



2003 Annual

FISH TAILS



VOL. XXIX • No. 1

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2003 ANNUAL

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2002 was "bittersweet" year for D.A.S., says Wilczek

With the dawning of 2003, the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. finds itself just a year away from another noteworthy milestone, its 30th anniversary year, and still going strong in pursuit of its founding mission, to promote and protect our Michigan fisheries.

Our club moved into the new millennium with a membership on the rise, reflecting the renewed interest among the public in the Trout and Salmon sport fishery, and we saw that trend continue in 2002, with additional new members and ever more people attending our monthly meetings. But for all our gains last year, 2002 sadly brought us some notable losses also.

We started out in January with both good news and bad news at our first Board of Directors meeting. One piece of 'good news' was the arrival of some new members on our Board of Directors, which is always a good development. Another 'good news' item—at least from his point of view—was that President Doug Karakas passed the gavel on to a new President.

The 'bad' news—at least from my point of view—was that the gavel somehow ended up in my hands!

Nevertheless, we forged ahead with our monthly meeting, special events, and winter tournaments on the Rivers and Piers and in the Surf. From late January through early March we once again set up our club display booth at various area boat, fishing and sport shows, meeting and talking with some fine new friends, and making a positive presentation of our great sport to the general public.

The January meeting featured Doug presenting a demonstration on the proper care and upkeep of all that fishing gear we seem to pick up along the way. This was the first of our new "how to" segments added to the meeting agenda, and intended to give all members access to more information that may help them put more fish in the box. Doug certainly did a great job with his demonstration.

February brought us the annual Steelheader Dinner Dance, an event that I personally haven't missed in many years. Mary Karakas, Bob Mitchell and the Dinner Dance committee did another fantastic job of staging this very popular mid-winter occasion. As always, the food was delicious and the entertainment top-notch. Our Dee-Jay for the evening, returned by popular demand, was Joe Nagraba of Ultimate Entertainment, and he did his usual excellent job of keeping the dance floor rocking. I hear that Mary has set a tropical theme for this year, and I know that I, for one, am certainly looking forward to seeing some of our members in thongs. If you like wild and crazy, you'll find it here!

The month wrapped up in fine fashion as we welcomed Bryan Tilley and staff from the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather office in White Lake as guest speakers at our meeting, and enjoyed another of our "hands on" segments, this one presented by Joe Von Grabe. We also heard from Jeff Parker of the Blue Water Sportfishing Association and several members of his River Crab Tournament committee, as member anticipation was already building for another River Crab tourney and the start of yet another boating trolling season.

Several years ago, we began what quickly has become a new tradition by presenting a Detroit Area Steelheader Sportsmen's Game Dinner. In the capable hands of Steve Hamilton, Tom Moores and their committee, this event became an instant hit. Those who attended last year's sell-out dinner agree that everyone had a great time, between an excellent menu featuring numerous wild game selections, and several "top drawer" raffles with a lot of great hunting, fishing and outdoors items for all the lucky winners to take home.

Many thanks go to those who sold tickets, bought tickets, and especially to all the companies and individuals who donated prizes for the raffles. Without the efforts and co-operation of people too numerous to thank individually, we wouldn't be celebrating this huge success, and we hope everyone will push just a little harder to make the 2003 DAS Sportsmen's dinner the best one so far!

We wrapped March with Captain Willis Kerridge of Thunder Duck Charters presenting some great ideas and tips for fishing Lake Michigan. Along with our *Fishin' Tales* magazine, our meeting speakers and presenters really keep us up-to-date on what is, and is not, working to put Steelhead and Salmon in the box. Thanks, Captain Kerridge, for a fine job!!

Each year, as spring and April arrives, the excitement builds as the open-water boat trolling season begins. Traditionally for our club, that has meant getting ready for the River Crab Salmon Stakes tournament, and 2002 was no different. But our excitement was tempered when long-time Detroit Area Steelheader Don Redmond, our River Crab Chairman, Board of Directors member and a past President of our club, passed away suddenly early in the month. Don was one of those "out-front, in your face"



DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS PRESIDENT ED WILCZEK has a long history of knowing how to extract large Salmon and Trout from the Great Lakes, as this beauty he's showing off clearly proves!

(in the nicest possible way!) people who really knew how to get things done! He was a good friend to a great many of us, and his untimely death left us with huge shoes to fill.

Sadly, later in the year, we would also mourn the passing of two other friends of the Detroit Area Steelheaders. Past member, long-time supporter, and 1977 "Skipper of the Year" award-winner Chuck Cartwright of Wolverine Tackle (makers of the Silver Streak Lure) died, as did another club supporter, Don Volke of Don's Sporting Service. All three men are deeply missed.

Once again we tried, and once again we fell a few pounds short of defeating the Blue Water Sport Fishing Association in the inter-club portion of the River Crab tourney in late April. I have a feeling 2003 will be our year to claim victory in this fun event.

A few days before the River Crab, we welcomed Captain Steve Jones of Predator Fishing Charters and Professional Fishing Center as guest speaker at our monthly meeting. I've had the pleasure of knowing Steve for many years, and I always look forward to

Continued on Page Six . . .

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2003



Detroit Area Steelheaders set the pace for Salmon fishing!

The Detroit Area Steelheaders Inc., which will celebrate its twenty-ninth anniversary in 2003, traces its origins back to 1974, when the M.S.S.F.A. Board of Directors encouraged two of its members, John Makela and Tom Schneider, to start a chapter in the Detroit area. Joined by two other Steelheaders, Ed Raquel and Joe Sizemore, the resulting committee of four completed the formation of the Detroit Area Chapter late one night in September, 1974.

The first organizing meeting of the Detroit Area Chapter, M.S.S.F.A. (our club's original name) was held on October 16, 1974. Forty-one fishermen attended that first meeting, discussing elections, finances, committees, by-laws and, naturally, fishing. The first Annual Meeting was held on December 4, 1974, our official founding date. By the end of that first meeting, membership exceeded 100, 14 directors had been elected, and we were well on our way!

Early in 1990, we dissolved our affiliation with the M.S.S.F.A. to better pursue our goals of promoting, preserving and improving Steelhead and Salmon fishing in our state. We are now known as the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc., one of the largest independent fishing clubs in Michigan, and, we believe, **THE BEST!**

Formed as part of the mid-1970's Salmon and Steelhead fishing boom in Michigan, the organization continues its existence by working in many ways to promote and protect Great Lakes sport fishing. Community involvement has always been an important aspect of our club activities. Over the years, we've been involved in such activities as:

- Taking handicapped children on fishing trips (our annual Special People outings).
- Raising money for fisheries research at Michigan State University (including donating cash and equipment such as fish shockers, etc.).
- Donating money for fish cleaning stations, artificial fishing reef construction, etc.
- Contributing toward legal fees and expenses involved in the negotiating of Indian fishing rights and gill netting.
- Helping to raise money for mental health and child abuse prevention charities through consistent heavy participation in the annual River Crab Salmon Stakes charity fishing tournament.
- Participating in various conservation projects.

As part of our club activities, we stage an extensive schedule of boat trolling, river and surf fishing tournaments, with the emphasis on sharing fishing knowledge, camaraderie



DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS know that fishing's more fun when you catch fish, and **THEY KNOW HOW TO CATCH 'EM!**

and good times. We always include a Ladies Day boat trolling event for great family fun, and we offer a member hot line (the CREWS Hot Line) to match up boat skippers with would-be crew members in the club, so all who would like to can have the opportunity to share in the fishing fun with other club members.

Our monthly *Fishin' Tales* club newsletter is widely recognized as one of the finest in the state, and there are monthly meetings with great speakers, programs, and other activities. Meetings are usually held the last Tuesday each month.

With a current club membership of more than 200, we believe that we offer prospective members the best package of benefits available in a Salmon and Steelhead fishing organization. Come and join us in 2003, and **GET IN ON ALL THE FUN!!**

FISHIN' TALES is published monthly by the **DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.** Views expressed in it are those of the authors, and the Editor. Its purpose is to inform members of issues and events affecting sport fishermen, and to teach and guide the public to respect and appreciate our Great Lakes, rivers, other waters, and land.

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Complete committee assignments for the coming year will be published in the next issue of **FISHIN' TALES**.

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Here's how to get to
DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS
Monthly Membership Meetings



COMING EVENTS

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren
JANUARY 28, 2003 • FEBRUARY 25, 2003 • MARCH 25, 2003

SPECIAL STEELHEADER EVENTS

MICHIGAN BOAT, SPORT & FISHING SHOW (Ford Field) **Jan. 29-Feb. 2**
DETROIT BOAT SHOW (Cobo Hall) **February 8-16**
DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS ANNUAL DINNER DANCE (St. Pius X K. of C. Hall, Warren) **February 15**
M.U.C.C. OUTDOORAMA (Novi Expo Center) **Feb. 21-March 2**
DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS SPORTSMAN'S DINNER (Salt River Golf Club, New Baltimore) **March 8**
NOVI BOATING EXPO (Novi Expo Center) **March 13-16**
STEELHEADERS SWAP MEET * **March 25**

* (Held in conjunction with March Membership Meeting at K. of C. Hall, Warren)

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENTS & OUTINGS

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
April 26	RIVER CRAB (Outing)	Mark Bevans, (586) 779-3189
May 3	ST. JOSEPH	Mark Bevans, (586) 779-3189
May 17-18	GRAND HAVEN (Two-Day)	Mike Vigus, (248) 969-8530
June 7	OSCODA	Doug Karakas, (248) 545-1181
June 14	SPECIAL PEOPLE (Outing)	Doug Karakas, (248) 545-1181
June 28	HARBOR BEACH	Bob Jones, (248) 486-5049 & Dean Meyers
July 19	PORT AUSTIN	Bill Dunk, (248) 408-0349 & Jason Adams
August 2	LUDINGTON (Ladies Day)	Dave Even, (734) 981-2236 & Bob Mitchell, (248) 828-8034
August 9	LUDINGTON	Bob Mitchell, (248) 828-8034 & Dave Even, (734) 981-2236
August 23	MANISTEE	Joe Von Grabe, (586) 293-7688
September 6	PORT SANILAC	Chris Nytko, (586) 786-0288

Membership Application

YOUR MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES FISHIN' TALES, THE DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL DUES:

New memberships & renewals under age 65 \$ 25.00
Renewals over age 65 \$ 10.00
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Get the 'Net . . . 2003!

Recently I heard on one of the news programs that 2002-03 would see an estimated 90 percent increase in the number of computers in households worldwide. If these prognostications are correct, that means there are a lot of you who've figured out how to turn on the computer for the first time. Welcome to your new addiction. If we can get you away from the Victoria's Secret web site for a few moments, perhaps we can introduce you to some web sites that we think are far more important.

In the past, I've written about how helpful the computer and access to the Internet is for those of us who love Hunting, Fishing, and the Outdoors in general. See, I told you it would be more important! What could be more important than fishing? I mean, who needs those big-breasted floozies, anyway?

With a little practice, your new computer is going to take you on journeys all across the globe, and perhaps out into the universe. If your machine perplexes you, find your six-year-old. If you don't have a six-year-old, try to sit in on a first grade class at your local elementary school. Kids these days can explain how to use the thing far better than I can. You'll have to ask them to talk down to your level, of course. That means translating "computer-ese" into plain English, assuming you understand English.

Since you've already managed to find the "V.S." web site, I can probably dispense with the long-winded explanations and instructions I have given in past issues of *Fishin' Tales*. After all, it's not that hard to open up your

browser and use a search engine to find sites relevant to your desired subject matter. That's fishing, remember?

With the (using my best Carl Sagan voice – may he rest in peace) billions and billions (how'd I do?) of web sites available, your computer should keep you busy and out of trouble for a while. Maybe!

One thing I've found that's very convenient (a word of warning here – you may want to keep secret from your wife that fact that you know how to do this) is shopping on line. And wouldn't you know it... most of what I shop for is – you guessed it – fishing gear.

For example, early last year, I was in the market for a replacement for my fish finder, and I wanted to add a new GPS unit. I researched a good many units through the Internet. I settled on two units from Lowrance. It was just my luck that a fellow Detroit Area Steelheader had one of the units for sale, brand new, for a considerable savings over what I was about to pay a name supplier store. A little time in front of the computer had paid off. I later ordered the new GPS unit on line from Cabela's. It arrived at my door two days later, along with a good deal of other needed items, such as lead core line, snap swivels, etc. I saved time, fuel, and maybe a case of the flu. You never know!

Another instance of making good use of my computer and the Internet involved a particular fishing lure that was "hot" on the west side. It became almost impossible to find in the local tackle shops. Again, I did an on-line search and

found a store out west – in California, to be exact – that had the lure in stock. I knew a friend who needed two, so I ordered six, and they were in our tackle boxes by the next weekend. I rest my case.

Along with on-line shopping, your computer can introduce you to others like yourself who share your interests. There are a good many sites where you can submit and receive fishing reports and other related information. There are chat rooms (if you're into that kind of thing) dedicated just to the topics of fishing or hunting, or any number of sporting activities.

The best part is the information that's available to you. You can plan your fishing trip, make hotel/motel reservations, get up-to-the-minute fishing reports and weather info, maps and directions, and so much more. And these days you can access some of that information while on your boat with hand-held Palm units.

You don't have a boat, you say? No problem! Book a charter on line or see our club's Crews board. Isn't technology great? What a difference from years ago when we set out without fish finders, GPS or even VHF radios on board. How dumb does that seem these days?

That new computer is going to help you put fish in the box, meat in the freezer, and Spam in your mail box. No, really! You'll see!!

You won't find any Spam on our web site, and it's a good starting point. So visit us at:

<http://www.detroitsteelheaders.org/>

See? Who needs Victoria's Secret when you've got us?

– Ed "Steelie Ed" Wilczek
D.A.S. Webmaster

Detroit Area Steelheaders giving tops \$18,000!

During the first 28 years of its existence, our club, the Detroit Area Steelheaders, has contributed to numerous worthwhile causes which we believe serve our stated organizational goal of promoting and protecting Great Lakes Salmon and Trout fishing.

The following list of donations made by our club through the years may overlook some, but the overall impact is that Detroit Area Steelheaders really give!

- **August 1977 – Aquascope Depthfinder.** Donated to the Michigan D.N.R. Fisheries, Southeast Michigan.
- **1977 – Reworking fish ladder on Huron River at Flat Rock.** Detroit Area Steelheaders paid the costs for the D.N.R. Fisheries, Southeast Michigan.
- NOTE: From 1978 through 1984, the club had no funds left to donate after operations.*
- **June 1985 – \$500 Grant.** To Michigan State University Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- **1985 – \$250 Legal Debt.** Paid as a member club of the Michigan Salmon & Steelhead Fisherman's Association.
- **October 1985 – \$500 Grant.** To Sanilac Steelheaders for the Lexington Fish Cleaning Station.
- **April 1986 – \$250 Legal Debt.** Paid as a member club of the Michigan Salmon & Steelhead Fisherman's Association.
- **July 1987 – \$200 Legal Debt.** Paid as a member club of the Michigan Salmon & Steelhead Fisherman's Association.
- **1987 – Backpack Fish Shocker.** Donated to Michigan State University Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- **September 1987 – \$800 Grant.** Proceeds from Detroit Area Steelheader cookbook donated to Michigan State University Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- **October 1988 – \$600 Legal Debt.** Paid as a member club of the Michigan Salmon & Steelhead Fisherman's Association.
- **September 1989 – \$500 Legal Debt.** Paid as a member club of the Michigan Salmon & Steelhead Fisherman's Association.

- **September 1990 – \$1,000 Grant.** To Blue Water Sport Fishing Association for reef construction.
- **September 1990 – Two Riviera Downriggers.** Donated to Michigan State University Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- **December 1990 – \$155 Grant.** To Northeast Michigan Steelheaders to fight Hammond Bay gill nets.
- **March 1991 – \$100 Grant.** To Northeast Michigan Steelheaders to fight Hammond Bay gill nets.
- **February 1992 – \$500 Grant.** To the Benzie County Fish Hatchery.
- **April 1992 – \$500 Grant.** To Michigan State University Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- **May 1993 – \$250 Grant.** To the Benzie County Fish Hatchery.
- **June 1993 – \$500 Grant.** To Michigan State University Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- **March 1994 – \$400 Grant.** To Michigan State University Betsie River Project.
- **March 1995 – \$100 Grant.** To the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council.
- **July 1995 – \$250 Grant.** To the Blue Water Sport Fishing Association for Samia Hatchery.
- **September 1995 – \$500 Grant.** To Michigan State University Great Lakes Fisheries Research.
- **November 1995 – \$500 Grant.** To the Grand Traverse Area Sportfishing Association to fight gill nets.
- **September 1996 – \$100 Grant.** To the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council.
- **October 1996 – \$250 Grant.** To the Grand Traverse Area Sportfishing Association to fight gill nets.
- **April 1997 – \$300 Grant.** To the Manistee County Sportfishing Association for the Orsini Hatchery.
- **December 1997 – \$200 Grant.** To the Ludington Area Charter Boat Association for their net pen project.
- **December 1997 – \$250 Grant.** To the Grand Traverse Area Sportfishing Association to fight gill nets.
- **July 1998 – \$250 Grant.** To the Ludington Area Charter Boat Association for their net pen project.
- **August 1998 – \$75 Donation.** To the Grand Traverse Area Sportfishing Association.
- **September 1998 – \$200 Grant.** To the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council.
- **October 1999 – \$500 Grant.** To the Michigan Fisheries Resource Conservation Coalition to join as a member in the netting negotiations.
- **January 2000 – \$300 Grant.** To the city of Port Sanilac for a new fish cleaning station.
- **December 2000 – \$300 Grant.** To the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council for 2001 Annual Meeting.
- **March 2001 – \$100 Grant.** To the Hammond Bay Anglers Association supporting efforts with the Michigan Fisheries Resource Conservation Coalition and the netting agreement.
- **July 2001 – \$100 Grant.** For operating expenses of the Port Austin fish cleaning station.
- **September 2001 – \$250 Grant.** To the Ludington Area Charter Boat Association to help fund costs of net pen operations.
- **September 2001 – \$250 Grant.** To the Michigan Fisheries Resource Conservation Coalition to help defray expenses of the fishing agreement negotiations.
- **January 2002 – \$200 Grant.** To the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Association to help fund operations.
- **June 2002 – \$250 Grant.** To the Grand Haven Steelheaders to help fund costs of net pen operations.
- **July 2002 – \$250 Grant.** To the Manistee County Sport Fishing Association to help fund costs of net pen operations.
- **September 2002 – \$250 Grant.** To the Blue Water Sport Fishing Association for Samia Hatchery operations.

Detroit Area Steelheaders donations and grants to date total MORE THAN \$18,000!! We can all feel good about being Detroit Area Steelheaders because we are continuing to meet our stated purpose of helping the fishery!

— Steve Hamilton

Michigan Boat, Sport & Fishing Show moves to Ford Field in Detroit

The state's biggest combination boat and fishing show is moving from the Pontiac Silverdome to the all-new Ford Field in downtown Detroit. More than 300 trailerable boats from 60 manufacturers will blanket the Detroit Lions playing field January 29 to February 2 when the 20th Michigan Boat, Sport & Fishing Show comes to town.

In addition, the extra-wide concourse at Ford Field will house the largest exhibition of fishing tackle and boating accessories of any show in Michigan. Hundreds of exhibits, and many new features will be on display.

Kevin VanDam, 2001 BassMaster Classic Champion, three-time B.A.S.S. Angler of the Year, and 2002 award winner for Outdoors Sportsman of the Year will make a special appearance on Thursday, January 29. The Kalamazoo native, one of the most accomplished fishermen of all time, heads an all-star lineup of more than 20 seminar leaders who will present on two stages. Besides fishing expertise and demonstrations, the non-stop seminars include wild turkey and deer hunting, mushroom gathering, and cooking wild game and fish. Weekend Super Clinics for Walleye and Salmon/Steelhead return by popular demand.

New features include a live river otter show, an M.S.U. Museum exhibition of ancient hunting and fishing boats, the "Reel Deal Fishing Tackle Giveaway Gameshow" with \$5,000 in prizes, and a special Shipwreck Museum display from Whitefish Point, including Edmund Fitzgerald artifacts.

Each day, a limited number of attendees will receive a free wildlife print, which featured wildlife artist T.J. Lick will sign without charge at his booth. Lick, a Lansing native who now lives in Boyne Falls, has painted a stunning bull elk in northern Michigan habitat to commemorate the inaugural Ford Field outdoor show.

The successful Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger (MSAH) food drive also moves to Ford Field. Attendees who bring a sack of non-perishable food items (minimum of 4 pounds, or 6 boxes and cans) on Wednesday or Thursday, January 29-30, will get in free to the show. The food will be donated to the Salvation Army Harbor Light Mission on Park Ave. in the Cass Corridor.

There is no limit to the number of free passes, a \$7.50 value for adults and \$3.50 for kids, says show manager Adam Starr. "I hope we can give away thousands of tickets. It's for such a great cause," he noted.

The Salvation Army can certainly use the food, said Neal Easterbrook, MSAH founder and chairman of the Ford Field food drive. "We'd like to fill the food van on Wednesday, and again on Thursday."

Founded in 1991, MSAH also collects about 60,000 pounds of protein-rich venison, a rare commodity at the food banks.

Starr said exhibitors are excited about the move to downtown Detroit. "The building is truly spectacular, an architect's dream come true," he said. "It's the ideal venue for our show, and we're expecting big crowds."

To help ensure it, ticket prices are unchanged from last year: \$7.50 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 6 to 12. Kids five and under get in free. By special arrangement, parking at many of the lots surrounding Ford Field will cost only \$3.00.

Show hours are Wednesday-Friday, January 29-31, from 3:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, February 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; and Sunday, February 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Participating Speedway gas station locations have \$1.00-off coupons, good Wednesday through Friday. The discount coupons may also be downloaded from: www.MichBoatFish.com. More show information is also available at the web site.

Where are the fish? An expert reveals his secrets!

There's an old saying that "90% of the fish are in 10% of the water." There is also another saying: "The most important element in catching fish is that you have to be over the fish." Easy enough. But, where are the fish? How do I find them? That is the \$64,000 question!

There are a number of aspects that have to be considered when you are trying to find the fish. First is the season. In general, Salmon tend to be in the southern ends of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron in the spring, having migrated there over the winter. Through the summer, they move offshore and to the north. Eventually they reach their spawning rivers.

About 15 or 20 years ago, Salmon just disappeared as far as fishermen were concerned. Everyone switched over to Lakers and awaited the return of the Salmon in late July. At that time we concentrated our fishing near shore.

The tough fishing of prior years caused fishermen to try far off shore, initially to target Steelhead along thermal bars. What we found is that Salmon are also in deep water in mid-summer, and it's possible to catch them there, too.

In late July, the Salmon start to mature and the urge to spawn starts to take priority over the feeding urge. However, the Salmon don't just show up at river mouths and run the rivers. They first start to school in deep water off the mouths of the rivers. This phenomenon occurs because the fish were originally from the ocean. If a Salmon were to immediately move from the salt water of the ocean into the fresh water of a river flowing into the sea, it would die from osmosis. Therefore, Salmon school in the mixture of salt and fresh water found at river mouths, slowly getting used to the fresh water.

As they acclimatize to the fresh water, Salmon undergo a transformation, forming a protective mucous covering on their bodies.



AUTHOR BOB MITCHELL proudly hefts a 29-pound money tournament winner taken at Rogers City. Joining Bob in the post-tournament celebration are crew members (l-r.) Dick Shirk, Dave Even, Ray Even and George Richey.

Salmon often turn dark when they form this protective coating. Only after the transformation is complete do the Salmon enter and run up the rivers to spawn. When found in the Great Lakes, Salmon do the same thing. No one told them they weren't in salt water!

Temperature is also a key factor in finding the Salmon. In the spring, it is usually the warmest water that attracts bait and holds the fish. As the lakes warm up from the mid-30's to the 40's, there are pockets of water to be found that are warmer than the surrounding water. These may be near shore, at the mouth of a river or creek, or at the discharge of a power plant. Regardless of where they're found, these warm water pockets hold bait fish, and Salmon

anxious to feed on them.

As the waters warm in early summer, the fish move north and offshore. Great places to look for fast action are offshore thermal bars where the surface water changes temperature by a couple of degrees as you troll out. The best places are where you find a narrow band of 54° F water on the surface. The surrounding water might be 57° F on one side and 45° F on the other. Often this band will exhibit a "scum line" that makes finding it easier. In early summer, this thermal bar may be five to 30 miles off shore. The fishing there can be great and is usually quite shallow, the upper 25 feet or so. Steelhead are frequently present in great numbers, along with other species. Eventually,

the warm, 54° F water from one side of Lake Michigan meets warm water from the other side of the lake and the bar disappears.

Once the salmon return to shallower water (less than 200' deep, and usually in late July), temperature can still play an active role in finding the fish. Again, 54° F is the key. That's the temperature at which water undergoes physical changes in density. This causes it to layer, with colder water below, warmer above, and a rapid change in temperature over a band of water from 5'-20' thick. Find this band with a temperature probe and you have a major key in locating bait and fish. Kings may be above or below the band, but the odds are that they, and the bait fish they feed on, will be near it.

One rule of thumb is to find the depth of water that is 54° F, add 15 feet to the depth and start fishing there. For example, if the 54° F thermocline is at 60 feet, start trolling in 75 feet of water. It's amazing how often that works.

For lake trout, the rule is to find where 48° F water intersects with the bottom and start there, fishing on the bottom. These tips are not guarantees by any means, just starting points.

Salmon are eating machines. If you want to find weighty people, go to a buffet. If you want to find weighty Kings, go to their 'snack bar': bait fish schools. You'll sometimes find schools of bait fish where there are no Salmon. You'll almost never find Salmon where there are no bait fish. If you graph bait fish, it's worth trolling the area. If the buffet is bare, people leave. So do Salmon when their 'buffet' is empty.

As we come to know more about Salmon, it is becoming more and more apparent that they relate to structure on the bottom, and also to water currents. Think about the great Salmon ports on Lake Michigan and Lake Huron and you will notice a common thread: structure. The Point at Ludington, the Herring Hole at Frankfort, the area around the Nordmar wreck off Rockport, the Grindstone Reef. All these areas have tremendous structure, and they consistently hold fish because of their structure. Structure is the key to finding Salmon.

Another kind of structure, or break, is the current. Currents are still one of the mysteries of Salmon fishing. We do know that they are important in determining where Salmon are, but there is much to learn. At this point, I can only say that if you find a deep current, check it out. The first clue to a current will probably come from the angle of your downrigger cables. If the angle seems steeper than normal, you are probably fishing against an underwater current. Conversely, if they seem almost straight down, you are probably fishing in the same direction as an underwater current.

Be careful how you fish current. Remember, if you are fishing in the same direction as a deep current, you need to troll faster to ensure that your baits are running at optimum speed in the current, rather than 'hanging dead'. If you fish against it, slow down. The angle of your cables will provide a clue to speed and current.

Of course, there are other ways to find fish, too. There is the "bait shop report" method. Some are good, some aren't. One of the best sources of information is from guys fishing for a living, the charters. They generally fish every day and follow the schools. Their information, or presence, is a positive sign. Just be courteous and stay out of their way. You are fishing the fish they led you to, not "your" fish. Also, be sure to stay wide of them, as they generally have less ability to maneuver, and often run long (300'-500') lead core lines. Last time I looked, there was plenty of lake out there for us all.

Lastly, the radio can be a good source of information. Don't become a 'radio runner', picking up your lines and running every time someone catches a fish. Often you will get there after the action stops anyway. But if you are not catching fish and several other boats are reporting good action not far away, don't keep doing what you're doing. Go there!

There is no surefire way to catch fish all the time. But get "over the fish" and follow some of these tips. Your odds will improve in finding the 10% of the lake where the 90% of the fish are feeding. Good fishing!

— Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"

USEFUL NEWS FOR DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

FOURTH ANNUAL SPORTSMEN'S DINNER SET FOR MARCH 8

The Detroit Area Steelheaders will be hosting its fourth annual Steelheader Sportsmen's Dinner on Saturday, March 8, 2002. Responses from those who attended last year's Dinner were very positive, especially regarding the great food!

This year, we will be at the same location as last year's highly acclaimed affair, the Salt River Golf Club Banquet Center, conveniently located at 33633 23 Mile Road, New Baltimore (2.4 miles east of I-94, Exit #243). This finely decorated hall has large windows providing a wonderful view of the golf course. The doors will open at 5:00 p.m., and the dinner will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m.

This will be a traditional sportsmen's dinner, with a game menu, an impressive display of taxidermy, and raffles. We are fortunate to have the same caterer as last year who will prepare five wild game entrees such as pheasant, caribou, buffalo, etc.

We will also have the same type of great raffles as last year, and MICHI-GUN will once again be on hand, providing choices for the winners of the top raffle prizes. We expect to have upwards of 90 raffle prizes, and are hoping to surpass last year's wildly successful fund-raiser.

We have every expectation of selling out all 325 available seats, so be certain to get yours early — DO NOT BE LEFT OUT!

Tickets are the same price as last year, only \$35 per person for the dinner, including pop and beer. A cash bar will be available for other drinks. Dining tables seat ten, and may be reserved with advance payment. There will be smoking and non-smoking areas available. Tickets will be available at the January 26 members meeting, and from any director.

We urge ALL Detroit Area Steelheaders to please help with your club's biggest fund-

raiser by selling some tickets, obtaining needed raffle prize donations, and, of course, by attending and having a great time!

For more information, please contact Steve Hamilton, Dinner Chairman, at (313) 881-3871, or Tom Moores, Ticket Chairman, at (248) 634-5789.

BOARD SEEKS STAFFING HELP FOR 2003 SPORT SHOWS

You may find it hard to believe, but the 2003 outdoor show season is about to hit in the Detroit area. This year, there will be two outdoor shows where we Detroit Area Steelheaders will have our club booth on display to help us promote our favorite pursuit among the general public.

First up is the Michigan Boat, Sport and Fishing Show, this year being held for the first time in downtown Detroit at the new Ford Field, from January 29-February 2. See Page Eight for more detailed information about the show, along with a neat way to get unlimited free passes for the show.

The annual Greater Detroit Sportfishing & Travel Expo, usually presented at the Palace of Auburn Hills in late February in recent years, reportedly has been cancelled.

For our second show, we'll be on hand with our club booth at the Michigan United Conservation Club's Outdoorama at the Novi Expo Center. Dates for this year's event are about the same as last year, running from February 21-March 2. There's a display ad with more information about this show on Page Two.

As in years past, we are looking for volunteers to help man our booth at the shows. Sign-up sheets will be available at the January membership meeting.

Working the club booth at the shows is a great way to meet people who share the same interests as you, namely anything having to do with fishing, and especially Trout and Salmon

fishing. And it almost goes without saying that it provides an opportunity for you to see everything on display at these three great shows, and to talk to the vendors, charter operators, etc., and to the many old friends the club has made over the years.

Please see me at the meeting if you are interested in working at the shows, or call me. For updated show information, please check our club web site at:

www.detroitsteelheaders.org

Thanks for your help.

— Bill Nutting, (586) 772-5702

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL "COOLER OF CHEER" RAFFLE IS HISTORY

Our annual Christmas meeting and party went very well, as usual, and the 2002 version of our "Cooler of Cheer" raffle was another great one.

John Sullivan of Warren sold the most raffle tickets, winning a nice prize for his efforts, while the big winner claiming the highly prized 2002 Cooler of Cheer turned out to be Cezary Dudzinski from Macomb, who purchased his winning ticket from Chris Nytko.

Congrats to the winners, and to everyone else who won prizes at the meeting. As you know, proceeds from this raffle help fund various club activities, so thank you to all who supported one of our big club fund-raisers.

Always Fishing!!

— Ray Banbury

**The DEADLINE
for the
FEBRUARY ISSUE of
FISHIN' TALES
is
FEBRUARY 5, 2003**

D.A.S. President Wilczek looks back at 2002

...Continued from Page Two

learning something from his talks. Steve gave us a 'heads up' on what was happening in southern Lake Huron and how he was finding the fish. Even with those great tips Steve presented, the tournament fishing was tougher than usual due to the weather. We just could not find very many fish!

At that same meeting, we also heard from President Jake Van Rooyen and Rick Gillesby of the Blue Water anglers of Sarnia, Ontario about their renewed hatchery project. In keeping with our long history of supporting worthwhile programs such as this, we made a cash donation to help support their efforts. We believe this project can only help a good southern Lake Huron fishery become even better in the years to come.

May saw us traveling to the Lake Michigan ports of St. Joseph/Benton Harbor (May 4) and Grand Haven (May 18), and it is fair to say there were some impressive catches at these ports in 2002.

Early in the month, I took my niece Nicole and her boyfriend on a charter trip with Captain Mark Stosiak of Tomorrow's Dream Charters. We had a blast, with non-stop Trout and Salmon action all morning long, and I'm really looking forward to returning to Grand Haven in 2003.

While we had to delay the Grand Haven tourney until Sunday, the 19th, due to wind and waves, it was worth the wait, as Doug Karakas and the "Capt'n Hook II" team captured first place for the second time in two weeks. Good work, Mary!

The May meeting featured an excellent presentation on outdoors issues by new Detroit Area Steelhead member, State Representative Sue Tabor. It certainly is good to know that we have people such as Sue putting outdoors issues out front and center, and providing Michigan sportsmen and sportswomen a voice that will be heard in Lansing.

Port Austin was next up (June 1-2), and we enjoyed another good turnout for our Team Doubles weekend. Here, Mike Vigus and the "Crusader" team placed first in the single boat competition on Saturday. On Sunday the two-boat team of Mark Bevans and "In-Seine" and my own team on the "Steelie Ed" took first place in the Team Doubles portion of the event. Way to go, crews!

We then moved on to Lake Erie and Toledo Beach (June 15) for the always-popular annual Special People Outing. Each year in this event, our club skippers and crews donate their time, boats, and expertise to take a group of developmentally disabled children and adults out for a day of fishing and fun. This is truly a "Christmas in Summer" type of occasion, and if you join us this coming June - as I emphatically urge all of you to do! - you will come to understand why I describe it this way. Thanks go to Doug and Mary Karakas for their hard work, and also to all those who participated in, and donated to, this highly worthwhile event.

We found our next tournament action later the same month (June 29) at Harbor Beach, where Chris Nytko and the "Aquarius II" team scored their first victory of the 2002 campaign, an outcome which helped to make our "Skipper of the Year" race very interesting as the season went along.

For our June meeting, Vice President Mark

Bevans parked his boat, "In-Seine" in the meeting hall parking lot and gave us all a nice 'how to' demonstration on proper boat rigging for big water fishing. Mark presented a "boatload" of great information that evening which both our newer fishermen and 'old timers' alike found very useful.

As the Independence Day fireworks faded and July heated up, some of our skippers and crews made the haul to Erieau, Ontario on Lake Erie in search of some first-class Steelhead fishing. I've had the pleasure of fishing from this quaint port many times, and let me assure you that Erieau is a great town and the fishery there is second to none. If you've never taken the relatively short drive over there, please trust me on this one. When the local reports are saying the Steelhead are in at Erieau, make the trip... you won't regret it!

On July 27, the D.A.S. fleet showed up at Ludington for the annual Ladies Day tournament. This is when the Ladies get their chance to prove how much better they are at this fishing thing than we are, and afterward there's a little feast waiting for all the crews. Thanks to past D.A.S. president Dave Even and his crew for tending the pig well, and putting on a pig roast that everybody loved. Good work! And congratulations to the Ladies aboard Chris Nytko's "Aquarius II" for their first place-winning effort, a win which made it two in a row for Chris.

Our July meeting featured a round-table discussion where the top five skippers in the "Skipper of the Year" standings shared many of their tips and fish-catching secrets. Thanks to Mark Bevans, Doug Karakas, Chris Nytko, Mike Vigus, and Bill Dunk for giving us all another great 'how to' presentation.

August brought us into the dog days of summer. Some of the best fishing of the year lay ahead, as skippers and crews returned to Ludington (August 10) to battle the hefty Chinook staging off the pier heads. With fishing proving to be a bit tougher than expected due to wind and waves, Bob Jones and his "Bobby's Toy" crew brought in a catch which netted them first place honors. It was definitely a bit bumpy out there!

We moved on next to Manistee (August 24), with thirty skippers making the tow there. While there was a bit of a northwest breeze for the occasion, it was fishable and the fish cooperated, with 26 boats bringing fish to the scales. In the end, Blaise Pewinski and the "Sea Hag" crew prevailed with a fine first-place catch.

While some club members' thoughts were already on the upcoming fall fishery, we closed out our boat-trolling tournament season with a late summer trip to picturesque Frankfort (September 7). Here, one of our newest members, skipper Robert Parker and his crew aboard "Empty Box" finished with anything but, as they weighed in an impressive catch to claim first place.

At the September meeting, Mark Stosiak brought his river boat for another 'how to' rig demonstration in the meeting hall parking lot. Later, Bob Mitchell took the floor and demonstrated some popular and effective river methods, such as "drop back" fishing and other small boat river tactics. Bob also brought along some of his "secret weapon" lures to show during his presentation. Then Mark Bevans,

Doug Karakas, Bill Dunk and a few others followed Bob with presentations of their own favorite tips and techniques for river, surf and pier fishing in the fall. A lot of great information was passed along with these 'how to' demonstrations, and our attendance for the river/surf/pier tournaments has gone way up. Great job, guys!

With the arrival of October, it was time to turn our energies to the rivers, piers and surf. While quite a few of our "River Rats" made the trip to Grand Haven to fish the piers and surf, someone forgot to tell the fish it was autumn. Water temperatures on the lake were still in a range more common in late summer, a phenomenon which kept the fish a bit offshore. Still, a day of fishing beats any day working, right?

At our October meeting, we continued our fishing education efforts with a number of table-top demonstrations on fly-tying, building spinner rigs, proper rod and reel set-up, curing spawn and tying spawn bags, fishing safety, and other useful information to help our members and guests become better fishermen and fisherwomen.

November came in acting more like late fall/early winter, as it finally started to cool down. Everyone was hoping that the fish would now move up the rivers, and with that in mind, a group of club members traveled to the Manistee River to compete in the annual Three-Way Tournament, fishing against members of a couple of other Steelhead clubs. Long-time member Don Anton found a nice 6-pound, 11-ounce Steelhead. Also it was here that, after numerous instances of showing off a Steelhead estimated to be in the 8 pounds-plus class, Doug "Capt'n Hook" Karakas started the new "unintentionally released" category when he found he no longer had a fish to bring to the scales. I guess that must have been one of those new 'Houdini' strain of Steelhead, eh Doug??? Thanks to the Metro-West and Flint Steelheaders clubs for their participation in the 2002 Three-Way. Better luck next year!

Our November meeting once again featured Mark Bevans giving a talk/demonstration, this time on custom rod building, rod repair, rod care, rod types, and proper rod storage. Thanks, Mark, for all your time, effort, and expertise in your various demonstrations and presentations in 2002.

The schedule called for a Pier/Surf tournament at Frankfort on December 7, but by then, winter had arrived in force. The pier heads were reported to ice-covered and treacherous, so the River Committee reluctantly decided to cancel the trip.

There was plenty of warmth at our annual Christmas meeting (December 17), featuring a visit from our old fishin' pal "Salmon" Claus. And what a joy this was for all the young future Steelheaders, as well as for us 'old salts'. "Salmon" spread his cheer, helping us forget all those fish we missed through the year. And what would Christmas be without a "Salmon Run"? I think we set a record for continuous total tonnage on "Salmon's" lap before he left. I heard him mumbling something about needing a chiropractor as he left.

While Chris Nytko and Doug Karakas battled it out all season long, and went into the final trolling tournament at Frankfort neck and neck, ultimately it was the "Aquarius II" team

and Chris who took home the coveted "Skipper of the Year" trophy. Good job, Chris. And better luck next year to Doug and all fellow Detroit Area Steelheaders.

And so the year ended. It was another year of great memories, and a time to recall cherished memories of our departed friends. And while I've tried to convey here some of what the year 2002 brought the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc., there is so much more I haven't written here, and so many people not mentioned who deserve many thanks for all the things they unselfishly do behind the scenes.

Our meetings, tournaments, outings and other events encompass so much more than I can write about here. I can only tell you that a trip to any of these will leave you wanting to return again and again.

Finally, I want to thank the members and the Board of Directors for giving me the honor and privilege of representing this fine club as its President in 2002.

- Ed Wilczek, President
Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.

SALMON SMOKING

This recipe has been a favorite of club members over the years. It will make enough to smoke about 10 pounds of fish.

BRINE INGREDIENTS

- 1 quart Water
- 2 cups Brown Sugar
- 1 cup Kosher Curing Salt
- 1 cup Rock Salt
- 1/4 tsp. Pepper
- 2 capsfull Lemon Juice
- 2 Bay Leaves
- 5 shakes Onion Salt
- 5 shakes Garlic Salt

NOTE: Be sure to mix these ingredients in a crock, or a glass or Tupperware container ONLY.

BRINING METHOD

Place the fish in a crock, or Tupperware or glass container skin side up and cover with brine. Place something on top of the pieces of fish to hold them down under the surface of the brine (do NOT use anything made out of metal!). Cure the fish in the brine for five to six hours. Thoroughly rinse each piece of fish separately in cold water, and then air on paper toweling for one hour with the skin side down. At this time, plug in your smoker to pre-heat it. The fish will get a tacky glaze on the outside of the flesh when it is ready to place into the smoker.

SMOKING METHOD

Arrange the fish pieces on racks skin side down, with thick pieces on the bottom racks and thinner ones toward the top of the smoker. The pieces should not touch each other. Do not oil the racks. Smoke the fish for five to six hours. Place one pan of apple wood chips in the smoker every 90 minutes. Use a total of three pans of wood only. Chill the fish to room temperature before placing in refrigerator or freezer.

- Roger Rice

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New membership drive starts in January

The Detroit Area Steelheaders have announced a new membership drive, starting in January. If your membership has expired prior to December, 2001, or if you are a brand new member signing up for the first time, your name will be entered into a drawing for a brand new GPS/2-way radio combo handheld unit, called a Rino 110 made by Garmin.

The drawing will take place at our regular April members meeting (on Tuesday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the K. of C. Hall).

Detroit Area Steelheader decals for your boat and truck and a D.A.S. patch for your favorite fishing vest or jacket will be given to all new members as well. The raffle entry and gifts are yours with a paid one-year membership (\$25) or a paid lifetime membership (\$150).

Not only are these incentives a great reason to join the Detroit Area Steelheaders for yourself, but it's also great for your entire family, as these are family memberships.

Here are some other good reasons why fishermen from all over the state of Michigan are joining the Detroit Area Steelheaders.

- The Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. provides you with a means of being heard on issues affecting our fisheries.
 - You will receive 12 monthly issues of our *Fishin' Tales* newsletter, among the finest published anywhere.
 - D.A.S.-organized events all year long, including boat trolling, river fishing, and ice fishing tournaments all over the state.
 - Social events such as the Valentine's Dinner Dance and our annual Wild Game Sportsmen's Dinner, as well as a special Christmas meeting with "Salmon" Claus for the kids.
 - Participation in public service events such as our own Special People Walleye Outing, and the River Crab Salmon Stakes charity fishing tournament to help support many worthy causes.
 - Donations to Michigan State University research on fisheries, and grants and gifts to various sport fishing organizations to support hatcheries and other projects, as well as lawyer fees to help protect our fishing rights all over our state. In all, more than \$18,000 has been donated since we came into existence as a sport club.
 - We are in our 29th year of existence as a sport fishing club.
 - We have some great guest speakers lined up for upcoming meetings. Among those on the schedule are representatives from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, state fisheries biologists, and charter captains, all of whom will give us timely information, and share their passions and special areas of expertise. Also, Question-and-Answer sessions with the top skippers from our own Detroit Area Steelheader fishing tournaments are a feature of many monthly meetings.
 - Camaraderie with your fellow members at monthly meetings and the other club events during the year. Our meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Warren, located at 6177 Chicago Road between Van Dyke & Mound Roads, where 13 Mile Road and Chicago Road intersect.
- You can fill out the application for membership located elsewhere in this Annual and drop it in the mail to our post office box, or better yet, bring it to one of our monthly meetings and join in on the fun of great fishing ahead. We'll also have a booth at the major fishing shows. We look forward to seeing you at one of the shows, or, better yet, at one of our monthly meetings.

The members of our club are what makes us successful, and without YOU, it will be harder to reach our goals.

See you at the next meeting.

-Tom Moores, Membership Director

2002 "SKIPPER OF THE YEAR"

Final Standings - Best 5 of 9

PLACE & SKIPPER	BOAT	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	Total
1) CHRIS NYTKO	"Aquarius II"	6	9	10	2	1	1	2	18	6	12
2) DOUG KARAKAS	"Capt'n Hook II"	4	1	1	75	10	75	9	4	3	13
3) BILL DUNK	"Free Bird"	1	6	3	19	75	75	10	75	5	25
4) JOE VON GRABE	"Sloppy Joe"	22	13	8	7	3	5	7	9	4	26
5) MARK BEVANS	"In-Seine"	2	5	2	5	22	21	17	21	75	31
6) MIKE VIGUS	"Crusader"	50	7	9	1	11	20	6	13	75	34
7) BOB PARADISE	"Almost Paradise"	7	75	7	75	75	75	14	6	2	36
8) ED HILL	"Dredge"	10	10	20	8	6	4	15	23	14	38
9) BOB JONES	"Bobby's Toy"	26	75	5	13	17	14	1	8	16	41
10) DICK SHIRK	"Lil' Scratch"	13	75	14	12	8	3	75	7	75	43
11) STAN BILEK	"Blue Sta II"	50	75	75	18	5	6	22	5	75	56
12) DAVE EVEN	"Teacher's Pet"	36	75	4	75	75	12	5	2	75	59
12) KEN KUJAR	"Mary K"	50	50	21	11	25	15	4	19	10	59
14) DEAN MEYERS	"Tip-n-Dipsy"	25	75	18	75	7	9	3	75	75	62
15) RON MASCHKE	"The Brat"	32	75	16	50	18	75	8	10	13	65
16) BOB MENDICKI	"Pisces"	75	75	19	6	21	13	20	22	9	67
17) TY VOIGT	"Tyger"	75	75	13	9	12	22	12	75	75	68
18) RON HARTMAN	"Molly Frail"	50	75	6	21	24	7	75	24	12	70
19) BOB FEISEL	"Vicki's Seacret"	31	75	15	16	75	19	16	20	8	74
20) HOWARD YORK	"Golden Oldie"	29	2	23	17	28	75	19	15	75	76
21) BILL NUTTING	"Just Once"	50	14	75	3	75	75	75	25	7	99
22) DAVE ROEHR	"Loki-One"	50	3	50	14	27	75	75	16	75	110
23) ED WILCZEK	"Steelie Ed"	50	75	75	22	14	75	24	75	75	185
24) ROBERT GOLASZEWSKI	"Silver Rush"	18	75	75	75	9	75	18	75	75	195
25) MARK WILLIAMS	"Destiny"	50	11	50	75	16	75	75	75	75	202
26) BOB BUERO	"Mickey Mouse Club"	33	4	22	75	75	75	75	75	75	209
27) TIMOTHY WAIDELICH	"Tim's Toy"	75	75	75	75	19	75	21	26	75	216
28) DWAYNE WELDER	"S.S. Guppy"	75	75	75	75	13	50	75	75	11	224
29) ROBERT PARKER	"Empty Box"	75	75	75	75	75	2	75	75	1	228
30) GARY RUPRICH	"Rupe"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	3	15	243
30) CHRIS SCHWARK	"Cowabunga"	75	75	75	75	2	16	75	75	75	243
32) JOE GOLASZEWSKI	"My Treasure"	12	75	75	10	75	75	75	75	75	247
33) SKIP BERRY	"Terminator"	75	12	11	75	75	75	75	75	75	248
34) <i>Skipper's name unavailable</i>	"Salty Dog"	75	75	75	75	75	75	11	14	75	250
35) MIKE LEHTO	"Capias"	16	75	75	75	75	10	75	75	75	251
36) CHRIS BRONNER	"The Happy Hooker II"	75	75	75	75	4	75	24	75	75	253
37) RICHARD KITTLE	"RC"	75	75	75	75	20	75	75	75	17	262
38) DANNY COLOMBE	"Atlantis"	14	75	24	75	75	75	75	75	75	263
39) BOB KSIONZEK	"Last Dime II"	24	75	75	15	75	75	75	75	75	264
40) GREG ZACCARDELLI	"Nauti-Buoy"	75	75	75	23	75	17	75	75	75	265
40) SCOTT ZASLONA	"Steel-N-Time"	17	75	75	75	23	75	75	75	75	265
42) DICK JACKSON	"Voyageur"	75	75	25	75	75	75	75	75	18	268
43) ROB PINSKEY	"Anticipation"	30	75	75	20	75	75	75	75	75	275
44) LOU BACSIKIN	"Crews Inn"	3	75	75	50	75	75	75	75	75	278
45) LARRY WALTERS	"Hawkeye"	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	12	75	287
46) JIMMY HARDRICK	"My Dream"	50	15	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	290
47) WALT POHORILY	"Main Squeeze"	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	17	75	292
48) BLAISE PEWINSKI	"Sea Hag"	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	1	75	301
49) ROD ELNICK	"Silhouette"	75	75	75	4	75	75	75	75	75	304
50) RON NIEMASZ	<i>Boat Name Unavailable</i>	5	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	305
51) TIM GRASKIEWICZ	"Journey"	75	75	75	75	75	8	75	75	75	308
51) MICHAEL KEATING	"Hammer Time"	75	8	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	308
51) TED LEWICKI	"Lucky Lew's"	8	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	308
54) TOM MOORES	"Kare Free"	9	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	309
55) KEN CIONE	"Trap Shooter"	11	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	311
55) BILL HOFFMAN	"Steelie Too"	75	75	75	75	75	75	11	75	75	311
55) BOB MITCHELL	"Kemo"	75	75	75	75	75	11	75	75	75	311
58) RICK VANDER MEIDEN	"Reel Work"	75	75	12	75	75	75	75	75	75	312
59) LES JUMP	"Alice's Angler"	75	75	75	75	75	75	13	75	75	313
60) ROB HELZER	"Sea Duce"	15	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	315
60) DAVE LeFEVER	"Bite Me"	75	75	75	75	15	75	75	75	75	315
62) MIKE ZAMACKI	"Polish Yacht"	75	75	17	75	75	75	75	75	75	317
63) MARK STOSIAK	"Tomorrow's Dream II"	21	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	321
64) JIM FITCH	"Pat-A-Wac"	23	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	323
65) ED HOREN	"Comus"	27	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	327
66) RON KOSCIELSKI	"Flow 'N Sweet"	28	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	328
67) BRUCE BEACH	"Beach Bash"	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350
67) GEORGE DANIELS	"Reel Expression"	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350
67) LYNN MARTIN	"Twin Lynns"	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	350

A = River Crab B = St. Joseph C = Grand Haven D = Port Austin E = Harbor Beach F = Ludington G = Ludington H = Manistee J = Frankfort

"Aquarius II" makes it two out of three in 2002!

When the fishing season began last April, my crew and I were anxious to get started, as we had hopes of repeating our success of 2000, when we won "Skipper of the Year."

We opened our season at the River Crab. We tried Lexington the day before, hoping to find some fish, but had no success. When we got back in, we faced a hard decision. Where should we fish during the tournament the next day? We talked with other club skippers, and learned that some fish had been caught at Port Sanilac. It did not take long to get the boat on the trailer and head north. It turned out to be a good move as, despite losing a nice King, we ended up with four fish, and sixth place.

The next two tournaments, St. Joseph and Grand Haven, are at my favorite ports. Traveling to those two, our expectations ran high, since we had previously done well at these ports. Despite our high hopes, when the tournaments were done, we were disappointed that we did not place in a top spot in either one.

After placing 6th, 9th and 10th in the first

three tournaments, I realized it would be hard to come back and win the Skipper award again. We reviewed the mistakes we had made so far, and began to talk about ways we could rebound and prove to ourselves we could do it again.

Our next trip was to Port Austin. The weather there was good, and I felt we could do well. My feelings were on target, as we weighed in six Kings and some Lakers, good enough for a second place finish. Maybe our luck had changed.

Then it was on to Harbor Beach, a port where the fishing is always hard to predict. After Friday's pre-tournament scouting, we headed north for the tourney, a good choice, as we put 11 fish in the box and took first place.

The port of Ludington is a great fishing port for almost everyone, but in prior years, I had never been able to place in the top spot there. Our Ladies Day tournament there was next on the agenda and, as luck would have it, my ladies again did not disappoint me. They took first place, and the Big Fish prize with a 23-lb. King. Thank you, ladies, you did a great job!

With that success, my crew and I were impatient to fish the next tournament, which was also held at Ludington. We had hopes of doing just as well as the ladies had done. After all the boats weighed in, we ended up in second place. We realized then that we had a chance to win "Skipper of the Year" honors.

A couple of weeks passed, and it was time for Manistee. As long as the weather holds up, fishing at this port is second to none. Most of the 26 boats competing enjoyed great fishing, but we went from the height of ecstasy to the pit of despair, finishing in 18th place.

As September arrived, we found ourselves in Frankfort, our last tournament of 2002. The waters were choppy, but we still managed to bring in five Kings, and had a good time doing it. In the end it was enough, and we had won the "Skipper of the Year" trophy.

I would like to give a big "Thank You!" to all my crew members for making it happen for "Aquarius II" in 2002!

-Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"

A different "Fishin' Tale"!

At the Ladies Day tournament last year, trolling in the fog, Ron and Glenda Hartman and I were reminiscing about another occasion when we found ourselves fishing in the fog.

A number of years ago we were in Ludington, out on a Sunday morning, something rare for us since none of us likes getting up early in the morning. We had been out for an hour when the fog started rolling in. In a short time, we were able to see a distance around us of only about 400'-500'.

If you know Glenda at all, you know that even after 15 years or more on the Great Lakes, she has never been able to find her 'sea legs'. So that morning, after two or three hours and not so much as a knock-off, Glenda got up and went to the back of the boat to, shall we say, 'get some fresh air'. You guessed it... the rod near her head tried to bury its tip in the water and the reel began to sing.

As the reel started to smoke, I started getting rid of some of the rods and 'riggers in the port corner. Judging from the sounds coming out of that reel, we had a Big Boy on the end of her line, and didn't need tangled line trying to land this brute. A look at the line counter told us we had about 800 feet out, and that Glenda had her work cut out for her.

With the rods and downriggers done, the only things to do were to watch out for anything that might be trouble, and needle Glenda about whether she was going to take all day getting the fish in. The only thing I could see, trouble-wise, was a boat about 300'-400' away which had been paralleling our course for about ten minutes.

About 15 minutes into the fight, I noticed the other boat had a big one on, too. No boredom on this trip! It was just about then that Glenda yelled out, "The fish is gone!" I told her to keep reeling, that sometimes these fish charge the boat. "Don't stop until the lure is in your hands," I shouted, but

I had that sinking feeling. What stung even more was that I saw the other boat dip its net and take a big fish from the lake.

With Glenda still reeling, the other boat was making right for us. I told Ron that now that this &%\$@*!@%\$^ had gotten his fish, he didn't care if he screwed up our fishing. Glenda was still reeling as the other boat got to within about 50 feet of us and yelled something we could not understand. Cupping my ear, I finally heard him as he yelled out again, "We have your fish!" We just looked at one another, dumbfounded. He called to us to get out our net, which we did, at which point he dropped a 20-pounds-plus King into it!

Another fellow on the other boat shouted, "Here's your lure back," tossing the lure we were fishing into the lake for us to retrieve. With that, they turned and headed off. Still slightly stunned, we shouted our thanks as they disappeared into the fog. It was only later that we realized we did not even know the name of the other boat!

Most of the time on the Big Lakes, other boats are nothing but a big pain in the butt. They cut across your long lines, jabber on the radio when you want to jabber yourself, and to say they're sorry, they flip you The Bird! To this unknown good Samaritan, I say thanks. We need more like you on the Big Water, and in the world in general.

Well, how about you? Do you have a story that the rest of us will find amusing, entertaining, warm and fuzzy, funny, intriguing, or just downright interesting? Let me hear the rest of the story.... I think I've heard that somewhere before! Let me know. Look me up at one of the membership meetings, at a fishing outing, or, if you feel the whim, e-mail me. We hope to hear from you!

- Ray Banbury

RAYBANBURY@HOTMAIL.COM

THANKS, "Aquarius II" Crew, for a Number 1 year!



Thanks to all my great crew members who were such a big part of our winning "Skipper of the Year": Steve Domino, Cezary Dudzinski, Fred Hynick, Roman Lopacki, Jan Mikolajewski, Aygustyn Nytko, Jenefer Nytko, Warren Wright, Jackie Younessi, John Zalewski, and especially to my Special Crew Member, my wife Vickie! - Chris Nytko

Detroit Area Steelheaders Skippers' Roll of Honor

(1976-2002 - 1st place finishers are winners of our annual "Skipper of the Year" award)

2002

First Place - Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 2) Doug Karakas, "Capt'n Hook II" | 3) Joe Von Grabe, "Sloppy Joe" |
| 4) Bill Dunk, "Free Bird" | 5) Mark Bevans, "In-Seine" |

1999

- 1) .. Mark Stosiak, "Tomorrow's Dream"
- 1) Stan Bilek, "Blue Star"
- 3) Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"
- 4) Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
- 5) Paul Schoenrade, "Eagle III"

1995

- 1) Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
- 2) Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"
- 3) Daniel Dima, "Taz"
- 4) Rob Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"
- 5) Dave Roehr, "Floating Holiday"

1991

- 1) Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
- 2) Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"
- 3) Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"
- 4) Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
- 5) Joe Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"

1987

- 1) Greg Clifford, "Outlaw"
- 2) Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
- 3) Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"
- 4) Steve Banovic, "Exaggerator"
- 5) Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"

1983

- 1) Gerry Ciurzenski, "Jawbuster"
- 2) Mike Boroniec, "Horsefly"
- 3) R. J. Branham, "Seahawk"
- 4) Bob Kozar, "Snowman"
- 5) Ed Yankoski II, "Least Likely"

1979

- 1) Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"
- 2) Howard Mills, "Paramour"
- 3) Larry Atwell, "Cobra"
- 4) Jim Treadaway, "Okie Drifter"
- 5) Bob Kring, "Drifter"

1998

- 1) Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"
- 2) Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"
- 3) Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
- 4) Rob Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"
- 5) Paul Schoenrade, "Eagle III"

1994

- 1) Joe Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"
- 2) Jimmy Hardrick, "My Dream"
- 3) Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"
- 4) Ron Hartman, "Molly Frail"
- 5) Paul Schoenrade, "Eagle Two"

1990

- 1) Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
- 2) Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"
- 3) Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
- 4) Rob Pinskey, "Anticipation"
- 5) Mike Wakulski, "Wet Paint"

1986

- 1) Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
- 2) Greg Clifford, "Outlaw"
- 3) Chuck Wood, "Predator"
- 4) Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"
- 5) Blaise Pewinski, "Sea Hag"

1982

- 1) Brian Glaser, "Least Likely"
- 2) Toby Lampi, "Jessie III"
- 3) Mike Curzenski, "Nooner"
- 4) Bob Kring, "Drifter"
- 5) R. J. Branham, "Seahawk"

1978

- 1) Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"

Complete standings
for 1978
are
unavailable

2001

- 1) ... Mark Stosiak, "Tomorrow's Dream II"
- 2) Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"
- 3) Joe Von Grabe, "Sloppy Joe"
- 4) Mike Vigus, "Crusader"
- 5) Doug Karakas, "Capt'n Hook II"

1997

- 1) Rob Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"
- 2) Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"
- 3) Paul Colone, "The Kidd"
- 4) Bob Buero, "Mickey Mouse Club"
- 5) Jimmy Hardrick, "My Dream"

1993

- 1) Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"
- 2) Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"
- 3) Joe Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"
- 4) Leon Van Eden, "Bullhead"
- 5) Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"

1989

- 1) Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
- 2) Steve Banovic, "Exaggerator"
- 3) Ron Huey, "Half R's"
- 4) Ron Hartman, "Molly Frail"
- 5) Don Anton, "Happy Bare"

1985

- 1) Darrin Harris, "Cannonball"
- 2) Joel Garinger, "Fishbusters"
- 3) Bruce Choiniski, "Kneeknocker"
- 4) Tom Chojnowski, "Sea Con"
- 5) Ed McIntosh, "Sweet Lorraine"

1981

- 1) Bob Kring, "Drifter"
- 2) Toby Lampi, "Jessie III"
- 3) Bob Kanas, "Least Likely"
- 4) Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"
- 5) Jewell Harris, "Cannonball"

1977

- 1) Chuck Cartwright, "Tuna Boat"
- 2) John Makela, "Sisu"
- 3) Murrell Blackburn, "Fish'n 5"
- 4) Bob Kring, "Drifter"
- 5) Larry Atwell, "Cobra"

2000

- 1) Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"
- 2) Stan Bilek, "Blue Star"
- 3) ... Mark Stosiak, "Tomorrow's Dream II"
- 4) Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
- 5) Bill Nutting, "Just Once"

1996

- 1) Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
- 2) Rob Golaszewski, "Lucky Falcon"
- 3) Chris Nytko, "Aquarius II"
- 4) Paul Nowak, "Nothin' But Fun"
- 5) Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"

1992

- 1) Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
- 2) Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"
- 3) Tom Moores, "Karefree"
- 4) Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
- 5) Mike Wakulski, "Wet Paint"

1988

- 1) Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"
- 2) Dave Even, "Teacher's Pet"
- 3) Dick Shirk, "Lil' Scratch"
- 4) Don Redmond, "Trena Dawn"
- 5) Steve Banovic, "Exaggerator"

1984

- 1) Bob Kanas, "Least Likely"
- 2) Ed Choiniski, "Kneeknocker"
- 3) Darrin Harris, "Cannonball"
- 4) Bob Ksionzek, "Last Dime"
- 5) Mike Zelkowski, "Elvira"

1980

- 1) Jerry Lee, "Sea Screw"
- 2) Terry Cholette, "Fishing Fever"
- 3) Toby Lampi, "Jessie III"
- 4) Randy Cope, "Ouzo Too"
- 5) Ed Yankoski II, "Least Likely"

1976

- 1) John Makela, "Sisu"
- 2) Murrell Blackburn, "Fish'n 5"
- 3) Chuck Cartwright, "Tuna Boat"
- 4) Paul Irvine, "Yellow Jacket"
- 5) Steve Hamilton, "Valhalla"

Vigus previews Detroit Area Steelheaders 2003 Boat Trolling tournaments

This year, D.A.S. tournament crews will be fishing some of the finest ports this Great Lakes state has to offer.

First stop of the season will be our annual River Crab Salmon Stakes season kick-off, on April 26 in the Lexington/Port Sanilac area, with Mark Bevans serving as Port Captain. This event has been a big charity fund-raiser for many years, and a challenge for all who participate in it. There will likely be major rules changes this year, so watch for more information on this in a future issue of *Fishin' Tales*.

This is the time of year when we're all ready to lose the cabin fever and get back to fishing! Bring those body baits, set your trolling speeds a bit slower, and let's show the other clubs how it's done. I hope to see *everyone* from our club in attendance to help support this fine charity, and our own club. GO, DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS!

We go next to Lake Michigan and the port of St. Joseph/Benton Harbor, on May 3, with Mark Bevans again doing Port Captain duty. This tournament always produces some spectacular trolling. Typically, it's still a wee bit chilly out on the water, but . . . the Cohos and Kings are there in abundance. At this time of year, the change-over from body baits to spoons starts, from shallower to deeper water. Both will work -- it just depends on Mother Nature. This event will also mark the opening of Lake Trout season, but pay attention to Lake Trout zone, refuge, and size limit information from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

For our third tournament stop, we'll stay on Lake Michigan, this time somewhat further north at Grand Haven, on May 17-18 for a 2-Day event. Bill Dunk will be our Port Captain for this one. All I can say is, "Now it's time!" Big Kings are starting to show up, and its time



GREAT FISHING DAYS LIKE THIS are expected to again be a regular feature of Detroit Area Steelheader tournaments in 2003!

to run the full program. Grand Haven is a great fishing destination, and the night life isn't too bad, either. In past years, we've seen some outstanding catches come out of this port. Usually, we're out into 40'-70' feet of water, trolling the top 30 feet. Green, orange, yellow, and blue consistently producing colors.

Next, we'll head back to the east side, on Lake Huron at Oscoda on June 7. Doug Karakas will be the Port Captain here, and although it's been a few years since our club has fished this port, when we did in the past, it was great! By this time of year, the water is warming up and we're trolling in from 60'-90' of water, but still running only the top 50' of water to target our prey. Colors of choice here have been black, green, and some purple.

For our fifth event of the season, we take a

detour off the tournament trail and head down to Lake Erie on June 14 for our annual Special People Walleye Outing. Based at the Toledo Beach Marina under the capable direction of Port Captain Doug Karakas, this occasion provides our club with a great opportunity to give a fun day of fishing to some kids who wouldn't otherwise have a chance to enjoy this kind of experience. Last year was a bit rough on all of us, literally (!). The weather did not co-operate, but everyone there gave it their all to keep a worthwhile tradition going. Take a bow, members, for a job well done! This year, we're counting on all of you to support your club by helping to provide these folks with a chance for a fun outing on our Great Lakes.

Tournament action resumes on June 28-29 with a Team Doubles event, this year at Harbor

Beach. Port Captain duties will be shared by Bob Jones and Dean Meyers. In past years, this one has been held at Port Austin, but we're doing it a bit differently in 2003. This time of the year is "prime time" for Salmon and Trout action, and Harbor Beach is normally a superb port for large catches and constant action. By now, we are just beginning our summer season, with typically calm winds. You may go north, south, 100-plus feet of water . . . it's anybody's guess. But you can be sure this weekend will deliver some great fishing. Top color choices will be black, white, green, and gold.

Now here's what we've all been waiting for: Lake Huron, Port Austin and the **DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS BIG FISH QUEST, JULY 19-20**. I will be serving as Tournament Director, and there will be a fishermen's meeting on July 18 (7:30 p.m. at 8861 Line Street, at the corner of Line and State Streets). This marks our club's first venture into the public money tournament field.

This kind of tournament is not for everyone, but ours is designed to give every individual who participates a fair chance at taking home the Grand Prize. It's a Big Fish tournament, which means that the heaviest fish weighed in will take home the \$\$\$\$\$. It's all up for grabs, so sign up early and try your hand at putting a "Big Boy" on the scale! For more information, call me at (248) 969-8530, or check it out on line at: <http://www.detroitsteelheaders.org/bigfish/bigfish.html>

After a two-week break to catch our breaths, we go back to the west side for Ladies Day at Ludington, on August 2, with Dave Even and Bob Mitchell serving as Port Captains. August Ludington action can be fast and furious, featuring big Salmon and Trout with BIG appetites. So, ladies . . . hang on tight to those rods and reels and put a few big fish in the boat.

By this page of the calendar, we'll be starting to seriously run the "junk". Dodger/squid combinations, along with FishCatcher/fly combos, and spoons can all be very effective here, while green, orange, and yellow are among the popular color choices. This year, we'll again be having a pig roast afterward, and please remember to bring a dish to pass.

Next it will be the boys' turn, as our fleet will stay right there in Ludington for the next tournament, on August 9, only a week after our Ladies Day extravaganza. Bob Mitchell and Dave Even will again serve as Port Captains for this round of tournament action. A mixed bag of big Kings, Cohos, Lake Trout, Brown Trout and Steelhead can reasonably be expected here.

Last year's "Ludington II" tournament left us with a lot of pent-up desire. The weather failed to co-operate then, "turning the lake over" on us just prior to our arrival there. We're confidently expecting that it will be back to business as usual for us this time around.

As is almost always the case for our tournament line-up, Ludington in early August is followed by Manistee late in the month, and the this year's schedule will be no exception. Joe Von Grabe will serve as our Port Captain this time out. Manistee promises to keep our fishing interest high in the closing days of the season, as great fishing and northern Michigan hospitality will definitely be on the menu for this event. Keep those hooks sharp, and we'll see you there out on the water.

We decided to close out the 2003 tournament schedule close to home. Labor Day week will find us at our tenth and final tournament of the Boat Trolling season, this time at Port Sanilac, on September 6, with Chris Nytko administering Port Captain duties. Visiting this port at this time of year is a great choice by our Trolling Committee, with populations of four-year-old, three-year-old, and two-year-old fish all likely to be present.

In closing, all I can say is start gearing up early for this upcoming 2003 season. Sharpen those hooks, change that old line, check your terminal tackle carefully, and you'll hit the water ahead of the game.

Tight Lines to all!

- Mike Vigus, Trolling Director

2002 TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Tournament & Date	King Salmon	Lake Trout	Brown Trout	Steelhead	Coho Salmon	Pink Salmon	Total Catch	Total Boats	Fish/Boat
RIVER CRAB (April 27)	<i>Species info not available - 58 boats caught 567.10# of fish, an average of 9.78#/boat</i>								
ST. JOSEPH (May 4)	59	16	0	4	2	0	81	16	5.06
GRAND HAVEN (May 18-19)	108	5	0	2	1	0	116	26	4.46*
PORT AUSTIN (June 1-2)	49	143	0	9	22	0	223	41†	5.44
HARBOR BEACH (June 28)	25	75	1	23	27	1	153‡	30	5.10
LUDINGTON (July 27)	27	6	6	19	0	0	58	23	2.52
LUDINGTON (August 10)	41	12	2	16	5	0	77	24	3.21
MANISTEE (August 23)	48	13	2	3	55	0	121	26	4.65
FRANKFORT (September 7)	24	0	1	0	51	0	76	19	4.00
2002 TOTALS	381	270	12	76	163	1	904	205	4.41

NOTES: Totals do not include River Crab results

* Average fish per boat is for Sunday only - Saturday fishing at Grand Haven tournament cancelled due to weather

† 16 Sunday Team Doubles boats added to Saturday total of 25 boats at Port Austin tournament

‡ Total catch at Harbor Beach tournament includes 1 Atlantic Salmon

2002 BIGGEST FISH RESULTS (BY SPECIES)

Species	Weight	Skipper	Boat
Chinook Salmon	23 lbs., 10 ozs.	Gary Ruprich	"Rupe"
Coho Salmon	9 lbs., 9 ozs.	Chris Nytko	"Aquarius II"
Steelhead	11 lbs., 2 ozs.	Chris Nytko	"Aquarius II"
Brown Trout	14 lbs., 8 ozs.	Dean Meyers	"Trip 'n Dipsy"
Lake Trout	14 lbs., 14 ozs.	Mark Bevans	"In-Seine"

WANT ADS

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E-mail: devenell@aol.com



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Dodgers and flashers can be deadly trolling fish attractors

Combined with the effectiveness of fundamental trolling techniques, flashers and dodgers can be deadly fish attractors in both fresh and salt water. They are rigged in the line between the lure and downriggers release, diver, or lead to provide attraction and impart erratic action to trailing lures such as plugs, spoons, flies, or plastic squids.

Trolling with dodgers or flashers produces excellent results because you can cover a large amount of water in a very short time, thereby locating concentrations of fish with the least amount of time and effort expended. The flash and sound of these attractors draws fish from considerable distances, allowing you to cover a wider swath of water effectively with each pass . . . a big advantage when prospecting unknown waters, or when fish are scattered.

Successful trolling requires a knowledge of fish and their habits, proper equipment, the ability to troll various depths and a willingness to experiment with different attractors, lures and color patterns.

Tackle for trolling dodgers or flashers consists of a stout 7- to 9-foot trolling rod, free-spool-type star-drag reel filled with 20- to 30-pound test premium monofilament line, and a downrigger, diver or selection of lead weights to get your offering down into fish territory.

DODGERS vs. FLASHERS

The big difference between dodgers and flashers is the way they run through the water when being trolled. A dodger has a side-to-side swaying action, while a flasher develops full 360° rotations. This provides you with two completely different types of attractors, each giving off specific flash and vibration patterns.

Flashers and dodgers impart an erratic, darting action to trailing lures and produce fish-attracting flash and sound. Plugs, spoons, flies, and squids all can be used with a dodger, which transfers a crippled bait fish action to these lures. *Flies and squids are best used behind an Abe 'n Al® rotating flasher because they have no action of their own in the water, and the flasher provides an erratic natural bait fish action.*

For dodgers, the correct fish-attracting speed and action is achieved when the attractor has a side-to-side swaying motion. With your boat moving "dead slow," place a rigged dodger-and-lure setup in the water (see illustrations) and slowly increase your speed until the dodger has developed the proper action. This is your optimum trolling speed.

Optimum rotating flasher speed, on the other hand, is obtained when the attractor is working in regular full 360° rotations. With your boat in motion, place a rigged flasher-and-lure setup in the water (see illustrations) and increase your speed until the flasher develops these regular full revolutions. **NOTE:** Flashers generally work better at slightly faster speeds than dodgers.

DODGER RIGGING

Shown in the diagrams below are various ways to rig a dodger for trolling. Note the recommended leader-to-lure lengths and leader from weight-to-dodger lengths carefully, as too long a leader will negatively affect lure action. Also, too short of a leader from lead,

diver, or downrigger release to the dodger will restrict the action of the dodger and inhibit its fish-attracting capabilities. These same leader length rules also apply to flashers.

Dodgers can be used with a keel-type sinker, behind divers such as the Pink Lady®, Deep Six®, or Dipsy Diver®, or behind a downrigger release, all of which are diagrammed above.

FLASHER RIGGING

The other illustrations present two proven ways to rig a flasher for trolling. Remember that the correct fish-attracting speed for a rotating flasher occurs when it is being pulled through the water just fast enough to make complete 360° regular rotations. This will result in a steady 'throb-throb-pause, throb-throb-pause' action at your rod tip.

When using up to six ounces of weight, keel-type sinkers are adequate, but when more weight is required, it is suggested that you use an Abe 'n Al® 3-way swivel and round lead ball as it will maintain maximum flasher-to-lure transferred action and minimize the possibility of tangles and line twist.

The most popular color finishes for dodgers and flashers are Chrome, Chrome/Silver Prism-Lite® and Fire. Hammered Chrome flashers and dodgers, however, are being used more and more, as they disperse light in all directions, the same as do the Prism-Lite® finishes. In the Great Lakes, Fire, Chartreuse, Watermelon, and Kelly Green models are increasingly popular. In the Pacific Northwest, White and 50/50 Brass/Chrome are very productive.

These are only a few of the colors available for the Abe 'n Al®, Alaskan Eagle and Jensen Dodger models from Luhr Jensen. The smaller of the Jensen Dodgers, the #040 (4" x 1 1/8") and #030 (4 5/8" x 1 1/2") are generally used for Trout or Kokanee fishing, while the larger sizes are preferred for Salmon and other big fish. The size of dodger you select should be based somewhat on the size of the trailing lure you wish to use. For instance, a large J-Plug® might overpower the action of a small #030 dodger, so a larger one such as the #007, #000, or even the large #001 should be used. If you're going to fish deep, larger dodgers will provide more flash and stronger vibration, which can draw fish from farther away. In clear or shallow water conditions, a small dodger might be used.

The Abe 'n Al® flashers are available in five sizes, ranging from the smallest, #006 (6" x 1"), to the largest, #002 (13 1/2" x 2 5/8"). The #006 is best used for Trout on light gear, while the larger ones should be used for Salmon, other big fish, or in deep trolling conditions. The largest (#002) should be used for deep, heavy trolling conditions.

FISH PREFERENCES

Following are some helpful tips relating to particular fish species. Although there are no hard-and-fast rules when it comes to fishing, there are many regularly observed fish habits and preferences that will give you a definite edge if you're familiar with them.

COHO SALMON: When the temperature is right in fresh water, and during most of their life in salt water, Coho Salmon are surface- or shallow-water oriented. They generally can be

found at depths less than 50' and are a fast fish when compared with Chinook Salmon or Lake Trout. They especially like the fast action of a dodger (#007 or #000 are popular) in combination with flies and squids. The rule of thumb for a fly or squid lure behind a dodger is to use a leader of about 1 1/2 times the length of the dodger. In the Great Lakes, some anglers have been successful with leaders as short as 6". These impart incredibly fast action to the trailing lure. The principle here is to use a longer leader for slower action, and a shorter one for faster action. Since it is easier to shorten a leader than to change to a longer one, start with 12"-18" and then shorten it until you achieve the desired lure action. A super-fast action fly used in combination with a dodger is deadly for Coho. Some effective spoons to try are the Kokanee King, Krocodile®, #31 Alpena Diamond, and the Coyote.

CHINOOK SALMON: When compared with Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon prefer deeper water and larger, slower-action lures and attractors. They often shy away from unnatural movements in the water, so longer leaders are generally used. The Abe 'n Al® flasher is a proven attractor for deep-water Chinook, and its lazy, rotating action is often exactly what turns them on. When used with flies or squids, leader lengths between lure and flasher should be 1 1/2-2 1/2 times the flasher length, or between 18"-30". The longer the leader, the slower, more deliberate the action imparted to the lure.

Chinook and Coho in most of the Great Lakes grow to trophy size feeding primarily on forage fish. Consequently, the most productive baits for trolling with flashers there are whole herring, plug-cut herring, herring strips, and plastic squids baited with a herring strip. Rigged correctly, a whole herring will roll in a slight arc at a rate of about one to two revolutions per second. The Herring Aid® provides one of the simplest, most effective ways to rig whole herring to produce an effective rolling action at slow trolling speeds. The #2 size works best in the Great Lakes, where alewives average 6 to 7 inches in length.

LAKE TROUT: As with Chinook, Lake Trout prefer slow, deliberate-action attractors and lures. Dodger-and-fly, dodger-and-spoon, or dodger-and-plug combinations are all effective, provided they are fished slowly and deep with adequate leader lengths between the attractor and lure. For Lake Trout, leaders should be from 16- to 24-inches (sometimes even more) between the dodger and lure, as this will promote slower action from the lure itself . . . an action often productive for Lakers. Small squids and flies, usually rigged with a treble hook if allowed, are preferred. Some good spoons to try are the Krocodile®, Flutter Spoon, Diamond King, or Alpena Diamond.

SALT vs. FRESH WATER

When trolling in salt water, you'll find the optimum feeding and fish-catching times during low-light periods, and from an hour before, during and after a tide change. Fish are where birds are working on bait fish schools, and troll the clean sides of rips.

In fresh water, such as in the Great Lakes,

the time of day isn't nearly as critical as locating the depth of the preferred temperature level for the species of fish you are seeking . . . the thermocline. Lakes stratify into three separate layers of water in the spring, and stay that way until cold weather. The middle layer, where there is a larger concentration of dissolved oxygen, bait fish, and, therefore, predator fish, is called the thermocline, and can usually be found from 10' to 80' down. This is a temperature layer as well as an oxygen-saturated layer, and fish will relate to it as both a comfort zone and one where their body metabolism functions the most efficiently. These fish will be suspended and feeding on alewives, smelt or other forage fish.

The peak feeding and optimum temperature for Coho and Chinook is 54° F, with an active range from 44° F to 58° F. For Lake Trout, the peak feeding and optimum temperature is 51° F, with activity from 43° F to 53° F. Fish will rarely venture out of these preferred zones once stratification has taken place, except to catch a meal and then will quickly return to it. Once thing to remember when fishing the thermocline is that its depth can change from day to day because of wind and/or wave action. It may be several feet deeper or shallower from one day to the next, so you'll have to relocate it each time you go out to fish.

SHARP HOOKS

One last thing: **SHARP HOOKS PAY OFF!** One of the easiest things you can do to improve your catch is to maintain super-sharp hooks at all times. A small file, such as the Sharp Hook File, has proved to be the absolute best fish hook sharpening tool available, and will produce a needle-sharp point in seconds. Hold the file parallel to the hook point and, with gentle, one-way strokes, remove a small amount of metal from at least two sides of the point. This will create both a 'sticky-sharp' point and a knife-like cutting edge.

From Luhr Jensen Tech Reports at luhr-jensen.com

Secrets of the new "FishCatcher" setup

The new "FishCatcher" was one of the hottest new setups to come along in recent years. It was the talk of Lake Michigan anglers all during 2002. Here's some insights and information about their product taken from their web site.

- Editor

The critical differences between Bechhold and Sons flashers and the competition are as follows.

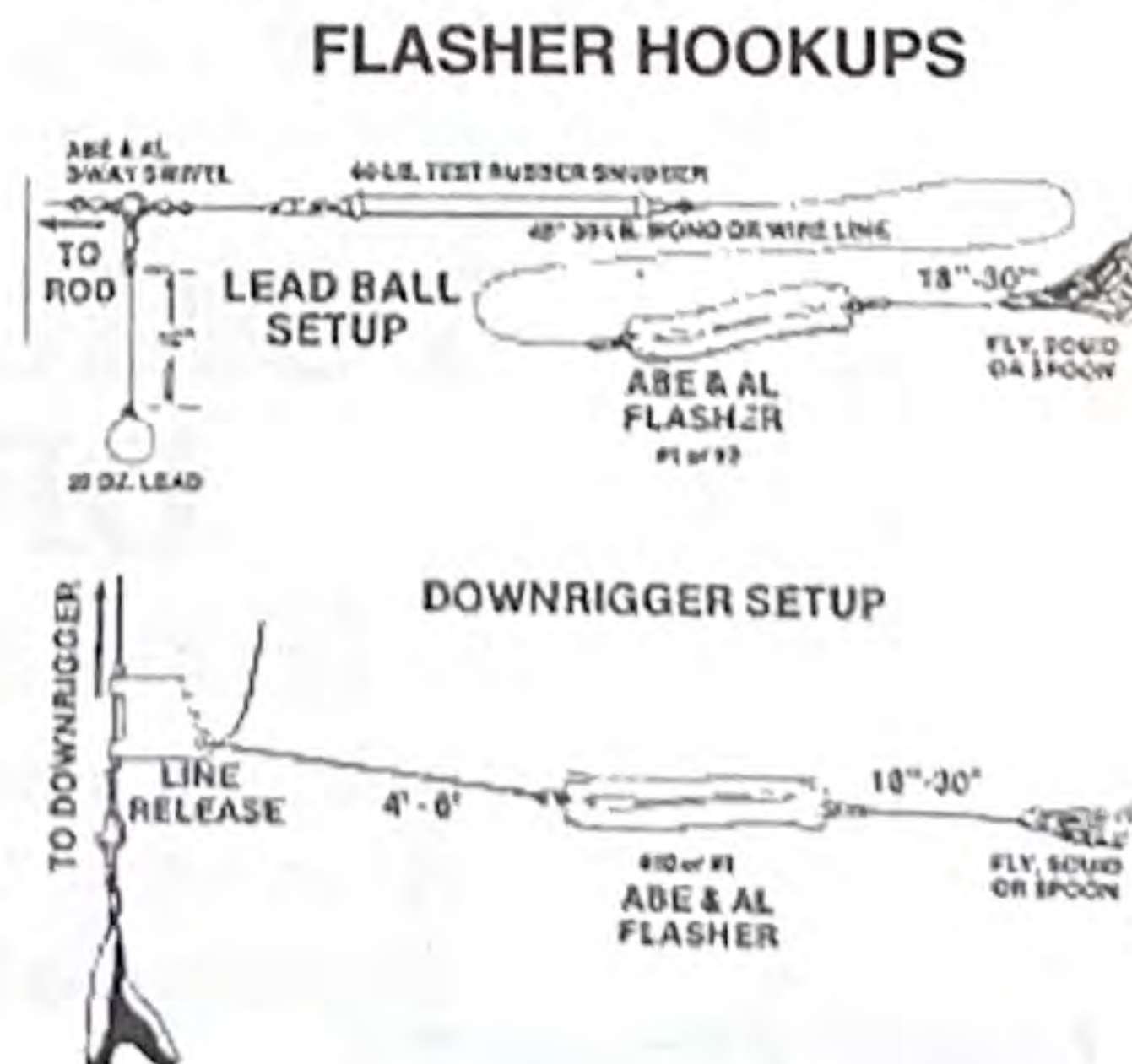
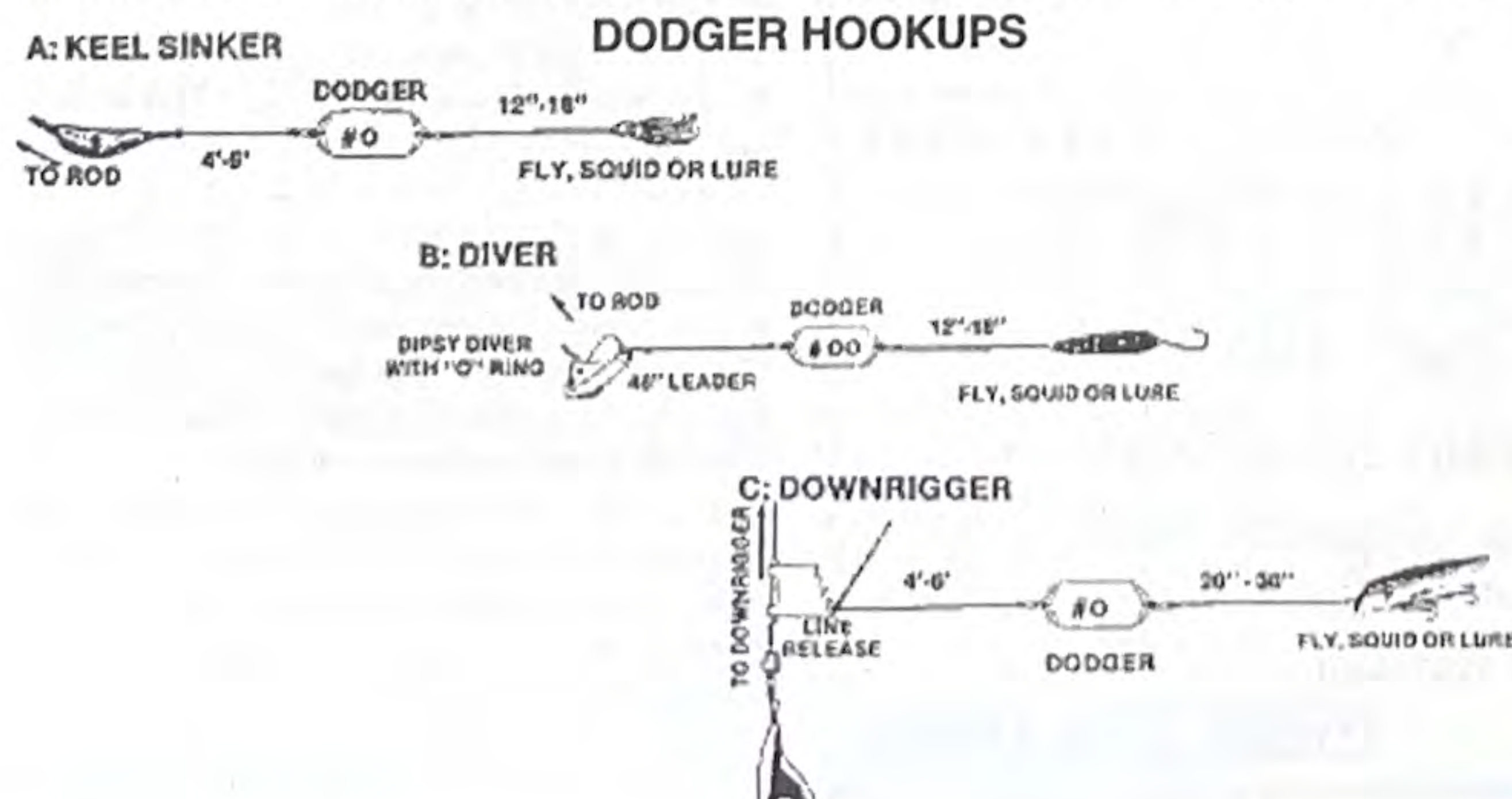
The "FishCatcher" flashers by Bechhold turn in a tighter circle on the front end of the flasher and a larger radius on the butt end. This results in more 'kick' on your bait or lure running off an 18"-24" tail leader.

Also, more water distortion results from a funnel-like effect created by, and trailing, the Bechhold flashers. Water distortion creates sound. Fish are manipulated by sight, smell, and SOUND. This 'sound effect' cannot be reproduced by competing flashers.

"FishCatcher" flashers will work properly at the slowest trolling speed your boat is capable of maintaining. They will also work at the fastest trolling speeds you wish to employ. They are, we believe, simply the most versatile trolling flasher when it comes to both slow and fast trolling speeds.

Competing flashers turn in an equal circle once they rotate over. These other flashers act like dodgers. They simply do not rotate at slow speeds, but rather rotate in a half-moon configuration. Less kick equals less water distortion and sound, and that means LESS FISH!

Our flasher is the ONLY flasher that rotates throughout a complete 360° range AT SLOW TROLLING SPEEDS! Trying is believing. Call 1-888-472-4673 to order. Adapted from the Bechhold and Son web site www.fishcatcher.com/FishCatcher.html



Detroit Area Steelheaders know how to have fun!!

ATTENTION ALL DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, SPOUSES, SIGNIFICANT OTHERS, FRIENDS AND RELATIVES! It's almost here! Get ready to really enjoy yourselves and have a great time at the annual Detroit Area Steelheaders Valentine's Day Dinner Dance!!

This year's version of one of our most popular and enjoyable club activities will take place on Saturday, February 15, 2003 at the K. of C. Hall, St. Pius X Council No. 3848, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren, the site of our monthly club meetings (see map on Page Three). In addition to great music, we will again be featuring the good food and drinks that have become fixtures of this highly anticipated affair.

This has been a fun-filled event every year, and if for some reason you haven't yet made the decision to participate, just ask those who have been there in past years. If you do, I guarantee that they'll tell you it's a great Steelheader occasion that you just don't want to miss.

Tickets for the 2003 edition of this gala



THE ANNUAL STEELHEADER DINNER DANCE is always a fun occasion, with good food, music, and friends adding up to A GREAT TIME! Each year, those who attend really enjoy themselves, so COME AND JOIN IN THE FESTIVITIES!!

event are only \$70 per couple, and when you stop to consider that your tickets entitle you to great food, an open bar, dancing, and a chance at the door prize, you will agree that this represents a real bargain. For tickets, please contact Mary Karakas at the January membership meeting, or call her at (248) 545-1181.

As in the past, there will be separate raffles for the guys, and also for the gals (although many gals win in the guys raffle, too!). We are still in need of prize donations. Prizes do not have to be fishing-oriented – in past years, people have donated crafts, services, and many other things that make terrific raffle prizes. Believe it or not, some wives just don't want to win a fishin' rod! So if you have something you would like to contribute for the raffles, please contact Doug Karakas or Bob Mitchell.

Steelheaders, don't miss out on this opportunity to show your spouse a great time. It could go a long way toward smoothing the path come summertime when it's time for you to go fishing!

THE FISHING – AND THE FUN – WAS TOPS IN 2002!!



Getting started fishing the Great Lakes for Salmon & Trout

You just went on your first Great Lakes Salmon charter or you helped crew a buddy's boat. Now the fishing bug has bitten, and you find yourself thinking, "I want to fish for Salmon on my own boat!" The very next thought you have is, "What tackle do I need?"

Fishing for Salmon and Trout on the Great Lakes requires specialized equipment. Sure, you can catch a Salmon on Bass or Walleye gear, but sooner or later you'll end up going toe to fin with a big King, and you'll have your first tackle lesson.

Buy good stuff! If you just go out and buy the cheapest equipment you can find, it will cost you more in the long run. Find out what the "right stuff" is and buy it. You'll be better off.

RODS & REELS

Let's start with rods and reels. For Salmon, Lake Trout and Steelhead on the Big Lakes, you need big equipment. Most Steelheaders use rods that are about 8'6" in length. Buy four to six graphite rods from a reputable manufacturer. The rod action should be light to medium. My personal favorite is a Shakespeare Ugly Stick, but they will cost about \$50 each. You can buy adequate rods for about half that price, and you may even find some on clearance for around \$20.

Buy good reels. A big King can easily steal all your line if you are using a cheap reel, burning up the reel drag mechanism in the process. Good reels will probably cost about \$50-\$100 each. I'd suggest the Daiwa #47H, the Daiwa #47LC line counter, the Shimano #GT2000, or the Penn #GT320. Cheaper reels are often hard on your line, too.

It's better to buy a quality used reel than to buy a cheap new one. Buy cheap reels and when you finally decide you want good ones (and you will, eventually!), your cheapies will be worthless. Buy good reels, and should you decide you want to go back to bluegill fishing, someone will buy them from you. In the end, good reels are the least costly.

LINE

Use fresh line. I spool new line every year. This might be considered overkill, but line is cheap in the overall scheme of things. Buy a bulk spool of name-brand line: Stren, Berkley Trilene XT, Ande, or Silver Thread. Most guys will use 20-pound test line. I'll occasionally go to 17-pound test.

Try 30-pound Trilene Solar on Dipsy Divers.

It makes it really easy to see exactly where your lines are. I have also been using the new Spectra braided lines (i.e., Spider Wire) on my Dipsys. They are 50-pound to 75-pound test with the diameter of 20-pound to 25-pound test monofilament. I really like them for Dipsys, which are much easier to trip with the no-stretch Spectra. However, some guys don't like them. The new fluorocarbon lines for leader material or for sliders seem to work well.

LURES

Guys waste more of their money buying lures than anything else. Lots of fishermen have tackle boxes stuffed full of "secret" lures that were used once and have been rusting ever since. Don't buy cheap lures. They'll end up sitting in your tackle box. It is better to spend \$4 per spoon on proven lures than to spend \$1.50 on a spoon you use once.

SPOONS

Spoons are the most versatile lures. I have great confidence in several manufacturers of spoons. I'd recommend Silver Streaks, NK 47's, or Pro Kings. The Silver Streaks and NK's are silver-plated, which is important, especially if you're fishing deep. Silver reflects blue light better than chrome, and blue light penetrates deeper than other colors.

Spoons run best at a specific speed. Different brands often run best at different speeds. For that reason, it is best to stick with one or two brands and buy a variety of colors, rather than mixing and matching brands. Otherwise, you will be fishing one brand of spoon running at its optimum speed, while another brand will not be running at its optimum speed.

As for colors, I'd suggest silver-plated spoons accented with greens and/or yellows as the first choice. Be sure to include reds or oranges if you plan to target Steelhead. A couple of blacks with red tape and white or pearl should round out your selections. Also, when you go fishing, take the time to walk the docks and see which colors are hanging from poles on the top boats. Each year seems to bring a new "hot" color.

PLUGS

The next group of lures to consider is plugs. These are used mainly in the spring, when fishing shallow. If you have walleye baits such as Rapalas, they will suffice. If not, I'd suggest getting a selection of Long A Bombers. You

never know which colors will turn out to be hot on a given day, but chartreuse, pearl, Wonderbread (white with multi-colored dots), and gold with an orange back are good starters. Remove the front hook and they will snag less on the bottom. Hot-N-Tots are also good choices, especially in magnums or regular sizes in silver plate or gold plate.

Another new lure you may want to consider is the Yozuri Crystal Minnow. They are expensive, though.

For the fall, you may want to try some J-Plugs. They haven't been that popular lately, but they do work in August and September for big Kings. I'd suggest chrome #4 Silver Bullets, gold plate, or lime green. For fishing the pier heads, I prefer a black J-Plug or two. Keep your eyes open. You can often find J-Plugs for \$2 when they used to cost \$7. I have faith in J-Plugs because they are used by West Coast commercial fishermen. They still work!

FISHING "JUNK"

The last category of equipment is what I call "junk." These are lures and attractors you will need for mid-summer Lake Trout fishing, and for Kings when they are really deep: 80'-100'. There are a number of specialized rigs, but, in my opinion, the Number One rig is the dodger and squid combination. My first choice is the Luhr Jensen chrome fluted dodger in the "0" size. White dodgers with pearl tape are also good. The Number One squid is Richey's Michigan Glow Squid. That combo will work 90% of the time. You can buy lots of other colors of dodgers and squids, but I bet you will run that setup most of the time.

The "hot" rig of recent years is the "Hoochie Mama," or Fishcatcher. It is a rotating flasher fished similarly to dodgers (see Page Ten for more on that). Get at least one.

Another lure to get to run behind dodgers for Lake Trout is the Spin-N-Glow. Get the big ones in chartreuse/red, white with dots, or green chrome. Last, cow bells sometimes out-produce dodgers. I like the real big ones (J & N's) trolled at a speed of 1 knot.

You will still need other miscellaneous items. Buy quality swivel snaps. Don't try to save 50 cents on swivels and end up losing \$10 worth of lures. Buy various-sized rubber core sinkers to use with flat lines. Be sure to check each sinker to make sure it doesn't have a sharp edge that will cut or nick your line.

Buy several in-line side planer boards. My favorites are the Offshore Side-Planers, but many guys use Yellow Birds or Walleye boards. These are great in the spring, or offshore for Steelhead. Buy a pair of Luhr Jensen Dipsy Divers; I prefer the big size with rings. Run them off to the side set on 1 1/2 or 2. They add to your ability to run more lines and sometimes they prove to be the hot setup.

This list should help you get started. Be sure to talk to other guys in our club. Ask them about their personal "hot" colors. Then get ready, because that big King is ready to take you on!

- Bob Mitchell, "Kemo"

What is the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council?

Your dues and donations to the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council (G.L.S.F.C.) help your organization promote sport fishing, conservation efforts, boating safety, and dissemination of information in the Great Lakes region. Your financial and moral support also helps Council programs such as information-gathering and reporting through the pages of *Great Lakes Basin Report*, meetings, conferences, and its award-winning web site.



Through our worldwide outreach efforts via the Internet's World Wide Web, the Council promotes your tournaments, sport shows, and other club activities.

Simply put, membership means increased political support for local and state organizations, and adds solvency and political strength to the Council.

If you don't see information about *YOUR* group in the pages of *Great Lakes Basin Report*, find out if your group is sending a newsletter and/or otherwise providing information directly to the Report editor.

Include complete details about your activities and events, and try to send the information as much in advance as possible. Be sure to include a name, telephone number and e-mail address of an individual to contact should more information be needed.

The Detroit Area Steelheaders present 2003 SPORTSMEN'S GAME DINNER

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SPACE IS LIMITED — ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

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