



FISHING TALES



Fishing rod and line increase approved by DNR

LANSING—On August 18, K.L. Cool, Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), announced the approval of a new regulation dealing with the number of fishing rods and lines anglers will be permitted to use on certain Great Lakes and connecting waters. The new regulation was decided upon by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission during its August meeting at Escanaba in the Upper Peninsula.

Beginning September 29, 2000, boat anglers who are trolling for Salmon and Trout in Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Superior, and the St. Mary's River will be allowed to use three lines, or three single rods and lines. This represents a significant increase from the present limit of two rods and two lines per fisherman. Under the revised regulation, a total of no more than six hooks can be attached on all lines in use by a single fisherman.

The increase in line limits only applies to those Great Lakes and connecting waters listed above, and DOES NOT APPLY to any other Great Lakes and connecting waters, to any inland lakes and streams, or to pier or shore anglers fishing along the Great Lakes.

The increase in rod limits will enable the average boat angler trolling and harvesting Trout and Salmon in the affected waters to enjoy the opportunity to use additional fishing equipment, although there are NO CHANGES in creel limits or size limits of the covered species, Trout and Salmon only.

"The ability to employ three rods per angler, rather than two, should enhance the fishing experience for many anglers without harming the resource," said Kelley Smith, DNR Fisheries Chief. "From a management perspective, rod or line limits are a relatively ineffective way to regulate [fish] harvest. Minimum size limits and creel limits are much more effective tools in the management of game fish populations."

A recently enacted amendment to the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act granted the Department of Natural Resources the authority to increase the number of fishing rods and lines allowed per angler on the Great Lakes and connecting waters.

Some Questions & Answers about the Rod and Line increase

Q: When does the new regulation take effect?

A: Beginning Friday, September 29, 2000.

Q: I am a Salmon angler planning to troll with three rods and lines on Lake Michigan after September 29. Can I 'anchor down' and still fish with three rods and lines then?

A: No. Anglers MUST be in the act of trolling in order to legally fish with three rods on the designated waters.

Q: Why is the increase from two rods and lines to three rods and lines not being allowed for shore and pier anglers?

A: This action was taken to "enhance" the fishing experience of Trout and Salmon anglers where reasonably possible, without jeopardizing the resource. Increasing the rod and line limit from two to three at already crowded piers and seasonally congested shorelines could decrease the quality of the fishing experience for many.

Q: What about inland lakes and streams? Does the three lines or three single rods and lines apply to those waters?

A: No. The new regulation DOES NOT apply to any inland lakes or streams.

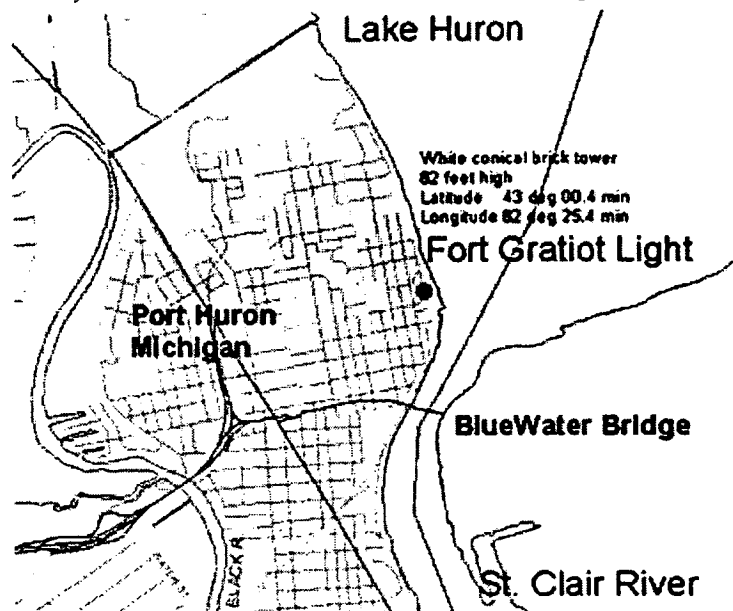
Q: What about some of the big lakes, such as Manistee Lake or Muskegon Lake, which connect directly to the Great Lakes?

A: To be specific, the following lakes and streams are regulated the same as all inland lakes and streams where the three-line limit does not apply:

- 1) The Kalamazoo River and Silver Lake, Allegan County;
- 2) Betsie Lake, Betsie County;
- 3) Arcadia, Manistee and Portage Lakes, Manistee County;
- 4) Pere Marquette Lake, Mason County;
- 5) Duke, Mona, Muskegon and White Lakes, Muskegon County;
- 6) Pentwater, Silver and Stony Lakes, Oceana County; and
- 7) Macatawa and Pigeon Lakes, Ottawa County.

Q: I plan to troll for Trout and Salmon in Lake Huron, near Port Huron. Where does Lake Huron end and the St. Clair River begin?

A: The legal boundary where the St. Clair River begins is the Fort Gratiot Light, located in Port Huron. Anglers may use three rods when trolling for Trout and Salmon north of the Light. Waters south of the Light are excluded from the order, and anglers may use only two rods when fishing at any point south of the Fort Gratiot Light. The map below shows precisely where the Fort Gratiot Light is located.



For Your Information . . .

THUNDERSTORMS POSTPONE MANISTEE TO SUNDAY

August 26 found Detroit Area Steelheader skippers at the port of Manistee. The scheduled Saturday tournament was postponed due to thunderstorms in the area, and held instead on Sunday. In all, 25 skippers entered, with 21 bringing fish to the weigh-in scale.

Most boats in the fleet went south, while a few headed straight out. The majority of fish were found in about 100 feet of water. Of the 82 fish caught in the tourney, 31 were King Salmon and 40 were Coho Salmon, along with 3 Steelhead, 7 Lake Trout, and 1 Brown Trout. Overall, I'd say it was a fine job by our guys.

I'd like to thank my crew for helping out at the post-tourney picnic, and also thanks to Bob Mitchell for transporting all the "fixin's."

— Mark Stosiak, "Tomorrow's Dream"

DATES SET FOR OCTOBER, DECEMBER MEETINGS, 2001 SPORTSMEN'S DINNER

At its September meeting, the Board of Directors voted to hold our second annual Sportsmen's Dinner on Wednesday, March 10, 2001 at the Salt River Golf Club Banquet Center. Costs and ticket availability will be announced later. At the same meeting, the Board also set new dates for the October and December Membership Meetings later this year. The October Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2000, and the December Membership Meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 19, 2000. Please note these dates on your calendar.

CHECK OUT THE NEW GLSFC TACKLE PAGE ON THE WEB

With more than 45 categories and 800+ items for anglers and boaters, the GLSFC Product Index for Fishing, Boating & Outdoor Related Products has made browsing the Internet easier. You can access our new Tackle Page right from our home page (<http://www.great-lakes.org>) by using the Index

button and scanning down to the Manufacturers Tackle Page item, or just click on <http://www.great-lakes.org/prodpg.html>. If we're missing a product, or a link is no longer working, let us know. If we don't have it, we'll add it. And don't forget to bookmark this page for future reference.

Open to the public, our 400+ page web site with over 3,000 links is a public outreach service of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council for anglers and boaters and the general outdoor recreation community.

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CONGRESS MOVES CORMORANT CONTROL LEGISLATION

U.S. House Bill H.R.3118, designed to help control Cormorants, has been approved by a sub-committee. In July, the House Subcommittee on Resources approved H.R. 3118, a bill to implement management controls on exploding cormorant populations. It's a step in the right direction.

In the next several weeks, there will be votes by the full committee and (we hope) the full House on the bill, and your help is needed to encourage our elected representatives to help us manage our resources properly. Please make known your thoughts and feelings.

You don't have to be a hunter, or fully agree with the bill (authorizing a hunting season for cormorants at the state level), but your comments will send a message to Congress about our concern for our natural resources. Even the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has testified it does not oppose establishing a hunting season on double-breasted cormorants.

Direct your comments to Representative Don Young, Chairman of the House Committee on Resources. Call him toll-free at:

1 (888) 449-3511 or 1 (800) 241-7109

His e-mail address is:

resources.committee@mail.house.gov

Send 'snail mail' to:

Rep. Don Young, Chair
House Committee on Resources
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

1999 study can help Michigan anglers

Where Great Lakes game fish are caught on a yearly basis always is a matter of speculation. An annual report from the Charlevoix Fisheries Station of the Michigan DNR can point the way to better catches. Gerald Rakoczy and Donna Wesander-Russell, Fisheries statisticians, have completed a 1999 survey of fish catches from the state's 525 licensed charter boats.

"Our goal is to determine the monthly catch rates, species of fish, numbers caught daily and lamprey wounding rates on Chinook Salmon and Lake Trout each year," Rakoczy said. "This information helps us better manage our fisheries. It can also be an asset for anglers . . . looking for a charter fishing trip . . . around the Great Lakes."

Rogers City, for example, was the No. 1 hot spot for salmonid catches for many years. That has changed. Several factors can alter hot spots from year to year, including fish plantings, weather and number of charter boats.

The 1999 study reveals numerous changes in salmonid catch numbers. Three of the Great Lakes — Huron, Michigan and Superior — provide most of the Salmon and Trout fishing efforts. Here are some numbers of fish caught per boat per day, by port:

Lake Huron: Grindstone City, 10.1; Alpena, 7.2; Harbor Beach, 7.2; Oscoda, 7.1; Rogers City, 6.3.

Lake Michigan: Ludington, 8.8; Frankfort/Elberta, 8.1; Manistee, 7.5; Leland, 7.1; Benton Harbor/St. Joseph, 6.7; Grand Haven, 5.3.

Lake Superior: Ontonagon, 14.8; Black River Harbor, 13.6; Marquette, 10.4.

The number of fish caught per 100 angler hours:

Lake Huron: Brown Trout, 0.2; Coho Salmon, 0.9; Rainbow Trout, 1.3; Lake Trout, 11.7; Chinook Salmon, 15.7.

Lake Michigan: Brown Trout, 0.7; Coho Salmon, 3.4; Rainbow Trout, 3.4; Lake Trout, 6.2; Chinook Salmon, 8.8.

Lake Superior: Brown Trout, 0.1; Coho Salmon, 2.3; Rainbow Trout, 0.3; Lake Trout, 26.3; Chinook Salmon, 0.6.

Walleyes and Perch are important game fish in Lakes Erie, Huron and St. Clair. Saginaw Bay provides most of the Lake Huron Walleye catch.

Here is how each body of water stacks up in fish caught per 100 angler hours:

Lake Erie: Perch, 67.2; Walleye, 80.0.

Lake Huron: Perch, 8.4; Walleye, 3.4.

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Coming Events

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

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

SEPTEMBER 26, 2000 • OCTOBER 24, 2000 • NOVEMBER 28, 2000

NOTE: Our scheduled guest speaker at the November Membership Meeting will be John Hunter, who will discuss river fishing on the Pere Marquette and Big Manistee Rivers. Be there!

Micro-tags beneficial for research, anglers

Michigan's Department of Natural Resources has been micro-tagging Trout and Salmon with coded wire tags for several years. These tags aid in Trout and Salmon management in the Great Lakes by helping biologists study fish movement and migration, growth rates, and the success of the state's stocking program. The success of these studies depends heavily on the co-operation of fishermen.

Anglers fishing the Great Lakes and connecting waters should be on the look-out for Trout and Salmon with a clipped adipose fin. This clipped fin indicates the fish has a micro-tag in its jaw and is part of a multi-state research program. The adipose fin is a small fin on the back of a fish just above the tail.

Tiny stainless steel wire tags are implanted each year in the snouts of millions of hatchery-raised fish when they are tiny smolts. These coded-wire tags are just one-millimeter wide (about the size of the numeral "1" on a penny), and are invisible to the naked eye.

The DNR began implementing tags in 1996 and released the tagged fish in five state rivers - the St. Joseph, Manistee, Manistique, Muskegon and Au Sable.

When anglers catch fish missing the adipose fin, they should note the date and location of the catch and the length of the fish. The head of the fish should be kept frozen until it can be delivered to an appropriate DNR facility.

The binary code on these tags tells biologists such things as the hatchery of origin, in which hatchery raceway the fish was raised, what it was fed, where it was planted, and how

many other fish were planted with. It can also tell biologists if the fish was planted upstream, downstream, or in a net pen.

These tags, along with creel survey information, allow biologists to study movement, growth and survival rates, and the contribution of natural reproduction to the sport fishery. Stocking locations and techniques, and fish-rearing practices, are also evaluated by these studies.

"Given the stocking reductions of the Chinook in place this year, biologists want to evaluate what they can do in a hatchery," said Jory Jones, DNR fisheries biologist. "Why is there better survival in a net pen? Is it because the fish are larger, or is it because of the acclimation period in the pens?"

"There has been better survival by fish released through net pens. If it's because they are larger, we can take care of that at the hatchery. There is something good about net pens."

Tom Rozich, DNR fisheries manager at the Cadillac office, said the survival rate of pen-released fish is at least 20 percent better. "And that's a very, very conservative estimate," he said. "Most estimates are 50 percent or better."

The DNR is testing for better Steelhead stocking locations.

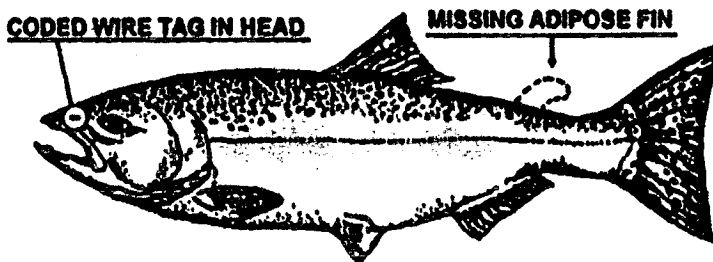
"The main objective of Steelhead stocking is to evaluate stocking sites," Jonas said. "We want to evaluate upstream stocking sites versus downstream sites and the survival and return rates."

Four out of five rivers the DNR planted with Steelhead in the past showed a distinct relationship between survival rate and planting location. Fish released at upstream sites do better than fish released downstream and there seems to be a linear progression. The farther south the plants are made, the lower the survival rate of the fish. In addition, the Michigan strain of Steelhead survived better in the upstream plants.

Biologists also have learned a little about the survival rate of stocked Chinook.

"Chinook studies showed that plants at the mouths of rivers were better than upstream sites," Jonas said. "Steelhead are larger than Chinook when planted, and the predation on them is probably a lot less. Just a little increase

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MANISTEE TOURNAMENT

August 26, 2000

PLACE/BOAT & SKIPPER/TOTAL POINTS	PLACE/BOAT & SKIPPER/TOTAL POINTS*
1) BLUE STAR II (Stanley Bilek) 119.12	13) HALF R's (Ron Huey) 46.13
2) BOBBY'S TOY (Bob Jones) 118.13	14) GOLDEN OLDIE (Howard York) . 46.05
3) SLOPPY JOE (Joe von Grabe) 87.12	15) NAUTI BUOY (Greg Zaccardelli) . 45.02
4) CAPIAS (Mike Lehto) 82.06	16) S.S. GUPPY (Dwayne Welder) 37.08
5) LIL' SCRATCH (Dick Shirk) 79.03	17) JUST ONCE (Bill Nutting) 34.14
6) TOMORROW'S DREAM (Mark Stosiak) 62.06	18) CRUSADER (Mike Vigus) 31.08
7) KEMO (Bob Mitchell) 56.04	19) AQUARIUS II (Chris Nytko) 27.12
8) MARY K (Kenneth Kuhar) 55.12	20) HAPPY BARE (Don Anton) 27.08
9) IN-SEINE (Mark Bevans) 55.02	21) CAPT'N HOOK II (Doug Karakas) 22.07
10) MOLLY FRAIR (Ron Hartman) 51.11	50) RUPE (Gary Ruprich) 0.00
11) VOYAGEUR (Dick Jackson) 51.05	50) RETURNER (Darwin Gregg) 0.00
12) TYGER (Ty Voigt) 47.12	50) MAIN SQUEEZE (Walt Pohorily) . 0.00
	50) TAZ (Dan Dima) 0.00*

* Disqualified - too many fish

82 fish caught: 31 King Salmon, 40 Coho Salmon, 3 Steelhead, 7 Lake Trout, 1 Brown Trout
25 Skippers entered, 21 weighed in fish

BIG FISH POOL

PLACE/SKIPPER & BOAT/SPECIES/WEIGHT	
1)..... JOE VON GRABE (Sloppy Joe)	King Salmon 27.07 pounds
2)..... MARK STOSIAK (Tomorrow's Dream)	King Salmon 24.13 pounds
3)..... RON HARTMAN (Molly Frair)	King Salmon 23.09 pounds

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

1999 SURVEY HELPS ANGLERS

Continued from Page Two

Lake St. Clair: Perch, 41.3; Walleye, 16.3.

Lampreys figure into the record-keeping of Rakoczy and Wesander-Russell. They asked charter boat operators to keep track of lampreys seen attached to Chinook Salmon or Lake Trout. "As has been true for several previous years," they said, "the number of sea lamprey attached to these fish are much higher on Lake Huron than the other Great Lakes."

The number of lamprey per 100 Chinook Salmon was: Lake Huron, 4.6; Lake Michigan, 0.2; and Lake Superior, 0.0.

Rakoczy said distribution of charter fishing effort by lakes was Lake Michigan, 64%; Lake Huron, 18%; Lake Erie, 13%; Lake Superior, 3%; and Lake St. Clair, 2%. He said this lake distribution if anglers is consistent with previous years.

A total of 272,341 fish were reported caught in all lakes, he said. Lake Michigan accounted for 43% of all fish harvested, while Lake Erie and Lake Huron accounted for 41% and 11% respectively.

The bottom line is that fishing success last year was good and anglers should be experiencing similar success rates this year.

— **Dave Richey**

Reprinted from *The Detroit News*, August 6, 2000.

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in growth in the hatchery could lead to a huge increase in survival for Chinook Salmon."

By using the micro-tags, biologists are able to look at the movement of fish.

"We want to know if we stock in northern Lake Michigan, if those fish are mixing as a full stock and are equally vulnerable to fishermen whether they are fishing at St. Joseph or Manistee," Jonas said.

The idea of using tiny coded wire tags, which are implanted in fish without negative biological effects, was conceived by Dr. K.B. Jefferts, president of Northwest Marine Technology. The method has been used on the West Coast to study Salmon for more than 20 years.

Signs are posted at key fishing ports around the state requesting co-operation in the recovery of snouts from adipose fin-clipped Trout and Salmon. Data collection forms and sample containers also are available at many ports.

Fish heads may also be given to cred. clerks stationed at access sites. Anglers may contact any DNR Field Office to arrange for drop-off.

Anglers who co-operate with the DNR fisheries division by dropping off the heads of such fish are helping the DNR assess the value of various stocking efforts. In return, they will receive a copy of the information contained on the tag. The DNR eventually will incorporate this study into a larger, cost-effectiveness study to determine how well fish are returning relative to the strain, and how much they are improving the fishery.

Keep an eye out for any Trout or Salmon caught in the Great Lakes with clipped adipose fins. It only takes a couple of minutes to participate in this project, and your help will go a long way to helping the DNR assess the Trout and Salmon rearing and stocking program.

— **Chuck Stafford**

Reprinted from *Michigan Outdoor News*, June 30, 2000.

HARBOR BEACH TOURNAMENT

September 9, 2000

PLACE/BOAT & SKIPPER/TOTAL POINTS	PLACE/BOAT & SKIPPER/TOTAL POINTS
1) TOMORROW'S DREAM (Mark Stosiak) 60.07	50) DREDGE (Edward Hill) 0.00
2) AQUARIUS II (Chris Nytko) 51.08	50) F TROOP 0.00
3) STEEL-N-TIME (Scott Zaslong) 27.08	50) IN-SEINE (Mark Bevans) 0.00
4) BOBBY'S TOY (Bob Jones) 25.01	50) JUST ONCE (Bill Nutting) 0.00
5) LIL' SCRATCH (Dick Shirk) 19.08	50) MAIN SQUEEZE (Walt Pohorily) 0.00
6) MICKEY MOUSE CLUB (Bob Buero) 18.00	50) MARY K (Kenneth Kuhar) 0.00
7) LOKI ONE (Dave Roehr) 10.01	50) MOLLY FRAIR (Ron Hartman) 0.00
7) GOLDEN OLDIE (Howard York) ... 10.01	50) ROLLING & TROLLING (D. Schatzberg) 0.00
50) BLUE STAR (Stanley Bilek) 0.00	50) SLOPPY JOE (Joe von Grabe) 0.00
50) CAPT'N HOOK II (Doug Karakas) . 0.00	50) SPODA B (Richard Kittle) 0.00
50) CRUSADER (Mike Vigus) 0.00	50) TRIPPING DIPSY 0.00
	50) TYGER (Ty Voigt) 0.00

14 fish caught: 12 King Salmon, 2 Brown Trout

23 Skippers entered, 8 weighed in fish

BIG FISH POOL

PLACE/SKIPPER & BOAT/SPECIES/WEIGHT

1)..... CHRIS NYTKO (Aquarius II)..... King Salmon 21.02 pounds
2)..... MARK STOSIAK (Tomorrow's Dream) King Salmon 18.06 pounds
3)..... BOB BUERO (Mickey Mouse Club) King Salmon 15.00 pounds

The DEADLINE for the OCTOBER issue of FISHIN' TALES is October 2, 2000

Here's how to get to DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER Monthly 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.

CHICAGO RD.

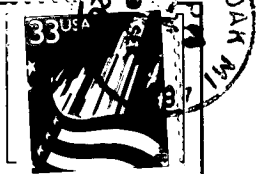
HOOVER

13 MILE

13 MILE

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

Address Correction Requested



MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!