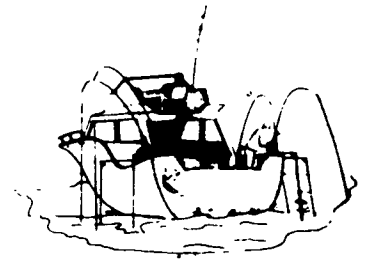




FISHING TALES



Lake Huron chinook top Lake Michigan's!

Six or seven years ago, Lake Huron and Lake Michigan fishermen would have called Jerry Rakoczy a liar if he had dared present data showing Lake Huron Chinook salmon topped Lake Michigan's.

But there it is. For the second year in a row, the catch rate for Lake Huron salmon fishermen beat the Lake Michigan rate.

According to the Great Lakes creel census supervisor's data (which no one questions), Lake Huron Chinook anglers landed 3.54 fish per hundred hours of fishing in 1992. This compares with a 1992 catch rate on Lake Michigan of 2.29.

In 1991, the Lake Huron catch rate was 3.80, compared to 2.45 on Lake Michigan.

For purposes of comparison, the Lake Michigan catch rate was more than 10 fish per hundred hours prior to the fishery collapse several years ago. Catches at nine index ports plunged from historic highs of more than 400,000 to a mere 37,545 in 1992. Lake Michigan's high point of 400,000 compares to Lake Huron's of 77,144 in 1988.

Bacterial kidney disease (BKD) has rav-

aged Chinook in both lakes, far more severely in Lake Michigan than Lake Huron.

The data are based on thousands of interviews with incoming anglers at Rogers City, Rockport, Alpena, Harrisville, Oscoda, Tawas, Port Austin and Huron Beach.

Lake Huron anglers at these ports landed a computer-estimated 36,301 Chinook in 1992. This is down slightly (5.7 percent) from 38,499 in 1991 and sharply from the high-water mark of 1988.

Angler success (as measured by number of fish caught per hundred hours of fishing) was up because angler effort (overall number of hours fished) declined by 38 percent in 1992, compared to 1986-1988 averages.

As on Lake Michigan, Lake Huron's biggest 1992 news is the best catch-rate ever for steelhead. While the numbers pale compared to Lake Michigan (4,347 versus 50,053), the catch rate is up a solid 79 percent on Lake Huron.

Although Lake Huron angler effort declined 38 percent from the 1986-1988 period as noted above, the angler effort rate was

comparable with 1991.

Lake trout fishermen continue to take a licking in Lake Huron due to tribal gill nets and federal planting strategy, which focuses on mid-lake reefs. Lake trout catch rates are down 60 percent.

Brown trout success was up in 1992 over 1991, but below 1986 highs. Anglers took 3,257 browns last year, compared to 3,248 in 1991 and 15,085 in 1986.

Though angler effort dropped in Saginaw Bay, probably due to lousy weather, the walleye catch rate if .052 fish per hundred hours was the second-best on record. Catch rates for perch declined, although nearly 300,000 were creeled.

New Lake Huron boating harbor opens

A new DNR mooring facility at Presque Isle Harbor will be available to boaters in 1993. The \$5 million facility, the final link in the safe harbor refuge network on Lake Huron begun in 1947, has 84 boat slips with electricity and water hook-ups, in addition to pump-out and fuel service for gas and diesel-powered boats, new restrooms and showers. There is also a breakwater fishing platform in addition to the launching ramp.

The facility is managed by Thunder Bay Shores Marine, a private management group which has operated the Alpena Municipal Mooring Facility for the past two years.

From the *Northwoods Call*, January 6, 1993.

Here's a scene we hope to repeat in 1993!



1990 WAS A GREAT YEAR FOR DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS when Dick Shirk (r.) accepted the \$5000 top prize from a representative of the Blue Water Mental Health and Child Guidance Clinic for our club winning the River Crab charity tourney. President Dave Even (l) and Rob Helzer of the Blue Water Sportfishing Association assisted with the presentation. Rob will be at the February meeting to answer questions about this year's event. We've set our sights on winning the 1993 club prize, but we'll need every club member's help, so sign up now!!

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FISHIN' TALES is published monthly by the DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC. Views expressed in it are those of the authors, and the Editor. Its purpose is to inform members of issues and events affecting sport fishermen, and to teach and guide the public to respect and appreciate our Great Lakes, rivers, other waters, and land.

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 Field Editor MIKE LEHTO
 Photographer LES JUMP
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JOEL GARINGER, Editor

21237 Sunnysdale, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

RIVER CRAB SALMON STAKES TOPIC AT FEBRUARY MEETING

Rob Helzer of the Blue Water Sportfishing Association will be at the February membership meeting to discuss rule changes, this year's prizes, etc. Entry tickets and dinner tickets for the 1993 tournament will also be available at the meeting. All club members should plan on attending this meeting!

GPS RAFFLE IN MARCH

A hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) will be raffled off on March 30. Tickets, priced at \$10 each with only 150 available, will be on sale at the February and March membership meetings, as well as at our Spring Fishing Show and Steelhead Expo at the Waterford Community Center on March 13-14. See Don Redmond for tickets.

1993 BOAT DIRECTORY PREPARATION UNDERWAY

Mike Wakulski is collecting information for the 1993 Detroit Area Steelheader Boat Directory. See Mike at the meeting this month to complete a form, or call him at 585-6307

if you will not be attending. The directory will be laminated for easy on-board storage.

MEMBER MISSES OUT ON ATTENDANCE PRIZE!

Member Gary D. Ruprich's name was drawn at the January membership meeting for the Attendance Incentive prize but Gary was absent, missing out on \$40. The February prize will be \$50! Plan to be there!!

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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
FEBRUARY 23, 1993 • MARCH 30, 1993 • APRIL 27, 1993

February Speaker — **JIM FENNER, Ludington Charter Captain**
 March Speaker — **TO BE ANNOUNCED**

SPECIAL STEELHEADER EVENTS

PONTIAC BOAT SHOW (Silverdome) February 17-21
OUTDOORAMA (Novi Expo Center) February 26-March 7
PROFESSIONAL FISHING SHOW (The Palace) March 4-7
DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER SPRING FISHING SHOW (Waterford Community Center) March 13-14

WINTER FISHING SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
March 6	MANISTEE RIVER (W.A.T.A.)	Doug Karakas, 545-1181

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
April 24 May 1	ST. JOE/BENTON HARBOR RIVER CRAB (Lexington/Pt. Sanilac)	Mike Wakulski, 585-6307
May 15	HARBOR BEACH	To Be Announced
June 5	PORT AUSTIN (Team Doubles)	To Be Announced
June 19	SPECIAL PEOPLE DAY (Lk. Erie Walleye)	To Be Announced
June 2	60SCODA (Ladies Day)	To Be Announced
July 17	MANISTEE (Team Doubles)	To Be Announced
July 31-Aug. 1	PRESQUE ISLE (Two-day)	To Be Announced
August 21-22	LUDINGTON (Two-day)	To Be Announced
September 11	FRANKFORT	To Be Announced

Coalition asks Skamania support

The Lake Michigan Sport Fishing Coalition, Inc., a confederation of sport fishing and charter organizations in the Lake Michigan basin, is asking for support from fishermen and fishing clubs for its major organizational goal, banning the use of gill nets in Lake Michigan. It also attempts to oversee the commercial fishing industry to preserve, protect and promote Lake Michigan sport fishing and our natural resources in general.

The Coalition's current major project is a net pen rearing project. In the late summer of 1992, Gary Hudson, North Region Supervisor of the Indiana D.N.R., asked interested sport fishing and other groups, working cooperatively through the Coalition, to get behind this program.

The stated purpose of the net pen rearing project was to "change the configuration of the harvest." In short, can the fish be 'confused' into staging in the lake to provide a better overall fishery for the Lake? The D.N.R.'s original plan involved using 16,500 production Skamania (fish scheduled to be stocked in specific areas). Some Coalition members objected, suggesting instead that culled fish be used. Culled fish are fish hatched in excess of the stated stocking needs to ensure that stocking needs are met — for example, you hatch 150,000 fish to end up with 100,000 fish to plant after natural attrition. In addition, Coalition members wanted to see the program emphasize improved individual fish survival rather than just overall fishery improvement. The D.N.R. agreed to these suggested changes.

Coalition representatives returned to their respective organizations to secure acceptance of the revised plan, and ultimately seven Indiana organizations agreed to support the project. The Coalition developed a statement of commitment to the project, and a resolution of support was passed.

A working committee determined three criteria deemed critical to the success of the project — accessibility, water flow, and water temperature.

Good access to net pens was vital, in order to feed the fish and maintain the daily data needed to assess the success of the project. Even more important was easy access by boat and shore anglers to the fish when they return after two years to spawn. These factors were foremost in deciding the site for the net pens.

Good water flow was necessary to maintain a constant flushing of the pens. Water temperature was deemed critical to assure proper fish growth. A constant water temperature is needed for the fish to grow during the winter months.

Jim Buyer of NIPSCO Industries was contacted about the possibility of siting the pens near the warm-water discharges of their generating stations. Over the years, NIPSCO has been generous in allowing access to boat and shore anglers, and have gone out of their way to allow anglers the opportunity to fish Lake Michigan. NIPSCO readily agreed to the idea. It was agreed by all parties involved that, if the presence of the pens in any way interfered with NIPSCO's operations, the fish would be released from the pens early.

The fish planned to be used in the 154-day project are to come from the Mixsawbah Fish Hatchery in Kingsbury, Indiana, with an approximate cost of \$13,250 per pen site. That cost figure includes net pens, fish food, scales, storage boxes, sundries, insurance, fish tags, guns to insert the tags, and fund raising costs.

The Coalition has applied for two grants, from the Fish America Foundation and the Indiana-Illinois Sea Grant, and a third grant proposal is now being prepared for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For additional funding for the project, a major fund raiser has been established, called "Foster Indiana Fish." This fund raiser will allow interested people to contribute toward the costs of raising the Skamania to stocking size (8") in net pens in Lake Michigan. People can contribute \$1.00, \$5.00 (or more) for this project. Contributors of \$1 will re-

ceive a certificate of acknowledgment, while \$5 contributors will receive a numbered certificate, with the number matching a fish tag number. When the fish is released, the \$5 contributors will receive a postcard notifying them of the release.

An eight-page magazine will be sent to \$5 contributors approximately three months before the return of the fish to the Indiana waters of Lake Michigan whence they originated. The magazine will include pictures of the net pen project from the time the fish are put into the nets until they are released. All net funds received from the fund raiser will be devoted to pay costs of the 1993 net pen project, to improve the project for the next year, and for public education programs designed to teach young children about how the fish originally get into the lake, and about the joys of fishing.

This net pen rearing project is intended to increase the quality of fish planted, yielding healthier fish with increased survivability better acclimated to their environment at the time of smolting. The social, economic and psychic benefits derived from the resulting improved sport fishing are easy to imagine.

The project's success will be determined by the number of additional Skamania released from the net pens, and by the increased number of Skamania caught by boat and shore anglers at the NIPSCO discharge sites 2 years from now.

The project includes signs that will be erected urging anglers to report their catches of net pen-reared Skamania (identifiable by tag and/or fin clip) to the address on the tag. A lottery will also be set up to distribute fishing tackle prizes to anglers who report their catches to the project.

If this project sounds like something you wish to support, contact Bob Mitchell (828-8034) for information about where to send your contribution. And don't forget to mark your calendars for 1995, when it will be time to get down to Indiana for some of that hot Skamania action that should be taking place!

REPORT

ALL Phone: 1-800-292-7800

POACHING

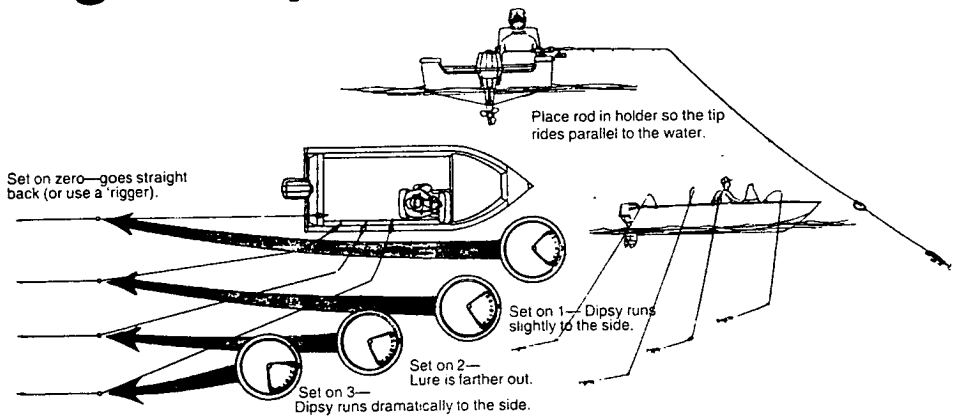
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MARCH ISSUE
of
FISHIN' TALES
is
FEBRUARY 23, 1993

Dipsys: Increasing the spread for deep fish

Dave Frey frequently uses up to 6 Luhr Jensen Dipsy Divers to take lures down and to the side of the boat, complementing the downriggers. The adjustable weight on the bottom of the diver enables it to plane to the side. Inside diver lines are dialed to 1. The farthest outside are dialed to 3.

"Set the closest Dipsy first," Frey advises. Frey recommends using a rubber salmon snubber between the Dipsy and lure to absorb the impact of a strike. "Even a walleye can snap your leader," Frey says from experience. "The diver doesn't drop back on the strike, and the short 5- to 8-foot leader between the diver and lure doesn't have much stretch."

Rod holders are a major consideration. Down-East Salty holders are a cast metal design



that does the job.

Dipsys come on a card with a depth chart on

the back. They'll tell you how much line to let out on the various settings to achieve specific depths.

"Use at least 20-pound test for your main line," Frey advises, noting that the constant pull of the divers stresses mono. Lighten up the leader for maximum lure action.

◀ DIPSYS WITH JETTISON RELEASES

Anglers fishing Lake Erie's Central Basin have mated Big Jon Jettison releases to Dipsy Divers, allowing a much longer distance between the diver and the lure.

Clip the swivel off the Dipsy's release mechanism, and tighten the side screw so the release mechanism won't pop. Attach an O-ring to the top of this mechanism.

Thread a two-piece Jettison release on the line, followed by the Dipsy, which is threaded on the line through the rear swivel on the Dipsy. Tie a swivel to the end of the line. Attach a lure to this final swivel with a 5- to 8-foot leader.

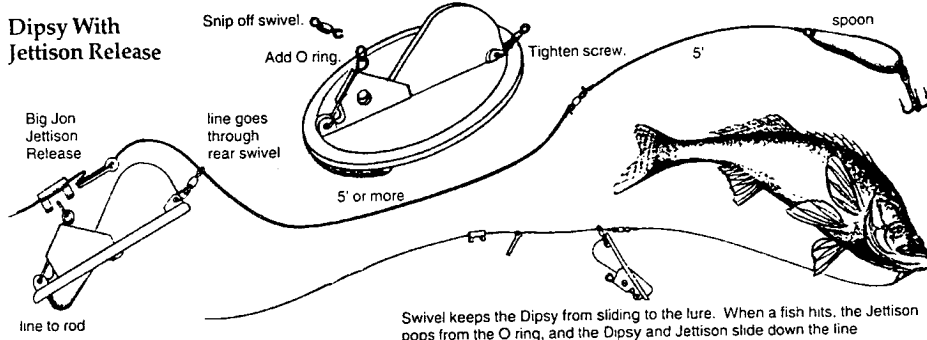
Hold the Dipsy and two pieces of the Jettison release in one hand, and slide out enough line to set the lure back the desired distance behind the diver. Attach the Jettison to the O-ring on top of the Dipsy and set the diver to the desired depth.

When a fish hits, it pulls the pin on the Jettison, allowing the release, and the Dipsy slides down to the swivel.

Use this set-up when fish seem to be spooked by the Dipsy and a short leader.

From *IN-FISHERMAN* Magazine.

Dipsy With Jettison Release



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SALMON STAKES TOURNAMENT

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GR. RIVER EAST OF DRAKE
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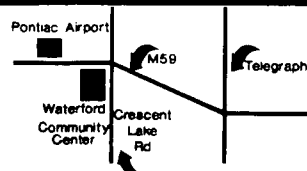
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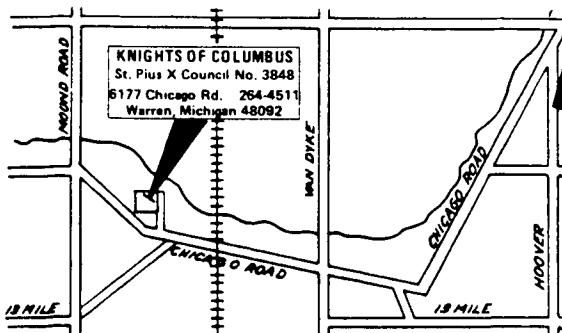
Thank You!

Detroit Area STEELHEAD MEETINGS

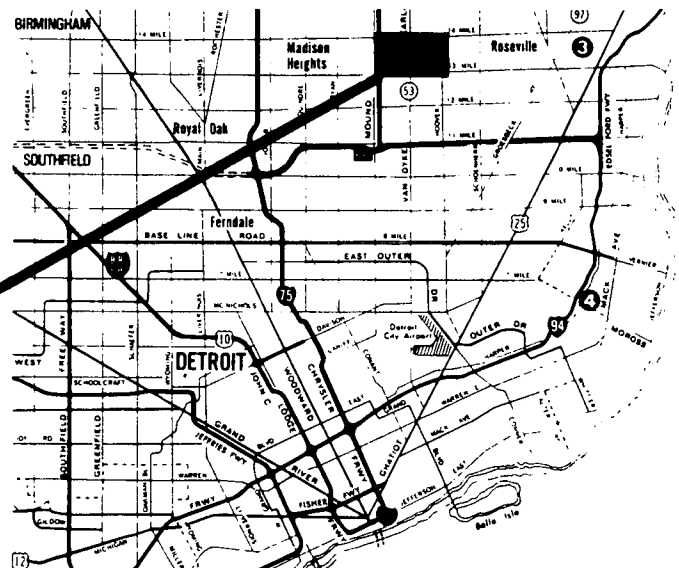
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