

Fishin' Tales

September 2004
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Celebrating 30 years

Member Meeting

The next Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. club meeting takes place on Tuesday September 28, 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.

Be sure to see and get information on the new **club jackets** and windbreakers at the meeting.

Next month (October) will again include the **Fall Swap Meet**. Bring hunting or fishing equipment; except no guns please.

Elections take place in December. There are 6 positions up for election for the Board of Directors. See Jason Adams if you are interested in running.

Check out the newly re-designed web site. We think you'll find it easier to navigate.

Member Drawing
Fred McIntyre of Port Austin sorry you missed DAS August meeting your name was drawn and you missed out on \$30.00. Hope to see you there next month then member drawing will be \$ 40.00

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. (cont. on page 5)





Eighth Place Manistee Loki One



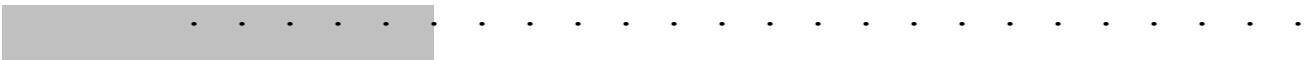
Second Place Manistee – Blue Star



Sixth Place Manistee – Aquarius II



First Place- Manistee – Almost Paradise



Ludington Official Trolling Results

22 nd Dredge, Ed Hill	22.65
21 st Rupe, Gary Ruprich	29.15
20 th Happy Hooker II, Chris Bronner	51.85
19 th Uh-Oh, Al Wiechert	53.75
17 th My Dream, Jimmy Hardrick	54.55
17 th Steelie, Bill Hoffman	54.55
16 th Blue Horizon, Paul Gjeldum	56.50
15 th The Office, Jerry Foresberg	63.75
14 th Mickey Mouse Club, Bob Buero	71.40
13 th Reel Screamer, Freddie McIntyre	96.05
12 th Vicki's Seacret, Bob Feisel	97.30
11 th Crusader, Mike Vigus	98.75
10 th The Brat, Ron Maschke	105.70
9 th Mary K, Ken Kuhar	106.75
8 th Almost Paradise, Bob Paradise	107.05
7 th Silver Addiction, Mark Williams	110.00
6 th Reel Allure, Bill Stanley	110.25
5 th Sloppy Joe, Joe VonGrabe	134.05
4 th Sea Hag, Blaise Pewinski	143.00
3 rd In-Seine, Mark Bevans	150.95
2 nd Aquarius II, Chris Nytko	157.40
1 st Blue Star II, Stan Bilek	161.75

Big Fish Pool
 22.05 King Silver Addiction, Mark Williams \$120.00
 24 boats entered

27 boats entered 22 boats weighed

04 Manistee Official Trolling Results

18 th Bobby's Toy, Bob Jones	16.90
17 th Uh-Oh, Al Wiechert	17.50
16 th Dredge, Ed Hill	19.15
15 th Voyageur, Dick Jackson	20.50
14 th In-Seine, Mark Bevans	28.30
13 th Crusader, Mike Vigus	34.95
12 th Blue Horizon, Paul Gjeldum	35.50
11 th Sloppy Joe, Joe Von Grabe	44.05
10 th Steelie II, Bill Hoffman	44.75
9 th Silver Addiction, Mark Williams	66.55
8 th Loki One, Dave Roehr	68.95
7 th Vicki's Seacret, Bob Feisel	69.95
6 th Aquarius II, Chris Nytko	75.80
5 th Sea Hag, Blaise Pewinski	79.15
4 th Reel Screamer, Freddie McIntyre	88.05
3 rd Capius, Mike Lehto	114.15
2 nd Blue Star, Stanley Bilek	125.10
1 st Almost Paradise, Bob Paradise	131.85

Big Fish Pool
 15.95 King Blue Star II, Stanley Bilek \$95.00

21 entries 18 weighed

Ludington Ladies Day Official Trolling Results

15 th Capt. Hook, Doug Karakas	8.05
14 th In-Seine, Mark Bevans	21.15
13 th Bobby's Toy, Bob Jones	21.35
12 th Reel Allure, Bill Stanley	62.25
11 th Reel Screamer, Freddie McIntyre	62.90
10 th Journey, Tim Graskewicz	70.45
9 th Sloppy Joe, Joe VonGrabe	74.65
8 th Aquarius II, Chris Nytko	75.15
7 th Crusader, Mike Vigus	86.60
6 th Happy Hooker II, Chris Bronner	89.95
5 th My Treasure, Joe Golaszewski	99.20
4 th Vicki's Seacret, Bob Feisel	121.85
3 rd Lil Scratch, Dick Shirk	125.30
2 nd Sea Hag, Blaise Pewinski	131.45
1 st Blue Star II, Stan Bilek	132.90

Big Fish Pool
 20.10 King Blue Star II, Stan Bilek \$70.00

15 entered 15 weighed

2004/2005 River & Winter Schedule

Doug Karakas has announced the initial dates for the 2004/ 2005 river tournaments. See Doug at the meetings for more details and watch Fishin' Tales for updates.

Oct. 23	Ludington Pier	Mark Bevans
Nov. 6	Manistee River	
Dec. 4	Ausable River & Pier	
Jan	St. Clair Ice Outing	
Feb	Higgins Lake Ice outing	
March	Manistee River	

Tagging..... 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.

Aug. 28 Manistee Tournament

According to the weather report in the morning it was to be 5 to 10 miles per hour winds out of the North. At the Captain's meeting in the morning the wind was already blowing about 12 to 15 miles per hour. As the tourney got underway, lightning flashed inshore to the South and the waves were 2 to 3 footers. Even so, twenty one boats entered the tournament that morning.

As the morning progressed, trolling North was near impossible. The 9 a.m. fish call was fair to poor with few boats having more than 3 fish. Almost Paradise

had 7, Loki One had 5 and a few had 3 or 4. The water conditions became worse and a few boats headed for the pier heads.

The noon fish call showed that a few boats had found fish. Almost Paradise had 9, Blue Star had 8, Loki One had 5 and most others had 2 to 5 fish. A few more boats went in. As Blue Star came back out to fish the rough seas at 1p.m., there were only 7 boats left fishing. At 1:30 the boats were down to five.

The fish that day were all along the shelf with green flies and white hoochies doing best. Downriggers worked well 140 to 150 feet with Dipseys set back 350. The fish had gone deep to find cooler water.

All told, the fishing in Manistee this year was slower than last year and the fish were running smaller. Big fish this year was 15.95 lbs. compared to 24 lbs. last year. Even with the cold weather, we enjoyed the warm lunch afterward. Better luck next year.

New Record Fish

2004 has seen several state records broken for trout.

On August 23, Richard Crowe landed a 36lb. 8.9 oz. brown trout from the Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan. Crowe's catch was 40.5" in length. He caught the fish on a pearl size 4 J-plug with a bit of blue tape added.

On August 14, Rob Wilson was trolling in Lake Ontario off Olcott New York and caught a 31 lb. 3 oz. steelhead that measures 39" long. Rob caught his fish on a Pirate 55 spoon in watermelon with gold fleck

ASIAN CARP

Asian Carp and other invasive species are approaching the Great Lakes via the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. You may have seen video clips of these jumping fish on TV. Though humorous to watch, these large plankton-eating fish have the potential to wreak havoc on the Great Lakes ecology and commercial and recreational fisheries. Although it is unlikely they would be come abundant in the middle of the lake, they almost certainly would do well in near shore areas, river mouths and shallow productive bays. Not only would this add an undesirable component to the ecosystem but these fish (cont. on back page)

CARP...add an element of personal risk to boaters and others using recreational watercraft. We must do whatever we can to keep these fish out of the Great Lakes.

The electric fish barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal stops the passage of large fish. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built this as a temporary project with only a three-year life span. The electrodes in this barrier are expected to wear out in about April 2005. Asian carp have been captured only 22 miles downstream of the barrier. We have a monitoring plan in place to

determine the leading edge of the Asian carp population as they move closer to the barrier site and are working on a rapid response plan to kill the fish if they begin to accumulate in number below the barrier.

Ground was broken for the second larger, longer-life barrier on July 12, 2004. The cost of the design/construction of this new barrier exceeds the available funds by \$1.8 million. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers program under which the project is being constructed limits the federal contribution to the project to \$5 million.

A Rapid Response Plan has been formulated to address the presence of Asian carp in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal if they begin to congregate below the existing barrier before the second barrier is constructed.

The Asian Carp Rapid Response Plan would involve eliminating Asian carp from 5.5 miles of the Sanitary and Ship Canal. Current estimates for implementation of the plan place the cost at about \$450,000.

From: GLSFC @ www.great-lakes.org



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