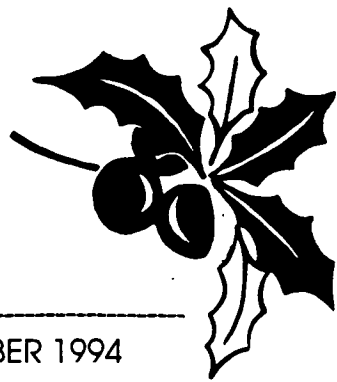


FISHIN' TALES

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.



VOL IX *NO.12

DECEMBER 1994

!!SALMON CLAUS IS COMING!!

Don't forget to mark December 13 on your calendar! It's the date of the Annual Christmas Party for The Detroit Area Steelheaders. The meeting will take place at the regular meeting hall at the K of C. As always, there are lots of activities planned. First, there is a very strong rumor that Salmon Claus will make his annual appearance and that he will have goodies for all the little boy and little girl Steelheaders that are present. This is a family meeting.

One of the most important aspects of this meeting is the election of Directors for the coming year. See the November issue of The Fishin' Tales for a rundown on who will be running this year. Every member of The Detroit Area Steelheaders will have the opportunity to cast a vote. As a reminder, your spouse is considered a member too, and can vote.

Don Redmond will also announce the final standings and award the trophies for the 1994 Skipper of the Year competition. Other trophies will be awarded to the people who caught the biggest fish in a Detroit Area Steelheader event (boat or river) in 1994. Doors open at 7 PM and the festivities start at 7:30.

DINNER DANCE

Tickets to the Annual Dinner Dance can be purchased at the Christmas meeting. The dance will take place on February 11 at the K of C hall. Tickets are regularly \$60 per couple. However, if you purchase them before the end of the year you can get them

for \$50.

The tickets are a real bargain when you consider they include food, open bar, dancing and a chance at the door prize. Be sure to see Mary Karakas for tickets or call (810) 545-1181.

This has been a fun filled event. If you haven't decided if you want to go, ask someone who was there in the past. I guarantee they will tell you that it's a great time. 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.) We are still in need of donations for prizes. If you can contribute, please see Doug or Bob Mitchell. These prizes do not have to be fishing oriented. We have had people donate crafts, services and other things that make terrific raffle prizes. (Some wives just don't want to win a fishin' rod.)

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.

*****ANNUAL ISSUE*****

Deadline for ads is 12/13

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE AT THE DEC. MEETING!

Candidates running for positions are as follows:

Don Redmond Larry Boyer
Dick Shirk

Ballots will be available to all current members of The Detroit Area Steelheaders (remember that your wife IS considered a member and can vote, too). They will be passed out at the December general (Christmas) meeting. Ballots will be collected and counted during the meeting and results announced at the end of the meeting.

GOOD LUCK CANDIDATES!

COOLER RAFFLE

We still have tickets available for our annual Cooler of Cheer raffle on December 13. The top overall salesperson will win a charter aboard the "Drifter" with Capt. Bob Kring.

The Grand prize for this year's raffle is a 120 qt. cooler filled with cheer and goodies along with \$100 cash.

Lets get out and support this fund raiser and I hope to see you all at the Annual Christmas meeting. Don Redmond



GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

TEMPOTECH EXECs GUILTY

Tempotech Industries Inc. and two executives of the Hart-based fish-processing company were convicted in federal court of selling caviar laced with toxic chemicals and laundering millions of dollars in profits.

That jury verdict--handed down in U.S. District Court in Syracuse, NY on Oct. 7--could end Tempotech's 11-year monopoly of Michigan's lucrative commercial salmon harvest said state officials.

Since 1983, Tempotech has had an exclusive contract with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to harvest millions of pounds of salmon and fish eggs from rivers along Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

Federal prosecutors alleged that Tempotech used that contract--and the access it provided to millions of salmon eggs--to carry out a "decade-long" conspiracy to sell polluted salmon eggs obtained in New York as clean caviar.

A jury agreed, taking about five hours to convict Tempotech--along with company owner Robert J. Gehl, 54, and general manager George L. Jackson, 45--of six counts of selling contaminated caviar, said Asst. U.S. Attorney Craig Benedict.

Gehl, Jackson and Tempotech were also convicted of conspiring since 1981 to ship tainted salmon eggs from New York fish hatcheries to Tempotech's processing plant in Hart. Those tainted eggs--laced with mirex--were mixed with cleaner eggs from Michigan salmon and sold as clean caviar to thousands of unsuspecting consumers.

New York state prohibits the sale of salmon eggs caught in this state for any use except fish bait because of the high levels of chemical contaminants found in them. The defendants were convicted of multiple violations of the Lacey Act, which makes interstate violations of state wildlife laws a federal crime. All but Jackson also were convicted of multiple counts of structuring financial transactions in a manner to evade taxes.

In 1993, after the investigation heated up, Tempotech sold the Pulaski, NY hatchery and it was renamed A&M Bait. But A&M Bait still is owned by Gehl under another corporate entity, Benedict said.

Roughly 25 employees now work at the Pulaski firm processing salmon into fish bait.

Benedict said it is possible A&M Bait may be subject to seizure by the federal government.

Gehl, Tempotech and a company called Gehl Productions were convicted of another 17 counts of structuring cash bank deposits from the sale of tainted caviar to avoid Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements, Benedict said. Government prosecutors claimed that Gehl Productions was created to receive laundered money from Tempotech's sale of salmon, fish bait and caviar.

Sentencing for Gehl and Jackson was set for Jan. 10, 1995. They each face up to six years in federal prison and hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines, Benedict said.

"The fines and terms of incarceration will be substantial," Benedict said.

Gehl and Jackson, who maintain residences in West Michigan, were released on bond following the verdict. Benedict said their passports were seized by Sr. U.S. District Judge Neal McCurn, who presided over the trial.

Tempotech was ordered to forfeit \$482,400 in cash to the federal government. And Gehl was ordered not to transfer any of Tempotech's assets to other accounts or businesses until that penalty is paid, Benedict said.

Benedict said attorneys for both men planned to appeal the convictions. No witnesses were called to testify in defense of Gehl, Jackson or the companies during the weeklong trial, Benedict said.

The convictions cast uncertainty over the future of Tempotech, which seasonally employs about 160 workers, and the company's lucrative salmon harvesting contract with the Michigan DNR.

Officials from the Michigan Department of Management and Budget have said they would cancel Tempotech's contract with the DNR if the company or Gehl was convicted of a felony at the state or federal level.

Tempotech's current contract with the DNR is set to expire in August 1996.

Ackerberg said the DNR Law Enforcement Division will formally ask that the contract be canceled.

GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAKE MICHIGAN FISHERIES TASK FORCE

September 27, 1994 Meeting

Bag Limits

As a follow-up to the coho conference this past spring, the Wis. Natural Resources Commission will meet on Dec. 8, 1994, in Madison, Wis., to consider the proposal to move to the same bag limit as Illinois and Michigan. The Fisheries Chiefs and Tribes from Lake Michigan have been invited to attend that meeting to help support Wisconsin's proposal.

Great Lakes Restoration Act

The Act was passed without State support that set up the Federal Great Lakes Coordination Offices. There was the belief that \$10 million in Federal monies would be made available annually to fund Great Lakes fisheries. Thus far only about \$1 million has been allotted to set up the offices. They have been attempting to get the states to sign a memorandum of understanding. They were put on notice that we could not support a memorandum of understanding until the Act was amended to assure the states' rights. We are not convinced they can provide anything we don't already have. Ohio and Wisconsin have reiterated similar concern.

Tribal Fishing

Bill Hicks advised that the tribal fishery in Outer Grand Traverse Bay is using more gill nets than ever as well as floating nets for salmon. In the outer bay at Ballenger Creek there were reports of nets in 25-30 feet of water. There are reports of 6-10 pickup trucks pulling into the reservation with beds full of fish.

Sport Catch and Effort Estimates for Lake Michigan

Myrl Keller provided a copy of the preliminary sport catch and effort

estimates for Lake Michigan for the period April through July. Angler effort so far during 1994 has decreased by 48% as compared to the long term average for 1985-93. Effort during 1994 declined by 20% compared to last year. The decrease in angler effort has caused, in part, a decline in the harvest of all species, except brown trout, in 1994, as compared to 1993.

Based on catch rates, angler success during 1994 for coho salmon, rainbow trout and yellow perch decreased compared to 1993. Catch rates increased during 1994 for brown trout as compared to last year. The catch rates for chinook salmon and lake trout were virtually unchanged in 1994 as compared to 1993.

The return to Lake Huron is better than Lake Michigan--and the question is why. The situation is being examined to determine if that is related to planting strategies, distribution or whatever, about 10% of the coded or marked fish returns from Lake Huron were caught in Lake Michigan this year.

Lake Management Authority

The concept is to have a Management Authority for the Great Lakes to make management decisions, suggesting Lake Michigan in total is more important than our own personal interest. A coalition between the states and the tribes to make decisions about what is going to be done on the lakes would provide the states with a better way to concentrate resource management in terms of stocking, research, finances, etc.

Lake Michigan Goals and Objectives

The Lake Michigan Management Agencies are looking for comments from all the user groups and will then take the package to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in March for ratification. The Task Force was asked to review the document and provide comments.

Tom Gorenflo emphasized that the history of the document is important. Originally based on harvest goals, the approach was changed in 1992 and the document revised with an entirely new perspective. It now includes exotics, food web approach, relationship between species, where does the energy flow within the lake come from, and creates an avenue to communicate effectively with environmental agencies. The most significant thing is the guiding principles in terms of what beliefs are guiding management in Lake Michigan.

Weirs

All six weirs have been in place since the end of August--Little Manistee, Platte, Medusa, Jordan, Boardman and Swan--with runs into the rivers lower than in the past. There have been reports of fish, but they have not moved up the river yet. The crews are ready to take eggs and they will be tested for BKD. The ELIZA test last year indicated that 28% of the chinook salmon at the Little Manistee and 22% at the Swan had to be discarded because of BKD. The same people are in place this year to look for clinical signs of BKD and provide consistency in the data reporting.

CELLULARONE LAKE HURON

CellularOne has announced three cellular services for on-the-water safety and convenience in the Thumb area.

The three numbers are: Coast Guard Emergency service (dial *CG), Local Fishing reports from the Thumb (dial *FISH) and Local Charter bookings (dial *CHARTER).

The *CG provides a direct telephone connection to the U.S. Coast Guard for EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ONLY! *CG is a free call in the CellularOne-Lake Huron service area. While *CG is not intended or recommended to be used as a first means of contact with the Coast Guard, it does offer a backup to a VHF marine radio should radio communications fail.

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Bill (313) 422 - 3386
Doug (810) 545 - 1181
Leon (810) 293 - 1261

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Fishing Report: (313) 777-7008
FAX: (313) 777-1730

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Farmington, MI 48335
EAST OF DRAKE ROAD
473-2030

Fishing Report: (313) 473-2033



Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.
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STEELHEADERS!

MEETING NOTICE - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!



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