



FISHIN'TALES

VOL. XIII * NO. 3

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MAR. 1999

SAWP MEET – BRING YOUR STUFF!

MARCH MEETING

The next meeting will feature the annual swap meet for members. If you have rods, reels, lures, or other tackle you don't need, turn it into cash at the meeting. If you need something, check out the tables.

The speaker for this meeting will be Jory Jonas, Research Biologist for Steelhead for the State of Michigan. It should be very informative.

SHOWS

The 1999 Silverdome, Palace and Novi shows are history. That means it must be time for me to wake up the old Thompson and get her all dressed up and ready for the water. And I thought getting ready for the shows was a job! Oh well, a man's got to do what a man's got to do, right dear?

I want to thank all of you who volunteered your time and efforts to staffing our club booth this year. By the response we've received and the number of new members who joined at the shows, you all deserve recognition for a job well done.

Obviously, I can't list all the names of those who signed up and worked at the shows. You know who you are and the club appreciates all that you do. I have to thank Chris Nytko, Don Redmond, Bob Mitchell, Mark Stosiak, Tom Moores, Les Jump and Bob Buero for the extra efforts that they put forth to help make things run smoothly. I know I'm missing someone here; please forgive me if I did.

Special thanks to my wife Pat who accompanied me to all the set-ups to

make sure everything went smoothly. She truly is my better half.

Now let's all enjoy a great trolling season. Fish on! Fish on!
Ed wilczek

RIVER CRAB TOURNEY

This year's River Crab Salmon Stakes Tournament takes place on April 24. The River Crab is the second tournament on our club schedule.

The Bluewater Mental Health and Child Guidance Clinic of Port Huron and seven other Michigan agencies benefited from the tournament last year.

Again this year, there is a \$5,000 prize for the club with the heaviest catch. The Board of Directors would like to see all of our club members try to participate in this tournament.

Let's make this tournament the number one tournament on your schedule and help the club win the \$5,000.

Entry tickets and dinner tickets will be available at the member meeting. If you have any further questions regarding the River Crab, contact Chris Nytko (810) 254-7426.

SPRING RAFFLE

The Detroit Steelheaders Board of Directors has announced a Spring Raffle for 1999. The chairman of the raffle is Paul Colone. The grand prize will be a Weber Spirit 500LX Series gas Barbecue.

Features include:

Porcelain-enameled cooking grates clean up easily and resist rust. Two stainless steel burners provide even heating, and Porcelain-on-steel Flavorizer Bars prevent flare-ups. A molded thermoplastic side table and wire bottom storage rack give you room to work.

In addition to the grill, the lucky ticket holder will also receive a bbq apron, hot mitten, cooking utensils and \$100 of steaks to try it out.

Tickets will be \$5 and only 500 will be printed. Tickets are available at from directors at the meetings. The drawing will be at the May 25th general meeting. GOOD LUCK!

APRIL MEETING

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS
The date for the April regular member meeting has been changed. This meeting will take place on
Monday, April 19
At the regular hall. Please make a note of it.

Lake Michigan Fishery Continues to Improve

Michigan's '98 creel survey shows harvest better than last year

During 1998 Lake Michigan anglers enjoyed another great season of salmon and trout angling. Angler effort in-creased by 3% as compared to 1997. A total of 402,376 salmonines were harvested by the charter and non-charter fisheries on Lake Michigan. The catch rate (14.1 fish per 100 angler hours) for all salmonines combined in 1998 was the second best year of the 14 year data series and was just under the 14



Table 1.—Estimated sport catch (numbers of fish) and angler effort (angler hours) for Lake Michigan by lake statistical district, 1985-98.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
All Districts														
Coho salmon	107,312	143,166	138,609	53,898	98,949	46,884	45,712	47,746	57,192	27,834	29,914	42,548	53,734	54,779
Chinook salmon	524,466	621,725	389,004	212,208	153,211	100,697	118,259	53,976	47,013	42,483	67,668	126,563	143,173	152,462
Rainbow trout	44,874	45,269	50,890	56,797	43,854	52,072	89,091	67,264	47,646	47,339	26,713	55,769	43,077	50,944
Brown trout	48,491	75,198	32,655	23,365	21,229	21,504	26,261	13,917	46,972	60,065	33,562	40,870	62,094	27,076
Lake trout	142,869	139,015	150,653	133,875	140,506	88,346	122,608	59,188	78,943	71,664	84,720	65,711	76,210	117,115
Lake whitefish	89,866	53,875	20,011	13,636	13,806	12,102	10,746	4,978	2,480	4,152	4,428	10,490	21,932	5,259
Yellow perch	2,469,082	2,522,414	2,513,968	3,231,257	2,219,007	2,036,886	1,766,935	2,274,196	2,095,641	2,205,910	1,623,598	1,149,650	581,570	432,479
Walleye	18,738	21,682	12,005	25,535	42,029	43,144	50,009	23,374	25,425	32,508	80,323	62,752	30,016	27,690
Angler hours	7,287,374	7,225,934	6,107,138	5,283,032	4,561,708	3,508,880	4,006,828	3,338,151	3,516,048	3,050,176	2,919,397	3,007,129	3,139,959	3,239,159

Table 2.—Estimated catch rates (fish per 100 angler hours) for important Lake Michigan sport species by lake statistical district, 1985-98.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
All Districts														
Coho salmon	1.8	2.3	2.6	1.2	2.8	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.3	1.3	1.5	2.0	2.4	2.4
Chinook salmon	7.2	8.6	6.4	4.0	3.4	2.9	3.0	1.6	1.3	1.4	2.3	4.2	4.6	4.7
Rainbow trout	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.1	2.9	2.5	1.7	1.9	1.2	2.3	1.6	1.9
Brown trout	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.3	2.0	1.1	1.4	2.0	0.8
Lake trout	2.1	2.1	2.6	2.8	3.6	3.2	4.0	2.2	2.8	2.9	3.8	2.8	2.8	4.3
Lake whitefish	19.3	16.1	7.0	5.2	5.5	6.3	4.8	2.6	1.4	2.2	2.3	5.5	7.9	1.7
Yellow perch	37.8	39.5	48.0	68.2	57.2	68.6	49.8	79.1	69.8	85.1	63.0	44.5	21.7	15.7
Walleye	3.6	4.5	4.0	4.6	6.4	5.9	5.3	3.4	3.5	5.3	12.0	10.0	6.6	5.2
Salmonines	12.4	14.7	13.0	9.7	11.3	10.5	12.2	8.8	9.5	9.5	9.9	12.7	13.4	14.1

More lamprey funding in FY 2000 budget

ANN ARBOR, MI - Lamprey control on the Great Lakes will receive a much-needed boost thanks to a \$1 million increase proposed in the feds' fiscal year 2000 budget. The budget, which proposes a U.S. contribution to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission of \$9.353 million, coupled with a proposed increase in funds recommended by a Canadian Parliamentary committee, will allow the commission to meet many of its fishery rehabilitation challenges including sea lamprey control on the St. Marys River and treatment of lamprey producing streams in the Great Lakes.

If approved by Congress, the additional funds will allow the commission to deliver better sea lamprey control and ensure continued control on the St. Marys River.

Great Lakes Angler

Magazine Review: *Great Lakes Angler*
This spring marks the debut of *Great Lakes Angler* magazine, the newest O'Meara-Brown Publications title. In it you'll find the latest Great Lakes fishing news, tips, basin reports, fishery forecasts, product reviews and more.

Great Lakes Angler is the new magazine from the publishers of *Lakeland Boating*. It will help you get the most out of fishing the Lakes by revealing the secrets of the region's master fishermen. You'll find out where the trophy-sized walleye, trout, salmon, muskie, channel cats, yellow perch, and steelhead are biting. What lures are working best. What equipment you will need. And what little-known techniques will help you land 'em every time!

For fast service, call toll free (800) 214-5558. \$14.95 for five issues.

News from the Areas of Concern

Manistique

Manistique Harbor is a Superfund removal site with PCB contaminated sediments. Harbor dredging of PCBs is nearing completion.

Indiana Harbor

The Army Corps of Engineers released the final Environmental Impact Statement for the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal Maintenance Dredging and Disposal Activities. Working with the East Chicago Waterway Management District, the Corps may construct a confined disposal facility to hold up to 4.5 million cubic yards of sediments from the Canal. If the Corps and District adopt the project, CDF construction could begin by 1999 and dredging by 2001.

Menominee

Ansul, a company that produced arsenic based herbicides between 1957 and 1977 has signed a consent order issued by the US EPA which mandates the remediation of arsenic contamination in the Lower Menominee River. Ansul is required to remove all soft sediments from the contaminated area by the end of 1999.

Milwaukee

The North Avenue Dam and Impoundment Restoration project has been completed. A section of the dam was impairing the natural flow of the river and has been removed.

Sheboygan

The Sheboygan River Food Chain Study is nearing completion and will provide information about the presence of PCBs, heavy metals and PAHs in the river.

Kalamazoo River

The Kalamazoo River Area PAC, now the Kalamazoo River Watershed Public Advisory Council, has a board of directors and a part-time staff. The RAP was released to the public. Discussions have been held concerning local options for storm water treatment in the County.

Waukegan Harbor

A feasibility cost-sharing agreement between the Waukegan Port district and the Army Corps of Engineers was agreed upon in August 1998, and a plan for remediating the harbor has been completed.

Green Bay

WDNR completed a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for removing PCBs in the lower Fox River. One project will involve cleaning up the entire river, while two others focus on remediation of specific deposit sites. These projects are intended to be implemented this year. The WDNR is working with various local agencies and the Army Corps to develop a plan for the restoration of island and wetland habitats in the lower Green Bay.

White Lake

White Lake PAC is awaiting information from the MDEQ which is involved in negotiations with the Whitehall Leather Company regarding cleaning up sediment deposits for which the Company is responsible.

Muskegan

The Muskegan PAC recently hosted a conference focusing on options for addressing contaminated sediments. Information was provided about technological opportunities for cleaning up sediments, funding possibilities, and economic benefits associated with sediment remediation.

Status of the Lake Michigan LaMP

Two drafts of the LaMP have previously been published and noticed in the *Federal Register*. The last comment period ended September, 1995.

Comments received are being factored into the next version. It is due for publication summer of 1999, with an internal review draft by Mar. 30, 1999. Maybe.

year high set in 1986 of 14.7 fish per 100 angler hours.

The estimated Chinook catch of 152,000 fish was the greatest harvest since 1989 and was 6% greater than last year's harvest. The numbers of coho (+2%), rainbow trout (+18%) and lake trout (+54%) harvested during 1998 also increased over 1997. The brown trout harvest declined by 56% during 1998 vs. 1997.

The Lake Michigan Chinook fishery has remained strong during the past 3 years, ranging from 4.2 to 4.7 fish per 100 angler hours.

The 1998 yellow perch harvest and catch rate continued to decline and were at the lowest levels of the data series.

The survey was again conducted by Michigan DNR's Jerry Rakoczy from the same nine Lake Michigan index ports: New Buffalo, St. Joseph, Grand Haven, Muskegon, Ludington, Manistee, Frankfort, West Grand Traverse Bay and Charlevoix.



SPECIAL DATES

Member Meetings

Next meeting Feb23

Member Meeting Mar 30

--- Swap table Mar 30

Member Meeting

MONDAY, April 19

BOAT TOURNAMENTS

Lexington April 17

River Crab April 24

Grand Haven May 15

Pt Austin June 5

Special People June 12

Oscoda Ladies Day

June 26

Lake Erie Walleye

July 17

Presque Isle July 31

Ludington August 14

Manistee August 28

Harbor Beach Sept. 11

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FISHIN' TALES STAFF

Editor.....BOB MITCHELL

Photographer.....CHRIS NYTKO

Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.

P.O. Box 1255

Sterling Heights, MI 48311-1255

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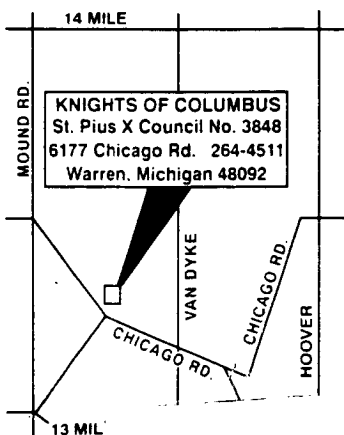
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MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!

Meetings



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Asking \$1,700
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