

FISHIN' TALES

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DNR's Gary Towns to speak on Huron River Steelhead Fishery

DNR biologist Gary Towns to speak at March 25 meeting

Gary Towns is the scheduled speaker for the March 25 membership meeting.

The subject matter is the Huron River near Flat Rock and the new ladder that will allow steelhead to pass by the dam.

That ladder will open miles of river to a new steelhead fishery. Be there to find out the details.

We expect to have new hats (\$8) and shirts (\$10) available at the meeting.

Finally, President Don Redmond has set aside time to have a swap period at the March and April meeting. Bring any good equipment or lures to sell. If you are looking for a bargain, check it out!

BANBURY DEMANDS RECOUNT OF VOTE!

In an unprecedented move, Ray Banbury demanded a recount of the vote of the Board of Directors. The initial vote count had suggested that Tom Moores had edged out Banbury for the position of DAS Vice President. According to the by laws of the Chapter, President Don Redmond dug up the secret Mayanise jar containing the official ballots at exactly midnight under a full moon.

Under the close supervision of the Law Firm of Smith, Smith and Coho, the ballots were carefully recounted. At approximately 3:23 am, President Don

declared Ray Banbury the official winner and new VP.

(OK!, OK! So, I screwed up! Give me a break. My appologies to both guys. Ed.)

LAS VEGAS NIGHT

Be sure to mark March 22 on your calendar. This is the date for the 1997 Detroit Area Steelheaders Vegas party. Mary Karakas is still looking for more help from memebers. If you can help, call her at (810) 545-1181.

that counts in our schedule towards determining "Skipper of the Year" award. It is also a tournament where we as a club will be competing for the 1st prize of \$5,000 for the most total weight. It is very important to our annual budget that we add this money to our treasury. Many of our club functions and our ability to make more contributions to worthy causes are directly affected by winning this prize.

The Blue Water Clinic, Blue Water sport fishing Assoc. and the C. A. Muer Corporation (River Crab Restaurant) co-sponsors donate proceeds to the Blue Waters Clinic's McKinnon Family Center and other child abuse/neglect programs throughout Michigan.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders will also have a special drawing at our May membership meeting. If the club wins the \$5,000 we will draw (5) \$100 prizes from a list of boats who weighed in at least one fish in the tournament. We will draw (1) \$100 prize if we don't win the club prize.

Therefore, a single small fish could mean the difference between you winning a \$100 or not.

All fish must be 18 inches to count (Overall length, not just 18" to the fork) Please weight in any 18" fish you catch. Lake trout will not be eligible as lake trout season will not

APRIL MEMBER MEETING CHANGED TO APRIL 22.
The April regular meeting has been moved up one week so we can have a meeting prior to the River Crab. Don't forget to let your Steelheader Buddles know!

RIVER CRAB TOURNEY

REMINDER, DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS; the Chuck Muer River Crab Salmon Stakes is coming on April 26.

This is a Boat Trolling Tournament

yet be open.

BE SURE TO GET YOUR NEW FISHING LICENSE!

Prizes this year will be \$250 awarded for each category of King, Coho, Steelhead, Brown Trout and Super Skipper. You must be pre-registered to win one of these prizes.

A \$10 ticket includes your individual entry fee, a raffle ticket where the grand prize is a trip for four to Disney World. (5 days and 4 nights for 2 adults and 2 children) First prize is a trip for two to Napa Valley, California Winery (3 days and two nights for two adults.) There are three other great prizes, too. Dinner tickets are available for an additional \$13 per person.

So, benefit the charities, and give our club a chance at the \$5,000 club prize. Sign up at the March 26 membership meeting, the April 23rd membership meeting. (The April meeting will be the last chance to sign up)... or call Chris Nytko at (810) 254-7426 for information on mail in entries.

RIVER CRAB STRATEGY

The 1997 River Crab is upon us and the Detroit Area Steelheaders will be out in force on April 26, to battle the Blue Water Sportfishermen's Association for the bragging rights and the \$5,000.00 first place prize.

The key elements for success will depend on the weather the few days before the tournament. The most important aspect will be the bait fish; which is mostly the smelt. Look for reports of smelt running and you will know where to key your efforts. Keep your options open and be flexible as to where you launch. A cold and wet Spring will help keep the fish in the Southern portions of the lake. If the

weather gets warm, be ready to move as the past history has shown the fish will move North and East to deeper water in a hurry. If you stick around too long in one place, you will have a light cooler.

It is IMPORTANT that you try to get the latest reports you can leading up to the tournament. Past River Crab winners and top finishers have been successful from Camp Cavell (TDS 308328 - 495512) up to Port Sanilac. Other excellent areas have been straight off Lexington or Lakeport. Look for places where small creeks dump into Lake Huron.

Running the usual Spring programs will still be a good way to start your search on tournament morning. Start in close to shore; 40 ft or less and fish in the top 20 feet. Don't be afraid to run the planer boards or yellow birds up tight to shore. Try to find the warmest water you can or a color/mud line.

The standard body baits, such as the Bomber or Rapala in the popular colors is a good pattern to start with. Those successful the past two years have also used 12-14 lb test line.

Listen to the radio. Help each other out. We need a club win!

HOOK SHARPENING

LEARN QUICK, PROVEN TECHNIQUES TO KEEP YOUR HOOKS RAZOR SHARP!

(from Luhr Jensen)

No matter what your skill level is, beginner, intermediate or advanced tournament angler, ultimately your final connection to a fish is by a hook. The hook is what brings a striking fish into the boat and this fact makes sharp hook knowledge one of the most important considerations you can make every time you cast or troll. Sharp hooks are extremely important on lures

like crankbaits and topwaters where impact force between the mouth of the fish and the lure hooks is very low. On crankbaits and topwaters, a fish may inhale them when they have zero forward speed, are floating upwards, traveling slowly forward, or are at great depths on light line. This means low impact to drive the points home and crankbait strikes are totally unlike worms or jig and pork combos where the angler can use a stiff rod to generate high rod tip speed on heavier line to slam a hook point past the barb.

POINTERS ABOUT HOOK POINTS

In the 1990s, hook manufacturers, both U.S. and foreign, have finally addressed the need for sharper hook point designs and there are a number of specialty hooks on the market. Here are some of the hook points designs and comments about them.

TRADITIONAL CUTTING EDGE WITH INSIDE BARB

(Most common and readily available design) Excellent design, but usually needs a touch-up with a file. This point style can be made lethally sharp only with a file and contains large "burrs" around the barb which reduce penetration, or very high barbs that need trimming. The big advantage is that this style of hook can be purchased economically and is available with the ideal short-shank, wide-gap treble hook configuration.

TRADITIONAL CUTTING EDGE WITH CONICAL MECHANICAL SHARPENING -"CONE CUT"

Sharper at point but the traditional point can match it with a just couple of file strokes. More expensive to achieve.

CONICAL POINT WITH FLAT, WEDGE BLADE

A good hook for plastic worms. Resists bending on impact and is easily sharpened. Relies on high rod tip speed to penetrate. Not available for crankbaits.

CONICAL POINT WITH TRANSITION TO WEDGE SIDES", THE ICE PICK

STYLE"

Good worm hook for big fish. Does not bend easily and is easy to touch up. Poor on crankbaits.

TURNED-IN BARB & POINT - TRADITIONAL CUTTING EDGE AND ANGLED THROAT AREA TO HOLD FISH

Good angle of penetration but will need standard sharp point and small barb to be efficient. More expensive. Good on crankbaits.

note: Forging alters metal grain but achieves more tensile strength in hook metal.

MULTIPLE BARBS

Unnecessary on crankbait hooks. Harder to penetrate and more damage to released fish.

"BEAKED" OR CURVED POINTS

Usable but inefficient on a crankbait. Hard to sharpen and often collapses on impact. Poorest of all crankbait hooks!

MULTIPLE CUTTING EDGE - "OWNER" STYLE"

Good on worm- and jig-style hooks. Also available on trebles. Uses ideas on cutting edges from items such as surgical needles which require low pressure to penetrate. Expensive on a per-hook basis.

WHAT REALLY COUNTS ON HOOKS?

Invariably, and ultimately, it is point and barb design that penetrate the fish's mouth parts and hold it. Regardless of shank, gap and throat style, you will need a sharp point, any available cutting edges and a de-burred barb. Following are some problem areas to keep alert for!

RECEDING POINT LENGTH

A great part of successful hook point design comes from the correct length of the point to barb area. If this tapered wedge becomes too short, it will be difficult to get good penetration. Look out for short, poorly-formed points struck in factory dies. These are hard

to sharpen and do not penetrate well. Replace individual hooks with this defect. Over-sharpening also causes this condition.

BENT POINT

A bent point will cause immediate fish losses and your first sign of trouble is a fish that jumps and throws the lure. This is most common on worm and crankbait hooks and needs immediate correction. The causes of bent points are, in order of occurrence probability: over-sharpened "hair thin" points, poor point design, impact with hard mouth bones of fish and shake-off from snags, especially rocks. Bent points can be instantly detected by sliding fingertips from area outside barb down to the point. Correct immediately with a file or replace lure or hook if fishing time allows the delay. You may also set the lure aside to replace the hook at home.

"BURRS" ON BARB

A high, prominent barb with a burr elevated by the forming dies can easily stop penetration past the barb. This area is quickly reduced and sharpened using a Luhr Jensen #9130 Sharp Hook File.

WHAT ABOUT TESTS FOR HOOK SHARPNESS?

Only a file can put cutting edges and angles on a hook. "Finger nail" penetration tests are meaningless on a crankbait-style hook. Fish do not have "fingernails" and all you want to do is cut your way in and through the skin, cartilage or gristle over bony areas.

WILL A CUTTING-EDGE POINT CUT ITS WAY OUT AGAIN?

There is little evidence of this, especially when the hook penetrates past the barb. On crankbaits you must play fish according to the fact you can loop around a bone with the hook gap and bend, but rarely penetrate, bone. You will be attached to fish only by skin and cartilage areas, so play them accordingly.

DO I NEED SPECIALTY HOOKS ON

MY CRANKBAITS?

You will seldom need expensive and hard to find specialty hooks if you learn to sharpen your standard straight-point, round-bend V.M.C. 9650 hooks! Most specialty hooks offer a sharp point that will soon need sharpening after impact and their point sharpness can easily be matched by the sharpening sequences shown here. A case for stronger hooks or one size larger hooks exists if you must stop large fish from making a run in timber or brush. In this case, forged gap or 3X strength-rated hooks can help. Teflon"-coated hooks have quick penetration as long as they have a good point design, but their effectiveness is reduced as soon as they need sharpening and expense is still a factor.

HOW DO I SHARPEN SPECIALTY HOOKS?

Just follow the blade cutting edges and point angles already on the hook and restore them with a file.

LUHR JENSEN #9130 SHARP HOOK FILE

Available in 4 1/4" and 5 1/2" lengths. Remember, a file only cuts on the forward stroke! Store them in a WD-40-soaked plastic filesaver pouch right near you in the boat as you fish. That way you can quickly touch-up hooks as needed in seconds. Luhr Jensen was the first to offer this great file and only a file will form the desired cutting edges. Use the 4 1/4" model for hooks up to size 4 and the 5 1/2" file for those larger than size 4.

With practice, you can get a hook as sharp as many specialty hooks or even do a more refined "tournament-style" sharpening that is lethal on crankbaits. Remember, sharp hooks are dangerous, so to avoid injury, treat thrashing fish with great caution and handle all lures with care. Luhr Jensen, P.O. Box 297, Hood River, OR 97031,

SPECIAL DATES

Member Meeting Mar 25

Vegas Party Mar 22

BOAT TOURNAMENTS

River Crab April 26

St Joe May 3

Port Sanilac May 17

Pt Austin June 7

Special People June 14

Oscoda

Ladies Day June 28

Erieau Walleye July TBA

Ludington August 2

Manistee August 23

Harbor Beach Sept. 6

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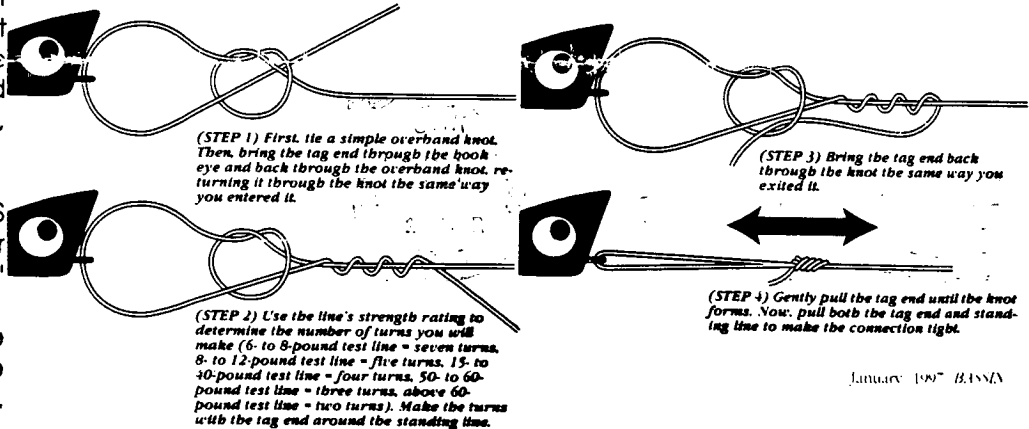
K. L. COOL

Those of you who missed DNR head K.L. Cool and John Robertson at the February meeting missed a great talk.

John Robertson started with a presentation summarizing the substantial data the DNR has accumulated on salmon and trout over the past few years. John showed numerous graphs of data that suggest that the problems of recent years are more complicated than ever thought. On the plus side, the data also suggest that the future looks brighter; not back to 1980's levels but definitely on the upswing.

But, it was K.L. Cool that really mesmerized the audience. His straight forward manner was a fresh change from the double talk of the past. Even members know to be openly critical of the DNR in the past were very vocal in their enthusiasm and support for our new director. Cool invited everyone to attend one of the open meetings that the DNR will be conducting. Contact their office for times and places.

Tying A Non-Slip Mono-Loop Knot



January 1987 BASSNA

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Address Correction Requested



MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!