



FISHING TALES



Ludington comes through big again for club!

Twenty-four boats made the tow to Ludington, a port that is always a highlight of the boat trolling tournament year. This port has a great reputation and is known for producing lots of fish, and big fish!

But Ludington is also known as a port that can be tough to figure out. Sometimes she gives up her fish easily at The Point or The Project. At other times, she tricks even savvy skippers with 46° F water on the surface, or deep currents that cross cannonball wires. Each year there seems to bring new challenges.

We started in perfect weather, with calm seas and a positive forecast. Temperatures were in the high 70's to low 80's, and, most important, fish were present. Early reports from "Teacher's Pet" noted lots of fish everywhere, in from 100'-400' of water, and thirty fish caught on Thursday proved that point.

At the first Fish Call, several boats were reporting four fish. The biggest King Salmon seemed to be in 200' of water, 50'-75' down. Top lures were spoons in the green dolphin pattern. Some fish were coming on dodgers. Another key technique was the lead line. A full core or ten colors with a 100-foot lead pulling a magnum Silverstreak seemed to be the ticket.

Fishing was good throughout the day, with the action picking up in deep water, out to 500'.



1ST PLACE (tie): "Lil' Scratch" with Dick Shirk and "Teacher's Pet" with Dave Even.

At the noon Fish Call, "Long Haul" with nine fish, and "Kemo" with eight, led the pack. But, with two hours to go, the tourney was still wide open and the question was, who had the BIG fish?

At the weigh-in, there were many big Kings brought to the scales. The biggest was a 25.15-pound beauty caught by Ron Huey's crew on

"Half R's." Rumor has it no one was more surprised than Doc when he got up from his nap . . . just kidding!! Second place in the Big Fish Pool went to "Golden Oldie" with a 22.09-pounder, while "Teacher's Pet" took third with a 22.06-pound King. In addition to big Kings, several really nice Cohos and Steelhead came to the scales, and "Lil' Scratch" brought a Brown Trout to the weigh-in that tipped the scales at 13.04 pounds.

When the final tally was complete, two former "Skipper of the Year" award winners, Dick Shirk and Dave Even, finished in a dead heat. I don't ever remember a tie for first before, but what a great battle it was between these two old friends! It was also good to note that four of the top six boats were fishing in their first tournament of the season. All in all, it was a great tournament, and should be a good prelude to Manistee. If you get a chance, fish these ports now, because the action should continue hot and heavy for a while.

Special thanks to Dave Even and Bob Gilbert for helping me pull this tournament together, and for cooking the 'dogs for the guys. And, as always, thanks to Dick Shirk for helping out at the weigh-in.

— Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"

More Ludington pictures & standings on Page Three.

Indian fishing rights agreement reached

BRIMLEY, MI – Lake Trout rehabilitation and a reduction of gill nets in northern areas of Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, and eastern Lake Superior were major factors in bringing five Indian tribes, the State of Michigan, and the U.S. government together for an historic signing of a consent decree here on August 8.

The signing of the 20-year decree at the Bay Mills Indian Community ended two years of negotiations.

"Not everyone is happy about some points, but each side had to give up certain items," said U.S. District Court-appointed mediator John Bickerman.

Signing the consent decree were representatives of the Bay Mills Indian Community, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa

Indians, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the U.S. Justice Department.

Legally recognized tribal commercial fishing districts and zones are major parts of the agreement, but financial considerations played an important role.

Michigan will contribute \$16,225,000: ■ \$12,415,000 in an escrow account to acquire vessels and equipment, and the surrender of licenses of ten state-licensed commercial fishermen in a specific Whitefish management unit. Payment of \$1,400,000 to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe will be used to fund

Continued on Page Two . . . /

Dave Richey lauds Indian fishing pact

BRIMLEY, MI - Disturbing thoughts of bitter feuding 20 years ago came to mind. Negotiations over early Indian treaty fishing rights had caused hard feelings on both sides of an explosive issue.

Now, heading into the 2000 Consent Decree signing on August 8, the worries were gone. Everyone at the Bay Mills Indian Community offered handshakes and spoke of goodwill.

I was there to witness the signing of a new Consent Decree that had been hammered out among Michigan's five Native American tribes, the U.S. Government, and the State of Michigan. Members of the Indian community were talking with federal and state attorneys, sport fishermen and conservation groups.

Earlier discussions had been private, and all negotiating parties had kept quiet. No one had discussed the issues and the Consent Decree to be signed, and the media and spectators were clueless about conditions of the final agreement.

I was given a 157-page document to look through before the meeting began. It suddenly dawned on me why people were happy.

It's a fair agreement. Each tribe had given ups something, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the federal government had obviously sweetened the financial pot to make it work.

Negotiating members took turns speaking about the decree's conditions, mediated by John Bickerman, an appointee of U.S. District Judge Richard A. Enslen of Kalamazoo.

Each tribe would get certain Great Lakes areas where they could commercially fish, and certain waters of the upper Great Lakes would be a 'free-for-all' zone, where any licensed tribal fisherman could fish under the limitations set within the detailed rules.

Charter boats and private fishermen also could fish much of the same waters providing they didn't interfere with tribal gill or trap nets.

The tribes will each be paid huge sums of money for conversion to impoundment or trap nets. Gill net fisheries would be reduced

over the next few years.

That's great, but what was in it for a million private fishermen? The answer was simple.

The Decree will protect Lake Trout. The Department of Natural Resources and the federal government want Lake Trout numbers to increase, and they likely will under the terms of this agreement. In fact, over the agreement's 20-year life, state and tribal fisheries biologists believe Lake Trout numbers could rise by as much as 25 percent.

And then came the kicker. The minimum size for Lakers would go from 20 inches to 24 inches, in hopes that more fish would live long enough to spawn.

The big picture is about Lake Trout rehabilitation, and this applies equally to the tribes and sport fishermen.

There was a genuine concern shown by the tribes to spare Lake Trout, and concentrate more on Whitefish. There is very little sport fishing that exists for Whitefish, and the lakes are loaded with them. Best of all, Whitefish bring top dollar at markets.

I've always believed there is room in this state for a quality commercial fishery. People who never fish like to eat them, and without commercially taken fish, such meals are not available to many people. That is another plus in favor of the agreement.

The 2000 Consent Decree is more fair than the 1985 Consent Agreement. It allows for rebuilding our flagging Lake Trout fishery, provides jobs and income for Native American communities, and sets a standard that sport fishermen can accept.

It doesn't favor one side over the other. It simply is an equitable solution to what had become a thorny issue for both sides.

And, you know what? Before the signing ceremony had ended, and everyone returned to Bay Mills Indian Community's dining area for a celebratory meal and champagne, I was smiling, too.

I believe justice has been done.

- Dave Richey

From *The Detroit News*, August 15, 2000.

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INDIAN FISHING RIGHTS AGREEMENT REACHED

special circumstances, another \$175,000 to pay consultants for trap net conversion operations, of which up to \$60,000 will be given to the Grand Traverse Tribe for up to two trap net conversions.

■ The Little Traverse Bay Bands will get \$60,000 to pay for trap net consultations. The Little River Band will receive \$1,925,000 for their commercial fishing use.

Subject to congressional appropriation, the U.S. Department of Interior will give \$8,250,000.

■ \$1,000,000 will go to each tribe, and an additional \$1,000,000 each will go to the Little River and Little Traverse Bay bands for specific purposes.

■ An additional \$1,000,000 will go to the Grand Traverse Band for commercial dockage and fishing gear, and \$250,000 will be given to the Little Traverse Band for purchasing dock sites.

"This is a document as historic as those of the treaty era," said Gerald Chingwa, Tribal Chair of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in Petoskey. "This time, unlike in 1985, the difference is the tribes were a party to the drafting of the final instrument."

Said Jim Goodheart, executive director of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), "... this agreement will lead to one of the most remarkable improvements in Great Lakes fisheries resource management that we've seen this past century. It allows sport and tribal fishing to co-exist in a way that provides more benefits to sport anglers and commercial fishers alike, while biologically benefiting the fishery. Everybody wins!"

Robert Guenthardt, Tribal Chair of the Little River Band, said he was proud to sign the decree. They will have some netting and charter boat fishery.

"The gradual removal of millions of feet of gill nets, and conversion of many large tribal commercial operations to trap nets is important," said Brian Springstead, spokesman for a non-tribal coalition. "This gill net reduction, along with increasing Lake Trout stocks can improve our fishery. However, this deal will only work if all the parties live up to their obligations."

Gill net reductions definitely appeal to Jim VanderMaas, spokesman for the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fisherman's Association. "Anglers who fish Lake Michigan from Leland to Grand Haven will find no gill nets," he said. "We look forward to working with the tribes to make the upper Great Lakes fisheries even better."

- Dave Richey

From *The Detroit News*, August 15, 2000.

Coming Events

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

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

AUGUST 29, 2000 • SEPTEMBER 26, 2000 • OCTOBER 31, 2000

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
Aug. 26	MANISTEE	Mark Stosiak, (810) 777-9833
Sept. 9	HARBOR BEACH	Ed Wilczek, (810) 757-7365

For Your Information . . .

They say all good things must end, and so it is with the 2000 Detroit Area Steelheaders boat trolling tournaments as we close our season at Harbor Beach on September 9. If weather and fish co-operate, we'll get enough fishing action to help make winter more bearable.

The start time is changed to 6:30 a.m., with skippers meeting at 5:30 a.m. in front of the marina office, thus providing a bit more early light to help make sure nothing goes 'bump' in the night. Fish calls will come at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (Channel 72), with lines pulled at 2:30 p.m. All boats should be in the weigh-in line at the pavilion no later than 3:30 p.m.; post-tourney delicacies and fish stories of the day will follow. Where else can you have so much fun and not get arrested?

Be ready to use almost anything in your arsenal of lures and baits. Lures such as Silver Streaks, Stingers, Pro Kings, etc. may prove to be the staples for the day. Don't discount the dodger/fly-squid combos, J-Plugs, or, if you still have some, the old Ping-A-Tees. Hey, whatever works, right? Keep an eye on fishing reports and an ear on the marine radio to find out what's been working in the area lately.

Most boats will fish straight out from the harbor, while some will head north or south. Be aware of water depths, as there are reefs near shore both north and south. Make good use of LORAN, GPS, and area charts. If the weather turns nasty, these can help you back to safeport. Good luck and keep those hooks sharp!!

— Ed "Steele Ed" Wilczek
Port Captain (*in absentia*)

Top Ludington Finishers



3RD PLACE: "Long Haul" with Rob Pratschler and crew.



5TH PLACE: "Kemo" with Bob Mitchell and crew.



6TH PLACE: "Phantom" with Dave Staniszewski and crew.



7TH PLACE: "Half R's" with Ron Huey and crew.

LUDINGTON TOURNAMENT

August 12, 2000

PLACE/BOAT/SKIPPER/TOTAL POINTS*

1) LIL' SCRATCH (Dick Shirk)	144.09	13) AQUARIUS II (Chris Nytko)	63.15
1) TEACHER'S PET (Dave Even)	144.09	14) SLOPPY JOE (Joe von Grabe)	63.06
3) LONG HAUL (Rob Pratschler)	115.07	15) DREDGE (Ed Hill)	57.03
4) RUPE (Gary Ruprich)	110.01	16) BOBBY'S TOY (Bob Jones)	53.10
5) KEMO (Bob Mitchell)	108.15	17) IN-SEINE (Mark Bevans)	47.07
6) PHANTOM (Dave Staniszewski)	101.06	18) RETURNER (Darwin Gregg)	42.12
7) HALF R's (Ron Huey)	97.15	19) S.S. GUPPY (Dwayne Welder)	29.13
8) JUST ONCE (Bill Nutting)	94.11	20) CRUSADER (Mike Vigus)	25.11
9) MOLLY FRAIR (Ron Hartman)	82.03	21) BLUE STAR II (Stanley Bilek)	20.02
10) GOLDEN OLDIE (Howard York)	77.12	22) TAZ (Dan Dima)	19.02
11) MARY K (Kenneth Kuhar)	72.11	50) SPODA B (Richard Kittle)	0.00
12) HAPPY BARE (Don Anton)	64.00	50) THE BRAT (Ron Maschke)	0.00

* Unofficial

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 1999 season. Contact:

LARRY BOYER: (313) 495-1342

DOUG KARAKAS: (248) 545-1181

The **DEADLINE** for the **SEPTEMBER** issue of **FISHIN' TALES** is **September 11, 2000**

MUCC played key role in new Indian fishing deal

Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) played a pivotal role in the development of a new agreement signed on August 8 covering Indian tribal fishing rights.

The new 20-year agreement replaces a 1985 consent order for Great Lakes waters ceded to Indian tribes under the Treaty of 1836, resolves long-standing differences over rights and obligations of tribal commercial fishermen and state-licensed sport anglers to fish large portions of Lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior, and accommodates fishing rights for two new tribes formed since 1985.

MUCC, a statewide non-profit organization of 100,000 members and 500 affiliated clubs (including the Detroit Area Steelheaders) dedicated to conserving Michigan's natural resources, has been involved in negotiations on the matter since 1998.

Instead of so-called 'free fire' zones for Lake Trout which resulted from the old agreement's zone management approach, the new agreement implements a scientific, lake-wide management approach long advocated by MUCC. A large-scale conversion from gill nets to trap nets by Indian fishermen will allow Lake Trout rehabilitation, and non-commercial species to be returned to the water alive.

Said MUCC Executive Director Jim Goodheart, "The integrated components of this agreement make it an holistically sound plan. Now the challenge lies with all parties which have signed... this decree to implement, monitor and enforce its provisions to the best of their abilities."

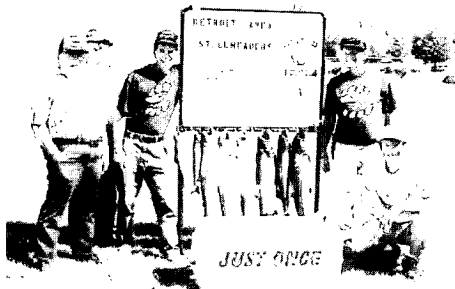
Top Rogers City Finishers



1ST PLACE: "Blue Star II" with Stan Bilek and crew.



2ND PLACE: "Capt'n Hook II" with Doug Karakas and crew.



3RD PLACE: "Just Once" with Bill Nutting and crew.



4TH PLACE: "Aquarius II" with Chris Nytko and crew.

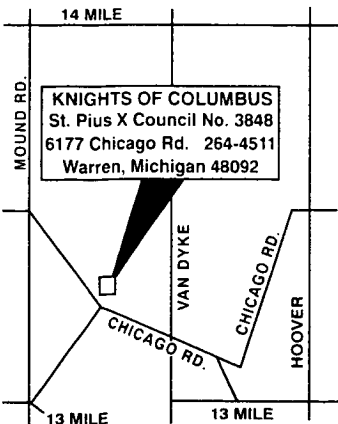


5TH PLACE: "Flying Dutchman" with 'Black Lab' and crew.



6TH PLACE: "Main Squeeze" with Walt Pohorily and crew.

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



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

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

Address Correction Requested



MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!

