



FISHING TALES



Thirty boats make the tow to Manistee!

MANISTEE – Coming into this year’s tourney here in late August, there were lots of reports of good fishing in the area, and the weather forecast looked promising. In the end, both factors, necessary for a great weekend of top-notch fishing, came through for us, and those who made the trip were glad they did!

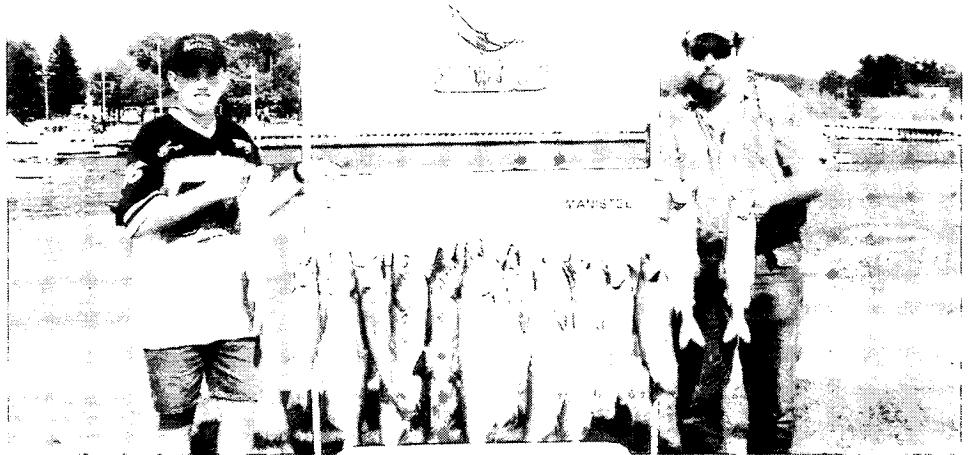
Pre-tourney fishing on Friday showed there were fish in the area. Several boats had decent catches of big Kings mixed in with nice Cohos. Going into Saturday, these facts seemed clear: Good fishing would be found in 90'-300' of water, the thermocline was showing up at 75'-100' down with waves at 1'-3', and when fishing Lake Michigan, think “HoochieMama.”

Dawn on Saturday brought with it a stiff breeze out of the north by northwest, producing the expected 1'-3' waves, with occasional 4'- rollers thrown in. Most of the fleet headed south, ending up anywhere from Gurney Creek to the Three Bears, while a few boats ventured straight out, looking for big Kings and Cohos.

Due to boat traffic and waves, a key to success was just keeping everything from becoming tangled! Despite the new rule permitting 9 rods per boat, many savvy skippers opted for 5 or 6 rods run right, versus 9 tangled.

The “bite” at dawn was fast and furious for several boats, with both Kings and Cohos participating, and the 9:00 a.m. Fish Call confirmed that several boats had found fish. “Almost Paradise” reported 6 fish for the early lead, followed by “Sea Hag” with 5. A number of other boats made good starts with 4 fish each.

As expected, fish were being found in waters deeper than 90 feet, with the best depths for lures in the 90'-110' range. “Hoochies”



1st Place: “SEA HAG” with Skipper Blaise Pewinski and crew chief Rob Pinskey.

with Sea Weed flies or Dodger Squids were the top combinations early. A few fish came on spoons, with some added ‘glow’ being a key.

Overall, the majority of fish came off down-riggers, although Dipsy Divers also produced. Due in part to heavy seas and boat traffic, but mainly because of finicky Salmon, lead lines did not work as well here as at prior tournaments.

At the noon Fish Call, “Sea Hag” planted their stake with 12 fish, and “Almost Paradise” also surpassed the 8-fish tourney maximum, with 10. Several other boats, including “Teacher’s Pet,” “Rupe,” and “Capt’n Hook II” were at 8 fish in the box or close to it. It was now evident that total weight, not fish count, would decide the outcome of this tournament.

The weigh-in line was long, with lots of guys grunting under the strain of heavy coolers. When the long weigh-in finished, Boat Trolling Tournament Chairman Mark Bevans

announced that “Sea Hag” had outpointed all other boats to claim first place. Skipper Blaise Pewinski and crew chief Rob Pinskey continue to dominate Manistee, recording their third win here in recent years. Great job, guys!

Second place went to Dave Even and “Teacher’s Pet,” while Gary Ruprich and “Rupe” took third. Doug Karakas was fourth aboard a strange-looking “Capt’n Hook.”

A lot of great fish came to the scales. “Rupe” showed us what BIG fish look like, taking both first and third in the Big Fish Pool (including a 23-lb., 10-oz. brute), while second spot in the pool went to “Teacher’s Pet” with another 23-pounder. Manistee is known for producing large Brown Trout, and Mike Vigus proved it with an impressive 13-pounder.

Thanks to Chris Nytko for taking pictures and to Port Captain Ken Kuhar and crew for cooking.

• NOTE: See Page Four for more Manistee pictures •

MANISTEE TOURNAMENT RESULTS (August 24, 2002)

BOAT/SKIPPER	PTS.	BOAT/SKIPPER	PTS.	BOAT/SKIPPER	PTS.
1) SEA HAG (Blaise Pewinski)	158.09	13) CRUSADER (Mike Vigus)	50.00	25) JUST ONCE (Bill Nutting)	17.01
2) TEACHER’S PET (Dave Even)	144.09	14) SALTY DOG (N/A)	44.12	26) TIM’S TOY (Timothy Waidelich)	11.05
3) RUPE (Gary Ruprich)	135.05	15) GOLDEN OLDIE (Howard York)	37.00		
4) CAPT’N HOOK II (Doug Karakas)	128.10	16) LOKI ONE (Dave Roehr)	36.12		
5) BLUE STAR (Stan Bilek)	112.07	17) MAIN SQUEEZE (Walt Pohorily)	34.11		
6) ALMOST PARADISE (Bob Paradise)	109.04	18) AQUARIUS II (Chris Nytko)	27.06		
7) LIL’ SCRATCH (Dick Shirk)	107.02	19) MARY K (Kenneth Kuhar)	24.04		
8) BOBBY’S TOY (Bob Jones)	84.08	20) VICKI’S SEACRET (Bob Feisel)	24.00		
9) SLOPPY JOE (Joe Von Grabe)	82.06	21) IN-SEINE (Mark Bevans)	21.06		
10) THE BRAT (Ron Maschke)	73.05	22) PISCES (Bob Mendicki)	27.07		
11) STEELIE ED (Ed Wilczek)	58.14	23) DREDGE (Ed Hill)	19.04		
12) HAWKEYE (Larry Walters)	53.11	24) MOLLY FRAIR (Ron Hartman)	18.12		

BIG FISH POOL WINNERS

PLACE/SKIPPER/BOAT, SPECIES/WEIGHT
1) Gary Ruprich, “Rupe” King Salmon, 23.10 pounds
2) Dave Even, “Teacher’s Pet” King Salmon, 23.06 pounds
3) Doug Karakas, “Capt’n Hook II” King Salmon, 20.15 pounds

Ludington delivers on second 2002 try

LUDINGTON – Ludington is one of the great ports on Lake Michigan. It has consistently been one of the most productive ports for Salmon, offering big fish and a variety of species, and that's why we scheduled two dates on the tourney calendar here in 2002.

As reported in the August *Fishin' Tales*, even though our July 27 Ladies Day tournament faced tough fishing, the ladies came through with catches that would have been considered very good at any other port. But it was Ladies Day at Ludington, so expectations were high for Ludington II two weeks later.

The weather was fairly stable going into this one, unlike conditions preceding Ladies Day. Most boats in the field were in port early and fished on pre-tournament Friday but found the fishing tough.

There were some fish in the area: Dave Even on his recently acquired 28' Cherokee had a decent catch of 11 fish offshore in 200+ feet of water, and a local charter captain also boated a 29-pound King on Friday. Overall, however, the reports from the boats were of catches of between one and four fish, with big Kings proving to be few and far between.

Boats left the pier heads at 6:00 a.m. Satur-

day to begin the competition. Winds were from the southwest at 5-10 miles per hour, and no storms were expected until late in the day. Most skippers chose to start the day trolling shallower water near shore, hoping to find a big King at the breakfast table. The fleet divided fairly evenly, with about half going south near the Project and half trying their luck north to the Bath House and the Point.

The 9 o'clock Fish Call found some early action to the south, but the Bath House area was dead at dawn, with boats there reporting one fish at most. Boats to the south did better, with several there reporting catches of 4-5 each to lead early. "Hoochies" off Dipsys and spoons seemed to dominate the action.

As the day progressed, waves increased and several boats made an early trip to port to drop off weary crew members. Action close-in slowed, but offshore things were better in 100'-200'. Spoons were the preferred weapons now, and some boats put out lead-core lines once they got offshore away from boat traffic, a great technique when conditions permit.

The second Fish Call at noon revealed that most boats had added only one or two fish to their totals at the early call. There were a half-

dozen skippers reporting five or six fish in the box, each poised to claim the victory.

At the weigh-in at the Park, with coolers lined up awaiting their turn at the scales, we broke out some 'dogs and fabulous barbecued pork sandwiches made by Ellen Even from the "Land Trout" leftovers from Ladies Day. You know, when you come down to it, a Miller, a 'dog, a BBQ pork sandwich, and even a little birthday cake make for a great diet!

When all the fish were weighed, "Bobby's Toy" hung an impressive catch to take the win, their first of the season. The triumph was good enough to keep skipper Bob Jones in the "Skipper of the Year" race. Congratulations to Bob and crew for a fabulous catch!

Second place went to Chris Nytko and "Aquarius II", as Chris served notice that he intends to become one of the few skippers in our history to win "Skipper of the Year" honors more than once. He also showed why he's quite capable of pulling it off. "Aquarius II" was one of the boats which went north to fish and was blanked in the early going. But Chris made the right adjustments, moving to the deeper waters he had fished two weeks earlier, and managed to scrap his way back to a second-place finish. Excellent work, skipper.

Special thanks go to Ellen and Dave Even, Bob Gilbert, Jim Bridges, and Mike Vigus for helping at the weigh-in, and thanks to all the skippers who made the tow back to Ludington.

2002 "SKIPPER OF THE YEAR"

(Standings through August 24, 2002 – Best 5)

PLACE/SKIPPER	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	Total
1) CHRIS NYTKO	6	9	10	2	1	1	2	18		12
2) DOUG KARAKAS	4	1	1	75	10	75	9	4		19
3) JOE VON GRABE	22	13	8	7	3	5	7	9		30
4) MARK BEVANS	2	5	2	5	22	21	17	21		31
5) MIKE VIGUS	50	7	9	1	11	20	6	13		34
6) ED HILL	10	10	20	8	6	4	15	23		38
7) BILL DUNK	1	6	3	19	75	75	10	75		39
8) BOB JONES	26	75	5	13	17	14	1	8		41
9) DICK SHIRK	13	75	14	12	8	3	75	7		43
10) DEAN MEYERS	25	75	18	75	7	9	3	75		52
11) STAN BILEK	50	75	75	18	5	6	22	5		56
12) DAVE EVEN	36	75	4	75	75	12	5	2		59
13) TY VOIGT	75	75	13	9	12	22	12	75		68
14) KEN KUJAR	50	50	21	11	25	15	4	19		70
15) BOB MENDICKI	75	75	19	6	21	13	20	22		79
16) RON HARTMAN	50	75	6	21	24	7	75	24		82
17) RON MASCHKE	32	75	16	50	18	75	8	10		84
18) BOB FEISEL	31	75	15	16	75	19	16	20		86
19) HOWARD YORK	29	2	23	17	28	75	19	15		89
20) BOB PARADISE	7	75	7	75	75	75	14	6		109
21) DAVE ROEHR	50	3	50	14	27	75	75	16		110
22) BILL NUTTING	50	14	75	3	75	75	75	25		167
23) ED WILCZEK	50	75	75	22	14	75	24	75		185
24) ROB GOLASZEWSKI	18	75	75	75	9	75	18	75		195
25) MARK WILLIAMS	50	11	50	75	16	75	75	75		202
26) BOB BUERO	33	4	22	75	75	75	75	75		209
27) CHRIS SCHWARK	75	75	75	75	2	16	75	75		243

50 = See Rule IV-E

75 = See Rule IV-F

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

Pier and surf fishing kicks off at Grand Haven

With the River, Pier & Surf season underway already (October 12, Grand Haven Pier & Surf tourney), here's a list of items you'll want for pier and surf fishing:

- Long 'noodle' rod (10'-14')
- Spinning reel (spooled with 6#-10# line)
- Waders (for surf only!)
- Leader material (smaller than main line)
- Snap swivels
- Hooks (#10-#14 size)
- Pyramid sinkers
- Small beads
- Surf rod holder (4'-6')
- Pier rod holder (12"-18")
- Folding chair
- Warm, dry clothes (gloves, boots, hat, rain gear, etc.).

If you're interested in trying the cold-weather fishing many of us pursue, call me for help getting started. I hope to see many of you at our upcoming tournaments.

– Mark Bevans
 (586) 779-3189

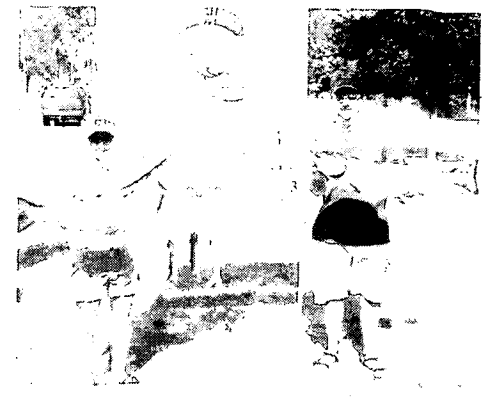
Top Ludington II Tournament Finishers



1st Place: "BOBBY'S TOY" with Bob Jones and crew.



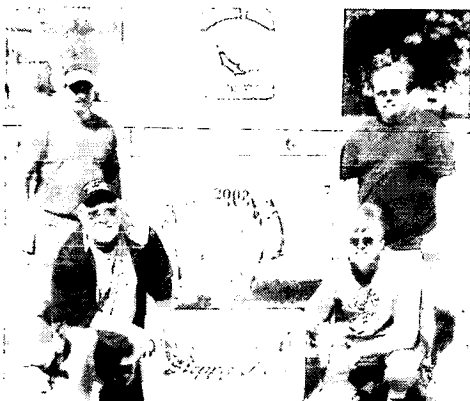
2nd Place: "AQUARIUS II" with Chris Nytko and crew.



3rd Place: "TRIP-N-DIPSY" with Dean Meyers and crew.



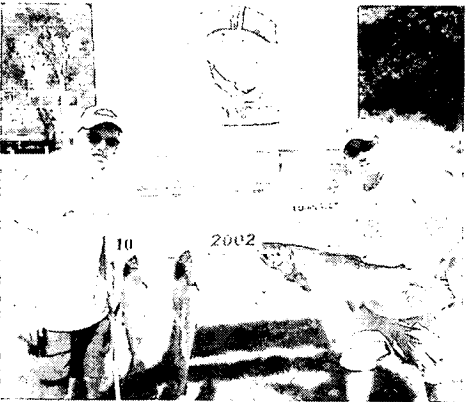
4th Place: "MARYK" with Ken Kuhar and crew.



7th Place: "SLOPPY JOE" with Joe Von Grabe and crew.



8th Place: "THE BRAT" with Ron Maschke and crew.



10th Place: "FREE BIRD" with Bill Dunk and crew.



THIS KING SALMON was one of many large fish taken during Ludington II.



DOUG KARAKAS finished ninth, despite the scales being unable to 'handle' this beauty!

LUDINGTON TOURNAMENT RESULTS (August 10, 2002)

PLACE/BOAT/SKIPPER	PTS.	PLACE/BOAT/SKIPPER	PTS.
1) BOBBY'S TOY (Bob Jones)	117.14	13) ALICE'S ANGLER (Les Jump)	39.02
2) AQUARIUS II (Chris Nytko)	90.08	14) ALMOST PARADISE (Bob Paradise)	38.15
3) TRIP 'N DIPSY (Dean Meyers)	72.07	15) DREDGE (Ed Hill)	35.03
4) MARY K (Kenneth Kuhar)	71.10	16) VICKI'S SEACRET (Bob Feisel)	34.10
5) TEACHER'S PET (Dave Even)	67.06	17) IN-SEINE (Mark Bevans)	32.01
6) CRUSADER (Mike Vigus)	63.04	18) SILVER RUSH (Rob Golaszewski)	30.00
7) SLOPPY JOE (Joe Von Grabe)	54.15	19) GOLDEN OLDIE (Howard York)	28.04
8) THE BRAT (Ron Maschke)	54.06	20) PISCES (Bob Mendicki)	24.09
9) CAPT'N HOOK II (Doug Karakas)	46.15	21) TIM'S TOY (Timothy Waidelich)	20.04
10) FREE BIRD (Bill Dunk)	45.00	22) BLUE STAR (Stan Bilek)	20.01
11) SALTY DOG (N/A)	43.15	23) STEELIE ED (Ed Wilczek)	12.04
12) TYGER (Ty Voigt)	40.07	24) HAPPY HOOKER II (Chris Bronner)	8.07

BIG FISH POOL WINNERS

PLACE/SKIPPER/BOAT, SPECIES/WEIGHT
1) Mike Vigus, "Crusader" King Salmon, 20.09 pounds
2) Bob Jones, "Bobby's Toy" King Salmon, 20.04 pounds
3) Bob Feisel, "Vickie's Seacret" King Salmon, 19.15 pounds

TOTAL CATCH: 77 fish

- 41 King Salmon • 16 Steelhead • 12 Lake Trout
- 5 Coho Salmon • 2 Brown Trout • 1 Atlantic Salmon

Top Manistee Tournament Finishers



2nd Place: "TEACHER'S PET" with Dave Even and crew.



3rd Place: "RUPE" with Gary Ruprich and crew.



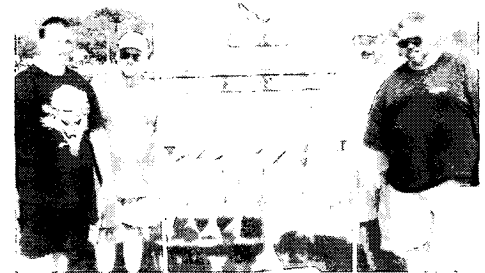
4th Place: "CAPT'N HOOK II" with Doug Karakas and crew.



5th Place: "BLUE STAR" with Stan Bilek and crew.



7th Place: "LIL' SCRATCH" with Dick Shirk and crew.



8th Place: "BOBBY'S TOY" with Bob Jones and crew.

The **DEADLINE**
for the
NOVEMBER ISSUE
of
FISHIN' TALES
is
OCTOBER 29, 2002

Coming Events

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

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

OCTOBER 29, 2002 • NOVEMBER 26, 2002 • DECEMBER 17, 2002

RIVER, PIER & SURF TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	TOURNEY CAPTAIN
November 2	MANISTEE (3-Way)	Doug Karakas, (248) 545-1181
December 7	FRANKFORT (Pier/Surf)	Mark Stosiak, (586) 777-9833
January 4	AU SABLE RIVER (Boat/Bank)	Doug Karakas, (248) 545-1181
January 5	PLATTE BAY (Surf Outing)	Doug Karakas, (248) 545-1181
February 1	GRAND RIVER (Grand Rapids)	Mark Devans, (586) 779-3189
March 1	MANISTEE (River)	Mark Stosiak, (586) 777-9833

Here's how to get to
DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER
Membership Meetings

14 MILE

MOUND RD.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
St. Pius X Council No. 3848
6177 Chicago Rd. 264-4511
Warren, Michigan 48092

VAN DYKE

CHICAGO RD.

HOOVER

13 MILE

13 MILE

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

Address Correction Requested

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS
MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!