



FISHING TALES



Ludington is terrific in 2001!

LUDINGTON (Aug. 11, 2001) – This west Michigan port is renowned for its big fish and, for this year's Detroit Area Steelheader tournament here, Ludington showed its best. The theme for our day was BIG fish, indeed!

Here are a few of the highlights. How about twenty King Salmon over 20 pounds each brought to the weigh-in scales? How about four of those Kings going over 27 pounds?? Imagine catching a 27-plus-pound King and not cashing in on the Big Fish Pool?? All of the above are true, and yet it didn't stop there!

How about Brown Trout of 12 pounds, 12 ounces and 17 pounds, six ounces? Yes, Ludington was truly great this time! If you didn't make it . . . well, you shoulda been there!!

A total of twenty-six boats made the tow to Ludington. The weather was a source of some concern, with virtually no boats able to get out on Friday for some "reconnaissance" fishing. We all wondered what tourney day on Saturday would bring. What would the northerly blow do to the water? Would Friday's big waves subside as predicted? The answers turned out to be great weather and better fishing.

The fleet split into two groups more or less. One group went south to the Project, while the other headed north to the Bathhouse just short of the Point. As it happened, fish were there to be had in both locations. The hottest ticket was at the Bath House. The Kings there seemed to be in shallow water, 40'-80', with spoons and Fish Catchers off downriggers and Dipsy's proving to be the best combo.

At the 9:00 a.m. Fish Call, eight boats reported four fish. What no one knew was how big those four were. By the noon Fish Call, Tim Graskiewicz in his beautiful new Sea Ray Amberjack christened "Journey" led the count with eight fish in the box. Dave Even and his "Teacher's Pet" crew reported seven fish caught, while "Blue Star" and skipper Stan Bilek and "Free Bird" and skipper Bill Dunk followed closely with six fish apiece.

At the weigh-in, mouths were agape as big fish after big fish were brought to the scales. When the shouting was over, Stan Bilek and "Blue Star" narrowly beat out Bill Dunk's "Free Bird" crew. Don Redmond and his "Trena



LUDINGTON FISHING WAS FABULOUS, with these two 27-pound, 14-ounce monster Kings topping the list, and numerous others over 20 pounds in the haul!!

"Dawn" crew edged into third place with another fabulous catch. "Blue Star's" winning catch included Kings of 25 pounds, 5 ounces and 24 pounds, 8 ounces. Great job, skippers!!

Thanks to the "Kemo" and "Teacher's Pet" crews for helping at the traditional post-tourney picnic, and to Don Redmond and Mark Bevens for weigh-in help. I can't wait for Ludington 2002 to get here!!

LUDINGTON TOURNAMENT (August 11, 2001)

BOAT/SKIPPER	POINTS
1) BLUE STAR (Stanley Bilek)	175.06
2) FREE BIRD (Bill Dunk)	168.02
3) TRENA DAWN (Don Redmond)	162.14
4) PHANTOM (Dave Staniszeski)	119.05
5) CAPIAS (Mike Lehto)	114.05
6) JOURNEY (Tim Graskiewicz)	110.03
7) JUST ONCE (Bill Nutting)	109.05
8) AQUARIUS II (Chris Nytko)	105.08
9) LONG HAUL (Tim Prateshler)	94.12*
10) BOBBY'S TOY (Bob Jones)	87.09

* Revised total

BIG FISH POOL

- 1) "Trena Dawn" King Salmon, 27.14 pounds*
- 1) "Steelie II" King Salmon, 27.14 pounds*
- 3) "Crusader" King Salmon, 27.09 pounds
- 4) "Aquarius II" King Salmon, 27.06 pounds

* Tied - Prize split

CREWS Hot Line

NEED A CREW?

Looking for crew members to fish with you in Detroit Area Steelheader Boat Trolling Tournaments?

WANT TO CREW?

Want to fish in Detroit Area Steelheader Boat Trolling Tournaments but don't have a boat?

Call the Crews Hot Line to match up with a Skipper looking for crew members, or to get crew members for your boat during the 2001 season. Please contact any of the following members:

- JOE VON GRABE: (810) 293-7688
- DOUG KARAKAS: (248) 545-1181
- STAN BILEK: (810) 244-4090

Top Ludington Finishers



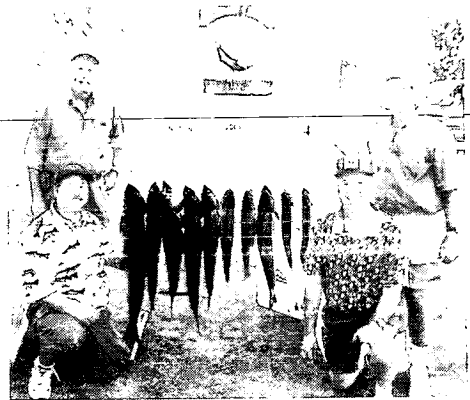
1st Place: "BLUE STAR" with Skipper Stan Bilek and crew.



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



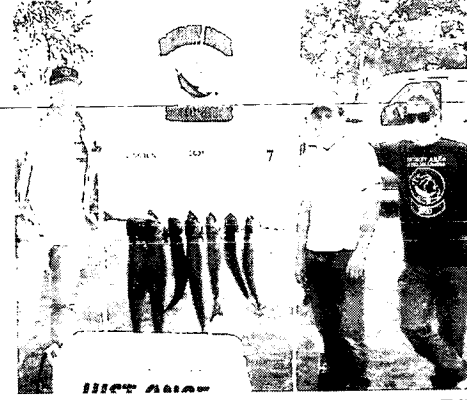
3rd Place: "TRENA DAWN" with Skipper Don Redmond and crew.



4th Place: "PHANTOM" with Skipper Dave Staniszewski and crew.



6th Place: "JOURNEY" with Skipper Tim Graskiewicz and crew.



7th Place: "JUST ONCE" with Skipper Bill Nutting and crew.

The **DEADLINE** for the **SEPTEMBER ISSUE** of **FISHIN' TALES** is **AUGUST 28, 2001**

2001 "SKIPPER OF THE YEAR"

(Standings through July 28, 2001 - Best 3)

PLACE/SKIPPER	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	Total
1) MARK STOSIAK	50	2	2	1	12	20				5
2) JOE VON GRABE	14	3	6	17	1	3				7
3) CHRIS NYTKO	27	4	1	4	75	4				9
4) MIKE VIGUS	6	11	5	3	2	12				10
5) DOUG KARAKAS	50	6	75	6	3	13				15
6) DEAN MEYERS	11	1	16	25	4	75				16
7) DAVE EVEN	10	75	3	75	75	5				18
8) STAN BILEK	3	12	19	26	13	6				21
9) MARK BEVANS	50	8	7	24	75	8				23
10) BOB JONES	8	7	18	23	11	9				24
11) BOB BUERO	9	10	75	15	8	50				27
11) DAVE ROEHR	75	5	13	22	9	75				27
13) CHRIS SCHWARK	50	75	9	16	6	14				29
14) KEN KUJAR	32	14	17	9	75	7				30
15) RON HARTMAN	31	16	15	27	7	15				37
15) ED HILL	18	9	10	28	75	19				37
17) RON MASCHKE	50	75	4	20	75	23				47
18) BILL NUTTING	13	15	21	75	75	21				49
19) DICK SHIRK	50	75	8	11	75	75				69
20) JIMMY HARDRICK	50	13	75	12	75	75				75

50 = See Rule IV-E

75 = See Rule IV-F

A = River Crab B = St. Joseph C = Grand Haven D = Port Austin E = Harrisville
 F = Frankfort G = Ludington H = Manistee J = Rogers City

For Your Information . . .

ROGERS CITY HOSTS 2001 TROLLING WRAP-UP

ROGERS CITY (Sept. 8) — The last trolling event of 2001 will find our fleet at Rogers City. If you like BIG Kings, then this is the place to be! Fish will be staging just off Swan Bay and some will already have run up the river. You'll find them anywhere between Rogers City and Adams Point, in 15'-100' of water.

Spoons and dodger-fly combinations will do well, but this is the time to bring out the J-Plugs. Don't be afraid to try Bombers and similar body baits in the shallows. The biggest fish ever taken on my boat was a 29-pound King, using a Bomber in 15' of water at Rogers City.

The "Last Chance" tournament also takes place there this weekend (details in the port handout). We've moved our weigh-in time back, so you'll be able to fish both events if you like. Our Skippers meeting will be at 5:00 a.m., with the tourney start at 6:00 a.m. Fish Calls will be at 9:00 a.m. and noon, lines pulled at 2:00 p.m. You must be at the weigh-in by 4:00 p.m. Good luck to all - see you there!

- Joe Von Grabe, "Sloppy Joe"
 (810) 293-7688 (Res.)

Top Frankfort Finishers



1st Place: "HAPPY BARE" with Skipper Don Anton and crew.



2nd Place: "NAUTI-BUOY" with Skipper Robert Zaccardelli and crew.



3rd Place: "SLOPPY JOE" with Skipper Joe Von Grabe and crew.



4th Place: "AQUARIUS II" with Skipper Chris Nytko and crew.



5th Place: "TEACHER'S PET" with Skipper Dave Even and crew.



6th Place: "BLUE STAR" with Skipper Stan Bilek and crew.



7th Place: "MARY K" with Skipper Ken Kuhar and crew.



9th Place: "BOBBY'S TOY" with Skipper Bob Jones and crew.



DOUG KARAKAS, alias "Birthday Boy," enjoyed his birthday at Ludington.



AFTER THE FISHING FUN WAS OVER, there remained a small job to be done!

FRANKFORT TOURNAMENT (July 28, 2001)

BOAT/SKIPPER	POINTS
1) HAPPY BARE (Don Anton)	109.01
2) NAUTI-BUOY (Robert Zaccardelli)	104.04
3) SLOPPY JOE (Joe Von Grabe)	99.12
4) AQUARIUS II (Chris Nytko)	98.00
5) TEACHER'S PET (Dave Even)	96.07
6) BLUE STAR (Stanley Bilek)	96.06
7) MARY K (Ken Kuhar)	90.05
8) IN-SEINE (Mark Bevan)	85.07
9) BOBBY'S TOY (Bob Jones)	82.01
10) MY WAY (Don Dissett)	73.09
11) CAPIUS (Mike Lehto)	69.11
12) CRUSADER (Mike Vigus)	98.05
13) CAPT'N HOOK II (Doug Karakas)	58.05
14) COWABUNGA (Chris Schwark)	54.08
15) MOLLY FRAIR (Ron Hartman)	54.04
16) JOURNEY (Tim Graskiewicz)	52.09
17) TRENA DAWN (Don Redmond)	51.09
18) MARK 'N FISH (Mark Davis)	43.00
19) THE DREDGE (Ed Hill)	40.05
20) TOMORROW'S DREAM (Mark Stosiak)	33.14
21) JUST ONCE (Bill Nutting)	32.08
22) TAZ (Daniel Dima)	24.11
23) THE BRAT (Ron Maschke)	20.15
24) S.S. GUPPY (Dwayne Welder)	18.15
25) MAIN SQUEEZE (Walt Pohorily)	8.07
26) MICKY MOUSE CLUB (Bob Buero)	0.00
27) LUCKY LEW'S (Ted Lewicki)	0.00
19 Lake Trout • 60 King Salmon • 30 Steelhead 7 Coho Salmon • 1 Brown Trout 117 Total Fish Caught	

BIG FISH POOL

- 1) "Happy Bare" King Salmon, 25.10 pounds
- 2) "Teacher's Pet" King Salmon, 24.08 pounds
- 3) "Blue Star" King Salmon, 24.06 pounds

Pier Head Fishing

As the season winds down, you have to alter your tactics. The major change is that the best fishing spots are no longer miles from the pier heads. As schools of Salmon congregate at the river mouths, the pier heads often become the hot place for big fish. In order to connect with these fish and not the other boats at the pier heads, your tactics have to change.

Maneuverability becomes the key tactics to success. The fish are in a relatively small area. It is important that your trolling pattern is precise, and that it keeps you out of harm's way. Leads need to be as short as the fish will accept. Four- or six-foot leads are best and, fortunately, fish often are not boat- or leader-shy. Short leads will save you from the small boat that darts behind you without warning, the fast turn you need to make to miss a boat leaving harbor, and the rocks and debris on the bottom that is also hungry for lures.

The best trolling pattern is to follow the mud line from the river. In daylight, this line is obvious. In the dark, your best clue may be your surface temperature gauge. A key consideration is the direction of the mud line as it leaves the harbor. On Lake Michigan, a mud line that flows south means you want to enter the harbor from the south on the inside line. If it flows north, generally try to enter on the outside line, again from the south. Most times, you need to follow the parade of boats but, if possible, troll the outside mud line toward the pier head, come inside the harbor if appropriate, cross over and exit on the inside mud line.

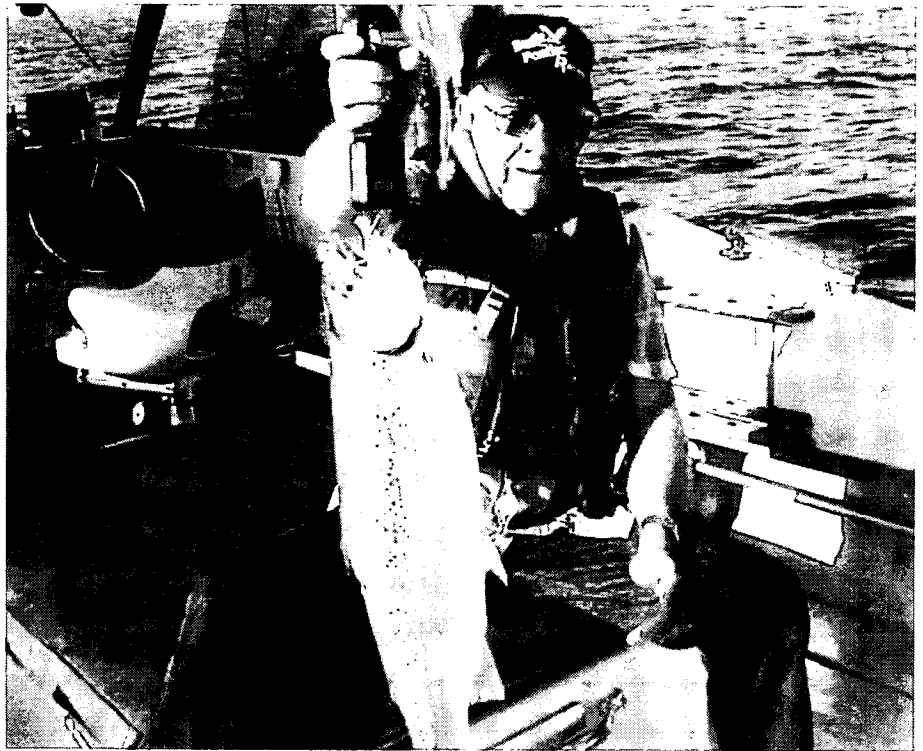
The outside line is generally the easiest turn to make, which is what you want when entering the harbor. If traffic is heavy exiting the harbor, the outside troll will then give you a better look at traffic to pick a safe spot to cross the mouth. Again, the key is to stay out of other people's way and avoid situations where they can cut you off. If possible, station someone next to the downriggers to quickly wind them up if sonar detects a sharp rise in the bottom.

When you get a release, the next trick is to get the fish to deeper water away from all of the boats that want to cut it off. The pier heads are no place for light liners. You need heavy line (20- to 30-pound test) and tight drags to quickly control and fight a fish. Lures for pier trolling can vary, but the black rattle J-Plug is often deadly in dark, stained water. Spoons can also work, with magnums and glows generally the choice. Lure color is probably less important than at any time of the year. Action and sound can be more important.

Fall pier head fishing can deliver very hot action. It can serve up some of the greatest excitement of the year. Stay alert, be maneuverable, and have a great time.

- Bob Mitchell
"Kemo"

Don't forget the Photo Contest!



DALE KILLIAN, father of Detroit Area Steelheader Jack Killian, shows off a beautiful 10-pound Steelhead aboard "Luck Box" in another early entry in the 2001 Steelheader Photo Contest. Don't miss out - make your photographs now and get your entries in soon!

Coming Events

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

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

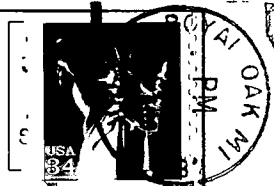
AUGUST 28, 2001 • SEPTEMBER 25, 2001 • OCTOBER 30, 2001

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
Aug. 25	MANISTEE	Dick Jackson, (248) 698-1798
Sept. 8	ROGERS CITY	Joe Von Grabe, (810) 293-7688

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

Address Correction Requested



MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!