



Fishin' Tales III

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHERY SINCE 1974

Volume 5 Issue 3

March 2022

DAS monthly membership meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month.

Get the Latest Event Updates Online

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February 22 Membership Meeting Club 54

Chuck Cartwright, owner, operator of Wolverine Tackle Co. and Silver Streak lures was the featured speaker during our February 22 membership meeting. "Silver Steaks" first made their appearance in the Great Lakes in 1984. They are manufactured by Wolverine Tackle Co. in Orchard Lake, Michigan. Chuck's track record as a tournament winning Charter Boat Captain allowed him to continually refine his lures. No wonder then, that the Silver Streak lures are the lure of choice of so many Master Anglers. Chuck's presentation was informative, interesting, and humorous as he lead the 42 DAS attendees through a tutorial of lure presentation to attract fish.

March 29 Membership Meeting Club 54

The DAS featured speaker for the March 29 membership meeting in Club 54 is Paul Nienaltowski. Paul is an 18 year charter captain from Port Austin with 30 years fishing experience. Mermaid Fishing Charters specializes in lower Lake Huron salmon and trout tricks and tactics. The lessons brought to us by charter captains like Paul allow us to add to our personal fishing tool box which can lead to more fish in the box. Come out and listen.

Lake St Clair Angler of the Year Outing Feb 26

The second AOTY outing for 2022 was rescheduled for Saturday, February 26, 2022 and relocated from Saginaw Bay to Lake St Clair at the Selfridge DNR ramp. Fishing times were from 7:00 am until 1:00 pm with the weigh-in following at 1:30 at the DNR ramp. Winners were determined by best five perch by weight, with length being the tie-breaker. First, second, and third big-fish winners split the money pool 50%, 30%, and 20%. Nineteen anglers participated with Bob Paradise winning first place, Rob Pinskey winning second, and Gaspare Aragona taking third. Big fish winners were (1) Rob Pinskey, (2) Nate Case, and (3) Bob Paradise. The AOTY standings chart will begin being displayed in Fishin' Tales III after the Manistee River Steelhead AOTY event on March 26.



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Project to keep Asian carp out of Lake Michigan closer to becoming a reality. (Reprint from Feb. 2022 Great Lakes Basin Report)

A \$226 million boost from the federal infrastructure package will allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to finish design and start construction on the Brandon Road Lock and Dam. The barrier in the Des Plaines River, downstream of Chicago, will use smart technology in an effort to keep the carp that have infested the Mississippi River Basin out of the Great Lakes. A recent study on the harm Asian carp could do to the the Great Lakes lent urgency to plans to construct an effective barrier to carp entering the lakes. In a key step aimed at keeping invasive carp out of the Great Lakes, the Corps is pegging \$226 million for pre-construction, engineering and design on a lock-and-dam project 50 miles downstream of Chicago. The Corps also included initial federal funds needed to begin construction at the completion of the project's design and engineering work. Adding urgency to the project, a 2019 U. of Michigan study found that Asian carp could survive in much more of Lake Michigan than scientists previously believed. The findings ramped up pressure on Congress to fully fund a barrier to prevent the invasive fish from wreaking havoc across the Great Lakes and threatening its \$7 billion annual fishing industry. Natives of China, silver and bighead carp have already spread across the Mississippi River Basin and into the Illinois River near Chicago. Some of the most destructive species to invade North American waters, they crowd out native fish by gobbling up their food, and can overconsume shoreline plants and degrade water quality. According to the U-M study, the entire extent of Lake Michigan has habitat suitable for bighead carp somewhere in the varied depths of the lake. Funds for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project in Joliet, Ill., are coming from the \$1.2 billion federal infrastructure bill signed into law in November. According to the Corps, the total cost of the project will be around \$858 million, and is estimated to take six to eight years to complete. The project is slated to install acoustic fish deterrents, an air bubble curtain, an electric fish barrier and other provisions to keep the carp from reaching Lake Michigan and spreading throughout the Great Lakes. Michigan has pledged \$8 million toward early phase funding, as Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in December joined seven other Great Lakes governors in calling for full federal backing of the project.



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CPMR Update Continued from February Fishin Tales III

The February issue of Fishin Tales III presented a summary of Judge Enslen's opinion of 1985 with respect to the Coalition's "Three Criteria for a Starting Point in Negotiations".

We continue that same summary here with:

Criteria for a starting point in negotiations for a renewed Consent Decree

The Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources' (Coalition) mission is to "work with the US Government, Tribes and the State of Michigan as an 'amicus curiae' in the federal court case governing Tribal fishing rights in the 1836 Treaty areas". The negotiations have been marked with animus between each of the parties. There have been seemingly unreconcilable differences between proposals of the respective parties and most proposals appear to be at odds with biological reality and the foundations of sustainability. For these reasons, the Coalition has found it nearly impossible to work proactively with the parties as we had hoped. For clarity, we are delineating here the principal elements of a working starting point for negotiating a sustainable and equitable agreement. The Coalition looks forward to helping to craft and advance any proposals that meet these three basic criteria.

1. Science-based harvest limits. Harvest limits must be predicated on recognition of the 20-year decline in whitefish stocks, the tenuous status of lake trout in Lakes Huron and Michigan, and the fact that, for the near future, reasonably accurate estimation of stock sizes based on modeling cannot be accomplished until models are updated with new parameters reflecting effects of foodweb changes caused by recent invasions of the lakes by exotic species. The revised models should be reviewed by quantitatively skilled, third-party stock assessment modelers. Near-term estimates of stock available for harvest will likely require stipulations based on best available current science until models are updated; these stipulated harvest limits should be closely evaluated: the resulting harvest must be reported expeditiously, error checked, and analyzed so that course corrections can be made as needed with minimal delay. Timely and transparent harvest and assessment data sharing are not an end result, rather, they are essential to the estimation of stock size, fish population responses to harvest levels, and ultimately managing for a sustainable outcome by the parties.

2. Equitable allocation of harvest opportunity. The parties have agreed to the principal of an approximate equal allocation between State and tribal fishers. Thus, proposals under consideration must be demonstrably consistent with this formula, while accommodating the large differences in harvest efficiency (fishing power) between the various types of fishing gear. Efficiency of gillnets far exceeds that of either recreational fishing or commercial trap net fishing, in terms of catch per unit of investment in labor and gear. Equitable allocation is particularly sensitive to the amount of gillnet effort permitted and where it is fished. Thus, provisions must be made for protecting trap net and recreational fishers from proximity to gillnets, which is commonly an objective of zone management. Gillnet efficiency is even more concerning with respect to protection of stocks from overharvest because:

a) they can be used to rapidly target changing distributions of fish and focus on seasonal congregations, such as sites used for pre-spawn staging, for spawning, and for productive feeding; and:

CPMR Update Continues on following page

CPMR Update Cont.

b) most of the catch is dead or moribund when taken aboard and any protected elements (lake sturgeon, undersized fish) of the fish community cannot, realistically, be released and expected to live. To summarize, gillnets affect allocation in two ways: first, they are more efficient than other gear types and can leave in their wakes catch rates too low for other fishing methods to compete and, secondly, they can, without careful monitoring and regulation, rapidly deplete stocks to where none of the fisheries can any longer prosper.

3. Collaborative approach. A collaborative approach is necessary for the efficient collection of fishery assessment data, diagnostics of fish stock health and harvestability, and maintenance of models and other stock assessment tools. Transparent and collaborative sharing of harvest and effort data are essential ingredients to sustainable fishery harvest management.

All the parties to these negotiations are signatory to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's (GLFC) Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries (CORA signed for the Treaty of 1836 Tribes). The Joint Strategic Plan calls for collaborative management of fisheries, with the parties' recognition that fish stocks are shared, spanning inter-state and international waters, and that fish do not recognize political boundaries as they migrate from one place to another for purposes of feeding, spawning, or habitat selection. Under the Joint Strategic Plan, state, federal, provincial, and tribal agencies are to coordinate their management and collaborate on major decisions that could affect multiple jurisdictions, using the GLFC and its lake committees as a coordinating umbrella (the GLFC functions as an arm of the US Department of State, and can thus enable international agreements between the states and Canadian provinces). For more than 50 years, the GLFC has coordinated the agencies efforts to restore lake trout, with the GLFC providing the international sea lamprey control necessary to the rehabilitation effort. Lake trout rehabilitation plans, spawning refuges, and stocking plans are examples of programs coordinated via the GLFC. More recently, in recognition of the alarming decline in lake whitefish populations in lakes Huron and Michigan, the GLFC (and now also the Great Lakes Fishery Trust) has given high priority to research into causes and potential solutions. Thus, any proposals forwarded for consideration should meet the standard set for collaborative management by the Joint Strategic Plan and be consistent with its Goal Statement:

To secure fish communities, based on foundations of stable self-sustaining stocks, supplemented by judicious plantings of hatchery-reared fish, and provide from these communities an optimum contribution of fish, fishing opportunities and associated benefits to meet needs identified by society for wholesome food, recreation, cultural heritage, employment and income, a healthy aquatic ecosystem.

Specifically, proposals for harvest should be consistent with interagency lake trout rehabilitation plans for the respective lakes and should be sensitive to the tenuous status of lake whitefish in lakes Michigan and Huron.



22ND ANNUAL

SPORTSWOMAN DINNER

MARCH 3, 2022

Shelby Gardens • 50265 Van Dyke Shelby Twp, MI 48317

Doors open at 5pm

DINNER BY:



Wild Game Meat and Cheese Tray
Michigan Cherry Salad
Dinner Rolls

Roasted Prime Rib
carved to order with Aujus and
Horseradish Cream Sauce

Garlic Herb Chicken with
Roasted Pepper Cream Sauce

Bistro Salmon

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MEETING NOTICE—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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Membership Expires:



Upcoming Dates

- March 3, Sportsmans Dinner
- March 15 BOD Meeting
- March 26 AOTY Manistee River Steelhead
- March 29 Membership Meeting Club 54
- April 12 BOD Meeting
- April 23 AOTY AuSable River Steelhead
- April 26 Membership Mtg Club 54
- April 30 SOTY St Joseph

Memberships should be current to post scores in 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.

This ones for the ladies:

“When a man tells you he’s going to do something, he is going to do it, there’s no need to keep reminding him every few months”.