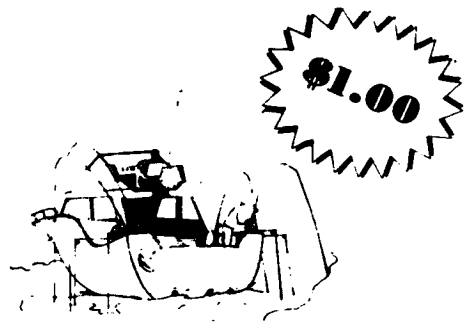




# FISH TALES



VOL. XVI • No. 3

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MARCH 1990

## Massive "Salmon Stakes" turnout is urged

Skippers and crew members alike were really excited after Rob Helzer of the Blue Water Sportfishing Association finished his presentation on the 1990 River Crab Stakes at our February meeting. It served as a certain reminder that the start of the salmon fishing season is at hand!

It's time to get that fishing equipment ready NOW, it's time to get that winter cover off the boat and get the tune-up completed NOW!

Boat Trolling Tournament Chairman Dick Shirk told the meeting how pleased and proud he was that 69 Detroit Area Steelheader boats turned out for last year's River Crab, but he also pointed out that the Blue Water club showed up with 74 boats and outfished us by more than 100 pounds! He urged an even larger turnout of our boats for 1990.

Everyone in the club knows that we're better fishermen than our record at last year's River Crab tournament would indicate. In fact, I think we might have actually won the 1989 River Crab except for two factors. Apparently, many boats in our club didn't bother to come to the weigh-in because they didn't realize that weighing in even a one-fish catch (no matter how small) would have been worth it. In addition, some catches didn't

make it to the weigh-in because of the parking problem at the River Crab Restaurant, where the weigh-in is held.

If our club is going to win the 1990 River Crab (with its \$5,000 first prize) and restore our club's fishing honor and reputation, we must make sure that **ALL FISH 18" AND LARGER MUST BE WEIGHED IN!** Even if you have to drag that cooler over land for miles, it will be worth it to our club — remember that \$5,000 first prize that's up for grabs!! The only place to park is out on the highway, so plan on the inconvenience . . . or organize a car pool!

A direct incentive to get your fish to the weigh-in is being offered in conjunction with this year's event. All skippers who get a weigh-in sheet with fish on it will be entered in a club raffle for a single prize of \$100! If our club should win that top River Crab Salmon Stakes club prize of \$5,000, there will be a total of **FIVE \$100 PRIZES** given away in this raffle!! **DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!!!**

The facts on the 12th annual River Crab Salmon Stakes are as follows. This charity event, sponsored by Chuck Muer's River Crab Restaurant, is set for April 21, with all proceeds to be donated to benefit

child abuse prevention and treatment programs in Michigan. The tourney takes place in the waters of the St. Clair River and lower Lake Huron, from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with the weigh-in from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the River Crab Restaurant, 37 North River Road, St. Clair (actually between St. Clair and Marysville).

The entry fee is \$10 per person — each person on the boat **MUST** have a ticket — and this also automatically enters you in the River Crab Raffle held as part of the tournament. In addition, you'll get \$10 off a dinner for two at any Chuck Muer restaurant during 1990!

Among this year's raffle prizes are a new 1990 Chrysler LeBaron convertible, \$1,000 worth of gift certificates, a charter fishing trip, downriggers, and an evening for two at the River Crab Inn. The entry/raffle ticket can be purchased at any of the Chuck Muer restaurants in Michigan, from the Blue Water Mental Health and Child Guidance Clinic in Port Huron (985-5125), or from our own Dick Shirk (749-9493).

This year, all fish must be a minimum of 18" to be weighed in, and Detroit Area Steelheaders will be part of the official weigh-in staff.

I would encourage everyone who will be fishing in the tournament to purchase a dinner ticket (\$10 extra) so that you can attend the awards banquet which follows the event. We had a great time there last year, so I hope you'll all join us there this time around. There'll be fun and lots of camaraderie with the other fishermen, so don't miss out.

In 1989, the River Crab Salmon Stakes raised \$65,000 for the Blue Water Clinic in Port Huron, and several other agencies which deal with child abuse, so you can see you'll be a part of a good cause, one which you can be proud to support. Don't worry about the 'park and walk' weigh-in. Just get every fish weighed, and be ready for a good time! It doesn't matter if we win or lose, as long as we're out on the Big Lake or the River trying our darnedest to catch fish, all for a great cause!!

—Joel Garinger



ROB HELZER, of the Blue Water Sportfishing Association, is shown here going over the details of the 1990 River Crab Salmon Stakes at a recent membership meeting.

**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 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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## For Your Information

On February 13, Ron Spitler presented the D.N.R.'s Southeastern Fisheries Report at a public meeting held at Waterford High School. About ten fishing clubs (bass, walleye, salmon and steelhead) and the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) were represented. Detroit Area Steelheader Gene Burbary was on hand.

Among other things, the report noted:

- One-third of all fishing licenses are purchased in southeastern Michigan.
- Water quality is much better now than it was in the 1970's.
- Contaminants in fish is improving, too.
- Salmon plantings in southeastern Michigan are now passé (something Detroit Area Steelheaders recommended to the D.N.R.). However, there's fantastic wall-eye fishing in Lake Erie, and good spring salmon fishing in the St. Clair River and the lower Huron and Clinton rivers, (the result of natural reproduction and/or stragglers from Lake Huron plantings).
- Two years of good creel censuses suggest the Huron River may become a major steelhead site for us. Also, chinook have been spawning successfully below Yates Cider Mill for several years.

Other items noted at the meeting:

- The D.N.R. now thinks there's merit to planting steelhead at a larger size.
- 15 steelhead were taken out of the Clinton River on February 10-11!
- Chinook eggs from northern Lake Huron, New York waters of Lake Ontario, and the Boardman River in Canada show no evidence of bacterial kidney disease (BKD). Smolts from one million Lake Ontario eggs will be released in Lake Michigan.
- Daily creel limits remain unchanged for 1990, with a three-fish limit under

consideration for 1991.

After citing the importance of input from fishermen, Spitler heard those present express their concerns on:

- The growing zebra mussel problem.
- White perch minnows being sold as bait.
- The need to stop fishing above coffer dams and at night during spawning.

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*We thank you!*

## Coming Events

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

(Last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.)

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL, 6177 CHICAGO ROAD, WARREN**

**MARCH 27, 1990**

**APRIL 24, 1990**

**MAY 29, 1990**

**SPECIAL EVENT**

**ANNUAL RAFFLE (K. of C. Hall, Warren)**

**May 29, 1990**

**BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
April 21	RIVER CRAB (Lexington/Port Sanilac)	Dick Shirk, 749-9493
May 5-6	BENTON HARBOR	Mike Wakulski, 585-6307
May 19	HARBOR BEACH (Sunday team doubles, opt.)	Doug Karakas, 545-1181
June 2	PORT AUSTIN (Sunday team doubles, opt.)	Rod Coffey, 363-9415
June 16	SPECIAL PEOPLE OUTING (Lake Erie)	Tim Graskewicz, 397-2269
June 30	OSCODA (Ladies Day)	Bob Ksionzek, 752-5545
July 21	MANISTEE	Tim Graskewicz, 397-2269
Aug. 4-5	LUDINGTON	Bill Shackleton, 422-3386
Aug. 18	ROGERS CITY (Inter-club: Northeast)	Bob Mitchell, 828-8034
Aug. 25	OLCOTT/WILSON, N.Y. (Research trip, no pts.)	Ron Hartman, 542-4873
Sept. 8	FRANKFORT (Inter-club: Benzie)	Dick Shirk, 749-9493
		Don Redmond, 469-8344

# A new era begins for the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.!

For a long time, it has been obvious that the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association (MSSFA) has been in trouble. Over the past several years, its membership ranks have fallen by more than 50%, and there has been a persistent pattern of recurring financial problems. The organization has been burdened with indebtedness, much of it of a dubious nature, and plagued with operational difficulties that have virtually silenced the one voice salmon fishermen have had to speak out for them on the important issues affecting their sport.

MSSFA Executive Director Andy Pelt has controlled the State organization for many years. These problems began during his tenure, and they continue under his tenure. In fact, some of us have argued that most, if not all, of these problems are the *RESULT* of his tenure!

Andy Pelt refuses to operate MSSFA in a businesslike fashion. Rather, he apparently sees it as his personal empire. One way or another, he has absorbed for his own benefit every asset the MSSFA has ever had. Over the years his *modus operandi* has been: "Andy Pelt first, the fishery and the interests of the membership last."

With the help of cronies, he has resisted every attempt to bring about the structural changes needed to restore MSSFA to sound and effective operation. Over the years, many MSSFA officers and Board members have proved to be puppets of Pelt, consistently failing to exercise proper oversight of his activities as the primary salaried employee of MSSFA. Most of those who were not his puppets supported Pelt's mismanagement of MSSFA on the grounds that something in the way of a statewide organization of salmon fishermen is better than no organization at all.

Steelheaders who've tried to resist any of Pelt's plans, or who have tried to help correct the egregious results of his inefficient, inadequate leadership have been subjected to personal attack and name-calling.

In short, Andy Pelt has stifled the effective voice of Michigan Steelheaders, prevented MSSFA from being a true "grass roots" organization, and has run the MSSFA into the ground.

These points, and others, have been raised by numerous club members for years, to no avail. Finally, the Board of Directors of the Detroit Area Steelheaders has taken action.

At its January 1990 meeting, following extended discussion by every Director present on the state of MSSFA and its impact on the future of the Detroit Area

Steelheaders, the Board voted 10-4 in favor of permanent disaffiliation from the MSSFA, subject to approval of our membership at large. At the January membership meeting, a vote was taken on the question, and by a margin of 96% in favor and 4% opposed, the recommendation of the Board was approved.

As of press time for this issue, our club is now known as the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. We are now a separate Michigan corporation, our new name is registered, and we may legally conduct our business as a *NEW* entity.

In response to our official notification of our actions to MSSFA (*see box*), Larry Elliott, MSSFA President, contacted our President Dave Even and demanded that the MSSFA be given all the assets of our club. Against that demand, President Even noted that MSSFA had outstanding obligations of a financial nature to our club. After discussion, it was agreed between the two presidents that the respective financial obligations were approximately equal and therefore there would be no transactions needed to settle matters.

After long discussions, the Board also voted to change our dues structure. The new dues will be \$25.00, with a portion of that money set aside as a contingency for the establishment of a new statewide salmon/steelhead fishing organization. The new senior citizen dues will be \$10.00.

Preliminary discussions have since taken place between representatives of our club and the Blue Water Sportfishing Association about a possible new statewide club or organization. Individuals from other fishing clubs, including some MSSFA chapters, have expressed interest as well, so something may develop. However, let it be said for the record that our primary purpose in leaving MSSFA was to be able to operate our club free from the handicaps the MSSFA structure imposed on us.

Many rumors about this situation have been, and are being, circulated. We don't know who is spreading them — you can draw your own conclusions on that point. What has been stated here is factual, and complete up to press time. If you have any questions, or wish to have addressed specific rumors which you may have heard, contact any of the following: President Dave Even, past presidents Steve Hamilton and Bob Mitchell, past MSSFA Representative Mike Lehto, and *Fishin' Tales* Editor Joel Garinger. New developments concerning these or related issues will be published as they occur.

—Joel Garinger

DATE: February 7, 1990

FROM: Detroit Area Steelheaders

TO: Larry Elliott, MSSFA President

Andy Pelt, MSSFA Executive Director  
MSSFA Chapter Presidents

The Detroit Area Steelheaders have been most active in pursuing a turnaround of MSSFA's financial and operational management. We have given money for every assessment, sold Bronco, Las Vegas and Calendar raffles, attended every State meeting, and were the only Chapter to present a detailed turnaround plan.

The latest MSSFA financial report (12/31/89) indicates MSSFA had profits of \$76,000 in 1989. If this is a correct financial report, where is the money? Large debts are still outstanding. We were led to believe the calendar raffle proceeds would be used to pay off much of those debts. We do not know MSSFA cash balances or other assets and liabilities. Financial reporting is still only half complete without that. No 1990 operating plan has been established. No specific performance objectives have been set for 1990. No 1990 budget has been accepted. Dues have gone up and membership down. The State office has been closed. MSSFA's only real asset, the newspaper, has been given back to Andy Pelt for two-thirds of what MSSFA paid for it. Andy Pelt has been renamed Executive Director.

We felt it would be futile to attempt to fight at the State Board level with its inherent tilt towards Andy Pelt and the way things have always been run. Too much time would be spent fighting and not enough spent addressing the real issues involving our fishery. Therefore the Detroit Area Steelheaders had a vote of the members at their January membership meeting. The results were 96% to withdraw from MSSFA.

We wish Andrew Pelt and all of his followers well and hope that his organization can survive. Unfortunately, our organizational methods do not agree and it is time for us to move on.

Sincerely,  
Detroit Area Steelheaders

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# How deep is your downrigger?

Today's electronic fish-finders pinpoint the depth of the fish, depict their size and distinguish game fish from bait. With a knowledge of the behavior of different species, fishermen can even identify the kind of fish displayed on the screen. Often trollers need only get their lures or bait to the depth indicated to catch fish, but this is easier said than done. In fact, anglers don't have a good answer to the question: "How deep am I really trolling?"

Downriggers are a partial solution; they get your rig down deep, but equally important, they help you to troll at a known depth. But even with this equipment the depth of your lure or bait is not always obvious. When trolling slowly with a heavy weight, the line is going almost straight down and the counter on the downrigger shows the true trolled depth. However, increase your speed or troll deeper and the hydrodynamic forces on the weight and line sweep the line back at a greater angle. Now the indicated depth on the downrigger counter isn't even close. Downriggers will still get your outfit down, but the trick is to make adjustments to get it to the right depth.

## GUESSING WON'T WORK

This problem became apparent when friends and I were trolling for salmon out of San Francisco. We were using 10-pound

weights on our downriggers and trolling at a velocity of 2½ knots. Fish consistently showed up in one area 60' below the surface, and we wanted to get a bait to them. Without better information we guessed that 75' on the downrigger counter would get our bait down to those fish. After 20 minutes, one fish hit but wasn't hooked, and 40 minutes later we did land one. Were our rigs at the right depth or were occasional stray fish attracted to our outfits? We needed some sort of system to gauge our trolled depth more precisely.

Two methods have traditionally been used to make corrections to the indicated depth. The first is to guess at the necessary adjustments, as we did when salmon fishing, and wind out more cable. The second is to measure the angle of the downrigger cable as it enters the water and project that in a straight line to the weight using the principles of trigonometry to estimate the depth. The accuracy of the first method depends largely on the skill and experience of the person making the guess, and the second, as I will show later, is not at all accurate.

## HYDRODYNAMIC SOLUTION DOES IT

A mathematical solution to this hydrodynamics problem can accurately model the trolled depth for any setup. I have a

background in aerodynamics (which applies the same principles) and I found that I could formulate the differential equations that describe the trolled depth for different weights, line diameters and trolling speeds. They would have been difficult to solve without a computer, but even my desktop model has plenty of capability to solve them. I wrote the appropriate program and ran solutions for a range of trolling conditions.

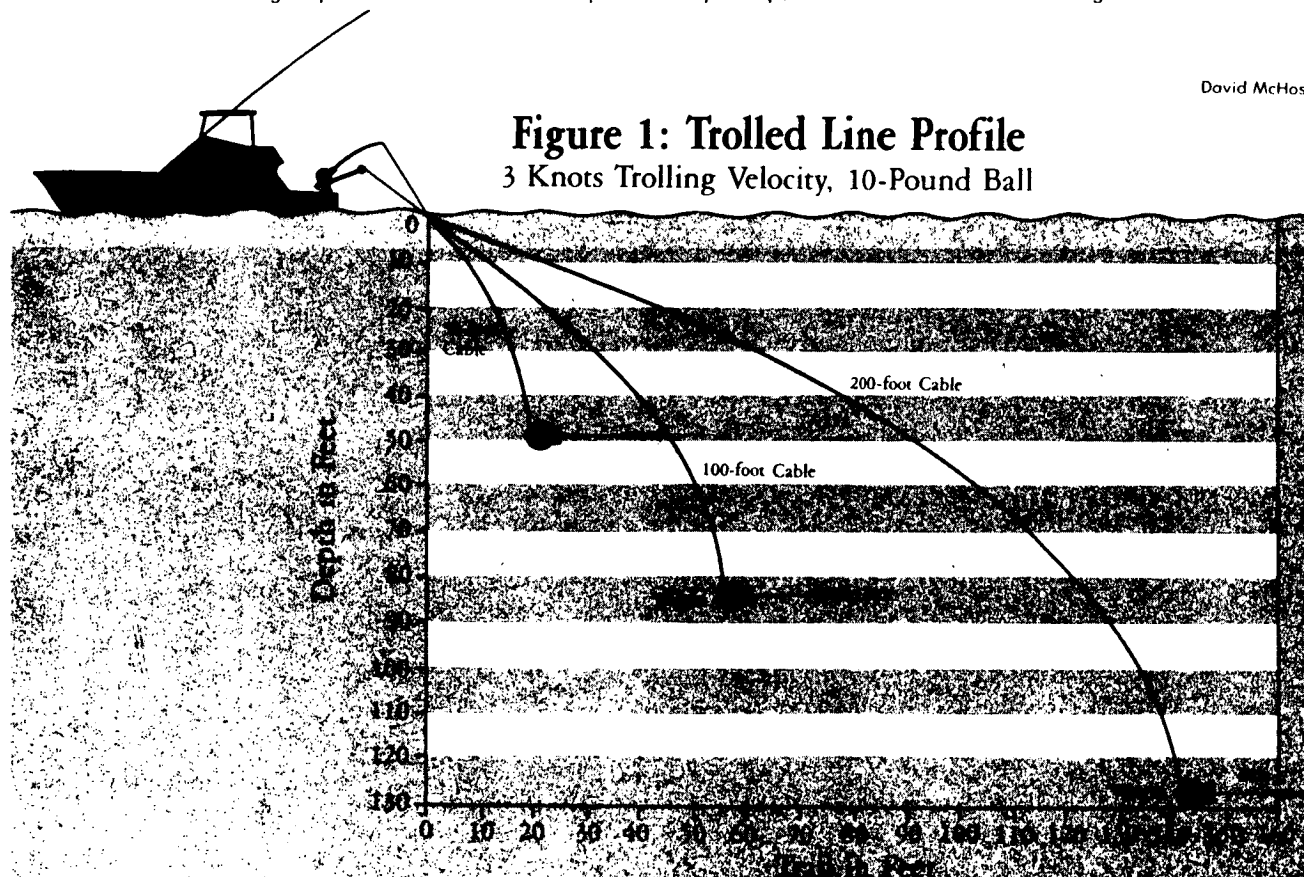
Dick Poole of Scotty Downriggers has been interested in the answer to this problem and offered to test my results. When he made the appropriate measurements while trolling with downriggers, the agreement with my computations was nearly perfect. Results of this program fill in the missing link and provide the exact trolling setup required.

## THREE THINGS TO CONSIDER

Figure 1 shows the depth trolled and the contour of the cable for a velocity of 3 knots with 50', 100' and 200' of cable below the surface. These calculations were made for a 10-pound downrigger weight, 140-pound-test cable .032" in diameter and 30-pound-test line .017" in diameter. Three knots is a fast trolling clip, so the line is swept back at large angles of 54, 38 and 22 degrees respectively.

Note the large deviation from the indi-

David McHose



cated depth when trolling at great depths. With 50' on the downrigger counter the trolled depth of 46' is close to the indicated depth; with 100' of cable out, the true depth is 19' shallower than indicated; and with 200' on the downrigger counter, the lure or bait is only 129' below the surface, 71' less than indicated.

The projected depths found by applying trigonometry to the cable angle at water entry are 40', 61' and 72'. These values are in error by as much as 57' and are little or no improvement over the depth read on the downrigger counter.

The parameters involved include line and cable diameters, weight, trolling velocity and length of cable beneath the surface. That's too many variables to summarize in just one or two graphs or tables but if we standardize our calculations for 140-pound-test downrigger cable, a 10-pound weight, and 30-pound-test line, we can evaluate depth for a range of velocities and length of cable below the surface.

### TROLLING SPEED IMPORTANT

Figure 2 shows a range of depths to 200' and velocities to ten knots. Note that the depth changes dramatically at the normal trolling speed of 2-3 knots.

Trolling velocity is very important. With 100' of cable out, the trolled depth

is 95' at 2 knots, 81' at 3 knots, and only 51' at 5 knots. The difference in depth between two and three knots trolling speed is 14' and even a difference of a ½ knot can vary your depth — in this case by 7'-8' — and may move your lure or bait out of the fish-catching zone. This means that an accurate speedometer is a great aid when using these figures. If your speedometer registers in miles per hour, remember to adjust for knots (1.15 mph for each knot).

The downrigger weight is also an important factor and adjustments should be made for weights that are different from the standard 10 pounds. The table compares the trolled depth for a 7-pound, 10-pound and 20-pound weight when trolling at a velocity of 3 knots.

A heavier weight, slower trolling velocity, finer downrigger cable or lighter line will lower your rig to a greater depth. A large flasher or lure that exerts a lot of drag will lift your outfit to a shallower position. Shear currents beneath the surface will also affect your trolled depth. However, these factors do not have a profound effect on trolling depth and so for convenience's sake I have ignored them.

If your setup is close to the one analyzed earlier, deviations in depth will be small. Use a trolling setup near these pa-

Depth Trolled for Different Downrigger Weights  
at a Velocity of Three Knots

Cable Length	7 Pounds	10 Pounds	20 Pounds
50 feet	43 feet	46 feet	48 feet
100 feet	73 feet	81 feet	92 feet
200 feet	108 feet	129 feet	164 feet

Note that the difference in depth from the ten-pound weight solution is small with 50 feet of cable but when trolling with 100 feet of cable the deviation is eight and 11 feet. In the 200-foot case, the difference is 21 and 35 feet.

rameters, then use Figure 2 to set your line depth.

### DON'T OVER-COMPENSATE

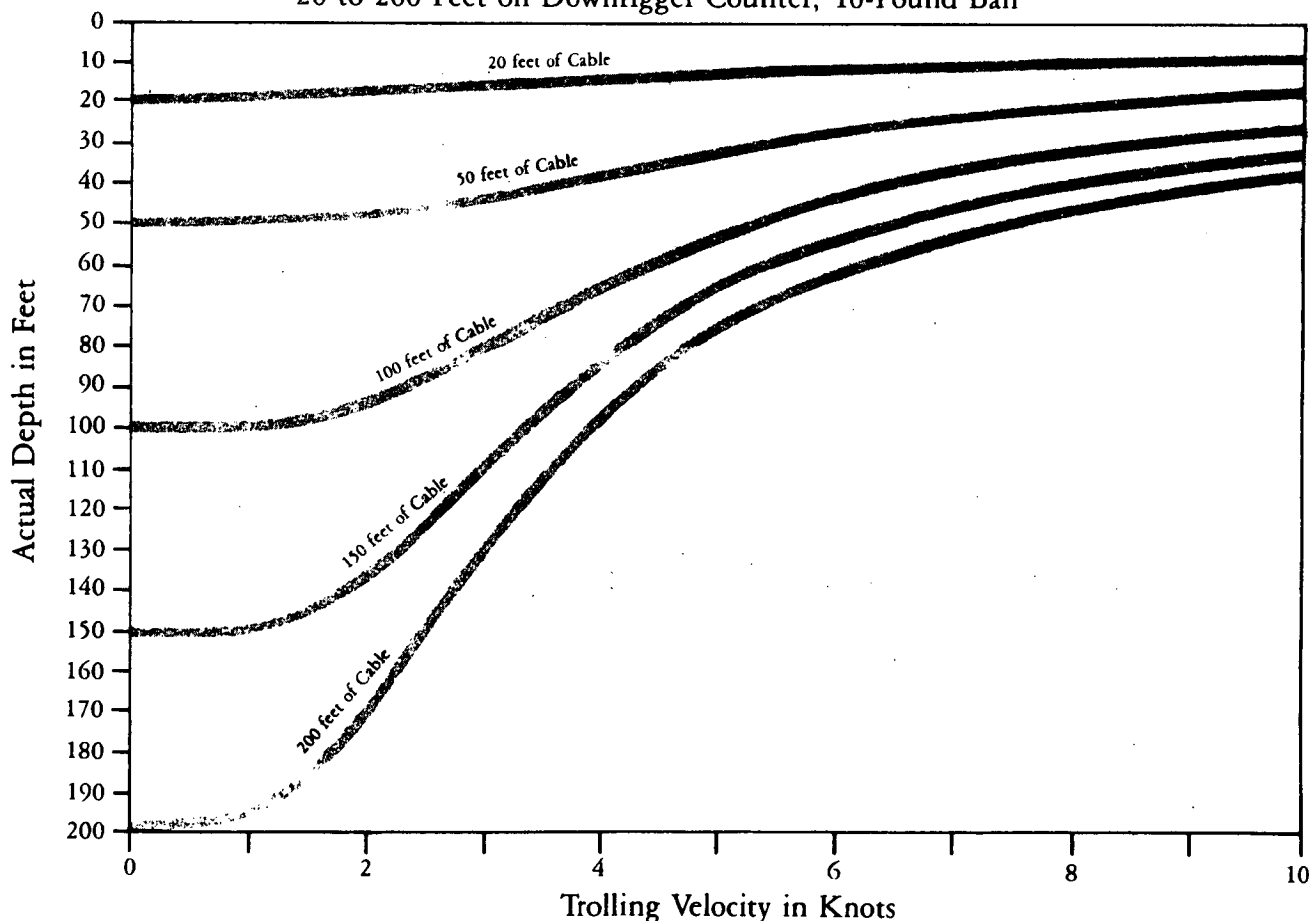
The shallow angle of the downrigger cable as it enters the water fooled us into thinking that our rig was much shallower than our actual trolling depth. This analysis shows that only small compensations are required for small-to-moderate angles of the downrigger cable. If you choose to estimate the proper cable length, temper your guesses toward small adjustments and you will probably be close on your trolled depth.

The best way to set your trolling depth accurately is to cut out these charts and post them in your boat. When you're trolling and have spotted fish on your fish finder, you can use them to match the correct cable length to the speed and ball weight.

—Ray Rychnovsky

Reprinted from *Salt Water Sportsman*, 3/90.

**Figure 2: Downrigger Trolled Depth**  
20 to 200 Feet on Downrigger Counter, 10-Pound Ball



# King salmon outlook to stay bleak

If filling the fish box with burly Lake Michigan king salmon is the reason you keep paying the bills on that big-water trolling boat, you'd be wise not to sneer at any fair offers to buy it.

You already know the last two years haven't produced enough chinook salmon to justify the expense, that is, if dead fish are what it's all about for you.

What you probably don't know is that it isn't going to be any better this year or next year. Yep, the seers say they see no sign that Lake Michigan king fishing will recover before 1992, and maybe not then.

Since the mid-1980's, the Lake Michigan chinook catch has plummeted from about 600,000 fish annually to 160,000 last year. Businessmen, charter boat owners, and individual sportsmen have demanded an explanation and a cure. But biologists admit they don't have a solution.

While they can't explain what went wrong with the fishery, data collected by the D.N.R. creel census clerks indicate chinook salmon may be even slower in 1990 and 1991. They have no data to make projections beyond 1991.

Predictions for 1990 and 1991 are based on the number of 2- and 3-year-old

chinook taken by fishermen last year at nine major ports, from New Buffalo to Charlevoix. The last 2-year-old fish taken in 1989 would be this summer's 3-year-olds. The 3-year-olds would be this summer's trophy 4-year-olds. The creel census data show fewer 2- and 3-year-olds were caught in 1989 than in any previous year, Great Lakes fisheries supervisor Myrl Keller reports. Using this information from 1987 and 1988 catches, biologists accurately predicted that 1988 and 1989 sport catches would plunge, Keller adds.

Though stocking rates remain comparable to earlier years, the percentage of planted fish caught by fishermen has dropped from a high of 7.3 in 1986 to a low of .6 in 1989.

The unanswered mystery is what is happening to the chinook after they are planted? Obviously, biologists agree, they are dying before fishermen can catch them. But what is killing them? And when? Do they die days after they are planted, weeks after, or a year or more after?

Sportsmen and biologists have been debating and probing those questions for two years without appearing to be any nearer to getting an answer.

Great Lakes biologists designed a research effort to get some answers. The Natural Resources Commission directed that they implement the plan. Due to budget problems in the D.N.R.'s fish division, only a minimal research effort will be made this year.

The only hard data the D.N.R. has on the fishery come from the creel census, which has been sharply cut. D.N.R. fish chief John Robertson has been scrambling to find funding to reactivate the creel census and pay for the research. He is calling on other Lake Michigan states and universities to carry some of the load. A legislative task force, headed by Rep. Ken Sikema (Grandville) is also looking for answers and funding.

Even if the answers were found, they could not fix the fishery for this or next summer. And without the answers soon, biologists say the fishery may continue to deteriorate.

Reprinted from *Northwoods Call*, 1/10/90.

## Annual Raffle has some great prizes!

The Detroit Area Steelheader Annual Raffle has some great prizes in 1990! First prize is a King Model 920 LCD graph, one of the best products of its kind on the market! The Detroit Area Steelheaders thank King Marine Electronics for its support!!

Second prize is a pair of Riviera 300 downriggers, third prize is a set of four rods and reels, fourth prize is a fishing charter with Captain Bob Kring aboard "Drifter," and fifth prize is a \$100 tackle pack.

We've got a great line-up of prizes, and you can really help *YOUR* club by participating in the Raffle, as a buyer and a *SELLER* of tickets. Raffle tickets for all members to sell have been mailed, and should be available by the time you read this.

In addition to helping your club, there's another reason to get busy selling those tickets. There will be a ticket sellers' raffle at the March, April and May meetings. A line counter reel will be raffled off each month, with one raffle chance awarded for each \$10 worth of raffle tickets turned in. There will be no "carryovers" — you must turn in at least \$10 worth of Raffle tickets each month to participate in that month's ticket sellers' drawing.

The Annual Raffle drawing will be on May 29 at the May meeting, so we urge **EVERYONE** in the club to sell those tickets right now! Call Jim Lee (839-8958) or Bruce Haywood (547-9586) for information. **SUPPORT YOUR CLUB!!!**

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## Salmon in '90: Another view

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Tom Huggler, writing in the Spring 1990 issue of *Lake 'n Trail* magazine, is optimistic about the 1990 salmon fishing season, in contrast to the views presented on the previous page. Time will tell which view is correct. Here are some of Tom's thoughts on the subject, excerpted from his "Great Lakes Trout & Salmon Update" column. These seem to be some words of wisdom for hard-pressed Detroit Area Steelheaders hoping for a good season this summer.

■ ■ ■

There is no doubt that the Great Lakes fishery is evolving and may, indeed, be on the down side of an overall trend. But fishing is far from poor. In fact, it is excellent in some places if Michigan and Ohio anglers know when and where to go.

Last spring, for example, fishermen in southern Lake Michigan enjoyed their best season in several years. Saugatuck, Benton Harbor, South Haven and New Buffalo all buzzed with catching activity. Saugatuck charter captain Jim Engle, for example, had no problem cooling limits of 20 to 30 salmon for his customers on half-day charters. By late summer, however, catches appeared to be down again.

The changing conditions, and the 'Jekyll and Hyde' characteristics of Great Lakes salmon make it difficult to predict what will happen or to nail down the best places to go in 1990. But you can bank on this observation: The better fishermen are flexible and do not key on a single port all season long. Rather, they read the newspapers and depend upon a network of information from other anglers and bait and tackle shops to find the hot spot. Then they trailer their boats to that location to get in on the action before fish move somewhere else.

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THANK YOU!!

## Thanks, W.A.T.A.!!

Once again this year, as in previous years, the Wellston Area Tourist Association (W.A.T.A.) Super Tournament provided good fishing and entertainment for many fishermen from all over the state of Michigan.

Weather proved to be the overall determining factor in this year's event in the total number of fish caught. At 5:30 a.m. we found quiet and mild conditions outside — it looked like a perfect, overcast day for fishing. "Guess that weatherman doesn't know what he's talkin' about" was a passing comment overheard as we headed to breakfast. However, as we planned our day's strategy in the restaurant, a look out the window left us quoting that old adage, "You spoke too soon!"

The scene we witnessed featured *HORIZONTAL SNOW!* Yes, that's right, horizontal snow!! We were getting everything the weatherman had promised: wind, snow, cold. Yup . . . just like the man said . . . Nevertheless, that's not going to stop a "River Rat" — no-sir-ree not us diehards. We came to fish!!

The wind continued all day, and the snow kept coming down, at times 'whiting out' your vision. There were brief pockets of sunshine, but always it went back to snow.

Despite the conditions, the weigh-in at Pappy's Tackle showed that a lot of fishermen had done some good. One fisherman in the Boat Division had 33-plus pounds, and a bank fisherman had more than 28 pounds for a three-fish total! The 119 contestants had a total catch of 45 fish with a combined weight of 342 pounds. That's an average of 7 pounds, 6 ounces per fish, not too bad an average!

We had 13 club fishermen in the Super Tournament, plus our own club tourney on the Manistee at the same time. Don Redmond brought the only fish to the scales in our group, a 9-pound male steelhead. Nice fish, Don! This was the second win for Mr. Redmond in the river . . . gee, Don, next comes the surf, hey??



**DON REDMOND** shows off his tourney-winning 9-pound steelie!

Thanks are due the entire Wellston area businesses and people for making this excellent tournament possible. All the great door prizes given away at the award ceremonies really helped cap off a fine day. Special thanks go to Rob and Rich from Pappy's for heading up the drive, and to Mike Bright for calling all those door prize tickets! *THANKS, WELLSTON!!*

—Doug Karakas, River Tournament Director



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## MEETING NOTICE—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!

### 1990 MEETING SCHEDULE

TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M.

MARCH 27, 1990

APRIL 24, 1990

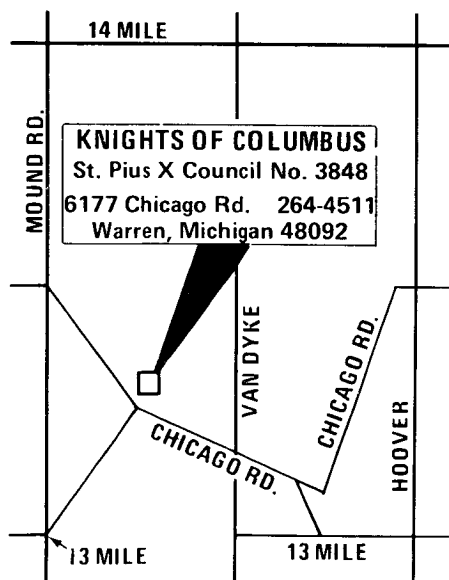
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*Visitors Welcome — Bring A Friend!*

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## Dinner Dance was fantastic!

Jim Legenzoff, perhaps better known as "Jimmy Lee," put on another fun Dinner Dance for Detroit Area Steelheaders last month! 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 — it's a fine remedy for "cabin fever!"

Many thanks go to these individuals for their donations to support the dinner

dance:

LEE ANTON

ELLEN EVEN

MARY KARAKAS

LINDA MITCHELL

Thanks, also, to all who attended and made this a memorable evening. And a special "THANK YOU" to Jim Legenzoff! Great job, Jimmy — we're all looking forward to an even better and bigger Seventh Annual Dinner Dance in 1991!!



OUR ANNUAL DINNER DANCE is a welcome diversion in the depths of winter, as Detroit Area Steelheaders and their spouses spend a pleasant evening socializing.

The  
DEADLINE  
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APRIL FISHIN' TALES  
is  
MARCH 29, 1990

## Want Ads:

HELP WANTED — Need two fishermen to fish in 1990 Detroit Area Steelheader boat trolling tournaments.

Call Al Schultz: (313) 543-6704