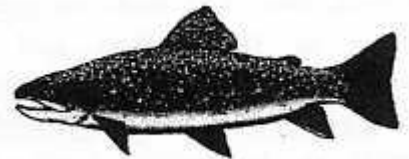


DOWNRIGGER



Presidents Message

Greetings to all!

Well, I sure wish this Michigan weather would make up its mind. I have had the boat out twice so far then it almost seems like were going to get to go ice fishing some more. Anyway, in the fishing world, not a lot is going on right now. This months meeting guests will be representatives from the DNR and they will be discussing license fees (please be cordial and polite in your comments) and give them some positive feedback to work with. Also at this meeting we are going to have an open kitchen, serving hamburgers and French fries for those of you that have to come straight from work.

Our May meeting brings our boat show and swap meet! I have really tried to talk this up so it will be a great opportunity. Try to bring out some of that "extra unused fishing equipment" (which my wife seems to think I have so much of) and turn it into extra dollars for the fishing kitty (ha-ha.) Also, please bring your boats to show your handiwork and also to show the new comers so they can get new ideas on how to rig their boats.

Any way's that all I have for now, but don't forget to go into the website, under the guestbook, and let everybody know what's going on in our club.

Tight Lines,
Gary

Tournament Insight

Arcadia Tournament May 5 & 6, 2007

This will be a multi-port, all species tournament. The captains meeting will be at 6:00am at the VanConant's (16966 First St.) 1st hours south of Arcadia marina. Lunch will be served on Saturday. Please call Walt and Pat for confirmation of your attendance so they can plan lunch. Arcadia 231-889-0031, Lake Orion 248-693-4389 There is a local motel if anyone needs a place to stay: Pleasant Valley Motel located on M22 231-889-4194

2007 Tournament Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tournament</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
April 07&08	Tippy Dam		
May 5 & 6	Arcadia	Pat & Walt VanConant	248-693-4389
May 12	Pontiac Lake	Steve Loehr & Mark Morris	248-685-3933(Steve) 248-623-0651 (Mark)
May 19 & 20	Lake Erie		
June 30& 31	Lake Erie	Robert Schulz	248-471-7844
June	Loon Lake	Gary Mobley	248-674-0747
July 14	Cass Lake	Steve Loehr & Mark Morris	248-685-3933(Steve) 248-623-0651 (Mark)
August 18 & 19	Arcadia	Pat & Walt VanConant	248-693-4389 (Walt)
		Larry Eastman	231-325-2267 (Larry)
August 25 & 26	Arcadia		
September 15&16	Lake Erie	Robert Schulz	248-471-7844

If anyone is interested in hosting the may 19, 20 Lake Erie tournaments or the August 25, 26 Arcadia Tournaments please contact Jeff Loehr (248) 685-3933

Angler Articles

Fish Disease halts walleye, pike and muskellunge production and stocking. Michigan DNR April 3, 2007

The rapidly increasing distribution of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus (VHSV) in Michigan waters is forcing the Department of Natural Resources to place a one-year moratorium on walleye, northern pike, and muskellunge production and stocking to ensure the disease is not inadvertently spread by DNR activities, and to protect the state's fish hatchery system. "All of the DNR's egg sources for walleye and one key source for northern pike are from Great Lakes waters that are, or are highly likely to be, infected with VHSV," said Kelley Smith, chief of the DNR Fisheries Division. "Muskellunge egg sources, as well as two other sources for northern pike are located in very high risk waters, based on our understanding of the movement of bait fish around the state, as well as the amount of recreational and angler boat traffic between those waters and the Great Lakes." Smith said that currently it is not known whether eggs from these species of fish can be disinfected, adding that disease testing takes four to eight weeks, thus making it impossible to determine which egg sources are infected before moving the eggs into state hatcheries.

VHSV has already caused widespread fish mortalities in Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario, and is an international reportable disease. In late 2006, the DNR determined it had spread into Lake Huron, as far north as Cheboygan and Rogers City. The disease entered Michigan waters from the Maritime Region of Canada, likely in the discharge of infected ballast water from cargo ships that took up ballast water in previously infected waters. The virus does not affect humans in any way. "If VHSV would inadvertently infect a state fish hatchery, all of the fish at that facility would have to be destroyed and the hatcheries completely disinfected. The economic loss to our state would be between \$40-\$60 million," Smith said. "Since we only rear coolwater fish at Thompson and Wolf Lake State Fish Hatcheries, incubation potentially infected walleye, muskellunge and northern pike eggs at these two facilities would put at risk all of the state's production of steelhead, 40 percent of the Chinook salmon and a number of other species."

Prior to making the decision to place a moratorium on the production of these species, the DNAR examined a range of options. They included:

- Developing isolation areas within existing hatcheries- it was determined that this cannot be done without substantial risk to other fish species in the hatcheries.

- Undertaking off-site rearing at other DNR facilities- this was rejected because sufficient water of the proper quality and temperature was not available and appropriate effluent treatment could not be done.
- Undertaking off site rearing at other cooperative facilities- the DNR determined that the liability risk is too great, since contamination a non-DNR facility with VHSV would result in substantial cost for the DNR to disinfect and clean up the facility.
- Obtaining fish from other agencies-this concept was investigate, but genetically compatible sources of walleye and northern pike are not available in the Great Lakes region. However, this may be an option for muskellunge, and is being pursued by the DNR.
- Obtaining eggs from other inland sources in Michigan- this option is not feasible because insufficient numbers of fish are available to meet the state's egg take needs, and the potential sources of eggs are at high risk of VHSV infection.

The DNR is taking the following steps to ensure that walleye, northern pike, and muskellunge production can resume in the future:

- Experiments will be conducted this spring on eggs collected from walleye and muskellunge populations in Lakes Erie, and St Clair that are likely infected with VHS to determine if standard iodine disinfection techniques will work for coolwater fish. If the experiments demonstrate that the standard techniques are effective, then normal coolwater fish production will resume in 2008.
- Extensive VHSV surveillance and monitoring of current coolwater broodstock populations will be conducted to allow the DNR to determine the prevalence and intensity of infection in each broodstock population. These efforts should help to identify potential broodstock sources and rearing locations for the future.
- Determine other potential out of state sources for coolwater fish for future rearing options.
- Develop additional backup options to incubation and rear coolwater fish outside of the state's hatchery system, including the development of fully contained mobile incubation and rearing facilities and the potential use of other off site incubation and rearing facilities. The cost of additional mobile incubation facilities is approximately \$22,500 per one million walleye fry.

"Implementation of these measures will require a substantial commitment of effort and dollars, at a cost that will greatly exceed what would be expended for coolwater fish rearing under normal circumstances," Smith said. "There are no new dollars for such efforts, so we are reprioritizing our existing work plans and budget to ensure the work is accomplished prior to the 2008 coolwater fish production season. We have however, requested emergency funding from the US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, but we do not yet know if and when these funds might be available to help us meet the treat posed by VHSV in the Great Lakes."

More information on VHSV is available at the DNR website www.michigan.gov/dnr click on the fishing section.

EXECUTIVE ORDER ISSUED FOR LAKE ERIE YELLOW PERCH

© 2007 ODNR, Division of Wildlife April 10, 2007

Weak hatches lead to bag limit reduction

In response to declining fish populations, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has issued an executive order to reduce the sport fishing bag limit for Lake Erie yellow perch from 40 to 30. The order will go into effect Monday, April 9, immediately reducing the bag limit while new rules are finalized and placed into affect. The normal Wildlife rule-making process would require about 90 days to be completed. The Lake Erie yellow perch bag limit for sport anglers was only recently increased to 40 in 2006 and prior to that has been 30 over the past nine years. "Perch is an important species for our sport anglers in Ohio and an important part of Ohio's commercial fishing economy, and this collaborative action will help Ohio take the lead in maintaining our perch levels for Ohioans to enjoy in the future," Strickland said.

Lake Erie commercial netters will also see a reduction in their quota compared to 2006. Commercial allocations for Lake Erie yellow perch in Ohio will drop from 3 million pounds in 2006 to 2.1 million pounds in 2007. The recreational allocation will fall from 4.5 million pounds in 2006 to 2.8 million pounds in 2007. "We are making the decision to manage the perch harvest in order to assure the long-term vitality of this important natural resource," said Sean Logan, director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. "Like Ohio's deer herd, the perch population is an example of a continuous work in progress. Our goal as managers is to stay flexible, stay informed, and always be ready to adapt when change is needed."

These actions come on the heels of the March 23 announcement from the Lake Erie Committee of the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, which significantly reduced the 2007 lake-wide total allowable catch (TAC) from 2006. The TAC represents the amount of fish that can be caught by recreational and commercial fishermen without putting the fish stocks at risk. Ohio's 2007 share or "quota" for yellow perch is 4.92 million pounds of the lake-wide TAC of 11.39 million pounds. Both figures represent a 34 percent reduction from last year's quota. Each year, the TAC is adjusted by the Committee in response to fluctuations in the lake's fish population. "Recent estimates of perch abundance were lower than we initially expected and reflect weak hatches from 2002, 2004, and 2005, especially in the western basin," said Roger Knight, Lake Erie program administrator for the Division of Wildlife and Ohio's representative on the Lake Erie Committee. "Our projections indicate that the Ohio recreational fishery would exceed its quota allocation without a bag limit change." The quota for yellow perch in Ohio's waters of Lake Erie is split between commercial netters and sport anglers, with roughly 40 percent of the quota being allocated to commercial and 60 percent to sport each year. Under existing laws and procedures, ODNR's Division of Wildlife can reduce the allocation of perch to netters by May 1, the first day of the commercial fishing season for yellow perch in Ohio waters. In contrast, sport fishing regulation changes generally are made during the fall prior to a new fishing year. The news of the TAC limits indicated the need for an adjustment of the sport quotas.

Late last week, the Ohio Wildlife Council voted unanimously in favor of reducing quotas and bag limits for both sport anglers and commercial netters. The Council also expressed their strong support for the governor's decision to issue an Executive Order to help ensure that Ohio does not exceed its quota set by the Lake Erie Committee.

The Division of Wildlife will immediately begin working on a public education campaign to inform Lake Erie anglers of the new bag limits.

Lake Michigan water level 1 inch lower than last year

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Lake Michigan is about an inch lower than at this time last year and long-range indicators show water levels won't be improving this summer, a federal agency said. The continually dropping water levels mean the lake is about 17 inches below its long-term average, said Cynthia Sellinger of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "All indications are the lake is going to be lower than it was last year," she added. While it may seem that Wisconsin recently got a lot of rain and snow, lakes Michigan and Huron got about 1.3 inches of precipitation in February, lower than the long-term average of 1.72 inches. Even if the winter were wetter, Lake Michigan is so big that it is affected by weather patterns from as far as back as three years. Another reason for Lake Michigan's water woes is that Lake Superior, which feeds into Michigan and Huron, is within about two inches of its all-time low, Sellinger said. Scientists are also studying whether a shipping channel dredged in the early 1960s poked a hole in the riverbed of the St. Clair River. That could mean the river is draining the lake faster than it used to. In the spring, the U.S. and Canadian governments will spend \$14.6 million on a study that hopes to determine, among other things, if a drain plug really has been pulled on the lakes. Low water levels are affecting everyone, from homeowners and boaters who can't reach their docks to freighter operators who can't ship their maximum payloads, said Dennis Schornack, U.S. chairman of the International Joint Commission, a Canadian and U.S. board that oversees boundary waters issues. If the study determines the problem was man-made, it might be able to show there is a man-made solution, said Mary Muter of the Georgian Bay Association, the Canadian group that originally released a study wondering whether the shipping channel's dredging poked a hole. She said the solution could be to fill in the channels the river has carved on its own since the 1960s and somehow strengthen the river so it doesn't happen again. "We definitely think something should be done," Muter said. But Schornack said any decision would have to consider construction costs and the potential damage to shorefront property owners worried about

erosion. "That would be a very controversial recommendation," he said, "but it's possible." The Corps of Engineers does not dispute that the 1960s dredging permanently lowered the lakes, because it did create a faster-flowing river. Federal engineers have maintained that the project, when coupled with earlier dredging and riverbed mining, caused the permanent lowering of the lakes' long-term average level by about 16 inches. But the Georgian Bay study argues that water levels dropped about another foot because the river is effectively dredging itself through erosion caused by faster flows. Muter said ongoing studies by her group show this drop, with Michigan-Huron levels down at a rate of at least an inch every five years. That finding was not disputed by Scott Thieme, chief of the corps' hydraulics and hydrology office in Detroit. But he said it fell within the margin of error of the equipment used to take the measurements. Whatever the reason, freighters are feeling the pinch because low water levels mean freighters can't carry as much, said Glen Nekvasil, vice president of the Lake Carriers' Association. In January, for example, an ore freighter leaving Lake Superior could carry only 59,000 tons — about 12,000 below its capacity. "When you're leaving that much cargo behind in periods of peak demand, it's a real challenge," he said.

Information from: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, <http://www.jsonline.com>

Downrigger Distribution

As a member of Oakland County Sport fishing Association, you have the option to have your *Downrigger* delivered to you electronically (via e-mail) rather than by the United States Postal Service (USPS). The *Downrigger* is available for distribution through the USPS for members wishing to receive it that way or for members without internet/e-mail access. If you are interested in having your *Downrigger* sent to you via e-mail I need your current e-mail address, you can e-mail that address to me at michiganbasser@yahoo.com please indicate in the subject that it is *Downrigger* distribution. Thank you.

Scott Lewis
Editor

Editor's Note:

Summer is just around the corner. I hope that you have been able to get out on the water and have caught your limit a few times already! I ask that if any of you have submissions for the *Downrigger* please send them to me via e-mail at michiganbasser@yahoo.com I will be working in Microsoft word so if your submission could be in that format it would be a great help.

Scott Lewis

Up Coming Events:

May 16 OCSA Boat Show and Steak Fry at the Oakland County Sportsmen's Club

US Coast Guard Boat inspections will be available at the boat show.

Steak fry is \$9.00 per person which gets you a 16oz steak (chicken breast will also be available) to grill along with side dishes provided by the Oakland County Sportsmen's Club. They will also have the kitchen manned that evening.

May 19/20 Lake Erie Walleye Tournament (Brest Bay Marina)

June 20 Board and Membership meeting @ Oakland County Sportsmen's Club

June 30,30 Lake Erie Walleye Tournament Contact Robert Schulz for info 248-471-7844

June Loon Lake Tournament Contact Gary Mobley for info 248-674-0747

July 14 Cass Lake Tournament Contact Steve Loehr 248-685-3933 or Mark Morris 248-623-0651

July 18 Board and Membership meeting @ Oakland County Sportsmen's Club

OCSA DISCOUNTS

OCSA members receive can receive a reduced rate on their Boat/US membership. The discounted rate is \$9.50. To receive the discount, indicate our group number GA 81183B on your Boat/US membership renewal.

OCSA members who also have the MUCC membership can receive a 10% discount at Bass Pro Shops. To obtain the discount, go to the service counter and show the clerk your MUCC membership card. The MUCC membership card is on the front of your MUCC magazine. The clerk will add a MUCC sticker to the back of your Bass Pro Shop Outdoor Rewards card indicating you are eligible for the discount. Just show your card to the cashier when you check out to receive the discount.

Recipe Corner:

I am always looking for some good recipes to publish in the *Downrigger*. These recipes don't have to be just for fish, any good recipe that you would like to share with your fellow club members would be appreciated. If you have a good one, please send it to me via e-mail at michiganbasser@yahoo.com

OAKLAND COUNTY SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION 2007 OFFICERS

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President	Gary Mobley	(248) 674-0747	Bassmastergary12@Yahoo.com
Vice President	Jeff Loehr	(248) 685-3933	scloehr@msn.com
Treasurer	Bill Anglebrandt	(248) 391-0670	banglebran@talkamerica.net
Recording Secretary	Margaret Purves	(248) 625-3617	wpurves@pobox.com

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ATTENTION ON DECK!!!

CLUB DUES MUST BE PAID BEFORE MAY 20TH. THIS IS THE DEAD LINE FOR MUCC. DUES PAID AFTER THE DEAD LINE AND YOU WILL MISS 1-2 ISSUES OF MICHIGAN OUT-OF-DOORS.-----REGULAR CLUB DUES ARE ALSO DUE AT THIS TIME.PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IN.

OCSA Membership Application (cut along dashed line)

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Name _____

Address _____

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Spouse's Name _____

Telephone No. _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Boat Information: Make: _____

Type: _____ Length: _____

Name of Boat _____

OCSA Membership	\$25.00
MUCC Membership (Optional)	<u>\$18.00</u>
Total w/MUCC	\$43.00

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