



FISH TALES



Boat trolling tournaments in full swing!

PRESQUE ISLE (July 31) — Our tournament fleet returns again to beautiful Presque Isle. The marina (84 slips available on a first-come, first-serve basis) offers a gas dock, restaurant, store, and ice cream parlor on site. There is plenty to do and see; pick up a hand-out showing accommodations and attractions.

Last year, the weather was perfect but water temps were not. The 10° break was between 75'-90', which made the fishing tough. Spoons are the main bait to use here, but don't be afraid to try dodger and squid combos. This port produces lots of fish and doesn't have the fishing pressure found at ports such as Grand Haven or Ludington, with their large charter fleets.

The skippers' meeting will be held at 5:00 a.m. at the marina, with fish calls at 9:00 a.m. and noon, and lines pulled at 2:00 p.m. The weigh-in and picnic is set for 3:00 p.m. at the fog horn pavilion. We certainly hope to see more than the 16 boats that showed up last year!

Please note: There are lots of nets in the area (most of them marked), and the hand-out shows an example of how the nets are set up and marked. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask. **GOOD LUCK!**

— Mark Stosiak, "Tomorrow's Dream"

LUDINGTON (August 14) — Those who have fished Ludington in the past know that fishing can be fast and furious. In fact, this is my favorite port. The bag is usually mixed, with big Kings, Cohos, Lakers, Steelhead, Browns, and even Atlantic Salmon making up the catch.

The skippers' meeting will be held at 5:00 a.m. at the Municipal Marina. Start time from the pier heads is set for 6:00 a.m., with fish calls at 9:00 a.m. and noon. We'll pull lines at 2:00 p.m. and head for the 3:30 p.m. weigh-in at Peter Copian Park off Washington St., the same place we've used the past few years.

Ludington veterans know that the fishing can change fast, so you must be prepared with a variety of rigs. One to have ready is the dodger/squid combo. White, yellow, or chrome "0" dodgers are generally the preferred colors. Glow, black or green squid trailing the dodger by about 18 inches are usually the top choices.

Spoons are another top bait. They can be very effective, especially early in the morning, or if the fish are scattered. At Ludington, the

top spoon, year in and year out, is the M & M, a Northport Nailer in chartreuse with green tape. A new favorite is the Dolphin spoon, a Silver Streak available in green and blue versions. Other popular choices are the Kevorkian (dark purple), Monkey Puke (yellow-green), and the Tequila Sunrise (yellow-orange). If Steelhead are present, be sure to run some orange or red spoons in the top 40'. Dipsey Divers can produce bonus fish, often Cohos, Steelhead or Browns. Keep Yellow Birds on board in case you want to try them at first light.

The right depth will be determined by the thermocline. Expect to find it at 80'-100' if the weather has been stable. If there is a north blow, you could find 45 degrees on the surface at The Point! Ludington is known for great structure. The most frequently fished sports are north off the Bath House at the state park or further north to The Point, easily identified by the lighthouse. There are drop-offs and deep holes around The Point. When searching for active fish, don't be afraid to try straight out, or even south off The Project, a pumped storage facility better known for spring fishing.

Watch for the presence of deep currents. Your boat may be moving at 2 knots on the surface, but your lures can be either dead in the water or moving at 4 knots, depending on the presence and direction of a current. You will know if there is a current if you watch your cannonball wires. If they look like they are swayed back more or less than normal, there is probably a current affecting them. Finally, watch out for charter boats towing lead core lines. These can easily be back 400 feet or more. Don't cross behind a charter or you will likely tangle with an angry Captain and lose your stuff, too! See me at the July meeting for more information. Good luck!

— Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"

MANISTEE (August 28) — One of my personal favorite ports on the western side of the state is Manistee. Fishing from this port has much to offer — Steelhead, Brown Trout, Chinook Salmon, Lake Trout, and Coho Salmon.

The waters off Manistee usually will provide some very nice Steelhead action. If you can locate a school, you're in for a real treat. Steelhead are normally found within the top 20 feet of water. If you do find them, full-size planer boards will put the maximum number of lines in the water to help you catch the most fish. Steelhead are the true acrobats of the Great Lakes. I guarantee you'll have some fun!

Big King Salmon are usually abundant in late August here. Try some J-Plugs off your downriggers. Stagger the difference every five feet. Keep your leads short — the J-Plugs really dart around. The third clay bank may produce some nice Coho Salmon. Try stingers here — green tips work well. From there to Gurney Creek, look for some Brown Trout action.

Fish Calls will take place at 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on Channel 72. Keep an eye on your watches to answer your call. If you can't hear them, try to have someone relay for you.

The weigh-in will start at 3:00 p.m. at the K. of C. Pavilion near the middle pier head near the launch ramps. You must be in line by 4:00 p.m. Following the weigh-in, there will be the traditional cookout with something a little different — A FISH FRY (!!) from the crew of Eagle III. Hope to "catch" you in Manistee.

— Paul Schoenrade, "Eagle III"

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
LEON VAN EDEN: (810) 293-1261

Detroit Steelheaders deliver for Special People!

June 12 was the date of our club's annual outing with mentally and physically challenged people from the Monroe Intermediate School District. This year marked the eighteenth renewal for this great event, which provides Special People with a day of fishing on Lake Erie, along with a great cookout, prizes and pictorial mementos of their memorable day.

This year's event was again headquartered at beautiful Toledo Beach Marina, where Mr. Marshall Gill provided all our boats with free launching and dockage for the weekend.

Saturday dawned with a beautiful sunrise, promising warm temperatures for our 22-boat fleet and their Special People on board, and Lake Erie was waiting to deliver the thrills and excitement of catching and landing a fish. There were plenty of fish to be had, and all the participants took home bag of their catch to go with a trophy and gift bag of goodies supplied by a very special group of supporters.

In addition to our appreciation for those supporters, and to our club skippers for donating their time and boats for the event, we owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to Larry Boyer and his assistant, David Graham, for all the work they did in providing a huge tent,



THE DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS delivered fishing and fun at the 1999 annual Special People outing on Lake Erie.

tables, chairs and barbecue grill for the cookout. Incidentally, anyone who didn't attend the Skippers Dinner Saturday night missed an outstanding catered affair by Larry and David. The dinner was delicious, guys.

We now have the memories of this special day with these Special People to put into our memory banks to keep us going for another year, so we can say so long for now... see you next year.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the skippers and crews, the shore helpers, and all the supporters who contributed so much toward making this such a memorable occasion. Thank you all very much!!!!

— Dick Shirk

1999 SPECIAL PEOPLE OUTING SUPPORTERS

- Marshall Gill, Toledo Beach Marina
Host/Event Site
- Gary Owens, A & P/Farmer Jack
Hats
- Jeff Girardi, Saturn Corp.
Water Bottles & YoYo's
- Robert & Larry Boyer, Boyer's Meats
Tent, Tables, Chairs, Grill, Buns, Captain's Dinner
- Hugo Kiefhaber, Hygrade Dist.
Hot Dogs/Sausages
- Ali Miller, Detroit Red Wings
Trading Cards
- Michael McDougall, Arctic Cold Storage
Sweet Rolls
- Gregory Van Trees, American Transport, Inc.
Cup Holders/Hats
- Little Bill, Little Bill's Trophies
Trophies and Plaques
- Anonymous
Ice Cream

For Your Information . . .

BOARD ESTABLISHES MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

The Board of Directors has announced a Photo Contest for 1999 for Detroit Area Steelheaders. One goal is to get a lot of great photos for the Fishin' Tales Annual Issue. The best photo will be picked by the Board of Directors at the December Board meeting, and a prize will be presented to the winner at the Christmas meeting. Please submit your photo contest entries to Fishin' Tales Editor Bob Mitchell or President Ray Banbury. Be sure to pack your camera and plenty of film

for future fishing trips and start shooting!

POWER SQUADRON ANNOUNCES NEW SAFE BOATING CLASSES

The Grosse Pointe Power Squadron has announced a new schedule of Safe Boating classes for power boat, sailboats and personal watercraft operators for the late 1999-early 2000 period. Classes will begin September 13, 1999, January 10, 2000, and March 27, 2000. For more information, please call (313) 885-5005.

Coming Events

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

(Last Tuesday each month at 7:30 p.m. K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren)
JULY 27, 1999 • **AUGUST 31, 1999** • **SEPTEMBER 28, 1999**

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
July 31	PRESQUE ISLE	Mark Stosiak, (810) 777-9833
Aug. 14	LUDINGTON	Bob Mitchell, (248) 828-8034
Aug. 28	MANISTEE	Paul Schoenrade & Ty Voigt, (810) 773-6477
Sept. 12	HARBOR BEACH	Stan Bilek, (248) 828-4159

WANT ADS

FOR SALE - 1978 Sea Ray 24-foot with trailer, LORAN, fish finder, radio, 4 Big Jon electric downriggers, charter-ready, \$5600.00.

Call Ron Huey: (248) 626-4480

FOR SALE - Kraco AM/FM stereo marine radio with cassette player, new in box, \$65.

Call Al: (248) 543-6704

FOR SALE - Need a boat top? See Mary Karakas for a great referral.

Call Mary: (248) 545-1181

Top Ladies Day Tournament Finishers



1st Place: "AQUARIUS II" with Chris, Vickie, Margaret and Jenny Nytko, and Annette Younessi.



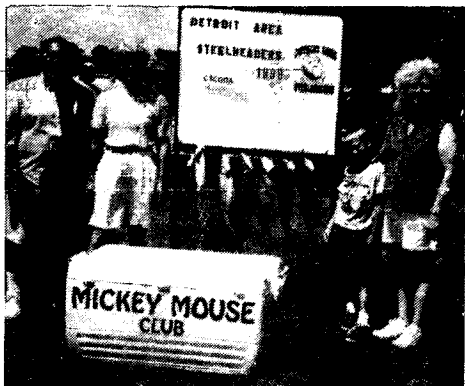
2nd Place: "LIL' SCRATCH" with Dick Shirk, and Ed and Sandy Pabisz.



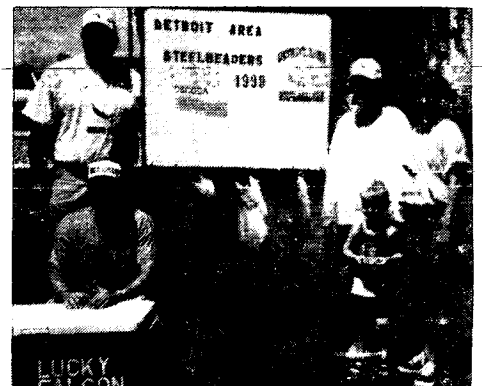
3rd Place: "MARY K" with Ken and Adele Kuhar, and Linda and Scott Oberzanek.



4th Place: "BLUE STAR" with Stan and Halina Bilek, and Jan and JoAnn Piwowarski.



5th Place: "MICKEY MOUSE CLUB" with Bob, Juanita and Nick Buero, and Bob and Cheryl Herman.



7th Place: "LUCKY FALCON" with Robert Golaszewski, Nancy Kowalski, and Janet and Rob Savers.



8th Place: "HAWKEYE" with Larry Walter, Mike Vigus and Danielle Burdo.



9th Place: "MOLLY FRAIR" with Ron Hartman, and Ray, Virginia, Denise, Ronnie and Chelsea Banbury.



A NIGHT CONCERT performed by Detroit Area Steelheaders Doug Karakas and Dick Jackson was a great Ladies Day hit!

The DEADLINE
for the
August issue
of
FISHIN' TALES
is
JULY 27, 1999

Grosse Pointe Power Squadron
presents
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• Fall 1999 - Sept. 13 • Winter 2000 - Jan. 10 • Spring 2000 - March 27
(313) 885-5005

Water flow management changes may aid fishery

For 80 years, water flow in the Manistee River fluctuated dramatically daily, ranging from ten-year floods to drought conditions. The variation was caused by peak-flow management of hydro-power dam operations, a practice which permits periodical release of large amounts of water. Studies have shown that such erratic flows can cause aquatic organisms to alternately become stranded or swept downstream, negatively impacting the fish which rely on them for food.

On the Manistee, relief came in 1989. Peak-flow management was abandoned in favor of run-of-river flow management, a less-disruptive practice. Water flows naturally through the Tippy and Hodenpyl dams under terms specified in new hydro-power licenses. Ten years later, the change is beginning to pay off.

Researchers at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, funded in part by NOAA's Michigan Sea Grant Program, have found that survival of young Chinook Salmon in the Manistee has increased dramatically since the late 1980's, apparently in response to a stable water flow. "Natural reproduction is incredible now," said Sea Grant and University of Michigan fisheries biologist Ed Rutherford. "It's gone from virtually nothing to approximately 700,000 smolts annually."

Still, the switch to run-of-river flows hasn't solved everything. The researchers found that although Steelhead reproduction has also increased, the fish had a lower survival rate than that of young Chinook. Rutherford suspects warm water temperature may be the reason. Steelhead spawn and rear in the tailwaters of dams, he explained, where summer water tem-

peratures may be too warm. Many top-draw dams pull warmer surface water from above the dam, which then flows downstream. Because Steelhead remain in the stream longer than Salmon, Rutherford suspects they may be more affected by warm water temperatures.

The increase in Chinook and Steelhead is crucial information for the project's next phase, to be completed this year. University of Michigan economist Michael Moore and colleagues Michigan State University agricultural economists Frank Lupi and John Hoehn will use a state-of-the-art model of Michigan recreational fishing to translate ecological improvements into dollars and cents economic benefits.

Spending associated with recreational fishing for Salmonids in the Great Lakes is estimated to contribute \$1 billion per year to the economy, according to a Great Lakes Fisheries Commission Special Economic Report. However, estimating the economic benefit of improvements to the sport fishery can be tricky.

Incorporating comprehensive data on costs and benefits can have tangible effects. For example, each hydro-power license contains a series of operating conditions. Specific operational changes such as adding fish ladders or changing to run-of-river flows can be required if potential benefits are recognized and quantified. On the Manistee, new data raise the question of altering top-draw dam operations to bottom-draw to provide Steelhead with cooler water.

A full accounting of economic benefits might provide a basis for recommending operational changes, Moore said. The economic model will balance benefits against costs of run-of-river flows, which are measured in terms of lost hydro-power revenues from the change in flow management. In the future, the economic approach may apply to more than just the Manistee River, as numerous dams in the Great Lakes basin come up for re-licensing. From the **Great Lakes Basin Report**, April 1999.

Charter boat business increases 14% in 1998

Michigan's 483 registered Great Lakes charter boat skippers creel 486,492 fish for 82,253 customers during 18,171 trips in 1998.

Those figures and hundreds more are crammed into a 12-page annual report on charter operations by Great Lakes Creel Census supervisor Jerry Rakoczy and Donna Wesander-Russell. By law, charter skippers must keep a daily log and file monthly reports to the Dept. of Natural Resources (D.N.R.).

According to Rakoczy, detailed charter data allow fisheries managers to track valuable trend information about charter harvest and catch rates, reflecting fish stocks status.

Charter trips overall were up 14% in 1998. Lake Huron posted a 20% increase, Lake Michigan 16%, Lake St. Clair 10%, and Lake Superior 2%. Lake Erie charters were off 3%. Lake Michigan accounted for

68% of trips, Lake Huron 18%, Lake Erie 9%, Lake Superior 3%, and Lake St. Clair 2%. The report notes that licensed skipper numbers are down nearly 400 since 1989.

Perch accounted for 64,300 of the charter catch, Walleyes 54,000, Lake Trout 45,900, Chinook Salmon 39,800, Coho Salmon 17,300, Rainbow Trout 15,100, and Brown Trout 2,600. Fully 51% of the total catch came from Lake Michigan, Lake Erie 33%, and Lake Huron 10%. The number of Lake Trout iced was up 38%, Coho Salmon 41%, while Chinook Salmon was unchanged. Lake Superior, where the charter catch is almost entirely Lake Trout, produced the best catch rate, at 25-28 fish per 100 hours.

For a report copy, write: Fisheries Division, D.N.R., Box 30446, Lansing, 48909. From the **North Woods Call**, May 19, 1999.

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

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

Address Correction Requested

MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!

Stamp: MAY 19 1999

