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MAY 1990

Well the Detroit Area Steelheaders have again claimed bragging rights at the Chuck Muer's River Crab Salmon Stakes!

On Saturday, April 21, our membership participated in a big way in the charity event, with the Detroit fleet weighing in a combined catch of 887 pounds, far outdistancing the runnerup group, the defending club champion Blue Water Sportfishing Association, which weighed in a combined catch of 511 pounds.

I want to thank each and every one of the 64 boats and their crew members who took part in the 1990 tourney. All your efforts and accomplishments in putting fish on the scale enabled us to again be able to truthfully state, "WE'RE NUMBER ONE!!"

This year's results represent a tremendous improvement over any previous finish by our club in this event. The best total we weighed in before this year was a fleet catch of 456 pounds, recorded at the 1988 River Crab. To give just one example of how well our guys fished,

our 11th place finisher this year, Gregg Michaud and "Salmonizer III." had a larger catch than the 3rd place finisher in 1989!

In all, 41 of the 64 boats weighed in fish, for an average of 21.10 pounds per boat. In 1989, 36 of 69 boats recorded a combined catch of 381.12 pounds, an average catch of 10.10 pounds per boat.

There were a number of 'interesting' moments during the tournament, Fortunately, we can look back on them now with a smile, although one was potentially very serious at the time. Ed (Rockv) Wilczek on "Pat's Competition" got turned around while fighting a fish, and ended up marooned on a rock pile south of Port Sanilac. Thankfully, he rode it out and finally beached it up on the sand with little or no damage. Doug Karakas on "Capt'n Hook II" and Dick Jackson on "Voyageur" monitored his distress call. immediately pulled lines, and raced to his assistance. Because of bad structure conditions in the area, neither Doug or Dick could get to him, but just their presence

had to be a great comfort to Ed and his crew. Great work, fellows!

Perhaps the most interesting episode took place aboard Bruce Haywood's "Katie-Did." Their first fish of the day wasn't satisfied with merely taking the lure. It took line, rod, reel -everything down to the Deep Six! A little while later, after what I'm sure were a few choice words from Bruce, along came Fish Number Two with a strike on the number two rod. To avoid a repeat of the first incident, Bruce got fitted into a fighting harness, two Yale padlocks went on the rod straps, and a backup chain was tied to a cleat. With everything "secured" Bruce sat back to enjoy the fight. After what seemed like a two-hour battle, Fish Number Two came to the net, and yes, you guessed it . . . the lure, line, rod, reel and all from Fish Number One was still firmly attached to Fish Number Two! Obviously, all's well that ends well!

As for the tournament itself, everyone awoke to a very foggy dawn. While considering whether or not to postpone the start of the tournament, I looked out over the breakwall and noticed running lights on some boats already out. It looked like it might be lifting, so the announcement was made for a go. Almost instantly, all boats were on the move, heading for that

favorite Honey Hole.

Lo and behold, when the fog lifted, there were 650 boats out from Camp Cavell - definitely where the fish were! I know that at least eight of our top ten boats were there, First it was "Sea Hag," then "Kemo," then "Teacher's Pet," all putting fish in the box early. Bombers, in greens, blues, 'wonder breads', grey ghosts, and golds, were the bait doing the job. The catching continued steadily until about 10 o'clock, when a sudden cold front with a fog bank rolled in out of the north, bringing a halt to all the action, Thank goodness a majority of our fish were already on ice!

The arrival of the front persuaded many skippers to decide to call it a day. so quite a few headed for the weigh-in.



SIXTY-FOUR DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER BOATS showed up at the 1990 River Crab Salmon Stakes seeking to uphold the fishing honor of our club. They accomplished their goal in memorable fashion!!

Continued on Page Four . . . /

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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Harbor Beach, Port Austin are next on tourney trail

The weekend of May 19 will find Detroit Area Steelheaders fishing out of Harbor Beach. This port hasn't been on our tournament schedule since May, 1987, but from the reported results being produced lately, I thought it was time to go back there again.

From a fish-producing, and a launchingdocking, standpoint, Harbor Beach is now a very good port. It has a large breakwall with three outlets to the lake. Our scheduled date should be in prime time for kings, so I hope there's a large turnout.

I would expect likely baits would be a mixture of body stick baits and spoons of various brands and colors. This early, you'll just have to let the fish dictate which baits they'll take, I would suggest starting out 20'-30' down and 45'-65' back. Don't hesitate to run sliders and/or add-a-lines. Good colors should be greens, chartreuses, and blues and chromes. You might try some black and raspberrys, depending on light conditions.

Dockage is on a first come, first served basis, with no reservations. Doug Karakas ("Capt, Hook II") will be Port Captain for this event, so if you have any questions pertaining to this tourney, call him at 545-1181.

June 2 we'll be towing up to one of our favorite lake trout ports, namely Port Austin. In the past, this port has usually been known as a lake trout port, but with the number of kings it has produced in the last 2-3 years, that designation no longer applies.

Running the usual cowbells with Spin-N-Glos or P-Nuts in greens, chartreuses and also the clown, running on or near the bottom will get you some lakers. The dodger/fly or dodger/spoon set-ups run 5'-10' up from the bottom should get you some kings. Your Port Captain for this one is Rod Coffey ("Fish-N-Rod"), and you can reach him at 363-9415 if you have any questions.

Incidentally, both Harbor Beach and Port Austin will have Team Doubles on Sunday for the skippers staying over (top boat on Saturday teamed up with the last place boat, etc.), so it ought to be fun! Good luck to all - I hope to see you all dockside.

> -Dick Shirk **Boat Trolling Chairman**

DNR needs fish heads

Fishermen are being asked by the Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.). to save the heads from fin-clipped steelhead and chinook salmon taken in Lake Superior and streams flowing into it.

Fish without their adipose fin have microscopic wire tags in their snouts. The adipose is the tiny fin on the back between the dorsal fin and the tail.

D.N.R. fisheries researchers can determine when and where the fish were planted and where they were raised from the snout tag. The information will be used in deciding future planting sites and numbers.

Heads can be frozen, if necessary, before turning them in to a D.N.R. field office.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL, 6177 CHICAGO ROAD, WARREN MAY 29, 1990 **JUNE 26, 1990 JULY 31, 1990**

SPECIAL EVENT

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

May 29, 1990

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE EVENT DATE HARBOR BEACH (Sunday team doubles, opt.) May 19 June 2 PORT AUSTIN (Sunday team doubles, opt.) SPECIAL PEOPLE OUTING (Lake Erie) June 16 June 30 OSCODA (Ladies Day) July 21 **MANISTEE**

Aug. 4-5 LUDINGTON

ROGERS CITY (Inter-club: Northeast) Aug. 18

OLCOTT/WILSON, N.Y. (Research trip, no pts.) Aug. 25

FRANKFORT (Inter-club: Benzie) Sept. 8

CONTACT Doug Karakas, 545-1181 Rod Coffey, 363-9415 Tim Graskewicz, 397-2269 Bob Ksionzek, 752-5545 Tim Graskewicz, 397-2269 Bill Shackleton, 422-3386 Bob Mitchell, 828-8034 Ron Hartman, 542-4873 Dick Shirk, 749-9493 Don Redmond, 469-8344

Steelhead lake vs. river debate flares

"S-O-S: Save Our Steelhead!"

That's the alarm being sounded by veteran steelhead innovator and guide Dick Swan of Clare. Swan is convinced the catch of offshore steelhead in Lake Michigan must be curbed to preserve the river, pier, and surf fisheries.

He claims some charter skippers are taking 500, and more, steelhead a year trolling on the "scum line." At least one, he says, took more than 1,000 offshore steelhead for his customers last summer.

The total take of offshore steelhead, according to Swan's figures, could easily exceed several hundred thousand in Michigan and Wisconsin waters.

While the offshore catch has erupted, river and shoreline fishing has plummeted, says Swan and many other fishermen.

Great Lakes creel census supervisor Jerry Rakoczy, who knows Swan well and says he respects his concern for the fishery and and his angling skills, contends Swan's steelhead catch estimates are highly over-inflated.

A persistent and highly successful offshore steelhead troller, Rakoczy somewhat ruefully concurs with Swan that the fishery has become extremely popular. "It is crowded out there. I'd be happier if they reduced the creel limit (from three per day) to one. That way I'd be alone out there again," Rakoczy says.

But, he is confident the fishery is not in danger. Not yet, anyway. "We are watching it. We don't want to see it collapse," he explains.

The creel census, plus the new mandatory charter boat reporting program and figures on fish at the Little Manistee weir gives biologists more information on how many steelhead are being taken than they've ever had, Rakoczy points out.

He estimates the 1989 total open water catch in Lake Michigan was around 50,000, about equally split between charter boats and individual fishermen.

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Based on charter boat skipper reports on fin clips on the fish they are taking in open water, Rakoczy says at least half of them are fish planted by Wisconsin. Few of these fish, he adds, would run Michigan rivers, so they would never be available to river anglers.

If anything, offshore trollers seem to be extracting fish from pier and surf fisheries, according to Rakoczy. Creel census data show fewer fish caught on the shoreline since the open water fishery zoomed.

Swan rejects Rakoczy's figures, insisting there's a slaughter going on at the scum line where insects and forage fish gather near the surface because a cold water mass has collected. He says that many charter boats took steelhead numbering in the hundreds in 1989, Citing unconfirmed reports, Swan claims 106 charter skippers boated 75,000 steelhead.

They do this, according to Swan, by making two trips daily to the scum line, with six customers each trip. They fish 12 lines and take home limits each trip, he contends. That's 24 fish per trip (including three fish for each customer and for the captain and mate) and 48 fish a day.

"In 42 trips a year, Bingo! That's over 1,000 fish per boat," Swan points out.

Swan says the scum line fishery "is a guaranteed catch fishery: Steelhead heaven!" He started doing it in 1983 and claims he can limit out for his customers (10-20 steelhead) in one to three hours, fishing only one line.

The steelhead, Swan insists, should be-

long to the surf and river fishermen.

Citing years of scum line fishing, Rakoczy points out that the catching isn't that easy. The offshore steelhead charter captain he considers the best and hardestworking caught just over 300 last year.

None of the charter skippers report making two trips daily. The run to the scum line can be as much as 35 miles.

Based on the creel census and charter boat reports, Rakoczy says the best of the offshore steelheading only lasted about 45 days — from mid-June through July. Many of those days the weather was too rough to get offshore, he points out.

Swan is not alone in feeling the open water fishery has sharply reduced river, pier and surf catches. Other guides are calling for one fish creel limits.

Rakoczy speculates that pressure will slacken on the scum line fishery when the Lake Michigan chinook fishery recovers. Many fishermen and charter captains, he says, will quit making the long runs to mid-lake when they can again fill the fish box with chinook near shore.

When will that be? Rakoczy doesn't claim to know. He hopes soon, but says it's unlikely before 1992.

Biologists, he promises, will continue to keep close tabs on the offshore steelhead fishery and the river fishery. If facts show the river fishery is in danger, he's confident appropriate action will be taken. From North Woods Call, April 1990.

RAYMOND G. GLIME

FOR 16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

JUDGE

(MACOMB COUNTY)



* MEMBER OF THE DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS ("HALF R'S")

PLEASE VOTE AUGUST 7, 1990 YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED! "SEA HAG" WAS SECOND OVERALL IN RIVER CRAB EVENT!!

"Sea Hag" wins first 1990 club tournament

. . ./Continued from Page One

And what a weigh-in it was! Dave Even and "Teacher's Pet" put a great catch totaling 45.05 pounds on the scales, good enough for third place. A little later, Rob Pinski, skipper of "Anticipation," loaded up the basket with a hefty 48,06-pound catch to secure second place. Finally, Blaise Pewinski and the "Sea Hag" crew emptied their catch onto the scale, ringing up a boggling number of 64.01 pounds! That put a lock on top honors for the club tourney, and missed being the top boat in the entire River Crab event by a mere two pounds! Great job. Blaise, and "Sea Hag!!"

Thanks to all our members who participated in this great cause. Thanks also to Chuck Muer for his sponsorship of the event that serves this great cause of helping kids all over Michigan, I'm sure it was another great triumph this year. I would also like to thank Rob Helzer and all the people from the Blue Water club for their work operating the scales and tabulating the tournament results, and all the other things they do to make the River Crab Salmon Stakes the huge success it has become. Not many people realize what goes on behind the scenes at a tournament of this size and scope. Believe me, it takes a lot of dedication and effort from a lot of people. Congratulations to all who helped for another job well done!

-Dick Shirk
Boat Trolling Chairman



DAVE EVEN (I.), Detroit Area Steelheader president, and Rob Helzer, Blue Water Sportfishing Association president, share a good time at the 1990 River Crab Salmon Stakes post-tourney party!



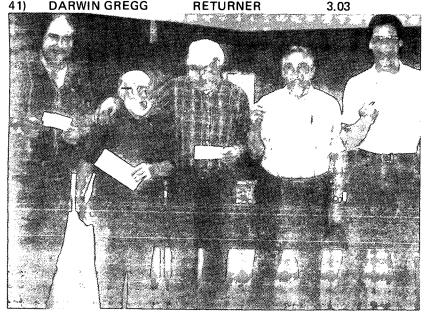
FIRST PLACE: "SEA HAG" with skipper Blaise Pewinski and crew.



DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS achieved great success at the 1990 River Crab Salmon Stakes, with numerous members placing well in the various species categories. Well done, fellows!!

RIVER CRAB SALMON STAKES (April 21, 1990)

RI	VER CRAB SALMON :	STAKES (April 21,	1990)
	SKIPPER	BOAT	WGT.
1)	BLAISE PEWINSKI	SEA HAG	64.01
2)	ROB PINSKI	ANTICIPATION	48.06
3)	DAVE EVEN	TEACHER'S PET	45.05
4)	BOB MITCHELL	KEMO	41.13
5)	DEAN PILAT	HIGH ANXIETY	39.01
6)	MIKE WAKULSKI	WET PAINT	34.12
7)	JIM BEELBY	FISH FLY	30.10
8)	BRUCE HAYWOOD	KATIE-DID	28.13
9)	JOE GOLASZEWSKI	LUCKY FALCON	27.14
10)	DOUG KARAKAS	CAPT'N HOOK II	25.03
11)	GREGG MICHAUD	SALMONIZER III	25.02
12)	AL SCHULTZ	MISERY 3	23.12
13)	RON HUEY	HALF R'S	23.11
14)	BOB HERMAN	NOMAD	23.05
15)	BOB PATYK	RENEGADE	23.03
16)	NELSON CALDWELL		22.11
17)	DON ANTON	HAPPY BARE	22.07
18)	TOM DASHER	TOM'S TOY	21.13
19)	BILL ROZEK	2 SLIPPERY	20.09
	BILL HOFFMAN	STEELIE	20,05
21)	BILL SHACKLETON		19,12
22)		WISH-FULL	19.03
23)	VLAD POHORILY	CARMEN ASHLEY	
24)		LIL'SCRATCH	18.03
25)	JACK DICK	PAIR OF JACKS	17.01
26)	DON REDMOND	TRENA DAWN	16.10
27)	FRED RIEF	GRETCH BABY	16.07
28)	BUTCH AYERS	SEA TREAT	16.05
29)	JOHN CHWALIBOG	LITTLE BIG JOHN	14.10
30)	DICK JACKSON	VOYAGEUR	13.05
31)	RON HARTMAN	MOLLY FRAIR	13.03
32)	LEON VAN EDEN	BULLHEAD	13.00
33)	LES JUMP	ALICE'S ANGLER	12.07
34)	PAUL NOWAK	A-DAY-LATE	12.06
35)	BOB KSIONZEK	LAST DIME II	11.08
36)	CHRIS COFFEY	COFFEE BREAK	10.12
37)	KRIS NYTKO	AQUARIUS	10.10
38)	TOM MOORES	KARE FREE	6.03
39)	JIM HARDRICK	MY DREAM	5.10
40)	GARY LEINONEN	FISHIN' FINNS	5.03 (
41)	DARWIN GREGG	RETURNER	3.03



HERE'S FIVE LUCKY DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS: (I.-r.) Blaise Pewinski, John Chwalibog, Dick Shirk, Darwin Gregg and Dick Jackson each won \$100 prizes in the "River Crab Weigh-In Sheet Raffle!"



SOME EXPLOITS OF OUR MEMBERS at the River Crab Salmon-Stakes were deemed worthy of being immortalized in song!

RIVER CRAB SALMON STAKES RESULTS - 1987-1990

1987	46 Boats Entered	336.07 lbs.	7.05 lbs./Boat				
	Number of boats we	eighing in fish is	not known				
1988	53 Boats Entered	456.02 lbs.	8.10 lbs./Boat				
Number of boats weighing in fish is not known							
1989	69 Boats Entered	381.12 lbs.	5.08 lbs./Boat				
	36 Boats w/Fish		10.10 lbs./Boat				
1990	64 Boats Entered	887.06	13.14 lbs./Boat				
	41 Boats w/Fish		21.10 lbs /Boat				

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!!

Tanner slams lack of funding

Chinook collapse blamed on politicians

Michigan's chinook salmon fishery is collapsing, at a cost of tens of millions of dollars to the state's economy, because politicians have failed to fund long-needed research, former Department of Natural Resources head Howard Tanner charges.

"In spite of 20 years of warnings from me and from every other responsible fisheries manager I know, not enough information upon which to base informed management procedures have ever been collected," Tanner points out.

Widely regarded as the father of the Great Lakes salmon program, Tanner adds: "Michigan fisheries managers have had to proceed on a little data, good guesses, plus some luck. Now this lack of information has caught up with us, with severe economic impact on alot of people.

"Why wasn't the data collected? Simple. There was never enough money."

With businesses in jeopardy, and some certain to fail before the fishery can be rebuilt, Tanner says, "Now everyone wants the Fisheries Division to fix it and be darn quick about it. How do you fix something when you really don't know what's wrong with it?::

Fishermen, through license fees and excise taxes, cannot pay for the needed research, Tanner explains. He contends the businesses which benefit from the fishery should be financing the research effort.

The Natural Resources Commission last year directed the D.N.R. to implement the stepped-up research. To do so, it had to have money from the state's general fund, which collects nearly \$100 million per year in sales and income tax generated by the sport fishery.

. D.N.R. director David Hales ordered the fish division — and other divisions not to seek additional funding. This was done, Lansing insiders say, to aid Gov. Blanchard's bid to hold down taxes and spending during an election year.

Tanner forsees no improvement in the chinook fishery until at least 1992. He isn't sure things will turn up then. Biologists say the fishery could easily continue to tumble well into the future if answers are not found.

Bacterial kidney disease (BKD), which has always been present in the chinook, has flared in the last three years. This spring it appears to be ravaging salmon taken early in southern waters. According to reports from anglers, every salmon caught has acute BKD. Their innards are filled with pus and are, one said, "just an awful-looking mess!" Tens to hundreds of thousands are reported dying of BKD.

No one knows why the disease, latent for two decades, is suddenly devastating. What they do know is that the Lake Michigan chinook catch has dropped from more than 600,000 in the mid-1980's to 160,000 last year.

"Up to about 1986 we caught between 60 and 100 chinook for every 1,000 planted. That is a good return. Now we get back only 10 to 20 chinook, perhaps even fewer, for every 1,000 stocked," says Tanner, who is now a professor at Michigan State University.

Tanner endorses the D.N.R.'s effort to hold chinook in river net pens so they can grow to nearly four inches before releasing them. This allows the fish to acclimate to the wild and results in more food in the lake — due to warmer water — when they are released. They are just under three inches when they leave the hatchery.

Tanner urges sportsmen and businessmen to co-operate in this effort by paying for construction of additional river pens, which are being used at more than a half-dozen sites this spring. These larger fish will not contribute to the fishery until 1992 and beyond . . . if they survive BKD.

Tanner says to put the fishery on a

firm, stable basis the Legislature must pay for research to find answers to these questions:

- What is the impact of commercial fishing? Tanner believes nets are killing thousands of planted fish, with Wisconsin's gill netting the most lethal.
- What forage is available to salmon and how is it being used by them?
- Which hatchery produces the fish that have the highest return to the fishery?
 And why? How can the other hatcheries become as good the best?
- How much natural reproduction is there and where?
- Where are the best places to plant salmon to get the highest return?

"Until this state — our people, our Legislature — wakes up, understands the wonderful and valuable fisheries that we have, and takes steps to fund the effort necessary to put management on a factual basis, we should expect to [continue to] be blind-sided by other unexpected and costly problems," Tanner warns.

"If we keep in mind that the returns are in the hundreds of millions (of dollars) the cost remains small," he adds.

From North Woods Call, April 1990.



Clinton River clinic goes well, "beats" TV!

"I didn't realize it was so close!"

That was one of the comments frequently heard one Saturday morning last March.

About ten fishermen showed up at a site on the Clinton River here in the metropolitan Detroit area to learn about river fishing techniques.

Among the demonstrations given were presentations on:

- * How to rig the lines
- Where in the river to fish
- How to read the water
- * Learning how to feel the bottom through the line

The demonstrations were reinforced with discussion and "hands on" practice.

A rain which had occurred several days earlier, along with spring snow runoff, had dirtied the river. In addition, the river was just returning to normal water levels after experiencing very high water levels previously.

Everyone who attended agreed that what they saw and learned on that Saturday morning was MUCH better than watching Saturday morning television . . . "Sorry, Bugs!!"

Given the success of this effort, we will definitely be planning for another such clinic at some time in the future. I hope on that next occassion, even more Detroit Area Steelheaders will turn out to begin to learn about the mysteries and rewards of river fishing for salmon and trout. I hope to see you there!

-Doug Karakas



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MEETING NOTICE-PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!

1990 MEETING SCHEDULE TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. MAY 29, 1990 JUNE 26, 1990 JULY 31, 1990

Visitors Welcome — Bring A Friend K. OF C. HALL, WARREN

Need A FISHING PARTNER or Another CREW MEMBER?

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

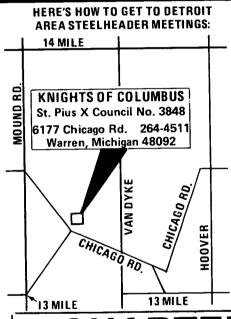
If the answer is yes to either of these questions, make a telephone call and have your wishes come true!

CREWS Hot Line

TO SIGN UP, CONTACT:
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Detroit Area Steelheader
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The
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for
JUNE FISHIN' TALES
is
MAY 29, 1990



For Your Information

PHOTO CONTEST RULES REVISITED

Photo contest rules from 1988 were mistakenly printed last month for this year's contest — in fact, 1989 rules apply. Basically, there's no size limits on photos, negatives needn't be sent in, you can enter as often as you like, and the contest ends in November, with winners announced at the December meeting. Call Les Jump at 756-4196 if you have any questions.

Want Ads:

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