



Fishin' Tales III

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT
LAKES SPORT FISHERY SINCE 1974

Volume 13 Issue 3

Oct 2023



**Tuesday, September 26, 2023 Membership Meeting
Club 54 (Recap)**

Fisher Brad presented useful tips on fishing the rivers and lakes of South East Michigan. There were announcements regarding the future Angler outings, raffles, fishing reports and great comradery.

**October 31, 2023 Membership Meeting
7:00 PM. Club 54" Featured Speaker "Jay Wesley"**

Regional Coordinator Jay Wesley at Michigan Department of Natural Resources will be our guest on Halloween Night to share his extensive knowledge of the Great Lakes. Don't miss this meeting because speakers of his caliber are difficult to arrange.

There will also be the usual monthly meeting activities: Trolling and Angler outing reports, fishing reports from members, tackle raffle, 50:50 raffle, and every member raffle.

Guests are always welcome and first time guests will receive a ticket for a chance to win a free one-year membership to DAS.

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

Get the Latest Event Updates
Online

You can still check us out:
On the Interweb

www.detroitsteelheaders.com

Post to the message board and check out the entire site.

On the Facebook

www.facebook.com/detroitarea/steelheaders

On the OFFICIAL GROUP
PAGE

Check out the new Facebook group page where you can post at: www.facebook.com/groups/

Index

- ◆ 1 Sept/Oct Member Mtgs
- ◆ 2 AOTY Event Schedule
- ◆ 2 Board of Directors
- ◆ 2 Member Mtg Dates
- ◆ 2 Membership App.
- ◆ 3 AOTY Manistee River
- ◆ 3 AOTY Manistee Pictures
- ◆ 4 AOTY AuSable River
- ◆ 4 AOTY AuSable Results
- ◆ 5 AOTY AuSable Pictures
- ◆ 6 AOTY Results YTD
- ◆ 7 Save the Date
- ◆ 7 Up-coming AOTY Events
- ◆ 8 Change of Pace
- ◆ 8 Election
- ◆ 9 Member Interest
- ◆ 10 Member Interest
- ◆ 11 Member Interest
- ◆ 12 Member Interest
- ◆ 13 Meeting Dates

Remaining 2023 AOTY Event Schedule

Date	Location	Port Captain/Coordinator
Oct 28, 2023	Manistee River/Pier/Beach (Steelhead)	M. Wyrick A. Kulpa
Nov 4, 2023	Manistee River/Pier/Surf (Steelhead)	Bob Paradise
Dec 9, 2023	Caseville River (Lake Trout)	Rob Pinsky

Remaining DAS Member Meeting Dates and Locations

Meeting Date	Time	Location	Speaker
October 31, 2023	7:00 PM	Club 54	Jay Wesley
November 28, 2023	7:00 PM	Club 54	Randy Tarran
December 19, 2023	7:00 PM	Club 54 Annual Mtg	Elections, Celebration, Salmon Clause

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.
P.O. Box 297, Sterling Heights, MI. 48311-297

- New Member - \$35 Yearly** **Renewal - \$35 Yearly**
- Senior (65 & over)- \$20 Yearly** **Address Change only**
- Special Event Rate (New Members Only)- \$20**

Amt. Paid \$_____

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Zanke
President
Donations, Meeting PA, Shows
586-489-2041

Bob Feisel
Vice President
Boat trolling
248-765-2504

ROD ELNICK
Treasurer
Salmon-In-Classroom, Scholarships,
Raffles, Donations
586-214-8812

James Anderson
Secretary, Shows
313-330-3680

BLAISE PEWINSKI
Speakers/Education, AOTY Co, Lake
Mich Citizens Advisory, Meeting PA Co
248-890-4517

Dan Chisholm
Newsletter
586-530-9171

Nathan Case
Boat Trolling Co, Photography Co
248-730-2591

Rob Pinsky
AOTY

CARL VENTIMIGLIA
Wild Game Dinner, Special Events Co
586-615-7459

Bob Ksionzek
Membership, web-site, Publicity, FB
586-531-9198

Bob Paradise
AOTY, River, Surf & Pier, Special
Rvents
586 457-4073

Virginia Williams
Shirts and Hats, Publicity Co, Web-
site/FB Co

Assistants

STEVE HAMITON
Club Historian

Mark Williams
Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory

Mark Wyrick
Raffles

PAUL GJELDUM
Awards

CHRIS NYTKO
Facebook

Anna Kulpa
Photography, Raffles

Thanks to Anna Kulpa for the following great AOTY outing report on the Manistee.

On Saturday September 30th, Detroit Area Steelheaders had their AOTY Outing on the Manistee River for 3 Best Salmon. The Outing was a River, Beach, or Pier Outing, some members used their River boats as well. Most members fished near or around Tippy Dam and Suicide Bend, while others fished somewhat downriver. The River this fall was a lot shallower than normal making it easier for the fish to see. There were many fish in the river system splashing and jumping near anglers to taunt and tease them. The bite was hot for the first hour for DAS members that fished by the dam. Fish were getting hooked and landed left and right using beads and flies. Fishing ended at 1pm and the weigh in was at 2pm at Traks Bar & Grill.



The Au Sable River AOTY outing was held on October 14th.

The morning started out very windy, and the rain held off and stayed that way all day, but it didn't stop us from what we like to do. Some people fished at the dam, some fished at the boat launch area, while others fished at the High Banks. There were a total of 19 people that showed up.

The big fish contest went to James Anderson with one fish that weighed in at 10.55 lbs . Second place went to Kristyne Case with a fish that weighed in at 9.9 lbs. Third place went to Nathan Case with 9.22 lbs

Event points were awarded as follows:

First place was Kristyne Case with 29.65 total points for 2 fish.

Second place went to Bob Paradise with 27.89 total points for 3 fish.

Third place went to James Anderson with 15.55 total points for 1 fish

The luncheon was held at the Route 23 BBQ in East Tawas. It consisted of a cheese burger, hamburger, chicken sandwich or pulled pork sandwich. Everyone enjoyed their lunch. Thank all of you for making it a good turn out despite the weather .

Fish On!

Gary Gross

AOTY AuSable Results

AOTY Oscoda AuSable River Outing (Steelhead/Salmon) - Sat. Oct 14, 2023

	Angler's Name	Statu	Entry Fee	Big Fish F	3 Tot Wg	Qty Fsh	Fish Pts	Heaviest	Tot P	Place
1	KRISTYNE CASE	M	\$15.00	\$10.00	19.65	2	10	9.90	29.65	1
2	BOB PARADISE	M	\$15.00	\$10.00	12.89	3	15	5.45	27.89	2
3	JAMES ANDERSON	M	\$15.00	\$10.00	10.55	1	5	10.55	15.55	3
4	NATE CASE JR	Y		\$10.00	9.22	1	5	9.22	14.22	4
5	KEVIN LONGLEY	M	\$15.00	\$10.00	5.50	1	5	5.50	10.50	5
6	KAHLED ABDALLAH	Y		\$10.00		0	0	0.00	0.00	6
6	GARY GROSS	M	\$15.00	\$10.00		0	0	0.00	0.00	6
6	RABIH ABDALLAH	M	\$15.00	\$10.00		0	0	0.00	0.00	6
6	GASPARE ARAGONA	M	\$15.00	\$10.00		0	0	0.00	0.00	6
6	ANTONIO	G	\$15.00	\$10.00		0	0	0.00	0.00	6
6	KAREN LONGLEY	M	\$15.00	\$10.00		0	0	0.00	0.00	6
6	DANIEL CHISHOLM	M	\$15.00	\$10.00		0	0	0.00	0.00	6
6	MARK WYRICK	M	\$15.00	\$10.00		0	0	0.00	0.00	6
6	ANNA KULPA	M	\$15.00	\$10.00		0	0	0.00	0.00	6
6	SAMUEL ANDERSON	M	\$15.00	\$10.00		0	0	0.00	0.00	6
6	LAURIE GAMBLIN	M	\$15.00	\$10.00		0	0	0.00	0.00	6
6	CURTIS WILLIAMS	M	\$15.00	\$10.00		0	0	0.00	0.00	6
6	MERRICK	G	\$15.00	\$10.00		0	0	0.00	0.00	6
6	RACHELLE	G	\$15.00	\$10.00		0	0	0.00	0.00	6

Total Entry Fees	Total No. Anglers
\$255.00	19

Total Big Fish Fees
\$190.00

Angler	Heaviest Fish	Payout
JAMES ANDERSON	10.55	\$95.00

Angler	2nd Heaviest Fish	Payout
KRISTYNE CASE	9.90	\$57.00

Angler	3rd Heaviest Fish	Payout
NATE CASE JR	9.22	\$38.00



Angler of the Year Standings Year to Date (Includes Sept. 30 Manistee and Oct 14 AuSable Rivers)

2023 Angler of the Year(AOTY) Overall Standings

TODAY: 10/23/2023

Entrant's Name	1-21 MB	2-05 SF	3-11 LexS	3-25 MA	4-22 OS	5-13 AL	6-10 SCF	7-15 Au	9-09 LSC	9-30 MA	10-14 OS	10-28 MA	11-04 MA	12-09 CL	Best 5	Place	Determining AOTY Points
1 KEVIN LONGLEY	3	2	1	50	50	75	8	2	3	6	5	75	75	75	11	1	Place at Individual Event 50 for Participating but No Fish 75 for Not Participating
2 GASPARE ARAGONA	2	50	2	50	5	75	17	75	1	2	50	75	75	75	12	2	
3 BOB PARADISE	4	1	5	50	3	16	15	75	5	3	2	75	75	75	13	3	
4 MARK WYRICK	9	75	3	50	6	1	2	75	12	8	50	75	75	75	20	4	
5 JAMES ANDERSON	7	50	75	3	50	9	75	75	75	4	3	75	75	75	26	5	
6 NATE CASE JR	75	50	50	50	75	21	11	1	75	5	4	75	75	75	42	6	
7 DANIEL CHISHOLM	1	75	50	75	75	10	18	5	75	75	50	75	75	75	84	7	
8 RABIH ABDALLAH	75	75	50	4	2	75	75	75	75	1	50	75	75	75	107	8	
9 NATE CASE	75	50	50	5	75	75	14	3	75	50	75	75	75	75	122	9	
10 ANNA KULPA	50	50	50	50	50	2	22	75	14	50	50	75	75	75	138	10	
11 BOB KSIONZEK	50	75	75	75	75	5	6	75	8	75	75	75	75	75	144	11	
12 LAURIE GAMBLIN	75	50	50	6	1	75	75	75	75	50	50	75	75	75	157	12	
13 ROB PINSKEY	5	75	75	75	75	8	3	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	166	13	
14 TODD RIDLEY	75	75	75	75	75	12	1	75	11	75	75	75	75	75	174	14	
15 BLAISE PEWINSKI	50	75	75	75	50	15	4	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	194	15	
16 SAMUEL ANDERSON	8	50	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	50	50	75	75	75	208	16	
17 CURTIS WILLIAMS	75	50	75	50	75	75	75	75	9	50	50	75	75	75	209	17	
18 LUCAS MAIANI	75	75	4	50	75	75	12	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	216	18	
19 ZBIGNIEW PIOTROW	50	75	50	75	75	50	9	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	234	19	
20 BILL HOFFMAN	75	75	75	75	75	7	5	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	237	20	
21 FRED CHARTIER	75	75	75	75	75	75	16	75	2	75	75	75	75	75	243	21	
22 ED PAEHLIG	75	75	75	75	75	13	7	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	245	22	
23 TOM GORGUZE	75	75	75	75	75	11	10	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	246	23	
24 ROGER PARADISE	75	75	75	1	75	22	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	248	24	
25 BOB FEISEL	75	75	75	75	75	75	21	75	10	75	75	75	75	75	256	25	
25 GARY GROSS	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	6	75	75	50	75	75	75	256	25	
27 BRAD WALTON	50	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	7	75	75	75	75	257	27	
28 DON JASMAN	50	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	50	50	75	75	75	75	275	28	
29 KRISTYNE CASE	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	1	75	75	75	276	29	
30 HAYDEN PAEHLIG	75	75	75	75	75	14	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	289	30	
31 TOM THIEDA	75	75	75	75	75	50	23	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	298	31	
32 JOE BAKER	75	75	75	2	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	302	32	
33 TERRICK PATTERSON	75	3	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	303	33	
33 ANDREW STOCKTON	75	75	75	75	75	3	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	303	33	
35 JOE VON GRABE	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	4	75	75	75	75	75	304	35	
35 JON NEEF	75	75	75	75	4	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	304	35	
37 MARK CARLSON	6	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	306	37	
37 DENIS HARPER	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	6	75	75	75	75	75	306	37	
39 STEVE GENOFF	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	7	75	75	75	75	75	307	39	
40 ART RING	75	75	75	75	75	17	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	317	40	
41 CHRIS NYTKO	75	75	75	75	75	18	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	318	41	
42 JON MARTENS	75	75	75	75	75	19	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	319	42	
43 STAN BILEK	75	75	75	75	75	20	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	320	43	
43 ANN PAEHLIG	75	75	75	75	75	75	20	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	320	43	
45 MIKE PARADISE	75	75	75	75	75	22	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	322	45	
45 MARK PARADISE	75	75	75	75	75	22	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	322	45	
47 JIM PAEHLIG	75	75	75	75	75	75	24	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	324	47	
48 KYLE COVIAK	50	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	325	48	
48 JANETTE HARREN	75	75	75	75	50	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	325	48	
48 VIRGINIA WILLIAMS	75	75	75	75	50	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	325	48	
48 LIZ KULPA	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	325	48	
52 GIL GRAFTON	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350	52	
52 KEVIN GROSS	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350	52	
52 WILLIAM KUHN	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350	52	
52 LUKE PARADISE	75	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350	52	
52 PAUL GJELDUM	75	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350	52	
52 MARK EICKHOLDT	75	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350	52	
52 TOM BLYTHE	75	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350	52	
52 CHERYL JASMAN	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	75	350	52	
52 JIM ZANKE	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	75	350	52	
52 MIKE LOLLI	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	75	350	52	
52 DAN WHITMILL	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	350	52	
52 KAHLED ABDALLAH	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	350	52	

Sat., October 28 --- Manistee, Manistee River/Pier/Beach (Steelhead)

- Best 3 Steelhead
- Fish-Off with Metro-West Steelheaders
- Event Co-Ordinators: Mark Wyrick (248) 568-6972 / Anna Kulpa (586) 291-4555

Visit the [Message Board](#) for the latest details in the AOTY Outings Forum

Sat., November 4 --- Manistee, Manistee River/Pier/Surf (Steelhead)

- Best 3 Steelhead by weight
- Event Co-Ordinator: Bob Paradise (586) 457-4073

Visit the [Message Board](#) for the latest details in the AOTY Outings Forum

“Save The Date”

The Detroit Steelheaders only major fundraiser for the entire calendar year 2024: Our “Wild Game Dinner” Will be held on Saturday March 2, 2024. Don’t miss this. It’s one of the best wild game dinners in the entire State.

“Meeting Date Heads-Up”

Recently there has been a great deal of conversation regarding the revamped 2023 Tribal Decree regulating the use of gill nets on the Great Lakes. I am happy to report that our February 2024 meeting speaker will be Dave Carafino. While not a participant in the creation of the decree, Dave has followed the discussion closely and will offer his opinion on the end result.

Best Fried Walleye

This walleye recipe is the one my dad has been using for 25 years. It's light and clean-tasting because there's no sense in masking the naturally delicious flavor of such an awesome Canadian delicacy. No tartar sauce needed!

Prep Time: 20 mins Cook Time: 15 mins Total Time: 35 mins Servings: 4

Ingredients:

4 Walleye filets	2 eggs beaten
1/2 cup all-purpose flour	2 cups crushed saltine crackers
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder	vegetable oil for frying
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper	1 lemon cut into wedges
1 pinch salt (optional)	

Directions:

Check walleye fillets to ensure all bones and skin have been removed

Cut fillets into manageable pieces, if necessary

Combine flour, garlic powder, pepper, and salt in a shallow bowl

Place beaten eggs in a separate shallow bowl

Place cracker crumbs onto a plate

Heat oil in a deep fryer or large cast iron skillet to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C)

Dip fillets into flour mixture, then dip in beaten egg, and then coat evenly with cracker crumbs

Set fillets aside on a plate

Carefully lower 2 fillets into hot oil using tongs

Cook until golden brown, about 3 minutes per side

Transfer to a paper towel-lined plate

Repeat with remaining fillets

Serve with lemon wedges

Enjoy!

DAS Board of Directors Election

Every year, during our December annual membership meeting, there is an election of officers to represent the club for a three year term. The terms of the board members are designed such that each year there are a few board members whose terms expire while the majority of the board remains intact. This allows for continuity while also providing the opportunity to welcome a new member to the board.

It is not too early to begin thinking about this Decembers election. If you want to contribute. If you want your voice and ideas to be represented, consider running for election this December. A board member will be selected to coordinate the election during the next couple of months. When you see that announcement, make your feeling known. If not you, maybe there is another member you would like to nominate. Don't be shy, make your feelings known.

The following is an article written by Jerry Audet, found in the September 13, 2023 Salt Water “Sportsman Magazine”. Long-time DAS member Bob Mitchell forwarded it along with the suggestion that it could be of value to DAS members.

“Tips to Help You Land Fish Faster”

Fighting fish is far more complicated than just pulling on the rod and turning the handle on the reel. As saltwater anglers, we are challenged by incredibly powerful fish that test every aspect of our strength, endurance and gear. The best fishermen study and perfect [fish-fighting techniques](#) not because it helps them land fish more easily—though it does—but rather -because it’s crucial for landing trophies.

Why? Because the faster you can land it, the better the chances a “fish of a lifetime” will stay on the line. Plus, being swift in your fight gives you more -energy to fish longer. And that next fish could be even bigger, so you don’t want to be tapped out.

Many anglers fight fish inefficiently, making mistakes that cost energy, time and, ultimately, the fish. There are many factors that [go into the fight](#), but one of the most important is using the power of your rod to your advantage. Many anglers think more about [how their rod casts](#), or how sensitive and light it is, without understanding how to most effectively use it during the fight. Spoiler alert: It’s more complicated than pumping and reeling.

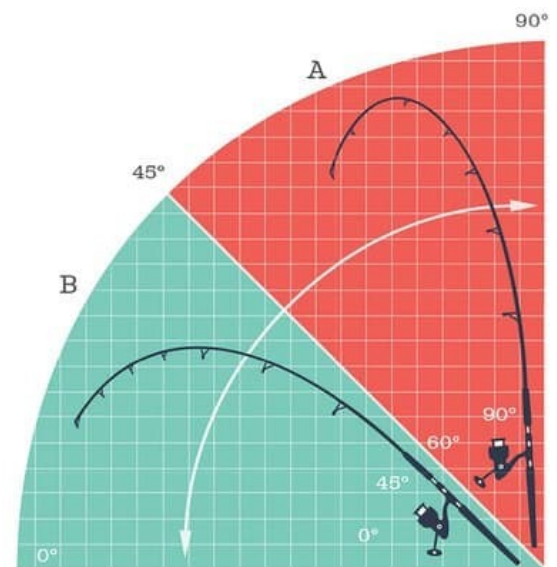
Action and Power

Unlocking your rod’s power requires -understanding where and how it stores energy. Two rods identical in weight, length and lure rating can behave very differently from cast to landing. The differences are often due to the action of the rod, which has a large impact on its -behavior during the fight.

To illustrate this point, imagine two rods, one fast action and one moderate, that produce 10 pounds of pull at maximum bend. If you try to lift 11 pounds with either one, it will simply break. The fast-action rod looks like a hooked-cane when fully loaded, focusing all 10 pounds of pressure in a small arc at the end of the rod. In contrast, the moderate one appears more like a rainbow, bending throughout the length of the blank.

Because of the tight arc, a fast-action rod has a relatively small sweet spot and can unload quickly during a fight. This means that with just a minor dip, all that stored energy—all that pull—is lost. This transfers a lot of strain onto the angler. Further, if a fish surges or the boat moves unexpectedly, the rod loads up extremely fast, providing limited shock absorption.

Now compare this to a moderate-action rod. It will distribute that 10 pounds of pull throughout 60 percent of the blank, instead of just at the tip. If the fish comes toward you or takes off on a run, the moderate rod is more forgiving because it can absorb the motion without over- or underloading. In essence, the uniform pressure throughout the fight makes it a better shock absorber. This can result in landing the fish faster, or even landing the fish at all. It’s the same power as the fast-action rod, just easier to use.



You’re probably aware of the dangers that accompany “high sticking.” While it’s true you risk breaking your rod by forcing it to bend at too sharp an angle, you also lose valuable fish-fighting power. Make sure that you keep your rod tip low, and maintain as close to a 45-degree angle with the butt section to apply as much pressure as possible. *Steve Sanford*

But everything comes at a cost. Moderate rods, in general, do not cast aerodynamic lures as well as faster-action rods. They are also typically heavier and less sensitive due to different blank materials. Further, hook-sets require more motion and energy, and take more initial energy to load up.

So, while that moderate rod might be powerful and forgiving during the fight, the fast-action rod is likely more sensitive, better-casting and lighter. What's most important comes down to your species of choice, tactics and general preference. You need to know how to properly load your rod and what its limits are so you can use it to your greatest advantage.

Power Down Low

No matter how the rod bends, though, the tip is not for fighting fish; it's for casting and sensing what is happening at the end of your line. Eliminating the tip and upper sections during the fight will produce far more pull on the fish. To do this, you must lower the tip of the rod enough so that the majority of the bend, or the load, is in the lower portions of the blank.

This is a concept many anglers do not understand, and it often makes them uncomfortable. You'll hear fishermen say you need to "keep your tip up," but this can lead to poor fish-fighting behavior. A high tip means you can't load the deeper, more powerful parts of the blank, and you are also at risk of overloading and snapping off the tip. A best bet is to keep the rod angle between 30 and 45 degrees, -depending on the action of the rod.

The more moderate the action, the more of the rod that will point -directly at the fish and virtually parallel with the water; this is particularly true with light--action and fly rods. If you're used to fighting fish with your rod up high, it's going to feel unnatural at first, but you'll get used to it with practice. It'll mean less strain on your body, faster landings, and more room for mistakes.



Locked and Loaded

Another mistake anglers make is repeatedly unloading their rod. At the hook-set and in the early parts of the fight, you must initially load up the rod. This means energy is going into the bend but not actually pulling on the fish, so you only want to do it once.

Tired, lazy or novice anglers will often let the rod sag and lose the bend. Then, as they begin to reel again, they will pull up on the rod, reloading it for a period before dropping it again, and repeating this over and over during the battle. I've got bad news: If this is you, you're just wasting tons of energy that the fish isn't even feeling. An unloaded rod is a rest for the fish, not for you.

Instead, get the rod to the proper bend and lock it there. You want to have significant load in the rod, but not so much that it's completely tapped out, and a sudden movement yanks out the hook, snaps the line, or pulls you off your feet. Going the other way, not putting enough load into the blank means you're missing out on power that can be used to land the fish more quickly, and slack can also form, resulting in a lost fish. Do everything you can to keep it in the Goldilocks position: not too much, not too little, just right.

Easy on the Pump

When anglers try to maximize their fighting power, they often resort to pumping the rod. This looks impressive on social media, but it's not the best way to fight fish. Hard pumping is just a lot of wasted energy; you're over- and underloading the blank repeatedly, risking damage to the rod, line, leader and hook. And it can enlarge the hole the hook made.

Further, if you're aggressively pumping the rod and getting the tip up high, you're relying on the tip to fight the fish and provide the shock absorption—a really bad idea. The rod is not properly loaded in the high and low positions of the pump, and it's hard to react to the fish.

Remember, a properly loaded rod puts consistent pressure on the fish, decreases angler effort, and prevents break-offs due to sudden movements. For this reason, unlocking your rod's power is done with a steady, consistent application of pressure. My philosophy is to load it up, lock it in, and leave it there. I try to load up the rod once, keep the tip relatively low, and rely as much as I can on my reel's cranking power.

But I'm no Hulk, so I often have to employ small, steady movements to gain ground against trophy-size fish. I do this by raising and dropping my rod slowly in a 15- to 20-degree arc as I crank—not the fast, jarring 60-degree pulls that many anglers employ while pumping. Pumping the rod up and down dramatically is all for show—a rookie move. I'll let photos of my catch show off for me.

At the Angle

Finally, once locked and loaded, getting the most power from your rod requires pulling on the fish from the right angle. While this is primarily important for boat anglers—especially fly guys—it can also make a big difference if you're up high on a jetty or pier. This takes a little practice, but it can result in much faster landings. All fish, from 1 to 1,000 pounds, have an advantage if they're heading away from you. Turn their head and you can land them more quickly; it's as simple as that.

Imagine standing on the port side, and the fish is running toward the bow, moving left to right in front of you. Instead of turning toward the bow and pulling up on it, turn the rod sideways in your hand so the bend is parallel with the water, and the tip and line are heading -directly -toward the fish.

Now pull back on the fish, moving the rod toward the stern, not the sky. You're now pulling directly back on the fish, not just up on it. If it keeps running straight, you've got the best angle to stop it in its tracks. But if it dives, you can -quickly return the rod to the regular angle—straight up and down—and resume cranking. Just no pumping!

Rod Power and Conservation

Every fish you hook is fighting for its life. Even if you release it quickly, and even if you never remove it from the water, there is significant stress on the animal. While the fish might swim away rapidly and seem totally fine, a prolonged fight can cause permanent damage you never see. The fish can die out of sight, hours or days later, or get attacked and eaten by a larger fish, shark or mammal, such as a seal. In the end, choosing gear with enough power and fighting fish as efficiently as possible is a critical component of limiting this risk.

The species you target and the conditions should weigh heavily on your choices. Some species are extremely susceptible to release mortality, like bonefish, while others are very hardy. Temperature is a huge risk factor, as is the spawn stage the fish is currently in. Warmer water contains less oxygen, and high water temps can lead to dangerous levels of hypoxia and tissue damage during a long fight. Very low temperatures are also a risk, where the fish can go into shock during or after the landing. Finally, if you injure a fish pre-spawn or while it's attempting to spawn, it might not reproduce. And post-spawn fish are often exhausted and susceptible to injury.

If you are a conservation-minded angler, choose heavier gear when in doubt. To be the best steward of your fishery, choose a rod, reel and line that can quickly subdue the largest fish you are likely to encounter. You don't have to plan for a world record, but if you're concerned about a fish's release health, choosing gear for the more exceptional fish, not the average, is paramount. Yes, smaller fish won't be quite as much fun, but that's the trade-off one must make if you are serious about releasing your fish healthy and passing on angling to the next generation.

Detroit Area Steelheaders
P.O. Box 297
Sterling Heights, MI. 48311-297

Place Stamp
Here

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT
LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

Membership Expires:



Upcoming Dates

October 17	BOD Meeting
October 28	AOTY Manistee River
October 31	Member Meeting Club 54
November 4	AOTY Manistee River
November 14	BOD Meeting
November 28	Member Meeting Club 54

This was found within “The Guardian” newspaper in England. Attached to a high-tension electricity pylon in Massachusetts was a board stating: “To climb this structure means instant death. Anyone found doing so will be prosecuted”.