



# FISHING TALES



## Blowout at the River Crab!

It was Saturday, April 30, River Crab weekend, as dozens of skippers and crews assembled in St. Clair on the river. With lots of high hopes, the Detroit Area Steelheaders were intent on repeating their 1993 win over top rival, the Blue Water Sport fishing club and picking up the hefty \$5000 club prize at stake for 1994.

The weather was cool, with light winds and a nice sunrise to start the tournament. Our club boats spread out from Port Huron to Harbor Beach – somebody had to find the fish!

As was the case in 1993, the Detroit Area Steelheaders fielded more boats than our Blue Water Sportfishing club rivals, 66 to 54. The odds for another win were definitely in our favor, or so we thought.

After a hard day's fishing, the story was

told at the weigh-in. It soon became apparent that the Blue Water fishermen knew where the fish were. Led by Andy Donato's 15-fish, 115 pound catch, the Blue Water Boys beat the Detroit Area Boys, with a total catch of 1,144.52 pounds to our 763.11 pounds. Each club had 42 of their boats weighing in fish.

Skipper Joe Golaszewski led the D.A.S. with a catch totaling 51.03 pounds, including an Atlantic salmon weighing 8.51 pounds. Don Anton and crew finished second among our skippers, followed by Robert Golaszewski.

For the third year running, a Detroit Area Steelheader produced the largest King salmon of the tournament, as Don Anton brought an beautiful 18-lb., 9-oz. king to the scales. Congratulations, Don! There also were a total of ten fin-clipped salmon among our fleet's catch.

I would like to thank all the Detroit Area Steelheader boat skippers and their crews (66 boats and 246 individuals in all) for their excellent participation in the 1994 River Crab Salmon Stakes tournament.

I would also like to extend special thanks to members of the Muer family and all the employees of the River Crab Restaurant and Motel and the Muer organization for their efforts in continuing this great fishing tournament and maintaining its very high standards under what surely were difficult circumstances. We in the Detroit Area Steelheaders miss Chuck Muer and remember him as an outstanding restaurateur, avid salmon and trout fisherman, and a great sportsman.

It has been our privilege over the years to participate in this fine charity event which Chuck's vision, hard work and determination created. The Blue Water Mental Health Clinic and other child abuse prevention agencies in Michigan have benefited greatly through money raised over the past 16 years by the River Crab Salmon Stakes. We hope this great tourney continues for many years!

We plan to continue to honor Chuck Muer in the years ahead by participating in his tournament. It truly stands as a fitting memorial to him.

– Don Redmond  
Boat Trolling Chairman

Complete tournament standings on Page Four



SKIPPER DON ANTON proudly points to his 18-pound, 9-ounce king salmon, the largest fish taken in the 1994 River Crab Salmon Stakes tournament. Posing with Don are crew members Ralph Boland, Denny Davis and Jerry Zabel, whose combined efforts were good for second place in the club tourney standings. This prize catch will be mounted and displayed at the River Crab Restaurant for the next year, and then will be presented to Don. Nice going, guys!

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# FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

## PORT AUSTIN LEADS OFF JUNE TOURNEY SCHEDULE

The weekend of June 4 will find Detroit Area Steelheaders fishing out of Port Austin. As in the past, lake trout will probably be the prime catch. Northeast of the light (off Grindstone) in 75'-100' of water, bouncing bottom or running close to it will get you some lakereels. Good baits include P-Nuts, Spin-N-Glos, or Wobble Glos with cowbells or chrome dodgers. Anything in green or chartreuse should produce. The key to lakereels is a s-l-o-o-o-w presentation. Keep your eyes on those riggers, though, these reefs eat a lot of equipment. We will have Team Doubles on Sunday for skippers who are staying over. Good luck to everyone - see you on the docks!

- Ron Hartman, "Molly Frair"  
Port Captain  
(810) 542-4873, Res.  
(810) 433-0545, Work (6-12 p.m.)

## SPECIAL PEOPLE TOURNEY SET FOR JUNE 18

This year's Special People tournament is scheduled for June 18 on Lake Erie. Toledo Beach Marina will again act as host for the event. This tourney has become a major event for the kids from Monroe County schools, thanks to the efforts of all the skippers who have participated in the past. Each year, the number of kids wishing to fish has increased, and so far, we've been able to accommodate everyone. This year, we will need 30-35 skippers. There are a limited number of free overnight slips available on Friday on a first come, first serve basis.

Crew assignments will be made at 7:30

a.m. at the Marina bath house. The picnic and awards will begin at noon. If you can help (as a skipper, crew or shore team), please sign up at the May general meeting, or call me at 486-5674. Also, we are looking for donations of food, pop, and any other trinkets that we can give the kids as special awards.

I hope you all can take part and help make this tourney a very Special day for the kids, and for the Detroit Area Steelheaders!

- Tim Graskewicz

## IT'S TIME FOR STEELHEADERS ANNUAL LADIES DAY TOURNAMENT AT OSCODA

Fellows Riverpoint Marina will again be our hosts for this popular tournament, on Saturday, June 25. Jan and Doug Doane's marina is an exceptional place, both because of the facilities and their hospitality. Tourney day activities begin with a 5:00 a.m. skippers meeting at Fellows, followed by a 6:00 a.m. start at the pier heads, with fish calls at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. We will pull lines at 2:00 p.m., and everyone must be in the weigh-in line by 3:00 p.m.

A potluck dinner will begin when the weigh-in is completed, or at 3:00 p.m. if there is a cancellation of fishing. Cooks please bring a dish to pass.

Remember the special Ladies Day rule. Men can only set lines and net fish. Ladies must reel in the fish after hook-up. Oscoda is a lake trout port, but kings sometimes show up. Most fish are caught in the 80'-100' depth. Use dodgers with Spin-N-Glos or Wobble-Glos (metallic green, metallic blue or chartreuse/orange dot), Williams Wobblers, and Hot-N-Tots (purple scale). See you there!

-Dave Even, Port Captain  
(313) 981-2236

## Michigan Sportsmen Congress forming

*A new group, the Michigan Sportsmen Congress, is raising an issue frequently voiced by our members. We would like to be represented, so any club member willing to take on the job should contact a Director.* - Joel Garinger

To all Michigan Sportsmen:

Many individuals from local sporting groups all over Michigan during the past year tell me they feel the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has not been listening to Michigan sportsmen in recent years. They would like the chance to speak for themselves, so that their concerns can be correctly expressed.

Because of this, I contacted members of both houses of the Michigan Legislature, and representative of Gov. Engler, who were very responsive to the concerns I expressed, and agreed that sportsmen should have the right to provide dialog and direction for the MDNR's fish and game management programs.

Therefore, I call upon Michigan Sportsmen to represent themselves, voice their thoughts and concerns, and act upon them through the format of a new Michigan Sportsmen Congress.

In an election year, we sportsmen, 1.8 million strong, not only can be heard but will be heard, if we simply stand up for ourselves and demand changes in the current system. We can do this through a new organization that brings together representatives from all the various local sporting groups in Michigan, and avoids the entrenched leadership of established groups that frequently don't seem to speak for Michigan sportsmen any more!

NOW is the time for us to stand up and be counted, for ourselves and our children's future! I urge all local sportsmen clubs to send a representative to the Michigan Sportsmen Congress to represent their wishes and concerns. Please let me hear from you soon!!

- Kyle D. Randall, (616) 796-0615

The **DEADLINE** for the June issue of **FISHIN' TALES** is **May 31, 1994**

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# Coming Events

## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Last Tuesday of month at 7:30 p.m. K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren  
**MAY 31, 1994** • **JUNE 28, 1994** • **JULY 26, 1994**

May Speaker - DAN CHIMELAK, Lake St. Clair/Lake Erie Charter Captain

## BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
May 21	HARBOR BEACH	Chris Nytko, 254-7426
June 4	PORT AUSTIN (Team Doubles)	Ron Hartman, 542-4873
June 18	SPECIAL PEOPLE (Lk. Erie Walleye)	Tim Graskewicz, 486-5674
June 25	OSCODA (Ladies Day)	Dave Even, 981-2236
July 23	MANISTEE (Team Doubles)	Bill Shackleton, 422-3386
August 6-7	LUDINGTON (2-day)	Bob Mitchell, 828-8034
August 20	ROGERS CITY	Leon Van Eden, 293-1261
Sept. 10	FRANKFORT	Tim Graskewicz, 486-5674

## Board comments on Manistee River plan

*This letter was recently submitted to put on record the views of the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. on a matter of great interest. — EDITOR*

River Planning, Cadillac Ranger Dist.  
Cadillac, MI 49601  
Dear Aimee Draft,

I am writing as the Director authorized by the Board of the Detroit Area Steel-headers, Inc. to have our comments input regarding the Preliminary Draft of Alternative Strategies for managing the Manistee National Recreational River and Bear Creek National Scenic River.

The purpose of our corporation is "to teach, inform, and guide the public to respect and appreciate the Great Lakes, rivers, and land around us, to promote and protect the fisheries resources therein."

We agree with the concept of protecting the resources of the involved waterways, but must continue to allow the non-damaging current recreational use. Specifically, regarding the Manistee River.

- **MOTORS** – Take no action
- **JET SKI** – Prohibit all
- **NUMBER OF WATERCRAFT** – No action
- **NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL FISHING GUIDES** – No action
- **ACCESS SITES** – Develop additional parking area at Bear Creek access site
- **TRAILS** – Develop hiking, barrier free, and interpretive trails, no mountain bikes
- **CAMPING** – No action
- **ROADED ACCESS** – Maintain all access sites year-round
- **BANK STABILIZATION** – Severe and moderate eroded slopes, as stated in plan
- **STRUCTURES IN RIVER** – Take no action
- **WATER QUALITY** – Rehabilitate areas adversely impacting water quality
- **MINERAL DEVELOPMENT** – Prohibit any new leases; allow all old leases to expire
- **OTHER COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT** – Discourage

Thank you for this opportunity for our input regarding this area of interest to our membership.

Sincerely,

Steve Hamilton, Treasurer  
Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.

# Lake Michigan fishery dies while we talk

Increased mortality of coho salmon in the hatcheries and a disappointing – if not downright dismal – steelhead run point to the continued degradation of Lake Michigan's sport fishery. It's time to quit talking about it and do something.

For the last several years, Michigan has been talking up more restrictive limits but failing to act because other states have refused to cut their takes. We should force the issue. We should get the fisheries chiefs of the other Lake Michigan states into a room, close the door, and announce the way it is going to be. And if the other states refuse? Then we quit stocking fish for them to catch.

Instead of stocking steelhead and salmon, which wander all over the lake and wind up in everybody's creels, Michigan could begin stocking just browns and lakers, fish that are considerably less likely to roam. Granted browns and lakers are well down the list of preferred species. But at least Michigan anglers would catch them.

Consider: Illinois stocks 10% of the coho but catches 30% of them. Michigan, meanwhile, stocks 63% of the coho, but catches 27%. Who suffers most if we abandon the coho program?

Same with Wisconsin, whose anglers are hauling in the biggest share of the offshore steelhead fishery. What happens if we quit stocking steelhead? We'll still get some returns to our rivers from natural reproduction. No other Lake Michigan state has the quality of spawning habitat we do. And we no longer water down the genes of our spawning stock, a major concern among biologists and steelhead aficionados.

Fact is, there's increasing evidence that a pretty fair percentage of the Chinook that show up in the catch are naturally produced, too.

It may not seem right to adopt a bully's posture and demand our way, but what's the alternative? Years of negotiating have resulted in the philosophical agreement that we should all agree on a limit. How many more years is it going to take to actually work out that agreement.

And when we do, what's it going to be? The daily limit with the most support right now is Michigan's 5-3-2 – five salmonids, no more than three of one species, no more than two lakers.

We're already there and that's not good enough. The limit should be two fish, period.

Ooh, that hurts, doesn't it? Some will say it's

going to kill the charter boat business. I doubt it. But if it does, it's a mercy killing, because if we keep going the way we are, the business is doomed to a lingering death anyway.

Because of hatchery problems lakewide, total coho plants in Lake Michigan will be down to 1,000,000 this year from a typical 2,500,000 – a 60% cut. Steelhead returns this spring at the Little Manistee and St. Joseph rivers (where they can be monitored) are off by a third. Guides around the state will tell you it's been the toughest steelhead season in a long, long time.

There are almost no lakers left to caught outside the rehabilitation refuges in the big lake because of the way they've been stocked. Chinooks? You're kidding, right?

That leaves browns as the only bright spot on the lake, but the program is among the smallest of the salmonids.

By converting hatcheries that produce salmon and steelhead to lakers and browns, we could flood the lake with fish that'll stay home where Michigan anglers can get them. And we could add enough lakers to get rid of that ridiculous season that effectively prevents non-boaters from participating. A return to river mouth stocking would revitalize the once-thriving pier fishery for lakers.

OK, so browns and lakers are not as sexy and high-dollar as salmon and steelhead. But my guess is it never comes to that because I think the other players will blink. They haven't cut their limits because they've lacked the political will to do so. If we force them to, they can tell the folks back home they had no choice.

And if they stand up to us? Well, my guess is that Illinois has to find a way to increase coho plants to keep up with demand, and Wisconsin has to increase steelhead stocking and, next thing you know, we're catching their fish for a change.

Turnabout is fair play.

It could be that a two-fish limit won't work. It may have to be one fish. And it could be that even that won't reverse the course of the Lake Michigan fishery. If that's the case, then at least we would have tried. That's a far sight better than our present course of inaction: talking and talking while the fishery slowly swirls down the drain.

– Bob Gwizdz

Reprinted from *Ann Arbor News*, April 23, 1994.

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473-2030

Fishing Report: (313) 473-2033

# RIVER CRAB SALMON STAKES TOURNAMENT RESULTS

- 1) Joe Golaszewski ..... 51.03
- 2) Don Anton ..... 49.06
- 3) Robert Golaszewski ..... 46.06
- 4) Rick Woodbelk ..... 41.50
- 5) Dave Even ..... 41.27
- 6) Ron Huey ..... 35.13
- 7) Chris Dima ..... 31.13
- 8) Louis C. Moore ..... 27.71
- 9) Bob Herman ..... 27.34
- 10) Gary Leinonen ..... 23.30
- 11) Hank Baczynski ..... 22.14
- 12) Butch Ayers ..... 21.67
- 13) Dale Luff ..... 21.24
- 14) Robert Bresler ..... 21.15
- 15) Mike Wakulski ..... 21.00
- 16) Chris Nytko ..... 19.50
- 17) Dwayne Pabisz ..... 18.70
- 18) Paul Schoenrade ..... 15.66
- 19) Richard Grix ..... 15.23
- 20) Tom Moores ..... 15.22
- 21) Edward Jaworski ..... 14.28
- 22) Mike Chemelax ..... 13.40
- 23) Howard York ..... 12.66
- 24) Don Redmond ..... 12.65
- 25) Rick Kittle ..... 12.06
- 26) Dave Roehr ..... 11.56
- 27) Bob Mitchell ..... 11.56
- 28) Mike Lehto ..... 11.35
- 29) Bob Ksionzek ..... 11.10
- 30) Dick Shirk ..... 11.05
- 31) Warren Renando ..... 10.99
- 32) Frank Pilato ..... 10.79
- 33) Les Jump ..... 9.09
- 34) Doug Karakas ..... 8.17
- 35) Stanley Zbigniew ..... 8.11
- 36) Joe VonGrabe ..... 6.91
- 37) Jim Hardrick ..... 4.54
- 38) Rob Pinskey ..... 4.23
- 39) Joel Garinger ..... 4.00
- 40) Ron Hartman ..... 3.15
- 41) Tim Graskewicz ..... 2.94
- 42) Larry Traynor ..... 2.62



**FIRST PLACE - MY TREASURE:** Skipper Joe Golaszewski and crew members Larry Lacter and Angus. The top Detroit Area Steelheader boat in the River Crab Salmon Stakes tournament weighed in a nice catch that included an 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-pound Atlantic salmon. Congratulations, Joe!

### NO FISH WEIGHED IN

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Gary Baranek    | Jim Limebright  |
| Chris Coffey    | Ron Maschke     |
| Roger Doyle     | Greg McCann     |
| Robert Edwards  | Tom Mijal       |
| Rod Elnick      | Paul Nowak      |
| Ken Ely         | Richard Wong    |
| Vern Fahrenkrug | Walt Pohorily   |
| Joe Furnari     | Gary Ruprich    |
| Darwin Gregg    | Al Schultz      |
| Albert Keenan   | Bob Segraves    |
| Milt Knapp      | Bill Shackleton |
| Ken Kuhar       | Gary Smedes     |

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