



FISH TALES



Once again, Ludington was fantastic!!

The 1999 Detroit Area Steelheaders tournament at Ludington on August 14 was fantastic. Twenty boats made the tow to Ludington and the fish were definitely there!

The reports going into the Ludington tourney were fabulous. A 37-pound, 7-ounce King Salmon was taken on July 29 (see the Captain Chuck web site for a photograph), and Dave Even, who spoke at one of our meetings in the spring, took 24- and 26-pound Kings on Thursday, along with a couple of Master Angler award-size Coho Salmon.

However, Mother Nature has a way of cooling things off. A storm went through the area on Thursday night, bringing high winds and a spectacular lightning display. As a result, Friday pre-tourney fishing was minimal, as high northeast winds kept most boats in port all day.

Saturday morning at the Skippers meeting, all the talk was of big fish and northeast winds. Would we even be able to start at all? A check of the waves at the pier heads verified fishable conditions and the tournament countdown to start was set for 6:00 a.m.

At the start, nearly all the boats headed for the Bathhouse or the Point. At the first Fish Call, the "Rupe" was leading with five fish, followed by "Eagle III" with four and "Blue Star" with three. Radio reports indicated very few 20-pounds-plus Kings, but reports of Master Angler award (at least 12 pounds) Coho Salmon were frequently heard.

The sky was blue and the waves continued to slacken off as the day went on. By noon, the weather was fantastic and the Detroit Area Steelheaders were once again proving that when fishing conditions are tough, we can still find the fish.

At the noon Fish Call, "Blue Star" had added three fish for a total of six and tied for the lead with "Half R's." Next came "Rupe," "Lucky Falcon" and "Kare Free," each reporting five fish on board. The fish were still hitting, but they seemed to have moved to deeper water. Spoons seemed to be the top choice, with Silver Streaks in green or blue dolphin getting the most mentions. The best depths reported were 35'-50' down over 70'-100' early, and deeper depths later in the day.

At the weigh-in, the most impressive aspect was the large number of giant Coho Salmon.



1st Place: "BLUE STAR" and Skipper Stan Bilek brought an impressive catch to the scale to claim first place at the 1999 Ludington tournament.

Captain Chuck weighed in a number of Master Angler award Coho Salmon that weekend, while Detroit Area Steelheaders weighed in several up to about 16 pounds. Once all the fish were hung, the "Blue Star" crew, with its impressive catch of Coho and King Salmon proved to be the top boat, with a score of 122.05. Second place went to "Lucky Falcon" with 113.11, and the 'Bo Diddly' crew aboard "Half R's" took third place, and also had the big King of the day with a nice 22.14-pounder.

Overall, it was a great tournament. Boats which stayed over for some Sunday fishing experienced great fishing action, as overall results improved over Saturday's fine results. However, the best action on Sunday was south of port off the Project in 70'-120' of water. Numerous reports of big Kings spooling the reels were going out over the air waves throughout the day.

If you have a chance to get out at the end of August or early September, consider Ludington, Manistee or Frankfort as destination ports for your late-season fishing. Those big King Salmon and monster Coho Salmon will all still be there for you! If you have never caught a

Master Angler-sized fish, your best chance to get one will be a big Coho at one of these ports.

Special thanks go to Dave Even and Bob Gilbert, who helped me pull this tournament together and cooked the 'dogs for the guys afterward. And, as always, thanks to Tournament Chairman Chris Nytko, Rob Golaszewski, and Dick Shirk for helping out at the weigh-in.

LUDINGTON TOURNAMENT STANDINGS (August 14, 1999 - 20 boats entered)

BOAT/SKIPPER	PTS.
1) BLUE STAR (Stan Bilek)	122.05
2) LUCKY FALCON (R. Golaszewski) ..	113.11
3) HALF R'S (Ron Huey)	109.12
4) RUPE (Gary Ruprich)	95.13
5) KARE FREE (Tom Moores)	91.01
6) AQUARIUS II (Chris Nytko)	76.04
7) LIL' SCRATCH (Dick Shirk)	62.14
8) GOLDEN OLDIE (Howard York) ...	60.10
9) EAGLE III (Paul Schoenrade)	42.12
10) CAPIAS (Mike Lehto)	41.12
11) TEACHER'S PET (Dave Even)	41.05
12) HAPPY BARE (Don Anton)	28.05
13) SLOPPY JOE (Joe Von Grabe)	17.10
14) MARY K (Ken Kuhar)	17.02
15) MOLLY FRAIR (Ron Hartman)	14.10

Engler blacks out tribal net talks

Governor John Engler's blackout on tribal netting negotiations has sportsmen frothing, and even the state Chamber of Commerce frustrated.

Though parties involved had been ordered by federal judge Dick Enslin not to publicly discuss the talks since they started last year, that order expired July 2. Engler extended it to September 1.

While Engler's order is not legally binding on anyone but state employees, conservation groups participating in the talks feel forced to honor it, under threat of being ousted from the dialogue.

The tribal bid to take over management and regulation of inland fishing and hunting brought the state Chamber into a coalition of sportsmen's groups which includes Trout Unlimited, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (M.U.C.C.), Steelheaders Association, and longtime leaders, Hammond Bay Anglers Association and Grand Traverse Sport Fishing Association, represented by Lansing attorney Steve Schultz.

Talks are ongoing, Schultz reports. He refused to discuss any issues related to the talks, but he did say that after September 1, his group will push for full open disclosure. He even sees the possibility the public will be brought into the arena.

M.U.C.C. executive director Jim Goodheart was more candid. "We will not tolerate any further extension (of Engler's hush order). We will demand full disclosure on September 1. We are deeply dissatisfied," Goodheart said.

The tribes met with Engler and asked for an extension of Judge Enslin's order. Goodheart said he asked for a meeting with the governor but hasn't yet had one.

According to some sources, Judge Enslin is also miffed with the governor's interference and may block any further bid to quash the talks. These sources also speculate that Enslin is frustrated with the failure of the

Continued on Page Four . . .

For Your Information . . .

HARBOR BEACH MARKS LAST TOURNAMENT OF 1900'S

The Detroit Area Steelheaders will end a great century of tournament fishing September 11 at Harbor Beach.

As long as the weather holds up, this port should produce some nice fish. At that time of year, there is usually a variety of fish types hanging around the area. Lake Trout will likely be there in abundance, but unfortunately we won't be able to keep them. Labor Day weekend is the end of Lake Trout season, so be sure to release all Lake Trout!

Spoons will be the main bait: Monkey Puke, Kavorkian and other dark spoons usually work well. Dodgers and squids also work well at this time of year. Don't be afraid to try Body Baits, Bombers, Rapalas and J-Plugs, as these can do wonders for the boats that choose to try them. Large King Salmon stage directly out in front of the pier heads before they come into the harbor, and trying to catch them there isn't a bad idea, either.

Incidentally, I will have a limited number of special Harbor Beach tee shirts available on a first come, first serve basis, so plan to get yours early.

This tourney will mark the end of a chapter of fishing that my family, friends and I will not soon forget. It is our last boat tournament of the 1900's, so we hope to see a nice large turn-out by all fellow Steelheaders. Harbor Beach isn't too far from the Detroit area, so get yourself motivated and please participate in a tournament that could quite possibly have your reels rippin' line. Fish On!

Forever fishing!!

— Rob Golaszewski, Port Captain
"Lucky Falcon"
(810) 367-2186

MISCELLANEOUS CLUB RAMBLINGS

By the time you receive this issue of *Fishin' Tales*, the Ludington and Manistee tournaments will be history. Fishing reports from

those areas have been getting better, so let us hope that these two events turned out to be just great. Everyone has been holding their breaths, hoping the slow early season on Lake Michigan does not indicate a lack of fish in the lake.

The big alewife die-offs have also been a puzzle. Some have blamed sharp drops in water temperature early in the season. Further, some say the slow fishing in Lake Michigan has been due to an over-abundance of alewives. Perhaps time will tell on this one.

Pay close attention to the local newspapers, as a number of important issues are brewing. The most important of these is the expiration in 2000 of the tribal fishing agreement. The negotiations over this will determine the basics of the tribal commercial fishing effort in the next decade. We need to be sure our interests as sport fishermen are represented. The Board has been working to get Kyle Randall or some other knowledgeable person to update us on these issues at a future meeting. Stay tuned.

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PRESQUE ISLE TOURNEY WAS A BLOW-OUT

The Detroit Area Steelheader tournament at Presque Isle on July 31 was a victim of Mother Nature, as high winds forced cancellation of the event. This was especially disheartening because fishing reports from the area had been good, as we had been hearing about lots of King Salmon in the 15-pound range and frequent limit catches (see "Sunrise Outshines Sunsets" article elsewhere on this page).

CREWS Hot Line

NEED A CREW?

Looking for crew members to fish with you in Detroit Area Steelheader Boat Trolling Tournaments?

▼ ▼ ▼

WANT TO CREW?

Want to fish in Detroit Area Steelheader Boat Trolling Tournaments but don't have a boat?

Call the Crews Hot Line to match up with a Skipper looking for crew members, or to get crew members for your boat during the 1999 season. Contact:

LARRY BOYER: (313) 495-1342
DOUG KARAKAS: (248) 545-1181
LEON VAN EDEN: (810) 293-1261

Coming Events

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

(Last Tuesday each month at 7:30 p.m.)

K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Road, Warren)

AUGUST 31, 1999 • SEPTEMBER 28, 1999 • OCTOBER 26, 1999

BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	PORT CAPTAIN
Aug. 28	MANISTEE	Paul Schoenrade & Ty Voigt, (810) 773-6477
Sept. 12	HARBOR BEACH	Stan Bilek, (248) 828-4159

Top Ludington Tournament Finishers



2nd Place: "LUCKYFALCON" with Skipper Rob Golaszewski and crew.



3rd Place: "HALF R's" with Skipper Ron Huey and crew.



4th Place: "RUPE" with Skipper Gary Ruprich and crew.



DEREK NYTKO displays a beautiful 20-pounds-plus King Salmon taken at Ludington during the 1999 tournament.



RON HUEY & RAY GLIME pose with a Master Angler award-sized 15-pound Coho Salmon taken this year at Ludington.



JOEL GARINGER hefts a big King Salmon and a Master Angler award-sized Coho Salmon caught at Ludington '99.

The DEADLINE
for the
September issue
of
FISHIN' TALES
is
AUGUST 31, 1999

LADIES DAY AT OSCODA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

(June 26, 1999)

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 1) | AQUARIUS II (Chris Nytko) | 6) | TEACHER'S PET (Dave Even) |
| 2) | LIL' SCRATCH (Dick Shirk) | 7) | LUCKY FALCON |
| 3) | MARY K (Kenneth Kuhar) | | (Robert Golaszewski) |
| 4) | BLUE STAR (Stanley Bilek) | 8) | HAWKEYE (Larry Walter) |
| 5) | MICKY MOUSE CLUB | 9) | MOLLY FRAIR (Ron Hartman) |
| | (Robert Buero) | 10) | DREDGE (Ed Hill) |

Tribal netting talks entering critical stage

...Continued from Page Two parties to reach an accord.

While admitting they are not privy to the negotiations, some state fisheries officials say off the record they believe tribes and Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.) brass have abandoned a resource-based settlement and are now seeking an agreement that will be politically acceptable to a majority of voters.

Schultz refused to "confirm or deny" that speculation.

Early in the talks, lead negotiation biologists, researchers Jim Johnson of Alpena and Dick Schorfaar of Charlevoix, said they were optimistic an agreement could be reached based on "what is best for the fish." Now, when asked if they still envision such an accord, they flatly refuse to comment.

Known to be a high priority issue is whether tribes (which have hired biologists and fisheries technicians, and bought fishery survey equipment) will begin making management decisions on wildlife and inland fisheries and dictating angling and hunting regulations. Several tribes are openly pursuing these initiatives.

Skeptics within and outside the D.N.R. see Engler trying to dictate a decision that he regards as politically palatable, regardless of the impact on the resource, sportsmen, and business. This, they speculate, will force the coalition, including the Chamber of Commerce, to seek relief from Enslin.

Several point out that Enslin's most recent decisions have been resource-based.

Schultz is more positive. "In the long term, I think we'll make a deal," he said recently. Reprinted from *The North Woods Call*, July 28, 1999.

In 1999, sunrise outshines sunset!

The sunrise side of the state continues to outshine the sunset side with big water anglers. Lake Huron Salmon fishing remains on the fast track it took off on early this spring, according to anglers and Great Lakes creel census supervisor Jerry Rakoczy. In contrast, Lake Michigan's fishery continues to sputter, probably at less than half the Lake Huron catch rate.

Due to rebounding alewife numbers, Chinook Salmon in both lakes have been growing larger than in recent years. Thirty-pounders are showing up more routinely.

Though the Lake Michigan fishery has recently shown some signs of catching on between Ludington and Frankfort, there is still widespread concern that the Salmon

just aren't there. North of Frankfort, Chinook just are not showing up, charter skippers and anglers report.

Fishing at Northport, Leland, Grand Traverse Bay, Charlevoix and Petoskey is reported as "dead." So is fishing out of Illinois and Wisconsin.

What happened? Where are the fish??? Biologists don't have a clue. Maybe, Rakoczy says, some answers will show up when all the creel census data is in from Michigan and other states. But the season will be long over by then.

So, what to do? That's simple: Haul, or run, your boat over to Oscoda, Harrisville or Rogers City!

Reprinted from *The North Woods Call*, July 28, 1999.

1999 "SKIPPER OF THE YEAR"

(through July 31, 1999)

PLACE/SKIPPER	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	Total	
1) STAN BILEK	7	7	10	6	4	TOURNAMENT CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER				34	
2) DICK SHIRK	8	13	4	10	2						37
3) BOB BUERO	9	3	8	20	5						45
4) MARK STOSIAK	2	9	1	19	16						47
5) CHRIS NYTKO	10	50	6	5	1						72
6) KEN KUJAR	6	4	50	22	3						85
7) PAUL SCHOENRADE	1	50	12	14	13						90
8) ED HILL	50	19	3	23	10						105
9) HOWARD YORK	5	75	7	21	17						125
10) ROBERT GOLASZEWSKI	50	50	5	13	7						125
11) RON HARTMAN	50	50	11	11	9						131
12) DARWIN GREGG	11	50	50	7	20						138
13) LEON VAN EDEN	3	17	50	75	18						163
14) DOUG KARAKAS	75	16	13	11	50						165
15) DAVE EVEN	12	10	75	75	6						178
16) DAVE ROEHR	3	75	75	15	11						179
17) JOE VON GRABE	13	50	50	3	75						191
18) JOE GOLASZEWSKI	75	50	75	1	15						216
19) ED WILCZEK	75	12	75	50	12						224
20) CHUCK NUTTING	75	50	9	18	75						227

50 = See Rule IV-E 75 = See Rule IV-F
 A = Lexington B = River Crab C = Grand Haven D = Port Austin E = Oscoda
 F = Presque Isle G = Ludington H = Manistee J = Harbor Beach

**Here's how to get to
DETROIT AREA
STEELHEADER
Monthly Membership
Meetings**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
 St. Pius X Council No. 3848
 6177 Chicago Rd. 264-4511
 Warren, Michigan 48092

Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.
 P.O. Box 1255
 Sterling Heights, MI 48311-1255

Address Correction Requested



MEETING NOTICE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!

