



MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS THUMB CHAPTER

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

President's Message

October, 2013

AT THE HELM BY PRESIDENT NOBLE

Greetings from the wheelhouse;

By now, most fishermen in the Great Lakes area have put the gear away, winterized the boat and hopefully stored everything with the early spring fishing in mind.

Fishing in the lower Lake Huron through out the summer was pretty good especially if one had the time to find the fish. Bag limits were mixed with no specific species dominating the catch. Some boats reported that they had caught more and larger Kings this year than since 2004. Mother Nature continues to do a great job.

The low water levels and the cause have been one of the major topics of discussion at the Lake Huron Citizens Advisory Committee meetings. On October 17th the radio station Smile FM 89.7 out of Burton Michigan reported that the Corps of Engineers had started to dump large boulders and debris at the mouth of the St Clair River to slow down the water exiting Lake Huron. After further investigation, all sources that I contacted indicated that the report was not true. Too bad! They also stated that there was a project to restore the Sturgeon habitat in the area close to Algonac. Michigan.

At the October 15th 2013 Lake Huron Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting the DNR gave a detailed hatchery report pertaining to the Atlantic salmon. In 2013 there was approximately 100,000 yearling atlantics available for planting from the Platte River Hatchery. The **plant sights were The St Mary's River 35,000, Thunder Bay 20,000, Au Sable River 30,000 and Lexington 20,000.** The DNR indicated that there will be close to 175,000 Atlantics available from the Platte River hatchery in 2014. Of the 175,000 approximately 40,000 will be planted at Torch Lake and the balance distributed to the same plant sights as 2013. This is a research project that will be for 2013 thru 2015 and then a 3 year evaluation period. Indications are that the maximum production of Atlantics at Platte is 200,000. There was no indication as to where the additional fish will be planted in the future.

There will be a number of changes within the Thumb Chapter executive committee for 2014. Dr. Merckel has asked that he not be considered for re election to the board of directors, Jerry Lawrence will **step down from the Secretary's job but will serve on the board of directors**, and I have chosen not to seek re election for the Presidency. Maybe I can eat with my wife for the next 10 years. The 2014 Executive committee will be: President Kevin Ramsey, Vice President Brandon Stanton, Secretary Steve LePeak, Treasurer Phil Allen, State Rep. Jack Noble, Directors; Doug Vatter - Tom Smith - Jerry Lawrence - **Arron Pfaff and Robert Golochowicz.** The **director's position** vacated by Brandon Stanton will be filled by appointment for 2014. Remember that any governing body is only as good as the support it gets from the members.

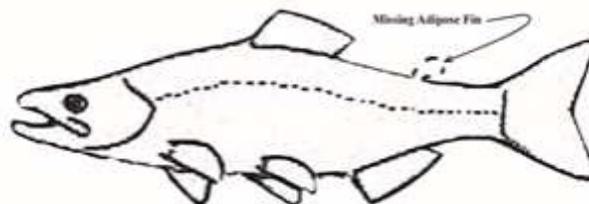
Your Prez,

Jack R Noble



Regular meeting Oct. 17th. Judy Ogden from Blue Water Sport Fishing Assoc. talks about the toxic waste dump proposed by the Ontario Power Generation Co. The site is only 5/8 mile from Lake Huron. Judy has written a letter of objection to the OPG concerning the dump site with support from Michigan Steelheaders.

Fish with coded wire tags in the noses are marked with a missing adipose fin



Please return heads from marked fish to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

It is critical that all fishermen return tagged fish. See instructions at all cleaning stations in the area.

Upcoming Events

Nov 7	Special meeting, Franklin Inn @7:00
Nov 20	Regular meeting @ 7:30
	See you in the Spring!

Nuclear Waste Below Lake Huron?

Public comment is currently being received on a plan being advanced by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to construct a nuclear waste disposal site within one kilometer of the shores of Lake Huron in Kincardine, Ontario. To put this into perspective, the proposed site **is 50 miles east of the tip of Michigan's thumb, 90 miles from Alpena** and some 100 miles from Lake St. Clair. To further put the environmental and human health risks into perspective, this proposed nuclear waste site would be placed near the edge the same Great Lakes **which represent over 20% of the earth's surface fresh water.**

This proposal has been in the works by OPG for over a decade and **claims "strong consistent support" for the project, yet seemingly few beyond Ontario's Bruce County have even heard of the proposal. In truth, the "strong consistent support" for the plan has been coming** from the communities of Kincardine and those in the immediate vicinity who are receiving substantial financial incentives from OPG for their support. The Bruce Nuclear plant, the largest nuclear facility in the world, is also located in Kincardine and employs some 3,800 people.

The OPG plan is to construct what is called a Deep Geological Repository (DGR), or Nuclear Waste Dump. In this case, the DGR will include 31 burial caverns 680 meters below the ground carved out of limestone, and will extend to approximately 400 meters from Lake Huron. The DGR will store low and intermediate level nuclear wastes which can remain radioactive for over 100,000 years. The DGR will cover approximately 37 acres on the surface and twice that size underground and will accommodate radioactive wastes **generated during the operating life and refurbishment of Ontario's 20 nuclear reactors.**

OPG's most recent estimate is that 200,000 cubic meters (7.1 million cubic feet) of nuclear waste in 53,000 containers will be buried in the DGR over 35-40 years. The Dump will eventually be sealed with a sand/clay mixture and concrete and the plan is that within a decade of closure it will no longer be monitored for radioactive leaks. Ten years of pre-closure monitoring will be followed by potentially 300 years of institutional control and then abandonment. OPG calls **the period following institutional control the "Long Term."** OPG suggests that the Nuclear Waste Dump will safely hold its radioactive contents for 100,000 years.

Testimony and public comments are currently being heard by the Joint Review Panel in Canada. Among those who have spoken out in opposition are noted broadcaster and scientist, Dr. David Suzuki, author Farley Mowat, Canadian wildlife artist Robert Bateman, a former Deputy Minister of the Environment, the president of the American Academy of Environmental Medicine and Beverly Fernandez, Spokesperson for the previously mentioned STGLND. Others on record opposing the plan include the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative representing mayors of 103 cities with a total population of **16,000,000. Michigan's own State Senate passed Resolution 58 on May 22 of this year, showing unanimous opposition to this plan.** Michigan State Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood and Michigan State Representative Sarah Roberts have both made videos expressing their concerns about the proposal and both will be testifying at the hearings this weekend.

Coast Guard Law Enforcement

Occasionally in boating circles one becomes engaged in a conversation where the participants boast how they won't permit the Coast Guard to board their boats or limit access to a section of the boat.

The following is an official statement from the Coast Guard published by the 1st Coast Guard District, Special Notice Mariners, 2001 Edition

An important Coast Guard mission is maritime law enforcement on the high seas and on water subject to Federal laws. Of particular interest are laws dealing with the 200 mile Fishery Conservation Zone, drug smuggling, illegal immigration and safety and water pollution.

To enforce various federal laws, the Coast Guard is empowered to board and inspect vessels. Many of the laws can be successfully enforced only by boarding a vessel while it is underway.

Boardings are not necessarily based on suspicion that a violation already exists aboard the vessel.

Their purpose is to prevent violations. The courts have consistently upheld this authority. All Coast Guard officers and petty officers are Federal law enforcement officers and they may board any United States vessel anywhere.



Jim provided his equipment to clean our net pen equipment. Thanks!



Jim volunteered to cook the fillets for our Fish Fry this year. Thanks!

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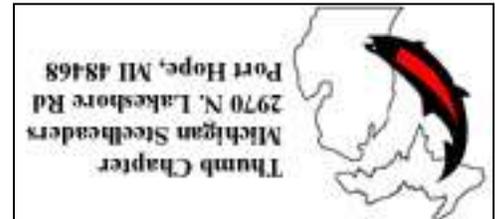


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October, 2013

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Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Ubyly 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