

FISHING TALES



“Trena Dawn” locks Ludington with 26.07 King!

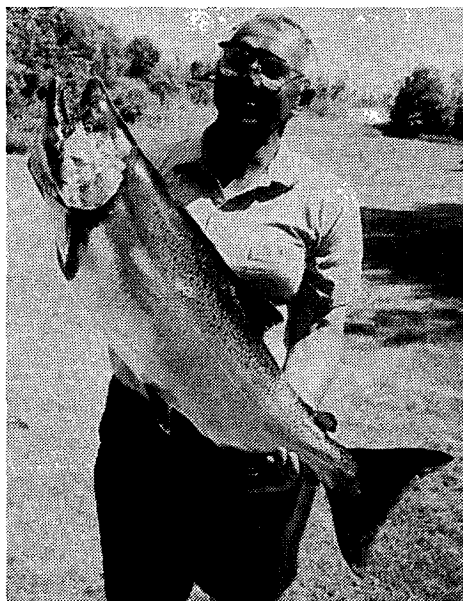
The Ludington tournament for 1996 was a great one . . . Great weather . . . Great turnout . . . Great fishing!

A total of 24 boats left the pier heads on Saturday, August 3. The dawn brought a flurry of action reminiscent of “the good ole days.” Many boats reported having six to eight fish or during the first hour of fishing. The action seemed to center on two locations: either straight out in 75' to 100' of water, or on the shelf at the Point.

It was also evident that there were many different kinds of fish present, including Browns, Lakers, Steelhead, Cohos, and Kings. In fact, the “Harmony” crew came within a coho of achieving a Great Lakes Slam!

The presence of berserk Steelhead and Coho also meant that hookups were a problem, with many boats reporting ‘one for five’ or ‘one for seven’ hookup action. On the other hand, you also heard a lot of “Wow!’s” and other exclamations and expletives.

The first Fish Call showed that most boats had caught fish, with the top boats reporting five or six fish in the box. Spoons 30' to 35' down were the source of most of the action. Green spoons, black spoons, or some combi-



JOEL GARINGER shows off a beautiful 26-pound, 7-ounce King he caught fishing aboard the first-place “Trena Dawn.”

nation with orange seemed to dominate the reports. Dipsey Divers also seemed to be working well set 75' to 100' back.

At the noon Fish Call, it was evident that several boats would have their eight fish at the weigh-in. It would be another ‘big fish shoot-out,’ with “Trena Dawn,” “Lil’ Scratch,” and “Half R’s” all reporting good catches.

At the weigh-in, “Trena Dawn” went first and set the bar pretty high. Don Redmond’s crew also showed that big fish were, indeed, in the Lake, bringing a monster 26.07 King to the scale. The brute came late in the morning on a Dipsey Diver rod cranked in by Joel Garinger, long-time former *Fishin’ Tales* editor.

When the line of coolers had been weighed in, no one was able to top “Trena Dawn,” either in total catch weight or in big fish. Dick Shirk kept the pressure on the ‘Dawn crew to finish second, while “Half R’s” put an impressive catch on the scales to wrap up third. Credit goes to Doc and to his new crew mate (the one with the overly ugly t-shirt) for this catch.

Overall, 95 fish were weighed in, including 23 Kings, 22 Steelheads, 46 Lake Trout, 3 Brown Trout, and 1 Coho. In addition to “Trena Dawn’s” big fish, “Kemo,” with a 25.06 King, and “Nothing But Trouble” with a 23.09 King brought nice fish to the party. Look out, Manistee!!!!!!

I’d like to thank my “Kemo” crew and everyone else who helped out at the post-tournament picnic at Peter Copian Park, and I’d also like to thank the new tackle store at Abramson Marina for donating tackle packs for the top three boats in the tournament.

- Bob Mitchell,
“Kemo”

LUDINGTON TOURNAMENT TOP TEN BOATS

- 1) Don Redmond (Trena Dawn) 98.15
- 2) Dick Shirk (Lil’ Scratch) 96.14
- 3) Ron Huey (Half R’s) 96.01
- 4) Rob Golaszewski (Lucky Falcon) 88.03
- 5) Bob Mitchell (Kemo) 82.08
- 6) Don Anton (Happy Bare) 81.09
- 7) Chris Nytko (Aquarius II) 76.01
- 8) Tim Graskewicz (Harmony) 62.03
- 9) Daniel Dima (Taz) 59.10*
- 10) Stan Bilek (Blue Star) 54.14

* 5 points deducted - late for Captains’ Meeting
More Ludington photographs on Page 3

“Skipper of the Year” Standings

(THROUGH LUDINGTON, BEST 3 OF 5 SCORES)

Place & Skipper	Boat	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Tot.
1) ROB GOLASZEWSKI	“Lucky Falcon”	50	1	50	3	3	4			7
2) DICK SHIRK	“Lil’ Scratch”	4	12	5	50	75	2			11
3) DON REDMOND	“Trena Dawn”	10	75	3	9	13	1			14
4) CHRIS NYTKO	“Aquarius II”	4	75	50	4	7	7			15
5) BOB MITCHELL	“Kemo”	17	7	75	19	4	5			16
6) RON HUEY	“Half R’s”	29	75	4	10	75	3			17
7) DON ANTON	“Happy Bare”	14	50	6	7	14	6			19
7) KEN KUHAR	“Mary K”	30	2	50	5	50	12			19
7) PAUL NOWAK	“Nothing But Fun”	2	75	75	6	11	14			19
10) TOM MOORES	“Kare Free”	7	4	13	11	10	20			21
10) MIKE WAKULSKI	“Wet Paint”	3	75	75	1	17	75			21
12) TIM GRASKEWICZ	“Harmony”	50	75	8	75	5	8			29
12) JIM HARDRICK	“My Dream”	50	8	2	13	6	75			29
14) DANIEL DIMA	“Taz”	12	13	50	20	9	9			30
14) DOUG KARAKAS	“Capt’n Hook II”	18	10	75	75	2	75			30
16) STAN BILEK	“Blue Star”	50	11	13	12	16	10			33
17) ROB PINSKEY	“Anticipation”	21	75	75	8	8	75			37
18) HANK BACZYNSKI	“Sinsation”	16	6	75	16	75	75			38
18) HOWARD YORK	“Golden Oldie”	20	9	50	22	12	17			38
20) DAVE ROEHR	“Floating Holiday”	22	15	10	17	25	75			40

A = River Crab B = St. Joseph C = Harbor Beach D = Port Austin E = Oscoda
F = Ludington G = Manistee H = Harbor Beach II

FOR YOUR INFORMATION... POPULAR MANISTEE TOURNAMENT IS NEXT

On Saturday, August 24, Detroit Area Steelheaders will be found at Manistee, which usually delivers a nicely mixed catch of Kings, Steelhead, Coho, Lakers and a few Browns. Spoons are the best baits; try Pro-Kings, Silver Streaks, Stingers, and Silver Streak Georgians in white. Fishing techniques should be similar to Ludington, use what did well there.

The tournament begins with a 5:00 a.m. skippers' meeting at the K. of C. Pavilion at the west end of the park near the pier heads, followed by a countdown start at the pier heads at 6:00 a.m. There'll be 9:00 a.m. and noon Fish Calls, on Channel 72. We'll end promptly at 2:00 p.m., and you must be in the weigh-in line back at the Pavilion by 4:00 p.m. Hot dogs, beer and pop follow. See you there!

- Daniel Dima, (313) 996-2503
Manistee Port Captain

"HARBOR BEACH II" TOURNEY COMING UP

Harbor Beach II will take place on September 7, at the D.N.R. launch site. The Skipper's Meeting will be held at 5:30 a.m. near the Harbormaster's office. The tourney begins at 6:30 a.m., with Fish Calls at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.. We'll pull lines at 2:30 p.m. with the weigh-in set for 3:30 p.m. in the Pavillion. Call Dave Roehr at (810) 547-6083 for further details, or see him at the August meeting.

TOP LUDINGTON TOURNAMENT FINISHERS



1st Place: "TRENA DAWN" with Don Redmond, Joel Garinger and Darwin Gregg.



2nd Place: "LIL' SCRATCH" with Dick Shirk, Mike Sexton, Eddie Pabisz and Dwayne Pabisz.



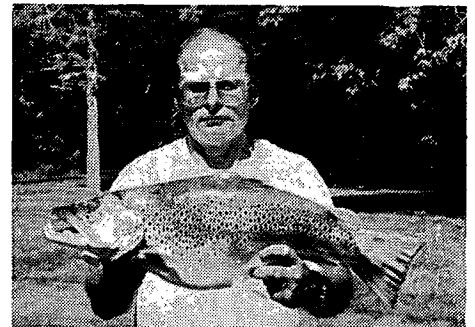
3rd Place: "HALF R'S" with Ron Huey, Warren Renando, Bob Richie (not shown) and "Otto."



4th Place: "LUCKY FALCON" with Rob Golaszewski, Lee Locklear, Larry Walter, and Larry Walter, Jr.



6th Place: "HAPPY BARE" with Don Anton, Don Lemley, Ralph Boland and Scott Obarzanek.



7th Place: "AQUARIUS II" with Chris Nytko showing off nice Brown Trout.



9th Place: "HARMONY" with Tim Graskewicz, Rod Coffey, Dave Keys, and Harold Wolf.



10th Place: "BLUESTAR" with Stan Bilek, Scott Duda, Ian Piwowarski, and Stan Galanty.

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?

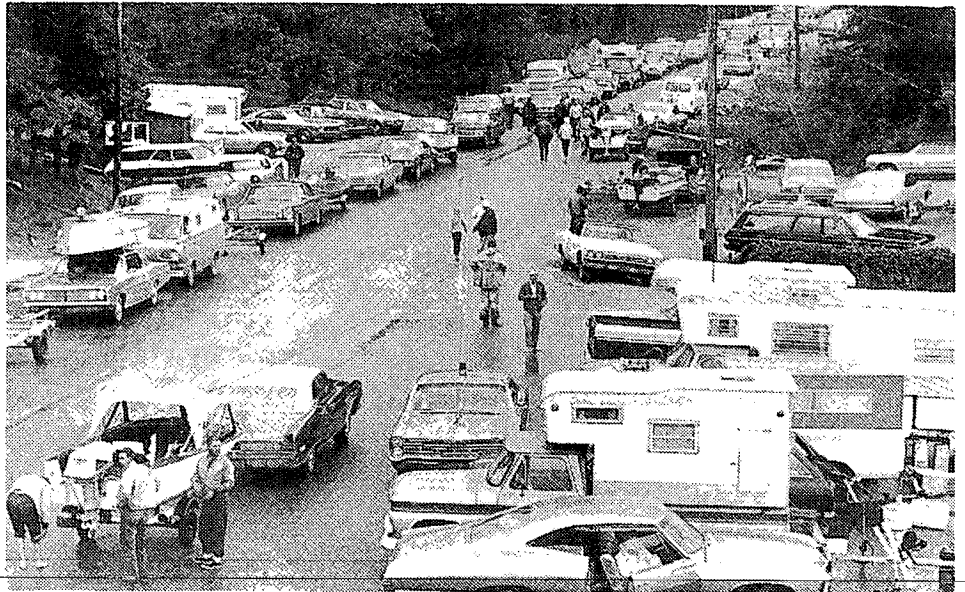
Call the Crews Hot Line to match up with a Skipper looking for crew members, or to get crew members for your boat during the 1996 season. Contact:

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

COHO MADNESS: THE WAY IT WAS!

In the mid-1950's, Michigan sold more fishing licenses than any other state. The number peaked in 1954 when nearly 1,200,000 were sold. But over the next ten years, 300,000 fishermen switched to other sports. The main reason was a decline in the quality of fishing in inland lakes and streams. Fishermen also found they had to compete with speed boats and water skiers. Many waters suffered from pollution as well. In the Great Lakes, the sea lamprey had done its dirty work. Lake trout were all but gone, and shore and pier perch fishing was declining rapidly. For sport fishermen, there wasn't much worth catching in those 38,000 square miles of open water.

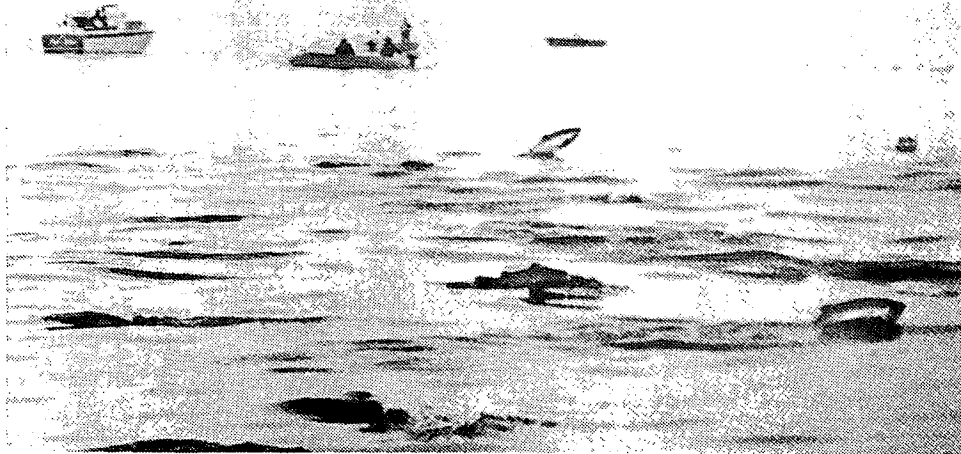
That began to change in 1965, when two men set about to revive Great Lakes sport fishing in this state. Dr. Wayne A. Tody, then chief of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.)—fisheries division, and Dr. Howard A. Tanner, a fisheries biologist who later became D.N.R. director, believed the Great Lakes represented the greatest undeveloped opportunity anywhere to develop a premier sport fishery where none existed. In late 1965, the D.N.R. obtained 1,000,000 salmon eggs from the west coast. The young Cohos were raised in Michigan hatcheries and planted as four- and six-inch fingerlings in the spring of 1966. Within three months, several fish, measuring more than 15 inches and weigh-



The Lake Michigan salmon fishery happened dramatically, on Labor Day weekend, September 1-3, 1967. Coho salmon were suddenly being caught in sizes and numbers that had Michigan fishermen shaking their heads in disbelief. Motels, restaurants, gas stations, tackle shops, and other related businesses in western Michigan were caught unprepared. The fall fishery from Manistee to Empire was compared to a gold rush. Picture the weary gas

station owner filling gas tanks in cars and boats almost around the clock who reports his business is up 600 percent. Picture bait shops out of bait and tackle bins empty. Picture one angler paying another angler \$10 for one much-used, silver-colored fishing plug, simply because it or anything like it was unavailable anywhere within 50 miles. Picture a man driving up to a launch ramp near Frankfort with a 12-foot bluegill boat on top of his car. After a long look at the surf and waves in Lake Michigan, he hops back in his car and drives off. An hour later, he's back, this time towing a spanking new 18-foot boat with a 40-horse outboard on a trailer, all bought right off a showroom floor at a total cost of about \$2,500.

Restaurants opened earlier and closed later. Bars were jammed. Additional launch ramps and parking lots were hurriedly bulldozed into use. Overnight, a charter boat industry popped into existence. One town got mad at another town for claiming the title "Coho Capital." Motels in the area, normally dull stuff after Labor Day, kept "No Vacancy" signs blazing. Coho salmon had spawned the world's greatest 'fishin' hole'. It was an angler's paradise. From Michigan Natural Resources, August, 1996.



ing up to two pounds, had been caught in Lake Michigan nets, an unbelievable growth rate.

Under natural conditions, Pacific Coho migrate downstream to the ocean, grow to maturity and returns to their birth streams to spawn and die, completing a three-year life cycle. The majority of the first Cohos planted in Michigan streams would either be caught in the Great Lakes during the summer of 1967, or return later that fall as three-year-old adults.

Throughout the summer of 1967, no one knew what to expect if the Coho salmon started to return, as it was rumored they might.

Coming Events

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

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

AUGUST 27, 1996 • SEPTEMBER 24, 1996 • OCTOBER 29, 1996

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Date	Event	Contact
August 24	MANISTEE	Daniel Dima, (313) 996-2503
September 7	HARBOR BEACH II	Dave Roehr, (810) 547-6083

Michigan wants to reduce Chinook plants

When a commitment to keep its promise to the other Lake Michigan fish chiefs, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.) is walking into a buzz saw of opposition for making waves in its proposal to reduce its Chinook salmon planting stocks in 1997.

Michigan D.N.R. biologist Rick Clark recently made a presentation on Chinook salmon to the Lake Michigan Advisory Task Force. He focused on growth, mortality, natural reproduction, and stocking levels, using a computer model to predict the effects of different stocking rates on the Chinook fishery.

Clark and the Michigan D.N.R. also recommends a reduction of up to 2,000,000 Chinooks, despite huge increases in alewives, and this has state angling leaders and the lake-wide sport fishing community up in arms!

When Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin cut back their Chinook salmon stocking in Lake Michigan in 1990 because of BKD (bacterial kidney disease) problems, Michigan did not go along with the program. At that time, Michigan fisheries people took the position that to do so would compromise their many ongoing studies on Chinook and the Lake.

The studies are complete, and Wisconsin and the rest of the Lake Michigan Committee are reminding Michigan D.N.R. fish chief John Robertson of his earlier promise. The tribes and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S.F.W.S.) are also on that committee.

The Lake Michigan Committee is part of the tangled web of deception and confusion being woven by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (G.L.F.C.) and its Secretariat. The G.L.F.C. delights in creating confusion on just who has responsibility for Great Lakes planting programs. That responsibility and authority rests solely with the states, including Lake Trout programs. ***The G.L.F.C. is only an advisory board with no authority!***

BKD affects the growth rate in older fish (Wesley), suggesting abundance did not change in Age 1 Chinook, but abundance of older Chinook declined significantly after the BKD attack. Mortality rates of older Chinook increase significantly after a BKD attack.

Natural reproduction of Chinook has increased over time. In the late 1970's, natural reproduction produced about 20%, or 800,000 Chinook smolts, per year (Carl). By the mid-1980's, it was up to 1,500,000 (Smith), and by

1993 natural reproduction accounted for about 30% of Chinooks, or 2,000,000 smolts per year (Hesse).

Researchers had found mortality from BKD was so high that achieving the Lake's fish community objective of 6,500,000-7,000,000 pounds of Chinook was impossible. The current harvest is only about 1,500,000 pounds per year.

With selective breeding of healthy New York Chinook, culling BKD-infected fish at weirs, and treatment of young fish with antibiotics, Michigan has been planting fish that are essentially BKD-free since 1989. Infection rates were 85% in the late 1980's, 15% in 1992, and down to 7%-8% by 1994.

A contentious issue, BKD treatment is not pursued as intensively or thoroughly in the other Lake Michigan state, for reasons not readily known. Resource managers do acknowledge that cost is a factor.

Even so, Chinook harvests remain low, although catch rates did improve in 1995. Michigan D.N.R. biologists feel many of the stocked, healthy fish are infected with BKD in Lake Michigan and die before they contribute to the fishery. They hypothesize that although BKD has been around for a long time, it did not affect Chinooks until Lake Michigan densities reached an all-time high in the mid-1970's. Chinook smolt production (wild and hatchery fish) then was estimated at 7,500,000-8,000,000 fish. They claim it makes common sense that reducing Chinook density to levels before BKD became a problem may go a long way toward solving the problem.

They also claim a reduction of at least 2,000,000 fish per year would be required to reduce densities to the level prior to the outbreak of BKD, approximately 5,500,000 fish.

The risks involved include causing potential harm to the fishery if reduced stocking does not lead to reduced BKD.

Michigan D.N.R. managers "think it could work," but also feel it is necessary to build public support before advancing. They claim the leading opinion of their research biologists, as well as federal and research biologists of other states, is that a reduction in Chinook stocking levels is justified.

Michigan's Advisory Task Force agreed that John Robertson should proceed with the planning process. Robertson will seek a commitment from the other states to put together a proposal for a lake-wide stocking reduction.

That may be more difficult than originally anticipated. Questions are already being raised as to the propriety of cutting salmon stocking programs with an exploding population of alewives in the Lake and on the beaches. Reprinted from *Great Lakes Basin Report*, July 15, 1996.

FISHERY COMMISSION CLAIMS VICTORY IN LAKE SUPERIOR LAKE TROUT RENEWAL

A major victory in Lake Trout restoration in Lake Superior was declared at a recent meeting of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's (G.L.F.C.) Lake Superior Committee in Duluth, Minnesota.

It was agreed that Lake Trout stocking programs and a coordinated effort of sea lamprey control, limits on sport and commercial fishing, and water quality protection and enhancements have allowed Lake Trout to again become self-sustaining in areas of Lake Superior. In light of this development, authorities have decided to eliminate stocking of federally reared Lake Trout in areas extending from Wisconsin's Apostle Islands eastward to Grand Marais, Michigan. The victory was celebrated with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt attending. From *Great Lakes Basin Report*, July 15, 1996.

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**The DEADLINE
for the
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is August 27, 1996**