

## CRAIG SCHAFF -FEB. MEETING

### CRAIG SCHAFF AT FEB. 22 MEETING

Float fisherman extraordinaire, Craig Schaff will be the featured speaker at the February general membership meeting. Ask anyone who has heard Craig and they will tell you this is one presentation you won't want to miss.

### RIVER TOURNEYS

River tournaments are in full swing. If you would like to participate, please see Doug Karakas at the general meeting or give him a call at 545-1181.

**March 5 Manistee River WATA**

### LAS VEGAS NIGHT

The club will hold a Las Vegas Night at the K of C on March 26. It should be great fun. It is an important event as it will be the primary fund raiser in 1994. More details will be available at the next meeting and in the next issue of Fishin' Tales.

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Any new member who signs up between now and the end of March will receive a free Detroit Area Steelheader T-shirt. A new member is someone who has not been a member for at least a year. Now is the time to get your buddy to join.

### DINNER DANCE FEB. 12

Don't forget the Annual Dinner Dance on February 12. The tickets include food, open bar, dancing and a chance at the door prize. If you didn't purchase tickets, but are interested in attending, call Doug

Karakas as there may be some last minute cancellations.

This has been a fun filled event. We will have a sit down dinner followed by dancing. As in the past, there will be raffles for the guys and for the gals. (although many gals win in the guys raffle, too.)

Don't miss this chance to show your spouse a good time. It could go a long way toward making it easier to go fishing next summer.

### WINTER TIME TROLLING TIPS

Just because it's February doesn't mean that you can't be doing things to get ready for next Spring and Summer's trolling season. A little organizing, sorting and cleaning can go a long way toward success.

First, now is the time to sort through all of your tackle. Make a list so you know what you have. (You may want to keep this where your wife won't see it!) With a list, you can focus on just those items you need. Do you have an assortment of Bombers for Spring? Do you need more of those "Hot" spoons, dodgers, dipseys, line?

While you are at it, sort out those baits, reels, rods, etc. that you didn't use last year. They are good candidates for the swap table and will provide cash to buy the new lures you need.

Other lures should be separated into the "paint" pile. That off-color spoon you bought last year may be a deadly lure if you paint and tape it a different scheme; and that's a lot cheaper than buying all new. Pay attention to hooks. Some will need replacing; all resharpening. Remember the hook that big king straightened out?

Take the front hooks off your Bombers and they will hang up less on the bottom next Spring. Put bigger hooks on the tail if they are the small (bass) trebles. Don't forget your rods and reels. Is there a guide on a rod that needs to be fixed? Take your reels apart and clean and oil them. Any reels that need repairing should be taken in now before the Spring rush. Finally, strip the old line off your reels. If you haven't bought new line, put it on your list. Don't wait until the last minute or you may never do it.

Getting your gear in order is fun and will pay off next summer. Good fishing!

### UNIFORM GREAT LAKES FISH ADVISORY PROPOSED

The Great Lakes Sport Fish Consumption Advisory Task Force has developed its draft protocol document for establishing a uniform Great Lakes Sport Fish Consumption Advisory for the Great Lakes Basin. The Task Force, officially established by the Council of Great Lakes Governors in 1986, has been charged with

developing a uniform fish advisory protocol (framework) that could be uniformly applied to all U.S. Great Lakes waters.

The Task Force's stated goals have been to (1) maintain the health benefit of fish consumption; (2) minimize the potential for angler toxic chemical exposure; (3) use credible and understandable science; and (4) to present the information in a manner conducive to maximal voluntary compliance.

The Task Force recently conveyed the draft protocol to the Council of Great Lakes Governors for consideration. Approval of the protocol individually by each of the 8 U.S. state governors on the Council, followed by its adoption within each state, would establish basin wide consistency in how fish advisories are considered, adopted, implemented and communicated to the public.

The new protocol seeks to outline an approach that is a distinct improvement over most existing approaches to developing and implementing a sport fish consumption health advisory. According to Task Force spokespeople, the protocol is based on (1) more realistic estimates of sportfish consumption levels; (2) a "new and improved" method of assessing and safeguarding against potential health risks in fish consumers; (3) gradation of allowable "meals consumed over time" tied directly to the contaminant concentrations likely found in each species; (4) the assumption that consumers are trimming the fillets that they eat (thus reducing organochlorine contaminant levels by 50%); (5) latest scientific evidence on the potential adverse health risks of PCB exposure/consumption in humans and animals; and

(6) an "androgenous" presentation i.e. guidance will address genderless consumption, with no distinctions made between male and female consumers.

As currently framed, new advisories based on the protocol would have 5 "consumption advice groupings" based upon trimmed raw fish fillet concentrations of PCBs, broken down as follows:

<u>Grouping</u>	<u>PCB Concentrations</u> (ppm)
-----------------	------------------------------------

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Unrestricted consumption               | 0 - 0.05    |
| 2. 1 meal/week or<br>52 meals per year    | 0.06 - 0.20 |
| 3. 1 meal/month or<br>12 meals per year   | 0.21 - 1.00 |
| 4. 1 meal/2 months or<br>6 meals per year | 1.01 - 1.90 |
| 5. No consumption                         | over 1.90   |

Reaction to the release of the protocol has ranged from the highly supportive to the sternly opposed and critical.

Many environmental interest groups describe the protocol as a long overdue improvement and in keeping with IJC Water Quality recommendations in recent years. Some groups, however, do not believe that the protocol goes far enough in truly being uniform and basin-wide (noting that the Province of Ontario is not officially a member of the Council nor the Task Force, and may not adopt the protocol's approach) or in its assessment of risks. Many sportfishing organizations (the most vocal being the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council (GLSFC), a federation of fishing groups across the basin, based in Elmhurst, Illinois) believe the protocol is much too

alarmist, overly protective, and potentially damaging to the Great Lakes tourism economy.

Proponents point to the many improvements that would be built into new protocol-based advisories (noted earlier in this article) and claim that the advice reaching consumers under such new advisories will be clearer, straightforward, appropriately sobering, based on the most recent and best science and risk assessment available, and as protective of human health as is warranted.

Opponents, such as GLSFC, see the new risk assessment as too reliant on equivocal or questionable research; as an over reaction in limiting consumption (pointing to the 2.0 ppm to 0.05 ppm decrease in the "trigger level" of advisory implementation); as blind to the absence of conclusive evidence of any adverse human health effects, and to the real potential for severe negative economic effects; and as failing to use a "risk-benefit" approach, which would reasonably weigh health risks against the health benefits (cardiovascular and reproductive) of fish consumption and the economic benefits of the fishery.

The Council of Great Lakes Governors has indicated that it will conduct its own in-depth review of the protocol, with some pronouncement as to the protocol's acceptability and adoption (or not) to occur as early as this winter.

One difficult issue for the governors to consider will be how effectively a more protective protocol-based sportfish advisory could be implemented while many of the affected fish species noted in it are

also available in the commercial market (e.g. lake trout, walleye, catfish, smelt, perch, carp, buffalo). The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will continue to set action levels/tolerances for commercially sold fish using a different risk assessment approach.

Will Great Lakes fish listed for restricted consumption under a new sportfish advisory be available, without health warnings, for purchase on the commercial market? Will this advisory affect the viability of Great Lakes commercial fisheries, and if so, how? Will New York adopt the new advisory statewide, putting a number of its commercially harvested and available marine (saltwater) species (blue fish, summer flounder, scup) that may have significant PCB levels into a restricted consumption grouping when sport-caught?

It is also a possibility that an individual Governor would not approve of, and would not implement, a protocol-based advisory in his respective state, leaving the quest for a basinwide uniform advisory once again unrealized.

New York State's official delegates to the Great Lakes Fish Advisory Task Force include Drs. Nancy Kim, Tony Grey and Ed Horn of the New York State Dept. of Health, and Mr. Jim Colquhoun of the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. (Courtesy: NY Sea Grant)



**POWER COMPANY COULD BE LIABLE**

Consumers Power Company, of Michigan, could be looking at paying damages of \$200 million to the state for fish killed in the company's intake pipes at Ludington.

Consumers Power Company is attempting to overturn an appeals court ruling which decided that the state can sue for the value of fish killed at the Ludington Pumped Storage Facility since 1983. The suit was introduced in 1996 by Attorney General Frank Kelley and seeks \$89,000 a day in damages.

Researchers, hired by Consumers, estimate that the Ludington plant kills close to 200 million fish weighing more than five million pounds, a year.

In an effort to curb fish losses, Consumers installed a barrier net across the entrance to the plant, stretching 2.5 miles. The net was installed in 1990 and subsequent studies indicate that many fish pass through the net while others are killed in it.

Killed fish are sold to Tempotech, a private company which also has a contract to collect salmon caught in state weirs. Michigan police are presently investigating suspected kickbacks by Tempotech to Michigan civil servants.

The Consumers suit is being watched closely. It may be a precedent setting case for other utilities and industries that kill large numbers of fish in water intake grates. A number of years ago, the city of Chicago water intakes allegedly killed as many as 35,000 fish a day in its intake systems. (Courtesy: GLFSC - Great Lakes Basin Report, Jan. 15, 1994)

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### POLITICAL ACTION MEETING

The Board of Directors held a special meeting on January 18th to develop an action plan for the Detroit Area Steelheaders relative the many political issues facing the fishery. The goal was to identify specific areas where we could be more active in fulfilling our objective "to teach, inform, and guide the public to respect and appreciate the natural resource of the Great Lakes and to protect and promote the fisheries resource.

Major objectives were to identify areas where we could be effective, show results and work from a positive perspective. Based on these objectives the participants identified a number of specific areas. The next steps will be to review these areas with the Board and then to develop specific action plans relative to each. Identified areas were:

- Indian Gillnetting
- Lamprey control
- Tempotech contracts
- net pen operations
- MSU fisheries research
- Hatchery management/operations
- Stocking programs
- Stream Integrity
- BKD
- State regulations
- Ramps and access

Any members that are interested in participating with any of these action plans should contact a member of the board of Directors.

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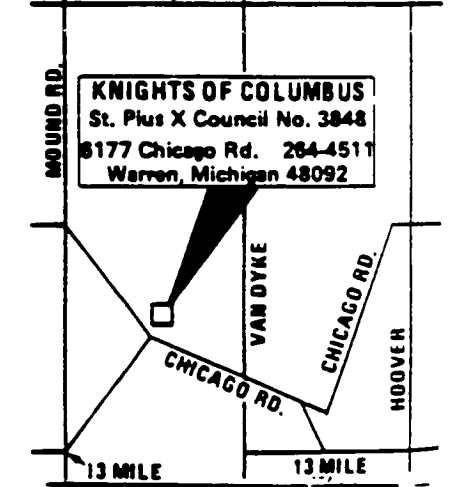
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