

DAS Membership Meetings Continue for Now

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in Tales

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974



Tracking Great Lakes Fish with Acoustic Telemetry

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is using acoustic telemetry to track fish movements in the Great Lakes. If you've ever been fishing, you know fish can be hard to locate. Many anglers have marked a high-quality fishing spot with a GPS coordinate, only to return the next day to find that all the fish have left. Fish movements can be in-fluenced by many factors, including location of desirable habitat, water temperature and the seasons. In addition to helping anglers target their catch, understanding fish movement can help develop more effective strategies for managing fish populations. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources employs a multitude of tools to study these

One method involves marking fish by clipping off a portion of one fin on fish reared in DNR hatcheries, like salmon or trout. This fin clip indicates that an internal coded-wire tag has been inserted into the fish's head. This tag is microscopic and contains information that DNR staff can read with a microscope. When anglers catch a marked fish, they are encouraged to report information about the catch online or in person at DNR customer service centers. In some cases the DNR will reward anglers for submitting information about the catch. This mark-and-recapture method helps generate data based on how far the fish moved from where it was last observed. The drawbacks to this method are that researchers don't know how or when the fish traveled between two points and it is dependent on catching the fish multiple times—a challenging task in a body of water the size of the Great Lakes.

To gain greater insight into fish movement, researchers have been turning to acoustic telemetry. Acoustic telemetry is the process of using sound and distance to determine approximate movements of animals. It has two main components: a transmitter and a receiver. Each transmitter emits a unique series of sound pulses that can be detected on a stationary receiver. The receiver decodes this unique sound and logs the transmitter number, date and time of the detection.

Researchers can surgically implant a transmitter in the fish's body cavity and release the fish into a body of water where receivers have been deployed. As the fish swims, movements can be tracked from receiver to receiver, showing the amount of time a fish spends in one area. Some tags also have environmental sensors that provide clues on the fish's depth, swim speed and water temperature.

Researchers at the Lake St. Clair Fisheries Research Station use acoustic telemetry to study muskellunge movements in the St. Clair-Detroit River system to better understand spawning areas for habitat restoration and conservation. "The ability of acoustic telemetry to provide fine-scale data across all seasons and across huge areas is a game changer, especially for species like muskellunge that are commonly low density," said Dr. Jan-Michael Hessenauer, a DNR fisheries research biologist. Since 2016, more than 130 muskellunge have been tagged with transmitters. One unique aspect of this project is involving muskellunge angling groups in the tagging process. "Members of these groups have participated in special fishing events where they have collected fish for tagging and contributed funds to purchase tags and other equipment needed to sustain the project," Hessenauer said. Acoustic telemetry can yield surprising results. According to Hessenauer, one male muskellunge "has made two separate trips to the Buffalo area on the east side of Lake Erie, each time returning to the Detroit River where he was initially tagged ... But it is important to stress that he's the only fish that has moved at that scale." The Detroit River to the Buffalo area is roughly 500 miles roundtrip, so a muskellunge making this trip twice would have to swim about 1,000 miles. Acoustic telemetry can have different applications for DNR staff involved in native and invasive species management. Staffers at the DNR's Waterford Fish Station in Oakland County collaborate with researchers at Michigan State University to track movements of grass carp in Lake Erie. Grass carp are an invasive species the DNR and regional partners are working to eradicate from the Great Lakes. The primary goal of their field work is to remove as many grass carp as possible. Tagging a small number of fish with acoustic transmitters and releasing them back into Lake Erie has helped locate grass carp across the vast expanse of the lake and its tributaries. "Having seasonal movement information for these fish helps response crews better target high-use areas for control efforts," said John Buszkiewicz, a grass carp biologist at the Waterford Fish Station. One noteworthy application of this technology is the "real-time rapid response" project. When a tagged grass carp comes into a specific area, a real-time receiver sends out an email alerting the response crews. A team can mobilize quickly by deploying gear to capture any other grass carp in the area. This technology nology has revealed specific timing of spawning activity and shown seasonality of grass carp movements, which has helped improve capture rates. Telemetry continues to be a major component of grass carp eradication efforts in Lake Erie.

One special aspect of acoustic telemetry research in the Great Lakes region is that data downloaded from receivers is published on GLATOS — the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System. It's a great example of researchers working together to share equipment and information to advance knowledge of fish movement patterns. "GLATOS provides fishery managers with information concerning fish movement and behavior that traditional fishery assessments were unable to," said Dr. Chris Vandergoot, GLATOS director. Information observed for individual fish is used to better understand how populations interact with the environment over both the short- and long-term. "Data sharing is imperative ... because without it, individual projects wouldn't be successful," Vandergoot said. "Since fish don't recognize state or international boundaries, individual researchers are able to follow their fish even if they leave

The next time you plan a fishing trip on the Great Lakes, consider exploring information on fish movement through GLATOS or at Michigan.gov/TaggedFish. It may make you a wiser, less frustrated angler. If you believe you have caught a tagged fish, consider taking the time to report it to the DNR. Visible tags can be reported online through the DNR's Eyes in the Field reporting system. For adipose fin-clipped fish with coded- wire tags, heads can be submitted at a local drop-off station.

Courtesy of Kaitlen Lang, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

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Detroit Area Steelheaders Members and Immediate Family Picnic Join Us At the Tuesday, August 25th Membership Meeting

6:00 PM at the River Bends Park - 5700 22 Mile Rd, Shelby Charter Twp. Use the 22 Mile Road entrance between Ryan and Shelby Roads. We'll be at the first pavilion on the left

as you enter the park. As with all gatherings masks and social distancing will be observed. DAS will provide chicken, potato salad, beverage, and paper products. Members are requested to bring a dish to place on the buffet table.

The evenings speaker will be James Anderson sharing his knowledge fishing the Manistee River.

There will be a 50:50 but no tackle raffle. Since food is being provided please text or email Kelly Ventimiglia to register the number of people attending and what dish you plan to bring.



Registration deadline Saturday August 22, 2020

Please contact Kelly Ventimiglia - 586-354-1616 email: Ventimigliak@Yahoo.com

Questions & Answers from Around the Great Lakes

From the Lake Huron Pre Fish Survey, Darryl Hondorp, USGS Great Lakes Science Center

- Is there a prey fish recovery occurring anywhere in Lake Huron? There is more of a forage fish recovery in the south than in the north. The north has more predation because of more lake trout. In the south there is especially more bloaters
- Are yellow perch monitored with the prey fish survey? Most of the survey work is done in the offshore water so few yellow perch are encountered. The DNR has been conducting a yellow perch and other shallower water fish survey in Saginaw Bay and the Les Cheneaux Islands for decades.
- Do the high lake levels help forage fish survival? It probably helps species like smelt that spawn in rivers and near shore areas. The high waters probably released significant nutrients when the substrate was flooded

From the Management Updates by Randy Claramunt, DNR Lake Huron Basin Coordinator

- How many Chinook salmon will be stocked this year by the DNR in Lake Huron? Approximately 670,000 fish
- Any update on the cormorant problem? It appears that the state quota to take cormorants under specific conditions will almost double for 2020 from 3,030 last year to about 6,000 this year
- The Chinook salmon are still providing a lake wide fishery in Lake Michigan so is anything being done to increase fishing opportunity in Lake Huron for this species? After the alewife crash in 2003 in Lake Huron, stocked Chinook salmon did not survive south of northern Lake Huron, however, efforts are being made to provide a diverse fishery in Lake Huron. For example, to ensure that the predator and prey populations remain balanced, an effort is being made to determine if stocked Coho salmon will do well in Lake Huron and to stay within the predator/prey ratio, 30,000 Chinook salmon were cut in the north which allowed about a total 100,000 Coho salmon to be stocked in the central and southern sections of Lake Huron. Results should become apparent this season since the first plants in the Thunder Bay River and at Port Sanilac will mature this fall and return to the stocking sites

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC. P.O. Box 1255 Sterling Hgts., MI 48311-1255		
□ New Member - \$35 Yearly □ Renewal - \$35 Yearly □ Senior (65 & over)- \$20 Yearly □ Address Change only □ Junior (under 16) - \$20 Yearly (Electronic Newsletter) Amt. Paid \$ □ Special Event Rate (New Members Only)- \$20		
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In Case You Missed the July Meeting

For the second time in two months the Detroit Steelheaders held our monthly member meeting at River Bend Park in Shelby Twp. We were blessed with great weather as there was no rain, wind, or bugs, and we enjoyed mild temperatures. Fifty-three members turned out and enjoyed listening to Bob Paradise share his expertise on fishing the Ludington area for Silver Fish and Lake Trout. Bob demonstrated several different fishing methods that can be used to entice a strike as you search for fish under varying conditions. Thank you, Bob, it was interesting and helpful. eff Bustos and Jim Zanke did their usual good job providing the tackle and 50:50 raffles. We had multiple tackle raffle winners and Tom Gorguze won the \$103 50:50 raffle. The \$50 Every Member drawing was won by Nathan Case Jr.



The results of the Frankfort SOTY results were discussed, and plans were laid out for the Ludington SOTY tournament scheduled for August 1, 2020. We always make time for fishing reports from attending members and it sounds like the perch and walleye are showing up in good numbers out of Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie. The next AOTY outing is coming up out of Monroe on September 12, 2020. This one is a perch outing coordinated by Gaspare Aragona. Do not miss it! Rodney Elnick updated everyone on the status of the States Salmon in the Classroom project and how it will affect our club. The on-line, DAS club gear, purchases from this year's web store were delivered by Tom Gorguze and Tom Thieda. The new stuff looks good.

Ludington Tournament Results

We had very good participation with 12 boats at our August 1 trolling tournament at Ludington. There was no entry fee for the tournament. Fishing started at 6 am and we fished until 1 pm. We had a weekend of fantastic weather. In the mornings, prime time for fish-

ing, the waves were 1 foot or less. The wind and waves increased in the afternoons but by that time we were all back at the marinas.

But the fishing? Well, it was difficult to say the least. There were very few fish in the area, and our fleet struggled to find them. At the weigh-in, only 7 of our 12 boats had fish to weigh! 'SeaHag' was the only boat with a respectable catch. Captain Blaise Pewinski won first place, and the prizes for biggest salmon, biggest steelhead, and biggest lake trout for winnings of \$260! What was Blaise's secret weapon? "I just got lucky" he says! The weigh-in was well attended with ~45 of us. We enjoyed the camaraderie, friendly discussions, and a meal that the club paid for! We also gave away two \$25 gift cards that were donated by the Ludington Bay Brewing Company. The winners were selected by random draw. (Thank you Jamie Adam!)

Our next event will be on August 22 at Manistee. There is no entry fee for this tournament. There will NOT be a Captains meeting on Saturday morning, but you need to contact Bob Feisel (248-765-2504) by Friday evening to register your boat. Monitor channel 72 for announcement of the start of fishing at 6:00 am. The weigh-in will be at the Lions Club pavilions at the First Street Beach Lunch and beverages at the weigh-in will again be provided by the club. There is a lot of optimism for "monster" King salmon to show up at Manistee. Good luck! Bob Feisel





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Manistee SOTY Tourney Saturday, August 22nd

Our Manistee Tournament will wrap up the Covid shortened 2020 trolling season. If you haven't made it out yet, you may want to make plans to join us. Paul Gjeldum will be pinch hitting as port Captain, and he's arranged for a hot lunch to go along with some big Kings. The latest fishing reports from Manistee are very good. There isn't an entry fee for Skippers, just the optional \$20 big fish pool. If you're bringing a boat be sure to complete an entry form from the website, and forward it to Bob Feisal by Friday evening. This year's tournaments have been well attended, and we expect another great turnout! Paul Gjeldum— (586) 615-1928 cell





Ontario introduces a fall harvest for double-crested cormorants, Province taking steps to protect fish and wildlife habitat

FENELON FALLS —The Ontario government is taking steps to protect fish stocks and natural habitat from the harmful impacts of double-crested cormorants by introducing a fall harvest for the species. The harvest will help address concerns about impacts to local ecosystems by cormorants, a bird that preys on fish, eating a pound a day, and that can damage trees in which they nest and roost.

The announcement was made late last week by John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.

"We've heard concerns from property owners, hunters and anglers, and commercial fishers about the kind of damage cormorants have caused in their communities, so we're taking steps to help them deal with any local issues," said Minister Yakabuski. "In large amounts, cormorant droppings can kill trees and other vegetation and destroy traditional nesting habitats for some other colonial water birds, so it's critical that we take action to strike a healthy balance in local ecosystems."

Following public consultations, the province has made changes to its initial proposal and has decided to introduce a hunting season that will run annually from September 15 to December 31, starting in 2020.

"We listened to those who provided comments about the cormorant hunting proposal, and as a result, we are introducing only a fall hunting season to avoid interfering with recreational users of waterways and nesting periods for some migratory birds," said Yakabuski. "We have also re-

duced the maximum number of cormorants a hunter can take to 15 a day, which is a similar limit to one for federally regulated migratory game birds such as mourning doves, Snow and Ross's Geese, Rails, coot and Gallinules.

"In 2019, the ministry and partner agencies surveyed cormorant colonies across the Great Lakes and select inland lakes in Ontario. Based on nest count surveys, there are an estimated minimum of 143,000 breeding cormorants in 344 colonies across the province. Combined with historical data, trends suggest that cormorant populations are increasing in Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, and Lake Superior and are stable on the St. Lawrence River and Lake Huron.

"Growing up in North Bay and spending many summers fishing on Lake Nipissing, I have seen firsthand the issues that cormorants have caused in some local areas," said Mike Harris, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. "A new fall hunting season will help communities manage cormorant populations where they have negatively impacted natural habitat and other water bird species.

"Cormorants have been a growing problem on Sturgeon Lake and Balsam Lake, where they have covered islands with their guano, killing trees and vegetation," said Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock. "We're listening to local residents who have voiced their concerns and asked for additional tools to address the issue."

Ontario has a healthy and sustainable cor-

morant population. We will continue to monitor the cormorant population status and trends to support sustainability of cormorants in the province.

Quick Facts

- Double-crested cormorants are fisheating birds, usually eating easy-tocatch fish species. They nest on the ground or in trees on islands and peninsulas.
- In large amounts, cormorant droppings, called guano, can kill trees and other vegetation and destroy traditional nesting habitats for some other colonial water birds.
- Competition between cormorants and some colonial nesting water birds has been well documented, including the displacement of some other species by cormorants.
- Hunters are responsible for appropriately identifying their target and ensuring they are harvesting only double-crested cormorants.
- While some hunters may choose to consume cormorants, those who choose not to consume the cormorants they harvest must retrieve the birds and dispose of them properly

Reprinted from the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council's August Inland Sea's, Great Lakes Basin Report Page 5 Volume 4 Issue 7

Angler of the Year Events will Resume

Bad weather and the protracted flu season has taken a toll on the 2020 AOTY events. The bad news is, we've only been able to fish the Higgins Lake, and St Clair tournaments. The goods news is, our schedule is set to resume, and everyone who fishes these events will have a shot at the Angler of the Year title. Get ready because the DAS nomads hit the water for two September events.

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 Gam-

blin (810) 730-2373

Sat., October 31 - Ludington Big Tom Tournament

Chairperson: Tom Thieda (586) 206-5902

Sat., November 7 - Manistee Lake Shore Motel Annual Steel-

head 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

AOTY Rules

1. All participating DAS members must be up to date on their DAS membership dues (a grace period of 1 month late is allowed. Example 6/19 is good until 7/31/19.

2. To be eligible for AOTY points for an event you must contact the event chair person and register your name and pay a \$5 entry fee prior to the event start time or call in to say you are participating and will pay the entry fee at the weigh-in. Even if you do not catch anything you must still pay the entry fee.

3. Each event will have a start and stop time posted by the event chairperson, along with meeting and weigh in location posted before each event. Contact the event chairperson or look at the DAS web site or monthly Fishin' Tales news letter.

4. POINTS will be given to all event participants for AOTY. All scoring will be like the boat trolling events. 5 points per fish plus total weight of catch. 1 points for 1st, 2 points for 2nd, 3 points for 3rd, etc. to top 10 places. 50 points given to all participants that that did not weigh a fish. 5. In events where boats are involved, all participants on the boat must be entered in the event. A 10 fish weigh-in for total weight plus 5 points per fish. The participants of each boat to top 10 places will be awarded points for their AOTY scoring. Example, 1st place boat has 4 people. They all get 1 [point to their standings.

people. They all get 1 [point to their standings.
6. All events will have a big fish pool, with a \$5 paid in advance of the event or by calling the chairperson and telling them you are in the fish pool. This has to be done before the event start time, and paid before you weigh your fish. Big fish pool is not mandatory to compete in event. Big fish will be determined by length or weight of target species per event. Only the largest fish will receive the money. In case of a tie longest of the 2 or heaviest of the 2 will get paid out.

7. All events have a posted target species along with the maximum quantity of fish to be weighed or measured by length to determine the top catches of an event.

Any questions concerning rules or to offer outing suggestions please contact the AOTY Committee: Blaise Pewinski (248) 890-4517

Lake Erie Sterling Perch Outing, September 12th

The nomads will head to Sterling State Park for our annual Lake Erie Perch outing. The fishing period is from 6:30AM—1:00PM. You can run to your fishing spot and set lines at 6:30AM. There is no Captains meeting beforehand, but there will be an 'on the water' roll call at 7:30 AM on VHF channel 72. All boats must launch from the Sterling State park. A shore lunch will be provid-

ed. Please call Gaspare in advance so he has a tentative head count for lunch. The event cost will be \$10 per person. The entry fee covers lunch and \$5.00 for the Big Fish Prize Pool. Don't forget If you need bait, Jeff's Bait is near the park. Jeff supports our Special Friends every year. It's a great time to return the favor by patronizing his business. You must be in line for the weigh in at the ramp by 2:00PM Your best 5 fish will be weighed. Big fish will go by weight Ties will be decided by length. Lunch served at 2:00PM Gaspare 248-330-1774 Cell See everyone there!



Manistee River, Pier, & Surf Outing, September, 26th

What: Manistee - River/Pier/Surf Outing

When: Saturday, September 26. 6:00AM—1:00 PM

Where: Weigh-in is 2:00PM at Trax in Brethern

Best 3 Trout or Salmon by weight

Entry fee \$10

Chairpersons: James Anderson (313) 330-3680 and

Laurie Gamblin (810) 730-2373 Lunch following the weigh in at Trax



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 FB: detroitareasteelers



Attention all annual DAS members

The Board of Directors has extended current memberships 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. Memberships should be current to post scores in the SOTY and AOTY events. After two months have passed, you will be removed from the mailing list. Please take a moment to check your expiration date and renew your membership.

COVID 19 ANNOUNUNCEMENT

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.