



# Fishin' Tales II

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

October 2021



## Angler Diary project documents stocked and wild steelhead in Michigan rivers

Dan O'Keefe, Michigan Sea Grant, Michigan State University Extension -

Participants checked steelhead for fin clips and found that some rivers depend much more heavily on stocked fish than others.

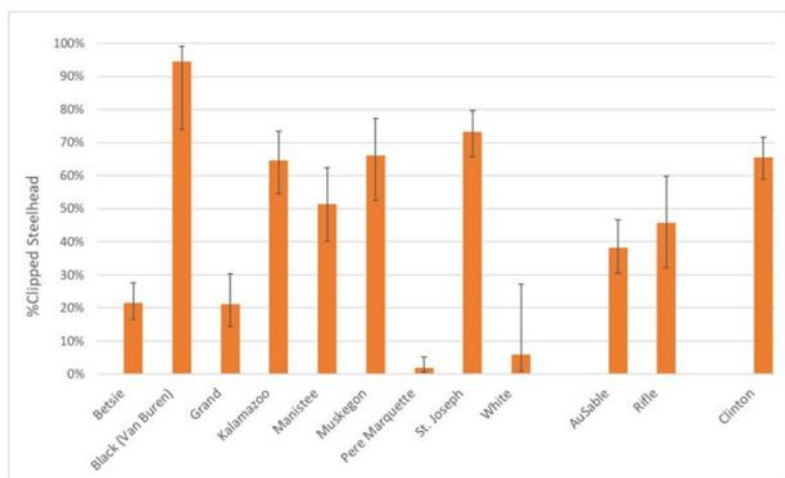
The Great Lakes Angler Diary is an online reporting system that allows anglers to share data in a confidential manner. Last year, diary users began to focus their efforts on river steelhead. In all, 49 participants collected complete data sets that included information on 1,380 steelhead caught between October 1, 2020, and May 31, 2021. In addition to collecting data on catches, participants filled out a year-end survey to weigh in on management issues and let biologists know how fishing success compared to past years.

One key aspect of the program involves checking for fin clips and other marks. Since 2018, all yearling steelhead stocked in Michigan waters have been marked with an adipose fin clip. This means that nearly all returning steelhead of lake-age 1, 2, and 3 would have been marked last year but some older stocked fish would not have been marked. This means that we cannot estimate a true %Wild, but by looking at %Clipped we can get a sense for how stocked and wild fish contribution varies from one river to another.

### Where the wild fish are

Not surprising, the Pere Marquette had the lowest contribution of clipped steelhead, with roughly 98% of steelhead unclipped. The PM has a longstanding reputation as a producer of wild-spawned steelhead thanks to groundwater inputs, clean water, a forested watershed, and a lack of dams. Volunteer effort was mostly concentrated in the mainstem upstream from the confluence of the Big South Branch, which is the only tributary that receives stocked steelhead. Based on our results, it seems like very few of these Big South stockers stray into upstream waters of the mainstem.

More surprisingly, the farmed and urbanized Grand River watershed also had a high prevalence of unclipped fish that was on par with the more forested Betsie River. As with the PM, program participants in the Grand tended to fish in upstream areas of the watershed (including cold water tributaries like Prairie Creek). The few fish that were caught by volunteers in the Grand River below Grand Rapids showed a higher percent clipped, but more effort is needed in downstream areas.



Prevalence of fin-clipped steelhead by watershed, October 2020 through May 2021. Error bars show 95% confidence intervals.

Continued on Page 5

### DAS Membership Meetings

Go Virtual for Now

Get the Latest Event Updates Online

You can still check us out:

On the Interweb

[www.detroitsteelheaders.com](http://www.detroitsteelheaders.com)

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

On the Facebook

[www.facebook.com/detroitarea/steelheaders](http://www.facebook.com/detroitarea/steelheaders)

[www.facebook.com/detroitarea/steelheaders](http://www.facebook.com/detroitarea/steelheaders)

On the OFFICIAL GROUP PAGE

Check out the new Facebook group page where you can post at:

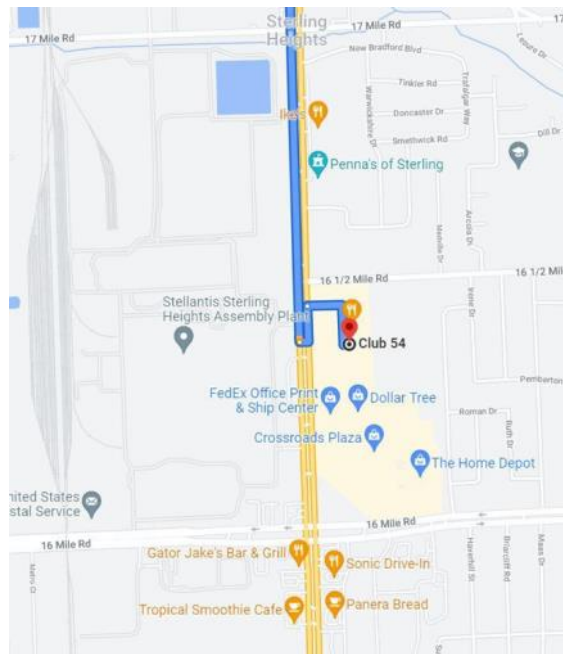
[www.facebook.com/groups/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/)

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**Tuesday, October 26, Member Meeting – 7:30 pm at Club 54 in Sterling Heights**

We are excited to announce the new location for Membership meetings is Club 54. It's located at 37722 Van Dyke Ave, in Sterling Heights. Just south of 16 1/2 Mile Rd., across from the Chrysler plant. We will be serving fresh hot pizza and soft drinks to welcome everyone to our new meeting location. If your membership



lapsed over the covid, we are extending a one time renewal rate of \$20 at this meeting. We are also extending a \$20 membership deal for new members at the October meeting. The usual DAS stuff is on the agenda.....SOTY reports & upcoming info, fishing reports, tackle raffle, 505-50 raffle plus Every Member drawing.

**COME CHECK OUT THE NEW MEETING SPOT AND ENJOY SOME HOT DELICIOUS PIZZA ON US!**

Dan Chisholm

**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.**

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

- New Member - \$35 Yearly
- Senior (65 & over)- \$20 Yearly
- Junior (under 16) - \$20 Yearly (Electronic Newsletter)
- Special Event Rate (New Members Only)- \$20
- Renewal - \$35 Yearly
- Address Change only

Amt. Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Newsletter/Printer
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Awards
- CHRIS NYTKO**  
Facebook
- Anna Kulpa**  
Photography



## October Guest Speakers, team Kingfish

The salmon tournament fishing team Kingfish will be our featured October guest speakers. Brothers, Steve and Scott Campbell are coming off their 2021 fishing season with a list of impressive finishes, that culminated with the Founders Cup championship. Team Kingfish primarily fishes off their 240 Thompson Hardtop. Fishing for fun and money, they aren't afraid to mix it up with big battlewagons, and seasoned charter fisherman. Join us on at the October meeting for a recap of their dream season, along with some tips and tactics to help put more fish in your boat.



## Manistee Back-to-Back Pier, River and Surf Outings

The Detroit Steelheaders will have back-to-back steelhead tournaments in Manistee, the 30th of October and the 6th of November. We will be fishing the Manistee River shed (Big Manistee, Little Manistee, Bear creek, Manistee Lake, piers and beaches). No fishing Lake Michigan in a boat.

**What:** Manistee I, Pier, River, or Surf outing

**When:** October 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 @ 6:00 am to 2:00pm

**Weigh-in:** Meet up at Lions Pavilion off of First Street. Three biggest fish by weight.



Cost is \$10.00 per person, and \$10.00 for big fish entry. A lunch will follow. Questions, please call or text Tom Theida (TNT) at 586-206-5902. You must sign up before 6:00AM the day of the event. You can pay at the weigh-in.

Our Manistee II Outing will be a fish-off with the Metro West Steelheaders. You can fish the same areas as the first tournament. Rules will be finalized to align with Metro West's fishing times and weigh-in procedures. We will probably fish a little longer. Bob Paradise is the chairperson for this one. If more information is needed contact Bob at (586) 457-4073.

As always, visit the message board for the latest details in the AOTY Outings Forum.

I hope to see everyone there.

### Angler of the Year (AOTY) Overall Standings To Date

Entrant's Name	TODAY: 9/27/2021												Best 5	Place	
	1-30 M	2-06 S	2-20 S	3-27 M	4-17 O	5-08 A	6-12 S	7-10 LV	9-11 M	9-25 M	10-30 M	11-06 M			12-11 C
1 BOB PARADISE	50	1	50	1	50	50	12	11	2	1	75	75	75	16	1
2 MARK WYRICK	4	5	50	50	50	6	4	2	50	3	75	75	75	18	2
3 GASPARE ARAGONA	1	16	50	4	50	9	50	15	4	2	75	75	75	20	3
4 ROB PINSKEY	75	3	50	75	75	2	3	16	3	75	75	75	75	27	4
5 DANIEL CHISHOLM	10	4	50	50	75	10	20	10	1	50	75	75	75	35	5
6 ANNA KULPA	5	8	50	50	50	11	10	7	50	50	75	75	75	41	6
7 MARK PIASECKI	3	7	50	50	50	75	21	75	75	75	75	75	75	131	7
8 DINO RAPTIS	7	6	50	50	50	75	23	75	75	75	75	75	75	136	8
9 BLAISE PEWINSKI	75	2	50	50	75	50	8	75	75	75	75	75	75	160	9
10 JAMES ANDERSON	50	13	50	3	50	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	166	10
11 NATE CASE JR	6	50	75	75	75	50	50	13	50	50	75	75	75	169	11
12 NATE CASE	2	50	50	50	75	50	25	50	50	50	75	75	75	177	12
13 TOM GORGUZE	50	11	75	50	75	75	5	75	75	75	75	75	75	191	13
14 RABIH ABDALLAH	50	50	50	2	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	202	14
15 LAURIE GAMBLIN	50	9	50	50	50	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	209	15
16 DON JASMAN	50	50	75	50	75	12	75	50	50	75	75	75	75	212	16
17 ED PAHLIG	75	75	75	75	75	1	2	75	75	75	75	75	75	228	17
18 ART RING	75	75	75	75	75	3	6	75	75	75	75	75	75	234	18
19 TONY YURGO	75	75	75	75	75	5	75	6	75	75	75	75	75	236	19
20 DON MIKROS	75	75	75	75	75	75	9	75	5	75	75	75	75	239	20
21 PAUL GJELDUM	75	75	75	75	75	75	17	1	75	75	75	75	75	243	21
22 HARRY ORLOW	9	10	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	244	22
23 FRED CHARTIER	75	75	75	50	75	75	1	50	75	75	75	75	75	251	23
24 KAHLED ABDALLAH	8	50	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	258	24
24 CHERYL JASMAN	75	75	75	75	75	50	75	8	50	75	75	75	75	258	24
26 TERRICK PATTERSON	50	13	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	263	26
27 SAMUEL ANDERSON	50	75	75	50	50	75	75	75	75	50	75	75	75	275	27



## September Meeting Recap

The September member meeting was a farewell of sorts as we closed out the summer/fall open meeting season at River Bends Park in Shelby Township. A big thank you to Paul Gjeldum for arranging our summer schedule and helping provide an outdoor pavilion where we could meet all summer. The weather cooperated for a second year in a row and the club enjoyed the outdoor setting where we were able to conduct a full schedule of events without an indoors venue.

Thirty-eight members attended last month as we listened to Bill Dunk update membership on new and improved marine electronics. I am not an electronics guy so much of it was over my head but if you have need for marine electronics or just feel the need to upgrade what you have, Bill can offer a solution.

Mark Wyrick and Anna Kulpa pulled off another great tackle raffle, Skipper of the Year events were discussed, remaining Angler of the Year events were explained, Rodney Elnick outlined what is coming up regarding Salmon-in-the Classroom for 2022, we also enjoyed raffles [50:50 (\$75 won by Don Jasman) and every member (\$50 won by Jim Zanke).

There are two important things all members need to know right now. The first is we have a new indoor meeting venue starting with our October member meeting. I hope you can join us at Club 54. It's on VanDyke near 16 1/2 mile, across from the Chrysler plant. The board has decided to start the new venue off with a splash, we will be providing pizza and drinks will be available at a cash bar. Also, if your membership has lapsed, you can re-up at the October meeting for only \$20. The second thing is we will be able to hold elections this year. This is important because it is your opportunity to join the Board of Directors and provide input into the future of the club. If you want to be placed on the ballot please let someone know.....Dan Chisholm.

## September Outing Results

Congratulations to Bob Paradise for his first place finish in our September outing. Bob Landed two salmon near the tubes at the mouth of the Little Manistee. Sounds like there was plenty of action at daybreak, but the big Kings had their way with most of the anglers. Gaspere Aragona managed to land a 19 lb. King (and \$75) to win the big fish honors. Mark Wyrick also brought one fish to the scales to lock-up third place. Cudo's go out to Spencer McOscar who participated as a non-member guest and also managed to land one. Fifteen anglers participated. Thanks to James Anderson and Laurie Gamblin for hosting this event, and arranging for the great get together at Trak's Bar & Grill in Brethren.

### AOTY Manistee Outing - Sat. Sept. 27, 2021

Angler's Name	Entry Fee	Big Fish F	Total Wg	Qty Fsh	Fish Pts	Tot Pt	Largest Fish (lb.)	Place
1 BOB PARADISE	\$10.00	\$10.00	28.19	2	10.00	38.19	15.25	1
2 GASPARE ARAGONA	\$10.00	\$10.00	19.02	1	5.00	24.02	19.02	2
3 MARK WYRICK	\$10.00	\$10.00	12.87	1	5.00	17.87	12.87	3
4 DANIEL CHISHOLM	\$10.00	\$10.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	4
4 ANNA KULPA	\$10.00	\$10.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	4
4 LIZ KULPA	\$10.00	\$10.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	4
4 BOB FEISEL	\$10.00	\$10.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	4
4 KEN CIONE	\$10.00	\$10.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	4
4 SAMUEL ANDERSON	\$10.00	\$10.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	4
4 DAN WHITMILL	\$10.00	\$10.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	4
4 LAURIE GAMBLIN	\$10.00	\$10.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	4
4 JAMES ANDERSON	\$10.00	\$10.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	4
4 SPENCER McOSCAR	\$10.00	\$10.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	4
4 NATE CASE	\$10.00	\$10.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	4
4 NATE CASE JR	\$10.00	\$10.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	4

<b>Total Entry Fees</b>		<b>Total No. Anglers</b>	
\$150.00		15	
<b>Total Big Fish Fees</b>			
\$150.00			
<b>Angler</b>	<b>Largest Fish</b>	<b>Payout</b>	
GASPARE ARAGONA	19.02	\$75.00	
<b>Angler</b>	<b>2nd Largest Fish</b>	<b>Payout</b>	
BOB PARADISE	15.25	\$45.00	
<b>Angler</b>	<b>3rd Largest Fish</b>	<b>Payout</b>	
MARK WYRICK	12.87	\$30.00	



## Angler Survey continued from page 1

At the other end of the spectrum, the Black River in Van Buren County supports a fishery dominated by stocked fish. Our best point estimate for %Clipped in the Black River was 94% (shown by the orange bar on the graph). However, anglers reported only 18 steelhead caught from the Black River, which led to a relatively wide confidence interval of 74-99% clipped steelhead. This means that we are 95% confident that the true %Clipped in the Black River is between 74% and 99%.

In watersheds where participants reported more steelhead, the confidence interval is not as wide. For example, 164 steelhead were reported from the Pere Marquette, giving a confidence interval of 0.6% to 5.2%. This is a spread of only 4.6% versus the 20% spread on the Black River, which shows why it is important to get more participation from anglers in order to improve the precision of % Clipped estimates.

Other popular Lake Michigan watersheds like the St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, Manistee, and Muskegon contained a mix of clipped and unclipped fish. The White River showed a high prevalence of unclipped fish, but also had a wide confidence interval due to the low number of steelhead reported (17). For next year, we are adding the North Branch of the White River as a reporting option in Great Lakes Angler Diary since natural reproduction may be higher in the North Branch.

In the Lake Huron basin, our point estimate of 38% clipped in the AuSable River watershed only tells part of the story. In the main-stem of the AuSable, we estimated that 47-70% of steelhead were clipped. This is a wide range due to the relatively low sample size (66 steelhead) and even mix of clipped and unclipped fish. Even so, steelhead in Van Etten Creek (one of the principal tributaries of the lower AuSable) clearly showed a higher prevalence of wild fish with only 11-29% clipped.

The Clinton River is one of the most accessible and urbanized steelhead rivers in Michigan, flowing through portions of Oakland and Macomb County and into Lake St. Clair. Even so, the Clinton River watershed produces significant numbers of wild steelhead. Great Lakes Angler Diary users reported 215 steelhead caught from the Clinton, providing a point estimate of 66% clipped.

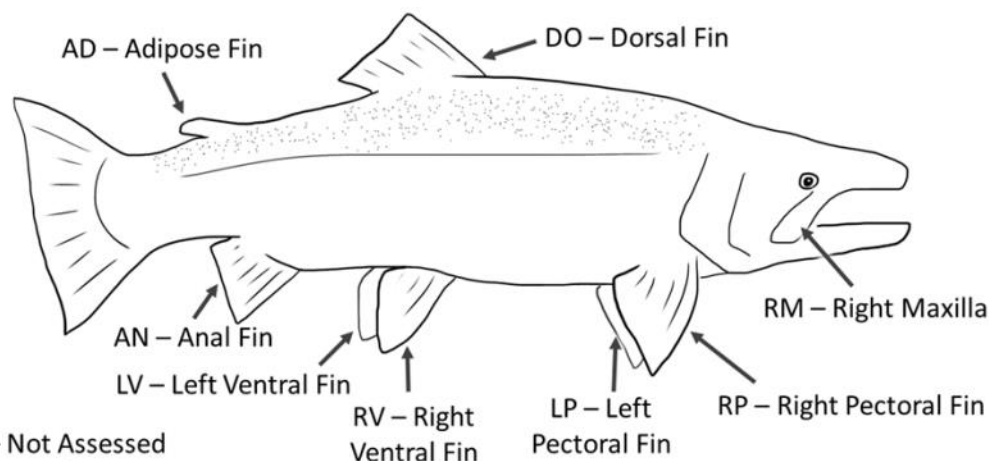
### How to participate

Last season's data collection was very helpful, but we could really use anglers help to get even better estimates for the upcoming season – particularly if they fish lower river areas on the Manistee, Pere Marquette, Muskegon, or Grand River. We are also looking for more active volunteers on Lake Superior streams and the Huron River in southeast Michigan. Follow these steps to sign up today!

- **REGISTER** at [GLanglerdiary.org](http://GLanglerdiary.org) or download the GL Angler Diary app for IOS or Android
- **RECORD** every river fishing trip that targets steelhead, including skunk trips
- **MEASURE each and every** steelhead caught
- **CHECK** for fin clips and other marks

At the end of May you will be asked to take a short survey and verify that your information for the previous season is complete. Providing accurate measurements to the nearest quarter inch is very important, but if it is not possible to measure a steelhead that is caught and released it is also acceptable to estimate the length.

### Codes for Fin Clips and Other Marks



Multiple fin clips are possible, with ADLV, ADRP, ADLV, ADRV, ADLM, and ADRM most common in steelhead.

*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 Sea Grant network of 34 university-based programs.*

*This survey report was prepared by Michigan Sea Grant Extension Educator Daniel O'Keefe. This article was published by Michigan State University Extension.*

## DAS Board of Directors Elections

DAS By-Laws call for Board of Directors election at the annual meeting each year. Because of Covid, we did not have elections last year, and this years slate is wide open. All but two of the current members terms expire.

New faces are always welcome to help out with new ideas and a different perspective. If you are interested, I strongly urge you to run for election this year. 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 please let me or any board member know as soon as possible. I can be reached at:

Dan Chisholm, 47833 Mallard Dr., Chesterfield, MI. 48047 (586) 530-9171 - [dan.chisholm223@gmail.com](mailto: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 serve on one or more of the ten standing committees.

The board meets at 7:00 pm at Dooley's Tavern in Shelby Twp, two Tuesday's prior to the general membership meeting each Month. Food and non-alcoholic beverages are provided. The board does not meet in August so there are 11 board meetings each year. Elections will be held at our December 14, Christmas meeting.

### Message Board is Down, Kind of...

When you visit the Message Board from the website link you will see a message stating that this board has no forums. **To view the message board, you must login with your user name and password.** If you forgot your password, just click on the "I forgot my password" link and you can reset your password.

I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Please e-mail Bob any concerns or issues in regards to the DAS Message Board or any other website concerns.

### EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! 2022 SOTY PLANNING MEETING

A trolling tournament planning meeting is scheduled for 7:30 PM on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, at Dooley's Tavern in Shelby Township. This event is by invitation only. If you are a boat captain that fished any of the trolling tournaments this year, watch your email for the invitation to the meeting. Trolling director, Bob Feisel will lead the DAS Skippers to set the 2022 trolling schedule and discuss possible rules changes.

### Upcoming Dates:

**Oct 26 Membership Meeting at Club 54**

**Oct 30 Manistee AOTY Steelhead Outing**

**Nov 6 Manistee AOTY Fish-Off w/Metro West**

**Nov 16 BOD Meeting**

**Nov 30 Membership Meeting at Club 54**

**Dec 11 Caseville AOTY Lake Trout Outing**

**Dec 14 Christmas Party at Club 54**