



# MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS THUMB CHAPTER

ISSUED QUARTERLY THROUGHOUT THE WATERSPORT COMMUNITIES OF MICHIGAN'S "THUMB"

## President's Message

July, 2011

### Greetings from the Wheelhouse

Since the late 1940s and 1950s there have been a lot of changes to Harbor Beach and the Thumb area. This year the 4th of July throughout the eastern shore of Michigan and especially the Thumb area appeared to take on some of the same characteristics of earlier years.

My wife and I took a ride over the holidays along the eastern shore of Michigan and commented that it has been many years since we have seen the beaches, parks and recreation areas so crowded. It appeared that once again the 4th of July has become a celebration built around family and friends, enjoying the fabulous resources associated with Lake Huron. There were plenty of sunburns and sand in the hair, but obviously a tremendous resurgence of fun in the sun with family and friends. The ice cream shops, small restaurants and gift shops appeared to have had a very good 4th of July weekend. It may be the dragging economy forcing people to go back to basics and enjoy what used to be tradition on the 4th of July. It can only be a good thing.

On June 22nd 2011, I attended a Lake Huron Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting in Clare Michigan. The primary topics of discussion were the results of the Sea Grant Spring Workshop, the future direction of the Chinook stocking program in Lake Huron and an update on the Brown Trout stocking program.

Some of you participated in the Sea Grant Workshop digital survey that covered a lot of different areas from the number of times you went fishing to the impact of fishing on tourism. The most important part of the survey pertained to the future of the Chinook stocking program. Overwhelmingly, 85% of the participants thought it was a bad idea and a waste of tax payer's money to continue stocking Chinook salmon in Lake Huron. The survey results for Ubly, Port Huron, and Oscoda are printed on page 3 of this newsletter. Unfortunately, the people at the Citizens Advisory Meetings have been preaching this same message to the DNR for a number of years. It continues to fall on deaf ears or has just been totally ignored. In order to cover their backsides the DNR now wants to have a public meeting to discuss the future of the Chinook planting program. I have never known the DNR to have a public hearing on any program they wanted to start, change or discontinue. This public hearing may or may not be held in Ubly at one of our regular meetings this fall. Wherever it is held, I would suggest that everyone in our organization show up in force and really give them a "Public Hearing". Some times, on the farm, we had to hit an old mule between the eyes with a baseball bat just to get his attention.

The Brown Trout stocking program was suppose to be a three year experimental program for Harbor Beach. The fall of 2011 would have been the third year of the program. At the meeting on June 22nd we were told that the fish were there and were destined to be delivered to Harbor Beach on schedule. I just recently heard through the grapevine that the fish will not be delivered as promised. I have not been able to confirm as to whether this was an oversight or intentional on the part of the DNR. I have known from the onset of the Brown Trout program that it, was destined to fail, by design. At

every meeting, it was evident the DNR was not in favor of this program based on the comments they (DNR) made and the standards they set for success or lack thereof.

Virtually, every time I leave one of these meetings, instead of walking away with a nice warm and fuzzy feeling in my stomach, I end up with indigestion. When it was announced that there would be an upper management change in the DNR, I had visions of Citizens Advisory Meetings where advice from the general public and sportsman would be accepted openly and considered strongly in any future programs. It's just not in the cards. It appears that the same people or persons are still pulling the strings and the puppets that we deal with now, do as they're told and take all of the heat. Other than that Mrs. Lincoln how was the play?

On a final note, I have been in contact with reporter Dave Spratt. He has written several good articles about our Net Pen project and other issues about Lake Huron. He has written a nice article for Michigan Out of Doors and Great Northern Outdoors. You can download a copy on our website front page. I'll also bring along a copy at this months meeting.

See you on the water! Your Prez, Jack R Noble

### Public Hearing on Chinook Planting!

Please attend an important meeting with the DNR for a discussion regarding the future of Chinook Salmon planting in Lake Huron. The DNR will present information on the changing ecosystem in Lake Huron. Data will be presented to show current status and effectiveness of the plantings. A Q&A session will follow. It's important that you and all your friends who care about the Lake Huron fishery attend the meeting this meeting will provide input for the decision process. Meeting is **Aug. 8th 7-9pm at Ubly Fox Hunters Club.**

### Upcoming Events

July 21	Regular Meeting @ 7:30 Guest will be Roger Gordon from Jordan River Fish Hatchery
August 7	Pig Roast @ Stafford Park Eat @ 2:00 PM Bring a dish to pass.
August 8	DNR Public Hearing on Chinook Planting in Lake Huron. 7-9pm Fox Hunters Club
August 13	Kids Fishing Day. Prizes, hotdogs and pop. Art Farden, Chairman Contact Let's Go Fishing to enter your boat.
August 18	Regular Meeting @ 7:30 Lady's night. Special guest will be Fish and Wildlife presentation on Bald Eagle. Ice cream will be served.

## Congresswomen Miller sponsors event on State of Great Lakes

Several Thumb Chapter board members, Steve Lepeak and Steve Schwab attended a public communication meeting on June 30th sponsored by Congresswomen Candice Miller and State Senator Jack Brandenburg at Metro Beach on Lake St. Clair. The title of the event was "State of the Lake St. Clair & Great Lakes Fisheries" The DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service had various people make presentations on the state of Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie and Lake Huron. This was followed by a lengthy Q&A session from the audience.

Congresswomen Miller opened the meeting with a brief speech about her love of the water, her efforts to stop commercial freighters from dumping ballast, her efforts to prevent Asian Carp from entering the Great Lakes, etc., etc.. Unfortunately, she promptly left, and did not attend the Q&A session that followed. State Senator Jack Brandenburg was unable to attend but had an aid say a few words.

Several items are noteworthy from the presentations. First the walleye fishery in Lake St. Clair is gone for the foreseeable future due to changing conditions. Second, sea lamprey populations are on the rise in Lake Michigan and have reached critical levels in Lake Erie. The DNR do not know where they are coming from. Worse yet, funding to control these creatures is being reduced by the Obama budget proposals.

In the President's message this month Jack spoke of the DNR's intent to have public hearings regarding Chinook Salmon plantings on Lake Huron. Todd Grischke, DNR Lake Huron basin coordinator, confirmed that these will take place and a final decision on planting levels will be made in October. There appears to be some momentum building regarding replacing the Chinook plantings with Herring. Todd spoke of the possibility and a spokesperson from the Jordan River hatchery confirmed that money is in the budget to construct facilities to raise them. Final decisions are still a way off but sound encouraging.

Your board members were vocal about our concerns for proper funding levels for Sea Lamprey control, Herring plantings, Cormorant control and discontinuing Chinook plantings. While it was unfortunate that neither Miller nor Brandenburg were there to listen to public comment, several of their aids approached us after the meeting for additional input from us. We'll see what happens.

## Walleye White Chili

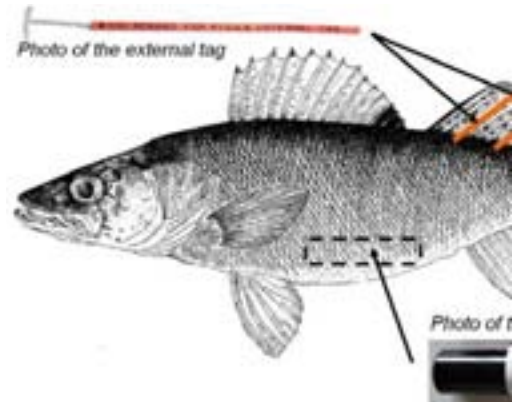
- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 2 Tablespoons olive oil  | 1 medium onion chopped   |
| 1 stalk celery chopped   | 1 jalapeño minced        |
| 4 cups fish stock (or bottle of clam juice and 3 cups chicken stock) |                          |
| 1 can chopped green chilies  | 1 teaspoon cumin         |
| 1 teaspoon oregano   | 2 cloves garlic minced   |
| 1 pound skinless, boneless Walleye cut into 3/4 inch pieces.         |                          |
| 1 can great northern beans.  | Salt and pepper to taste |
| 1 tablespoon butter  | 1 tablespoon flour.      |

Sauté onion, celery, jalapeño and garlic in olive oil until onions are transparent. Add green chilies, stock and spices; simmer 20 minutes. Add Walleye and beans and let simmer for 5 minutes. Mash the flour into the butter and gently stir this mixture into chili to thicken it. Simmer another 5 minutes and its ready to eat.

## Walleye Project

To increase our knowledge on walleye movement and better manage the fishery, a tracking study is being conducted with walleye tagged from Lake Huron and Lake Erie. Each fish will have up to 2 external tags and 1 internal transmitter. **In the event that you catch and keep one of these tagged walleye, there is a \$100.00 reward for reporting the fish and returning the internal transmitter.**

1. Record when and where you captured the fish
2. Immediately remove the internal transmitter from the fish and rinse with water. Store the transmitter at room temperature. You may keep the fish.
3. For reward and arrangements to mail in the transmitter, please contact the USGS Hammond Bay Biological Station: (989) 734-4768 (Mon-Fri, 7:00 am - 4:30 pm). At other times, leave a message at extension 111. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!



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:

Tom Smith  
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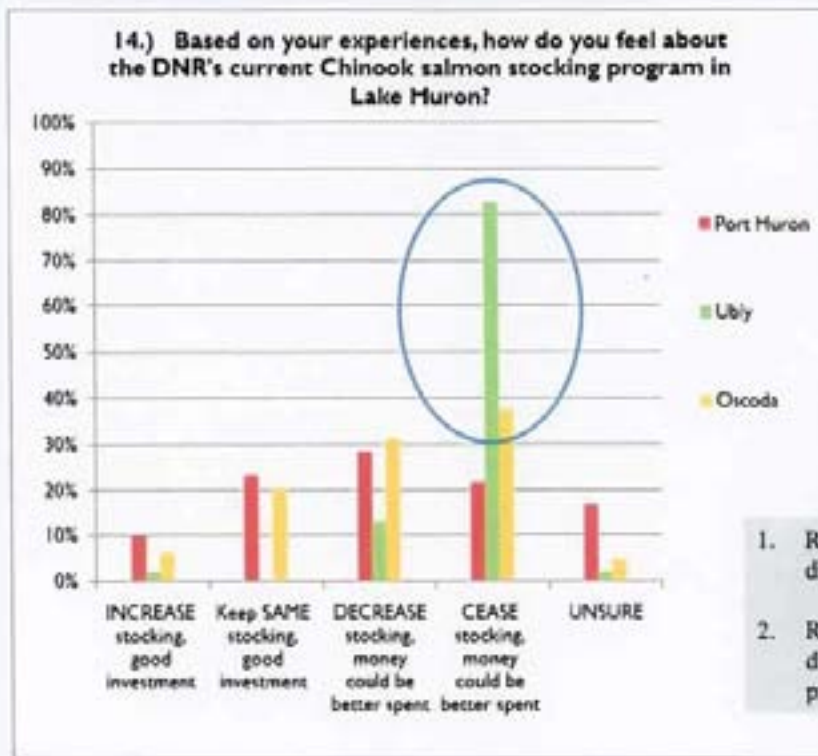
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## Chinook Salmon Stocking – Mixed Feelings?

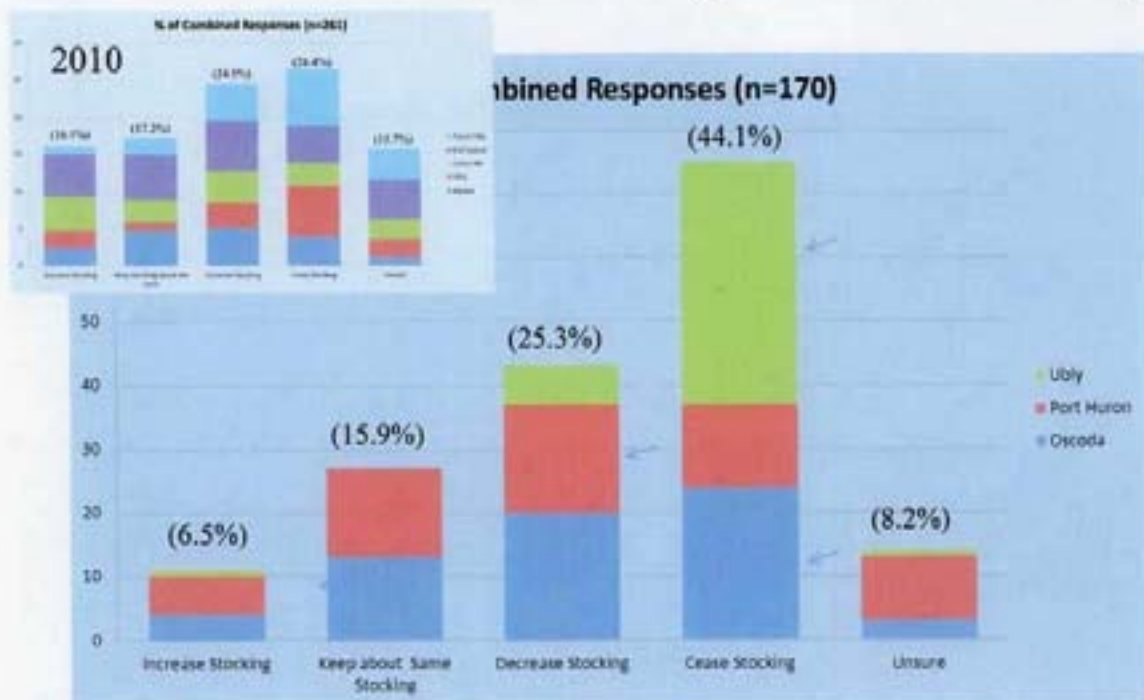


Uby data from meeting of 2/11/2011

1. Responses DID statistically differ between workshops
2. Responses DID statistically differ between first time and previous attendees



## Chinook Salmon Stocking – Mixed Feelings?





May, 2011, net pen workers. Frt L/R, Steve Lepeak, Jerry Lawrence, Bud Donnelly, Ernie Kurschat, Bob Wohlford. 2nd row, Dave Christy, Larry Achard, Jack Noble, Tom Smith, Doug Vatter, Jim Ezyk, Grant Sadler, Ken Merkel. Missing, Darrell Connell, Kevin Ramsey, John Bickle, Phil Stranahan, Steve Kress, Fred Grzesiak, Steve Schwab.



The Thumb Chapter would like to thank Carol Noble for her long time dedication to our Net Pen project. Carol is one of the few original feeders for the project and started in 1993, our 1st year. At that time we were feeding Chinook fingerlings at the Detroit Edison discharge channel. Carol helped her father, Merv Rodda feed the fish. After that, she assisted Jack Noble and continued her role as a faithful feeder. She has always been there rain or shine. We thank her for here long time service and hope she continues as a feeder.



We received 15,197 steelhead fingerlings on May 17 & fed them 4 times a day 'til May 27. After the DNR completed testing, we turned them loose. This year, we lost a total of 29 fish which was outstanding. Picture above is part of the DNR checking. They checked length, weight, nose ID tag and fat content before release. Preliminary results were very positive as our fish grew larger than all other net pen projects this year. Our chapter continues to get positive reactions & support from the DNR and other organizations. for our efforts.



President Jack Noble presents an outstanding achievement award to Raffle Chairman, Dave Christy at the June meeting. Dave has done an excellent job and is very dependable. He's always there when work must be done. Congratulations, Dave.



May 14, 2011 Can2Can Workers. Front row L/R Phil Stranahan, Jan Lawrence, Bob Wohlford. 2nd row, Jack Noble, John Bickle, Jerry Lawrence, Darrell Connell, Steve Lepeak, Danny Oglenski. 3rd row, Steve Kress, Craig Eitner, Fred Grzesiak. Missing, Kevin Ramsey. Thanks for good job in steady rain, & cold weather.



July 9, 2011 Brat Picnic at Stafford Park Port Hope. We had 40 guests and members who managed to devour 85 brats. We had so many great dishes brought by everyone it was hard to choose which ones to try. So some tried them all. I never saw so many tasty desserts in one place. Again President Noble did an outstanding job as the cook. I am sure everyone had an excellent time and a lot of stories were swapped by all.



May 28, 2011 2011 Offshore Challenge Workers. Frt row L/R Phil Allen, Doug Vatter, John Bickle. 2nd row, Jim Ezyk, Jan Lawrence, Ken Merkel, Bob Wohlford. 3rd row, Fred Grzesiak, Jerry Lawrence, Craig Eitner, Steve Stranahan, Jack Noble. Missing, Darrell Connell, Kevin Ramsey. Ken M. & Kevin R. were able to collect 60 stomachs. Great job by all with much better weather.

## Notice of Public Hearing!

Don't forget to attend the DNR Public hearing on Chinook Salmon planting in Lake Huron. Bring all your friends and share your opinions with the decision makers. Your input will help.

**Aug 8th 7-9pm Uby Fox Hunters Club.**

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July, 2011

  
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Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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