



MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS THUMB CHAPTER

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President's Message

November, 2011

Greetings from the Wheelhouse

It's that time of year again. Why is it that just about the time you get the boat and the gear functioning the way you would like, it's time to pack it up and put it away for the winter. The only solution to the problem is to live where you can fish the year round. For most of us we would miss the Michigan summers. If you are like me, in my haste I always forget to do something the right way and pay dearly for it in the spring. Let's hope it's just me.

At the October 19th Citizens Advisory Committee meeting there were a number of items discussed that pertained to the future Harbor Beach fishery. The Chinook planting, Brown Trout and Steelhead programs were all discussed in detail.

As you all know, the Thumb Chapter Steelheaders have been pushing for years to have the DNR stop planting Chinook fingerlings in Lake Huron. A total of approximately 1.5 mil fingerlings were planted in 12 different locations in 2011. This was a 50% reduction from previous years. The planting target for 2012 is approximately 700,000 in three locations.

The three locations are, Nunns Creek (250,000), Cheboygan (68,000) and Swan River (375,000). This is a reduction of an additional 800,000 or a total of approximately 2.3 mil fingerlings. At a cost \$.25 each there is a savings of about \$ 575,000 dollars in a two year period. At the public hearing held at the Fox hunters club on August 8th, Todd Grischke was ask if the savings were going to be used for other programs in Lake Huron. His response was that the money would "JUST BE ABSORBED". In other words none of the savings was destined to be used for additional programs in Lake Huron. This was also the theme at the Citizens Advisor committee meeting October 19th. Maybe with some additional pressure from the Thumb Chapter this might change.

The original Brown Trout planting program at Harbor Beach was a six year study program. One to one and one-half year old fish would be planted for three consecutive years then studied for an additional three years. This year was the third and last year we will receive Brown Trout fingerlings at Harbor Beach. Whether or not there will be any additional Brown Trout planted at Harbor Beach will be based on the return rate of at least 5%. This rate of return is extremely energetic and can only be achieved if all anglers save the head and stomach of every Brown Trout caught and see that they get to the DNR. During the last two weeks of September seven boats reported a total of 110 Browns caught at Harbor Beach. On September 27th Jim Baker of the DNR did a survey in the harbor using shocking equipment which resulted in netting 14 browns and 1 nice king. The Browns were from 19 to 30 inches long and weighed from 4 to 15.5 pounds.

The Steelhead program for our net pens will continue for the next couple of years and hopefully beyond. All fingerlings, including this year's plant, will have a coded wire tag in their heads. The tag in those that we hold in our pens will be different than those that are planted directly into the harbor. These fish will all have the adipose fin clipped for identification. Once again, if this program is to be successful and continued it is imperative that the head and stomach

of every one of these fish caught, regardless of the size, be saved and given to the DNR. There will be placards placed at many locations along Lake Huron showing how to identify the tagged fish, where to take the bags and who to contact if need be. Bags, along with an identification slip, will be provided for the anglers to put the head and stomach in.

Last but not least, at the October meeting we had our annual election of officers. This year there were some changes. I have chosen to step down as President as well as Dr. Merkel as Vice President. Our new officers are;

President - Steve Lepeak

Vice President – Grant Sadler

Secretary – Jerry Lawrence

Treasurer – Phil Allen

Welcome our new officers and please give them all the support you possibly can. Remember, the officers of any organization, are only as good as their job as the support they get from the board of directors and the general membership.

Stay warm this winter and start thinking spring.

Jack R Noble

Upcoming Events

March 15	Regular Meeting @ 7:30
April 19	Regular Meeting @7:30
April 28	Fish Fry—Ugly Fox Hunters Club. Bring a dish to pass. Eat at 6:30
May 5	Can2Can Tournament
May 17	Regular Meeting @7:30
May 19	Offshore Challenge Tournament

Researchers test system to kill invasive species

DULUTH, Minn. (AP) Researchers have conducted a large-scale test of a new system to kill invasive species hiding in the ballast water of Great Lakes freighters and expect to get test results back next month.

Crews recently pumped lye into two of 10 ballast tanks inside the 1,000 foot Indiana Harbor as it left Gary, Ind., treating 1.8 million gallons of ballast water. The chemical then was neutralized with carbon dioxide as the boat traveled across Lake Superior before releasing the ballast water in the Duluth-Superior harbor.

The Duluth News Tribune reported Tuesday it's believed to be the first such major-scale test on the Great Lakes, with researchers from multiple universities and federal agencies involved along with funding from multiple state and federal grants.

The issue is important because state and federal governments are moving to require ballast treatment to help stop invasive species such as zebra mussels and nonnative fish, which cause an estimated \$5.9 billion in damage to the Great Lakes every year. More than 60% of invasive species introduced in the Great Lakes have come from ballast water discharged by ocean-going ships.

"The good news is that we were successful in delivering the biocide at this huge level for a 1,000-foot laker, then successfully delivered the neutralizer, all while the Indiana Harbor was on the job," Phyllis Green, superintendent of Isle Royale National Park and the instigator of the effort, told the News Tribune.

Lye, also known as sodium hydroxide, raises the pH of water to kill organisms.

Foil Walleye & Vegetables

Walleye fillets	Cooking oil
Chopped celery	Sliced green pepper
Sliced onions	Thinly sliced tomatoes
Salt	Tabasco sauce
Pepper	Butter

Place a single fillet (one fillet per person) on a large piece of aluminum foil. Cover with two tsp. of cooking oil per package. Add layer of celery, green pepper, onion and thinly sliced tomatoes. Salt & pepper to taste. Add 2 tsp butter for flavor and Tabasco sauce for a bit of spice (optional). Seal foil well, but punch holes in top to allow steam to escape. Cook over medium charcoal for 30 minutes. Easy to prepare, tasty and no mess to clean up.

Chinook Salmon Stocking Reduction in Lake Huron for 2010

As expected, the DNR announced the reduction of Chinook salmon stocking levels beginning in 2012. In addition to the numbers reported below, the following comments were included in the decision;

- Suspend CHS stocking at all other location on Lake Huron
- Continue to evaluate key biological indicators over the next 5-6 years and make appropriate interim stocking adjustments as necessary.
- Investigate the possibility of establishing partial creel collection at the port of Cheboygan.

Lake Huron Chinook Salmon Stocking Reduction Plan				
Location	2011 Target	Net Pen	2012 & later	% Reduction
Nunns Creek	250,000	N	250,000	0
St. Ignace	40,000	N	0	100
Cheboygan	67,000	Y	68,000	0
Swan River	472,000	N	375,000	21
Mill Creek Pond	111,000	Y	0	100
Van Etten River	223,000	Y	0	100
Tawas	27,000	N	0	100
Port Austin	72,000	N	0	100
Harbor Beach	80,000	Y	0	100
Harbor Beach	80,000	N	0	100
Port Sanilac	36,000	N	0	100
Lexington	36,000	N	0	100
Total	1,494,000		693,000	

You'll See This Poster at all Cleaning Stations Next Spring

Look for the poster below at all the local fish cleaning stations next spring. The DNR has implanted a microscopic coded wire tag in the heads of many of the planted fish over the past few years. These include the Steelhead that we have been raising in our net pens. The data that is collected from these tags will be a major determining factor for future plantings.

It's extremely important that we support this initiative by saving the

heads from these tagged fish. Without your help, the DNR will simply not have good solid data regarding the success of their planting efforts. If they don't get solid catch rates, they simply won't continue these vital programs. These fish can be turned in at Let's Go Fishing and Offshore Marina. Other locations will follow.

Please return all tagged fish heads!

WANTED:

Information concerning the whereabouts of Trout and Salmon planted in the Great Lakes and tributaries. Their distinguishing mark is the absence of an adipose fin. This indicates the presence of a microscopic coded wire tag in the heads of these fish.



Data from these tags will help provide needed information for better trout and salmon management in the Great Lakes. If you catch a fish missing ONLY its adipose fin, Please record its size, date and location caught. Freeze the head and drop it off at:



Plainwell (616) 685-6851
 Cadillac (231) 775-9727
 Charlevoix (231) 547-2914
 Livonia (734) 953-0241
 Gaylord (989) 732-3541

Or Contact the DNR at:

Shiawassee (517) 625-4600
 Lansing (517) 373-1280
 Bay City (989) 684-9141
 Mt. Clemens (810) 465-4771
 Alpena (989) 356-3232

Newberry (906) 293-5131
 Marquette (906) 249-1611
 Crystal Falls (906) 875-6622
 Escanaba (906) 786-2351
 Barage (906) 353-6651



DNR Lake Huron Adipose-Clipped (CWT) fish reporting form

ANGLER NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	
PHONE/E-MAIL	
DATE CAUGHT	
LOCATION CAUGHT	
SPECIES (check one):	<input type="checkbox"/> Rainbow trout/steelhead <input type="checkbox"/> Chinook <input type="checkbox"/> Lake trout <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic salmon
TOTAL LENGTH (if avail.)	
WEIGHT (if avail.)	
OTHER INFORMATION/COMMENTS	

New Officers for Thumb Chapter Next Year

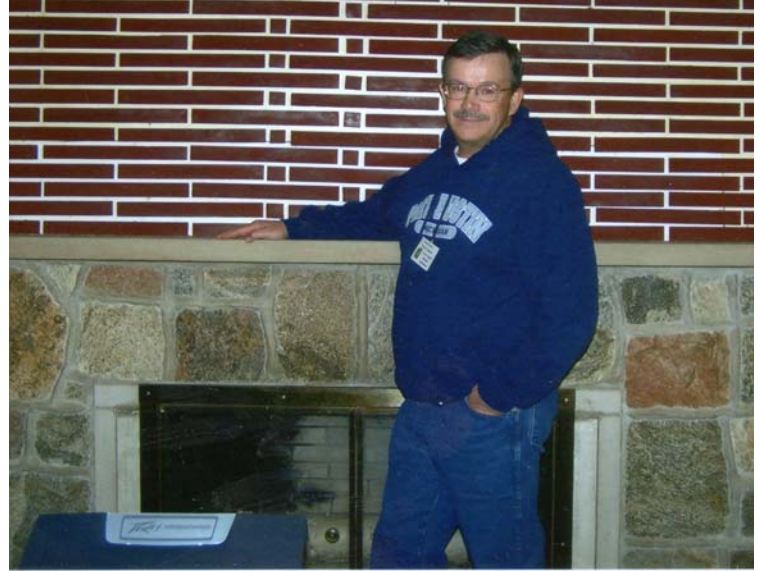
At the October meeting, the board of directors announced the new officers for next year. Jack Noble will be stepping down and Steve Lepeak will be taking over the Presidency. Ken Merkel will be stepping down as Vice President and Grant Sadler will be taking over that position. Other officers remain the same with Jerry Lawrence,

Secretary and Phil Allen as Treasurer. New board members will be announced at our next meeting in March.

We certainly appreciate the dedication and effort put forth by Jack and Ken and hope that all will support the new officers.



Oct. 20, 2011: Retiring president Jack Noble say a few parting words at his last meeting. Jack has contributed to a lot of project for the Thumb Steelheaders. We will miss his professional leadership and hope he will continue to advise and help in the coming years.



Oct. 20, 2011: Newly appointed president Steve Lepeak will take over the rein on March 15, 2012 at the regular meeting. Steve has served as a director for the past 5 years and has been involved in many projects, one of which as the purchase of a great speaker system. He is always ready for a new challenge. Please give Steve your help and guidance this next year.

DATE _____ NEW MEMBER RENEWAL SENIOR: YES NO
PLEASE PRINT FIRMLY

CHECK CASH VISA / MC # _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____
 AREA CODE (____)

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ No. in Household _____

BOAT NAME _____

HOME PORT OR STREAM _____ TYPE OF FISHING: Stream Lake Both

SPONSORED BY _____ PHONE _____
 AREA CODE (____)


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<input type="checkbox"/> BATTLE CREEK \$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> HURON VALLEY \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> S. W. MICHIGAN (ST. JOSEPH) \$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> BENZIE AREA \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> MANISTEE \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> THUMB AREA \$30.00
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<input type="checkbox"/> GRAND RAPIDS \$30.00		<input type="checkbox"/> JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP \$5.00

WHITE - STATE COPY CANARY - RECEIPT TAG - CHAPTER

Please take a look at your address block on the back of this newsletter. Just above your name is the date that your membership will expire. If your dues are coming up in the next quarter, please reduce our mailing cost by filling out the form below and sending it along with a check for \$30 to our membership chairman at:

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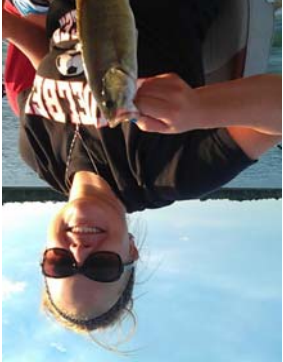
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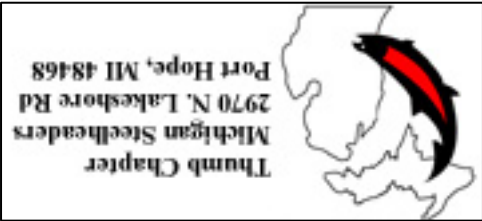




Take a Kid Fishing!



November, 2011



Temp-Return Service Requested

OFFICERS

Jack Noble (2011)	President	(989)479-0445
Kenneth Merckel (2011)	Vice President	(989)843-6177
Jerry Lawrence (2011)	Secretary	(989)428-4937
Phillip Allen (2011)	Treasurer	(989)479-3259

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Grant Sadler	(2010)	(989)635-2742
Douglass Vatter	(2010)	(989)761-7556
Tom Smith	(2010)	(810)672-9932
Steve Schwab	(2011)	(989)479-0774
Steve Lepeak	(2011)	(989)785-9100

REPRESENTATIVE & CHAIRMEN

Kenneth Merckel	State Representative	(2011)	(989)843-6177
Tom Smith	Membership Chairman	(2011)	(810)672-9932
Grant Sadler	Pig Roast Chairman	(2011)	(989)635-2742
Doug Vatter	Pig Roast Co-Chairman	(2011)	(989)761-7556
Jerry Lawrence	Net Pen Chairman	(2011)	(989)428-4937
Steve Lepeak	50/50 Raffle Chairman	(2011)	(989)785-9100
Dave Christy	Meeting Raffle Chairman	(2011)	(989)550-6823
Tom Smith	Meeting Refreshments Chairman	(2011)	(810)672-9932
Jerry Lawrence	Newsletter Chairman	(2011)	(989)428-4937
Jerry Lawrence	Kids Fishing Day Co-Chairman	(2011)	(989)479-6365
Art Farden	Kids Fishing Day Chairman	(2011)	(989)479-0777

Check Out Our New Website!
 Visit www.thumb.michigansteelheaders.org
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Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of the month at the
 Ugly Fox Hunters Club on M-19, two miles south of M-
 142. Board of Directors meet @ 6:30 PM and Regular
 meeting comes to order @ 7:30