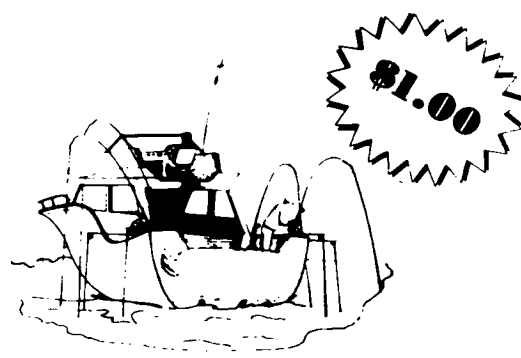




# FISH TALES



VOL. XVI • No. 11

Published by the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.

NOVEMBER 1990

## "Salmon" Claus, director elections coming

The Detroit Area Steelheaders Board of Directors invites all members *AND* their families to attend the Annual Meeting/Christmas Party. This will take place on Tuesday, December 18 at the St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Hall (our regular meeting site), the same as last year.

This occasion also serves as the regular December Members Meeting.

Highlights of the evening include presentation of the "Skipper of the Year" award and the Big Fish trophies, the election of directors for next year (See Page Five for more information) the "Cooler Full of Cheer" Benefit Raffle drawing, and, of course, the eagerly anticipated arrival for another holiday season of "Salmon" Claus!

The Grand Prize in the Raffle is a real "Holiday Catch!" It's a 120-quart Gott cooler (45½" L x 21½"W x 19¾"H) filled with a nice assortment of bottles of 'beverages' and a variety of delectable foods. As in prior years, Bob Kring and Bob Mitchell have worked very hard on the Raffle, especially on properly filling that cooler. Those who know Bob know



**THAT "COOLER FULL OF CHEER" sure looks good, doesn't it!!**

that the contents of that prize cooler will be well worth the chance to win it!!

This prize easily has a value of \$500, and there are only a limited number of raffle tickets available, so your chances

of winning are pretty darn good! The tickets are \$1 each, and with the limited number available, you had better be sure to get yours early. Don't miss this one!

Bob Mitchell is collecting money and tickets, and at last month's meeting, all tickets turned in to that point were included in a special ticket-seller drawing for a handheld radio, won by Denise Petty. All those tickets are still in the barrel and will be included in the drawing, for the November ticket sellers' prize, a hook honer. All stubs mailed in are also included in the drawing for the incentive prizes.

All proceeds from this raffle go to help fund worthwhile special projects which our club wishes to support in the coming year.

Raffle ticket holders who are present for the drawing can also win consolation prizes, so hold onto your tickets after the Grand Prize drawing — you might still win something!!

"Salmon" Claus will have goodies for



**"SALMON" CLAUS** (aka Bob Kring) is always a popular figure with the younger set at our Annual Meeting/Christmas Party. Hope to see you all there!



**DENISE PETTY** receives a handheld radio that she won in last month's ticket seller raffle from Bob Mitchell.

all the kids (some left-over tee shirts from boat trolling events will be given to kids arriving early), and there will be prizes for the ladies in attendance. It promises to be a fun-filled, happy evening, so we hope to see *ALL* Detroit Area Steelheaders and their families and friends on hand for the festivities!!

—Board of Directors

**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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\* \* \*

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## Au Sable tourney should feature good fishing and fun!

The Au Sable River Tournament on Saturday, December 1 is our BIG river tournament of the season, always well-attended and offering the most fun to participants. Last year, this event produced the largest fish of the season, one 15 pounds-plus and two 11 pounds-plus steelhead, with several other nice fish tipping the scales as well.

Fishing begins a half-hour before dawn and lasts until 4:00 p.m., with the weigh-in at 5:00 p.m. at the Dam Store up near the dam. If you'd like more information, please call me at 545-1181. Come along with us for a good time — I hope to see you all there!

—Doug Karakas, River/Surf Chairman

## Jim Lee says, "Sign up early for Annual Dinner Dance!"

Detroit Area Steelheader Dinner Dance Chairman Jim Legenzoff is hard at work, getting an early start on our club's outstanding social event of the year, the Annual Dinner Dance.

Jim reports that an early start will enable him to do a better job of planning and preparing his committee. Jim is encouraging all members to come to the bash, and to make their decision right now, so food and drink requirement estimates can be made more accurate.

The Dinner Dance is scheduled for Saturday, February 16, 1991, and will take place at the St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Hall in Warren, the site of our monthly club meetings.

Along with plenty of drinks and good food that are fixtures of this affair, there have already been many donations of prizes made by club members, friends, etc. Some of the more interesting ones include a 1988 trout stamp print, tickets to Detroit Red Wing and Detroit Pistons games, and tickets to the Shrine Circus.

Jim is also inviting members and/or their wives to donate homemade "arts and crafts" items which have been so popular in the past.

"Participants should not be limited to just our members and their spouses," says Jim. "I would like to see our Dinner Dance expand its popularity, with a big crowd and lots of non-club members attending."

Tickets for this gala event are \$40 per couple (including all you care to eat and drink, door prizes, great music, and a fun evening of socializing) until December 18, the date of our Annual Meeting/Christmas Party. After that date, the price will increase to \$50 per couple, so there's good reason to invite your friends and relatives, make your plans, mark your calendars, and get your tickets NOW!

If you have any questions about the Dinner Dance, wish to contribute a prize, or purchase your tickets, call Jim at 371-3005 (days) or 839-8958 (after 6:00 p.m.).

# Coming Events

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

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

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL, 6177 CHICAGO ROAD, WARREN**  
**NOVEMBER 27, 1990 ■ DECEMBER 18, 1990 ■ JANUARY 29, 1991**

**SPECIAL EVENT****STEELHEADER DINNER DANCE**

**FEBRUARY 16, 1991**

**RIVER/SURF/LAKE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
December 1	<b>AU SABLE — River</b>	To Be Announced
January	<b>LAKE ST. CLAIR — Ice Fishing</b>	To Be Announced
February	<b>CRYSTAL LAKE — Ice Fishing</b>	To Be Announced
(with Benzie County Steelheaders — Bob Johnson will help us fish for lake trout)		
February 23-27	<b>W.A.T.A. SUPER TOURNAMENT</b>	To Be Announced

# REPORT

PHONE:

# ALL 1-800-292-7800

# POACHING

## Raffle calendar is a major club fundraiser for 1991

As one of its major fund-raising projects for next year, the Detroit Area Steelheaders Board of Directors has decided to participate in the 1991 Raffle Calendar sale of the Michigan Duck Hunters Association. A total of 3,800 calendars will be sold by participating organizations, with our club targeted to sell 200.

The calendars, available for a \$25 donation, will each yield \$10 for our club treasury. Also, if we can sell our 200 calendars faster than the Blue Water Sportfishing Association can, we will receive an extra \$250 for our coffers. Director Tim Graskewicz (397-2269) is handling the project for us.

The 1991 Raffle Calendar features 379 cash drawings in which a total of \$30,550 in prizes will be awarded to lucky winners. Overall odds of winning a prize are only 10-1, so it's a pretty attractive deal.

Here's how the Raffle Calendar works.

- Calendars will be sold prior to and throughout 1991, with a maximum number sold of 3,800.
- When you purchase one, your official number (on the back of the calendar) and your name and address is registered with the Michigan Duck Hunters Association.
- For each drawing (379 in all), your number will be eligible for the following prizes: 365 drawings of \$50 each; 12 drawings of \$400 each; 1 drawing (mid-year) of \$2,500; and 1 drawing (year-end Grand Prize) of \$5,000.
- Purchased calendars are eligible for prizes upon registration with the club and final payment. All prizes will be paid by check and prize checks must be cashed within 90 days of its issue date. Checks will be issued within 10 business days of the drawing date. Payment of any and all taxes due because of winning any prize is the responsibility of the winner.
- Please notify the Michigan Duck Hunters Association of any change of address following purchase of the calendar. Send your notification to: Michigan Duck Hunters Association, 23927 Demley, Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48043.

Raffle Calendar drawings will be held on January 19, 1991; March 16, 1991; May 18, 1991; July 20, 1991; September 21, 1991; and November 16, 1991. The drawings will take place at MUCC offices, 2101 Wood Street, Lansing, Michigan during the bi-monthly Board of Directors meeting, between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., or at other designated locations, by resolution of the Board of Directors.

A list of each month's winners will be sent to participating organization. The list is also available to any individual upon request. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Michigan Duck Hunters Association (see address above).

The Detroit Area Steelheader who sells the most calendars will receive a choice of a lifetime membership in the Detroit Area Steelheaders, or a 1991 Boat Trolling Tournament annual entry fee.

## Tribe turns down invite to set gill nets in bay

Tribal fishermen turned down a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invitation for gill netters to return to Hammond Bay. Bay Mills fishermen have been pressing for a return to Hammond Bay since a federal judge ordered them out earlier this year.

Although the DNR has received no explanation for the rejection as of mid-October, speculation is that the gill netters were frightened off by the terms of the offer.

The condition that is believed to have led the netters to pass up the opportunity they had said in the past that they wanted calls for the DNR to closely monitor their activities.

The DNR said that it would have a boat with DNR personnel on the water at all times with each tribal boat. Conservation officers and fisheries people from around the state were on alert to handle the one-on-one monitoring operation.

DNR Lake Huron fisheries supervisor Jim Johnson said the monitoring would have provided a lot of valuable biological information on lake trout and whitefish. Biologists who

worried that too many brown trout and rainbow trout would be taken felt that getting the biological information was a worthwhile tradeoff in exchange for agreeing to a return to action of the gill netters.

Others said it would also give the Department its first accurate appraisal of just how many lake trout and other species are taken in nets supposedly set for whitefish.

Though tribal netters are required to report their catches, DNR officials and sportsmen question the accuracy of the information being submitted by gill netters. They believe that a far higher percentage of trout and salmon are being taken than the gill netters will admit.

In this regard, gill netting critics say that tribal gill netters are no different than non-tribal gill netters. A veteran DNR commercial fishing observer who did not wish to be identified noted, "You have to be out of your tree to believe any netter's catch records. Did you ever know one to have a checking account that the IRS could

*Continued on Page Eight . . .*

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# Greed, profit dominate fisheries, ORV debate

I spent the last Friday evening in July trolling for salmon off Big Point Sable, north of Ludington. It was a beautiful evening with clear skies and dead calm seas.

Several years ago there would have been 100 boats trolling on such a perfect day. This day there wasn't over a dozen, scattered out the seven miles between Ludington and the Point.

We were fortunate to land a steelhead and a lake trout, but the old flurry of chinook action just before dark never came. This trip was reflective of a Lake Michigan fishery headed toward rock bottom again.

During the early 1980's Ludington became the hottest fishing port in the country. During the peak salmon run every motel, park and paved store parking lot was full of fishing boats during the night. Every launching parking lot was jammed full. The number of boats on the water during a calm day was a sight to behold.

Today the fishing crowd is a skeleton compared to the past. During many a June day hardly a charter boat can be seen on the horizon. The perch fishermen outnumber the trollers four to one. Those perch are hammered day after day, and when they are gone it's going to look awfully lonely out there.

What has the Ludington business community, which has profited so handsomely, done to ensure the future of the fishery?

The answer lies in a Jan. 21, 1984 fisheries meeting at Ludington. On hand were many DNR people, including director Ron Skoog and fisheries chief John Scott.

A snagging bill had been introduced in the legislature and the snagging crowd was well in attendance. One group of snaggers from the Flint area brought their own state representative. The Ludington area business community was well-represented. The auditorium was full.

I remember that every time a pro-snagging speaker was through, there was a big round of applause. Several friends and I attended out of our interest in the future of the fabulous fishery which had been created. We had come prepared to speak.

Here is a portion of what I had to say.

"Released in 1983 was a long study by L.M. Carl of the Institute for Fisheries Research. He revealed that natural reproduction amounted to 23 percent of the entire chinook salmon production. Carl's findings reveal that the Pere Marquette River, which was never planted to salmon, produced a substantial proportion of chinook

for Lake Michigan, especially for the Ludington area. Carl found no natural reproduction in the AuSable River, and speculated that snagging is so intense that fish are pulled off their beds before they can spawn." (At that time a fabulous May chinook fishery had developed off Ludington from the naturally hatched fish.)

I added: "We have the Consumers Project to the south killing millions of fish. We have the gill nets to the north indiscriminately taking thousands of fish, yet I have never heard the Ludington Chamber of Commerce utter a word about these.

"These business men are sitting on the hottest sport fishing port in the country, which brings in millions of dollars to the community, but do they try to preserve the fishery? No, they support an injunction against a plan to cease snagging on the Pere Marquette River, and support a snagging bill introduced on their behalf by their state legislators. Their own brochure tells of snagging in the fall, with 10,000 chinook being taken.

"If I were a businessman in this community, I would do everything in my power to see that the salmon that survive to spawn did so in safety.

"The support by the Ludington Chamber of Commerce for snagging the very fish that make the fantastic lake fishing is pure greed. They are not satisfied with millions, they want a few dollars more."

There was no round of applause after my little speech. The only acknowledgement I received was from a representative of the Chamber of Commerce who wanted to argue with me after the hearing ended.

Profit, greed, and self-interest were well-represented that night.

The snagging bill passed and the business interests squeezed the fishery for everything it could give.

It seems in Michigan that we have to put a price tag on our resources.

Why can't we have fish or game just for the pleasure of having it there? Why do we have to exploit natural resources as businesses have done to the Great Lakes fishery?

We have motel, restaurant, gas station owners and many other businesses making big dollars off the fishery, but they don't spend a dime for the resource. The saying is that paybacks are Hell.

Speaking of exploiting resources, an article on a walleye tournament in Saginaw Bay by outdoor writer Bob Gwizdz appeared recently in the *Grand Rapids Press*.

He wrote: "It's about time the rest of the world finds out how good we've got it here. When the tournament is over and reports leak out that Saginaw Bay is among the world's premier walleye fisheries, the fishermen will follow. They'll come here, stay in hotels, eat in restaurants, fill up their gas tanks, restock their tackle boxes, and generally leave a good portion of their bankrolls behind. In a business climate like ours, perilously close to recession, every little bit helps."

I have fished Saginaw Bay for walleyes and have never found a lack of boats to pound the fishery day after day. Sure, Bob, let's bring in thousands more boats and we'll squeeze every last dollar out of them until there are walleye no more.

The piece sounded more like a commercial for the local chamber of commerce than a responsible out-of-doors report.

As the Lake Michigan fishery collapses I can relate to those charter boat skippers who have invested their life savings into their businesses. At the present time it is the charter boat skippers who seem to be the watchdogs for the fishery, and who have fought for lower fish limits.

The survivors will be those skippers who have shown their customers a quality experience over the years. The skippers who were loners, radioed contempt for the little boats, and made their business just a business will be gone. I have several good friends in the industry, and I know they will be the last to be forced out.

Hugh Marx, president of the Michigan Wild Turkey Federation, and I attended the ORV hearing at Baldwin. We were there to give support for the Closed Unless Posted Open legislation. The same people were in attendance in that packed courtroom who were on hand on January 21, 1984 — just different faces.

The pro-ORV speakers received all of the cheers and applause. The conservation organization spokespersons received none.

It was enlightening as various representatives of ORV organizations from Indiana, Illinois and Ohio spoke of their rights to unlimited use of our state forests. Their own states don't give them a mile.

To best explain the meeting, it went this way. There was bitter complaining from the ORV and industry spokesmen about the lack of notice on the hearings. I had already spoken, so Hugh Marx made note to the crowd that the hearing dates had appeared on the front page of the *North Woods Call*. An ORVer from the back of the room hollered out, "What in the hell is the North Woods Call?"

No one concerned about Michigan's natural resources would ask that question. Need I say more?

—Jim Maturen

Reprinted from the *North Woods Call*.

# DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

As in past years, ballots will be available *ONLY* to Detroit Area Steelheader members present at the Annual Meeting/Christmas Party, on Tuesday, December 18. There are seven openings on our Board of Directors at this time, with a total of nine Steelheaders running for the seats. Five of the openings are for three-year terms, and two are for one-year terms. Ballots will be collected and counted during the meeting, and results announced near the end of the evening. We have a good selection of candidates (see below) willing to stand up and help our club, so thanks to those who have chosen to run and good luck to all!

If you hadn't planned on attending this meeting, please think again. *ALL* members should plan to attend. Besides offering you a really fun evening with annual awards, "Salmon" Claus, etc., it's your chance to have real input into the future of your club. The nine outstanding fellow Detroit Area Steelheaders listed below are offering their time and talents to help better our club. How about doing your part by voting??? Please take the time to look them over, pick out your favorite candidates and show up on December 18 ready to cast an informed ballot for up to seven candidates. We hope to see you all *there!!*

## Election candidates



**LARRY BOYER** — A club member for two years, participates in the boat trolling tournaments. States that he's willing "to do whatever it takes" to help our club progress.



**KATHY BURBARY** — Current Board member, has been active in club activities for six years. Avid boat troller who helps out at tournaments, shows, and wherever else help is needed.



**CHRIS COFFEY** — A club member for one year, participates in boat trolling tournaments aboard "Coffey Break." Says he would "like to help out in any way that I can."

NO PICTURE AVAILABLE

NO PICTURE AVAILABLE

**STEVE HAMILTON** — Current Board member, past club president, past chairman of Research Trips, Shows, Membership, and River/Surf Tournaments, is active boat troller and river/surf fisherman.



**BOB MITCHELL** — Current Board member, past club president, has worked on many club activities. Is a regular Boat Tournament competitor, won "Skipper of the Year" award in 1986, 1988 and 1989.

**DOUG KARAKAS** — Current Board member and Chairman of River/Surf Tournaments, is an active boat troller and helps out with many club projects and activities.



**MIKE WAKULSKI** — Enjoys boat trolling and river fishing. Is interested in working with the Boat Trolling Tournament committee.



**BILL LEWTON** — Bill states that he's prepared "to help the club in any way that I can."



**ED WILCZEK** — Club member for two years, served as officer, treasurer and board member of Bishop Murphy K. of C. Council in Warren. Active boat troller aboard "Pat's Competition."

# Manistee, Platte Bay kick off season

Manistee and Platte Bay respectively were the sites for the first surf tournaments of the 1990-91 river/surf tournament season.

Manistee is a new location for our surf outings, and this event in fact was a surf/pier tournament, the first such tourney we've ever held.

The weather there was typical for a fall outing: cool, cloudy, northwest winds and a hint of arctic blasts to come later. The pier proved to be the place to be on that Saturday. Our tourney competitors fishing there accounted for 100% of the fish taken off the pier — I guess we showed them how to fish! Only two of us fished in the surf, one of whom forgot his waders! Paul Nowak promised not to tell which one of us forgot, right Paul?

New club member Jack Klein pulled in a dandy 10-pound steelhead on a white K.O. Wobbler. Nice job, Jack!! Bob Buero had a nice 6-pound, 2-ounce coho on a chrome and pink Cleo. Bob was more surprised than anybody when that fish hit. Welcome to the surf/pier scene, guys!!

The next weekend found us up at Platte Bay on a day almost too nice for words. We enjoyed mild temps, offshore winds, and good company. There were some fish taken there, but unfortunately not by our guys and gals. Yours truly had



**MANISTEE FISHING ACTION** was okay, but the fun and friendship evident in this picture was, as it always is, the biggest attraction at our recent tournament there!

not by our guys and gals. Yours truly had two fish on (while wearing my waders!), but lost both. I guess that's why they call it fishin' and not catchin'!

The real highlight of the day was Bob Buero's latest and greatest fishing inven-

tion (shown in the picture below), the "Surf-O-Matic!" I'm not exactly sure when mass production starts, but I suggest we all start saving our nickles and dimes right now!

—Doug Karakas

## Walleye Stocking Is Lake Michigan First

Mature walleye were stocked in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan for the first time in late August as part of a University of Wisconsin research project to explore the walleye's potential as a sport fish in the big lake.

In co-operation with the Wisconsin DNR and the U. of W - Milwaukee Center for Great Lakes Studies, Sea Grant Aquaculture Specialist Fred Binkowski supervised the release of 5,000 7"-13" walleye into the lake near Milwaukee over a two-week period. The fish were released from the U. of W - Milwaukee research vessel "Neeskay" at five sites along the 25-mile stretch of shoreline from Fox Point down to Oak Creek.

Binkowski said the fish, tagged and fin-clipped, will yield new information about the growth, survival, feeding habits, and movement of walleye in Lake Michigan.

"The walleye is one of the most popular sport fish in Wisconsin's inland waters," Binkowski explained. "But Lake Michigan's walleye population is small."

From the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute's publication, "Littoral Drift."



**WHAT'S A "SURF-O-MATIC," YOU ASK?** That's the latest invention for fishermen perfected by Bob Buero (r.)! Bob is shown here modeling his creation to the delight and amazement of his fellow Detroit Area Steelheaders at the recent Platte Bay tournament.



# Giant salmon are growing up NOW in Great Lakes

This year, a Lake Michigan or Lake Huron angler might boat a chinook salmon that tops the state's 12-year-old record of 46 pounds, 1 ounce!

How? It all has to do with sex and death, and a pair of college professors.

Michigan's chinook salmon grow just four years, then spawn and die. For any of the Pacific salmon, the sex act is inextricably wound in the throes of death.

The same inner forces that bring a Pacific salmon to sexual maturity cause the leprous decay of the flesh that is under way even as the fish mates.

But if a Michigan chinook were never to mature sexually, it wouldn't have to die at age four, as nature programs. And, because fish grow throughout their lives, a fish able to avoid puberty might reach great size before it succumbed to another lethal agent.

Michigan State University fisheries professors Don Garling and Howard Tanner, working with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), have developed such a fish. They call it a triploid, meaning each of its body cells holds three sets of chromosomes.

A normal fish's cell contains two sets of chromosomes. Each of a hen fish's eggs has two sets at spawning. When the male fertilizes the egg, a set of his chromosomes replaces one of the maternal sets.

Garling and Tanner learned that by immersing the fertilized egg in 80° F water for a few minutes — it's called heat shocking — the egg will hold onto all three sets, making it a triploid. When it grows into a fish, it will never mature sexually.

"These fish always remain firm-fleshed and bright-skinned," Garling says. "They never soften or darken as normal fish do when [they're] ready to spawn."

The males never develop a kype, the big hook on the front of the bottom jaw.

"In 1986, we planted these triploids as fry, 25,000 each in lakes Michigan and Huron," Garling says. "The survivors — probably about 1,000 have avoided disease, natural predators or anglers — have now lived almost a year longer than all other chinooks born at the same time, for they all spawned and died last fall."

With another year to grow, these 1,000 fish should have some record breakers among them. Garling figures one in 500 salmon caught this summer in lakes Michigan and Huron is a giant five-year-old.

Because triploid plantings have increased since 1986 — 65,000 split between the lakes in 1987, and 85,000 to 90,000 each year since — odds of catching a giant from the accumulating population of five-year-old or older chinooks will improve, too.

West Coast scientists have also been working to develop larger salmon by keeping them from maturing sexually. And in Wisconsin, chinooks have been given hormones to the same end. Some of these fish have also been planted in Lake Michigan.

"We know we can induce triploidy in steelheads and cohos, too," Garling says, "but we focused on the chinook simply because it will grow the largest."

Some strains of chinooks other than Michigan's grow larger naturally because they sexually mature at an older age and so live longer. For instance, the strain from Alaska's Kenai River is famous among sport anglers. The planet's largest chinooks are Kenai strain, and the world record of 97 pounds, 4 ounces came from the Kenai.

"Kenai fish are huge because some are 11-13 years old at spawning," Garling says.

Michigan scientists decided against Kenai fish for the original salmon introduction because the Great Lakes forage base is too small to support a large, naturally reproducing population of these giants. But planting limited numbers of non-reproducing triploids, even though they will grow like Kenai fish, adds no significant forage demands.

"We'll continue stocking triploids through 1992," Garling reports. This six-year span will give these fish a chance to grow large and build their numbers, and anglers a chance to fish for them. Then we'll evaluate the program.

"The triploids are among salmon carrying a micro-coded tag in their snouts," Garling says, "You can identify them because their adipose fin — the small one on the back near the tail — has been removed."

Of course, sheer size alone should separate the five-year-olds from the rest.

Unless you want it mounted, any salmon you keep with a missing adipose fin should have its head taken to a local DNR office so the tag can be retrieved.

Interestingly, the scientists are now looking at a triploid bluegill — they're a year or two away, Garling says. These could be placed in ponds after stunted panfish are removed.

Seventy-pound salmon are one thing, but imagine tangling with five-pound 'gills!

—Bill Walker

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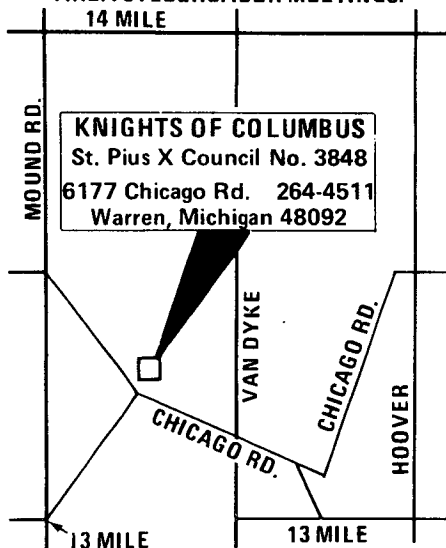
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## Tribe turns down invite to set gill nets in bay

*.../Continued from Page Three*

audit? Hell no! This, of course, makes it impossible, or just about so, to biologically manage the fishery."

Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) executive director Tom Washington said he believes the Indian gill netters rejected the invitation to return to Hammond Bay purely because they feared the close monitoring.

"It is unfortunate. The biologists were going to get a lot of darn good information at a reasonable cost," said Washington.

"But this points up what we've been saying all along: that they don't want scrutiny of their operations," he added. "They don't want anyone looking over their shoulders. We've never felt they were providing good and accurate records."

Another conservation officer who also requested anonymity almost howled when he was asked if it is possible that the gill netters have something to hide.

"You gotta be s---ting me! I think they're afraid they'd lose their image as 'poor downtrodden martyrs' if the public ever found out just how lucrative gill netting is," he said.

The DNR's invitation was for up to ten small boat gill netters to fish in waters over 25 feet deep from October 1-19. Each boat would be limited to no more than one thousand pounds of lake trout. When that quota was reached, they would be required to stop fishing.

The Department is expected to use its Hammond Bay invitation to show U.S. District Judge Richard Enslen that it is sincerely trying to accommodate the gill netters displaced by the closing of Hammond Bay.

The DNR has also provided the tribes with trap net boats, gear, and training, and has made additional access available.

The tribes agreed that Hammond Bay gill netting would end on January 1, 1990 as part of a 1985 agreement.

Part of the tradeoff was the planting of salmon in northern Lake Huron streams for the tribes to net when the salmon return to spawn. According to incomplete reports, the tribes could be making as much as \$1,000,000 per year on salmon netting. There is some speculation that the actual total may be more than that!

The 1985 agreement also called for gill netting to end in outer Grand Traverse Bay on January 1, 1988. Gill netting continues there, despite the DNR providing the Grand Traverse tribe with two trap net boats, gear, and captains.

Judge Enslen has said that the Grand Traverse gill nets must be pulled, but he has not set a date by which they must be out of the bay.

*Reprinted from the North Woods Call, October 17, 1990.*

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