



# Fishin' Tales II

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974



**DAS Membership Meetings Canceled Until Further Notice**  
**You can still check us out:**  
**On the Interweb**  
[www.detroitsteelheaders.com](http://www.detroitsteelheaders.com) Post to the message board and check out the entire site.  
**On the Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/detroitarea/steelheaders](http://www.facebook.com/detroitarea/steelheaders)  
**On the new OFFICIAL GROUP PAGE**  
 Check out the new Facebook group page where you can post at:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/2472219909666195](http://www.facebook.com/groups/2472219909666195)

## DAS Update by Dan Chisholm

I'm sure you are all aware that 2020 has been a year of many challenges. We began our year with an abbreviated or non-existent ice fishing season and then things really got nasty when we ran headlong into the Corona Virus Pandemic. Our interrupted fishing schedule is a minor consideration when you think about the negative impact brought about by the State business shut down and shelter-in-place order. It's a new world out there now, I guess. There are no road maps to follow on this one as we work collectively to re-start the economy and how we keep ourselves safe going forward. When will the infection abate? When will a vaccination become available? How will the vaccination be distributed and delivered? Will the vaccination work? Will we experience a re-occurrence? I'm sure you have all these same questions and many of your own.

The point I'm trying to make is there are more questions than there are answers right now. What we know is, the Detroit Area Steelheaders are going to survive this. What we will have is the "new" normal. The club board of directors are meeting regularly through ZOOM and we are discussing how and when we can get back to fishing. When can we resume member meetings and what venues will be available to conduct meetings are all things we are going to work through?

A few things you should know:  
 Member dues are suspended through the term of the shelter-in-place. If your membership expires while we are in lock-down, do not fret. Although club functions have been temporarily suspended, We look forward to their eventual resumption. The newsletter will resume publication, so if you have a good fish story or picture do not hesitate to send it in. ZOOM board meetings will continue because we can comply with all CDC recommendations as we make plans to restart the club. We will have an update in the next newsletter. Watch your email, check our website, frequent the Facebook pages, and follow our forum for the status of the Harbor Beach and St Clair River events. As we move forward, we will keep in touch. A little good news is we completed our major fund raiser "Wild Game Dinner" just before the shut down so with careful fiduciary management we will have the funds we need to move forward. Careful management of expenses and donations will be critical. Keep the faith, hang in there, and stay in touch. We will get past this.

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## Huron-Michigan Predator Diet Study Changes for 2020

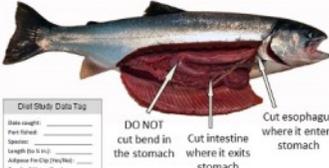
Your help is needed collecting stomachs more than ever in 2020. Due to measures enacted to slow the spread of coronavirus, Michigan State University researchers and other collaborating agencies are unable to collect stomachs from anglers at this time.

This means they will be relying on anglers to collect their own stomachs until further notice. Most freezer drop sites will be unavailable for the immediate future, so we are asking anglers to keep their stomachs frozen in personal freezers until social distancing guidelines are relaxed and public freezer drop sites are reopened.

### Huron-Michigan Diet Study

**WANTED!** Lake trout, steelhead, brown trout, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, Atlantic salmon and walleye stomachs from Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

**REASON:** Researchers are trying to better understand where and when these predatory fish are eating gobies, alewife, smelt, and other food items in Lake Huron and Lake Michigan.



1 - Decide if you will collect stomachs from this fishing trip.

2 - Remove stomachs from ALL fish of each species that you are collecting.

3 - Place stomachs and ALL contents into plastic bag with data tag.

4 - Freeze or ice stomachs immediately and deposit in freezer at drop site.

**Diet Study Data Tag**

Wade length: \_\_\_\_\_

Peak Month: \_\_\_\_\_

Species: \_\_\_\_\_

Length (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if you have it): \_\_\_\_\_

Depth of Water (feet): \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT** cut bend in the stomach

cut intestine where it exits stomach

Cut esophagus where it enters stomach

Data tags, list of freezer drop sites, video, and full instructions at: [MichiganSeaGrant.org/diet](http://MichiganSeaGrant.org/diet)

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

USGS science for a changing world

Sea Grant MICHU 22-202



## Salmon in the Classroom Final Release By Rodney Elnick

On Friday, April 24, Michael Gaule from Divine Child High School in Dearborn met with me at the Huron River in Flat Rock to release their Salmon. Also helping was Mrs. Karen Gaule, their golden retriever, and one high school senior, Ali Myers. As you recall, the other schools were locking their doors in early March so we had to release on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. So, Michael somehow negotiated an agreement for entrance to the school. For 36 days he attended to the Salmon as the only one allowed to enter the school. He told me that he was specifically counseled to the areas he could touch in passing through the building.

In the past, we released in the Huron Park, an island accessible by a walking bridge within the Flat Rock city limits. However, the park entrance was taped off, closed to the public. Michael had driven down a couple days earlier and located a grassed access on Atwater Street next to a taco restaurant.

The release went well, even with only us attending. We were happy with the average size, 4 to 4-1/4 inches. The property owner showed up half way through the release. He gave us his approval but didn't wish to help. The release total was 118 Smolts out of 154 eggs. That comes to 76.6% survival. The total Salmon released was 666 from 861 eggs. The final result is therefore 77.4% survival which is very good but a little less than last year. Looking back at the records, many eggs were lost within the first two weeks. No way for us to reason why. We wish again to thank all the teachers, their schools, and our DAS members for their time and effort to help this program to succeed.



### Musing's from the Editor:

We won't be on lock down forever. Eventually things will get back to normal, albeit a different normal from the one we knew. Sooner or later, and I think it will be sooner than later, we'll be able to resume doing some of the things we enjoy. I imagine everyone has given it some thought. What it's going to be like when we resume normal activities?

My wife, my boss, and most my friends know I'm addicted to fishing, and I haven't given it up on lockdown. However, it's just not the same as fishing with friends. I'd like to hear what others are thinking about fishing and especially resuming DAS activities like outings, tournaments, and membership meetings. There is a thread on the forum for members to share their thoughts on getting back to fishing. As Dan Chisholm mentioned in his article, your DAS board has held it's last couple directors meetings virtually. One of the issues we will be discussing is how we resume club activities. Please feel free to post what you'd be willing to do on our Facebook official group page or the web page forum.

It was good to see the governor relax some aspects of her 'Stay Home' edict. I think it won't be long now.

Tom Gorguze  
aka Bad Dog

**The next newsletter will include details on DAS logo wear items that will soon be available. We have put together a list of items that the DAS web store will have for sale. As of now we plan to offer a t-shirt, hat, tech hoodie, polo shirt, and combination fishing gator/mask.**

### DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.

P.O. Box 1255 Sterling Hgts., MI 48311-1255

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member - \$35 Yearly                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal - \$35 Yearly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 & over)- \$20 Yearly                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change only   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (under 16) - \$20 Yearly (Electronic Newsletter) | Amt. Paid \$ _____                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Event Rate (New Members Only)- \$20             |  |

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Newsletter/Printer

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Awards

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Photography

## Chef's Table - Smoked Salmon Chili

Thanks to DAS member and fish camp chef Fred Chartier for sharing his Smoked Salmon Chili recipe. If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share, email it to [tgorguze@aol.com](mailto:tgorguze@aol.com)

### Ingredients:

- 1 pound smoked salmon
- 1 medium chopped onion
- 1 can chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 Qt whipping cream
- 2 cloves minced garlic
- 2 stalks chopped celery
- 2 cans great northern beans
- 2 cans rinsed cannellini beans
- 2 Anaheim peppers
- 1 tablespoon ground coriander
- 1 tablespoon lemon pepper
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon oregano



### Prep:

Braise peppers, then remove skin and seeds, then dice

Heat oil in a large pot over medium heat. Then sauté the onion, celery, and garlic until tender. Add smoked salmon, beans, chicken broth, peppers and spices to the pot. Stir and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Stir in the whipping cream. Simmer until the soup is hot (do not bring to a boil after adding cream) and serve.

## A Change Is Gonna Due Me Good

I try to stay upbeat or funny when submitting a newsletter article because no-one wants to hear me whine and complain. The heck with that. I'm cranky and I want the world to know it. I was jig fishing the St. Clair River this week and my feet got cold. It's mid-May and my feet got cold. Jig fishing the river and my feet get cold?!?!?! Bullstuff. It's mid-May!!!! Warm up already, I'm tired of this cold stuff. I see people all the time in boats with waders, hip boots, or heavy winter boots. I won't do that because I know if I end up in the water those boots are going to take me to the bottom of the river. I'm not criticizing because it's your choice but I won't wear them. Why can't it just warm up? I think I mentioned it's already May!!!

Anyway, the river fishing for walleye has been good (if you can put up with cold feet). Not limits every trip but good. Up and down the river people are catching multiple fish and grilling fresh walleye. My experience is the jigging has been a little better than the bottom bouncers but everyone is catching and having fun. Follow all the social distancing rules, stay safe and go get some fish.

Dan Chisholm

## Protecting Our Lakes By Rodney Elnick

Four 8th grade young ladies from Kennedy Middle School, Saint Clair Shores, have won First Place in Michigan and a \$2000 savings bond each for their micro-plastic mission. Under the guidance of Jann Tamer, teacher, Adelia Nasir, Alyssa Sonnnfeld, Emily Tolcer and Ava Pittiglio are participating in a national STEM-based competition, eCYBERMISSION, sponsored by the U.S. Army.

I worked for several years with Mrs. Tamer in our Salmon in the Classroom program. She had tank no. 2 in the Kennedy Middle School. I was asked by her to assist the students in their process of developing some design solution to their research.

Micro-plastics are very small pieces of plastic, from 0.05 mm to 5.0 mm (0.002 inches – 0.200 inches). The micro-plastics are seen using a Nile red dye and viewed through a special lens. The girls tested the waters in Marine City, New Baltimore, Metroparks Beach in Harrison Township, Veteran's Memorial Beach and Blossom Health

Beach in Saint Clair Shores. The worst results of their tests samples came from Marine City, they believe, because it is just down river from The Sarnia Wastewater Plant emptying into the St. Clair River.

On March 3, I accompanied the young ladies to Wayne State University campus, the Integrative Biosciences Center to meet with Dr. Tracie Baker. Her research into the contaminates escaping the waste water treatment plant and being discharged into the Detroit River was extremely disquieting. Also, part of her studies is the health effects of the contaminants and microplastics in the zebrafish model. The testing uses zebrafish because 70% of their gnomes are identical to humans. Her research was showing the microplastic buildup mostly in the digestive region but also the brain of the zebrafish.

Wastewater treatment plants do not test for or remove microplastics as part of their water treatment. Miss Pittiglio explains that with polyester clothing, ten to twelve million microfibers



are produced in one load of laundry. The result of their project was a cheap, easy-to-use filter design for the washing machine. All the students' results, a how-to video, and more are on a website they created, "pollution-police.weebly.com". The national judging for their project is coming up in June.

Some of the above information is based on an article by Kristyne Demske, St Clair Shores Sentinel published February 28, 2020.

Detroit Area Steelheaders  
P.O. Box 1255  
Sterling Hgts, MI 48311-1255

Place Stamp  
Here

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT  
LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

Membership Expires:

**We're on the Web:**  
[www.detroitsteelheaders.com](http://www.detroitsteelheaders.com)  
FB: detroitareasteelers



## Breaking News

We anticipate the governor's recent announcement reducing restrictions, will allow the resumption of some activities. We hope to provide an update after a special June 9, Board of Directors meeting. We are discussing holding the June 13, Harbor Beach tournament, and June 20 St Clair River outings. We understand that everyone will have their own comfort level when it comes to resuming normal activities. Feel free to reach out to board members with your thoughts, and join in relevant discussions on the message board. In the mean-

## Waters of Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair Highlights for 2019

An update from the MDNR Lake St. Clair Fisheries Research Station

- Anglers spent over 583,000-hours fishing the Michigan waters of Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair in 2019, taking 112,000 total trips
- The 2019 Lake Erie Walleye year class was the largest in our survey time series, which started in 2014
- Walleye harvest by anglers was the second highest on record since 2006, following the 12-year record high in 2018
- Nearly 1 in 10 Smallmouth Bass captured on Lake St. Clair was over 20" long, while 2/3 of fish were over 17" in length
- The 2019 Yellow Perch fishery in Lake Erie was challenging, with very low harvest rates in both the recreational fishery and the charter fishery.
- 18 Muskie were tagged with acoustic tags in Anchor Bay, Lake St. Clair; anglers assisted in collecting 16 of these fish for tagging.