



Fishin' Tales II

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

Volume 4 Issue 6

July 2020



Court filing could end Great Lakes fishing as we know it

Courtesy of Nick Green, MUCC Public Information Officer; ngreen@mucc.org; 517-346-6486

The 2000 Great Lakes Consent Decree is set to expire in August, and a court proceeding filed last week by one Upper Peninsula tribe could end sportfishing as we know it in much of the Great Lakes.

Since 1985, a large portion of Michigan's Great Lakes fishery has been divided up under an agreement between five of Michigan's sovereign Native American tribes and the state. This agreement was handed down by a federal court in a "consent decree" that applied to what is known as the 1836 Treaty Waters. The treaty waters extend from the mouth of the Grand River in Lake Michigan to Alpena in Lake Huron and from Sault Ste. Marie to almost Marquette on Lake Superior.

Each tribe, per the consent decree, was given its home waters, where it is free to fish and other tribes are not. Other areas of the Great Lakes were reserved for sportfishing, and some areas were shared between the tribes and the sport fishery.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages the sport fishery under this decree, which includes how available stocks are measured and what methods of take may be used by fishers. The DNR also determines creel limits, fishing methods and fisheries management for recreational anglers — who pay, through license dollars and excise taxes, to manage the fishery.

The current consent decree, and the rules that have applied for the last 35 years, is set to expire on August 8. Current negotiations to reach a new agreement are floundering and COVID-19 has limited the parties' ability to meet and wade through critical issues. It is clear that a new consent decree will not be negotiated by the deadline next month.

On June 24, four of the five tribes, the State of Michigan, and the United States asked a federal court to extend the current decree through the end of 2020.

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians also filed a request with the federal court asking that the extension be granted only until November 8. The Sault Tribe asserted that after that date, however, it will be free to fish without geographical restrictions anywhere within the treaty waters even if later extensions to the consent decree are granted while negotiations continue. Though not explicitly stated, it can reasonably be assumed the Sault Tribe seeks to use any gear they deem necessary, such as gill nets, in zones that have not allowed such gear since 1985.

An amici group representing recreational anglers, of which Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) is a member of, filed a response to the requests to illustrate important history and critical issues that are preventing a successor agreement being reached.

Recreational fishing is in jeopardy

Anyone 35 years old or younger and who fishes in the treaty waters doesn't know what it was like to fish these waters without a consent decree, said Steve Schultz, an attorney for the amici group representing recreational anglers.

"Gill nets or other commercial nets have not been allowed in certain areas for over 35 years. Allowing such gear now presents risks of overfishing to the point that a stock could collapse and also presents potential conflicts between recreational fishing gear and commercial fishing nets where nets may not have existed in an area for decades," Schultz said. "It is imperative that the parties come together, as they did in 1985 and 2000, and find a way to manage this shared fishery resource for healthy populations and access for everyone."

Past experience illustrates what could happen if an agreement is not reached. In 1979, the federal court upheld the tribes' right to fish under an 1836 Treaty. Shortly thereafter, areas were opened to tribal commercial fishing for lake trout and whitefish. Within months, lake trout stocks in certain areas were depleted by 98 percent.

The lethal efficiency of gill nets and ability to place that gear wherever deemed appropriate is what worries recreational anglers, said MUCC Executive Director Amy Trotter. *Continued on page 4*

DAS Membership Meetings

Continue for Now

You can still check us out:

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Join Us for the July 28th General Membership Meeting

Our July 28 membership meeting will again be held outdoors at River Bends Park in Shelby Twp. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Our featured guest speaker will be long time member, current Director, and three-time DAS Skipper of the Year, Bob Paradise. Bob's home port is Manistee, and he'll be sharing his fishing knowledge of the area. This presentation will be just in time for the SOTY Tournament scheduled in Manistee next month on Aug. 22. Some of this info will also be relevant for the SOTY Ludington Tournament August 1st because of the proximity of the two ports. If you are planning on fishing these tournaments, you won't want to miss this meeting!

The meeting will also feature results from the SOTY Frankfort Tournament plus info on those 2 SOTY tournaments in August as well as the usual tackle raffles, 50/50 raffle and Every Member in Attendance drawing.

Be sure to use the 22 Mile road entrance to the park which is between Ryan and Shelby Roads. The meeting will be held at the 1st pavilion on the left as you enter the park (See map attached). Please bring your own refreshments. Face masks are suggested and please practice good social distancing. Hope to see everyone there!



2020 AOTY Outing Schedule

Sat., September 12 - Sterling State Park Perch Outing
Best 5 Perch by length
Chairperson: Gaspare Aragona (248) 330-1774

Sat., September 26 - Manistee Pier/Surf
Best 3 Trout or Salmon by weight
Chairpersons: James Anderson (313) 3303680 & Laurie Gamblin (810) 730-2373

Sat., October 31 - Ludington Big Tom Tournament
Chairperson: Tom Thieda (586) 206-5902

Sat., November 7 - Manistee Lake Shore Motel Annual Steelhead Tournament - Manistee Area
Fish-Off with Metro-West Steelheaders

Best 3 Steelhead by weight
Chairperson: Tom Thieda (586) 206-5902

Sat., December 12 --- Caseville Lake Trout Outing
Best 3 Lake Trout by weight
Chairperson: Blaise Pewinski (248) 890-4517

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) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Event Rate (New Members Only)- \$20 | |

Amt. Paid \$ _____

NAME		DATE	
ADDRESS			
CITY, STATE, ZIP		HOME PHONE	CELL PHONE
BOAT NAME		E-MAIL ADDRESS	



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Frankfort Tournament Results

Our July 11, 2020 tournament took place in Frankfort Michigan under sunny skies with warm temperatures. The lake was a little lumpy but fishable as eleven DAS club boats set out in search of silver fish and Lake Trout. It was great to see the club fishing Lake Michigan again. Morale was high and the comradery was good to see as 37 club members showed up and dropped lines at 0600. The bad news is the silver fish were not very cooperative. The days total catch turned out to be 38 Lake Trout and one King Salmon caught by Paul Gjeldum on Blue Horizon. The King Salmon happened to be Paul's first fish of the day and it was good for "big fish" in the Salmon category and \$110. Paul's King Salmon also won him the Okuma lead core combo (Okuma GL452L reel and Classic Pro rod) donated by Brian Murphy of the Frankfort Tackle Box. Thank you Brian for a generous donation. Jim Zanke of Hard Top N Tails won the Lake Trout "big fish" category good for \$55 and Fred Chartier of Lake Buzzard won the \$55 random draw for "big fish" Steelhead.



At the weigh-in we were all treated to some great grilled brat's provided by Tom Gorguze of Bad Dog and some water and soft drinks provided by the club. Who won the tournament???

Blaise Pewinski of Sea Hag took first, Fred Chartier of Lake Buzzard took second, and Jim Zanke of Hard Top N Tails took third place. We also welcomed two new boats to the tournament trail as Jason Sherrill of Silent Majority and Joe Delishi of Wonder participated for the first time.

The DAS is doing everything possible to be active within the guidelines set forth by the State. The board of directors has been meeting via Zoom, we have convened at least one outdoor meeting and now we are back to competitive fishing. As things loosen up watch the newsletter, message board, email threads, and DAS Facebook to keep informed of club events. The next tournament is scheduled for August 1 in Ludington and I hope to see a lot of you there.



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Dan Chisholm (Channing)

Frankfort Standings 7/11/2020														
Place	Boat Name	Skipper	# of Fish Weighed	Catch by Species & Weight					Best 5 Total Wgt	Best 5 Total Pts	Deduction Code	Points Deducted	Total Points	Place
1	Sea Hag	Blaise Pewinski	5	L 12.95	L 11.55	L 11.40	L 11.30	L 10.80	58.00	83.00	NONE	0.00	83.00	1
2	Lake Buzzard IV	Fred Chartier	5	L 14.40	L 11.80	L 10.95	L 10.25	L 9.80	57.20	82.20	NONE	0.00	82.20	2
2	Hardtop & Tails	Jim Zanke	5	L 14.50	L 12.85	L 8.35	L 5.40	L 4.15	45.25	70.25	NONE	0.00	70.25	2
4	Blue Horizon	Paul Gjeldum	5	L 9.55	L 8.75	L 5.15	L 4.45	K 4.00	31.90	56.90	NONE	0.00	56.90	4
4	Bad Dog	Tom Gorguze	5	L 11.25	L 8.75	L 5.15	L 4.90	L 2.40	31.10	56.10	NONE	0.00	56.10	4
6	Bobby's Toy	Bob Jones	2	L 12.70	L 2.20	-----	-----	-----	14.90	24.90	NONE	0.00	24.90	6
7	Silent Majority	Jason Sherrill	2	L 7.25	L 4.60	-----	-----	-----	11.85	21.85	NONE	0.00	21.85	7
8	Moonshot	Brad Walton	2	L 8.25	L 2.10	-----	-----	-----	10.35	20.35	NONE	0.00	20.35	8
9	Wonder	Joe Delishi	1	L 10.90	-----	-----	-----	-----	10.90	15.90	NONE	0.00	15.90	9
10	Equalizer	Nathan Case	1	L 4.45	-----	-----	-----	-----	4.45	9.45	NONE	0.00	9.45	10
-	Vicki's Seacret	Bob Feisel	0	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	0.00	0.00	NONE	0.00	0.00	-

LARGEST	Boat Name	Species	Wgt	Number Caught		
	Blue Horizon	Salmon	0.00			
	Blue Horizon	Pool Salmon	4.00			\$110
	Blue Horizon	King	4.00	1		
	Blue Horizon	Pool King	4.00			
		Coho	0.00	0		
		Pool Coho	0.00			
	Hardtop & Tails	Lake Trout	14.50	39		
	Hardtop & Tails	Pool LT	14.50			\$55
	Lake Buzzard	Pool Steelhead	0.00			\$55
	Brown	0.00	0			
	Atlantic	0.00	0			
	Pool Atlantic	0.00				
	Pink	0.00				
	Pool Pink	0.00	0			
	Total		40			

11 Total Boats

"The changes that are requested by the Sault Tribe will fundamentally change the nature and scope of the fishery in the Great Lakes," Trotter said. "Recreational anglers need a strong voice in these negotiations for the health of the fishery and to maintain Michigan's robust outdoor recreation economy."

According to court documents, the Sault Tribe claims that it agreed to exclusive zones in prior decrees to give the other relatively newly-recognized tribes an opportunity to develop their fisheries. The Sault Tribe claims those newly-recognized tribes have now had an opportunity to establish their fishery, and the 1836 Treaty Waters should be open to all tribal fishers everywhere. Effectively, this means that the Sault Tribe now wants to fish in Lake Michigan from the mouth of the Grand River to the Straits of Mackinac and to the Bays de Noc.

Under the current consent decree, the total allowable catch of all species in the treaty waters is split between the tribes and the state — with each given approximately 50 percent. The tribe's take is derived mostly from commercial fishing, while the state manages its fishery for recreational anglers and state commercial fishers.

The Sault Tribe, in its court filing, said that they account for more than two-thirds of the allotted tribal take. In a recent Michigan Senate hearing, Sault Tribe Chairperson Aaron Payment said he "stands in solidarity" with state-licensed commercial fishers. Yet, the tribe's filing appears to seek 100 percent of the resource with no limitations on gear.

This would likely put state-licensed commercial fishers currently operating in the 1836 Treaty Waters out of business and severely limit the lake trout bag limits for recreational anglers in the state, if not close seasons completely in some areas.

For 35 years, the state, tribal and sportfishing interests have worked together to co-manage the fishery through the implementation of separate zones for commercial and sportfishing purposes, Trotter said.

"In many areas, recreational anglers and the tribes have developed a good working relationship and have come to understand each other's needs and rights, and there is a very real possibility here that those relationships and understandings, as well as all of the work and money the DNR, the tribes and federal government have put into the restoration of these fisheries could come crashing down," Trotter said. "If no new consent decree can be agreed upon, Great Lakes sportfishing as we have come to know it in Michigan will be gone."

What's next?

Federal Judge Paul Maloney is expected to rule on the recent requests to extend the current rules filed by the parties soon. That decision will likely set the stage for either negotiation or litigation for the coming months.

Should Judge Maloney rule that the December 31 extension asked for by the parties, and opposed by the Sault Tribe, is granted, the parties will return to negotiations with a previously-appointed mediator. Should he grant the motion filed by the Sault Tribe, tribal fishers could start fishing in all of the treaty waters on November 8.

"If litigation over the meaning of the treaty right occurs, the extent of the sport fishery could be unknown for years. Lawsuits are never easy and oftentimes leave feelings of resentment among all parties," Schultz said. "We have to get this right for all the parties involved. We have to ensure recreational fishing will continue to thrive in Michigan and that tribal fishers can continue to carry on their heritage."

What can you do?

MUCC is a member of the Coalition to Protect Michigan's Resources, an assemblage of conservation, recreational fishing and charter boat groups interested in maintaining Michigan's recreational fisheries.

All recreational anglers should be informed, get involved and financially support the efforts of the member organizations if they want to hold onto the Great Lakes fisheries as they know it.

Other members of the coalition include the Michigan Charter Boat Association, Michigan Trout Unlimited, Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, as well as a number of other local sportfishing and lake association groups.

MUCC represents 40,000 members throughout Michigan and 200 affiliate clubs. Since 1937, MUCC has worked under the mission of uniting citizens to conserve, protect and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage.

To help save recreational fishing today, consider donating to a grassroots fundraiser that will be used to protect Michigan's sport fishery.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders supports the Coalition to Protect Michigan's Resources primarily through donations to the Michigan Charter Boat Association. We have also made smaller donations directly to the general funds of the MUCC and the coalition.

Your Web Store Order is Ready

If you placed an order on the DAS Web Store, it will be available for pick up at the July Meeting. If you didn't get your order

placed in time, there will be a limited number of Hats and Face Masks available while supplies last. The web store is now closed. You will not be able to place additional orders until the store reopens next spring. Reach out to Tom Gorguze if you can't be at the July meeting and want to coordinate getting your gear.



Our Ludington tournament is coming up on August 1. Registration for this event should preferably be completed before Thursday, July 30, for the Ludington Tournament, and by Thursday August 19, for our Manistee event. Skippers who plan on fishing should reach out to Bob Feisel by email, or texting the following information to him at (248)-765-2504:

- Boat name
- Skipper's name and phone number
- Names of crew members
- Participating in optional Big Fish bet?, yes or no (bet is \$20/boat)

There is no entry fee for either tournament. A light lunch will be provided at the weigh-in. There will not be a captains meeting on Saturday morning. We will start fishing at 6:00 am. Monitor channel 72 for announcement of the start, and for a roll-call of the participating boats. Fish calls will be at 9 and 11. Pull lines at 1:00. Be in line for the weigh-in by 2:30. The weigh-in's will be at the Municipal Marina In Ludington, and the small pavilions at the Lion's Park in Manistee. Let me know if you need crew, or if you are interested in being crew on someone's boat. See you there!

Bob Feisel

2020 LUDINGTON TOURNAMENT

WHEN: Saturday Aug. 1, 2020

WHERE: Ludington Municipal Marina

NO SKIPPERS MEETING.

Entry is by Entry Form e-mailed to Bob Feisel (bfeisel@hotmail.com)

TOURNAMENT START: 6:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL: 7:00 a.m. on Channel 72

If you miss the ROLL CALL, please call Bob Feisel (Vicki's Seacret) 248-765-2504 Cell

FISH CALLS: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Channel 72

PULL LINES: 1:00 p.m. Saturday

WEIGH-IN: 2:00 p.m., Saturday

Ludington Municipal Marina - **Exact location will be announced**

PORT CAPTAIN: Bob Feisel (Vicki's Seacret) 248-765-2504 Cell

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: Bob Feisel (Vicki's Seacret) 248-765-2504 Cell

REMINDERS: Lake Trout- Size 15" minimum, Creel 3.

You must call (channel 72), the Port Captain or Tournament Director when you return to port at the end of the tournament. Also, you must call if you return to port at any time during the tournament or return to the water.

There is no fee for this tournament except \$20 for Big Fish Pool if you wish to enter. No luncheon will be served. Some drinks and snacks may be served.

We are urging all to wear face masks to the weigh-in. Crews should stay in individual groups and exercise social distancing by keeping at least 6 ft. from others.

2020 MANISTEE II TOURNAMENT

WHEN: Saturday August 22, 2020

WHERE: Lion's Pavilion at west end of County Launch

NO SKIPPERS MEETING.

Entry is by Entry Form e-mailed to Bob Feisel (bfeisel@hotmail.com)

TOURNAMENT START: 6:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL: 7:00 a.m. on Channel 72

If you miss the ROLL CALL, please call Bob Feisel (Vicki's Seacret) 248-765-2504 Cell

FISH CALLS: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Channel 72

PULL LINES: 1:00 p.m.

WEIGH-IN: 2:30 p.m., Saturday (must be in line by)

Lion's Pavilion at west end of County Launch

PORT CAPTAIN: Tom Gorguze (Bad Dog) 248-343-5397 Cell

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS: Bob Feisel (Vicki's Seacret) 248-765-2504 Cell

REMINDERS: Lake Trout- Size 15" minimum, Creel 3.

You must call (channel 72), the Port Captain or Tournament Director when you return to port at the end of the tournament. Also, you must call if you return to port at any time during the tournament or return to the water.

There is no fee for this tournament except \$20 for Big Fish Pool if you wish to enter. No luncheon will be served. Some drinks and snacks may be served.

We are urging all to wear face masks to the weigh-in. Crews should stay in individual groups and exercise social distancing by keeping at least 6 ft. from others.

Chef's Table - New England Fish Bake

Guest Chef, Kristin Crackel



Ingredients:

- 4 medium peeled potatoes
- 1 teaspoon flour
- 1 small onion diced
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 1/2 pound trout fillets
- 3 Tbs grated parmesan cheese
- 2 Tbs minced fresh parsley
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika

Yield: 3-4 servings

Bring Potatoes to a boil in a saucepan covered with water. Cook until almost tender, then drain. Cool and slice 1/8" thick, then place in a greased shallow 2 qt. baking dish. Sprinkle with flour, then top with onion, salt, and pepper.

Pour half the milk on the potatoes. Place fish on top then pour remaining milk over fish. Sprinkle with cheese, the cover and bake at 375 degrees for approximately 25 minutes, until fish flakes easily. Sprinkle with parsley and paprika.

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

Place Stamp
Here

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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★
★ **Attention all annual DAS members** ★
★ **The board has extended your current membership three months to offset the** ★
★ **time that club activities were suspended because of the Covid. Please check** ★
★ **your new membership expiration date. It is printed above your address.** ★

COVID 19 ANNOUNCMENT

DAS activities are resuming with modifications to encourage social distancing, and promote safe practices. Face masks are suggested at gatherings, and we should practice good social distancing. We hope to see a good turnouts as we emerge from the COVID-19 shutdown. It may be prudent for individuals with special health concerns to continue isolation. Please follow our website, message forums, and Facebook pages for more details on precautions, revised procedures, and event updates.