



FISHING TALES



Grand Haven fishing “unexpectedly” good!

GRAND HAVEN – For those who didn’t make it to Grand Haven, you missed some unexpectedly good fishing. As we all know, you can get good fishing information on the Internet. And all the info on Grand Haven during the week leading up to the tourney said fishing was slow. Needless to say, that had some of us worried. From all the research I did, and according to all the people I know in Grand Haven, the reports were true.

To be honest, I was kind of doubtful about our prospects for the weekend until I got a report on Friday from Mike Vigus, who had spent the day ‘pre-fishing’. Mike told me that the fish had moved in that morning, and everyone was getting some fish. Now that sounded MUCH BETTER to me!

My crew and I, all of whom worked a full day Friday, got in to town at around 10:00 p.m., with all of us wondering what lay in store for us the next day. Our question was answered in just a few short hours, and in a positive way!

As we rolled out from the pier head at around 5:45 a.m., I knew we were in for a beautiful day, with calm waters and a clear sky, but I couldn’t predict if the fish were gonna bite



1st Place: “TRIP-N-DIPSY” with Skipper Dean Meyers and crew.

... We decided to make a short run to some 100-deep water just south of the harbor, and only 15 minutes after leaving the dock, we were able to start setting our lines, just in time for the 6 o’clock official start.

But there was one concern: the water we were fishing was like fishing in coffee. As we set our five lines, I questioned whether we had made the right choice, or if we should pull lines

right away and move to cleaner water. We got our answer right away. A doubleheader of big Kings told us we were right, so we stayed put!

Others in the tournament found fish, as well. Many boats brought eight fish to the weigh-in, while a few had boated ten or eleven. It was obvious at the weigh-in that everyone had enjoyed a fun day. The sky stayed clear, the temps were just right, and the fish were hungry. After all the fish came off the scales, most of the crews couldn’t help but take advantage of the great weather to spend some time wandering around Grand Haven’s great little downtown area.

The second day of the tournament was a carbon copy of Saturday. The weather remained ideal, the fish hadn’t lost their appetites, as the weigh-in action proved again. Plenty of nice coolers were brought in, and again, as on Saturday, several boats showed up with double-digit catches.

Overall, there were 174 fish caught in what ended up being a very tight tournament. In the end, Dean Meyers and “Trip ’N Dipsy” took top honors, with my “Free Bird” crew a close second, and Blaise Pewinski’s “Sea Hag” right on our tail for third place.

Off all the ports we fish, Grand Haven has to be one of the best to visit, especially in late May. Combining beautiful weather, hungry fish, and a great town, who can argue?

– Bill Dunk, “Free Bird”

• More photos plus complete standings on Page Four •

River Crab Tournament Results

SKIPPER	CATCH	SKIPPER	CATCH
1) Dave Roehr	34.70 lbs.	50) Jim Fitch	— 0 —
2) Bill Dunk	28.20 lbs.	50) Chris Henneberger	— 0 —
3) Tom Gorguza	26.30 lbs.	50) Ron Hartwell	— 0 —
4) Dick Shirk	24.40 lbs.	50) Bill Hoffman	— 0 —
5) Blaise Pewinski	22.32 lbs.	50) Fred Hynick	— 0 —
6) Mark Stosiak	19.66 lbs.	50) Bob Jones	— 0 —
7) Bill Macomb	18.70 lbs.	50) Ron Koscielski	— 0 —
8) Joe Golaszewski	16.70 lbs.	50) Ken Kuhar	— 0 —
9) Danny Colombe	15.04 lbs.	50) Chris Miller	— 0 —
10) Dean Meyers	13.80 lbs.	50) Lynn Martin	— 0 —
11) Bob Paradise	12.50 lbs.	50) Jeffrey Nest	— 0 —
12) Stanley Brentwood	11.74 lbs.	50) Ron Niemasz	— 0 —
13) Louis Bacsikin	9.98 lbs.	50) Bill Nutting	— 0 —
14) Ronald Maschke	8.40 lbs.	50) Gil Piesczar	— 0 —
15) Duane Dean	3.30 lbs.	50) Vlad Pohorily	— 0 —
16) Robert Golaszewski	3.20 lbs.	50) Richard Robb	— 0 —
17) Mike Vigus	3.06 lbs.	50) Joe Von Grabe	— 0 —
18) Doug Karakas	2.70 lbs.	50) Tim Waidelich	— 0 —
50) Ralph Boland	— 0 —	50) Mark Williams	— 0 —
50) Bob Buero	— 0 —	50) Greg Zaccardelli	— 0 —
50) Bob Feisel	— 0 —		

• 41 Boats Entered • 18 Boats Caught Fish • 23 Boats No Fish

TOTAL CATCH = 274.70 POUNDS

St. Joseph delivers a "priceless" opener

ST. JOSEPH – The Detroit Area Steelheaders tournament fleet hit the road the weekend of May 3 for our annual trip to the southwestern Lake Michigan port of St. Joseph. Colleen and I made it out of town at about 12:30 p.m. on Friday. With light traffic and NO ORANGE BARRELS, we made great time, getting there in about 3½ hours, just in time for the afternoon 'bite'.

After we launched and I was motoring down the river to meet Colleen at West Basin, I turned on my radio. The marine forecast was saying 5'-7' waves on the near shore report for the St. Joe area. When I cleared the railroad bridge and could see down the river to the lake, I could clearly see the whitecaps – we decided to stay in port Friday.

After talking to club members and locals who had fished that morning, we determined that the best fishing would probably be located straight out from port to four miles south, in 45'-55' of water.

Thankfully, we awoke Saturday morning to lower winds and calmer seas, so our prospects were looking up. At the 5:00 a.m. Skippers Meeting, Mike Vigus went over the tournament rules, and the start, and Fish Call times, and reminded us about the two Lake Trout rule on Lake Michigan. After a fishing

report from Joe Von Grabe, 16 boats made ready to get under way.

We left port at 5:30 a.m., with the tourney set to begin at 6 o'clock. Colleen and I set up just outside the pier heads in 40' of water. We trolled south and out toward deeper water, and hit a nice King and a small Coho within a half-hour of the start.

After an hour of no knock-offs, we pulled lines and motored about three miles farther south. Within ten minutes of re-setting lines, we hit another nice King Salmon, and then another dry spell. By the first Fish Call at 9 o'clock, we reported in with three fish.

"Hammertime" checked in with a catch of nine, while both "Crusader" and "Second Wind" answered with eight each. "Trip-N-Dipsy" was close behind with six fish in the box early, so we were obviously well behind the leaders.

We moved again, this time into a good location, and were soon busy catching fish, and catching up. By the noon Fish Call, both "Crusader" and "Trip-N-Dipsy" had 'punched their tickets' and returned to port. We had nine fish by then, and were working hard for that tenth to complete our limit. "Sloppy Joe" and "Mary K" matched our nine, but "Free Bird" had ten, "Second Wind" was reporting eleven,

and "Hammertime" was leading the way with twelve. It was clear we were going to have a good weigh-in.

The tourney wrapped up at 2 o'clock, and the fleet headed back to port. "Mary K" called in with a dead battery and was coming in on their 'kicker' motor. "Free Bird" and "The Brat" followed them in to make sure they made it safely. All boats reported their return to port to the Port Captain in time.

At the weigh-in, we dug in to hot dogs, chips, and soft drinks, while our Weighmaster, Doug Karakas, began weighing in fish. Some very nice catches were being hung on the scales. Overall, the fleet kept Doug busy with a total catch of 118 fish, for a very nice event!

When all was said, done and weighed in, Mike Vigus and his "Crusader" crew came out on top with a total score of 130.00. Joe Von Grabe and "Sloppy Joe" finished second with a score of 115.02, while my "In-Seine" ended up a very close third with a 115.00 score.

All but one boat weighed in fish, and Dean Meyers of "Trip-N-Dipsy" won the Big Fish Pool with a very nice King Salmon tipping the scale at 19.11 pounds.

For our first road trip of the 2003 Boat Trolling Tournament season, this one was a lot of fun. We had good fishing, good weather, and great friends . . . Priceless!

– Mark Bevans, Vice President,
St. Joseph Port Captain

2003 "SKIPPER OF THE YEAR"

(Standings through May 18, 2003 – Best 2)

PLACE/SKIPPER	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	Total
1) BILL DUNK	2	8	2								4
2) DEAN MEYERS	10	5	1								6
3) BLAISE PEWINSKI	5	75	3								8
4) MARK BEVANS	75	3	8								11
5) DAVE ROEHR	1	11	15								12
5) JOE VON GRABE	50	2	10								12
7) DICK SHIRK	4	75	12								16
8) BOB JONES	50	12	5								17
9) MIKE VIGUS	17	1	20								18
10) DOUG KARAKAS	18	15	4								19
10) MARK STOSIAK	6	75	13								19
12) BOB PARADISE	11	10	17								21
13) BILL NUTTING	50	14	9								23
14) RON MASCHKE	14	13	11								24
15) KEN KUCHAR	50	9	19								28
16) BOB FEISEL	50	75	14								64
17) TOM GORGUZA	3	75	75								78
18) MICHAEL KEATING	75	4	75								79
19) SKIP BERRY	75	75	6								81
19) JOHN MILBORNE	75	6	75								81
21) PAUL GJELDUM	75	75	7								82
21) BILL MACOMB	7	75	75								82
21) CHRIS NYTKO	75	7	75								82
24) JOE GOLASZEWSKI	8	75	75								83
25) DANNY COLOMBE	9	75	75								84

50 = See Rule IV-E

75 = See Rule IV-F

A = River Crab B = St. Joseph C = Grand Haven D = Oscoda E = Harbor Beach
F = Port Austin G = Ludington (Ladies Day) H = Ludington J = Manistee K = Port Sanilac

"Big Fish Quest" money event set for July 19-20

The Detroit Area Steelheaders' first public money tournament, designed to give every participant a fair chance at taking home the grand prize, will begin with a fishermen's meeting on Friday, July 18 at 7:30 p.m. at 8861 Line St. (corner of Line St. and State St.) in Port Austin.

This is a 'Big Fish' event, which simply means that the heaviest Trout or Salmon weighed in will take home \$2,000, while the second place fish will be worth \$1,000.

It's all up for grabs, so be sure to sign up early and try your hand at putting a "Big Boy" on the scale. The regular June Members meeting on June 24 will be your last chance to sign up at a meeting to take advantage of the \$100 bonus cash for Big Fish with Detroit Area Steelheader membership prior to the event.

For more information call Mike Vigus at (248) 969-8530, or visit our Web site at: <http://www.detroitsteelheaders.org/bigfish/bigfish.html>.

Top St. Joseph Tournament Finishers



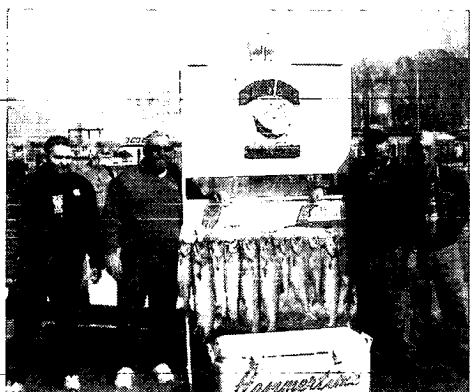
1st Place: "CRUSADER" with Mike Vigus and crew.



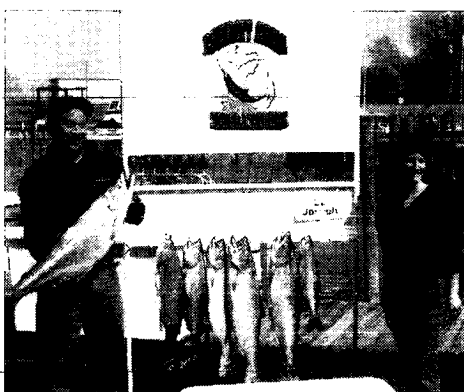
2nd Place: "SLOPPY JOE" with Joe Von Grabe and crew.



3rd Place: "IN-SEINE" with Mark Bevans and crew.



4th Place: "HAMMERTIME" with Mike Keating and crew.



5th Place: "TRIP-N-DIPSY" with Dean Meyers and crew.



6th Place: "SECOND WIND" with John Milborne and crew.



14th Place: "JUST ONCE" with Bill Nutting and crew.



THIS NICE KING SALMON was good enough for first place in the Big Fish Pool.



THE TOURNEY WEIGH-IN is a popular spot for socializing and camaraderie!

ST. JOSEPH TOURNAMENT RESULTS (May 3, 2003)

PLACE/BOAT/SKIPPER	PTS.
1) CRUSADER (Mike Vigus)	130.00
2) SLOPPY JOE (Joe Von Grabe)	115.02
3) IN-SEINE (Mark Bevans)	115.00
4) HAMMERTIME (Mike Keating)	106.04
5) TRIP-N-DIPSY (Dean Meyers)	105.12
6) SECOND WIND (John Milborne)	98.01
7) AQUARIUS II (Chris Nytko)	93.11
8) FREE BIRD (Bill Dunk)	89.10

PLACE/BOAT/SKIPPER	PTS.
9) MARY K (Kenneth Kuhar)	87.06
10) ALMOST PARADISE (Bob Paradise)	83.09
11) LOKI ONE (Dave Roehr)	65.15
12) BOBBY'S TOY (Bob Jones)	54.13
13) THE BRAT (Ron Maschke)	43.14
14) JUST ONCE (Bill Nutting)	38.03
15) CAPT'N HOOK II (Doug Karakas)	36.12
16) DESTINY (Mark Williams)	0.00

BIG FISH POOL WINNERS

PLACE/SKIPPER/BOAT, SPECIES/WEIGHT
1) Dean Meyers, "Trip 'N Dipsy" King Salmon, 19.11 pounds
2) Mike Vigus, "Crusader" King Salmon, 18.10 pounds
3) Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II" King Salmon, 16.13 pounds

Total St. Joseph Catch: 118 Fish

- 63 KING SALMON
- 8 STEELHEAD
- 9 LAKE TROUT
- 37 COHO SALMON
- 1 BROWN TROUT

Top Grand Haven Tournament Finishers



2nd Place: "FREE BIRD" with Bill Dunk and crew.



4th Place: "CAPT'N HOOK II" with Doug Karakas and crew.



5th Place: "BOBBY'S TOY" with Bob Jones and crew.

GRAND HAVEN TOURNAMENT (May 17-18, 2003)

BOAT/SKIPPER	PTS.
1) TRIP 'N DIPSY (Dean Meyers)	247.14
2) FREE BIRD (Bill Dunk)	229.05
3) SEA HAG (Blaise Pewinski)	206.03
4) CAPT'N HOOK II (Doug Karakas)	128.10
5) BOBBY'S TOY (Bob Jones)	182.15
6) TERMINATOR (Skip Berry)	170.05
7) BLUE HORIZON (Paul Gjeldum)	164.11
8) IN-SEINE (Mark Bevans)	126.14
9) JUST ONCE (Bill Nutting)	126.03
10) SLOPPY JOE (Joe Von Grabe)	120.08
11) THE BRAT (Ron Maschke)	119.06
12) LIL' SCRATCH (Dick Shirk)	107.05
13) TOMORROW'S DREAM (Mark Stosiak)	103.12
14) VICKI'S SEACRET (Bob Feisel)	100.06
15) LOKI ONE (Dave Roehr)	95.11
16) TYGER (Ty Voigt)	93.02
17) ALMOST PARADISE (Bob Paradise)	88.12
18) DREDGE (Ed Hill)	79.09
19) MARY K (Kenneth Kuhar)	65.06
20) CRUSADER (Mike Vigus)	49.01
21) EMPTY BOX (Robert Parker)	22.11



10th Place: "SLOPPY JOE" with Joe Von Grabe and crew.



"FREE BIRD" claimed both Big Fish Pools at Grand Haven to cap a fine weekend!

BIG FISH POOL WINNERS

SATURDAY, MAY 17

PLACE/SKIPPER/BOAT, SPECIES/WEIGHT

- 1) Bill Dunk, "Free Bird" King Salmon, 18.05 pounds
- 2) Robert Parker, "Empty Box" King Salmon, 17.11 pounds
- 3) Dean Meyers, "Trip 'N Dipsy" King Salmon, 16.01 pounds

SUNDAY, MAY 18

PLACE/SKIPPER/BOAT, SPECIES/WEIGHT

- 1) Bill Dunk, "Free Bird" King Salmon, 16.15 pounds
- 2) Bob Jones, "Bobby's Toy" King Salmon, 16.10 pounds
- 3) Skip Berry, "Terminator" King Salmon, 15.14 pounds

TOTAL CATCH: 174 FISH

- 94 King Salmon • 41 Steelhead • 33 Lake Trout
- 4 Coho Salmon • 2 Brown Trout

The **DEADLINE** for the
JULY ISSUE of
FISHIN' TALES is
JUNE 30, 2003

Coming Events

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Last Tuesday each month at 7:30 p.m.

K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren

JUNE 24, 2003

JULY 29, 2003

AUGUST 26, 2003

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
June 28	HARBOR BEACH
July 19	PORT AUSTIN
Aug. 2	LUDINGTON (Ladies Day)
Aug. 9	LUDINGTON
Aug. 23	MANISTEE
Sept. 6	PORT SANILAC

TOURNAMENT PORT CAPTAIN

- Bob Jones, (248) 486-5049 & Dean Meyers
- Bill Dunk, (248) 408-0349 & Jason Adams
- Dave Even, (734) 981-2236 & Bob Mitchell
- Bob Mitchell, (248) 828-8034 & Dave Even
- Joe Von Grabe, (586) 293-7688
- Chris Nytko, (586) 786-0288

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

Address Correction Requested



MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!

