



# FISHING TALES



## If it's June, this must be Port Austin!

The weekend of June 1-2 will find the Detroit Area Steelheaders fishing out of Port Austin. If you have never fished at Port Austin before, follow the green cans out past the lighthouse before heading east. The lighthouse marks a very shallow reef that extends all the way to shore.

Lake Trout will probably be the prime catch. Northeast of the lighthouse (about 5-7 miles) in 75'-100' of water, bouncing bottom or running close to it will get you some good Lakers. Good baits include P-Nuts, Spin-N-Glo's, or Wobble Glo's with cowbells or chrome Dodgers. Anything in green or chartreuse should produce. The key to success with Lakers is a S - L - O - W presentation. If you're going to bounce the bottom, consider using break-off weights to save your cannon-

balls and downriggers.

Dodger/squid-spoon setups run 5'-10' off the bottom should get some Kings. Also, 'clean' spoons in "black and anything" set 25'-50' down are good for a variety of fish, mostly Kings but also suspended Lake Trout and an occasional Steelhead.

We will have Team Doubles on Sunday for skippers staying over. Team assignments will be made at the weigh-in Saturday afternoon in the picnic area on the hill. Be certain that you're in line by 3:00 p.m. Everyone has a good time eating hot dogs, having a few beers, and swapping a few lies, so plan to be there.

Some of you may know that I was elected to the Board of Directors last December. If you want to shoot the breeze about fishing, or anything else, come by the boat (I'm on "Molly

Frair") and we'll gas. If you want to spread some gossip, as my grandmother used to say to me, "If you don't have anything good to say about someone, let me hear it!"

And if you're really steamed at the Board of Directors and you'd like to vent your spleen at somebody because of something we on the Board did, well... Doug Karakas' boat is the "Capt. Hook"...! Good luck to everybody, and we'll see you on the water.

- Ray Banbury, "Molly Frair"  
Port Austin Port Captain  
(810) 542-8007 (residence)

## Special People Outing Set for June 15

This year's Special People event will be held on June 15 on Lake Erie, with club members taking some very special people out for a day of walleye catching. Activities will take place at Toledo Beach Marina, and as in past years, the marina management has agreed to support our efforts by furnishing the use of their facilities for our picnic and boat dockage.

This outing has indeed become a very special day in the lives of these individuals from the Monroe County schools, thanks to the efforts of club Skippers who have participated in the past. Last year, we provided excitement for approximately 30 people, and we expect at least that many this year, so we will need at least 25-30 boats.

The number of boat slips is limited, and will be available first come, first served on Friday evening. Crew assignments will be made Saturday at 7:30 a.m. at the marina bath house, with the picnic and awards presentation beginning there around the noon hour.

If you can help, either as a skipper, crew member, or shore help, please see me, or Paul Nowak, at the May meeting, or call us.

If you've never participated in this event before, you've missed one of the greatest joys of the year, especially when one of the little ones comes up to you at the end of the day, gives you a big hug and thanks you for a Special Day in their life. Be there this year!

- Dick Shirk: (810) 777-8900 (days)  
(810) 749-9493 (eve.)

- Paul Nowak: (810) 294-3842 (eve.)

## Bluewater buries DAS

On Saturday, April 27, the Bluewater Sportfishing Association (BWSFA) defeated the Detroit Area Steelheaders (DAS) at the Chuck Muer River Crab Salmon Stakes charity tournament for the third consecutive year.

The BWSFA weighed in a total of 789.85 pounds to best the DAS's total catch of 549.88 pounds. Bluewater had 43 out of 78 boats weighing in fish, compared to Detroit's 33 of 51 boats with a catch to bring to the scales.

This year, the River Crab charity tournament raised more than \$101,000 to benefit the Bluewater Mental Health Clinic and other similar clinics across the state, and these charities were the real winners of this event!

Steve Hamilton ("Valhalla") took top honors for the club with a total catch weight of 42.22 pounds, followed by Paul Nowak ("Nothing But Fun") in second with 40.14 pounds, and Mike Wakulski ("Wet Paint") with 38.28 pounds finishing third.

Top individual fishermen in the tournament this year were Dennis Dodson (BWSFA) with an 18.45-pound King, Ron Cutler (BWSFA) with an 8.3-pound Steel-

head, Warren Renando (DAS) with a 3.46-pound Coho, and Lynn Martin (DAS) with a 10.88 Brown Trout. Jim Slaczka (BWSFA) took top Skipper honors with 62.45 pounds weighed in. Congratulations to all!

As the DAS did not win the \$5,000 club prize, there will be a drawing at the May membership meeting for one \$100 prize. All boats that weighed in fish will qualify for this drawing.

I wish to thank all the DAS club members who participated in this event and hope to see all of you at our other tournaments throughout the summer.

- Don Redmond

Tournament Chairman

### RIVER CRAB SALMON STAKES

#### Top Ten Boats

- 1) Steve Hamilton (Valhalla) ..... 42.22
- 2) Paul Nowak (Nothing But Fun) .... 40.14
- 3) Mike Wakulski (Wet Paint) ..... 38.28
- 4) Dick Shirk ("Lil" Scratch) ..... 28.72
- 4) Chris Nytko (Aquarius II) ..... 28.72
- 6) Bob Herman (Nomad) ..... 28.24
- 7) Tom Moores (Kare Free) ..... 27.98
- 8) Warren Renando (Wrangler) ..... 24.06
- 9) Ed Wilczek (Steeler Ed) ..... 22.44
- 10) Don Redmond (Trena Dawn) ..... 21.20

# Lake Trout fishing tips

June tournaments will likely focus on Lake Trout. That being the case, skippers will want to be ready to target these fish.

First, let's review some of the aspects of Lake Trout fishing that are the same wherever you fish. Lake Trout fishing generally features SLOW trolling. There's an old joke that goes like this: "You pull along side a boat that is catching fish, and then you go half that speed!" In reality, a trolling speed of 1.2 to 1.6 knots should be about right. You may need to use a sea anchor or a couple of buckets dragged along side to slow your boat down to these speeds, but whatever you do, you must find a way to slow down. Lakers, especially big Lakers like slow lures.

Given the time of year involved, the Lakers will probably be in about 80'-90' of water, where the temperature should be 48° F-52° F. Most will be right on the bottom. The best Laker fishing is usually near a drop-off or other structure. Regardless, the fleet will key you in to where the best fishing is. Ideally, look for a place where 48° F and the bottom are the same depth. Lakers generally don't move the way Cohos do. If they were in a spot yesterday, they will likely still be there today.

"Junk" is the choice for terminal tackle. Most skippers will run Dodgers or cowbells for Lakers. Chrome, white and chartreuse Dodgers and chrome cowbells are the standard fare. Cowbells come in a variety of shapes. Big J & N blades or willow blades are good choices. Behind the Dodgers and cowbells, skippers will be running a number of different lures: P-Nuts, Wobble-Glo's Spin-N-Glo's, and squids. Colors can vary, but try green, metallic green, white, chartreuse, pink, and purple.

Some lakers will come on "clean" spoons, especially if they are run along side "junk." Test your spoons to see which ones run well at the preferred slow trolling speeds. Silver Streaks, for one, are a good choice. The Lakers will tell you which color to run, but be prepared with green, black, silver, and white. Stackers and sliders can be used, except with cowbells, which will cut them off once they slide down to the main lures.

While trolling, try not to make sharp turns, or you will tangle your lines. Do try to troll in an "S" pattern. If the waves are up, don't try to troll into the waves. Troll through the area you want, and then pick everything up and run back to the start. It's better to do this and ensure that your baits are running right than to troll for an hour with tangled baits.

## PORT AUSTIN LAKE TROUT

Lake Trout fishing at Port Austin can be very different from that at other ports. While the basic fish is the same, differences in bottom structure result in the need for different techniques. Port Austin is essentially a rocky reef that loves to eat cannonballs and lures. Other ports have sand or mud bottoms, so you can actually drag baits along them.

At Port Austin, many boats will fish the reef off Grindstone City about 6 miles east of the lighthouse. There is good Laker fishing all along the coast. You will want to run your lures very tight to the 'balls, to keep them out of the rocks. Have someone standing near each downrigger ready to raise the cannonball if it touches the bottom. Otherwise, you WILL lose one. Even with this precaution, you may still lose one - the Reef is hungry!

- Bob Mitchell  
"Kemo"

## Tempotech owner skips, eludes federal authorities

The owner of a West Michigan fish processing company convicted of selling toxic Salmon eggs as clean Lake Michigan caviar has slipped through the law enforcement net. Authorities say that Robert Gehl has fled the country as he was about to begin serving a seven-year prison term.

Gehl, owner of the Hart, Michigan-based Tempotech Industries, Inc. had been ordered to report on January 26 to federal marshals to begin serving a 7.2-year federal prison sentence. But he failed to report and is now considered to be a fugitive.

A warrant for Gehl's arrest was issued the next day, after federal officials received information that Gehl - who owns homes in Hart and Long Boat Key, Florida - was reported to be in Costa Rica. Speculation is that he was able to hide at least \$1,000,000 overseas.

Gehl and Tempotech general manager George Jackson were convicted in 1994 of selling more than 1,000,000 pounds of chemical-laden Salmon eggs from Lake Ontario as clean Lake Michigan caviar.

Gehl was ordered to serve 7.2 years in prison and pay a \$2,900,000 fine. Jackson was ordered to serve 5.8 years in prison.

Gehl's \$250,000 bond was ordered forfeited, and Tempotech's assets were frozen by federal court order. His 7.2-year prison term is automatically extended to 12.2 years for failing to voluntarily show up to begin his term.

From **Great Lakes Basin Report**, April 15, 1996.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

### Erieau, Ontario trip is set for July 20

To give club members who are planning to participate in the Erieau, Ontario, Canada outing an early opportunity to reserve a boat slip and place to stay, here are some telephone numbers:

Boat Slips - (519) 676-4471

Johnston Motel - (519) 676-2101

Roberts Cabins - (519) 676-2238

Molly & OJ's Motel - (519) 676-8812

An information packet about Erieau will be available at the May meeting. July gets booked real early there, so don't delay!

- Dick Shirk, "Lil" Scratch

# Coming Events

## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

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

**MAY 28, 1996**

**JUNE 25, 1996**

**JULY 30, 1996**

## BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Date	Event	Contact
June 1-2	PORT AUSTIN	Ray Banbury, (810) 542-8007
June 15	SPECIAL PEOPLE OUTING (Lake Erie)	To Be Announced
June 29	OSCODA (Ladies Day)	Ken Kuhar, (810) 949-4365
July 20	ERIEAU, ONTARIO (Walleye Outing)	Dick Shirk, (810) 749-9493 & Steve Hamilton (313) 881-3871
August 3	LUDINGTON	Bob Mitchell, (810) 828-8034
August 24	MANISTEE	Daniel Dima, (313) 996-2503
September 7	HARBOR BEACH II	Dave Roehr, (810) 547-6083

# Reproductive failure in Salmon linked to alewife forage base

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Researchers at Cornell University have obtained information that confirms the link between Early Mortality Syndrome – also called the “Cayuga” syndrome – in landlocked Atlantic Salmon and the presence of an alewife forage base.

Both alewife and smelt are known to contain high concentrations of the enzyme thiaminase, which is thought to destroy thiamin in adult fish. Adult fish from Otsego Lake, Cayuga Lake and Green Pond, which have either an alewife or smelt forage base, do not reproduce successfully or reproduce with limited success. Little Clear Pond, on the other hand, does not have an alewife forage base, but does have adult Atlantic Salmon that are capable of reproduction. Eggs taken from Little Clear Pond fish which successfully reproduce contain thiamin at much higher concentrations than eggs from sources experiencing reproductive failure.

The results are consistent with the hypothesis that Early Mortality Syndrome results from a thiamin deficiency. Eggs and fry from nutritionally deficient populations also had excellent survival when exposed to bath treatments of a thiamin solution.

New York Sea Grant states this work serves as an excellent base line for fish and game agencies to use thiamin baths as a treatment for Early Mortality Syndrome on impacted populations of fish. Eggs are easily dipped in thiamin solutions with excellent results, and this procedure could easily be incorporated into standard Salmon egg handling practices at hatcheries.

From **Great Lakes Basin Report**, 4/15/96.

## Lake Trout restoration in Lake Superior is a major victory

A major victory in efforts to restore Lake Trout in Lake Superior was declared during a recent meeting of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Superior Committee in Duluth, Minnesota.

The Committee – comprised of fishery managers from the three Great Lakes states which border Lake Superior, the Province of Ontario, Canada, and U.S. tribes represented by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) and the Chippewa-Ottawa Treaty Fishery Management Authority (COTFMA) – agreed that Lake Trout stocking programs, along with a co-ordinated effort of sea lamprey control, limits on sport and commercial fishing, and water quality protection and enhancements, has allowed Lake Trout to again become self-sustaining in certain areas of Lake Superior. As a result, stocking is being put on hold in some areas to foster self-sustainable populations.

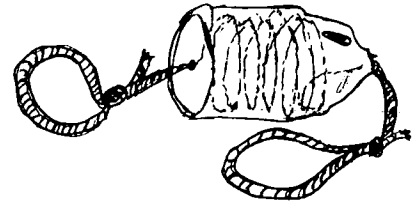
With the return of self-sustainable Lake Trout populations, state, federal, provincial and tribal management authorities have formally decided to eliminate stocking of federally-reared Lake Trout in areas of Lake Superior extending from the Apostle Islands in Wisconsin eastward to Grand Marais, Michigan. Similarly, a number of areas in Ontario waters have shown improvements in Lake Trout populations to the extent that stocking has been reduced to about one-third of what it was in the 1980's.

## No-tangle throw rope: It could save a life!

A long rope can save the life of someone who has fallen overboard and is struggling. But it can take too long to untangle a rope lying in a heap in the bottom of a boat.

Here's a system of rigging a long throw rope so it can be thrown immediately and accurately. It's handy for boating accidents, and ice-fishing mishaps as well.

Punch a 3/8" hole in the bottom of a 1-gallon plastic jug. Thread 50 feet of 3/8" polyethylene tow rope through the hole and out the top opening. Tie a loop in each end of the rope, pull one knot snug against the outside bottom of the jug, and feed the rest of the rope into the mouth of the bottle.



You can toss this rig to a victim by holding the loop at the mouth of the jug, grabbing the jug by its handle, and throwing it underhand. The rope peels out smoothly from the mouth of the jug as it sails through the air. The victim can hold on to the loop at the bottom end of the jug. Both jug and line will float. It's simple, cheap and effective – add it to your gear! From **Fishing Tips & Tricks, Hunting & Fishing Library**, 1996.



**WARREN RENANDO** proudly displays the award he won for catching the largest Coho Salmon at this year's River Crab Salmon Stakes.

## WANT ADS:

FOR SALE – 1983 14' Mirro-Craft aluminum boat/Shorelander trailer/accessories, \$600.00. Call **Tim Graskewicz**: (810) 486-5674 (home) (313) 845-0183 (work)

**The DEADLINE for the June Issue of FISHIN' TALES is May 28, 1996**

## 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 1995 season. Contact:

**LARRY BOYER: (313) 495-1342**  
**DOUG KARAKAS: (810) 545-1181**  
**LEON VAN EDEN: (810) 293-1261**

# Record Brook Trout is taken from tiny UP lake

The first reactions when experienced fishermen see a picture of Michigan's new record Brook Trout runs along these lines:

"A monster!"

"Awesome!"

"It's got a gut as big as a Lake Trout!"

"It's Huge!"

And, finally (and most frequently):

"Aww, Bull, that ain't no @#!?%&!"

Brook Trout!"

Dennis Nevins of Ontonagon caught the 9-pound, 8-ounce, 28.1-inch Brook Trout pictured below at around 1:10 p.m. on March 17, 1996 while ice fishing with a minnow in Houghton County's 25-acre Clear Lake, located about three miles south of Twin Lakes State Park.

The former Michigan record Brook Trout weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces, and was caught in Bay de Noc on February 25, 1991 by Leon Dube of Escanaba. Dube was ice fishing for perch at the time.

Biologists Ray Juetten and Barry Miller keyed out Nevin's trophy, and were able to

confirm that it was, indeed, a Brook Trout and not a hybrid Splake, as some thought. Juetten reports that it had 50 pyloric caeca, a square tail with a convex edge, and no teeth on the vomer shaft.

When asked why what may be the largest Brook Trout to ever live in Michigan came from little Clear Lake, Juetten instantly purred, "It's the manager!" Juetten is the Baraga District fish chief for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), whose area includes Clear Lake.

He also speculated that the next record Brook Trout—an even bigger fish!—may well come from Red Boot Lake, located in Gogebic County, or Courtney Lakes, located in Ontonagon County.

Brook Trout weighing up to 6 pounds had previously been caught in Clear Lake, according to Juetten.

Clear Lake was chemically treated to remove competing fish back in 1976. Following that, Rainbow Trout were planted until 1981, when Juetten decided to shift the plantings to

Brook Trout.

According to Juetten, the key to growing big Trout in the lakes is to create conditions with plenty of forage, and then to plant only a few fish.

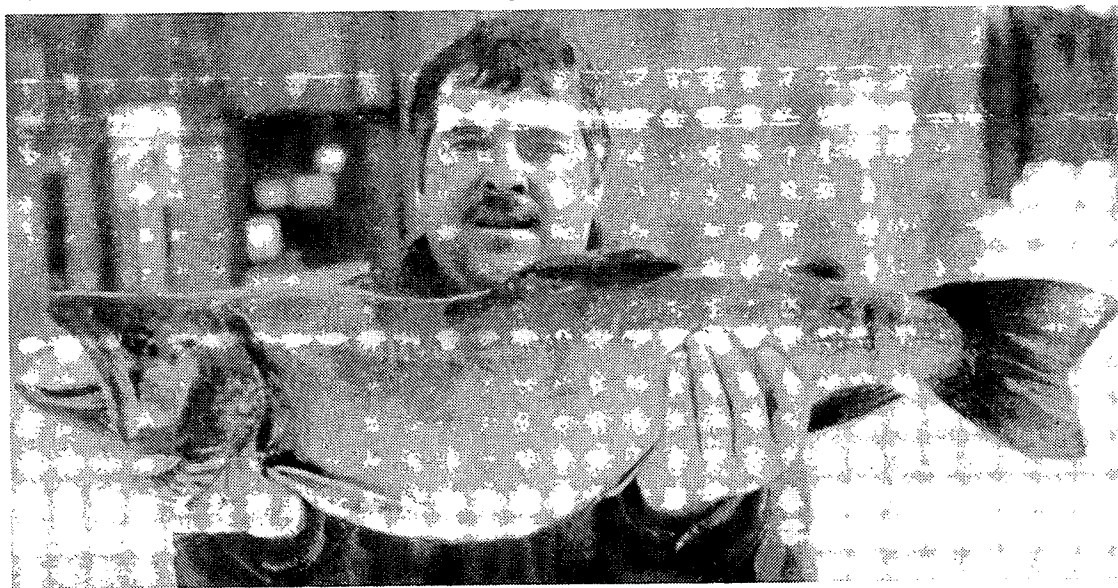
The history of Nevin's record-breaking fish is even more complex, and interesting. The brute was a domestic strain of Brook Trout from Maine that had originally been reared for brood stock at the Marquette hatchery. This male Brookie proved to be sterile, and thus of no use to the hatchery. It weighed 4 pounds when it was planted in Clear Lake in 1993, at two years of age.

Sterile male fish will actually grow faster than other fish, because none of their energy goes into producing sex products, biologists explain.

The all-time world record Brook Trout, a monster weighing 14 pounds, 8 ounces, was caught in the Nipigon River in Ontario, on the north shore of Lake Superior.

Reprinted from the **North Woods Call**, April 10, 1996.

**This  
IS  
a  
Brook  
Trout:  
9 pounds,  
8 ounces!**



## PLANTINGS NEWS

**Chinook Salmon Plantings** – The Southwest Michigan Steelheaders again received Chinook Salmon for a spring net pen project. The St. Joseph River received 350,000 Chinook this spring, with between 100,000 and 200,000 fish were raised by the Southwest Steelheaders in their net pens.

**Lake Trout Plantings** – The southern basin of Lake Michigan will receive Lake Trout plantings on an every-other-year basis beginning in 1996. The fish will be planted off New Buffalo, Bridgman and St. Joseph, a change from past years, when all Lake Trout were planted on offshore reefs.

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

*Address Correction Requested*



**MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!**



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