



MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS THUMB CHAPTER

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

President's Message

January, 2015

THE VARMINT'S WHEELHOUSE

Hello Steelheaders! With the onset of cooler weather and holiday outings, we can officially welcome winter. To many members this means a trip down south to bask in the warm Florida sun and maybe targeting salt water fish. To others (myself for instance) this means anticipation for a good freeze to be able to walk on "hard water" and target walleye and perch through the ice. The last winter ice season was brutal... negative temperatures and high winds for weeks on end. One bonus from that was safe ice. Almost too safe! Many augers were not long enough to make it through the 3 foot thick slab covering the bay! I've placed an order with Mother Nature for this season:

January and February with average high and low temps being 30 degrees and 24 degrees (just cold enough to freeze and stay frozen!)

Partly sunny with Southwest winds light and variable 12" of clear ice with 2" of crunchy smooth snow on top

I haven't gotten an order confirmation, but I am sure it's in the mail... Best of luck to all ice fishing and more importantly, BE SAFE!

We also need to prepare for the 2015 calendar year of events taking place in our Thumb Chapter. Our events haven't changed, but remember to check out the dates as those may have. One particular area that I feel we need to work on this coming year is stimulating an interest in the fishery in our peers, especially our youth. This is a struggle for many organizations and it seems that our youth do not feel the need to "get involved." This will be a painful blow to the future of the Steelheaders if we are not able to bring in new members. If you have the chance, take your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, or even the neighbor kid fishing for an afternoon. If you are unable to, try telling the stories of how much fun you've had in this great fishery we have here!

I'd love to hear ideas from everybody on how to increase the popularity of our organization to the youth in the area. Please feel free to contact me anytime, and I'll do what I can to help make it happen!

Varmint on the Side,

Kevin Ramsey, President

2015 Thumb Steelheaders Calendar of Events

- March 19th** Regular Meeting 7:30PM
- April 16th** Regular Meeting 7:30PM
- April 25th** Fish Fry @ Ugly Fox Hunters- Bring a dish to pass
- May 2nd** Can2Can Tournament @ HB Marina- Workers needed
- May 21st** Regular Meeting 7:30PM
- June 13th** Veterans free fishing day- Boats needed call Kevin Ramsey 989-550-9227
- June 18th** Regular meeting 7:30PM
- June 27th** Club Picnic @ Stafford Park- Bring a dish to pass eat at 3:00PM club will furnish brats.
- July 16th** Regular meeting 7:30PM
- July 25th** Kids free fishing day- Boats needed call Aaron Pfaff 989-550-7090
- August 9th** Pig Roast @ Stafford Park- Bring a dish to pass. Raffle prizes and 50/50 eat @2:00PM
- August 20th** Regular meeting 7:30- Ladies night Ice cream by PaPa G's
- September 17th** Regular Meeting 7:30PM- Nominations for Executive Board
- October 15th** Regular meeting 7:30PM- Election of Executive Board

Member Meeting held at Ugly Fox Hunters Club on M-19 South of M-142 @ 7:30PM

Upcoming Events

March 19th	Regular Meeting 7:30 PM
April 16th	Regular Meeting 7:30 PM
	See you in the Spring!

Perch Lovers

Once a perch fisherman, always a perch fisherman so the old timers say. There are people that will travel 300 to 400 miles, spend umpteen hundreds of dollars winter and summer and even freeze thier buns off sitting on the ice in sub zero weather just for a couple of messes of perch.

Over the last 4 or 5 decades the perch population in Lake Huron has been like a roller coaster ride. In the early 1970s, Mother Nature took care of the perch population by allowing them to seek their own sustainable level through pure population density. During the early 1980s and 1990s the perch population exploded to where there were so many perch in Saginaw Bay, you could almost walk on them, but very few of them grew to a length of 7 inches. Anglers loved it, but soon complained that there were not enough larger perch. For the last 10 years or so there has been a tremendous decline in the perch population throughout the Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron.

There isn't any one reason for the decline but many different contributing factures, such as the increase in the number of predators, tremendous influx of invasive species and basic eco system changes.

The good news is, that due to a great deal of pressure from the commercial and the sport fishing communities, the DNR is in the process of putting together a plan to identify those things that could be done to improve the perch population in Lake Huron as well as Saginaw bay.

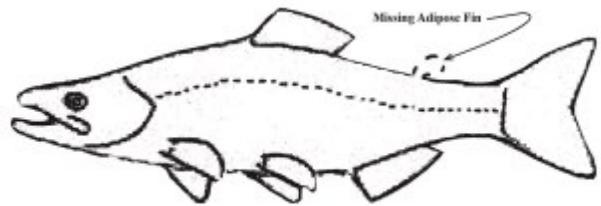
The DNR is looking at anything that has or could affect the improvement of the perch population. Some of those areas being considered are; developing a re-stocking program, changing the recreational fishing regulations, season closures, changing length limits, changing bag or creel limits, re-estab-

lish sisco as a prey alternative, increase exploitation of wall-eye, increase emphasis on cormorant control, regulation of commercial fishing. Many of these areas may have little or no impact on the perch populating and there are many other factors that affect our fisheries that are beyond the DNR's control. This is just the beginning of a long and tedious process.

" Anglers need to understand these limitations and recognize that the lake's ecosystem has been fundamentally altered, and that these changes may make a return to the days of abundant yellow perch impossible".

J. R. Noble

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.

DATE _____ NEW MEMBER RENEWAL SENIOR: YES NO
PLEASE PRINT FIRMLY
 CHECK CASH VISA / MC # _____ EXP. DATE _____
 NAME _____ PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____ AREA CODE (_____) _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ No. in Household _____
 BOAT NAME _____
 HOME PORT OR STREAM _____ TYPE OF FISHING: Stream Lake Both
 SPONSORED BY _____ PHONE _____
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<input type="checkbox"/> AUSABLE RIVER (OSCODA) \$32.00	<input type="checkbox"/> HOLLAND \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> SOUTH HAVEN \$30.00
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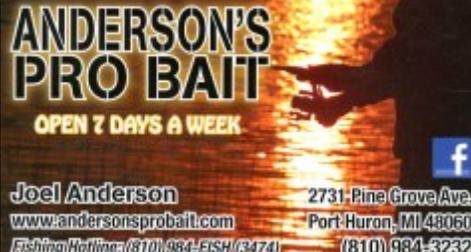
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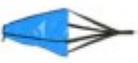


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MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS THUMB CHAPTER



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January, 2015



Temp-Return Service Requested

Executive Committee Members as of January 1, 2015

President – Kevin Ramsey	Term 1-1-15 to 12-31-15
Vice President – Brandon Stanton	Term 1-1-15 to 12-31-15
Recording Secretary – Steve Lepeak	Term 1-1-15 to 12-13-15
Treasurer – Phil Allen	Term 1-1-15 to 12-31-15
Director – Ken Merckel	Term 1-1-15 to 12-31-16
Director – Tom Smith	Term 1-1-15 to 12-31-16
Director – Walter Godzwon	Term 1-1-15 to 12-31-16
Director – Aaron Pfaff	Term Expires 12-31-15
Director – Jerry Lawrence	Term Expires 12-31-15
Director – Bob Golochowicz	Term Expires 12-31-15
State Representative – Jack Noble	Term Expires 12-31-15

Committee Chairmen for 2015

- Newsletter**– Aaron Pfaff
- Net pens**– Jerry Lawrence
- Fish fry**– Jack Noble
- Pig Roast Raffle**– Bob Golochowicz
- Speaker Coordinator**– Jack Noble
- Raffle Table**– Cherie & Steve Lepeak
- Vets Free fishing day**– Kevin Ramsey
- Kids Free fishing day**– Aaron Pfaff
- Pig Roast**– Kevin Ramsey
- Ladies Night**– Jack Noble

Check Out Our Website!

Visit www.thumb.michigansteelheaders.org
Sign up for email delivery of this newsletter!

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



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