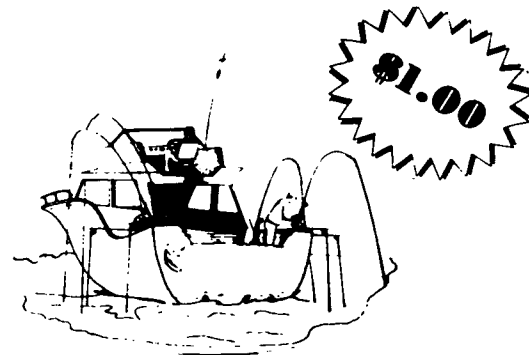




FISHIN' TALES



VOL. XVI • No. 4

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APRIL 1990

Steelheaders announce Photo Contest

By popular demand, the Detroit Area Steelheaders Photo Contest is being held once again. From now through next spring, we invite club members to seek this recognition of their photographic talents. The 12 best photographs submitted during the contest will either be featured in upcoming issues of *Fishin' Tales* or displayed at various Detroit Area Steelheader events, at the club's discretion.

The photograph judged to be the best overall entry *MAY* be used on the cover of the 1991 or 1992 Annual Issue of *Fishin' Tales*, which could bring the lucky photographer widespread recognition!

PHOTO CONTEST RULES

1) Entrants *MUST* be a current member of the Detroit Area Steelheaders, or an *IMMEDIATE* family member of a current member.

2) All photos entered *MUST* be of recent (1989 through May 1, 1991) origin.

3) The subject of the photograph *MUST* be related to a salmon or trout fishing experience (i.e. surf, river, pier or boat), or a Detroit Area Steelheader event.

4) Photo entries may be either black-and-white or color.

5) Photo entries *MUST* be 5" by 7"

(minimum size).

6) Entrants may submit up to *TWO* photographs for consideration, so choose your entries carefully!

7) Photo entries *MUST* include the negatives.

8) Each photo entry *MUST* be accompanied by the following information: the name, address and telephone number of the photographer, and a brief description of the subject of the photograph (name[s] of subject[s], where taken, approximate date taken, etc.).

9) Each photograph entered will be judged on originality, clarity and content.

10) The Photo Contest will end on May 1, 1991.

11) The Detroit Area Steelheaders club reserves the right to reject any entry that does not meet the established criteria.

PHOTO CONTEST PRIZES

★ **FIRST PLACE** — A \$50 tackle package plus a Certificate of Recognition*

★ **SECOND PLACE** — A \$25 tackle package plus a Certificate of Recognition*

★ **THIRD PLACE** — A \$10 tackle package plus a Certificate of Recognition*

* **THE CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION IS SUITABLE FOR FRAMING!**

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR PHOTO CONTEST ENTRANTS

Here's some suggestions which may be helpful for those entering the contest.

- Use the Detroit Area Steelheader club emblem or other props, such as a net, rod and reel, lure(s), fish cooking on the grille, etc.

- Present your subject(s) in the most eye-pleasing manner—wipe all blood from the fish, tuck in shirts, remove sunglasses (especially the mirror type), put down beer cans and cigarettes, etc.

- If possible, take action photographs such as jumping fish, getting fish into a net, removing a hook, etc. Unposed action shots generally look superior.

- Use vertical framing rather than horizontal framing for your shots.

- Take photographs while you are out fishing and enjoying our sport. Avoid entering photographs taken at the fish cleaning station, when your boat is on the trailer in the parking lot, etc.

- When shooting in poor light, use a flash. Also, encourage people in your photographs to remove their hats or, likewise, use a flash.

- A photograph showing a smiling youngster, or a newcomer to salmon and trout fishing is always appealing.

- Educational subjects such as a photograph of someone tying a fly, preparing tackle, tying spawn bags, etc. are unusual and could have real possibilities. Be sure to include identification of the person(s) shown in the photograph.

All Photo Contest entries should be submitted to:

Les Jump
Fishin' Tales Photographer
24400 Curie
Warren, Michigan 48091

If you have any questions, please call me at 756-4196.

Don't forget to take *YOUR* camera on your next fishing trip. Let the rest of the world share in your unique experiences! I hope to receive entries from many of you!!

—Les Jump



YOUR CAMERA should be included on your fishing trip equipment check list and used on *ALL* your fishing trips! You'll be surprised at how much this will enhance the sport!!

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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* * *

Send all materials for publication to:

JOEL GARINGER, Editor

21237 Sunnydale, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

River Crab, St. Joseph start tourney schedule

Welcome all you trollers to the 1990 Detroit Area Steelheaders tournament season. I told you it wouldn't be long until ice-out. Time to wake up your boat and get it ready for an enjoyable and exciting new season!

We start it off with the Chuck Muer's River Crab Salmon Stakes Benefit Tournament (whew, what a mouthful!) on Saturday, April 21. Let's all get behind this one with another great turn-out! Besides being for a great cause, we really need to win back the prestige of being Number One again!! The Blue Water boys are determined to win it all again this year, so we all know that our challenge is to prevent the "Three-peat!"

Body baits such as the Bomber A, Rapala, and Bang-O-Lures will be the dominant bait. Fish the top 20 feet of the water, and go slow. Remember that the fish are somewhat lethargic at this time of year, so they won't be going after an aggressively presented bait. Running baits off outriggers, planer boards, and long lines will also produce fish. Preferred colors will be blues, greens, and chartreuse. It is 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 1990, 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. The preferred 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 is where the less fortunate boats get matched up with one of the top-fishing boat from Saturday, and they fish as a team for some trophies. All of this makes for a very enjoyable weekend for all participants!

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

—Dick Shirk

Boat Trolling Chairman

Coming Events

JOHN ROBERTSON, FISHERIES DIVISION CHIEF OF THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WILL BE THE FEATURED SPEAKER AT THE APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL, 6177 CHICAGO ROAD, WARREN

APRIL 24, 1990

MAY 29, 1990

JUNE 26, 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
		Tim Graskewicz, 397-2269
July 21	MANISTEE	Bill Shackleton, 422-3386
Aug. 4-5	LUDINGTON	Bob Mitchell, 828-8034
Aug. 18	ROGERS CITY (Inter-club: Northeast)	Ron Hartman, 542-4873
Aug. 25	OLCOTT/WILSON, N.Y. (Research trip, no pts.)	Dick Shirk, 749-9493
Sept. 8	FRANKFORT (Inter-club: Benzie)	Don Redmond, 469-8344

Zebra mussel Questions & Answers

Zebra mussels have spread throughout Lake Erie, and will, ultimately, to the rest of the Great Lakes. To avoid internal damage to motors and engines, and slow their spread into inland lakes and streams, watercraft users need to identify and avoid infestation of equipment by these mollusks.

Q. What is a zebra mussel?

A. Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) resemble a freshwater barnacle. They look like a marine mussel with a yellowish or brownish shell marked with alternating zig-zag or wavy bands of brown or yellow. Adult zebra mussels can be as large as 1½-2" inches and live to age five. They use threadlike tentacles to attach themselves to boat hulls, reefs, navigational buoys, anchors and other submerged solid objects.

An adult female zebra mussel can produce 30,000-40,000 eggs, which hatch throughout the late spring and summer months. Larval zebra mussels are free-swimming creatures for a period of 8-10 days. In this stage, they spread rapidly throughout a lake or stream. Existing research indicates 99.8% of the zebra mussels die in their first year of life. They die if they fail to attach to solid objects within the 8-10 day larval period. Cold temperatures, low dissolved oxygen levels and the possibility of being eaten pose additional threats.

Q. Have they always been in Lake Erie?

A. The zebra mussel is believed to have entered the lower Great Lakes in 1986 through the discharge of a ship's ballast. By 1989, it had spread throughout Lake Erie. Continued expansion of the zebra mussel throughout the Great Lakes is expected to occur largely because of its infestation of recreational watercraft.

Q. Where is the zebra mussel currently found?

A. It is currently found throughout Lake Erie and in the lower portion of the Maumee River.

Q. Do I have to take precautions only if I have been in these areas?

A. No. Zebra mussels have been found in western Lake Ontario, throughout Lake St. Clair, and the Green Bay region of Lake Michigan.

Q. If I cannot see zebra mussels on my boat, do I still need to take precautions?

A. Yes. From late spring through fall, larval zebra mussels will be present in the upper waters of the lake. As a result, they will enter live wells and bilge wells of watercraft and attach to any subsurface structures. Larval zebra mussels are tiny and visual identification will be difficult.

Q. Can zebra mussel damage boats if untreated?

A. Yes. They can foul intakes, bilge pumps, and motors. Such fouling, if left untreated, may cause boat equipment to function improperly, and could result in extensive damage. Mussels will not damage boat hulls, but heavy encrustations will slow speed, and reduce handling capability and fuel economy.

Q. If I boat on Lake Erie and don't intend to use my boat inland for a month, do I still need to take precautions?

A. Yes. Lake Erie watercraft users should make an extra effort to keep vessels free of zebra mussel infestation throughout the year. Larval mussels can easily live for a month in areas where trapped water remains.

Q. I have a small outboard motor on my boat. Do I need to be concerned?

A. Yes. Motors regardless of size are susceptible to adverse effects by zebra mussel infestation. Larval mussels are free-swimming and planktonic

for the first 10-14 days after hatching. They can easily enter the cooling waters of marine motors, attach to inside surfaces, and then grow. This will ultimately result in blockages, decreased water flow, and overheating of your motor.

Q. Does the time of year I use my boat on Lake Erie make a difference?

A. Zebra mussels are present year-round in Lake Erie. The entire boating season on Lake Erie presents a concern to all watercraft users. However, early season (April-May) use is least likely to result in zebra mussel problems.

Q. What specifically do I need to do before I take my boat to an inland lake?

A. The hull should be thoroughly cleaned and if small zebra mussels are present, the hull should be scraped. If the boat is left out of the water 10 days or more, the mussels will die. All sources of trapped water (live wells, bilge areas, etc.) should be disinfected with chlorine. Chlorine bleach added at the rate of one part bleach to ten parts of trapped water is recommended.

Q. Should I disinfect any other boating or fishing equipment such as minnow bucket, fishing tackle, anchor, personal flotation devices, etc.?

A. Most equipment will not be affected unless left in the water where zebra mussels are present. An anchor in the water could quickly become infested. Minnow buckets could also contain larval zebra mussels if Lake Erie water is used or added to the bucket. In such cases, disinfect!

Q. Does the length of time I use my boat in Lake Erie make a difference?

A. No. Larval mussels are present from June through October throughout the upper 20 feet of water. They can easily enter your boat system at any time and can settle on the hull in a matter of a few minutes.

Q. Can zebra mussels winter over in stored boats?

A. That would be very unlikely.

From a fact sheet published by the Ohio D.N.R.

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

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

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The sea lamprey time bomb explodes!

Great Lakes fish are being sacrificed by the Bush administration with the help of the Great Lakes Fish Commission (GLFC), members of the Lake Huron Fishery Advisory Committee were told last month.

They were also informed that the Great Lakes sport fishery is doomed within a decade if Congress does not overrule President Bush's decision to reduce efforts to control sea lamprey. Lake Huron, they were told, will see its trout and salmon disappear in less than ten years.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.) Fisheries Division chief John Robertson was sharply critical of GLFC members for their failure to protest the cutbacks in lamprey control.

Michigan's Natural Resources Commission (N.R.C.) has threatened to pull out of the pact between U.S. states and Canadian provinces which created the GLFC in the 1950's to deal with lamprey predation and mold a unified fisheries policy for the Great Lakes.

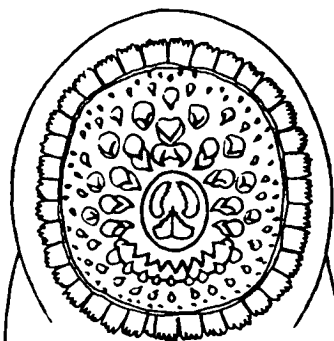
Though Michigan has more Great Lakes waters under its jurisdiction than all other states, it has no member on the GLFC. Members are appointed by the president and report to the State Department rather than the Department of the Interior.

Gov. Blanchard has endorsed several Michigan candidates for the GLFC, including retired D.N.R. fish chief Wayne Tody.

Robertson told members of the Lake Huron fisheries group that GLFC members have a responsibility to the fishery and to represent the views of state fisheries management agencies, all of which advocate an increased lamprey control effort. The GLFC, he said, has willfully rejected this mandate. "What do we have to do with the Commission?" he asked.

Aarne Lamsa, a GLFC executive, told the Lake Huron committee that Commission members have been told the fisheries are doomed. They have ignored this and refused to ask Congress for enough money to deal with an explosion of lamprey, he noted. According to Lamsa, Commission members were told (by the Bush administration) not to seek budget increases.

Paul Wendler, a former N.R.C. member from Saginaw and leader of the National Wildlife Federation and Michigan



United Conservation Clubs for more than 30 years, charges that GLFC members are politically afraid to fight for the fishery.

Terry Morse, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service chief of the lamprey control effort (under contract with the GLFC), told the committee that lamprey are returning to pre-control levels primarily due to a lamprey population explosion in the St. Mary's River. According to Morse, the St. Mary's River lamprey population expanded **52 PERCENT BETWEEN 1987 AND 1988**, the last time it was surveyed. By this spring it may have doubled since 1988, according to some estimates!

Morse said projections are that there are 750,000 mature lamprey in Lake Huron, compared to 80,000 in Lake Michigan and 55,000 in Lake Superior. Biologists say spawning in the St. Mary's is to blame.

As many as half the trout and salmon caught in Lake Huron now have been attacked by lamprey, compared to less than five percent elsewhere. The St. Mary's River lamprey are already moving into Lake Michigan and are certain to spread to Lake Superior. Lamprey started spawning in the St. Mary's about ten years ago.

Due to its size and complexity, it would cost \$9 million just to buy chemicals to treat the St. Mary's once. Treatments would have to be repeated almost yearly, and would be only partially effective.

Other control measures are being considered for the St. Mary's. The most effective, Morse said, would be a combination of trapping lamprey before they spawn, introducing sterile males and chemically treating areas with high densities of young lamprey. But, he pointed out, there is no money for any of this.

Even without the lamprey eruption in

the St. Mary's, lamprey control would be losing ground due to lack of money.

Because the cost of the chemical used in lamprey control, TFM, has escalated sharply, the GLFC has ordered a 40 percent cut in treating spawning streams flowing into Lakes Michigan, Huron and Ontario, and eliminated all Lake Erie streams from the treatment schedule. Full treatment will continue on Lake Superior.

The Commission has \$6.4 million for 1990 treatments. To maintain its historical treatment program on about 200 spawning streams and pursue what is considered vital research and evaluation, the GLFC needs a minimum of \$13 million per year, Robertson and others told the Lake Huron committee. The GLFC has only asked for \$6.6 million for the 1991 fiscal year, about half of what is needed.

Morse notes that lamprey control has a 17-1 benefit-cost ratio. Great Lakes sport and commercial fishery is estimated to be worth about \$4 billion to the economy.

In addition to his biting attack on the Commission's failure to seek adequate funding for lamprey control, Robertson charges that it is negligent in other areas.

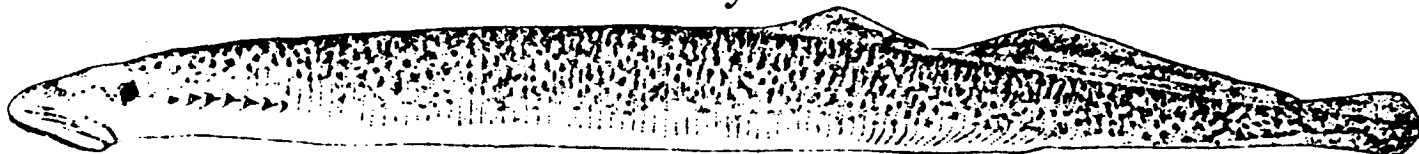
"It has failed to close the barn door of the St. Lawrence Seaway, yet we've known since the 1920's that that's the route lamprey took to enter the lakes," Robertson says. Since then, he adds, alewife, white perch, zebra mussels and other "exotics" have followed that same path into the Lakes. All have had negative impacts, and far more of these are expected to emerge.

The GLFC charter makes it responsible for fisheries research, says Robertson, but it spends only \$200,000 per year on non-lamprey research. According to Robertson, several million dollars worth of additional research is vitally needed to find the answers to revitalizing the sport fishery.

The 19-member Lake Huron Fishery Advisory Committee (appointed by Robertson) develops recommendations for the fishery. For copies of its minutes and information on future meetings, write John Schrouder, D.N.R., Box 128, Roscommon, MI 48653, or call (517) 275-5151.

Reprinted from *The North Woods Call* of 3/21/90 at the suggestion of club member Bob Kanas.

SEA LAMPREY *Petromyzon marinus* Linnaeus



FIND OUT HOW LAST YEAR'S LEADING SKIPPERS GOT THE JOB DONE!

"Top Ten" Survey

It's been a few years since we published a survey on the methods and techniques of the Top Ten finishers in the "Skipper of the Year" standings. This survey compiles information about what was successful for the Top Ten boats during the 1989 tournament season.

By publishing this information, we can share it with all boat trollers in our club. This gives anyone who's interested the chance to become a better troller.

The Detroit Area Steelheader boat trolling tournament fleet fished these ports in 1989: Lexington and Port Sanilac, St. Joseph/Benton Harbor, Muskegon, Port Austin, Oscoda, Ludington, Manistee, Rogers City, and Frankfort.

Our most successful port was St. Joseph/Benton Harbor, where our catch rate was 0.900 fish/fishing hour. Our lowest average was at Frankfort, where we only managed 0.422 fish/fishing hour. However, I must say something in defense of Frankfort. Due to some rather nasty weather, we ended up with a 'broken' tournament. Our trollers were more concerned with their safety than with fishing, something for which I do not fault them!

Here are some interesting "averages" and other statistics about 1989's Top Ten.

- Average boat size was 21½ feet.
- The average number of downriggers carried was four, and the most popular brand was Cannon, used by 8 out of 10.
- Nearly all boats carried visual electronic equipment to obtain needed information.
- LORAN-C was used on 9 of 10 boats. (As prices continue to fall on this very important instrument, I expect to see more and more boats equipped with it in 1990)
- Eight of the ten top boats used round cannonballs with a fin. Black, green and yellow were the predominant color choices. Weight preference was a toss-up between 10-pound and 12-pound weights.
- Typical set-ups for spring, summer, and fall fishing varied only in depth settings. Everyone ran four downriggers in combination with deep divers such as Dipsey Divers, Pink Ladys, or Deep Sixes, with occasional outriggers or planer boards in the spring and fall.

Most skippers bounced bottom for lakereels. The two exceptions stayed 3-4 feet above the bottom while running the "bait walking" system. The downrigger pattern used was the usual V-shape. Rear downriggers were run the deepest, with the side 'riggers set 5-10 feet above. All boats used either sliders and/or Add-A-Lines to get

additional baits in the water for those "sneaky Petes" which aren't feeding where they're supposed to.

The most popular bait for spring fishing was, unanimously, the Bomber stick baits run off the downriggers, with diving crank baits on planer boards and long lines also finding favor. The top summer bait choice was the spoon, in many assorted sizes and colors — black/green, black/raspberry, greens and chartreuses were top selections by the Top Ten skippers. The fall bait pick was the J-Plug, followed by large magnum spoons, and the Bomber and Rapala stick baits. Greens and chartreuses were color favorites.

Lake trout fishing led the Top Ten skippers to run cowbells with Spin & Glos, Wobble Glos, or P-Nuts. Two skippers also run dodger/fly/squid combinations — I think the others would agree if asked, since just about anything trailing behind a silver dodger will produce lakereels.

Five of the ten skippers said speed was the most important variable factor influencing fishing success, while three stressed locating baitfish, one highlighted finding structure, and one emphasized identifying and locating the correct temperature. Avoiding other boats was deemed the least important variable by the top skippers.

Eight of ten skippers preferred fishing a port the day before a tourney, to locate fish and establish a pattern.

As we all know, weather has a tremendous effect on fishing, and this was the most difficult subject to reach a consensus among our skippers. Asking where, when, why and how to fish a port before and after a cold front or storm produced no common answers, so I guess we'll have to decide for ourselves. Among the ideas and approaches mentioned were these.

- ✓ Determine if water is turned over because of offshore or onshore winds.
- ✓ Find the proper temperature/depth.
- ✓ Ask at marinas, bait shops, and charter docks about where fish are holding.
- ✓ Be innovative — keep trying until you find something that works. One skipper said if you do nothing else when a cold front moves in, at least put on a jacket!

As far as equipment is concerned, the skippers ranked the FM radio as the most important piece of equipment on their boat, followed by speed indicator, graph, LORAN-C, depth indicator, and last (surprisingly), temperature gauge.

Half the skippers said they keep a record of all catches they make. Three

said they do so sometimes, and two stated they do not keep any records.

A lot of skippers feel it's a bother to write down information during all the excitement of catching fish. What works well for me is carrying a hand-sized tape recorder and recording everything at the moment. Then, in the comfort of my easy chair at home, I rerun the tape and record the day's catch in my log book. A log book, in time, will tell you what has worked best at any given port under any given conditions. I highly recommend that *ALL SKIPPERS* keep a log book!

Besides the replies of 1989's Top Ten skippers, here are a few of my own hints.

- Always check hook sharpness.
- Be very particular about trolling speed.
- Talk to other skippers in our club to see what's working for them.
- Constantly monitor water temperature.
- Check lures regularly for tangles/debris.
- Experiment — be innovative!

I hope you find this survey helpful in becoming a better boat troller, and I want to thank the Top Ten skipper for their co-operation in this survey.

TOP TEN SKIPPERS OF 1989

Bob Mitchell — "Kemo"
 Steve Banovic — "Exaggerator"
 Ron Huey — "Half R's"
 Ron Hartman — "Molly Frail"
 Don Anton — "Happy Bare"
 Bob Herman — "Nomad"
 Don Redmond — "Trena Dawn"
 Hank Baczynski — "Sinsation"
 Mike Wakulski — "Wet Paint"
 Doug Karakas — "Capt'n Hook"

This sharing of information is just one of many advantages of belonging to a great club like the Detroit Area Steelheaders!

So until I see you at the docks, take care, and enjoy your fishing!!

—Dick Shirk

Boat Trolling Chairman



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KEEP A LOG!

Keeping a log can be one of the best ways to increase your catch from year to year, or even on a specific day. In fishing the Detroit Area Steelheader tournaments over the years, we on board "Kemo" have had the opportunity to fish many ports, and to benefit from past experiences.

When we go to a port, one of the first things we do is to review the records of our catches there in past years to see what worked and what didn't. It is *VERY* helpful. When the going gets tough, we grab the log and see what we did two or three years ago, or even earlier in the day. Many times the log has given us clues to the right things to try.

Your log should include all pertinent data. First, list the basics: port, date, and weather conditions. Then each individual fish should be logged in, including: weight, species, time, lure depth, lure type, primary and secondary colors, who caught it, and miscellaneous info (LORAN TD's, slider, dipsey, etc.).

One thing that most skippers forget to add is any information learned after fishing. For example, if you found out at the docks that the kings were hitting something you weren't using, write that in the log. You may want to try it the next day, or the next year. In tournaments, I try to write in information about what the winning skipper used or did. I may not care

what I did if I placed low!

An example of the value of a log can be seen from summaries of the last 500 or so (513 actual) fish we have boated (*SEE CHARTS*). As you can see, black has been the best bait color both for the number and average size of fish caught. The ten biggest fish we caught on black averaged

FIGURE 1.

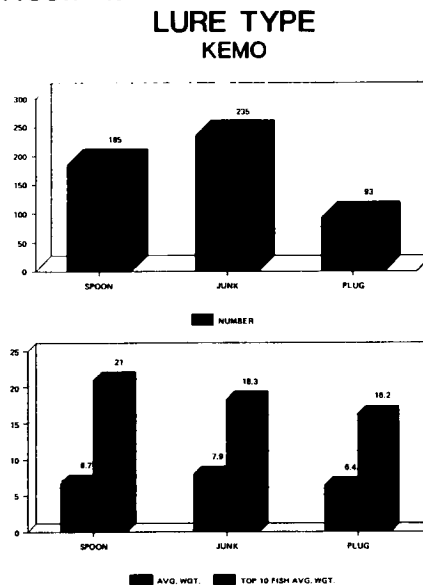
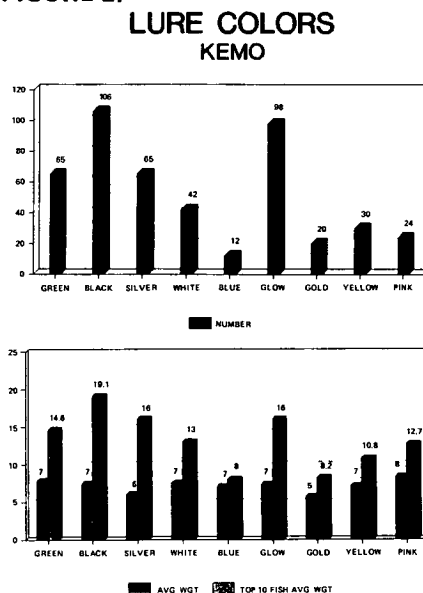


FIGURE 2.



three pounds bigger than the next-best color! The best lure type for number of fish caught has been junk (a dodger or lake trolls), while the best type for big fish has been spoons.

Who knows what will work best in 1990? I don't know for sure, but I do know that our log will tell the story next year, whatever it is!

—Bob Mitchell
"Kemo"

For Your Information

GREAT LAKES SALMON HEADED FOR JAPAN??

It was reported in the March/April *Woods-N-Waters News* that All-Star, a California-based company with warehouses in St. Ignace and Manistique, has contracted with Indian fishermen to obtain Great Lakes fish, many of which are salmon, for sale in Japan.

Last year, the salmon (and other fish) were hauled in huge boxes to the Traverse City area, where they were flash-frozen at the Leelanau County facility of Stanek & Sons. The majority of these closed crates of fish, marked with Japanese symbols for shipping addresses, were then stored briefly at Grand Traverse Cold Storage before being sent to the West Coast and then, presumably, on to Japanese markets.

Dr. William Eger, Inter-Tribal Fishery and Assessment Program director, said licensed tribal netters took 420,000 Lake Huron chinook and 92,000 from Lake Michigan in 1988. He expects 1989 totals to be *MUCH HIGHER!*

Michigan's sportfishing take of chinook salmon has continued on a downward spiral — Lake Michigan chinook sport catches fell from 374,000 in 1986 to an estimated 60,000 in 1988.

★ ★ ★

BENZIE STEELHEADERS TO CLEAN RIVERS

The Benzie Area Steelheaders will be cleaning up both the Platte River and the Betsie River on May 19. They are inviting all downstate anglers to come up and help with the project.

Cleanup workers will meet at 9:00 a.m. at Homestead Dam site. Anyone planning to help out should bring a pair of waders, gloves, a knife to cut line, and perhaps a potato hook or hoe to dislodge line from the bottom. Canoes, donated by Riverside Canoes, will be available to carry the trash out.

All volunteers will be fed a buffet meal at Money's Platte River Inn in Honor after the cleanup. Participants will also receive a Benzie Area Steelheader cap.

Want Ads:

HELP WANTED — Crew needed to fish aboard the "Trena Dawn" for the Detroit Area Steelheaders Ladies Day tournament June 30 in Oscoda.

Call Don Redmond: 469-8344

Need A FISHING PARTNER or Another CREW MEMBER?

Do you want to fish in the
Boat Trolling Tournaments
but don't have a boat?

If the answer is yes to either of
these questions, make a telephone
call and have your wishes come true!

CREWS Hot Line

TO SIGN UP, CONTACT:
GENE BURBARY — 725-5935
DOUG KARAKAS — 545-1181

CREWS HOT LINE

is a
Detroit Area Steelheader
club service for members

The truth about 'user fees'!

The Bush administration wants the nation's recreational boat owners to pay an annual federal "user fee" for the privilege of using any waterway not solely under state jurisdiction, something that is not a new concept. The Reagan administration's Department of Transportation tried nine times to convince Congress that boat owners should pay.

At first, the Transportation Department's proposal was ridiculed. In the mid-1980's it was squarely rejected (once on a vote of 119-287 by the full House of Representatives). Of late, it has been rebuffed — but only at the last moment.

However, the battle against federal "user fees" — now entering its tenth year — is beginning to take its toll. Many boaters who in past years would quickly dash off a letter to their congressman no longer get involved. And many congressmen who have not been contacted by their boating constituents in years are beginning to believe that \$25 a year is a modest sum which most boat owners can afford.

Why the change in momentum? What is the fuss all about?

As far as momentum is concerned, the truth of the matter is that the boating public has been lulled to sleep by its own success. After winning any battle for so many years, who could fault the public for thinking that Washington has gotten the message that "No New Taxes" also means no more of the same "user fees" which have been so thoroughly discredited over the past decade.

And, as far as the fuss over "user fees" for boaters is concerned, the truth of the

matter is that there is a reason — actually a number of reasons — why the government's "user fee" schemes have been rejected time and time again.

Perhaps the most compelling reason is that our friends in Congress know "user fees" are a fraud — pure and simple.

The folks at the Transportation Department and the White House Budget Office would have the world believe that the nation's recreational boat owners are primarily responsible for a good chunk of the Coast Guard's budget and therefore they should pay for services rendered.

What Coast Guard services do they contend boat owners should underwrite? They point to search and rescue and aids to navigation and claim that the cost of these services should be borne by the boating public and not the general public.

Simple concept, perhaps too simple!

What government officials don't mention is that of 6 million boaters using the navigable waterways, only 54,180 — less than one in 100 — made use of Coast Guard assistance last year. Of these, 19,488 — only one in 300 — received Coast Guard non-emergency assistance.

Nonetheless, the government would require millions of recreational boat owners to pay a so-called "user fee" even if they use no Coast Guard services or boat in an area where there is no Coast Guard.

As far as aids to navigation are concerned, sure, recreational boaters make use of these aids and in some cases, such aids primarily benefit recreational boaters. But, the plain truth is that the aids to navigation system in this country was established and is maintained for the

benefit of commercial shipping and the Defense Department.

So why does the Office of Management and Budget persist in this battle? Because boaters are perceived as an easy source of revenue which doesn't have to be called a tax.

Here's what gets our hackles raised about this issue:

- The fact that boaters and anglers already pay over \$200 million to the federal government in excise taxes on marine fuel and fishing tackle.

- The fact that the Reagan administration and now the Bush administration refuses to spend some of the user fees now being collected from boaters for programs already on the books.

- The fact that the Coast Guard budget would not receive any added funds if "user fees" were approved.

- The fact that once this modest \$25 "user fee" is approved, it is quite likely that the fee will be increased — substantially — in the future, as is the history of such taxes and fees.

- The fact that any boater paying a "user fee" would not be entitled to any Coast Guard service — contrary to the *General User Fee* statute.

For these reasons, *BOAT/U.S.* continues to believe that "user fees" for boaters is a bad idea which deserves your active opposition.

As this issue of *BOAT/U.S. Reports* goes to print, the Administration's "user fee" proposal is being considered by the House Budget Committee. We urge you to contact your Congressman and particularly Rep. Leon Panetta (D-Cal.) and Rep. Bill Frenzel (R-Minn.) of the Budget Committee to let them know how you feel.

—MGS

This editorial, reprinted from a recent issue of *BOAT/U.S. Reports*, is the article Al Werner presented at last month's membership meeting. He again urges all club members to write an appropriate letter *AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!*



Membership Application

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THE DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER NEWSLETTER

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Complete form and send with check or money order payable to:

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MEETING NOTICE—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!

1990 MEETING SCHEDULE

TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M.

APRIL 24, 1990

MAY 24, 1990

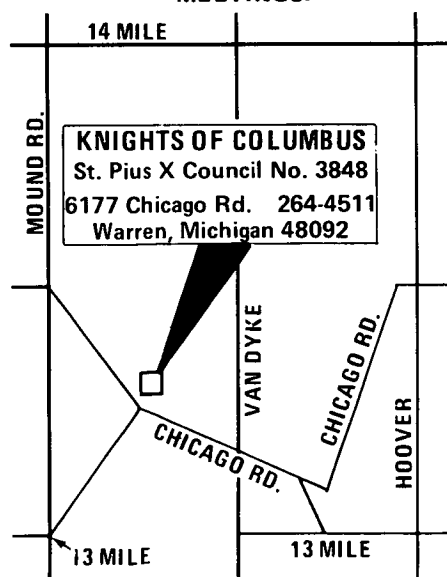
JUNE 26, 1990

Visitors Welcome — Bring A Friend!

K. OF C. HALL, WARREN



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



The
DEADLINE
for
MAY FISHIN' TALES
is
APRIL 24, 1990

Sportsmen asked to aid freeing dammed rivers

Editor's Note: *This piece, which appeared in a recent issue of North Woods Call, was written by Ed McGlenn of Farmington, editor of RIVERWATCH, newsletter of the Anglers of the Au Sable. It outlines arguments for freeing the Au Sable River from Consumers Power Company's six hydro dams located on it. Anglers of the Au Sable has joined with Trout Unlimited and other conservationists in campaigning for the removal of the dams, which are currently up for federal relicensing. John Robertson, D.N.R. fisheries chief and this month's speaker at our membership meeting, has also vigorously called for the removal of the dams.*

While fisheries biologists develop data and positions to justify their anticipated request that more than two dozen hydro dams in Michigan be throttled through the federal relicensing process, the final decision may be more political than technical.

This, sources tell **The North Woods Call**, means that federal regulators and congressmen **MUST** be told that conservationists want the dams removed, or regulated to favor fisheries habitat and fishermen.

Consumers Power Co. has been whipping residents and businessmen near the power dams into a frenzy of support for the status quo in operating the dams. The company is predicting economic disaster for property and business owners if the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) demands that the rivers be given consideration. Consumers' strategy is to create as much political pressure as possible for non-interference with its operations.

Michigan D.N.R. fisheries chief John Robertson has vowed to commit every necessary resource to documenting the

negative impact the dams have had on ecosystems and recreation, both of which the law demands be given high priority in FERC decisions.

Some critics do not consider immediate removal of the dams to be politically realistic. Instead, they suggest that Consumers be required to agree to a long-term, legally binding schedule for phasing out the dams and paying for restoration of the river's natural eco-systems. Under this strategy, they would require Consumers to also agree to immediate installation of underspills — to release cooler water — and flow of the river operations.

Most conservationists also favor replacing the lowermost dams on rivers (such as the Foote on the Au Sable and the Tippy on the Manistee) with barriers to block upstream migration of lamprey, salmon, and steelhead.

Anglers of the Au Sable urges conservationists to write to:

**Ronald A. Corso, Director
Office of Hydropower Licensing
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 North Capitol Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20001**

Copies of your letter should be sent to:
**Ronald A. Lesniak, Regional Director
Office of Hydropower Licensing
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
230 South Dearborn Street
Room 3130
Chicago, Illinois 60604**

AND

**John Robertson, Chief
Fisheries Division
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, Michigan 48909**