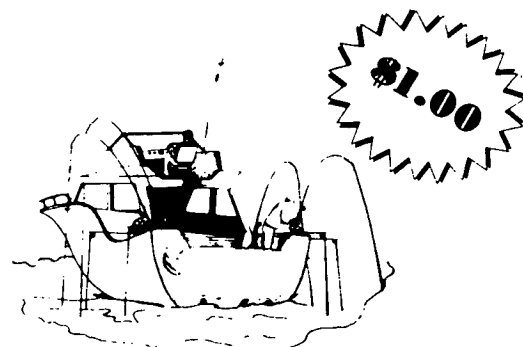




FISHING TALES



VOL. XVI • No. 7

Published by the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.

JULY 1990

It was a "Special People" day!

On Saturday, June 16, the Detroit Area Steelheaders held their annual "Special People" Fishing Tournament on Lake Erie. The day was warm, the lake was calm, and the fish were co-operative.

The kids started to arrive at 7:00 a.m., and by 8 o'clock, almost all the skippers had their new crews aboard. I say almost because Bob Mitchell didn't show up at the docks until after 8:00. Apparently he was waiting at the pier heads for the 6:00 a.m. shotgun start. We were all hopeful as we headed out of Toledo Beach Marina looking for some good walleye fishing. Even Ed Wilczek on "Pat's Competition" managed to clear the rocky pier heads without incident.

After last year's disappointing catch, we figured we could only improve, and improve we did! The 9 o'clock fish call showed that almost everyone was catching fish. Even Rod Coffey on "Fish 'n Rod" managed to catch a "keeper" fish this year. The skippers were taking everything from walleyes to sheepshead, yellow perch and silver bass. The kids on board didn't care — they were fishin'!

Before we knew it, it was noon, and time to pull lines and head back to our picnic lunch on shore. Lunch was all ready when we hit the docks, thanks to the efforts of Ann and Martin McGinnis, Glenda Hartman, Bob Allen, Alice Jump and many more helpers. It was great to listen to all the kids tell their fish

stories and hear how the biggest ones got away — I wonder if that's what we sound like at our salmon tournament weigh-ins? There were some very nice catches brought in, especially by Don (Mr. Walleye) Redmond on "Trena Dawn." "Da the Clown" had his usual bag of balloon animals to entertain the kids during the picnic.

The kids had a great time joking around and having their pictures taken with Detroit Red Wing player Dave Barr. Dave presented each one of the participants with a Special People trophy donated by Little Bill's Trophy Shop, and a hat and a bag full of goodies donated by Ford Motor Company. After the awards were handed out, Dave signed what must have seemed to him like at least a thousand autographs. Dave did a fantastic job as our honorary chairman, and we hope we can persuade him to come back next year. Thanks, Dave!

Before long it was time to call it a day and send the kids home with the awards, pictures, balloon animals and over 250 walleyes. A special thanks goes to all the skippers who pitched in and cleaned and packaged all those walleye for the kids to take home! For some it was a long day, but when the skippers and kids exchanged "high fives" or a little hug, somehow it was all worthwhile . . . just ask Dick Jackson!!!! Hope to see you all there next year.



SOME OF THE 'SPECIAL' PEOPLE who helped make this year's "Special People" outing another great success: (l.-r.) Event co-ordinators Bob Gilbert and Tim Graskewicz, Steve Lain of the host Toledo Beach Marina, and Honorary Chairman Dave Barr of the Detroit Red Wings.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders wish to thank the following individuals and organizations whose support made this great event the success it was:

- * Toledo Beach Marina
- * O/E Management Services
- * K. of C. Hall
- * Jim Legenzoff
- * Little Bill's Trophies
- * Ford Motor Company

Also, thanks to all the picnic helpers for making the picnic lunch so much fun.

And, finally, thanks to the following skippers and their crews:

LES JUMP	"ALICE'S ANGLER"
ROY SKOMIAL	"DONNA SEA"
DOUG KARAKAS	"CAPT'N HOOK II"
CHRIS COFFEY	"COFFEY BREAK"
JOEL GARINGER	"FISHBUSTERS"
ROD COFFEY	"FISH'N ROD"
DAN LESS	"GUILTY PLEA"
TIM GRASKEWICZ	"HARMONY"
BOB MITCHELL	"KEMO"
DENIS HARPER	"LADY'S CHOICE"
DICK SHIRK	"LIL' SCRATCH"
RON HARTMAN	"MOLLY FRAIR"
BOB SAUNDERS	"MY VALENTINE"
BILL SHACKLETON	"NET PROFIT"
BOB HERMAN	"NOMAD"
ED WILCZEK	"PAT'S COMPETITION"
DAVE EVEN	"TEACHER'S PET"
DON REDMOND	"TRENA DAWN"
DICK JACKSON	"VOYAGEUR"
MIKE WAKULSKI	"WET PAINT"



THE 1990 "SPECIAL PEOPLE" outing featured "Da the Clown" and a lot of happy Special Kids having lots of fun with some VERY SPECIAL Detroit Area Steelheaders!

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

Save us from deadly split shot!

You, of course, knew that the folks in Washington are plugged into a different kind of voltage than runs the real world. But now they've gone totally berserk.

The United States Senate is considering — seriously considering! — a knee-jerk bill to outlaw virtually everything and anything with lead in it. That means split shot, downrigger balls, fishing jigs, rifle bullets, chrome-plated spoons The whole kaboodle!

Okay, you've enjoyed your belly laugh. But these turkeys are determined to protect us from our split shot. They mean it!!

Almost surprisingly, they don't want lead banned from the ground, where it occurs in vast quantities. (Hush! Maybe they just didn't think of that. Let's not give them any more hare-brained ideas.)

Lead can certainly be poisonous. Government and industry have been respond-

ing to that. Items that cause lead poisoning have been eliminated from the environment, or greatly reduced. Lead concentrations in the atmosphere have dropped 90 percent since 1980.

But to conjecture a scenario where split shot, lead-headed jigs, downrigger weights and rifle bullets are environmental and human health threats is utterly bizarre.

But don't take it for granted that Big Brother will awaken to reality and sanity. Write Michigan U.S. Senators Carl Levin (up for re-election in November, 1990) and Don Riegle and your congressman today. Tell them you expect them to oppose and defeat the Lead Reduction Act of 1990. The addresses are: Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

From the *Northwoods Call*, June 1990.

Tourney schedule heats up

Competitors in the Detroit Area Steelheaders boat trolling schedule will find themselves at Manistee the weekend of July 21-22. The big difference in this tourney from the previous two years is that it doesn't serve as our annual Ladies Day outing.

In 1989 and 1988, we were all able to rely on our women to put fish in the fish box — this time it's back to the same ol' struggle and frustration of trying to get the job done ourselves!

This port should produce a mixed bag of kings and lakers, with just a smattering of coho in between. Fish any stained water near the pier heads early, then prepare to move on to deeper water. Regular spoons in black/green and black/raspberry will probably be the meal ticket for tournament day on Saturday.

We move on to Ludington over the weekend of August 4-5, where the prospect of fishing success may be a bit more chancey. This year's Ludington dates are a little later than in prior years, in hopes of getting a few more fish! I would say the best spots should be Big Sable Point, and out from the Bath

House at the state park. Dodger/squid/fly/spoon combinations should produce some nice kings for all. Run these 50'-75' down and close to the cannonball. This two-day event could be one of our top events, so we hope to have a BIG fleet for this one.

August 18-19 will find our intrepid boat trollers heading to Rogers City, the port which each year recently has produced the biggest kings of the season for us. Anyone who wants tackle-busting, arm-wrenching action *MUST* put this one on their schedule! The top three kings taken in a tournament in 1989 all came from Rogers City, including one weighing 28 pounds, 5 ounces!!

Two years ago, the majority of kings came from the Swan Bay area, fishing 15'-30' down. Last year, they mostly came from waters north of town, working 80'-100' depths. My advice for this year is to wait until you get up there to check out where the current hot spots are.

Safe boating to all, and I'll be seeing you dockside.

—Dick Shirk

Boat Trolling Chairman

Coming Events

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL, 6177 CHICAGO ROAD, WARREN

JULY 31, 1990

AUGUST 28, 1990

SEPTEMBER 25, 1990

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
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

For Your Information

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR ARTIFICIAL REEF PROJECT IN SOUTHERN LAKE HURON

The Board of Directors has pledged financial support for the Blue Water Sportfishing Association's huge artificial reef project shaping up for southern Lake Huron in the waters off Lakeport State Park. The club will match, dollar for dollar, contributions toward the project made by individual club members, up to a predetermined amount.

Full details of the project, which involves creating an artificial spawning reef using environmentally safe rubble from the Zilwaukee Bridge construction site, will be published in the next Fishin' Tales. If you would like to donate to this project, please contact any member of the club Board of Directors.

ARRIVAL OF SKAMANIA SHOULD HELP SOUTHERN LAKE MICHIGAN FISHERY

Lake Michigan trollers and pier fishermen can anticipate some exciting angling in the next few weeks. It looks like Skamania steelhead, one of the 'fightingest' fish in the Big Lake, are starting to bite.

Decent early catches are already being reported by tackle shops in the southern

Continued on Page Six...

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Fishing Report: 473-2033

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What's in a name: FRIENDSHIP!!

About ten years ago, we had a tragedy in our family, and I decided to take up fishing to help stop my mind from dwelling on the family loss. I joined the Detroit Area Steelheaders, bought an 18-foot runabout and tried to convert it to a fishing boat.

It was great therapy and took up most of my free time. Soon, I could get four lines down without tangles, had a marine radio, and named the boat the "Tooth Fairy."

We fished out of Ludington and started to enter the Detroit Area Steelheader boat trolling tournaments there. The crews usually consisted of my hunting buddies, who knew even less about fishing than I did. Needless to say, we didn't do well, but we had a lot of fun.

After I had the boat a couple of years, I was looking for a crew and called my old high school (Pershing High School, Class of 1949) buddy, Ray Glime. We had kept in touch, but sort of went our separate ways. Ray's family comes first, then his law practice. He never had time to go hunting or fishing with the boys. I managed to persuade him to come along fishing one time, so we entered a tournament out of Benton Harbor one cold, cold spring weekend. He had a great time, wanted to know when the next tournament would be, and if he would be included in the crew!

On one of our later trips together, when the fishing was slow, I said I would like to have a bigger boat and would probably buy one the next year.

Ray said, "Let's buy one together, we could afford a nicer boat that way."

My response was: no way, it will never work out. A lawyer and a dentist owning a boat together? Most people said it would destroy our friendship.

Nevertheless, Ray insisted, and I know he is a class person. So I said, "Let's do it!"

Next — the name. I suggested calling it "Half Mine." (I thought to myself, if we break up, it will be easy to change the name to "All Mine.") Ray said no, let's call it "Half R's" — you know, Ron and Ray, Half Ray's and Half Ron's. Did you ever notice how attorneys have a way with negotiations?

Anyway, it's been great. We have had the boat four years, and have never had a misunderstanding. Joint ownership is not for everybody, but it has worked for us.

Ray is now a candidate for a new circuit judgeship in Macomb County. Ray tells me a circuit judge is the most powerful judge in the county. I know he's the best candidate because he works hard at his profession. I just hope the election doesn't affect "Half R's" — I really don't want it to be *ALL MINE!* As much as we need good judges, we also need good friends and sportfishermen on the Circuit Court.

Thanks for your support.

— Ron Huey
"Half R's"

P.S.: Wouldn't it be fun to say, "Here Comes Da Judge!"

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!

Port Austin makes a comeback!

The Detroit Area Steelheaders' June 2 tournament at Port Austin turned out to be a tremendous success compared to our 1989 outing at that port.

The lake trout were once again plentiful, in numbers. We had the same number of boats entered each year, but the 1990 event produced 168 fish (see breakdown in the tournament results), compared to only 103 caught in 1989. Further, our top eight boats weighed in a tourney-limit catch of eight fish this year, compared to 1989, when only two boats were able to produce a limit catch.

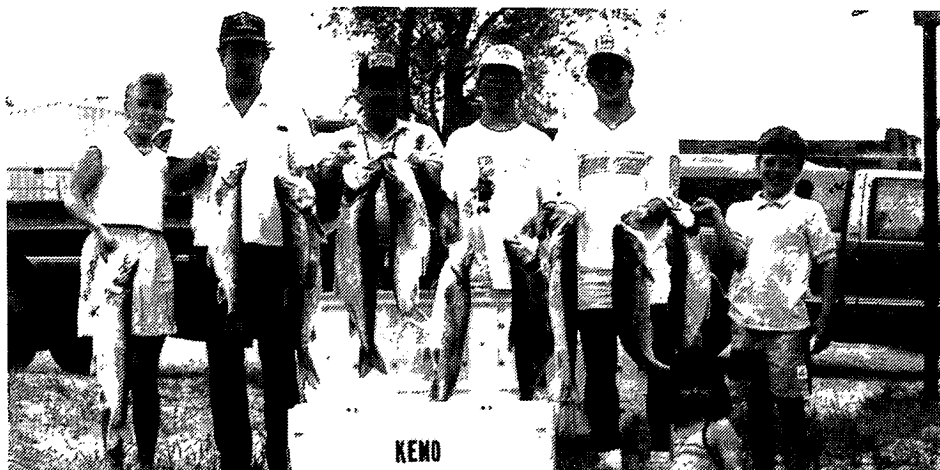
Even the weather made a comeback at Port Austin. We blasted off from the pier heads to a beautiful sunrise, and it only got better as the day went along. Anytime you are harassed with those little gnats out on the water, that tells you what kind of wind you have — and we were harassed! I think we deserved this one, in view of the weather problems we experienced at the three previous tournaments.

Laker catching got off to a fast and furious start, with Dave Even and his crew on "Teacher's Pet" boating five lakers on the first five rods down, and "More 'N Likely" and "Kemo" were each icing down a few early. Cowbells with Spin-N-Glos and P-Nuts were certainly doing the job.

By the 9 o'clock fish call, those three boats were out in front with seven, six and six fish respectively.

But wait, "Sea Hag," "Anticipation" and "Lil' Scratch" were still to be reckoned with. Sometime between the 9 o'clock and noon fish calls, "Lil' Scratch" picked up eight more fish for a total of ten, including a beautiful 21-lb., 12-oz. king. And the 'Hag' boated a total of nine lakers, while Rob Pinskey and his crew aboard "Anticipation" iced a limit of 12 lakers.

Despite some big catches, though, no one in



FIRST PLACE: "KEMO" with (l.-r.) Jodi Gilbert, Bob Gilbert, Bob Mitchell, Shawn State, Pat Walker, Jamie Mitchell and Kristy Mitchell.

the fleet could dethrone Bob "Mr. Kemo" Mitchell. When he threw open his cooler at the weigh-in, he showed off a total catch of 13 lake trout, with the best eight just good enough to hold off "Lil' Scratch" and sew up first place honors. "Sea Hag" held down third place with another strong catch.

The scheduled Team Doubles event on Sunday sort of fizzled out. Mother Nature 'done a number' on us on Saturday night with some real thunder busters and 30-knot winds. Come Sunday daybreak, we took a look, gave thanks for Saturday, loaded up the ole tubs and headed home.

No tournament seems complete without some "special" incident and Port Austin in 1990 was no different — you're not getting off that easy, Dealer! Dean Pilat and his crew aboard "High Anxiety" worked hard all day, putting six nice fish in the box. When the bugs got the best of them, they decided to call it

quits, pull lines and head for port. After about five minutes running at full throttle, one of the crew looked back and saw a cooler attached to a swim platform bobbing up and down in the water. It was quickly determined that the boat he was riding in was missing just such items, so Skipper Dean negotiated a quick 360° to return to the recently departed waters and retrieve the wayward equipment!

Unfortunately, they were not able to recover everything — they ended up with no fish to put on the scale at weigh-in time. All that was left for the sadder-but-wiser Dean and his crew was to belly up to the keg and think about what might have been. Somehow, I think there's just a 'slight' possibility of some special recognition for this unique accomplishment in the near future!!

So long for now, safe boating to all, and I'll be seeing you around the docks.

—Dick Shirk

PORT AUSTIN TOURNAMENT (JUNE 2, 1990)

BOAT/SKIPPER		CATCH (By species & weight of individual fish)		PTS.
1)	KEMO (Bob Mitchell)	L14.09, L12.09, L12.06, L10.14, L10.10, L10.03, L8.09, L7.09		127.05
2)	LIL' SCRATCH (Dick Shirk)	K21.12, L12.00, L11.01, L8.08, L7.14, L7.12, L6.14, L6.11		122.08
3)	SEA HAG (Blaise Pewinski)	L12.12, L9.07, L9.04, L8.13, L8.11, L8.09, L8.07, L8.05		114.04
4)	MORE 'N' LIKELY (Bob Kanas)	L12.10, L12.01, L10.00, L9.01, L7.10, L7.08, L7.04, L6.07		112.09
5)	ANTICIPATION (Rob Pinskey)	L9.07, L8.14, L8.10, L8.02, L7.15, L7.01, L7.00, L6.08		103.09
6)	TRENA DAWN (Don Redmond)	L10.02, L9.11, L8.11, L8.04, L7.14, L5.02, L5.02, S4.11		99.09
7)	HAPPY BARE (Don Anton)	L16.13, L11.02, L6.15, L6.10, L5.10, L4.12, L3.13, L3.06		99.01
8)	STEELIE (Bill Hoffman)	L12.00, L8.14, L6.13, L6.09, L6.07, L6.00, L5.04, L5.00		96.15
9)	FISH FLY (Jim Beelby)	K12.14, L11.14, L8.03, L7.08, L6.07, L6.01, L4.15		92.14
10)	FORMULATOR (Larry Gaiownik)	L14.04, L14.03, L14.02, L11.13, L10.14		90.04
BOAT/SKIPPER		BOAT/SKIPPER		PTS.
11)	CAPT'N HOOK II (Doug Karakas)	24)	HARMONY (Tim Graskewicz)	33.15
12)	RENEGADE (Bob Patyk)	25)	SINSATION (Hank Baczynski)	33.06
13)	TEACHER'S PET (Dave Even)	25)	LUCKY FALCON (Joe Golaszewski)	33.06
14)	WET PAINT (Mike Wakulski)	27)	LITTLE BIG JOHN (John Chwalibog)	32.13
15)	MOLLY FRAIR (Ron Hartman)	28)	FISHIN' FINNS (Gary Leinonen)	31.04
16)	KARE-FREE (Tom Moores)	29)	RETURNER (Darwin Gregg)	22.13
17)	MISERY 3 (Al Schultz)	30)	WISH-FULL (Jerry Zabel)	20.12
18)	VOYAGEUR (Dick Jackson)	31)	AQUARIUS (Chris Nytko)	8.06
19)	DENNY'S DREAM (Denny West)	50)	HIGH ANXIETY (Dean Pilat)	0 —*
20)	NOMAD (Bob Herman)	50)	HALF R'S (Ron Huey)	0 —
21)	JUMPIN' JACK (Jack Moran)	50)	LAST DIME (Bob Ksionzek)	0 —
22)	COFFEY BREAK (Chris Coffey)	50)	CARMEN ASHLEY (Vlad Pohorily)	0 —
23)	WHITE CAT (Nelson Caldwell)			

C = Coho Salmon (1 taken)

K = King Salmon (9 taken)

L = Lake Trout (157 taken)

S = Steelhead (1 taken)

* SEE RULE IV-E



SECOND PLACE: "LIL' SCRATCH" with (l.-r.) Ed Pabisz, Al Werner and Dick Shirk.



THIRD PLACE: "SEA HAG" with (l.-r.) Blaise Pewinski, Ed Yankoski II, Gregg Clifford and Perry Hopkins.



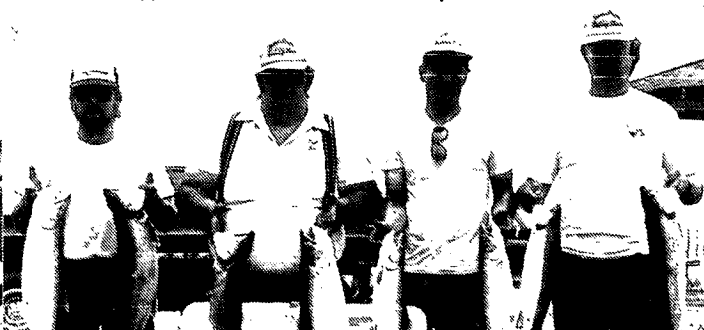
FOURTH PLACE: "MORE-N-LIKELY" with (l.-r.) Scott Kanas, Bob Kanas and Mark Clifford.



FIFTH PLACE: "ANTICIPATION" with (l.-r.) Rob Pinskey, Tom O'Reilly, Al Hoxie and Mike Pinskey.



SIXTH PLACE: "TRENA DAWN" with (l.-r.) Leon Van Eden, Don Redmond, Paul Nowak and Mike Niedzwiecki.



SEVENTH PLACE: "HAPPY BARE" with (l.-r.) Don Anton, Denny Davis and Jack Fehlberg.



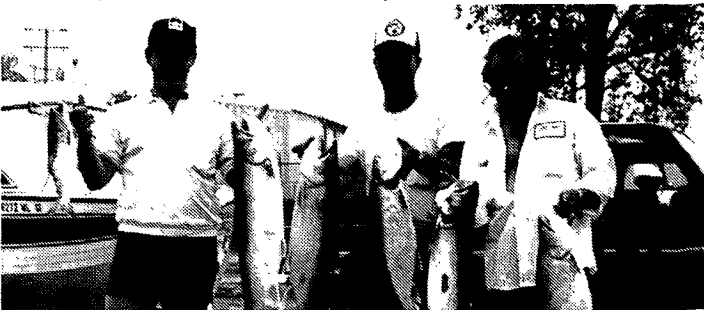
EIGHTH PLACE: "STEELIE" with (l.-r.) Bill Hoffman and Jim Hoffman.



NINTH PLACE: "FISH FLY" with (l.-r.) Richard Tyler, Mike LaForest, John Swift and Jim Beelby.

PORT AUSTIN BIG FISH POOL RESULTS

- 1) **SINSATION** (Hank Baczynski)
KING — 17 lbs. 6 oz.
- 2) **HAPPY BARE** (Don Anton)
LAKE TROUT — 16 lbs. 13 oz.
- 3) **MISERY 3** (Al Schultz)
KING — 14 lbs. 13 oz.



TENTH PLACE: "FORMULATOR" with (l.-r.) Steve Phillips, Dave Phillips and Larry Gaiownik.

Steelheaders support current rules

Detroit Area Steelheaders *DO NOT* want any *NEW* trout and salmon limits this year (we have always supported an 18" size limit).

The above sentiment about limits emerged at our meeting last month when long-time members and past presidents Steve Hamilton and Bob Mitchell debated the question of offshore surface trolling for steelhead.

Each man was given five minutes to present his views, with two minutes allotted for rebuttal. Then comments were taken from the floor.

Steve wants the steelhead protected. He proposed that our club adopt a two-fish limit for steelhead. He feels that the traditional stream steelheader's catch has been severely diminished because of offshore steelhead catches. He is also a proponent, to a degree, of catch-and-release.

Hamilton offered thorough accounts of creel census data collected at three ports by Jerry Rakoczy, and Ralph Hayes' work at the Manistee River pier. His other arguments included reference to wild steelhead brood stock wipe-outs, and discussion of the carrying limits of the waters.

Bob, an avid boat troller, pointed out that more biological proof and information is needed. He feels that the present trout stamp rules are too complicated and confusing, but to change them right now would be even more confusing without better information.

Other comments, opinions and facts that emerged during this interesting and entertaining debate:

✓ Salmon fishing is the real problem area. If you solve the problems of the salmon fishery, you will automatically minimize the offshore steelhead catch 'problem'.

✓ River fishermen are just not very good fishermen — even when the limit was five fish, it was a rare and highly skilled river fisherman who caught his limit.

✓ If steelhead are in shorter supply now because of increased offshore steelhead fishing, the Department of Natural Resources should plant more steelhead.

✓ In 1989, Detroit Area Steelheaders took 48 steelhead in boat tournaments, with 7 caught during our river tourneys.

At the conclusion of the debate, a vote of the members present was taken, with the final tally showing 24 in favor of an immediate change to a two-fish limit, and 149 opposed to any changes in 1990.

—Joel Garinger

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

/... Continued from Page Three

Lake Michigan area, and the fishing should only get better in the days just ahead. A good bait at this time seems to be an orange or red Oslo spoon.

Skamania are longer and more slender than regular steelhead and often dance on the water when hooked. They also differ in that they move up rivers on spawning runs during the summer.

"CREWS" PROGRAM IS STILL ACTIVE FOR CLUB MEMBERS

There's still plenty of time for Detroit Area Steelheaders to take advantage of the club's CREWS program. This service, designed to put together club members without boats who would like to fish and club members with boats who need crew members, has been useful to many in past years. The CREWS contacts for 1990 are Gene Burbary (725-5935) and Doug Karakas (545-1181). Please call either of them if you wish to register or would like to get more information.

CLUB PHOTO CONTEST ENTRIES ARE SOUGHT

Ample opportunities remain during this fishing season to shoot that possible prize-winning photograph and send your entry in to the annual club Photo Contest. The rules are simple and you can have quite a bit of fun

planning and making that picture that will show the world how you, your friends and family pursue man's favorite sport! If you would like more information about the contest, or have entries to submit, please call Les Jump at 756-4196.

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS DONATE FISHING TACKLE TO HELP "SPECIAL PEOPLE"

The following letter was received in response to a recent club gift of fishing tackle:

Dear Mr. Graskewicz,

Thank you so much for the donation of five Zebco spincast rods and reels. We would have been thrilled to receive good used equipment — we certainly didn't expect new equipment. You are very generous.

Our students get so much pleasure and benefit from the fishing trips provided by the Detroit Area Steelheaders. These new rods and reels will hopefully familiarize our students with how to use fishing equipment, and good fishing etiquette.

We are still in the market for more fishing equipment, so please keep us in mind if you run across any good working condition used poles and reels.

Thank you, again, for your generosity. It means a lot to our special people.

Sincerely,

Lynde Woolace,

Adapted P.E. Instructor

Monroe County Intermediate School Dist.

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Researchers should solve king mystery

The Lake Michigan chinook (king) salmon mystery remains unsolved, with adult fish dying each spring and poor catches continuing during the fishing season. But reasons for the problem and, hopefully, cures could be on the way.

"There definitely will be some answers in the next couple of years," says Rob Elliott, a Michigan State University doctoral student who is part of a growing number of researchers trying to bring a turnaround in the chinook fishery.

Bacterial kidney disease is known to be part of the problem, but Elliott is looking into another area of concern — the first year of the fish's life in Lake Michigan.

It's a time when the fish are small and face predators and competition for food. Almost nothing is known about chinook at this stage of their lives, but Elliott hopes data now being collected will lead to future management techniques which will improve the fishery.

Through research on the Pere Marquette River, Elliott thinks he already has found a way to increase survival chances for young fish, and thereby improve the fishery for adult chinook salmon.

Elliott told a meeting of the Southwestern Michigan Steelheaders late last month

that hatchery fish may be going into Lake Michigan too early. He found that naturally produced chinook in the Pere Marquette have their peak outmigration (river to lake) from the end of May through June. Meanwhile, the stocking of hatchery chinook usually starts in March.

Chinook reaching the lake early could face a lack of food, notes Elliott, because there isn't much zooplankton (a favorite food of little salmon) in Lake Michigan until the middle of June.

In fact, Elliott has found that the little chinook salmon in the lake in the spring feed on land insects that are blown out on the water.

Because fish must be removed from the hatchery before what appears to be the best time for stocking fish, Elliott sees "net pen" programs such as the one conducted this spring by the Southwestern Michigan Steelheaders as a possible important fisheries management tool.

By keeping the fish in pens and not releasing them until May, they almost double in size. This makes them better able to compete for food and avoid predators once out in Lake Michigan. A later release also moves them closer to the time when zooplankton becomes available.

trip from an upriver release site, they avoid most of the predators in the river. And being bigger and stronger after being held and fed in pens is an obvious advantage.

How much the pens help will become known in a couple of years when data start coming back. At three Lake Michigan release sites (not including St. Joseph), the chinook were tagged. When the tags come back, researchers will be able to tell whether or not the pen-reared fish had a better overall survival rate than fish stocked directly into rivers.

Elliott also has learned some other interesting things about young salmon. These include:

- Little salmon move at night, so maybe it would be best to release them in darkness. Releasing fish at night might help reduce seagull predation.

- Little salmon often move long distances in a short time once they reach Lake Michigan. Salmon released at Grand Haven this spring were way down to New Buffalo a week later. Elliott says there was a strong current in the lake at that time, which could have helped account for the movement.

- There are more alewives this year. Alewives are a favorite salmon food, so the plentiful supply could help improve salmon survival rates.

—John Vanden Heede

From the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Herald-Palladium, June 21, 1990.

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THANK YOU!!

Although the pen program is still in the experimental stage, it looks to have a couple of other advantages. By keeping the fish in cages while they imprint, instead of having them make the long



1990 BIG FISH STANDINGS

(Largest fish taken during tournaments — As of June 2, 1990)

KING SALMON

- 1) ... "LIL' SCRATCH"/DICK SHIRK 21 LBS., 12 OZ.
- 2) ... "KEMO"/BOB MITCHELL 19 LBS., 12 OZ.
- 3) ... "HARMONY"/TIM GRASKEWICZ 17 LBS., 15 OZ.

LAKE TROUT

- 1) ... "HAPPY BARE"/DON ANTON 16 LBS., 13 OZ.
- 2) ... "KEMO"/BOB MITCHELL 14 LBS., 9 OZ.
- 3) ... "FORMULATOR"/LARRY GAIOWNIK 14 LBS., 4 OZ.
- 3) ... "COFFEY BREAK"/CHRIS COFFEY 14 LBS., 4 OZ.

COHO SALMON

- 1) ... "BULL HEAD"/LEON VAN EDEN 6 LBS., 12 OZ.
- 2) ... "CAPT'N HOOK II"/DOUG KARAKAS 6 LBS., 1 OZ.
- 3) ... "FORMULATOR"/LARRY GAIOWNIK 4 LBS., 14 OZ.

STEELHEAD

- 1) ... "TEACHER'S PET"/DAVE EVEN 7 LBS., 11 OZ.
- 2) ... "LITTLE BIG JOHN"/JOHN CHWALIBOG 5 LBS., 9 OZ.
- 3) ... "TRENA DAWN"/DON REDMOND 4 LBS., 11 OZ.

BROWN TROUT

- 1) ... "SEA TREAT"/BUTCH AYERS 8 LBS., 2 OZ.
- 2) ... "HAPPY BARE"/DON ANTON 3 LBS., 9 OZ.
- 3) ... "MOLLY FRAIR"/RON HARTMAN 2 LBS., 15 OZ.

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1990 MEETING SCHEDULE

TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M.

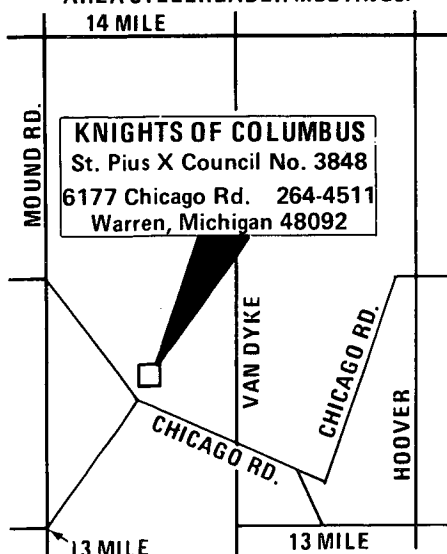
JULY 31, 1990

AUGUST 28, 1990

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1990 Skipper of the Year

(STANDINGS AS OF JUNE 2, 1990 — OMIT TWO HIGHEST SCORES)

	SKIPPER/BOAT	A	B	C	D	T
1)	ROB PINSKEY (Anticipation)	2	19	1	5	3
2)	BOB MITCHELL (Kemo)	4	5	3	1	4
2)	BLAISE PEWINSKI (Sea Hag)	1	75	50	3	4
4)	DAVE EVEN (Teacher's Pet)	3	18	2	13	5
5)	MIKE WAKULSKI (Wet Paint)	6	1	9	14	7
6)	TIM GRASKEWICZ (Harmony)	75	4	5	24	9
7)	DON REDMOND (Trena Dawn)	26	8	4	6	10
8)	DICK SHIRK (Lil' Scratch)	24	9	50	2	11
9)	DON ANTON (Happy Bare)	17	6	14	7	13
10)	JIM BEELBY (Fish Fly)	7	75	19	9	16
10)	DEAN PILAT (High Anxiety)	5	11	50	50	16
12)	DOUG KARAKAS (Capt'n Hook II)	10	7	50	11	17
13)	BOB HERMAN (Nomad)	14	17	7	20	21
14)	BILL SHACKLETON (Net Profit)	21	2	21	75	23
15)	GARY LEINONEN (Fishin' Finns)	40	15	10	28	25

A = RIVER CRAB B = ST. JOSEPH C = HARBOR BEACH D = PORT AUSTIN T = TOTAL
50-POINT SCORE — SEE RULE IV-E 75-POINT SCORE — SEE RULE IV-F

STRATA-TRACKER

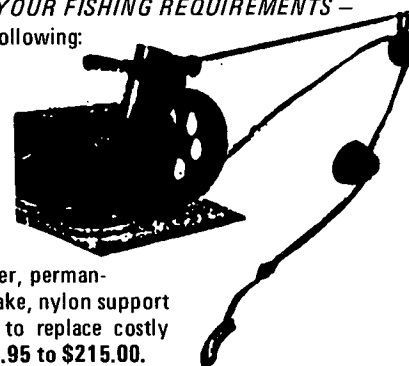
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