



FISHING TALES



“Lil” Scratch conquers Manistee!

After a very long drought of winless tournaments, “Lil” Scratch and crew, consisting of Eddie (Vanilla) Pabisz and Al (Strawberry) Werner was the Number One boat at our annual Manistee Boat Trolling Tournament.

A lot can be learned by you other skippers from this win. You have to give your crew an incentive to win, such as their choice of Pig Troughs at the local House of Flavors. And, of course, the Pig Badge of Accomplishment must be included. You see, when the time comes and you’re desperate for a victory, you resort to ANY tactics to get the job done!

Right from the ‘get-go’, the boys had ice cream on their brains. We sat down on the ledge, about 3.5 miles west of Port over 125 feet of water, and the first thing the boys asked for was an ice cream cone. I said, “No, fellows, first we have to win the tournament!”

So, they began scattering baits, from 85’ - 115’ down, when a rod set at 105’ straightened up with a fish on it. Eddie had no sooner gotten it in the box when he turned to me and asked, “Now can I have a cone?” I told him no: “Just

keep catching fish, and I’ll tell you when.”

It was ten fish and counting as we anxiously waited for the 2 o’clock announcement to pull lines to be made. We knew then that we were definitely in the running for Top Boat honors, and a visit to the House of Flavors!

Arriving at the scales, we found that our box contained 91 total pounds of fish. Chris Nytko and crew on “Aquarius II” were right on our heels with a catch weight of 76 pounds, and Darwin Gregg and crew from “Returner” trailed Chris with a 53-pound catch for third spot. Congratulations to Chris and Darwin and their crews, and to all who participated in the tourney. Congratulations, also to Jim Hardrick on “My Dream” for the big fish in the tournament, an 18-lb., 4-oz. king salmon.

Our fleet did some pretty good fishing, considering we were working out of a port that was supposed to be pretty stingy with its fish. By the way, guess what these Top Three skippers have in common?

After our always-enjoyable barbecue, expertly handled by Bob Gilbert and Eddie

Pabisz, and the good fellowship and camaraderie of our special gang of Trollers, Don Redmond announced the pairings for the Sunday Team Doubles. Now a 6:00 a.m. starting time on a Sunday morning isn’t the best idea you could have for a bunch of skippers after a Saturday night on the town. Nevertheless, that’s what we did! Needless to say, there was not a crowd of boats at the pier heads waiting to be sent on their merry ways next morning.

Still, we somehow finished the Team Doubles, with “Aquarius II” and Chris Nytko paired with Dave Even and crew on “Teacher’s Pet” claiming first place. Second place went to Don Redmond and crew on “Trena Dawn” and “Fishing Tales” with Larry and his crew. Placing third was skipper Bob Bressler and crew on “Wendy Ann” and Captain Howard (Fumble-itis) York and “Golden Oldie.”

Howard says he might have won if he hadn’t tried to teach a large steelhead how to do the breaststroke at dockside before the weigh-in. Tough to lose it to the Deep Six! I heard he even threw “Molly Frair’s” life ring to it, but the fish just didn’t have the strength to grab on. Ask him about it when you see him!

Also, that was very nice of Papa Taz to get Mamma Taz those three chrome dodgers for her birthday. But to suggest she use them for earrings is a little bit out of line, Taz!

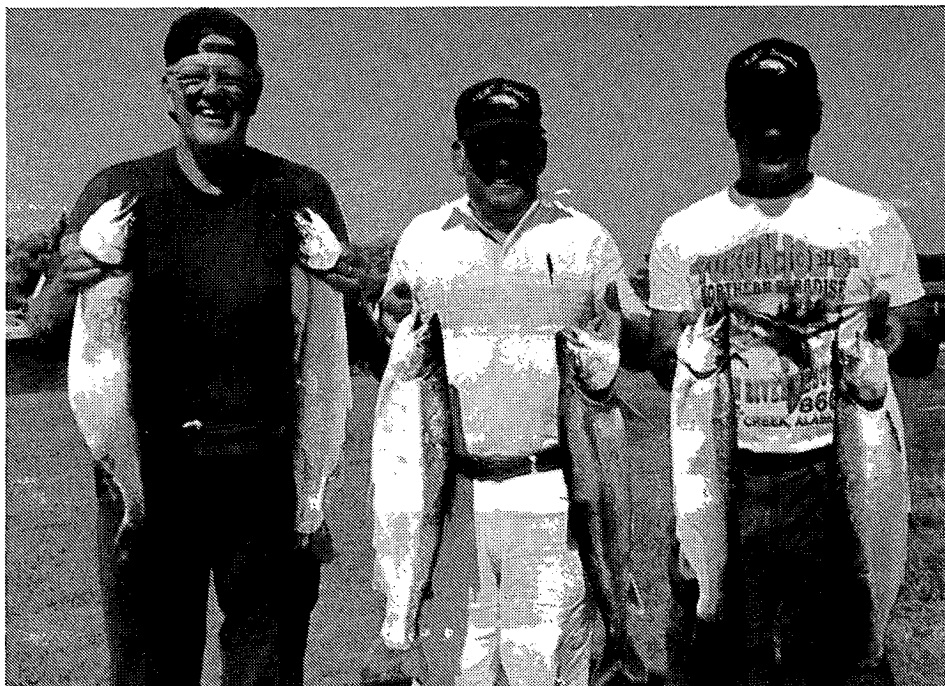
It was a pretty nice weekend to be on the Big Pond. So until the next get-together, travel safely, good catching, and see you at dockside.

-Dick Shirk, “Lil” Scratch

MANISTEE TOP TEN

- 1) “Lil’ Scratch” Dick Shirk
- 2) “Aquarius II” Chris Nytko
- 3) “Returner II” Darwin Gregg
- 4) “Trena Dawn” Don Redmond
- 5) “My Dream” Jim Hardrick
- 6) “Molly Frair” Ron Hartman
- 7) “Wendy Ann” Robert Bressler
- 8) “Rupe” Gary Ruprich
- 9) “My Treasure” Joe Golaszewski
- 10) “Mary K” Ken Kuhar

20 BOATS ENTERED
4 BOATS WEIGHED FISH
49 FISH WEIGHED IN



FIRST PLACE – “LIL” SCRATCH: (l-r.) Al Werner, Skipper Dick Shirk, and Eddie Pabisz.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . . BOAT TOURNAMENT SEASON WRAPS UP AT FRANKFORT

Our final trolling tournament of 1994 will take our fleet to the port of Frankfort on Saturday, September 10. In years past, Club fishermen have weighed in some nice fish, including several Master Angler award-winning coho salmon.

The Skipper's Meeting will be held at 5:30 a.m. at the Municipal Marina. Fish Calls will be at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. We will pull lines at 2:30 p.m., and to be eligible you must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m.

For this event, we usually fish against the Benzie Area Steelheaders, with our club honor, a traveling trophy, and beer at stake, so I hope we have a large turnout! I'll have more information at the August Membership Meeting.

- Tim Graskewicz, Port Captain

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN HATCHERY REPORTS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The Northwest Michigan Hatchery of the N.W. Trout Rearing Association, Thompsonville, reports another successful season of operation. According to hatchery manager Lewis Tipper, 48,533 steelhead smolts, up to 12" long were released into the Betsie River.

Prior to release, the smolts were examined by Ralph Hay, Roger Hubbell and Jan Sapak of the D.N.R. Tammy Newcomb of Michigan State University, who is doing a study of the Betsie River, also examined the young steelhead before release. The fish were described as being fat, strong and healthy when released.

The release this year was delayed by about two weeks, due to the arrival of hundreds of migrating cormorants near the mouth of the Betsie. No point in releasing a year's worth of hard work only to see them eaten as they reached the Big Lake! The smolts reached Homestead Weir (where Newcomb was shocking the river for her study) before June 1.

The Hatchery has one more year to go on its agreement with the D.N.R., and expects to meet its commitment. However, Tipper reports that some money will be needed to meet projected expenses in connection with completing its agreement with the D.N.R.

Tipper expressed gratitude to all who have donated to the steelhead-rearing project. He noted that over 165,000 fish have been released into the Betsie and Boardman Rivers, and Lake Michigan, over the past four years, with another 50,000 projected for next year.

The Detroit Area Steelheader extend a hearty "Well Done!" to Lewis Tipper, and to all who have worked on the project to date!

Vaccine sought to inoculate salmon against BKD disease

A vaccine for salmon? Far-fetched? Nope. That's what some fisheries scientists are shooting for in their battle against the bacterial kidney disease (BKD) which has devoured the Lake Michigan Chinook salmon fishery.

Lake Michigan fisheries research chief Myrl Keller, the Lake's most experienced biologist, reports scientists at Michigan State University and on the West Coast, where the Chinook fishery is also collapsing, have started scrambling to develop a BKD vaccine.

"We've tried everything else and we're still losing," Keller says. "An oral vaccine that would be deposited in water at hatcheries, could be our only solution if we want to get the fishery back."

Lake Michigan Chinook fishing has plummeted from a catch of 621,725 in 1986 to 47,013 in 1993, says D.N.R. Great Lakes creel census supervisor Jerry Rakoczy. The impact has devastated big-time lake trolling, and the economy.

Keller isn't predicting when, or even if, a BKD vaccine will be developed. Though other species of trout and salmon are carriers of the disease, only Chinook in Lake Michigan, both from hatcheries and natural reproduction, are seriously impacted. Keller points out that scientists cannot explain why fish from the same hatchery succumb to BKD in Lake Michigan but not in Lake Huron. The Lake Huron Chinook catch remains stable, although most of it is now gill net, not sport catch.

In unsuccessful attempts to beat the disease,

since 1990 Michigan has taken eggs only from Chinook that appear healthy at the weirs, and has imported eggs from New York Lake Ontario Chinook, where the disease has not flared.

Michigan biologists are also looking at the potential to increase natural Chinook reproduction, because wild fish appear less susceptible to BKD. Lakewide, 30% of Chinook taken at weirs are from natural reproduction; in northern Lake Michigan, half are from natural reproduction.

Weir returns of tagged and fin-clipped fish last year indicate Chinook raised from Michigan strain adults are faring better than those from New York eggs. Nearly twice as many Michigan-strain Chinook per thousand planted survived to return to weirs in 1993, Keller points out. This has convinced some biologists that the New York experiment was a justified mistake.

"It looks as though the Michigan fish have started to adapt to the BKD, at least better than the New York fish, which haven't been exposed to it as long," Rakoczy said. "This is a natural process and was expected, at least to some degree."

Some biologists theorize that if Michigan dropped the New York eggs and concentrated on allowing nature to develop natural immunity in Michigan fish, the fishery would slowly recover. But that, they say, could take decades to occur, or might never materialize.

So, there is, it seems, a small basis for hope for long-suffering fishermen, but only a small one! Reprinted from the Northwoods Call

Coming Events

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

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

AUGUST 30, 1994 • SEPTEMBER 27, 1994 • OCTOBER 25, 1994

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
September 10	FRANKFORT	Tim Graskewicz, 486-5674

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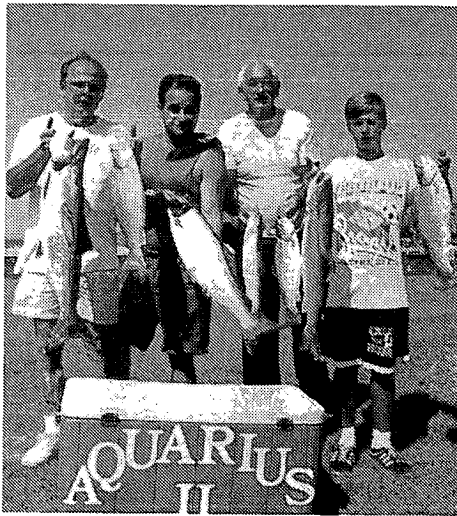
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MANISTEE TOURNAMENT LEADERS



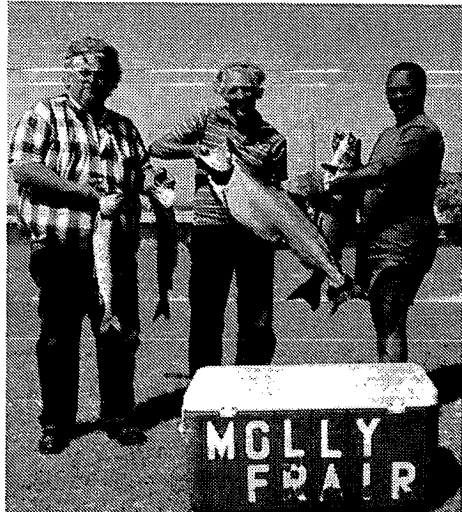
2nd - "AQUARIUS II": Chris Nutko, Cesper Randaso, Steve Domino and Derek Nytko.



3rd - "RETURNER": Darwin Gregg and crew.



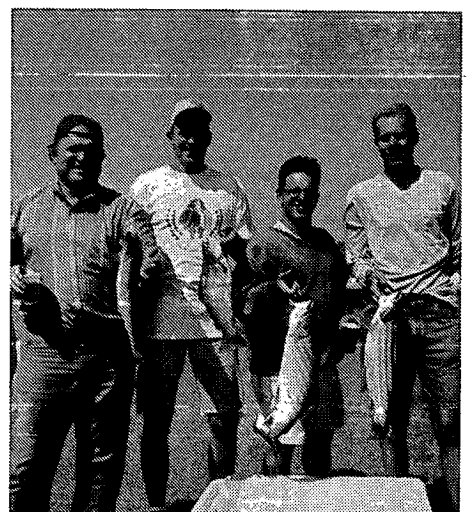
5th - "MY DREAM": Jim Hardrick and crew.



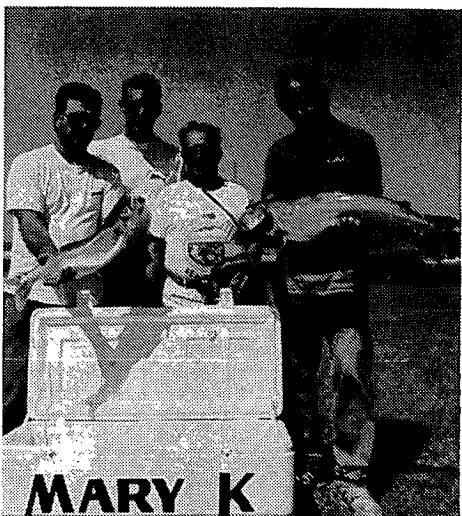
6th - "Molly Frair": Bruce Alexander, Ron Hartman and Ray Banbury.



7th - "WENDY ANN": Bud Egan, Amanda Bressler, Robert Bressler and Sara Bressler.



8th - "RUPE": Gary Ruprich, Bob, Hutch and Trey.



10th - "MARY K": Ken Kuhar, George Brown, Jamie Brown and Mike Perusich.

The **DEADLINE** for the September issue of **FISHIN' TALES** is **August 30, 1994**

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Will GPS sink LORAN-C?

Coast Guard-operated LORAN-C, one of two radio-navigational systems used by boaters, may not be around long.

Although federal policy guarantees that LORAN-C will be in operation until 2015, federal budget cuts and growth of the Department of Defense-operated (DOD) Global Positioning System (GPS) may put it out of service as soon as 1998.

Such a shutdown could cause considerable consternation for recreational boaters and aircraft operators, who purchased 90,000 LORAN-C receivers last year alone. If LORAN-C is dismantled, those receivers would be useless, and boaters would have to purchase GPS equipment to navigate - at a cost of around \$500 each, compared with LORAN-C units that cost around \$200 each.

"With nearly one million navigators depending on LORAN-C, it hardly seems fair to pull the plug with only a few years' notice," says Michael Sciulla, vice president of legislative affairs for BOAT/U.S.

But that may not be the biggest problem. Retired Coast Guard officer Bill Brogdon sees four problems with GPS:

- 1) It can be interrupted within 48 hours notice;
- 2) Its use can be eliminated in wartime;
- 3) It is not a civilian system - in fact civilians were banned last year from the joint DOD and Department of Transportation (DOT) meetings on civilian use of GPS;
- 4) As with any other system, it sometimes breaks.

"The boat owners of this country should be

outraged," says Brogdon. "It may turn out that the fuel taxes, recreational vessel fees, and radio licenses they paid to maintain LORAN-C were paid for nothing."

Many agree Brogdon and believe that joint use of LORAN-C and GPS is the answer. Since each system uses widely different frequencies, simultaneous failures of both systems would be unlikely.

Send your comments on the effects of a

LORAN-C phaseout to:

Secretary Federico Pena
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

It may also be useful for you to contact your U.S. representative and senator.

- Julie Schaeffer

Reprinted from *Boating World*, Summer 1994.

"Skipper of the Year" Standings

(THROUGH JULY 23 1994)

PLACE/SKIPPER	BOAT	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Tot.
1) JOE GOLASZEWSKI	"My Treasure"	1	75	12	2	3	9			6
2) DON REDMOND	"Trena Dawn"	24	11	1	3	50	4			8
3) CHRIS NYTKO	"Aquarius II"	16	7	21	4	4	2			10
4) DAVE EVEN	"Teacher's Pet"	5	12	6	75	1	50			12
5) RON HARTMAN	"Molly Frair"	40	18	2	7	50	6			15
6) JIM HARDRICK	"My Dream"	37	14	4	6	50	5			15
7) BOB MITCHELL	"Kemo"	27	3	15	1	75	12			16
8) DICK SHIRK	"Lil' Scratch"	30	75	19	8	9	1			18
9) CHRIS DIMA	"Taz"	9	8	9	50	50	13			24
10) HANK BACZYNSKI	"Sinsation"	11	2	13	17	75	75			26
11) PAUL SCHOENRADE	"Eagle Two"	18	4	20	12	50	11			27
12) DAVE ROEHR	"Floating Holiday"	26	6	22	15	8	75			29
13) HOWARD YORK	"Golden Oldie"	23	5	18	10	75	14			29
14) WALT POHORILY	"Main Squeeze"	50	1	14	16	50	50			31
15) KEN KUCHAR	"Mary K"	50	10	23	11	50	10			31

BEST 3 OF 6 SCORES

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

LADIES DAY AT OSCODA - TOP TEN CREWS

- 1) "Teacher's Pet" Dave Even, Christy
- 2) "Anticipation" Rob, Brenda, Darlene & Mike Pinskey, Walt Romaniuk
- 3) "My Treasure" Joe, Ella & Joe Jr. Golaszewski, Sandy Erickson
- 4) "Aquarius II" Chris, Derek, Vickie, Margaret & Jennifer Nytko
- 5) "Bullhead" Leon & April Van Eden, Ken & Karen Deckers
- 6) "Harmony" Tim & Juanita Graskewicz, John & Millie Green
- 7) "Returner II" Darwin & Shirley Gregg, Bob & Jean Dulek
- 8) "Floating Holiday" Dave Roehr, Pam, Paul & Colette
- 9) "Lil' Scratch" Dick Shirk, Mike, Deborah & Dawn Sexton
- 10) "Voyageur" Dick Jackson, Mary Beth Dohring

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