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APRIL 1991

Board urges huge Salmon Stakes turnout!

The Chuck Muer's River Crab Salmon Stakes is the first event on our boat trolling tournament schedule again this year, and as in the past, we're looking for a great turnout from our club members.

It's very important to have a large turnout of Detroit Area Steelheaders at this tourney — we won this event in 1990 and we will need every member to participate if we are going to again claim the \$5000 top prize and successfully defend our title in 1991!

Every person who fishes in the tournament must have an entry ticket. Send in your official registration form listing boat name, boat skipper and all crew members (including addresses) along with \$10 for each person who plans to fish and an additional \$10 for each person who will be eating the buffet dinner at the River Crab Restuarant after the weigh-in.

Entries should be mailed to Jim Beelby (22540 Van, St. Clair Shores 48081) and must be postmarked by April 10. Please

include a self-addressed, stamped businesssize envelope.

Tourney rules and regulations appear elsewhere in this issue. If you have questions, contact port co-captains Jim Beelby (772-6553), or Don Redmond (469-8344).

Andy Remeselnik of the Blue Water Sportfishing Association reported at our February meeting that the River Crab is one of the longest-running tournaments, and one of the largest. With more than 350 boats, over 1000 fishermen, and many organized fishing clubs competing, the 1990 tourney was the best yet, and this year's promises to be even bigger and better.

A record \$79,980 was raised for charities in 1990. Michigan agencies benefitting from the event are:

The Blue Water Mental Health and Child Guidance Clinic and its Alice C. McKinnon Family Center in Port Huron.

Child Abuse and Neglect Council, County of Oakland in Pontiac.

The Sanctuary in Royal Oak. Northwestern Guidance Clinic in Garden City.

St. Aloysius School in Romulus.

University of Michigan Hospitals Child Protection Team in Ann Arbor.

Grand Rapids Child Guidance Clinic in Grand Rapids.

As you can see, the River Crab Salmon Stakes supports a lot of very worthwhile charities and gives us a chance to pursue our sport while helping to support many good causes. Besides that, there always seems to be something unusual happening during the tournament, and everyone who takes part has a great time!

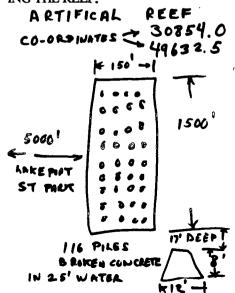
We urge everyone in the Detroit Area Steelheaders to set aside April 20 on their calendar and be on hand for the 1991 River Crab Salmon Stakes.

- Board of Directors

NOTE: THE MAP SHOWN BELOW PINPOINTS THE LOCATION OF THE NEW LAKE HURON ARTIFICIAL REEF, WHICH OUGHT TO PROVE TO BE A GOOD PLACE TO TRY DURING THE RIVER CRAB TOURNEY. OUR CLUB DONATED \$1000.00 LAST YEAR TOWARD THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING THE REEF.



ROB HELZER (center) once again invited the Detroit Area Steelheaders to participate in the Chuck Muer's River Crab Salmon Stakes for 1991. Rob is a member of the Blue Water Sportfishing Association, our club's principal rival at this charity event. The jug on the table is a marker the Blue Water group will place for us to mark the best spot to fish! Since we beat the Blue Water club in last year's tourney, we might want to be cautious in accepting the "help" so kindly offered by our rivals!! Let the game begin!!!



FISHIN' TALES is published 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 events which affect sport fishermen, and to teach and guide the public to respect and appreciate our Great Lakes, rivers and land.

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River Crab, St. Joseph open trolling schedule

Welcome all you boat trollers to the 1991 Detroit Area Steelheaders tournament season. I told you it wouldn't be long until iceout. It's time to wake up your boat and get it ready for an exciting new season.

As you can see on Page One and Page Twelve, our season once again begins with the Chuck Muer's River Crab Salmon Stakes Benefit Tournament on April 20. Let's all get behind this one with another great turnout! Besides being for a great cause, we really need to make a strong defense of our 1990 championship in order to remain Number One! The Blue Water boys will be more determined to win than ever, so we all know what our challenge is!!

Body baits such as the Bomber A, Rapala, and Bang-O-Lures are the dominant baits. Fish the top 20 feet of water and go slowly. Remember that fish are somewhat lethargic at this time of year, so they won't be going after agressively presented baits. Running baits off outriggers, planer boards, and long lines will also produce fish. Preferred colors will be blues, greens, and chartreuse. It's important that you monitor water temperatures — fish the warmest water you can find.

The first weekend of May will find us at St. Joseph/Benton Harbor. This is our first real get-together as a club fleet for 1991, and it's always a good tournament due to the camaraderie of the Team Doubles on Sunday. A lot of good fishing information is exchanged during these two days.

The fishing techniques should be pretty much the same as those employed for the River Crab tournament. However, don't completely discount the idea of using some spoons — there have been some real good results reported with these in previous years. Top locations should again be at the Cook Nuclear Power Plant, and off the junk cars about three miles south of the pier heads.

The popular Sunday Team Doubles event, where the less successful boats get matched up with a top-finishing boat from Saturday and fish as a team for trophies, makes for a very popular windup for the weekend.

Fishing hours are 6:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. with a 3:30 p.m. weigh-in on Saturday, and 6:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with a 1:30 p.m. weigh-in on Sunday. Our base of operations will be at the West Basin Marina in Benton Harbor. A map packet will be available at the April meeting. If you have any questions, call Port Captain Mike Wakulski at 585-6307.

After St.Joseph/Benton Harbor, we'll all be heading to Wilson, New York for our first official club tournament on Lake Ontario. Complete details on this exciting event will also be available at the April meeting.

Remember, the water is very cold at this time of year, so be extra-careful — please make sure *EVERYBODY* stays on board! Don't forget the drain plugs and the outdrive lube, and we hope to see you at the docks.

— Dick Shirk Boat Trolling Chairman

Coming Events

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Last Tuesday of month at 7:30 p.m. K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Rd., Warren APRIL 30, 1991 • MAY 28, 1991 • JUNE 25, 1991 PROFESSOR R. B. PEYTON OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY IS THE FEATURED SPEAKER AT THE APRIL MEETING. DR. PEYTON, WILL SPEAK ON A RECENT SURVEY OF GREAT LAKES FISHING.

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
April 20	RIVER CRAB (Lexington/Port Sanilac)	Don Redmond & Jim Beelby
May 4-5	ST. JOE/BENTON HARBOR (Two-day)	Mike Wakulski
May 18	WILSON, NEW YORK	Dick Shirk
June 1	PORT AUSTIN (Team Doubles)	Doug Karakas
June 15	SPECIAL PEOPLE DAY (Not a tournament)	Tim Graskewicz
June 29	OSCODA (Ladies Day)	Dave Even
July 20	MANISTEE (Team Doubles)	Bill Shackleton
August 3-4	LUDINGTON (Two-day)	Bob Mitchell
August 17	ROGERS CITY	Bob Herman
August 24	OLCOTT, NEW YORK (Not a tournament)	Dick Shirk
September 7	FRANKFORT	Tim Graskewicz

Detroit Area Steelheaders aid gill net fight

Detroit Area Steelheaders remain active in the fight against gill netters in Harmon Bay near Rogers City.

In response to a direct appeal, the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. has donated \$250 to the Northeast Michigan Steelheaders chapter of the M.S.S.F.A. for a legal battle to stop the continuing wanton rape of the fishery that is taking place at Harmon Bav.

Don Cothran, Northeast Steelheader chapter spokesman, came down to our club meeting in February, seeking moral and financial help for this ongoing struggle. He stated that approximately \$1000 is needed to file a case in U.S. District Court seeking an end to Harmon Bay gill netting. Apparently, his club has been abandoned financially in this fight by their parent organization, the Andy Pelt-led M.S.S.F.A.

As it has done in the past and will do in the future, the Detroit Area Steelheaders responded positively to a challenge in support of the fishery. Let it be noted for the record that the Detroit Area Steelheaders is prepared to help any remaining M.S.S.F.A. chapters in worthy projects.

When we became an independent club one year ago, we WERE NOT rejecting or abandoning that great group of dedicated men and women, the great brotherhood of Michigan Steelheaders! Our club was only rejecting Andy Pelt and his mismanagement of a once-great statewide organization. We simply decided that we could no longer allow the continued squandering of the thousands of dollars we were giving to help various worthwhile projects.

We'll continue to support of the Southwestern Steelheaders with their Bridgman Dam project, the Benzie Steelheaders with their fish-rearing project, the Metro-West and Huron Valley Steelheaders in their programs helping handicapped children, and any other good causes that come along!!

— Joel Garinger, Editor

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Lake Ontario...What a fishery!

"You fellows should have been here last weekend!" These were the familiar words that greeted us just after the "Harmony" and her crew (Dave Even, Ray Even, Rod Coffey and myself) pulled into Olcott, New York last August 23.

We were getting our New York State fishing licenses and talking to the charter boat skippers about the fishery. They told us that the wind had been blowing steadily at 15 to 25 knots out of the northeast for the past five days, and as a result the lake had completely turned over and shut down the fish. Sound

Well, we had just driven six hours and we weren't going to let anything dampen our spirits, which were high in anticipation of catching JUST ONE of those huge 30-poundplus Lake Ontario kings we had heard about!

By 2:00 we and the other Detroit Area Steelheader skippers and crews had launched our boats, and we headed "Harmony" to the northeast into the 3-5 footers that were running. Our plan was to scatter the boats around until someone found a good pocket of fish. Then we would all concentrate there. Dick Shirk and "Lil' Scratch" headed southwest. while Rob Pinskey and "Anticipation" and Blaise Pewinski aboard "Sea Hag" were already five miles straight out from port.

The first couple of hours we had two shakers and nothing in the box. Then we heard from "Anticipation" that they were marking lots of fish, but with few takers. Since we weren't marking much, we decided to pull lines and head out to deeper water. Happily, the lake was starting to come down and turn very fishable.

After correcting some problems we were having with our LORAN, we eventually found "Anticipation" about eight miles out from port (NOTE: If you are fishing out of the ports of Olcott or Wilson, New York, be sure to use LORAN Master GRI 9960 and Secondary Stations 1 & 5, NOT the Great Lakes Master Station 8970).

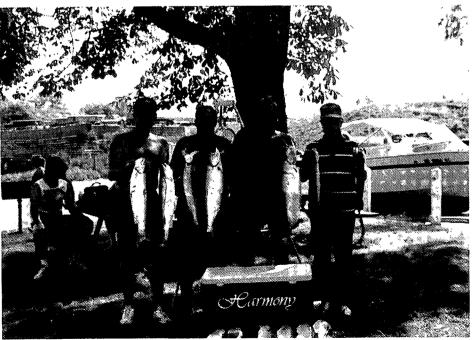
We set lines and had boxed a couple of nice steelies before we decided to call it a night. Back in harbor, everyone agreed that they were going back to the same spot the following morning, in hopes that the fish would turn on for us.

Friday morning arrived, and with it came fog. Well, if we had fog, at least the lake would likely be down. Still, it took us the better part of an hour to travel the eight miles out to our spot, but once we got there, it proved to be worth the slow trip!

We barely had three rods set when one went off with a nice steelie. Before we had that one boated, another rod went off, and so began one of the best days of fishing I've ever experienced! Judging from the radio chatter, everyone was into the action, taking good numbers of fish.

Dodgers and squids 40'-60' down were dynamite on the steelhead, but we also took two nice 20-pounds-plus kings on Northern King spoons behind Dipseys. Black dodgers and blue glow froggie squids on the lead lines were also taking quite a few fish.

Friday night we joined with the "Anticipation" crew for a barbeque of fresh steelhead Continued on Page Ten . . J



THE "HARMONY" CREW AT LAKE ONTARIO: Skipper Tim Graskewicz, Dave Even, Rod Coffey, and Ray Even.

W.A.T.A. Tournament closes winter season

The twelfth annual Wellston Area Tourist Association (W.A.T.A.) Super Tournament was the final stop on our winter fishing tournament schedule this year, and as we have done for several years, our club tournament was incorporated into the overall W.A.T.A. event.

The people of Wellston really do a bangup job on this tournament. From the \$5 rebate on your entry fee to the great collection of door prizes any fisherman would love to win, this is a 100% EVENT!

A total of 148 fishermen participated in this year's Super Tournament, and altogether, 57 fish were taken, a somewhat lower average than usual. This time around, the "bankies" did a little better than the boaters, and a 13-pound steelhead topped the list of big fish. Five other fish over ten pounds came to the scale.



GENE BURBARY caught this 'prize' steelie during the W.A.T.A. tourney.

The bad news is that only one of those 57 fish were taken by a Detroit Area Steelheader, as Gene Burbary won the club tournament with a 5-pound, 8-ounce steelhead. Nice going, Gene!

Hopefully, next year will offer us better fishing and a better winter for good ice conditions. Thanks to all the "River Rats" for their participation this season!

— Doug Karakas River/Surf Tournament Chairman





THE 'RIVER RATS' (1-r): Front row — Gene Burbary, John Schulte, Ron "Metro West." Back row — Joel Garinger, Jimmy Hartrick, Bill Lewton, Doug Karakas, Don Anton, Bob Lewton and Larry Wilson.

Spring Fishing Show scores another success!!

Spring Fishing Show attendance at last month's show was off more than 37% this year, reversing a trend of ever-greater attendance in recent years. Despite the smaller crowds, Show Chairman Bob Gilbert pronounced the show a success, with net proceeds of more than \$3,000.

Anticipating that economic uncertainties might reduce interest in the show, the event was structured to be financially successful with lower attendance. In addition to the financial rewards to the club from the show, we also gained new members and some excellent public relations.

The more than 1,200 people who attended during the two days of the show enjoyed the show more than in prior years because of the less crowded conditions. Everyone seemed to have plenty of time to stop and talk with vendors, speakers and demonstrators.

Our club put on superb demonstrations at the membership tables. Boat trolling, river fishing, spawn bag tying, smoking fish, and club benefits were all demonstrated to very interested audiences.

Some of the vendors reported that they did very well financially, while others apparently didn't do too well. Even those who didn't have a great show said they were glad to have been there displaying and selling their wares anyway, since it gave them exposure and showed their loyalty to the Detroit Area Steelheaders. The Detroit Area Steelheaders thank all vendors for their participation.

We've already been informed that the Dearborn Civic Center is asking for a \$4,000 rental for next year. "We will have to reevaluate this, and the two-day show concept for next year." stated Gilbert.

Bob also expressed gratitude to all who participated. "I want to say thanks to everyone who helped out — I couldn't have done it without you!"

The Board wants to publicly express a big "Thank You!" to Bob for the great job he did. Way to go, Bob!!

- Joel Garinger

HERE'S HOW TO GET TO DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER MEETINGS:



Lakers look good on Lake Huron

"We can anticipate an excellent lake trout fishery from Rogers City on south for the next couple of seasons because of the success of the planting programs," said Frank Krist, Rogers City's member of the Lake Huron Fisheries Task Force.

Krist was pointing out that the early spring fishery for lake trout has been good for the past several years, but there just aren't many anglers who take advantage of the bounty that is available. "Each spring a large school of lakers moves along the shore, well within reach of small boat fishermen," explained Krist. "With the nets gone, this fishery can only get better."

With the success of last season's lake trout fishery fresh in local area anglers' minds, Krist said, "Six years of plantings on the offshore reefs near Drummond Island and the reefs located 50 miles out from Alpena has dramatically increased the number of lakers along our shore."

He added that the structure along the coastline of Presque Isle County seems to attract these fish, and that "large numbers of lakers seem to be operating along our shoreline, particularly in the area off Swan Bay. There is no reason that the same fishery couldn't exist in Hammond Bay."

Krist pointed out that a lack of spring trolling in Hammond Bay will probably keep that a mystery, but he plans to try drumming up interest in checking on lake trout in the bay once the pack ice departs.

Krist said that the data fishermen can provide on planted lake trout will assist greatly in evaluating the success of lake trout plants and, to a degree, will ensure that they continue. "If the DNR gets enough data to support a successful program," he explained, "then we should enjoy these good plants for some years to come. We need to fish this resource to give them (the DNR) the data they need."

He said that fishermen catching spring lakers with a missing adipose fin should keep the head because there is a metal tag embedded in the fish's nose. Put the head in a plastic bag and attach a card that tells the length and weight of the fish, and the location of the catch. Fishermen should then contact the DNR research station in Alpena for instructions on delivering the package.

Krist also said that a change in rainbow trout and steelhead planting program for the Ocqueoc River is in the works. The lack of success of the rainbow planting program has led the DNR to look at planting steelhead only in the area. The return of smolt-sized steelhead to the river has been good, but the rainbows seem to disappear.

He suggested that this development could herald the rebirth of the once-great steelhead fishery that used to enter the Ocqueoc in both the spring and the fall. The program will take several years to evaluate, but confidence expressed by Paul Seelbach, DNR research biologist and steelhead specialist, offers hope that the steelhead will return.

There is one disturbing development on the fishing horizon according to Krist, an ominous announcement from the DNR that a phasout of Chinook salmon planting in Lake Huron over the next 30 years is being considered! (Are you paying attention, Detroit Area Steelheaders??) Apparently, the DNR believes that natural reproduction will supplement the planting schedule over that time and gradually eliminte the need for 'artificially' keeping fish numbers high.

Krist believes there are several factors that are working against the success of this ambitious plan. "The plan is just unrealistic," explained Krist. "There are not enough natal streams on the Lake Huron coastline, there is already a large faction of social opposition to salmon crowding spawning rivers, and the introduction of walleye and other competitors for the same streams would make this (plan) impossible."

Lastly, Krist noted that the result of this year's court filings with (U.S. District) Judge Enslen could change the whole game. It will be a wait-and-see attitude until the issue (nets) is settled for this year, but without the nets, look for good spring fishing, says Krist.

--- Mike Modrzynski

Reprinted from the Presque Isle County Advance, March 21, 1991.

Cleanup for Betsie and Platte Rivers set

The fifth annual Benzie Area Steelheaders river cleanup is slated for Saturday, May 18, 1991. Volunteers wishing to help out are asked to meet at the Homestead damsite on the Betsie River at 9:00 a.m. Both the Betsie River and the Platte River are scheduled to be cleaned.

"We need lots of volunteers in order to clean stretches of both of these famous salmon and steelhead streams," said George Richey, River Cleanup Chairman for 1991.
"The more help we receive, the more sections of both streams will be cleaned — we need lots of help," said Richey.

This year, as in the past, the Steelheaders will be assisted by Cub Scouts from Frankfort, Honor and Lake Ann. The young Scouts won't be in the water, but will assist on the banks of both rivers.

Food and pop will be provided to all who help with the project. A restaurant in Honor graciously feeds all the volunteers every year when the cleanup is finished.

Volunteers are welcome, from other Steelheader Chapters, other fishing clubs, and, of course, individual salmon and steelhead fishermen who are concerned about the quality of the fishery. Any form of assistance is welcomed and appreciated!

Those wishing to help ought to bring waders and a rake or hoe to pull mono from the bottom. A knife to cut the monofilament from tree limbs might be handy as well. Drift boats and canoes will help carry bags of trash downstream to waiting dumpsters.

This is a great way to give something back to the streams that give anglers so many thrills. A day spent cleaning either river is truly a day well-spent. By doing this, we can each make a tremendous difference in the quality of these two rivers' fishing environment in both improved water quality and the streamside setting.

Please make plans to join the Benzie Area Steelheaders on Saturday, May 18. One person *CAN* make a difference!

If you would like more information on this worthwhile project, please contact:

GEORGE RICHEY River Cleanup Chairman Benzie Area Steelheaders P.O. Box 395 Benzonia, MI 49616 (616) 882-4571 Need A
FISHING PARTNER
or Another
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Do you want to fish in the Boat Trolling Tournaments but don't have a boat?

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CREWS Hot Line

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is a
Detroit Area Steelheader
club service for members

Favorite color combinations

During the salmon season, many folks are on some of our Great Lakes and wish they could do better. There are various tactics that can be used to enhance your "spread" of lures, and the use of dodgers and flies or squid can definitely help.

I know there are those who don't like to pull dodgers. "Dodgers pull too hard, you've gotto go slow," and lots of different arguments are heard. All I know is that those who use attractors generally outfish those who don't.

In this article, I'll list some of the favorite color combinations used on lakes Huron, Michigan, and Ontario. I know many of the readers of *Fishin' Tales* fish all three lakes. The use of a dodger and trolling fly or squid will attract salmon and trout into your spread, which enhances the overall effectiveness of your lure patterns and selections.

When fishing for salmon and lake trout off Harbor Beach and Port Austin/Grindstone City, a chrome fluted, hammered chrome or silver plate dodger draws fish in. Couple these attractors with the following flies or squid: blue or green Sparkle Fly, blue or green Metallic Fly, a laser or black laser Michigan Squid. These colors work well for lakers and salmon off the tip of the Thumb.

Working further north on Lake Huron, once we get to Oscoda, Harrisville, Alpena and Rogers City, we use quite a few of the chrome fluted or hammered chrome dodgers or a white with laser tape insert dodger, and laser or black laser Michigan Squid.

The laser squid has performed fantastically the past few years off Alpena and Rogers City. For example, Tom Hicks of Fairhaven won the 1989 Rogers City Salmon Tournament on a chrome dodger and laser Michigan Squid. In 1990, Detroit Area Steelheader Bob Mitchell aboard "Kemo" won that same tourney using a chrome dodger and laser color Michigan Squid.

The combination of clear water in northern Lake Huron will almost demand a chrome or silver dodger and a minnow-imitative color such as the black laser or laser color. About the only time we've veered from this combination is during overcast days, and when the salmon are in deep (more than 80') water. When those conditions are present, we pull a page from the Lake Michigan fisherman's book and "go with the glow." A chartreuse or chartreuse/white dodger with a green frog glow, blue frog glow, black glow, or glow blue Michigan Squid have produced good catches for us. Pull the combination up every 30 minutes or less to recharge the glow.

On Lake Michigan, the water doesn't seem to be quite as clear, so more glow colors are used. From Ludington, Manistee, Frankfort and Platte Bay, lots of glow squids are used.



GEORGE RICHEY shows off a Rogers City king taken on a chrome dodger and pearl laser Michigan Squid.

Some of the dodger colors include chartreuse, chartreuse/white, chrome, chrome fluted, hammered chrome, or the white with laser tape insert.

We use lots of glow green, green frog glow, glow blue, blue frog glow, glow laser 2, and black glow Michigan Squid or Glo-Fly. These colors seem to work anytime salmon or trout are down deeper than 40'.

We've caught some salmon using a glow dodger and glow squid, especially off river mouths in 'dirty' water. This setup seems to work as the salmon are staging, and normally right at dark or shortly after. The soft glow from the squids and flies are better than the harsh glow generated from light sticks. A little glow works much better than a lot.

What else works on Lake Michigan? Consider a chrome dodger and green Sparkle Fly, a green/yellow dodger and green Metallic Fly, chartreuse/white dodger and Dazzler trolling fly, or chrome fluted dodger and laser Michigan Squid. For coho, an all-time favorites is a red dodger and black squid.

Everyone has their own way of doing things, but from my years of using dodgers and squid, I guess I've picked up a few things. The general rule of thumb used to be: run less than 5' behind the ball, run the fly/squid 1 1/2 times the length of the dodger, and go slow. We will run 5' or less when we're fishing extremely deep or in currents. The rest of the time, my average length for coho is about 8'-10' behind the ball. For kings, I'll stretch it from 15'-25' behind the ball. This slows the action down some, which both kings and lakers seem to like.

We normally run a leader of 14"-16" from the dodger to the fly for coho, and 20"-22" for kings and lakers. As far as going slow is concerned, we normally run fast enough so the dodger rocks from side to side, with an occasional turnover. If the attractor is behind the boat 25', the speed can be bumped up a bit more. Some fishermen will "bend" the dodger

so they can run a bit faster yet. Approximately 2.4 knots seems to be about top end when running dodgers. Each boat and its gauges are different, so it's difficult to say *EXACTLY* how fast or slow to go.

The best bet is to go as slow as possible and still elicitresponses from the salmon. We normally will stack above the attractors with small (size 3 or 4) Grizzly or Lyman plugs, or flutter-style spoons. Faster speeds allow you to use Streaks.

Salmon fishing on Lake Ontario is a fishery much the same as ours was 15 years ago: they are taking goodly numbers of 30-poundsplus salmon! Where I've fished on Lake Ontario, the glow Michigan Squid is the way to go. Some good catches are also coming on either the Glo-Fly or the Dietzen Glo-Fly.

Good catches of steelhead are also being taken using the Dazzler trolling fly behind a chrome dodger. The glow dodgers work on Lake Ontario, as does chrome, chartreuse/white, white, or white with laser tape insert—all these go well with glow colors. Whether you're trolling off Wilson/Olcott, Point Breeze, Rochester or Oswego, the glow green, black glow, green frog glow, laser glow 2 and 3, glow blue and triple glow Michigan Squid have been extremely effective.

The Dietzen Glo-Fly won the Orleans County Salmon Derby for Ms. Cathy Bennett of Muncy, PA with a 33-pound king taken off Point Breeze. In fact, her winning king, and Bob Mitchell's winning king at Rogers City, were both taken on the same day last summer! Lightning can strike twice, I guess!!

Attractors can help produce more fish. The combination of extra "noise", flash, and imparted action can and does turn the fish on. If it didn't work, then all the charter boats wouldn't have them on their rods. Charter captains use them because they have to produce fish for their clients, and if it works for them, it should work for you as well!

- George Richey

Consistency is key to success for "Kemo"

There is no question that I have a passion for salmon fishing. Over the past few years our crew has enjoyed a lot of success in Detroit Area Steelheader tournaments, and I'm frequently asked "How do you guys do it?" Then again, there are times such as the 1990 Ludington tournament where I was asking that same question of others!

In pondering that question, I've come up with what I feel are some of the answers. Over my years of fishing, I've developed, borrowed and stolen several theories of fishing. The basic theory is really pretty simple: I do everything I can to increase the probability of catching fish. You might reply, "I do the same thing." But do you really examine each phase of your fishing to see if there are things you can alter slightly to improve your odds for success?

In the end, there is no one secret but rather a combination of little improvements which can be made. You MUST BELIEVE that you can catch fish and not give up, or let your attention drop.

First, let's talk tackle. You must have sharp hooks: they catch more fish. If you can increase your probability from 30 percent to 50 percent (as having sharp hooks will), you will catch more fish. This is one of the simplest and easiest changes you can make. It is also one of the cheapest. So, why do so many guys fish without razor-sharp hooks?

Use the best line you can afford, and put on fresh line every year. Old line has a higher probability of breaking. Broken line means one or two lost fish (and not the shakers!) Check your line frequently for rough spots or nicks. Never say you'll change it later --you will regret that sooner or later. Keep your reels clean, too!

Another cheap tip: keep a log. Write down what you did when you caught a fish -- lure, color, depth, down, speed, etc. Also, at the end of the day write down what someone else may have used to catch fish if they did better than you did. When you go to a port, know what to expect there and be prepared.

You know that spring fishing will be in shallow water and that you will likely use body baits such as Bombers or Rapalas. You know that Oscoda in June usually means lake trout, and cowbells or dodgers. Be ready with what you need! When you get to a port, walk the docks and see what the charters are running. They have to catch to make money. They've probably been fishing every day, so they no doubt know what's working.

Listen to the radio. Don't change lures with every radio report or you'll spend all your time with your lures out of the water... and a lure out of the water never catches fish! Listen for a pattern in the reports. Is the pattern is a color pattern, a size pattern, one based



BOB MITCHELL, also known as "Mr. Consistency," holds up a t-shirt given to him by Ron Huey. The shirt shows Bob winning the Rogers City money tourney last year.

on depth, kind of lure, location, speed, etc.? The radio can be a great help, but don't let it dominate your thinking.

Let the fish tell you what they want. You can't tell a fish what to hit. Fish have a peasized brain and can't talk. Show me a guy who says "I never run dodgers" and I'll show you a guy who will have trouble catching fish on certain days. Put down compatible lures. Don't try to run cowbells with a spoon that needs to be run fast. One setup won't be working right, and your success probability will go down. I usually start out with several colors. When I catch the first fish, I put down two of that color. If I get another fish, I put down a bunch, until the fishing slacks off. Don't bring up a hot lure until something else is really hot. Then put it back down when the other cools off.

Save your pursuit of the ultimate lure for fun fishing or practice days. The odds are that you will not discover it during a tournament. What you will do is cut your odds for success by running a lot of low-probability lures. Insted, go with the high-confidence, proven lures.

You must be over fish to catch fish. If you have the hottest lure in the lake, you won't catch fish if there aren't any under your boat! If you catch a fish, don't keep trolling in the same direction until you find a spot where there are no fish. You just went over some active fish! Land the fish, turn around and go back to the same spot.

Find that same spot with a LORAN unit or a jug thrown overboard. When you get a hit on a downrigger, set the hook, store the LORAN point, and quickly move another downrigger to the same depth. You just hit a fish at 50'. There likely are active fish at 50'. Get another lure (preferably with the same setup) to 50' before you troll too far away.

As I said earlier, a lure out of the water won't catch fish. When you want to change lures, get the lure first. If possible, get a different pole ready to put down and then pull the old lure. Don't pull the lure and then spend 20 minutes searching for that lure that "I know I put it somewhere!"

Tangled lures don't catch fish. Don't run more lures than you can control. Don't try to run six downriggers 110' down across an 8' beam. Two downriggers with lures running running right will catch more fish than four tangled together. When running deep, try to run all your weights the same number and shape. Different shapes track differently on turns, resulting in tangled, ineffective lures.

When the water is rough, run fewer lines and lures. Whenever possible, run short leads, as they tangle less. If it's really rough, don't try to troll into the waves, You will have less control, and a high percentage of the time your lures will not be running at effective speeds. The amount of time you lose with lures out of the water will be less than the amount of time you'll lose trolling upwind at ineffective speeds or with tangled lures. It's also easier on the crew!

If fishing is tough, try running faster; you present your lures to more fish that way. At 1.2 knots per hour, you travel 3.6 miles in three hours; trolling at 2.2 knots allows you to cover 6.6 miles in those same three hours.

Never give up. Many times on "Kemo" we've caught the fish we really needed near the end of the tournament. Always believe that the fish will turn on again and that you must be ready when they do. If you sit back, kick up your heels and take a nap, you won't be ready, and you may miss that one key that tips you off to the right combination.

Fishing is a lot of fun, but catching fish is even more fun! I don't claim to have all the answers, but I hope I have at least given you some food for thought and some ideas that wil help you improve your fishing success. Good Luck!!

--Bob Mitchell
"Kemo"

Lake Ontario: The final frontier

The morning of August 22 found skipper Blaise Pewinski and the crew of "Sea Hag" (George Pewinski, Chris Muckenhern & myself) ready and willing to get the show on the road. This was our first time going to Lake Ontario to fish out of Olcott, New York, and the trip took us about 4 1/2 hours, not unlike going to Frankfort or Rogers City.

When we got there, we got the bad word—the worst blow they had seen there in years. It had to happen just as we got there! We'd be dealing with a water surface temperature of 41° F, this in the third week of August!! After finding our place to stay and rigging up the boat, we ran into some folks from Cleveland. To show you how bad the weather had been, they had been there for five days before us and had managed a total of 11 hours of fishing over those five days.

We launched "Sea Hag," found our dock (more about "The Swamp" later!), and then it was time to go fishing, wind or no wind. Rob Pinskey, skipper of "Anticipation," who had gotten in the night before and had been out that morning, told us that kings were really scattered, but steelhead (or rainbows, as the locals call them) were hitting in 500' of water about 8-10 miles off shore.

Armed with that information, we headed out into 2'-4' waves, with a 5-footer every now and then. After an hour or so of getting 'boat up', we started fishing. With the water so rough, we only ran six rods to start with. The first rod to go off came off No. 3 'rigger 45' down with a black and purple N.K. 28.

One of the traditions I like to observe is that the captain gets the first fish of a season or a new port, so I handed over the rod to Blaise. Following a nice fight, we had our first Lake Ontario steelhead aboard. Another hour or so of steady action and we had five fish in the box. Things were going well.

Blaise had just finished washing off his hands over the side when his all-time favorite rod, his No. 1 Ugly Stick, went off with a wild steelhead on the other end. The fish managed two 3' jumps and then pulled the rod out of Blaise's hands into the lake! Before we could even react, the overboard rod snagged itself into the Dipsey rod!!

"George, slow the boat down," I yelled. Blaise started to slowly reel in the Dipsey rod, but after only two or three turns of the reel, the Dipsey line broke and Blaise's favorite rod was headed for the bottom of Lake Ontario in 520' of water, along with a new black and purple Dipsey and three spoons.

The boat got real quiet. George was driving the boat, Chris was studying the graph, and I just looked out to sea. Blaise opened another beer, and then we had a toast to a great rod. After fishing for a little while longer, we had a problem with the LORAN. A puff of smoke came out of the back of the



ED YANKOSKI II hefts this beautiful 16-pound steelhead caught last summer on a club outing to Lake Ontario.

unit, and then "That's all, folks ... no more LORAN!" For the rest of the trip, we followed one of the other club boats on hand.

Next day the lake was almost calm, with only a 1' chop. We began running Dipsey Divers off each side of the boat. With no action after about 40 minutes, I switched to a 1-lb. lead ball with a dodger/squid combo on the outrigger. Just as Chris was asking how the fish hit a lead ball combo, what turned out to be a nice 10-lb. steelhead must have been listening because the outrigger was past the No. 4 downrigger! By day's end Chris was setting lines like a pro, though he had a little net trouble early in the trip.

The place we had the boat docked we came to call "The Swamp." You had to see it to believe it - I expected to see the "African Queen" show up any minute! There were mallard ducks everywhere, with some kind of duckweed plant covering the water surface!! Blaise had to back the boat in every time we came back in. By the second time, there were no problems with this maneuver. Apparently, this area was used for yearly dockage and some charter boats. The hospitality was fine, and we were invited to use the fish-cleaning station the locals had set up. One thing we noticed about Lake Ontario is that most people seem to prefer two kinds of boats: 28' or 31' Bajas, or 27' Sportcrafts.

Our biggest king of the trip came on our last day. By this time, even without the LO-RAN we knew in which direction to head and how long it would take to get there. We left the dock ahead of the other club boats, ran for about 20 minutes, shut down and set our lines. The graph was full of baitfish, so we expected some action soon.

Blaise and I were working the back of the boat when No. 4 'rigger went off with the first fish on for the day. I handed the rod to Blaise with what was probably a nice steelhead in the 12 pounds range on the other end. Unfortunately, it didn't stay around long enough for us to find out for sure. Ten minutes went by. This time No. 3 'rigger went off and again I passed the rod to Blaise. He hung on to that one a little longer, but it also got away. "That's it for me," said Blaise. "No more fish for me today!"

Rigger No. 2 was the next to hit. I grabbed the rod and called for Blaise one more time. Despite his protests, Chris and George pushed him to the back of the boat to take the rod. As soon as I passed it over to Blaise, all hell broke loose! We had a BIG KING on, and he wanted to see Toronto!!

Chris took the wheel, George and I got busy clearing lines, and we settled down to watch the battle. After 15-20 minutes, it was time for me to get the net ready. We got one pass and then it was fish in the boat! Our top king of the trip, a 28-lb. 2-oz. beauty, fell for a black/raspberry N.K. 28 spoon down 65'.

The hot baits of the trip were: Lemonlime Flutterchucks, black w/raspberry tape N.K. 28's, black w/purple tape N.K. 28's, silver w/green tape N.K. 28's, silver w/purple tape N.K. 28's, green apple Silver Streaks, black & white ice tape Silver Streaks, sugar Predator spoons, black & gold Predator spoons, pink alewife spoons—G.W., 0 pearl dodgers with Richey Glo-Squids, 0 chartreuse dodgers with Richey Laser Squids, 0 chrome dodgers with Richey Blue Flash Flies, and black/purple dodgers with Richey Purple Laser Squids.

How good were the black/raspberry N.K. 28's? We had to buy a dozen more in New York because we were losing them to fish. Just ask Rob Pinskey what happened when his brother Mike put six black/raspberrys down one morning on his side of "Anticipation." Rob couldn't even set a rod for 45 mintues because he was so busy netting fish!

We had a great time on this trip. With a 4-day catch of 67 fish landed (55 steelhead, 10 kings, 1 brown, 1 laker), how could it be anything but a great trip!! GOOD FISHIN!!

— Ed Yankoski II
"Sea Hag" FishingTeam

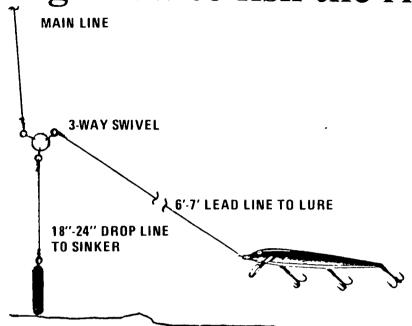
Bottom bouncing: How to fish the river

ATTENTION STEELHEADERS: The following article first appeared in Fishin' Tales in April 1986. The information in it may prove *VERY VALUABLE* if weather conditions blow us off Lake Huron during the River Crab tourney later this month.

When winter arrives and the weather turns cold, salmon and trout aren't much different than some people heading south to Florida to find warmth. During the winter months, the St. Clair River acts like a giant funnel, filtering salmon and trout into the big river.

These salmonids find water temperatures more to their liking in or near water discharges from the hydro plants along both sides of the river. The warm water also attracts smelts and alewives, so predator fish can often enjoy a meal or two while escaping the cold lake water.

River fishing, although cold at times, can be very productive and exciting as you work the 20'-30' drop-off. While a depthfinder and downriggers are helpful when fishing these



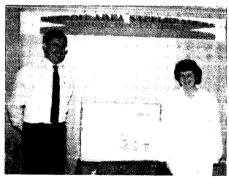
Dinner Dance was fantastic!

Jim Legenzoff, better known as 'Jimmy Lee', put on another fun Dinner Dance for Detroit Area Steelheaders last February. The popular "all you can eat and drink" format again proved very successful, as we had another great turnout!

It was nice to get out for an evening with our wives and girlfriends and still talk fishing — what a great remedy for cabin fever!!

Thanks to all who attended and helped make this a memorable evening. And a special "THANK YOU" to Jim Legenzoff! It was another wonderful job well done!!

- Board of Directors



TIM GRASKEWICZ congratulates Alice Schultz as the door prize winner!



DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS took to the dance floor in a big way at the annual Dinner Dance held earlier this year.

drop-offs, they are not a must. Successful local fishermen have developed a unique fishing method known as "bottom bouncing."

The set-up used for bottom bouncing is a three-way set-up: main line, a three-way swivel, an 18"-24" drop line to a sinker, and a 6'-7' leader to the lure (see illustration).

Attached to the drop line, I'll use long, pencil-type sinkers weighing 6-12 ounces, depending on the wind and speed of the current. I also use a lighter pound test line for the drop line, so that in case of snags I'll lose only the sinker. I'll run floating body-type minnow baits off the leader line, such as J-9's, J-11's, Rapalas, Long 'A' Bombers, and A.C. Shiners. During clear water conditions, I use natural minnow colors: black/silver and blue/silver. However, during muddy water conditions, greens and fluorescent orange colors seem to work better.

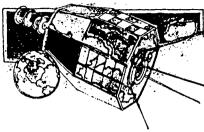
When trolling the river, I nearly always troll down the river with the current, with the motor turning the propeller just enough to allow me to steer the boat along the the river drop-off. With the aid of a short, stiff graphite rod, I present my three-way set-up as close to the bottom as possible, letting the sinker hit the bottom. I hold for a few seconds, raise my rod tip for a few seconds, then repeat this procedure over again.

The best spot to cash in on this early spring (February to late April) fishing on the St. Clair River is right in front of the Lambton Power Plant at Courtright, down to the power lines. Shore fishermen working this same area, whether using spawn bags, night-crawlers, or casting hardware, also come up with excellent catches of salmon and trout.

— Pete Bothwell

Reprinted from the Blue Water Anglers *Newsletter*, March 1986.

HIGH-TECH NAVIGATION



At least 15 Global Position System (GPS) navigation satellites circle the earth, ready to give anyone with an appropriate receiver position and navigation information. By using accurate ranging and timing technology, these GPS satellites lets users navigate areas not served by reliable Loran C transmissions.

Currently, the system's accuracy is degraded when at least three satellites aren't above the user's horizon. However, the full complement of 21 GPS satellites to fill all gaps should be operational by mid-1992. The latest plan indicates Loran C will be phased out by the end of the century.

GPS was first developed to serve military navigational needs. By mid-1991, Humminbird (Techsonic Industries, Inc.) plans to market a GPS navigation unit for civilian use. The price reportedly will be "competitive." Other manufacturers presumably are also planning to market this technology.

The predicted accuracy of the GPS with civilian receivers is about the same (within 50 feet) as Loran C, so the new system doesn't offer a big improvement to operators in areas with high-quality Loran signals. But unlike Loran, GPS is equally reliable day and night and will experience smaller errors from atmospheric interference.

Most important, particularly to inland fishermen, GPS signals over land won't be degraded or lost. Boaters who fish and navigate on small inland waters with poor Loran reception will likely find the GPS system beneficial in relocating offshore structures and navigating in fog and at night. In a boat without cabins or bridges, the small GPS antennas will interfere less with fishing than the tall and bulky Loran antennas.

Enough GPS satellites now orbit the earth to provide reliable position and navigation data. Anglers considering purchase of navigational electronics may wish to delay until GPS receivers become available.

1991 MEETING SCHEDULE
TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M.
APRIL 30, 1991
MAY 28, 1991
JUNE 25, 1991
Visitors Welcome — Bring A Friend!
K. OF C. HALL, WARREN

"Harmony's" Lake Ontario trip featured great fishing

... Continued from Page Three

and cold beer. We asked, "How can it get any better this?" We had 16 nice steelhead and kings on ice, and we were enjoying good food and good company. No one thought that we could ever top the day of fishing we had just finished ... WRONG!!!!

Next morning we encountered more of the same thick fog, with one exception: Once we got out about three miles we broke out of it into a gorgeous sunrise. As we continued our 12-mile run to our "honey hole," we noticed several thermal bars on the lake surface. We decided to shut down, set some lines, and await developments.

This time we didn't even get two rods set before the first one went off! We punched "instant store" on the LORAN and made a quick call to the other boats to shut down around us. Once again, we were off to the races!! The same patterns that worked well on Friday were still hot, including black and raspberry spoons.

We had set up a mini-tourney among the 13 boats on hand from our club, and by the

time we pulled lines for the weigh-in we had a cooler full of nice 7-12 pound steelhead, along with three kings that topped 24 pounds apiece! At the weigh-in, Dick Shirk from "Lil' Scratch" and Jim Beelby from "Fish Fly" each weighed in kings that exceeded the magic 30-pound mark, and we had heard that a 40-pound king was officially weighed in as part of the ESLO tournament!!

We decided to fish until 10 o'clock Sunday morning, then pull our lines and head for home. With a stiff but fishable breeze blowing, the action was slower, but we still finished our last Lake Ontario morning of the trip with eight more nice fish.

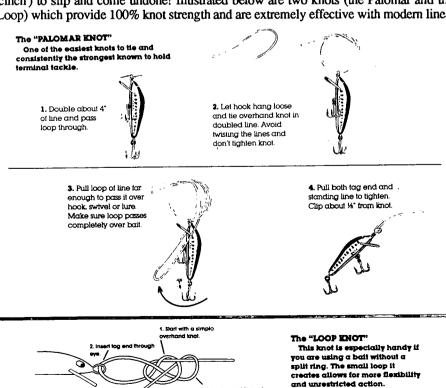
On the trip home, we reviewed the threeday catch. We had well over 100 releases, 88 fish on, 60 fish boated, and 48 fish kept. Unbelievable! For a change we *WERE* there on the right weekend!!

I urge all of you to join us in May for our first official Lake Ontario club tournament. I think there's an excellent chance to duplicate that unbelievable August weekend, and YOU ALL OUGHT TO BE THERE!!

— Tim Graskewicz "Harmony"

Two new useful knots

So-called "new generation" fishing lines (such as Bagley's Silver Thread, etc.) require different knots to achieve maximum strength. The extra-small diameters and ultra-smooth surfaces of the new lines cause some familiar knots such as the 'clinch' (sometimes called 'cinch') to slip and come undone! Illustrated below are two knots (the Palomar and the Loop) which provide 100% knot strength and are extremely effective with modern lines.



ot, arou

Salmon study points way to better fishing

Some startling revelations on the early life of Lake Michigan chinook salmon have been revealed as the first year of a three-year research project by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been completed. The first-year study results already shed new light on the salmon fishery.

The DNR-funded project, begun in midsummer of 1990, is being conducted by two Michigan State University (MSU) graduate students, with assistance from a number of members of the Michigan Charter Boat Association (MCBA).

MSU researcher Rob Elliott said that, while it may be too early to draw any firm conclusions, the project has already produced some interesting information. Among the preliminary findings of the initial portion of the study are these.

There is some indication that chinook plantings may be occurring too early in the year for the best chance of survival.

Hatchery fish held in rearing pens in their home streams until they smolt appear to be healthier, fatter and larger, and therefore more likely to survive the critical first few months in the lake.

An exotic zooplankton which invaded the Great Lakes a few years ago now appears to be a main staple in young chinooks' diet.

Chinook smolts can range great distances in a short time period after entering the water, more than previously thought.

Native-born wild chinook appear to be an important part of the salmon fishery, especially in northern Lake Michigan.

The chinook stocking study is designed to learn as much as possible about the early life of these fishes, an aspect of fisheries research that was neglected during the good

years of the fishery.

Several MCBA captains chartering out of various Lake Michigan harbors have special authorization to keep young salmon between five and ten inches and freeze them whole until collected by the research team. These fish can be kept by the charter captains in addition to their regular catch.

The team is also using beach seines at various locations, and is conducting small boat nettings during winter months.

Probably the most significant information from the study was the indication suggesting that hatchery fish may be being released too early in the season, before a sufficient food supply is available to them.

Elliott pointed out that chinook reared at the Wolf Lake hatchery are usually planted in March. Those reared at the Platte River hatchery are not released until some time in May, and native-born chinook in northern streams tend not to smolt until June.

"Our initial examination of young fish shows that from the time they enter the lake until sometime in June they remain very close to shore and feed primarily on insects and bugs blown off shore," said Elliott. He also noted that "even though these young fish can go up to one month without food, early stocking may have an (adverse) effect on their survival because insects are scarce until temperatures warm."

Said Elliott: "Young fish captured in northern waters (Platte River hatchery and native salmon) appear to be healthier than those released fresh from the hatchery."

The study also is expected to shed some light on possible effects on salmon of freshwater fleas that have recently become pests on fishing lines and downrigger wires.

Elliott said that when the young salmon move off shore and into deeper water around July, the exotics appear to be a major part of their diet before and perhaps while they are foraging for small fish.

The researchers are not looking into whether these spiny creatures damage the salmons' stomachs or have some other adverse effect(s) on the fish.

Elliott also stated that the research has discovered that chinook planted in the Grand River at Grand Haven were found a week later at New Buffalo, about 100 miles away. Some small salmon were also captured near Michigan City, Indiana that had been planted three days earlier in the St. Joseph River, also a distance of approximately 100 miles.

The study also seems to indicate that young naturally hatched salmon represent a larger proportion of the salmon fishery than had been anticipated.

The DNR is requesting funds for continuing and expanding the salmon fishery study, expected to be completed in 1992.

-- Ted Barton

From the Outdoor Beacon, Jan. 1991



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RULES AND REGULATIONS

The following rules shall govern the tournament. The tournament director and committee shall be sole interpreters of the rules and their decisions shall be final.

- 1. Any person 16 years or older is eligible to enter the tournament except the tournament director and members of the committee. Youngsters under the age of 16 may enter provided they are accompanied by a parent or guardian of legal age who is also entered in the tournament and with whom the youngsters must fish during the event.
- 2. \$5,000 Club Prize. Eligibility: Only the owner of the boat must belong to a registered club. Must be preregistered. Winner: The club with the heaviest total catch will be the winners of this prize!
- 3. \$100 Cash Prize. Eligibility: Any person who is preregistered and has purchased a raffle ticket. Winners: Any and all DNR finclipped Chinook Salmon.
- 4. Tournament Weigh In Headquarters: River Crab Restaurant, 1337 North River Road, St. Clair, MI 48079.
- 5. Tournament Boundaries: Lower Lake Huron, all of St. Clair River and its three channels. Can fish from shore or boat!
- 6. Tournament Timetable: April 20, 1991 Salmon: 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Weigh-In: Salmon: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Minimum size 18 inches)

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