

THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN STEELHEAD & SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION



Volume 85

May/June 2024

No. 3

Jim Bedford Receives Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award

The Michigan Steelheaders recognized Jim Bedford as the Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award recipient for 2024 at its annual presidents' meeting on April 20th. Jim is the tenth recipient of the prestigious award which honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the anadromous sport fish fishery over the course of their careers.

Jim Bedford received a BS, MS, and Ph.D. from MSU in Fisheries Biology and Aquatic Pollution Biology. He began his career as a pesticide chemist, then Asst. Lab Director, Senior Toxicologist, Environmental Health Ombudsman, Acting Division Chief for the Department of Natural Resources and Health Department in Michigan.

He has fished since childhood but became an avid river steelhead and resident trout angler and has kept catch records of all steelhead and resident trout over 10 inches over his career. He caught his first steelhead in 1966. He set a personal goal to catch

10,000 steelhead trout in 100 different rivers. The goal was achieved in April 2013. Today, his total is approaching 12,000!

Jim has authored four books on fishing steelhead, he has been an award-winning journalist and photographer featured in Field & Stream, Outdoor Life, Trout, Salmon and Steelhead, Game and Fish Magazines as well as numerous regional magazines including a frequent contributor to Great Lakes Sport Fishing News. In addition, he has been a featured presenter at numerous Fishing Shows.

He was an original member of the Lake Michigan Citizen's Fisheries Advisory Committee which was implemented to protect the fishery from bacterial kidney disease (BKD) which devastated the big lake fishery in the late 1980's as well as the challenges that aquatic invasive species present to a balanced aquatic ecosystem. He has been active in the Angler Diary program for steelhead and the

Steelhead Task Force committee formed by Natural Resources Commission to study the decline in steelhead and what may be the causes.

Jim continues to volunteer in any capacity he can, all to promote fishing and increase awareness of the importance of protecting Michigan's anadromous sport fishery for future generations. Many years of research and wading streams and rivers contribute to his conclusions which are freely shared with interested anglers. "I have tried to sort out some of the myths and fallacies that have been perpetuated regarding the steelhead and provide the angler with lots of good and solid scientific-based information," he expressed.

It was because of these accomplishments and his dedication and leadership while making outstanding contributions to Michigan's anadromous fish sport fishery, that MSSFA selected Jim Bedford for the Dr. Howard A. Tanner Award for 2024.



As invasive mussels, climate change and other factors drive down Great Lakes fish populations, tribal, commercial and recreational fishing interests are competing for a slice of an ever-smaller pie. (Bridge file photo)

Sault Tribe Challenges Michigan's Consent Decree

By Kelly House, Bridgemi.com

Michigan's largest Native American tribe is appealing the legal agreement that allocates fishing rights in Michigan's portion of the Great Lakes, arguing that as a sovereign nation, the tribe can't be forced to follow rules crafted without its consent.

In an appeal filed Wednesday in the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians seeks a trial to challenge the latest Great Lakes fish-

ing decree, a document that dictates how five Native American tribes and the federal and state governments share access to Michigan's Great Lakes fish.

The agreement, finalized last year, covers nearly 19,000 square miles in lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior, where Michigan tribes retained fishing rights in the 1836 Treaty of Washington.

Speaking to reporters Wednesday, Sault Chairperson Austin Lowes argued that because the tribe didn't sign the agreement,

it has a treaty right to decide when, where and how Sault tribe members fish.

"This treaty predates Michigan's very existence," Lowes said, "and the fact that we have to get Michigan to agree to how we can fish in the waters that we ceded is absolutely preposterous."

Officials with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources did not respond to an inquiry about the appeal. Nor did attorneys for

"Sault Tribe"
Continued on page 3

Large Trout Stocked in Southeast Michigan's Rivers, Spring Mill Pond

Article by Great Lakes Basin Report, April 2024

Approximately 2,800 adult trout recently were stocked by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the Huron River (Proud Lake Recreation Area, Oakland County) and Spring Mill Pond (Island Lake Recreation Area, Livingston County) in southeast Michigan. These fish are retired broodstock from

Michigan's state fish hatcheries.

The Huron River, downstream of the Proud Lake Dam, was stocked with approximately 1,370 brown trout and 1,400 rainbow trout, all ranging in size from 13 inches to 19 inches.

Spring Mill Pond was stocked with approximately 450 brown trout and 200 rainbow trout, also ranging from 13 inches to 19 inches.

In addition, 400 yearling rainbow trout were stocked in the Huron River and 100 in Spring Mill Pond. Anglers should be aware that some portion of these year-

"Trout"
Continued on page 8



Search groups for MSSFA



Jim Bedford with his award, and Dennis Eade, Executive Director Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen's Association
Photo credit: Joe Montella

The Quality of Fishing Reflects the Quality of Living!

Should I Cast? Should I Troll?

By Bob Jensen

There are several methods that an angler can employ to present a bait to the fish that they're after. Drifting can be effective if the wind is from the right direction, but trolling and casting are probably, in most places at most times, the most effective ways to try to put a bait in front of a fish. Trolling versus casting, here we go.

Casting is usually most effective in shallow water. In the spring and early summer, many species of fish are in the shallows spawning, getting ready to spawn, or just finishing the spawning ritual. Let's say you know where there's a rock, gravel, or sand point in shallow water. To take it one step further, you believe that there are some walleyes hanging out around that structure. The spot is two to four feet deep and the water is fairly clear. If you drift or troll over the spot, you're going to spook the fish. However, if you stay within easy casting distance and cast to the fish, they'll never know that you're there. Or at least they won't know until they discover your bait in their mouth. When the fish are shallow and in a small area, casting will be very effective.

Casting isn't just for shallow water. On a very popular, heavily-fished lake a few years ago, some friends and I learned that even in deep water casting can be a better approach. We found a school of fish that we believed to be crappies at the tip of a point in water about twenty feet deep. Some were suspended about ten feet down, others were close to the bottom. We hovered over them

and worked our jigs directly below the boat. That often does the trick, but in this case, it didn't. We tried other spots, but none held fish like this one, so we started trying different techniques. Still not much action. One of the anglers in our boat made a long cast with his jig and reeled in a crappie. He made another cast, another crappie. Apparently the boat and noise from the boat directly above spooked the fish. We moved the boat a cast away from the fish and started catching. On some lakes, at some times, casting to deeper water can get the fish to eat your bait.

When it comes to wall-eye fishing, a favored technique when the fish are spread out or near the surface is to troll Hornet crankbaits behind planer boards. Planer boards attach to your line and take the bait out to the side and away from the boat. That allows us to troll in areas that hold fish near the surface without disturbing them.

Many states allow an angler to use multiple lines. When the walleyes are spread out, boards enable anglers to effectively get a good number of lines in the water. By doing so, we can cover a wide area and a variety of depths and show the fish several different lure offerings. Off Shore Tackle planer boards are favored by many of the most successful walleye trollers. They allow anglers to keep their baits in the fish zone more of the time.

When you go fishing, if you'll remember to cast for shallow fish or deeper fish that you've pinpointed and troll for fish that are spread out, you'll catch more fish.

Holland

8/2-4/24

PRO

AM

333







Ladies Fish Friday

bigredclassic.com

When the walleyes are spread out, trolling with a crankbait is a very good presentation choice.



Lake Erie Continues Historic Run of Excellent Fishing

Article by Great Lakes Basin Report, April 2024

Lake Erie anglers can expect the 2024 fishing season to again offer world-renowned opportunities, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife.

Following years of strong walleye hatches, Lake Erie continues to affirm that it is The Walleye Capital of the World. Additionally, a stable yellow perch population in Lake Erie's west zone will provide good fishing in 2024, while low catch rates are expected to continue in the central and east zones.

"Lake Erie is known worldwide as a top fishing destination for a variety of species," said Travis Hartman, Lake Erie Fisheries Program Administrator for the Division of Wildlife.

"Lake Erie's sustainable high performance is due in part to science-based management which guides regulations and ensures long-term angling opportunities."

"Lake Erie is known

worldwide as a top fishing destination for a variety of Lake Erie walleye and yellow perch fisheries are managed through an inter-agency quota system. Each jurisdiction regulates its catches to comply with an-

nually determined safe harvest levels that ensure sustainability. The quotas were announced by the Lake Erie Committee on Friday, March 22.

The walleye daily limit on Lake Erie is six fish per angler with a 15-inch minimum length requirement.

Walleye hatch success has been well above average for six consecutive years, including the three largest hatches ever surveyed. Anglers will mostly catch abundant 2- to 6-year-old-fish ranging from 15 to 24 inches.

Larger fish from 2015 and earlier hatches will provide chances to reel in a Fish Ohio qualifying walleye (minimum 28 inches).

Abundant young fish will show up in the catch and range from 9 to 14 inches, with an increasing number of 2-year-olds reaching 15 inches as the season progresses. Anglers

are encouraged to release sub-legal fish with as little handling as possible so they can contribute to the future fishery. In 2023, Ohio's anglers caught and released more than 1 million small walleye.

"The '23 walleye hatch showed above-average results in the western and central basins," said Hartman.

"We expect walleye anglers to find outstanding fishing across the lake."

Yellow perch abundance in the west zone from Toledo to Huron is stable as a large year class of 3-year-old fish will anchor the population in 2024.

The best success is anticipated during July through mid-August when the water temperature is above 76 degrees, and again from mid-October through November as adult perch move to shallower water to feed at water temperatures

below 60 degrees. Warm water during July and August provided a majority of angler yellow perch harvest in 2023. Abundant perch from 7 to 10 inches will dominate the catch, with jumbo 12-inch and larger fish from older year classes also contributing to the catch.

Lake Erie's central zone from Huron to Fairport Harbor continues to experience low yellow perch abundance, primarily driven by poor to moderate hatches during the past decade. While catch rates are expected to remain low, late season fishing in 2023 provided some limit opportunities from Vermilion to Avon and off Cleveland.

In the east zone, from Fairport Harbor to Conneaut, the population has

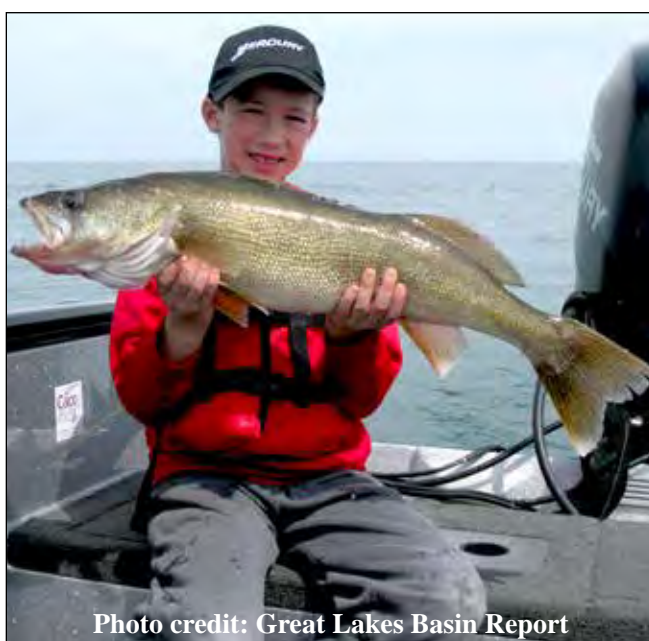


Photo credit: Great Lakes Basin Report

"Lake Erie"
Continued on page 3

**“Sault Tribe”
Continued from page 1**

other tribes that signed the decree.

The Sault tribe’s lawsuit is the latest controversy in a years-long struggle to rewrite fishing rules in lakes fundamentally changed by invasive species and other factors.

Since arriving on ocean-going cargo ships in the 1980s, quagga and zebra mussels have invaded every Great Lake but Superior, hogging nutrients and leaving less food for fish. The whitefish that have long sustained livelihoods for tribal fishers are near the brink of collapse, while some salmon species favored by recreational anglers have also grown scarce.

That has created tensions, with tribal, recreational and state-regulated commercial fishers all seeking a slice of an ever-smaller pie.

The Sault tribe wants access to more fish species,

and more fishing territory, with less oversight by the state government.

First crafted in 1985, the decree has been renegotiated several times. But after tensions erupted at the bargaining table, the latest update was negotiated largely without the Sault tribe’s involvement.

In addition to the state and federal governments, four tribes signed onto the legal agreement in 2022: The Bay Mills Indian Community, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chipewia Indians and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.

But the Sault tribe refused to sign the document, and filed a host of objections to its terms. Nonetheless, U.S. District Court Judge Paul Maloney finalized the decree in August 2023, binding all parties to its terms.

With the whitefish that sustain tribal fisheries in alarming decline, tribes

negotiated access to new fishing locations, species, and gear. In perhaps the most controversial change, the new agreement allows tribal fishing boats to use gillnets in certain locations and at certain times of year.

But Sault tribe officials complain the decree locks their fishers out of prime waters, while imposing too many restrictions on gillnets, blocking tribal fishers from catching certain species, and wrongly requiring them to report catch data to the state.

“Quite simply, it’s falling short of meeting the needs of our members,” Lowes said.

He added that some areas off-limits to the tribe are “essentially in the backyard of several of our fishermen.”

Any expansion of Sault tribe fishing rights would likely anger non-tribal fishing groups, which have already filed their own appeal to the decree.

A group called the Coalition to Protect Mich-

igan Resources, which represents recreational anglers and charter boat captains, objects to the use of gillnets, arguing it could threaten the lakes’ fisheries.

Gillnets are walls of netting that stretch across the water, ensnaring the gills or other body parts of passing fish. Unlike trapnets, which allow anglers to remove accidentally-caught species and toss them back alive, gillnets are generally lethal.

Restrictions on gillnet fishing were a key component of the earlier decree, and Michigan spent millions buying out tribal gillnet fishers amid a conversion to trapnets.

Gillnetting requires less labor, making fishing more cost-effective. With far fewer whitefish in the lakes today, tribal anglers have found it increasingly difficult to make money catching fish by trapnet.

But Amy Trotter, CEO of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs and treasurer of the Coalition to



The light purple areas roughly delineate waters covered by the 1836 Treaty of Washington.
(Bridge file photo)

Protect Michigan Resources, argued allowing tribal fishers to use gillnets would harm already-struggling populations by killing fish that accidentally get ensnared in the nets.

“We do have concerns about the biological impact of that,” she said, along

with concerns about how regulators would enforce limits on gillnet fishing.

While the competing appeals make their way through the courts, the latest decree remains in effect. Sault tribe attorney Ryan Mills said its anglers are abiding by its terms.



**Daiwa
Saltist Levelwind
Line Counter
Conventional Reel**

- Spool click
- Soft-touch grip knob
- Machined aluminum spool
- Direct drive built-in line counter
- Rugged, aluminum frame and sideplate
- Levelwind system lays line evenly on the spool
- Ultimate Tournament Drag (UTD) – a combination of advanced carbon washers, alloy and stainless steel drag plates with grease expressly created to serve the drag system and stop fish cold



800.922.1219
FishUSA.com

**“Lake Erie”
Continued from page 2**

declined below the prior 20-year average, but moderate hatches from 2019 and 2021 have kept abundance above the central zone. Catch rates are expected to remain low during the 2024 season, except for times such as late fall when adult perch congregate in larger

schools near harbors. Five-year-old perch from the moderate 2019 year class will average about 9 inches in length with some reaching 12 inches.

Conservative quotas ensure that sustainable spawning stocks will allow the best opportunity for population recovery.

Yellow perch daily limits remain unchanged com-

pared to 2023, with a daily limit of 30 perch in the west zone, 10 in the central zone, and 30 in the east zone.

Smallmouth bass and largemouth bass fishing in 2024 will remain good with the opportunity for trophy catches. The daily limit is five bass per day, with a 14-inch minimum size requirement until Tuesday, April 30, 2024, and again from

Saturday, June 22, 2024, to April 30, 2025. During the spawning season, from May 1 to June 21, 2024, anglers may harvest one bass per day with a minimum size requirement of 18 inches.

Lake Erie fishing reports, information on Lake Erie research and management programs, fisheries resources, maps, and links

to other Lake Erie web resources are available at wildohio.gov. The current fishing regulations can be found on the HuntFish OH app, at wildohio.gov, or locations where fishing licenses are sold.

In 2022, anglers generated \$5.5 billion in economic spending in Ohio, according to a recent report released by the Wild-

life Management Institute, Responsive Management, and Southwick Associates. The survey found that 18% of Ohio’s adults, about 1.7 million individuals, participate in fishing, and 37% of them took at least one trip to Lake Erie to fish.

Researchers Work To Ensure Sustainable Walleye Populations in Saginaw Bay

Article by
michiganseagrant.org

Populations of walleye (*Sander vitreus*) in Saginaw Bay in Lake Huron have rebounded over the last decade because of water quality and habitat improvements. As a result, management goals for these populations have now shifted to ensuring a sustainable harvest. Unfortunately, not much is known about where these fish are spawning or where they are coming from – some walleye are residents of the bay while others migrate into Lake Huron to spawn. This information is needed to ensure better management and habitat protection.

Chris Vandergoot, director of the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System (GLATOS) at Michigan State University, is leading a team to identify walleye spawning sites and their relative contributions in Saginaw Bay. In addition to funds Michigan Sea Grant, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission are also helping to support this project. This project will help determine how the fish are using 14 known tributary spawning aggregations; if off-shore rock reefs are a source of reproduction; and whether migrant and resident walleye aggregations differ in spawning locations or timing.

The team is placing 355 acoustic tags on walleye and installing acoustic receivers in the mouth of each river and on the reefs. The receivers will record

the presence of the fish by tracking the tags using sound to determine where they are spawning. These findings also will shed light on any differences in spawning between resident and migratory walleye.

Ultimately, this project will identify individual walleye spawning aggregations and determine their relative importance to the Saginaw Bay population – one of the last key missing pieces of information in understanding and helping to manage the newly recovered population and fishery. Determining the relative importance of each river and reef for spawning can help fishery managers better identify and prioritize areas for habitat improvement, fish passage projects, off-shore reef creation, dam removals, or other initiatives.

One unique aspect of this project is that the team is working with recreational anglers to help gather the data. Team members worked with anglers to catch the fish, and the scientists then tagged them. During the first year of the project, not many fish were caught; fortunately, 2023 was a good year for tagging fish and gathering data. The team is hoping to gather data for at least another year. The project began in March 2022 and will end in December 2026.

“One of the things we are particularly interested in with these fish is spawning site fidelity,” said Vandergoot. “We want to know if these fish are returning to the same spawning sites



Chris Vandergoot, director of the GLATOS at Michigan State University, places an acoustic tracking tag onto a walleye. Credit: Tyler Funnell

each year, information that will help ensure sustainable management.”

Partnering organizations include the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan State University – Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, United States Geological Survey – Hammond Bay Biological Station, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Wildlife.

Gaden Appointed As New Secretary of Great Lakes Fishery Commission

Article by Great Lakes
Basin Report, April 2024

Marc Gaden, the Commission's deputy executive secretary, has agreed to assume leadership of the secretariat.

Marc should be familiar to most, if not all, of you. He came to the commission in 1995 as the first communications and legislative affairs specialist, a position he held until he became the deputy executive secretary in 2022.

Marc has a deep understanding of Great Lakes fishery governance and of the rationale behind the structures that are in place to ensure sound science, cooperative research, and collaborative fishery management.

Bob Lambe informed our fellow commissioners that he will retire as executive secretary. Bob leaves us after 11 years of truly singular leadership and we

wish him the very best. The “Lambe Era” will go down in our history as the time we took stock of the seventy-year-old treaty and applied it to today's needs; as the time when we did not overstep our mandate but did not shy away, either, from the big challenges. Bob is thoughtful in how he approaches issues and is deliberate in his decision-making.

During his tenure, he focused on appropriations, infrastructure, and strengthening the relationship between the Commission and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. He had great confidence in our contributions to Great Lakes restoration and sought to replicate the success of the GLRI in Canada. He built bridges among partners and mended fences when needed. He saw potential in each staff member at the Commission and structured our programs in ways that took full advantage of

what every individual had to offer. He standardized internal operations and developed consistent policies and procedures to improve functioning of the secretariat. Bob's tenure at the commission is the culmination of a career replete with achievements.

Before the commission, he was director of the Canada-Ontario Invasive Species Centre, a position he took on after his first “retirement,” from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, where he served as regional director general and in various capacities with the Canadian Coast Guard. And, as we all appreciate, he served for many years as a Canadian Commissioner. We know we speak for the entire Commission family when we express our deep gratitude for

“Gaden”
Continued on page 6

DW
Team Dreamweaver

DREAMWEAVER

ALWAYS ROOM FOR A SUPER SLIM

WWW.TEAMDREAMWEAVER.COM



Dennis Eade, Executive Director
Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen's Association

MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dennis Eade



The early decommissioning of Consumers Energy's coal fired JH Campbell Power Plant in Port Sheldon Township could have far-reaching impacts on public fishing access to the Pigeon River and Lake Michigan.

Consumers Energy currently holds an easement from the DNR that provides access to state-owned Lake Michigan bottomlands near the area of the north jetty, with the rights reverting to the DNR five years after the site is no longer "used for an electric generating plant site."

Consumers Energy re-committed under its 2019 FERC order to continue to provide the same public access at the north jetty, boardwalk for fishing, and boat launch and landing, for another 50 years through 2069, regardless of the operation of the JH Campbell plant.

Some local waterfront homeowners are aligned with Consumers Energy's desire to move those FERC-required public access facilities to nearby Windsnest Park, which has no pier for fishing nor a 3,500-foot boardwalk with additional fishing platforms. Windsnest Park is owned by Consumers Energy, leased to Port Sheldon Township, and managed by Ottawa County Parks.

On behalf of the Michigan Steelheaders and all the anglers in the area, I advocated at the April 10th meeting off the Sheldon Township Board of Trustees for protecting and enhancing fishing public access as part of the township's 2024 planned update of its master plan and the formation of an economic resiliency response plan. The waterfront homeowners' efforts to move the FERC orders have not gone anywhere since it was brought up at the Consumers public meeting earlier this year.

HB 5553, sponsored by Rep. Amos O'Neal, (D) Saginaw, to update the commercial fishing statute to protect game fish species from commercial harvest dropped on March 6, 2024 in the House. The updates in this bill would improve the fishery and clarify regulations for law enforcement. This legislation modernizes the industry, sets best practices, and most importantly protects gamefish managed and reared

with licensed angler dollars. This bill is in response to HB 5108 - Jason Morgan (D) Ann Arbor) which would allow state-licensed commercial take of game fish, including lake trout, smallmouth bass, panfish, walleye, perch and other game fish. MSSFA has signed onto a letter from multiple conservation and angling associations requesting the Chair of the Natural Resources, Envi-

ronment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee in the House to schedule a hearing on the bill urging her (Rep. Laurie Pohutshy (D) Dist. 17) to hold a committee hearing and support HB 5553 to help protect gamefish in Michigan and modernize our commercial fishing industry.

The NRC Steelhead Task Force studying the potential causes in the drop in steelhead returning to the rivers this past fall and winter continues to meet monthly. It has been my opinion all along that the cause is a capacity issue and not overharvest. Three NRC commissioners, the

MDNR Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator and a select number of stakeholders have been tapped to study factors that may be causing the problem. They will begin hearing testimony from experts who have conducted studies on the state of steelhead in our rivers and streams in an effort to come up with recommendations to the full commission by the end of the year.

The outlook for Lake Michigan and Lake Huron this year is optimistic with a very good class of alewife appearing in lake Michigan in 2023 and smelt, bloaters and shad showing up in Lake Huron. The salmon

are projected to be slightly smaller and the Coho growth rates are good and they are showing up now. Lake trout numbers are still down in Lake Michigan and it's probably due to Wisconsin's decision to reduce stocking on the mid-lake reefs.

The Dr. Howard Tanner Award was presented to Jim Bedford, an award-winning outdoor writer and presenter, DNR Fisheries biologist and steelhead fisherman who has caught and released over 11,000 steelhead over his long career. The presentation was made at the Annual Presidents' Meeting in Lansing, MI on

April 20th. It is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to our anadromous fish sport fishery. The Presidents' Meeting was held at the Michigan Historical Library and Museum.

Walleye fishing on the Detroit River and Lake Erie continues to be outstanding so get out and take advantage of this fabulous fishery.



LUDINGTON

OFFSHORE CLASSIC

6 DAYS OF FISHING. OVER \$100,000 IN PRIZES

MICHIGAN'S PREMIER OFFSHORE FISHING TOURNAMENT

JULY 15-21, 2024

REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1, 2024

LUDINGTONTOURNAMENT.COM

10 Life Lessons Learned from the Sport of Fishing

BY: Jessica Cho
www.theoutbound.com

I was introduced to fishing from a young age. A love for the sport runs deep in my family. My grandpa was a big champion fisherman in the Philippines. He loved the sport and was skilled at it too. I remember staring in awe at photographs of huge swordfish he had hooked and reeled in while visiting his home.

These days I enjoy salt-water fishing with my dad and older brother. And in between fishing adventures, memories of our excursions -- fishing from shore, paddling on a rowboat, fly-fishing, and zipping along choppy Atlantic coastal waters by boat -- flood my mind and warm my heart.

I'm still learning about the sport and what it takes to navigate open water, but these are some life lessons my history with fishing has taught me along the way.

It's not what you're doing, but who you're doing it with.

While some, the wholly enthused, might stay totally engrossed through long hours of fishing, there are moments when I find myself feeling antsy. When the fish do bite, it can induce a frenzy of excitement and adrenaline that's palpable, but when they don't, it can be easy to feel bored and discouraged. But what I've come to realize is that whether I'm floating in the middle of the open sea or hanging on a dock or pier, it's not really all about the fishing for me. It's just as much about the people I'm with- my family and sometimes friends- who can enjoy the outdoors and make the wait fun with me. It's the conversation and the company that makes the experience 10 times better.

Patience is key.

Sometimes, you wait for a minute. Sometimes, an hour. Sometimes, you wait the whole day and nothing happens at all. Nada. Fishing teaches you patience. I think that's what makes the sport more thrilling in the



Photo: Jessica Cho

end. You are never guaranteed a bounty of fish, but when the time comes and the opportunity strikes, the wait feels that much more rewarding in the long run. Certain catches you never forget.

Nature has a lot to give, but it's important to give back.

It's important to slow down and take a moment to appreciate the natural world for what it is and the joy it can make us feel. As an outdoor sport, fishing provides endless opportunities to connect with nature and new bodies of water in different environments- lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, oceans. Wherever you are, it's crucial to remember that while nature is there for you to enjoy, it's something we share with others and should protect and preserve as much as possible. This means doing our part to take care of what we love. Catch and release. Follow rules and regulations. Carry in and carry out. Be respectful and responsible. Thank the people from places visited.

Stillness is a gift.

Life can get busy and feel hectic at times. Balancing careers, school, family and social life all with the rising impact of technology can be a lot. And with all the noise, it can be way

too easy to brush off quiet time for yourself. Fish get spooked by loud noises. Fishing teaches me to be still and pushes me to fully lean into that stillness and forget about everything else for a little.

Water safety is essential.

In whatever you do, safety should not be overlooked. Especially in a sport like fishing, which revolves around the water, it's essential to be aware and to be prepared. This means wearing and bringing appropriate water safety gear like life vests and preservers. My dad has always encouraged me to prioritize safety and preparation. Slowly, he's also been able to teach me about navigation, currents, and wind speed- all things that are crucial to know before heading out to sea.

You don't "win" big all the time, and that's okay.

Just like Forest Gump said, "Life is a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get," the same applies for fishing. You can't guarantee anything when you're out there no matter how good your spot is or how refined your technique is. Sometimes you hit the jackpot and sometimes you don't. But one thing's for sure- you can still enjoy the time you spend getting after it

regardless of the outcome if you train your mind to appreciate all the other beautiful little things that accompany the sport.

Meeting and bonding with passionate people is fun and one of life's many blessings.

Something I've really come to learn is that the fishing community runs deep. Something exciting happens when people who share the same passion come together. It's been fun to watch other anglers get excited for one another and to share tips and encouragement with each other. It reminds me that there are good people out there who want to watch you succeed.

It brings family closer.

Like I mentioned before, the fishing roots in my family were firmly planted way before me. It's a hobby I've mostly taken up by tagging along and observing those in my family who know way more than I do about the sport. But, the roots are growing strong and it's been beautiful to watch them extend outward. My dad and brother's deep-seated passion for fishing has made them want to share the sport with other members of my family. Now my younger eleven-year-old cousin is starting to shape up into quite the little fisherman. Whenever we're all together, it's a way for us to spend time with one another and enjoy life's sweet moments by each other's sides.

Anyone can do it and take part in the action.

There are no limitations on who and who can't get out there and give fishing a try. This is a beautiful thing. Regardless of where you grew up or what you grew up doing, it's never too late to try something new that interests you. And who knows, you might end up getting sucked into that "fish on" feeling that will bring you to new places and closer to a new community of people.

Look around you.

Salty air. Rolling waves. Rocky cliffs. Sandy shorelines. Colorful buoys. The orange glow of a setting sun. Smiling faces. Do what makes you happy and don't forget to take a look around.

"Gaden" Continued from page 4

Bob's service and our deep admiration for all he has accomplished. Please take a moment to thank Bob for unmatched service to the commission and to the Great Lakes basin. Bob, of course, will be a tough act to follow. That said, we are extremely pleased that Like Bob, Dr Gaden understands the limits and possibilities of the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries. Well known and well regarded, Gaden respects jurisdictional authorities and values research. He knows innately that cross-border cooperation is not only the best way to operate, but also essential if we are to avoid the mistakes of the past. In the coming months, Marc will focus on funding, infrastructure, the lake committees, the advisors, the research boards, and everything else that makes this organization function well— basically, his regular portfolio. In addition, Marc also teaches water policy at the University of Michigan, where he received his PhD in 2007.

This time of change is bittersweet. Bob led this or-

ganization with tremendous skill and vision, and greatly enhanced our ability to do our job in this modern era of restoration. Marc brings decades of experience in Great Lakes policy, and nearly thirty years of leadership at the commission; he has the skills we need to continue today's momentum. We are excited about the years to come!

Marc Gaden grew up in Oakland Township, Michigan and has spent most of his professional career working to protect and improve the Great Lakes. He is from a family of avid boaters (mostly on Lake St. Clair), fishers, and outdoor enthusiasts.

Marc serves as the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Executive Secretary; a position he has held since January 2024. The commission is a US/Canadian agency established by the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, a treaty to improve and perpetuate the Great Lakes fishery. As Executive Secretary, Marc is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the commission's operations including

"Gaden" Continued on page 8

MSSFA Board of Directors Meetings 2024
Via TEAMS - 6:00pm

Wed. June 19	*Wed. October 16
Wed. August 21	Wed. December 11

**In person meeting at MUCC in Lansing.*

2024 Tentative Print Schedule		
Issue	Deadline	Print Date
1	12/13/23	01/03/24
2	02/14/24	03/04/24
3	04/12/24	05/03/24
4	06/12/24	07/02/24
5	08/14/24	09/03/24
6	10/11/24	11/04/24

GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

MSSFA, <i>Publisher</i>	Bonnie Eade, <i>Accountant</i> Tel: 616-298-8842
Stafford Printing, <i>Printing</i> Greenville, MI	Cell: 616-928-8970 bonnie.glsfn@charter.net
Dennis Eade, <i>Managing Editor</i> Tel: 616-298-8842 Cel: 616-836-0037 deneade@charter.net	Laura Kleinheksel, <i>Layout</i> laura.glsfn@charter.net

The Great Lakes Sport Fishing News (GLSFN) is the official publication of the *Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association (MSSFA)*. Subscription to *th GLSFN* is through membership in *MSSFA*. The *GLSFN* publishes six issues per year. Permission for reprint from this publication is normally permitted, unless otherwise stipulated by the article, and proper credit is given to the author and the publication. The *GLSFN* or *MSSFA* does not necessarily agree or support the contents of articles within this publication. The views expressed are those of the author(s) of the articles.

MICHIGAN STEELHEAD AND SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Business Office P.O. Box 8034 Holland, MI 49422 Tel: 616-298-8842 e-mail: deneade@charter.net	Dennis Eade, <i>Executive Director</i> Don Remington, <i>Vice President</i> Gerry Sickon, <i>Secretary</i> Alex Fergus, <i>Treasurer</i>
---	---

The *Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association (MSSFA)* is a multi-state, non-profit organization dedicated to educating the general public on improving, preserving and promoting sport fishing, the Great Lakes and their tributary streams and rivers. Commonly referred to as *The Michigan Steelheaders*, or simply *Steelheaders*. *MSSFA* represents sport fishing families in the Great Lakes region. *MSSFA* encourages the strictest observances of sport fishing laws and ethical fishing practices. www.MSSFA.org

MSSFA State Board of Directors, Officers and Committee Chairs

Dennis Eade	Executive Director Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Fishery Committee Lake Huron Citizens Advisory Fishery Committee	deneade@charter.net
Don Remington	Vice President	remingtondonald014@gmail.com
Gerry Sickon	Secretary Lake Erie Citizens Advisory Fishery Committee	gsickon@ford.com
Alex Fergus	Treasurer	afergus63@gmail.com
Roger Hinchcliff	Streams Committee	RHinchcliff@mortgageone.biz
Deb Shephard	Membership Coordinator	mssfamembership@charter.net



THE MICHIGAN STEELHEAD & SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE QUALITY OF FISHING REFLECTS THE QUALITY OF LIVING!

MSSFA was incorporated in 1971 by a handful of individuals who knew that Michigan's newly formed trout and salmon fishery was something worth working to protect. They were a small group who wanted to not only protect their fishery, but learn how to catch their elusive prey and tell fishing stories.

MSSFA chapters have membership meetings with guest speakers to learn about all the aspects of sport fishing. MSSFA chapters also sponsor fishing clinics, seminars, sport-fishing shows, derbies and tournaments. And are active sponsors for fishing outings for kids, seniors, veterans and our handicapped.

For those who love to fish but have no means, MSSFA chapters sponsor a "Crews" program that allows a sign up as a crew member for a day of fishing.

With a common goal, and a close working partner with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, MSSFA helps to enhance the resource and sport fishing in our rivers, streams, inland lakes, and of course the mighty Great Lakes. MSSFA is a front-runner at all levels of the legislature and in courtrooms, and has spent countless hours working behind the scenes and attending hearings.

So why join the *Steelheaders*... Got kids, love fishing.. **JOIN NOW!** ...and become a member of the largest organized groups of fishermen in the Midwest. There are chapters throughout the entire state. You too can help protect and preserve this world-class sport fishery for you, your children and generations to come.

THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS (GLSFN)

The Great Lakes Sport Fishing News is owned and operated by The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association.

Better than forty years ago, The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association began to publish a magazine called the "Guide to Great Lakes Sport Fishing". Five years later the magazine became a monthly format called "The Great Lakes Steelheader". Today the newspaper is called "*The Great Lakes Sport Fishing News*".

This paper has no paid writers and has a grass roots style. Its writers are the every day fishermen who share their techniques and fishing adventures; and the paper has become well known for its **January Special Edition** or "*Show Edition*" that is seen at all the spring expos and sport, boat and fishing shows throughout the Great Lakes.

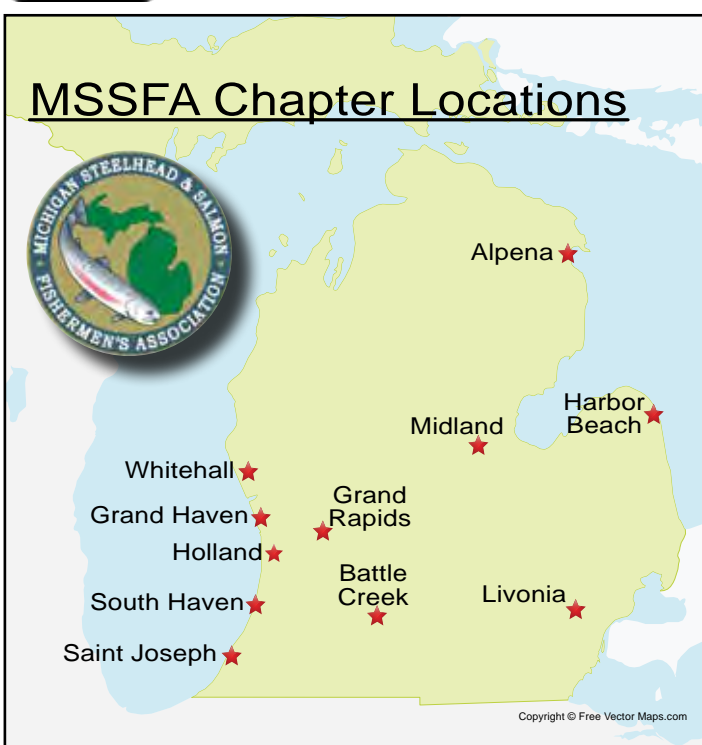
Information in the paper covers the entire Great Lakes Basin region from Minnesota to New York including all five of the Great Lakes and their tributary streams.

Chapter members receive the paper as part of their membership. And because of the diversity of fishing in the Great Lakes, the information covers everything from river fishing, big lake fishing to inland lake fishing. The paper also offers a direct route for all new products and techniques on the market offered by our advertisers.

<p>Executive Director Dennis Eade 616-298-8842 deneade@charter.net</p>	<p>Grand Haven Paul Zelenka, President and State Director 616-638-3273 pbzfarms@gmail.com</p>	<p>Great Lakes Bay Region Mark Trudell, President 989-839-4920 brandon_tacey@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Metro-West - Livonia Bob Schulz, President 248-915-0043 bobschulz7@gmail.com</p>	<p>Southwest Michigan Ryan McCartney, President 574-274-6382 mccartneyryan@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Thumb Chapter Dan Nichols, President 810-488-6767 nicholsdant@gmail.com</p>
<p>Membership Deb Shephard 269-655-4704 mssfamembership@charter.net</p>	<p>Website: www.ghsteelheaders.com facebook.com/ghsteelheader</p>	<p>John Letts, State Director 989-798-2493 maintenance@stjohn23.net</p>	<p>Mark Platt, State Director 248-881-4890 mcplatt4565@gmail.com</p>	<p>Joe Montella, State Director 616-283-4296 joe-monte@comcast.net</p>	<p>Scott Stanke, State Director 989-553-0972 scottystanke@gmail.com</p>
<p>Battle Creek Jeff Root, President 269-370-8515 jeffrootsteelheader@gmail.com</p>	<p>Grand Rapids Don Remington, President 616-337-2188 remingtondonald014@gmail.com</p>	<p>facebook.com/Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheaders Website: http://steel-headers.com</p>	<p>MetroWest Steelheaders PO BOX 531927 Livonia MI 48153-1927</p>	<p>Website: www.swmisteelheaders.com facebook.com/Southwestern Steelheaders</p>	<p>Thunder Bay Dan Bouchard, President 989-255-7350 Cell dan-bouchard@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Dave Middleton, State Director 269-744-7270 dbm386steelhead@gmail.com</p>	<p>Rebecca Goettl, State Director 231-349-3679 Rgoettlcm@gmail.com</p>	<p>Holland Brad Stephenson, President 330-495-9555 brad.stephenson32@gmail.com</p>	<p>Website: www.metroweststeelheaders.org facebook.com/Metro West Steelheaders</p>	<p>White River Clint Pollock, President 231-893-0210 aftereyes2@gmail.com</p>	<p>Terry Clark, State Director 231-730-6628 dadshideout03@yahoo.com</p>
<p>battlecreeksteelheaders.com</p>	<p>Search on facebook: Grand Rapids Steelheaders Official Page Email: fishgrsteelhead@gmail.com</p>	<p>Alex Fergus, State Director 616-610-2410 afergus63@gmail.com</p>	<p>Website: www.southhavensteelheaders.com facebook.com/South Haven Steelheaders</p>		
<p>New address: P.O. Box 74450 Grand Rapids, MI 49514</p>					



Scan QR code or type www.mssfamembership@charter.net in your web browser.



Sign up ONLINE...

mssfamembership@charter.net
Click on the **BECOME A MEMBER NOW!** button

MSSFA State and Chapter Dues (Yearly)

<input type="checkbox"/> Battle Creek \$45.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Holland \$45.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Thunder Bay \$40.00 (Alpena)
<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Haven \$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Metro West \$40.00 (Livonia)	<input type="checkbox"/> White River \$40.00 (Whitehall)
<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Rapids \$45.00	<input type="checkbox"/> South Haven \$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> At Large Membership \$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Lakes Bay Region \$40.00 (Midland)	<input type="checkbox"/> Southwestern \$45.00 (St. Joe)	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior Membership \$5.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Thumb \$40.00 (Harbor Beach)	

For questions email: mssfamembership@charter.net
MSSFA ~ PO Box 423 ~ Paw Paw, MI 49079

The following Chapters accept online payments via Credit Card and/or PayPal.
A PayPal account is not needed-use the option credit card. Note: some Chapters charge a small fee for processing.
 Battle Creek www.battlecreeksteelheaders.com/membership • Holland www.hollandsteelheaders.org
 Metro-West (Livonia) www.metroweststeelheaders.org • South Haven www.southhavensteelheaders.com
 Southwestern(Saint Joseph) www.swmisteelheaders.com

“Gaden”

Continued from page 6

the implementation of the treaty, the integration of all program directorates, staff oversight, and budgeting.

Marc joined the commission in 1995. At the commission, he served as communications director and legislative liaison from 1995 to 2022 and deputy executive secretary from 2022 to 2024. Throughout his tenure, Marc worked extensively on issues involving regional coordination of fisheries policies, communications and outreach, invasive species, federal appropriations, Great Lakes protection and stewardship, multi-jurisdictional governance, infrastructure, and ecosystem restoration. He continues to spend an enormous amount of time on Capitol Hill and Parliament Hill to communicate the commission’s needs and to support Great Lakes restoration.



Mark Gaden

Prior to joining the Secretariat, Marc was a legislative assistant for the U.S. House of Representatives’

Great Lakes Fishery Commission



environment, transportation, immigration, and Social Security issues.

Marc is an adjunct assistant professor at the School for Environment and Sustainability, U. of Michigan, and an adjunct associate professor at the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University. His research and teaching interests relate to the human dimensions of natural resource management. Currently, he teaches the course “Global Water” at the University of Michigan, Program in the Environment.

Marc is also the faculty advisor for the University of Michigan Fishing Team and Fishing Club. The team and

club bring together fishing enthusiasts at the university to share fishing experiences and techniques, to share information about tackle, and to promote fishing among the student population. The team and club organize outings for all seasons and compete in collegiate fishing tournaments. Members regularly attend outdoor shows to educate the public about fishing and to sell popular Michigan Fishing swag and apparel.

Marc holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and Environment (now School for Environment and Sustainability), a Master of Arts degree in

United States foreign policy from The American University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science from the University of Michigan.

The choice of Dr Marc Gaden to serve the Great Lakes as Executive Secretary of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission is a most excellent choice and will bring skill and vision to serve our Region well.

Go Gaden!



“Trout”

Continued from page 1

lings may at first be smaller than the minimum size limit of 8 inches. Special regulations apply for anglers interested in targeting these trout:

- The Huron River at Proud Lake Recreation Area is closed to fishing October 1 through March 31. April 1-29, anglers are limited to flies only, catch-and-release fishing, with the exception that children under 12 may keep one trout sized between 8 inches and 12 inches.

- Spring Mill Pond at Island Lake Recreation Area is closed to fishing March 15-31. April 1-29, anglers are limited to artificial lures only, catch-and-release fishing.

- On both bodies of water, beginning April 30, all baits are allowed and anglers may keep up to five trout over 8 inches, but only three over 15 inches.

The Clinton River was also stocked with 640 adult brown trout ranging from 13 inches to 17 inches. These fish stocked at Riverside Park in Auburn Hills will provide additional angling opportunities beyond the yearling fish that are stocked annually. The Clinton River is open to trout fishing all year and anglers can keep up to five trout over 8 inches, but only three over 15 inches.

The 2024 Michigan Fishing Regulations are available online along with a lot of other helpful fishing information. Visit Michigan.gov/Fishing for the most upto-date resources.



Only YOU Can Save The Buoys!

The Port Sheldon buoy and the South Haven buoy play a key role in boater safety and successful angler outings on Lake Michigan. The buoys provide real-time data on wave height and frequency, wind speed and direction, and water temperatures from the surface to 70 feet below. Originally deployed in 2014 through a grant from NOAA, these buoys have provided critical life-safety and fishery environment information, enabling us to be better at our sport and to be safer while fishing.

Anyone can access the information generated by the buoys at any time through a text or on the internet. The valuable data created is all free of charge to the public, but each one of these buoys cost nearly \$15,000 per year to operate. There is no longer any government funding for these buoys; all funds to continue their operation come from individuals, organizations, and local businesses passionate about Lake Michigan.

On one hand, the cost to maintain these buoys is significant. But on the other hand we have hundreds of teams and thousands of anglers on the Trail. That means the math is on our side! By working together we can cover at least a big chunk of that cost if not the whole thing! So I'm challenging you to step up and help! Just before we went to print I made a \$50 donation to each Buoy and I hope you'll follow suit.

There is an individual fundraiser for each buoy. They are being run by the South Haven and the Holland Steelheaders - people we know, people who fish the Trail, people we can trust! Donating is simple! In fact you can do it right now! Just use your phone and scan one or both of the codes below.

Support The South Haven Buoy



Access The Buoy:
<https://limno.io/station/45168/>
 or
 Text 45168 to: (866) 218-9973



Support The Port Sheldon Buoy



Access The Buoy:
<https://limno.io/station/45029/>
 or
 Text 45029 to: (866) 218-9973



LimnoTech
Water Environment Scientists Engineers



Get Your Boat Ready for the Water

Article by
mercurymarine.com

Spring is the start of so many great things for boaters. The fish are biting. The weather is turning warmer. It's a fantastic time of year. But before you start making weekend plans on the lake, there are some routine tasks you need to take care of first to make sure your boat is ready to go.

Things like: Annual engine maintenance, trailer maintenance, and stocking your boat with all the essentials.

We'll outline all the necessary steps to get your boat ready, so you're not stuck on shore when the sun is shining. And the best part?

A Mercury Authorized Dealer can help you get the job done right. They stock everything you need to handle routine maintenance yourself, or they can do all the work for you, so you can stay focused on the fun.

If you want to find a Mercury dealer near you, use our dealer locator tool. If you're a DIY boater, here's a summary of everything you should check before heading out for the first time this season.

The complete preseason boat prep checklist:

TIRES: (including the spare) – Check the air in your trailer tires with a pressure gauge. The recommended pressure will be printed on the sidewall of each tire. Also look for signs of cracking and excessive tread wear. If you see a problem, it might be time for new tires or a check by a professional.

TRAILER BEARINGS: Ensure that your wheel bearings are in good condition and have plenty of grease.

BATTERIES: Assuming you kept your batteries charged and out of the boat in winter, you'll need to re-install them. If you see any corrosion on the cable ends or battery terminals, treat it with a wire brush and a little dielectric grease to keep it from getting any worse. If you haven't charged your batteries all winter, you may need to charge them before use.

PROP: Inspect your propeller for any major dings or damage. Now's the time to get it to a prop shop for repair, or to get a new prop from your Mercury dealer, if you need one. You should also remove the prop to check for fishing line and other debris around the prop shaft, then add some Mercury 2-4-C Marine Grease to the prop shaft (do not apply it to the shaft's threads) before reinstalling the prop.

GEAR LUBE: Hopefully you remembered to change your gear lube as part of your winterization process. If you didn't change it in the fall, go ahead and do it now. Check for milky grease or water in the gearcase. If you see any, it's a sign of a failed seal, which should be addressed by a Mercury dealer.

ENGINE OIL: For a four-stroke outboard, the engine oil should have been changed in the fall, but if not, do so now. If you did change the engine oil and filter at the end of last season, you'll just need to check the fill level on the dipstick before heading out in spring. Be sure the engine is trimmed straight up and down to get an accurate reading.

MISCELLANEOUS ENGINE MAINTENANCE: Check your

engine's operation, maintenance and installation manual to see if any items such as spark plugs or fuel filters are getting close to needing to be changed based on your engine hours. It's likely a lot more convenient to take care of any pending maintenance as part of your spring commissioning rather than in the middle of your boating season.

TRIM AND STEERING FLUID: Your trim fluid and hydraulic steering fluid reservoirs should have been topped off in the fall, but check them anyway to ensure they are still full. If any grease fittings were

missed in your winterization, go ahead and give them a few pumps with a grease gun now.

FUEL SYSTEM: Fill your fuel tank all the way up and treat it with the appropriate Mercury Fuel Care System product to ensure your fuel stays fresh and your fuel system is clean and free of buildup.

SAFETY GEAR AND ESSENTIALS: Take inventory and make sure you have all the safety gear required by the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as your state and local regulations. Similarly, make sure you have essentials such as a first-aid

kit, VHF radio or satellite phone, flashlights, spare batteries, air horn, whistle, rope bag and the like. Learn more about the basics you need to have on board.

TRAILER BASICS: Perform these checks on your trailer:

- Check the coupler, including the latch, locking pin and the bolts that attach it to the trailer tongue. Make sure everything is in working order.
- Same for the safety chains.
- Make sure blinkers and brake lights are functional.
- Grease the jack.

- Lubricate the shafts and gears of the winch and inspect the strap for any signs of wear or rot.
- Make sure the tie-down straps are functional and there's no fraying or damage.

For a detailed video from Mercury marine of these boat tips, please scan this code:





JUST PLANE BETTER





churchtackle.com

MADE IN USA



Great coho action can be found just off Chicago's Loop in April and May.

WINDY CITY SALMON

There are many reasons a Great Lakes Angler would want to fish Lake Michigan offshore of the Windy City—and just as many to stay away. It's certainly not for everyone but it is special in its own, unique way.

By Capt. Mike Schoonveld
www.glangler.com

Years ago I fished the Chicago lakefront with Capt. Sam Romano, one

of the pioneer charter captains on Lake Michigan. I knew the chance of catching a salmon was slim and I knew Capt. Sam knew it, as well. It was late in Sep-

tember and though the Illinois DNR stocked Chinook salmon in a few locations near downtown Chicago, it was mostly for the benefit of shore anglers who as-

sembled on harbor walls at various marinas or other select locations where shore angling is allowed. Boat fishing for fall kings in Chicago (or the rest of Illinois)

is only slightly productive, at best. Illinois has no tributary streams.

I was a fledgling member of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW) at the time, just starting my career as an outdoor journalist. The association was holding their annual conference in Illinois and at each conference, the organizers and hosts arrange opportunities for writers from around the region to sample a bit of the outdoor hunting and fishing opportunities available locally.

Capt. Sam offered a morning of fishing along Chicago's lakefront. I signed on, knowing our chances for success were more than slim. I didn't much care.

For one, Capt. Sam was legendary, one of the first men to become a fishing charter captain on Lake Michigan to take advantage of the salmon being stocked. How often does a person get the chance to fish with a legend?

Another factor for going was despite the inherent ugly covering much of Chicago, when viewed from Lake Michigan, Chicago has a skyline as recognizable, dynamic and beautiful—in an urban sort of way—as any city in the world. On that sunny morning, the Sears Tower, Hancock building and other skyscrapers glowed as they got a double dose of sunlight from the sky above and reflecting up off the calm surface of Lake Michigan.

We didn't get a nibble, as I expected, but my camera got a workout. It also set the stage for a few days of fishing more than 30 years later. These recent trips featured fishing just as spectacular as the scenery.

Every year in March and April, Indiana has the

fastest fishing in the Great Lakes for coho, browns and kings. Limits are the rule, doubles and triples are common but all good things come to an end and when it ends in Indiana, it starts up in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. Whether it's the same school of fish us Hoosiers (and our visitors) have been working over for six weeks or more or a completely different batch doesn't matter. The cohos and kings storm the waters there and once they arrive it's just like home—limit catches are the rule, doubles and triples are common.

For several years, several fishing friends and I have made a pilgrimage to fish out of Illinois' Northpoint Marina, just shouting distance south of the Wisconsin border, following Capt. Bob Potishman's advice—come the week after Mother's Day. Capt. Bob is the "admiral" of the Confusion fleet of boats operating out of downtown Chicago and Northpoint Marina. We were never disappointed until last year.

Mother's Day or not, the fish weren't "there" yet. Blame it on slow-to-warm waters down south (in Indiana), the abundance of alewives off the Chicago lakefront or just the fickle nature of the salmon, we had to choose between catching a few fish up near the Wisconsin line or limits farther south. If we wanted to catch many fish we had to commute from Chicago's north suburbs each day, to downtown Chicago, along with tens of thousands of commuters heading for the Loop to go to work.

We wanted action. So we headed to Diversy Harbor, the closest marina with

"Windy City"
Continued on page 12

South Haven Steelheaders Presents:




Sand Dollar Pro Am
May 18th - 19th

RAZE Specialty




south haven
VAN BUREN COUNTY
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

C&R'S
Out On A Limb Tree Care
Licensed & Insured
269-214-1914




Guaranteed \$10,000 1st place PRO
(based on 25 entries)

Guaranteed \$4,000 1st place AM
(based on 30 entries)

ENTRY FEES:
Received before May 10, 2024:
PRO: \$600
AM: \$250

Received May 10, 2024 or after:
PRO: \$650
AM: \$300

Additional Contests:

- Big Fish Contest
- Star of the Lake Friday 5 Challenge
- South Haven & Saugatuck Dual Port Challenge

Special Dock Rates CALL 269-637-3171

southhavensteelheaders.profishingtournaments.com

Questions: Chad Bard 269-214-6934









Fish Hawk
ELECTRONICS

LITHIUM SERIES

SPEED & TEMPERATURE AT DEPTH.

Underwater currents make trolling speeds unpredictable. Water temperature fluctuates throughout the water column.

Incorporates four decades of experience with the lithium power anglers expect.

- 50+ hours of fishing on a single charge
- Probe is 40% smaller than earlier version
- Charges in minutes
- Compatible with X4 Series models

Visit our website
fishhawkelectronics.com

DOWN SPEED DOWN TEMP

Fishing Season Reminders

By Bob Jensen

It's a new fishing season! Many anglers have already been fishing, others are looking forward to their first open water trip of the year. Following are some things to keep in mind when you get ready to go fishing.

Make sure you have a valid fishing license.

Get up-to-date on new regulations. There are changes every year that we need to be aware of regarding what we catch, when we can catch 'em, how many we can keep, and how big they need to be. These rules are becoming more area-specific and sometimes a little difficult to interpret. Know the rules!

Remember that if you're going to be trailering a boat, in many places, you need to pull the plug out of the boat before you hit the highway. This is to prevent the spread of invasive species. I have a spare plug on my boat's key ring as a reminder to put the plug back in before launching. Also remember to pull weeds off the trailer.

Drain the livewell if your boat has one. It's very important that we're not moving water from one lake to another. Again, this is an attempt to stop the spread of invasive species.

In some places you can't take some forms of live bait from one body of water to another. In other places you can, but you need to do-so in a certain way. This is one of those deals where we really need to pay attention to where we are and what we're doing. Do a "search" on the internet under "Live Bait Transport" for the state that you'll be fishing in. Different states have different rules.

Slowing the spread of invasives is a serious thing and we need to do our part



Remember to keep your fishing fun!

to help. If you get into a routine when loading and unloading your boat, you can accomplish these tasks quickly and easily.

Catch and release has become a big part of fishing and fish conservation. Catch and release has enabled some species of fish to increase in quantity and quality. There are mounting concerns though about effective catch and release.

Every now and then we're lucky enough to get on a school of fish that are hungry and willing to get caught. And we as anglers are willing to catch them. But if the fish are in deep water, the change in pressure from the depths to the surface can do bad things to the fish and they won't survive being released. If you're on a school of deep fish and they're biting, con-

sider keeping what you can use, then go try another area where the fish will be shallower.

Also, especially in the summer, when you've convinced a fish to bite your bait, get it in the boat as quickly as possible if you're going to release it. The less time a fish fights, the higher the chances for a successful release.

Now is the time to start

checking out some of those close-to-home spots you've always thought about trying. Ponds and smaller rivers can provide outstanding action. Ask for permission to fish from the property owners, and be sure to clean up after yourself when you leave.

Finally, do your part to make this a pleasant fishing season. Be patient at the boat ramp. If someone is

having trouble loading or unloading their boat, ask if you can help. If the person wants help, good for you and good for them. If they don't want help, back off. The open water fishing season goes by fast. Enjoy it.





“Windy City”

Continued from page 10

a public boat ramp when coming from the north. The “commute” wasn’t complicated. Interstate 94 (Chicagoans call it the Edens Expressway) has an exit onto Fullerton Avenue and Fullerton dead-ends at Diversey Harbor. Fullerton is not an expressway, but a surface street with plenty of traffic signals and in some stretches it threads along with on-street parking.

The harbor itself is a jewel. There’s a self-service gate accessing the launch ramps and adjacent parking. Shove a credit card in the slot, push a few keys and the gate opens. In a short phone call to Capt. Bob I learned the best action was “right off Navy Pier” which is about as downtown as it gets for the city of Chicago. Navy Pier is immediately north of the mouth of the Chicago River along which the city was founded in 1833.

Heading out of the mouth of Diversey Harbor and looking south about a mile away, it was easy to see the breakwall that runs parallel to the shore along downtown Chicago’s lakefront as well as the light house that marks the breakwall. The Chicago Light also marks the gap in the wall and the channel to the Chicago River. We shut down about half way from Diversey to the breakwall to start setting our lines.



SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN'S PREMIER FISHING TACKLE DESTINATION
CONVENIENTLY LOCATED ON THE ST. JOSEPH RIVER

- Large selection of rods and reels
- Lures and tackle for the big lake, rivers and inland lakes
- Great prices and great selection
- Live bait, fishing licenses & much more

Shop Online at: www.tacklehaven.com
 (269) 925-0341
 (269) 281-1951
sales@tacklehaven.com
 741 Riverview Drive
 Benton Harbor, MI 49022

SOUTH LAKE COHO STRATEGY

No other lure catches more coho salmon in Illinois (or much of the rest of Lake Michigan) than a six-inch metal dodger trailing a short, two- to three-inch

trolling fly. If you can only choose one color, you’ll do just fine with fluorescent red blade on the dodger. If I could only choose one fly pattern it would be one with an equal mix of dark blue, gold and green tinsel.

Until too-warm water temperatures at the surface drive the fish deeper, most of the willing-to-bite fish can be caught on lures run from just under the surface to 10 feet deep. Illinois allows three rods per person, so with myself and two fishing partners, our spread included six lines (three per side) planed out from the boat using a mast and Riviera Dual Planer Board system, two Dipsey Divers (one per side) and one downrigged lure.

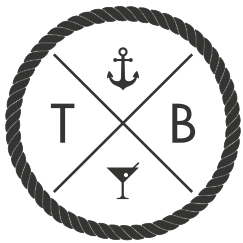
I’m sure we could have scored just as well with all dodgers and flies, but for variety as much as efficiency, we trolled one crankbait on each side along with a pair of dodger/fly combos. Each of the cranks were custom painted by Hunter Boys Outdoors in their Red Hot Tiger pattern—one on a Rattlin’ ThinFin body the other on a Bass Magnet body.

Each diver had a six-inch dodger and a mix of flies—hard towards dark colors—blue, green, gold as well as black and gold did most of the work. A few of our fish hit a double orange crush spoon we positioned on the downrigger ten feet below the surface. All of the lures produced well enough each day there was no need to switch them other than for a change of pace or when one of the flies would get so chewed up, it needed to be switched out.

The first coho hit just as we trolled along the break-wall just outside of the lighthouse. By the time that fish was in the boat, in the cooler and the planer board line reset we were well past the gap in the wall so we continued to the south end of the breakwater, several hundred yards. No more action so we made a sweeping turn to try on the inside but before the turn was completed fish number two, hit. On the inside, the action was more than steady with

“Windy City”
 Continued on page 13

SAUGATUCK/ SOUTH HAVEN DUAL PORT CHALLENGE



THE BARGE



Saugatuck Big Lake Classic

Pro/Am Fishing Tournament

August 9th-11th 2024

This is a non-profit tournament put on by sportsmen for sportsmen

JOIN US IN AUGUST FOR THIS EXCITING TOURNAMENT

7th Annual “Denny Allen Memorial” Big Fish Tournament
1st Place \$2000 provided you are in the Tournament

Sponsored by Barber Ford



FRIDAY AUGUST 9TH SPECTATORS TOURNAMENT SHOOTOUT

Womens and Youth Division 1st Place \$1000

Sponsored by Bellman Oil



THE TOURNAMENT

DENNY ALLEN MEMORIAL

- ★ Entry Fee: \$50 Guaranteed 15 Places
 - ★ Raffle, 50/50, Fun
- For entry or pre-tournament shootout go to www.saugatucksportsfishing.com

To contact us:

John Watson at 1137watson@gmail.com
 Or Call Tournament Director at 616-218-6686

For Dock Space contact:

Sergeant Marina at 269-857-2873
 Dave Engel at 616-218-4812
 Tom Earley at 269-207-1095

Sponsored by Saugatuck Sport Fishing Association

- ★ \$10,000 First Prize Pro Division - based on 20 entries
 - ★ \$4,000 First Prize Am Division - based on 30 entries
 - ★ Reserve your slip early
 - ★ 2024 Friday Night Check In - Spectators Restaurant 5:00-7:00pm, Food Provided
 - ★ Captains Meeting at 7:00pm
 - ★ August 10th - 11th Free Hamburgers and Hot Dogs at Weigh-in and Awards Ceremony
- All Provided by Coral Gables Restaurant**



The King Co.



Van Laan Construction Supply



SPORTSMAN'S LODGE
 Convenient Location next to Manistee, Little Manistee and Bear Creek

Brothers Bungalows
 4544 Amick Street
 Brethren, Michigan 49619
 Phone: 231-477-5588
 Website: www.brethrenbungalows.com

Fishing The Lake Michigan Waters Off Manistee, Michigan For Salmon and Trout

Freddie B
 Fishing Charters
 Capt. Fred Bolton

USCG Licensed
 State DNR Inspected

Cell: 248.670.2479
 Email: FreddieB@acegroup.cc
www.FreddieBFishingCharters.com



glow-in-the-dark lures

from Bay de Noc Lure Company

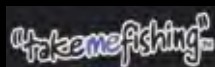
It's all about the action of the lure when trying to grab the attention of a fish. Now, you can attract more fish with the bright flash of our glow-in-the-dark Do-Jiggers®, Laker Takers and Flutter Laker Takers.

Avid fisherman know the secret of a glowing lure. Our glow-in-the-dark lures even shine bright in dark, murky waters. Made with polished nickel or brass and coated

with durable phosphorescent material with photoluminescence qualities, our lures pull fish in from further distances.

All three lures come in nickel, gold and white pearl. The Do-Jiggers® also come in a variety of bright colors for added flash. Once your lure hits the water, the ultraviolet light makes it come alive. Add a little glow to your tackle box.

Contact Bay de Noc Lure Company to offer this product to your Customers



P.O. Box 71
Gladstone, Michigan 49837
www.baydenoclure.com



www.THEULTIMATESALMONDERBY.com



Also Check out our Walleye Derby

March 30 - April 28

www.THEULTIMATEWALLEYEDERBY.com

8 Week Derby that Resets Each Week
Lake Michigan and Lake Huron
Over \$400K in Prizes
Biggest King Each Week Wins a Boat
King Salmon, Trout, and Atlantic Divisions
48 Weeks of \$250 Prize Packs



“Windy City” Continued from page 12

fish after fish, all cohos, slamming our lures.

That first day, the limit came quickly. The next couple days were equally productive, but not nearly so quick or consistent.

The salmon seemed to be roaming in loose schools. We'd hit a fish or two, make a quick turn, get another bite or two, then that spot would go dead. Eventually we'd find the area where they'd gone and pick up a few more.

Considering Chicago is America's third largest

city with almost 10 million people in what's called the Greater Chicagoland Area, the lake was surprisingly uncrowded. I've fished in much more crowded conditions in places far less populated and in places where the boat access and fishing success wasn't as good.

Only Captain Bob and one other charter boat were in the zone and perhaps another ten boats with recreational anglers were present. We were fishing on week-days, but elsewhere on Lake Michigan, when the bite is on, there are plenty of anglers any day of the week.

There are many reasons a Great Lakes Angler would want to fish Lake Michigan offshore of the Windy City—and just as many to stay away. It's certainly not for everyone but it is special in its own, unique way. For a challenge, a change of pace or to experience one of the most beautiful lakefronts and skylines in the world, it just might be worth the trip.



MSSFA: It PAYS to belong! Here's why:

1	Al & Bob's Sports	510 68th St	Grand Rapids	MI	49548	10% Discount with Al & Bob's Card or Steelheaders
2	All Auto Care	1234 Bell Ave. NE	Grand Rapids	MI	49505	Member Rates
3	Ann's Custom Canvas	4414 Remembrance Rd	Walker	MI	49544	10% Discount, not valid on specials. Mention steelheaders before ordering
4	Auto Owners Insurance	303 E. Monroe	Durand	MI	48429	Rowe Agent Group #486
5	Batteries Plus	2061 N-139 Suite B	Benton Harbor	MI	49022	10% & Member Discount 269-925-7374 www.batteriesplus.com
6	Batteries Plus	3082 44th Street	Grandville	MI	49418	10% & Member Discount
7	Batteries Plus	386 Bay Park Dr, Suite B	Holland	MI	49424	10% & Member Discount 616-396-9914 www.batteriesplus.com
8	Batteries Plus	5228 S. Westnedge Ave	Kalamazoo	MI	49002	10% & Member Discount 269-553-2355 www.batteriesplus.com
9	Batteries Plus	3031 28th Street SE	Kentwood	MI	49512	10% & Member Discount 616-575-0500 www.batteriesplus.com
10	Batteries Plus	5839 Hrvy Street, Suite 6	Norton Shores	MI	49444	10% & Member Discount 231-747-9168 www.batteriesplus.com
11	Big Papa Sportfishing	50642 Oregon Ave	Novi	MI	48374	10% except on equipment
12	Black Dog Outfitters	4444 14 Mile Rd	Rockford	MI	49341	10% Discount on fly tying materials, hooks & lines. www.blackdog-outfitters.com
13	BoatU.S.					\$15 Annual Membership Dues - Use Membership # GA837238
14	Bob's Outdoors	Statewide	www.bobsoutdoors.com			10% Discount (www.bobsoutdoors.com)
15	Brenner's Service	4765 W River Dr	Comstock Park	MI	46321	5% exclusions may apply. 616-784-9872 dawnbrenner@hotmail.com
16	Dayton, Rick R. DDS	169 Louis Campau Promenade Ste 2A	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	20% off all services (616)456-2545
17	Cascade Capital Funding	4251 Cascade Rd. SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49546	Free appraisal up to \$300.00
18	Dockside Marine, Inc	4320 State Rd	Glennie	MI	48737	15% Off Parts & Accessories (Excludes Electronics)
19	Dunham's Sports	Statewide				10% Discount # 50050/3
20	Firestone - Metro 25	19268 Middlebelt	Livonia	MI	48152	\$20 off on \$200 or more on service www.metro25firestone.com
21	Fish with Jim Outfitters	http://www.fishwithjimoutfitters.com/	248-252-1277			Discount \$50.00 off the total trip price.
22	Glacier Corporation	1021 Fuller St.	Santa Ana	CA	92701	Aquarium Chillers for salmon in classroom) \$625 + 60 (s&h) = \$685
23	Great Lakes Angler Magazine		www.glangler.com			Discount 50% OFF 1 year subscription, members only! Use code MSSFA
24	Homestead Resort on Betsie River	2399 Dam Rd	Benzonia	MI	49616	10% In Season, 25% Off Season (homestead@crystal-rentals.com)
25	Insta-Launch Campground	20 Park Ave	Manistee	MI	49660	Member Discount
26	Insurance Shop/Fremont Ins.	824 Water St.	East Jordan	MI	49727	10% Discount off insurance for MSSFA Group Members
27	Jim Waldron Pontiac, Buick, GMC	1146 S. State Rd	Davison	MI	48423	Contact Nick Russiol for Sales, 10% off all parts not to exceed \$100.00
28	J Smith Custom Tackle	1136 E Hughes Lake Road	Rose City	MI	48654	15% - 20% off depending on rod. Customrodsbyjsmith.com 989-685-2819
29	K & M Marine	14990 Telegraph Rd	Redford	MI	48239	10% off merchandise except sale items (www.kandmmarine.com)
30	Kamp Oil Inc	6467 Manistee St	Fredric	MI	49733	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
31	Kamp Oil Inc	3650 Eastern Ave SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49508	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
32	Beebe Oil Co (aka Kamp Oil)	4998 22 Mile Rd	Utica	MI	48317	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
33	Lapeer Boat Service	3556 Fort Knox Dr	Lapeer	MI	48446	10% off parts and labor (810-245-6036)
34	Liberty Tax Service	544 E. 8th St.	Holland	MI	49423	\$20.00 Discount on tax service
35	Logan's Run Muskegon River Cottage Rental	1648 Gardner St.	Newaygo	MI	49337	10% Discount www.logansrun.us 616-485-4501
36	Mark's Sport Shop	11530 Mason Dr	Grant	MI	49327	Member Discount
37	MUCC	2101 Wood Street	Lansing	MI	48912	\$18.00 Membership Dues
38	Patriot Custom Fishing Rods	35919 6th Ave.	Gables	MI	49055	10% Discount 269-628-5227
39	Richfield RV	Statewide				10% Discount
40	River Raisin Marina & Campground	2502 E. Elm Avenue	Monroe	MI	48161	Buy 1 get 1 free - call 313-575-4367 (www.riverraisinmarina.com)
41	RX Optical	Statewide				Plan 308
42	Salmon Trout Steelheader	www.salmontroutsteelheader.com				Discount 50% OFF 1 year subscription, members only! Use code MSSFA
43	Sun Coast Marine	1172 68th Street	South Haven	MI		Member discount
44	The Angling Outpost	2480 Duck Lane Rd	Whitehall	MI	49461	www.anglingoutpost.com 5% use coupon "steelheader" for online purchases
45	Traxstech Corp	14754 N Oakley	Chesaping	MI		989-845-5969 10%
46	Van's Sport Center	1855 Alpine Ave	Walker	MI	49544	10% Discount
47	Warrior Lures	5915 Lillian La	Traverse City	MI	49684	10% Discount on all product ordered (www.warriorlures.com)
48	West Marine		Bay City	MI		10%
49	West Michigan Propeller	647 Ionia Ave. NW	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	10% Discount
50	* Your Business Here!					

2024 Battle Creek Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Location
May	18	Lake Michigan Spring Tournament	Benton Harbor / SH
June	1	Connie McGowan Invitational	Lake Erie DBBC
July	13	Portage Lake Panfish / Family Picnic	Portage Lake
August	3	Lake Michigan Memorial	South Haven
August	17	Veterans Outing	South Haven
October	26	Kalamazoo River Salmon Slam	Allegan Dam
November	9	Kalamazoo River Trout Quest	Allegan Dam
November	16	Kalamazoo River Memorial	Allegan Dam
November	30	St. Joe River Fall Steelhead	I-94 Boat Ramp
December	7	St. Joe River Chapter Challenge	On the River Tavern
Decemeber	14	Christmas Party	Kalamazoo Eagles

Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting
Meeting Location: Travelers Cafe and Pub, 5225 Portage Rd. Exit 78 off I-94.
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
River Tournament - Joe Foy at 269-303-1894 / Lake Tournament - Dan Foster at 269-370-3693
battlecreeksteelheaders.com

2024 Grand Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Contact Info
May 30 - June 2		Memorial Tournament and GH Offshore	
TBD		GH/GR Chapter Challenge	
August 2-15		Weeklong Plus Contest	
August	15	Picnic	
September	7	Sportsman For Youth	
TBD		Christmas Party	

Other Events TBD
 For information on these events and other information on the Grand Haven Steelheaders contact GHS President and State Director Paul Zelenka at pbzfarm@gmail.com
 www.ghsteelheaders.com

2024 Grand Rapids Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information
May	20	Chapter Meeting	
June	6-9	*Summer Fishing Event	Wabasis Lake STC
June	15	*Lake Erie Walleye Contest STC	
June	24	Chapter Meeting	
July	8	Chapter Family Picnic	Johnson Park
August	3	*Fall Big Lake Outing STC	
August		*Chapter Challenge / Double D Event	(stay tuned for dates)
August	26	Members Meeting	
September	14	Sportsman For Youth	Muskegon
September	30	Members Meeting	
October	1	Chapter Sponsored Buck Contest**	
October	*26	Fall River Contest STC	
October	28	Chapter Meeting	
November	3	Fishing Partners Manistee Contest	
November	25	Chapter Meeting	
December	6	Christmas Party	Watch for details**

** Fishing Outings are subject to change based on weather conditions**

Events open to the public
 Meeting Location - Elks #48, 917 Bridge St NW, Grand Rapids
 Time: 6:00pm-7pm Social Hour with food and beverage followed by Speaker
 Board Meetings will take place after the regular Member Meeting
 Email Grand Rapids Steelheaders: fishgrsteelhead@gmail.com
 ** Fishing Outings are subject to change based on weather conditions**

New address:
 P.O. Box 74450
 Grand Rapids, MI 49514

2024 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
May	4	Linwood Beach - Walleye
May	18	Linwood Beach - Walleye
June	1	Sebawang - Walleye
June	15	Sebawang - Walleye (Kid's Day)
June	29	Linwood Beach - Walleye
July	13	Manistee - Salmon
July	27	Ludington - Salmon
August	10	Ludington - Salmon (2 Day)
August	24	Manistee - Salmon (2 Day)
September	7	Manistee / Frankfort - Salmon T.B.D.
December	14	Banquet V.F.W. Midland

Membership meetings are the first Tuesday every month (no meeting in August)
 Meetings held at: 3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642 Phone: 989-496-3410

Board meetings begin at 7:00pm. **Please call the Port Chairman no later than Monday prior to the outing whether you plan on attending or not attending.** On the day of the outing, call in on Marine Radio, Channel 72.

Weigh-in follows each outing. Picnics follows weigh-in on Saturdays only.
 Outings: All Steelheader members pay \$5.00. All non-Steelheaders pay \$10.00 to participate.
 Children 16 and Under are free. Picnic is \$5.00 for everyone.

2024 Holland Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
May	7	Board Meeting
May	18	Spring Challenge
May	21	League Start
June	3	Board Meeting
June	8	All Species/BMM
June	29	Kids & Kings
July	1	Board Meeting
July	25	Membership
July	27	Summer Challenge
August	5	Board Meeting
August	24	Ladies Tournament
August	27	League End
September	9	Board Meeting
September	10	League Dinner
October	1	Board Meeting
November	5	Board Meeting
December	3	Board Meeting
Decmeber	5	Membership

Board meetings held at: TBD Locations
 General Membership: Bayshore Yacht Club at the Yacht Basin Marina
 Doors open at 6 pm., Dinner at 7 pm, speaker to follow

For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jimmy Van Brocklin 616-240-7017 or email Brad Stephenson at brad.stephenson32@gmail.com

Board meetings held at: TBD Locations
 General Membership: Bayshore Yacht Club at the Yacht Basin Marina
 Doors open at 6 pm., Dinner at 7 pm, speaker to follow

For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jimmy Van Brocklin 616-240-7017 or email Brad Stephenson at brad.stephenson32@gmail.com

2024 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Chair / Location
May	7	General Membership Meeting	
May	11	Lake Erie Walleye Tournament	Bob Schulz
May	18	Pt. Mouille' Kayak/ SB SM Bass/Walleye	Keith Childs
May	18	Howard Tanner Salmon Tournament	Benton Harbor Saturday Chris Thompson / Dennis Kelley
May	19	Howard Tanner Salmon Tournament	Benton Harbor Sunday Mark Platt / Dennis Kelley
May	25	Bruin Lake Kayak / Small Boat	Chuck Davis
May	26	Carp Bow Hunting Event	Gale Frazee
June	1	Kids Fishing Outing at Kensington Park	TBD
June	1	Sterling SP Walleye Tournament	Fabian Sepulveda
June	4	General Membership Meeting	
June	8	Cristal Waters Kayak / SB / Shore Fishing	Eric Braden
June	15	Cornwall Flooding Kayak / Small Boat	Eric Braden
June	22	Lake Erie Walleye Tournament	Bob Schulz / Dennis Kelley
June	23	Lake Erie Walleye Tournament	Fabian Sepulveda
July	9	Club Summer Picnic	Mark Platt/Dave Zawacki
July	11	Erieau Tournament - Thursday	Erieau, Canada Clyde Schoen/C Christoph
July	13	Erieau Tournament - Friday	Erieau, Canada Henry Nabors/Ron Bellemore
July	13	Manistee River Cleanup Day @High Bridge	Roger Hinchcliff
July	25	Ludington Salmon Tournament - Thursday	Gale Frazee / Tom Abdelnour
July	27	Ludington Salmon Tournament - Saturday	Dave & Kim Zawacki
July	28	Ludington Salmon Tournament - Sunday	M & K Traver
August	6	General Membership Meeting	
August	10	Salmon Tournament - Saturday	Manistee - Henry Nabors / Dave Hutton
August	11	Salmon Tournament - Sunday	Manistee - Marc / Kirk Traver
August	17	Lake Tournament	Frankfort - Robert Grech / C Christoph
August	18	Salmon Tournament	Frankfort - Bill Dodge / C Christoph
August	24	PM Lake Kayak / Small Boat	Eric Braden
September	3	General Membership Meeting	
September	7	Manistee Kayak / SB & Pier Tournaments	Eric Braden
September	28	Manistee River Tournaments	Fabian Sepulveda
September	29	Muskegon Lake Salmon Campout Kayak / SB	Keith Childs
October	1	General Membership Meeting	
October	12	Lake Erie Perch Outing	Dave Zawacki
October	16	Captain/Crew/River Angler 2023 Calendar Mtg	Kelley/Trenz/Nabors/Zawacki
October	19	Ludington Pier / Beach Event	Eric Braden
November	2	Manistee River/Pier/Shore Tournaments w DS	Zawacki/Braden/Trenz
November	12	General Membership Meeting - 2nd Tues.	Election Day Room at Senior Center #5
November	30	Ohio Walleye Tournament	Dave Zawacki
December	3	CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
December	7	PM River Tournament	Marc Traver / Adam Trenz
December	14	Huron River Tournament	Roger Hinchcliff

** ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
 7:00 PM at The New Livonia Seniors Center at the Southeast Corner of Farmington Road and Five Mile Road
 WEB Site: Go to www.metroweststeelheaders.org
 If you have questions, contact **MetroWest Steelheaders, PO BOX 531927, Livonia MI 48153-1927**

Contact: *President* Bob Schulz, bobschulz7@gmail.com, 248-915-0043
Membership Director Henry Nabors 248-225-4964

2024 South Haven Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event
Note: SH Steelheaders (SHS) Chapter Events in BOLD * = Not Confirmed		
May	4-5	Horizon Bank Quake Coho Classic - Michigan City, IN
May	10-11	St. Joe Tourney / SW Chapter
May	17	South Haven Pro Am Tournament Captains Registration – American Legion Post 49
May	18-19	South Haven Pro Am Tournament
May	25	Merle Morris Tournament - River Bend Boat Club
June	8	South Haven Steelheaders' Harbor Light Brewery Ladies Tournament
June	8-9	Free Fishing Weekend
June	14-16	South Haven Harborfest
August	10	SHS Fish Boil (Blueberry Festival - August 8-11th)
August	17	SHS Operation Injured Soldier/SH Salute to Veterans
August	31	Labor Day Weekend
November	23	South Haven Steelheaders River Tournament
December		South Haven Steelheaders Holiday Party 2024

2024 South Haven Steelheaders Membership & Board Meeting Dates

NO JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 FEB 15th – 3rd Thursday, Guest speaker – TBD
 MAR 21st – 3rd Thursday (week after GR Ultimate Sports Show, 3/7-10) – Best Chance Fishing Seminar
 APRIL 18th - 3rd Thursday – Southern Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop – Dr. Dan O'Keefe presenting
 MAY 16th – 3rd Thursday *prior to SHS Pro/Am – Membership meeting.
 JUNE 20th - 3rd Thursday
 JULY 18th - 3rd Thursday
 AUG 8th – 2nd Thursday – *Prior to the Annual Fish Boil
 SEP 19th - 3rd Thursday – Regular & Board meeting to prioritize & set next year's events. ID event chairs.
 OCT 17th - 3rd Thursday – Regular and Board meeting to finalize next year's events and set calendar
 NOV 7th – 1st Thursday – Regular and Board Meeting to finalize budget and calendar
 December – No meeting in lieu of Holiday Party
 The 2025 Pro Am Tournament Committee Kick-off meeting is the 1st Wednesday of November (11/6/24)

Note: All Board and membership meetings are generally held the third Thursday of each month except for special circumstances such as Pro Am Captain's Meeting set up in May, Fish Boil organizational meeting in August and prior to Deer Season in November.
Meeting Location: South Haven American Legion Post 49, 129 Michigan Avenue, South Haven, MI 49090
 Board Meetings start at 5:45pm and membership meetings at 7:00pm.
 For more information email: president@southhavensteelheaders.com

2024 Southwest MI Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information
Membership meetings and board meeting are held the second Thursday of each month but please confirm online for the most updated information. www.swmsteelheaders.com www.facebook.com/southwestmichigansteelheaders			
May	9	Schu's Shootout Big Lake Tournament	
May	10-11	Schu's Summer Challenge Tournament (Tournament Trail Event)	
June	13	Quarterly Meeting - Summer Run Steelhead & Offshore Fishing the Thermocline	
July	27	Trolling with the Troops Fishing Event	
October	10	Quarterly Meeting - Fall Run Salmon and Steelhead	
December	7	Winter Challenge River Fishing Tournament	

Membership Meetings Held at:
 St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks 541, 601 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor MI 49022
Board Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 PM, Social 6:00 - 7:00 PM, Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM
 Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784

2024 Thumb Chapter Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location / Information
May	4	6:00am	Can2Can Fishing Tournament	Harbor Beach Marina
May	16	7:30pm	Regular Meeting	Ubyl Foxhunters
June	8	6:00am	Veterans Fishing Outing	Harbor Beach Marina
July	18	7:30pm	Regular Meeting	Ubyl Foxhunters
October	17	7:30pm	Regular Meeting	Ubyl Foxhunters

Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries.

2024 Thunderbay Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Information
May	2	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
May	18	5:30am	Alpena tournament
June	8	5:30am	Presque Isle Tournament
June	22, 23	5:30am	Presque Isle Tournament, both mornings
July	1	7:00pm	Alpena tournament
August	5	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
August	23	7:00pm	Rogers City Tournament
September	9	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
October	7	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting
December	2	7:00pm	Monthly Meeting

Contact Dan Bouchard at dan-bouchard@hotmail.com for inquiries.

2024 White River Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Event information
Note: All meetings will be held at 6:30 pm at the VFW, any changes in location will be decided a couple of days before the meeting. – Any questions or to verify dates/times please call Clint Pollock at (231) 893-0210 or Terry Clark at (231) 893-6805.			
May	2	6:30pm	Meeting at the VFW
June	6	6:30pm	Meeting at the VFW
July			No Meeting
August	1	6:30pm	Meeting at the VFW
September	5	6:30pm	Meeting at the VFW
October	3	6:30pm	Meeting at the VFW
November	7	6:30pm	Meeting at the VFW
December	5	6:30pm	Meeting at the VFW

Possible World Record Bighead Carp

Article by Great Lakes Basin Report

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) confirms George Chance of Festus is the latest state record holder after catching a massive 97-lb. bighead carp from the Mississippi River.

Chance was bank fishing for catfish with a bottom-bouncing crankbait when he hooked into the fish March 19. The previous pole-and-line state record was an 80-lb. fish caught from the Lake of the Ozarks in 2004.

Chance was fighting with the fish for around 20 minutes before he finally got it onto the shore. "The more it fought, I saw its tail and knew it was some type of carp," he recalled. "I was able to hook him with a hay hook in order to get him out of the water. It looked to be 50 or 60 pounds at least." Chance took the monster fish to a nearby recycling center to use their scale, which prompted him to call his local conservation agent. "They told me it was a state record, and I said, 'You've got to be kidding me!'", he laughed. "Then later they said 'It's not just a state record, it's a world record!' and I said 'You've

got to be kidding me!' I had no idea this would happen when I woke up that morning." Chance's catch is the third state record fish recorded for 2024.

The fish also beats the

current bighead carp pole-and-line world record of 90-pounds.

For more info on state record fish, visit <http://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZCp>.



OFTEN IMITATED NEVER DUPLICATED!

The OR12 planer board allows you to cover more water when fishing multiple lines and helps to keep your lines spread apart and untangled. Ideal for walleye and most freshwater fish, the OR12 Planer board is carefully ballasted to continue to run flawlessly in rough water conditions. Get more lines on the water with the OR12 this year.



The OR12 is even better when converted into a Tattle Flag® board!



OR12 shown with the Tattle Flag® kit attached (sold separately)

EZ Crankbait Tuner OR40

This unique crankbait tuning tool features a long and short jaw design that includes an adjustable spring tension setting making it possible to tune any crankbait from magnum sized muskie baits right down to panfish sized lures.



Your Leader In Trolling Technology
www.offshoretackle.com





269-372-2277

8178 W Main St
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Get Your Gear Here!



Shop Online

www.vandamwarehouse.com

Walleye Nation Creations ONLY AVAILABLE at D&R Sports Center

BLUE MAMBA



AFTER HOURS PIMP



BLING DADDY



Buy any Daiwa Tatula - Get a Free Sun Shirt!



\$40 Value

Buy Any Garmin Unit - Get a Free Hoodie!



\$50 Value

Garmin Panoptix Livescope LVS34



\$1199⁹⁹

Reg. \$1299⁹⁹

Ice Strong Lures Killer Fish Diving Crankbait



\$8⁹⁹

Reg. \$9⁹⁹



Garmin Echomap UHD 93SV W/ US Lakes

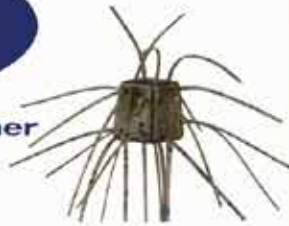


\$1199⁹⁹

Bandit Walleye Deep Jerkbait



Check Out New Lures From O.S.P!



Helix 9 Chirp MDI+ GPS G4N



\$1199⁹⁹

Helix 10 Chirp MDI+ GPS G4N



\$1499⁹⁹

Helix 12 Chirp MDI+ GPS G4N



\$2299⁹⁹

Helix 15 Chirp MSI+ GPS G4N CHO



\$2299⁹⁹