



Fishin' Tales II

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

Volume 5 Issue 1

January 2021



Detroit Area Steelheaders 2020 Year in "Rear View"

DAS Membership Meetings
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Presidents Message

"Rear View" is not a typo, I chose the words carefully. Rear view as in rear view mirror. Looking back from where we were. That, kind of rear view. 2020 started out as a year like any other year. We put the finishing touches on 2019 with a successful annual meeting and Christmas celebration. Hard earned fishing awards were given out, members were celebrated, board directors were recognized for their service and everything was looking up. Our 2020 trolling tournament schedule was published, as was our 2020 angler schedule. We had successful member meetings with great speakers for three months, and our Wild Game Dinner fund raiser was a huge success. Everything was looking great! Until it was not. Just a few days past our Wild Game Dinner, on March 7, the Covid-19 Virus hit the fan and things got difficult and hard to manage. The Virus was real, deadly real, and not to be taken lightly. We suspended board of director's meetings and member meetings until we could regroup and make a plan that would keep the club relevant without putting anyone at risk. We had to cancel Special Fiends and our charity donations took a huge decline because those organizations we normally contribute to were also suspending operations. That is when I became aware just how good the people running this club are. Everyone pitched in and found a way to keep the club operating. Zoom meetings kept the board communicating from our home computers but we were unable to hold membership meetings until it got warm enough to convene in wide open spaces, outdoors, at River Bends Park. That worked well, and we got really good attendance until the temperature dropped in the Fall and we needed to suspend membership meetings again.

Attendance at our 2020 trolling tournaments and angler outings was sparse in the beginning because people were leery of travel. However, we persevered and ran enough events to declare legitimate winners. Our immediate challenge is how to award the Skipper of the Year, Angler of the Year, member, and board member of the year without being able to gather indoors as a group. We also are considering how to run an election of officers and hold a successful fund raiser while still under meeting restrictions. This Covid-19 challenge just will not let up.

That is enough of the challenges. The good news is the vaccines are approved and rolling out, we could be back too normal in a short time frame. We are planning a video conference for the January meeting where we can run club business while benefitting from knowledgeable speakers that can present their expertise to membership just like a normal membership meeting. Watch your email for more information on that. Please keep yourself current in club events and stay active in the Detroit Steelheaders. We have a friendly and active club full of good people and I am looking forward to seeing you all at membership meetings and fishing events soon.

Tight Lines,
Dan Chisholm

Attend the Tuesday, January 26th ZOOM Member Meeting

The January membership meeting will be a Zoom virtual meeting from the comfort of your living room. We are happy to present our speakers, DAS member Capt Mark Williams and Capt Adam Knudsen (Hiatus Charters) for their presentation titled "Let's Get Ready For The Season". This is an, open to the public, meeting where all you need do is log-in to attend. There is no charge to log-in and two experienced Captains are going to address pre-season tactics that can be acted on now so you will be better prepared to enter the season. Mark and Adam have also arranged for a special "attendees only" discount for items purchased at Captain Chucks located in Ludington for up to 30 days.

Our normal routines and activities have been disrupted for several months now but we are still carrying on as best we can. I am excited to present this format as a way DAS can continue getting together (even if virtual) and I trust our speakers will be informative and entertaining. This will be a first ever virtual meeting for DAS membership and Zoom protocols are necessary when presenting to multiple people. Please choose a quiet location to attend as not to disrupt the meeting process. Use your "mute" button to prevent interruptions. Appropriate Zoom protocols will be discussed at the opening of the meeting.

Normal club business will be as normal as possible but we will have to change the way we do some things. Elections will have to be postponed and award recognition for year end accomplishments will be announced but award presentations will be at a later time. Bear with us as we work through this and please attend the January meeting, It will be special.

Dan Chisholm

Mark your calendar and follow the prompts for the 7 PM start. Only 3 simple steps:

1) Follow the link 2) Click Download Zoom Client 3) Click launch meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/92915628705?pwd%3DNjZqdXVqZThSa0V0OT-](https://zoom.us/j/92915628705?pwd%3DNjZqdXVqZThSa0V0OT-BwMk04Q3U0Zz09&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw0R6Ord_7uasbrJ5foMoJbx)

[BwMk04Q3U0Zz09&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw0R6Ord_7uasbrJ5foMoJbx](https://zoom.us/j/92915628705?pwd%3DNjZqdXVqZThSa0V0OT-BwMk04Q3U0Zz09&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw0R6Ord_7uasbrJ5foMoJbx)

Help Wanted

A huge shout out to club members Don and Kathy Mikros for printing and mailing our monthly DAS newsletter over the past few years. Thank you, Don and Kathy, for a job well done. It was greatly appreciated.

We are in need for someone to step up and do the printing task as Don has chosen to move on to other things. The club provides the printer, paper, toner, and any other required items. The volunteer is asked to take the printer into his/her home and do the printing. The monthly newsletter and signage for the Wild Game Dinner are the two biggest printing tasks but there may be other small printing tasks that come up throughout the year. Dimensions for the unit are 44" tall x 36" deep x 26" wide.

If you are willing to help out please let any board member know and we can help you with the transition.



DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.

P.O. Box 1255 Sterling Hgts., MI 48311-1255

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member - \$35 Yearly | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal - \$35 Yearly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 & over)- \$20 Yearly | <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change only |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Event Rate (New Members Only)- \$20 | |

Amt. Paid \$ _____

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BOAT NAME		E-MAIL ADDRESS	



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Vice President
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734 968-6143

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Special People

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Newsletter/Printer

PAUL GJELDUM
Awards

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Facebook

Anna Kulpa
Photography

In case you missed the October meeting

It turns out the October membership meeting was our last meeting in 2020. We were at the Shelby Twp. River Bends Park and started at 5:30 PM because we knew it would be getting dark and colder as the evening progressed. Our monthly speakers are all good and add value, but my favorites are club members because most of the time I have fished with them and it is easier for me to relate to their message. Members Tom Theida and Bob Paradise are both experienced river/pier guys, and they did a great job explaining how to attract strikes from Steelhead while on the river or pier. The timing for a river/pier message was perfect because the following weekend was the DAS club tournament in Manistee.



We started on time and Bob Paradise got right into it with examples of how to attract Steelhead while fishing the river. He led off with a bobber fishing rig using a weighted swivel and trout beads. His next example was a rig using a 3/8 oz drop weight and flies. Tom was next up as he demonstrated the use of pyramid sinkers and spawn off the pier. The size of the spawn bag, how to use floats and a split shot to place the spawn in the strike zone were all useful information to help us out that weekend. Thank you both Bob and Tom for sharing your experience and making it interesting.

We debated holding off on our normal meeting raffles but when 26 members showed up Jeff Bustos put together a good Tackle Raffle and collected for the evenings 50:50 raffle.

(Winners: 50:50 – Rodney Elnick, - Every Member drawing: Gary Gross \$50).

This was our fifth consecutive outdoor meeting in the Park and we have been very fortunate to enjoy good weather with mild temperatures and exceptional speakers. The board of directors is discussing working in some outdoor summer meetings as part of our normal meeting plan for 2021.

The upside down nature of Corona-19 kept us scrambling every month to keep the club going. Just when we located a suitable indoor location, the governor's shut down forced us to cancel our November and December meetings. Mandatory restrictions on indoor meeting places are still in place, so watch the DAS Facebook page, the DAS newsletter, and the frequent email blasts that are being sent out for the most up to date information.

DAS Fisheries Scholarship



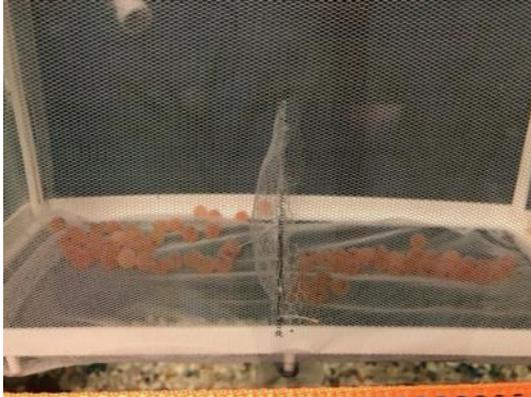
Our 2020 scholarship recipient was Julianne Grenn from Dearborn MI. Julia graduated in December from Lake Superior State University with a B.S. of Biology and minors in Environmental Policy and Aquaponic Production. She plans to pursue a graduate degree in the Fall, and is currently waiting to hear back from several schools. She says, "My ultimate career goal is to become a college professor to train the next generation of scientists! Thank you so much for selecting me to receive the Detroit Area Steelheaders Scholarship and allowing me to further my education!"

The Detroit Steelheaders provide a \$1500 annual scholarship for students enrolled in a fisheries focused curriculum at LSSU. Recipient's are nominated by the staff and selected based on academics and financial need. Congratulations Julia!

Covid-19 Impacts on Salmon In The Classroom

This fall, we have three schools participating in the Salmon program. We lost one school to participation issues and two schools are participating in the on-line DNR program in accordance with their in-home instruction.

At Pine Knob Elementary in Clarkston, Janice Driver teaches 3rd grade and heads up the S.I.C. program for us. She picked up 151 eggs for her class and has lost 3 eggs before the hatch. However, after the hatch, she separated out 11 Alevin that were mal-formed. An Alevin is the stage of Salmon just hatched and feeding off the yoke-sac for several weeks. The yoke-sac becomes its stomach as the contents are all absorbed.



Also in Clarkston, the Independence Elementary tank is overseen by Dennis Klenow, teaching 2nd grade. They collected 165 eggs from the DNR and have had a loss of 4 eggs. Note that the eggs are confined in a netted box. This is a Net Breeder Isolation Chamber that we use to retain the eggs and Alevin for their safety from the pump suction and to provide a great viewing for the students.



Oakland Christian Schools of Auburn Hills is our third school and Elise Hosmer is our main care-taker. They started with 150 eggs and have had to discard 7 eggs. As you can see, the tank is quite large. We were able to find a 130-gal tank for the same price as a 75-gal tank. Having a larger tank does have some advantages for a large number of Salmon; more room to swim, more Oxygen reserve and a lower percentage nitrite and nitrate. But it makes it a lot harder to catch the Salmon when it's time to release them to the Clinton River Watershed.



All our tanks have three sides covered with insulated boards. These help maintain the lower temperatures for the eggs and later, the Alevin, Fry and Parr. Temperatures for the eggs are held between 45 and 47 degrees. With the Salmon swimming, temps are maintained between 48 and 52 degrees.

Chef's Table

Smoked Salmon, and Smoked Salmon Poppers!

This topic is huge at this time of year. Seeing as all of you killed the salmon this year, why not use the stuff starting to get a little weird in the freezer, aka freezer burnt! Save it before this happens. Here is one of the best ways to do smoked salmon!

Brine Ingredients

1 gallon of water
 2 apples chopped
 1 onion chopped
 1 bunch Green onion chopped
 1.5 cups of salt
 2.5 cups brown sugar
 1 cinnamon stick
 Cayenne 2-3 tablespoons



I like to boil the brine for about 45 minutes on low to get those flavors working hard. Then cut the heat and chill the brine. For a fast chill add ice. Once chilled down cold add your salmon filets. Brine these in the cold solution for around 12-24 hours fully submerged. After the time is up, take the salmon out of the brine and rinse the fillets under cold water

Prep your smoker for your salmon, using apple, cherry, or maple chips. Any of those woods will work and tastes nice. Slow smoke at about 150 degrees for 3 hours. Then I like to crank to around 175 degrees for the last hour.

During the smoking process, use a brush to baste with a mixture of 1 cup of cheap bourbon, 1 cup of maple syrup, 1 cup of brown sugar, and a dash of cayenne to your taste. Mix all these items together. If necessary, add some water to thin it out, but you will want to keep it at a slight pasty consistency. Every 45 mins brush your salmon with the mixture.

When done let your salmon cool. Enjoy as you would like.

Salmon Poppers

A fun thing to do with your smoked salmon (if your trying to use it up) is make jalapeno poppers out of it. Just take some smoked salmon and mash it up. Take 1 bar of cream cheese, 3 tablespoons of garlic powder, 1 tablespoon of cayenne, 3 tablespoons of minced dehydrated onions, 3 tablespoons of onion powder, 1 tablespoon of cracked black pepper, and 1 cup of sour cream. Finally mash all these ingredients together until mixed well!

Take 6 jalapeños (or how many ever it will take), cut the stem off and halve the jalapeños. You can use a spoon to shave out the membrane and seeds. Now take the cream cheese filling you made and fill the halved jalapeños. After all the halves are filled take a strip of bacon and wrap the whole jalapeño. Wrap every halve! Lay all out on sheet tray and turn oven on at 350. Cook for about 45 mins to an hour. Remove and enjoy your salmon jalapeño poppers!

By the way. this is chef Chris Turak here. And I wanted to wish all of you a wonderful year. I am doing great, working daily, and loving my chef career. I hope to get back into the swing of things with the fishing group seeing it was a family to me that I felt super accepted at such a young age. Thank you all for taking the time to read my article for your annual newsletter take care and I will see you all soon.

Tight lines!

Chef Chris

TNT's AOTY Results

We held our annual pier, river, and surf tournament on 10/31/2020.

We had 15 participants, most of the people fished the pier, some fished the surf, a few others fished the river. The weather was predicted to be seven foot plus waves, but it held out to our advantage. Fishing was slow but steady.

Five people weighed fish.

Angler	Total weight	# of fish
Bob Paradise	25.9 lbs	3
Gaspere Aragona	11.2 lbs	1
Adam Plank	9.3 lbs	1
Mark Wyrick	2.0 lbs	1
Dan Chisholm	1.9 lbs	1



The \$75.00 dollar big fish prize was won by Bob Paradise. Dan Chisholm was the winner of the Rod and Reel Combo. Afterwards we met at the Bungalow for lunch.. The weather held out and a good time was had by all participants! I would like to thank all that made it and hope to see you next season.

TNT

Caseville AOTY Results

Caseville served up some of the toughest weather conditions mother nature could hand out, but not bad enough to deter 26 DAS Nomads from catching lake trout. We had a steady rain with 20 mph winds out of the NE to make thing interesting. Fishing was tough most of the morning but around 10:30 a few trout showed up for breakfast. In a 30-minute period, nine nice trout were caught on a 30-yard stretch of the pier. Mark Piasecki caught a huge 16.5 lbs. trout, along with a second 6.75 lbs. fish. That was good enough to capture first place. Fishing not 15 ft from Mark was 2nd place finisher Rob Pinskey, and 15 ft from him was Angler of the year winner Gaspere Aragono with 2 fish for a 3rd place finish.

What a great way to finish our AOTY events for 2020. We had pizza for lunch and talked about our 2021 calendar year of events coming up. I think we will be looking for a lot more fun in the coming year.

If you have any suggestions for upcoming event feel free to call me Blaise Pewinski, or Bob Paradise. Until next time, tight lines. Blaise



Manistee Pier Outing

On November 7th the DAS nomads were back at it on the Manistee piers. The fish off against Metro West never materialized, but we had a great time and good weather. Our Metro West friends didn't make the 3:30 weigh in, so the Detroit steelheaders won by default. We had 13 members and 1 guest show up for the outing. The weather was great with highs in the 60s, and a strong south wind around 17kts. The fishing started out good at dawn and eventually shut right down. Robbie and his wife Sarah had a double first thing in the morning and landed both of them, one being a monster at 15 lbs 1 oz.. There was a total of 9 steelhead caught off the pier from club members. Robbie took 1st place. Bob P. took 2nd, Sarah took 3rd, Gaspare took 4th, and Mark Piasecki took 5th place. We grilled hamburgers and brats at the Lion's pavilion in Manistee. Also the rod and reel was won by Nino. All in all, everyone had a good time. Special thanks to Anna Kulpa for more great pictures!



Detroit Area Steelheaders Board of Directors Election

DAS By-Laws call for Board of Directors election at the annual meeting each year.

This year's unusual circumstances make it difficult to predict when or where the annual meeting will occur, but the DAS will continue to move forward despite the ongoing pandemic. To that end, we still need to elect a board of directors for the coming year. Five of the current director's terms expire and we need people who can assist in carrying out the duties of the club. The election will be held but the date/location still needs to be determined. We will hold the election of officers at our first 'in person' membership meeting.

Any dues paying member or officer can place a nomination. If you wish to become involved in the operation of the DAS you are welcome to run for election to the Board of Directors (BOD). New people bring new ideas, different perspective, and enthusiasm. Your club needs you. Please consider placing yourself in nomination for a club BOD position. To submit a name for this year's ballot, mail it, email it, call me, or write it up and give it to me. Include the person's name and contact information.

Dan Chisholm, 47833 Mallard Dr., Chesterfield, MI. 48047 Ph 586-530-9171, dan.chisholm223@gmail.com

The officers of the club consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These four officer positions are selected from among the at-large members during the first board meeting each year. At large board members are elected for a three-year term and are assigned or volunteer to serve on one of the twelve "standing committees."

2021 Skipper of the Year (SOTY) Boat Trolling Tournament Schedule and Rules

The trolling Committee has established the 2021 SOTY boat trolling tournament schedule as follows:

Date	Port	Port Captain
May 1	St Joe	Blaise Pewinski, (248) 890-4517
May 15-16	Grand Haven	Jim Zanke, (586) 489-2041
June 5	Manistee	Fred Chartier, (248) 496-9512
June 19	Harbor Beach	Joe von Grabe, (586) 945-4334
July 31	Ludington	Bob Jones, (734) 751-1767
August 7	Onkama	Tom Gorguze, (248) 343-8397
August 28	Rogers City	Brad Walton, (248) 343-0291

The entry fee for each tournament will be \$20 / boat. Entry fees will be collected at the weigh-in. This fee includes lunch that will be provided for all captains and crew at the weigh-in.

There will NOT be captains' meetings before the start of the tournaments. Registrations can be made by text message or phone call to Bob Feisel (248-765-2504) or by email to (fishon2153@gmail.com). The following information must be provided: Captain's name, captain's cell phone number, boat name, names of crew members, and whether or not the captain wants to participate in the Big Fish bet. It is preferred, out of courtesy, that all registrations are received before 9 pm on the Thursday prior to any given tournament. However, entries will be accepted up to the start of the tournament. There will be a roll call on VHF channel 72 within approximately 1 hour after the start of each tournament. Failure to reply to the roll call by radio or cell phone will result in a 5 point deduction.

Fish Calls will be conducted on VHF channel 72 during each tournament. All boats must answer all fish calls directly or through relay with a fellow skipper, or via phone call to the port captain or tournament director, within 15 minutes after a fish call. Failure to answer a fish call will result in a 5 point deduction for each missed fish call. Captains are asked to report only those fish that they believe will count towards their score (salmon or trout species that are at least 19" long or weigh at least 3 pounds).

The Big Fish bet will be \$20 / boat. All money collected will be awarded as follows:

- 50% biggest salmon
- 25% biggest steelhead
- 25% biggest lake trout

If no fish is weighed for a given species, the prize winner will be determined by a random draw.

The complete tournament rules are posted on the DAS website, under the heading "SOTY TOURNAMENTS".

Looking forward to a great season. And thank you to the skippers who have volunteered this year to be our Port Captains in 2021.

Skipper of the Year Standings 2020 FINAL Best 3

Boat Name	Skipper Name	Harbor Beach	Frankfort	Ludington	Manistee	Total Points
1 Blue Horizon	Paul Gjeldum	2	4	75	1	7
2 Sea Hag	Blaise Pewinski	75	1	1	6	8
3 Vicki's Seacret	Bob Feisel	3	50	4	2	9
4 Hardtop & Tails	Jim Zanke	1	3	7	7	11
5 Wonder	Joe Delisi	5	9	6	5	16
6 Moonshot	Brad Walton	4	8	50	75	62
7 Equalizer	Nathan Case	75	10	50	4	64
8 Lake Buzzard	Fred Chartier	75	2	2	75	79
9 Bad Dog	Tom Gorguze	75	5	5	75	85
10 Sloppy Joe	Joe Von Grabe	50	75	3	75	128
11 Bobby's Toy	Bob Jones	50	6	75	75	131
12 Almost Paradise	Bob Paradise	75	75	75	3	153
13 Silent Majority	Jason Sherrill	75	7	75	75	157
14 Rangy Lil	Mike Mioduszewski	75	75	75	8	158
15 Limitless	Mark Paradise	75	75	75	9	159
16 Blue Star	Stan Bilek	75	75	50	75	200
17 Outcast	Jason Adam	75	75	50	75	200
18 Reel Blast	Ed Paehlig	75	75	50	75	200



Number Caught	Total For Year					
	No. of Boats	Harbor Beach	Frankfort	Ludington	Manistee	Total For Year
Kings	0	11	1	6	9	23
Cohos	0	0	0	2	2	2
Lake Trout	8	39	7	1	55	55
Steelhead	1	0	4	1	6	6
Browns	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atlantics	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pinks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	9	40	17	20	86	86

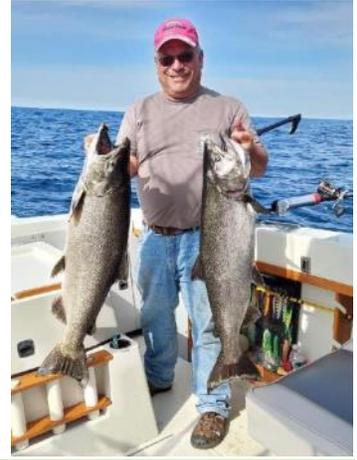
Largest Fish of the Year			
Species	Wgt. (lbs.)	Boat Name	Port
King	25.55	Equalizer	Manistee
Coho	8.30	Blue Horizon	Manistee
Lake Trout	15.60	Blue Horizon	Harbor Beach
Steelhead	9.90	Sea Hag	Ludington
Brown	0.00		
Atlantic	0.00		
Pink	0.00		
Walleye	0.00		

Paul Gjeldum, Our Skipper and Member of the Year

Congratulations are in order to Paul Gjeldum. Paul is not only our 2020 DAS Skipper of the Year, he is also being recognized by the board of directors as our 2020 Member of the Year. Paul finished the Covid shortened 2020 trolling season with a first place finish in Manistee to secure his second SOTY title. Anyone who's fished the Blue Horizon with Paul knows he's a top notch skipper and true gentleman. Just to keep it sporting, he fishes most club event with just a two man crew. That limits his presentation to just six rods, while most skippers opt to run a nine spread.

When it comes to supporting our club, he is always the first to volunteer. When we were left scrambling to find a safe meeting location due to the Covid, he secured a shelter at River Bends park. When our salmon aquarium chillers went on the fritz, he rebuilt the units. When our SIC needed help, Paul volunteered. When we recognize members with trophies or plaque's, Paul does that as well. When we have our Special Friends event, he's always a fixture. There are too many times he has stepped up to list them all.

But when the board considered who would receive recognition as the 2020 Member of the Year, it was a unanimous decision. Thank you Paul!



Tips 'n Tricks..... Some Cold Facts

As one who needs to be convinced of the convenience of a garage refrigerator. Whether you have one already or are thinking about getting one, here's how to help it perform its best. Understand the basics

In a non-climate-controlled garage, refrigerators struggle. Excessive heat forces them to work extra hard, resulting in high electric bills and early failure. Freezing temperatures make your refrigerator think it doesn't need to work, letting frozen things thaw and refrigerated items freeze. Humidity is also an issue, as it can cause rust on the coils. The ideal way to keep your garage refrigerator running at peak performance is to condition the garage air. However, this gets expensive and involves insulating the garage. You could frame up, insulate, and condition a small space within the garage, but that's not very practical and there are easier options.

Keep things cool

If your garage is hot, over 100 degrees F, set up a fan to increase airflow over your fridge's cooling coils. Just make sure the air is moving across and around the back of the fridge. If humidity is an issue, set up a dehumidifier. If your garage is also your workshop, clean up sawdust daily and make sure it does not build up on your refrigerator's coils.

Fridge heaters

In cold climates, you need to heat the air around the fridge's thermostat. One way to do this is to install a heating coil around the cost less than \$50. Another option is to put a metal clamp-on work lamp near the fridge' with an incandescent light bulb aimed at the thermostat.

Stock smart

Every time you open and close the fridge door, the air is sucked out and replaced. Keep your garage refrigerator well stocked. The cooled items inside help cool the new air, preventing the fridge from working too hard. But do not fill it too full. This can block the blower, preventing cold Air from circulating efficiently. *Courtesy of the familyhandyman.com*

Gaspere Aragona 2020 AOTY

Our 2020 Angler of the Year was repeating champion, Gaspere Aragona. AOTY events give DAS members the chance to get involved in different types of fishing. These events are great opportunities to enjoy friendly competition, while learning from some of the best DAS fisherman hosting events. These are intended to be fun events, introduce new techniques, and get members fishing.

We have implemented a few new rules intended to make events run smoothly.

Hope to see all of our members at some of these events. If you have any questions or ideas for our AOTY committee, please call Chairman **Blaise Pewinski (248) 890-4517**

If you would like to participate, or have questions about a specific outing, call the chairperson of the event.



2021 OUTING SCHEDULE

Jan 30 LSC, Metro Beach Day Sail, Dan Chisholm 586 530-9171

Feb 6 Lake St Clair, Selfridge Bay, Bob Paradise 586 457-4073

Feb 20 Bay City State Park, Blaise Pewinski 586 457-4073

**March 27 Manistee River, Metro West Fish Off,
Anna Kulpa 586 291-4555 or Mark Wyrick 248 568-6972**

April 17 Oscoda, Ausable River Steelhead, Gary Gross 586 291-1290

May 8 Algonac, St Clair River Walleye, Tom Gorguze 248 343-8397

**June 12 St Clair, St Clair River Walleye,
Ed Paehlig 810 543-3191 or Rob Pinskey 810 543-3191**

July 10 Sebawaing, Saginaw Bay Walleye Bob Paradise 586 457-4073

Sept. 11 Lake Erie, Sterling State Park Perch

**Sept 25 Manistee River Salmon,
James Anderson 313 330-3680 or Laurie Gamblin 810 730-2373**

Oct 30 Manistee Watershed, Steelhead, Tom Theida 586 206-5902

Nov.6 Manistee Pier and Surf Steelhead, Bob Paradise 586 457-4073

Dec 11 Caseville, Lake Trout, Blaise Pewinski 586 457-4073

2021 AOTY Rules

1. All participating DAS members must be up to date on their DAS membership dues. A grace period of 1 month late is allowed. Example 6/19 is good until 7/31/21.
2. To be eligible for AOTY points for an event you must contact the event chairperson and register your name and pay a \$10 entry fee prior to the event start time or call in to say you are participating and will pay the entry fee at the weigh-in. Even if you do not catch anything you must still pay the entry fee.
3. Each event will have a start and stop time posted by the event chairperson, along with meeting and weigh-in location posted before each event. Contact the event chairperson or look at the DAS web site or monthly Fishin'-Tales newsletter.
4. POINTS will be given to all event participants for AOTY. To determine your standing for the event, scoring will be: 5 points per fish, plus total weight of catch. The winner of the event based upon the scoring will be awarded one point. Two points will be awarded to the second-place finisher based upon their score and this continues for all participants. Twenty-five points will be assigned to all participants that did not weigh a fish. If an individual records less than five scores during the AOTY competition, fifty points will be scored for each event until five scores are counted.
5. Overall winner of AOTY will be determined by the individuals best five low scores for the year. For award recognition the DAS will recognize the top three anglers. The angler who earns first place will receive an embroidered jacket or a \$100 gift card.
6. In events where boats are involved, all participants on the boat must be entered in the event. The same scoring method will be used for each individual regardless of the event. For scoring purposes it is imperative that each angler on the boat keep track of each fish they catch.
7. All events will have a voluntary \$10 per person big fish pool. Each person must commit to the big fish pool by paying in advance or by notifying the chairperson that you will pay at the weigh-in prior to weighing your catch. Entry in the Big Fish pool is not mandatory to compete in any event. Big Fish will be determined by length or weight of target species per event. Big fish pool will be awarded as follows: first place fish 50% of Big Fish pool, second place fish 30%, and third place fish 20%. In case of a tie longest of the 2 or heaviest of the 2 will get paid out.
8. All events have a posted target species along with the maximum quantity of fish to be weighed or measured by length to determine the top catches of an event.

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

January 30th Ice Outing at Metro Beach Day Sail Ramp

The first 2021 AOTY outing is moved to Saturday, January 30. There is not enough ice to safely venture out from the Metro Beach Day Sail Ramp this coming Saturday so I am hoping there will be enough ice formed in the next two weeks to allow us to go out on the 30th. Everything else remains unchanged: Meet at the Metro Beach Day Sail Ramp at 0700. Fish until noon and come to the weigh-in at the Day Sail Ramp by 12:15. Scoring will be best five perch "by length" to determine your AOTY score. Ties will be determined by "total weight of your five fish". Metropolitan Beach is a managed facility and there is a fee to enter. The 2020 rates were "annual pass" \$40 (seniors \$29) and day pass \$10. I do not know if these rates have changed for 2021 or not. Just be aware there is a fee to enter.

There will be a \$10 fee per person to participate in all AOTY events in 2021. This will cover your entry fee and weigh-in lunch. The \$10 Big Fish pool is totally voluntary and you need not enter Big Fish to participate in any AOTY event. 2021 AOTY Rules have been revised and are included at the end of this

message. Port Captain for Metro Beach is Dan Chisholm. Please contact me with questions and to enter this event. Please note: It's a lot easier on the port captain if you register early as opposed to calling in the morning of the event.

I can be reached on my cell 586 530 9171. Text message is best because I do not hear well and text should give me the proper spelling of your name, your phone number, event entry (\$10) and/or Big Fish entry. 2021 AOTY Rules follow at the end of this message.

In the event January 30 ice conditions are not safe (no ice is safe but you know what I mean) we can still meet at Metro Beach Day Sail Ramp at 0700 and determine if another location (canal or DNR port entry) will be available to fish. The Selfridge DNR ramp often is frozen over early and there can be decent fishing there.

Dan



Sea Grant surveys document impact of COVID-19 on Michigan's charter fishing industry

Preliminary results show revenues were down over \$6 million from 2019, but fishing was beginning to bounce back by late summer.

This year has been a hard one for many small businesses, and Michigan's charter fishing industry is no exception. In addition to dealing with high water levels and the usual ups and downs of weather patterns and fish populations, charter captains had to contend with COVID-19, the infectious disease caused by novel coronavirus, and related restrictions. Michigan Sea Grant conducted a series of surveys on Michigan's charter fleet during 2020, and preliminary results reveal the impact of the pandemic.

Spring fishery shut down

During the early part of the 2020 season, the fishery was effectively shut down. Some of the captains who were hit the hardest were those who focused on spring fisheries for walleye and steelhead. Due to the timing of the stay-at-home order and restriction on motorized boating, captains who focused only on spring fishing lost their entire season.

By the end of June, 32% of captains had not taken a single charter fishing trip during 2020. On average, captains were down a total of 15 trips during the early part of the 2020 season. When restrictions were relaxed later in the season, many captains expressed concern regarding guidance that left captains and customers unsure of the legality and safety of operating a charter fishing business. Charter fishing provisions from Michigan DNR were updated in August to clarify that charter boats could legally operate even if social distancing was not possible onboard, so long as masks are worn.

Some recovery

With clarified and relaxed restrictions later in the fishing season, many captains saw their trip numbers recover to some extent. Captains who responded to our October survey reported 5.3 fewer trips during the late season (July-October) in 2020 vs. 2019. However, we also found that captains who were hard hit during the early part of the season were less likely to take our October survey. When accounting for this we estimated that the average captain lost 6.7 trips during the late season in addition to losing 14.8 trips during the early season (March-June).

Due to declining trip numbers, revenues from charter fees also declined substantially. The average captain lost \$10,711 in revenue during the 2020 season, which means that Michigan's charter fishing industry as a whole lost \$6.05 million in charter fees this year. Due to ripple effects and economic multipliers this has a much greater impact on coastal communities, but the old equations don't necessarily hold up in 2020 because other businesses like hotels and restaurants were often impacted by different restrictions than the charter industry.



Industry is resilient

Although this was a very challenging year, survey results also speak to the resilience of the industry. When asked about their five-year plans, 8% of captains planned to sell their current boat. Thirteen percent planned to quit the business altogether. Although this may sound like a high number, previous surveys from 2002 and 2011 found that 18 to 21% of captains plan to quit during "normal" years. Even so, our October survey revealed that most captains are cautious about expanding their operations any time soon. For example, previous surveys found 14% of captains planning to buy a bigger boat and this declined to 4% in 2020.

Uncertainty has been the one constant in 2020, and while there is some cause for optimism in 2021 there is still much uncertainty. Some captains were seeing increased bookings toward the end of the year, with 4% of captains reporting that bookings for next season were 25-50% above what they expected at this time of year. However, 34% reported a 25-75% decline and 14% reported a 100% decline in bookings. The remaining 48% reported that bookings for 2021 are about what they would expect.

As captains are wondering what next year will bring and dealing with revenue shortfalls from 2020, it is worth mentioning that \$300 million in federal funding from the CARES Act was specifically dedicated to assistance for marine fisheries participants, including charter boat operators. Under Section 12005, many states and territories were allocated from \$1 million to \$50 million, but Michigan was left out because Great Lakes fishery assistance was not included. As Congress is currently debating a second round of stimulus funding, it is possible that future funding might help to alleviate some of the financial woes experienced by Michigan charter operators.

Daniel O'Keefe, Michigan Sea Grant, Michigan State University Extension

Michigan Sea Grant helps to foster economic growth and protect Michigan's coastal, Great Lakes resources through education, research, and outreach. A collaborative effort of the [University of Michigan](#) and [Michigan State University](#) and its [MSU Extension](#), Michigan Sea Grant is part of the [NOAA-National of M Sea Grant](#) network of 34 university-based programs.

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Detroit Area Steelheaders
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MEETING NOTICE—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT
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Membership Expires:



Upcoming Dates

- Jan 26 7PM Virtual Zoom Membership Meeting
- Jan 30 AOTY Ice Fishing Metro Beach Day Sail
- Feb 6 AOTY Ice Fishing LSC Selfridge Bay
- Feb 9 BOD Meeting
- Feb 20 AOTY Ice Fishing Bay City State Park
- Feb 23 7PM Virtual Zoom Membership Meeting
- March 16 BOD Meeting
- March 25-28, 2021 Ultimate Fishing Show Novi
- March 27 AOTY Manistee River Metro West Fish-off
- March 30 7PM Virtual Zoom Membership Meeting

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

We need your e-mail address.

Without someone volunteering to help with printing and mailing of the monthly newsletter, we will need to e-mail newsletters to members. There are a dozen annual members, and over 30 lifetime members who do not have their e-mail address on file. If you would need to update your email address, please reach out to Bob Ksionzek, or Steve Prout. If you are interested in volunteering to help with printing, please reach out to any board member.

COVID 19 ANNOUNCEMENT

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