Harbor Beach
Club Tournament
9-11-2004
Port Captain: Chris Nytko**

[More from Booth Newspapers](#)

Outdoors News

Automated system clips and tags fingerlings efficiently and cheaper

Sunday, August 01, 2004
By Bob Gwizdz

HONOR -- The Department of Natural Resources is experimenting with a new, high-tech method of marking fingerlings that might one day make it possible to fin clip and tag every young trout and

salmon stocked into the Great Lakes.

The DNR is using an automated system, on loan from the state of Washington, to clip the adipose fins and insert coded wire tags into the noses of 350,000 coho salmon fingerlings here. The machine, which is capable of handling more than 5,000 fish per hour, eliminates the man-power demands and excessive handling of the small fish.

The machine -- the AutoFish SCT5 -- is contained in a 32-foot trailer. The machine automatically sorts fingerlings by size, clips the fatty adipose fins on their backs and inserts the coded-wire tags. Any fish that slip through the system untagged or unclipped are sent to a holding area so they can be re-run through the system or handled by hand.



The system handles fish with less trauma to them, has a better than 99 percent success rate in fin clips, and reduces mortality to the fingerlings to less than 0.1 percent.

Typically, fingerlings must be anesthetized to be handled manually, which causes some mortality. Because of the speed of the

automatic process, anesthesia is unnecessary.

The cost of handling fish is reduced 40 percent by the automated process.

The system is in wide use on the West Coast where questions about endangered runs of native salmon, commercial fishing quotas and tribal fishing rights make it necessary for the fisheries agencies to clip and tag every fish stocked. A total of 12 of the systems, manufactured by Northwest Marine Technology, Inc., are in use in California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

The machines, which can be run by two people -- one technician, one laborer -- cost \$750,000. But state fisheries officials are hopeful that the Great Lakes Fishery Committee, a cooperative international, inter-agency body, can secure federal funding for the equipment. Because the units are mobile, biologists believe a total of six machines could be used to handle all the trout and salmon stocked in the entire Great Lakes basin.

Not only would the system provide better marking and tagging, but it would help fisheries agencies develop better data on length-frequency of the fingerlings they produce, as the

machine collects data on every fish handled.

The DNR says clipping and tagging all fish could produce a wealth of data to agencies about how well stocked fish survive, where they roam, whether they stray to different streams to spawn and numerous other questions. In addition, it could help to develop harvest management techniques. Some steelhead anglers, for instance, have proposed that anglers be allowed to keep only clipped fish so that naturally produced fish could be released to spawn. Such a strategy would be fruitful only if all fish are clipped.

"Obviously, the states have to all buy into this," said Kelley Smith, the DNR's fisheries division chief, who was wowed by the technology. "But there's no way we would ever reach the tolerances with human clipping that we could get with this system. That's critical if you want to get good scientific data."

Manually, marking methods usually have an error rate of 5 to 7 percent, Smith said. That's too high when looking for evidence of natural reproduction of lake trout, for instance, he said.

Fisheries biologists have long wanted a universal tagging system for the

entire Great Lakes basin, but have been unable to agree on a cost-effective, acceptable tagging method. Tetracycline marking, for instance, is inexpensive, but Ontario has expressed no interest in a system that would introduce antibiotics into the Great Lakes.

Adopting such an automated system in Michigan would free up a lot of manpower in the hatchery system for other chores, Smith said, but there would be additional costs associated with analyzing the data the system generated.

Meanwhile, Northwest Marine Technology has developed a technique to automatically vaccinate fingerlings -- against, say, bacterial kidney disease -- though the technology has not yet been incorporated into the tagging/clipping trailers.



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Check Your Label

Did you know that your mailing label includes the date your membership expires? If it's marked yellow, you are expired (no; just your membership!) Don't be disqualified from a tournament because you forgot to re-up. See Tom Moores at the regular meeting or send your check to the club post office box 1255 listed below. Regular memberships are still \$25, Senior \$10 and Lifetime \$150.

Board Approves Contributions

At the last Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved two significant donations. The first was \$250 to the Great lakes Sport Fishing Council. The DAS are members of the GLSFC. Their great work can be seen at www.great-lakes.org.

A second donation of \$1000 was approved for Project Fish. This is a program administered by MSU that teaches organizations how to teach young kids how to



fish and provides opportunity to do so. More info. Can be found at www.projectfish.org

2004 SKIPPER Standings

	<u>BOAT</u>	<u>SKIPPER</u>
1	Sea Hag	Blaise Pewins
2	Almost Paradise	Bob Paradise
3	Aquarius II	Chris Nytko
4	Slapshot	Doug Batty
5	In-Seine	Mark Bevans
6	Crusader	Mike Vigus
7	Sloppy Joe	Joe Von Grab
8	Uh-Oh	Al Wiechert
9	Capt'n Hook	Doug Karakas
10	Reel Alure	Bill Stanley
11	No Limit	Dave Linder
12	Steele Ed	Ed Wilczek
13	Bobby's Toy	Bob Jones
14	Loki-One	Dave Roehr
15	Just Once	Bill Nutting
16	Vicki's Seacret	Bob Feisel
17	The Office	Duane Dean
18	Mary K	Ken Kuhar
19	Last Dime II	Bob Ksionzek
20	Mickey Mouse	Bob Buero
21	Brat -The Brat	Ron Maschke

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