

April 4, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Fisheries Division has announced public meetings to be held throughout the state. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss local fisheries management and regulation proposals. Modifications to northern pike and muskellunge regulations were adopted for the 2013 fishing season and a presentation summarizing these changes will be given at each meeting. For more information, visit: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364-296272--,00.html>

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Boat anglers are picking up a few walleye in Brest Bay and near Luna Pier. While marking lots of fish the bite was still slow. Most are using Husky Jerks or Reef Runners.

Huron River: Steelhead were caught on flies, small hair jigs and Little Cleo's.

Detroit River: Perch were caught in the marinas and canals around Grosse Ile however the bite was starting to slow. Try a slip bobber with a minnow. A few walleye were caught in the lower Trenton Channel in 12 to 15 feet of water.

Lake St. Clair: A few perch were taken along the shoreline and in the marinas.

Port Huron: Activity was starting to pick up along the wall as anglers try smelt dipping or fishing for trout and salmon.

Lexington: To Port Austin is transitioning from ice to open water fishing.

Harbor Beach: A couple steelhead and brown trout were caught. The bigger live minnows worked best but hardware is worth a try. For now, try still-fishing with a live minnow on one pole while casting a spoon on another.

Saginaw Bay: The ice off Palmer Road is gone. Boat anglers fishing lakeward of the Saginaw River mouth are taking good catches of walleye. Most are using jigs with minnows. Sebewaing had good perch fishing in the river during the warm-up.

Saginaw River: Anglers between the mouth and Essexville have taken limit catches of large perch. They are using perch rigs with shiners.

Quanicassee River: Was producing limits of large perch for those using perch rigs with shiners between the bay and the M-25 Bridge. Catch rates were not as good off the old State Road Bridge.

Pinnebog River: A few suckers were just starting to show up however it is still early for them at this location.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph River: Coho were starting to show up along the pier.

Kalamazoo River: Steelhead were caught between the Allegan Dam and M-89.

Rabbit River: Was producing steelhead near the Hamilton Dam.

Grand Haven: Is producing some steelhead for pier anglers.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Fresh fish are moving in and will continue especially with rain in the forecast next week.

Grand River at Lansing: Anglers are still catching steelhead in Prairie Creek. Rain is needed to bring fish up to Lansing. Now is the time to start targeting catfish.

Muskegon River: Yellow perch were caught at the Davis Bridge.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan River: Steelhead started to move into the river however cold water temperatures will slow the bite. Fish the deeper holes until it warms up.

Ocqueoc River: Also has steelhead moving into the river.

Oscoda: Pier anglers caught steelhead on spawn, spoons, spinners or body baits.

Au Sable River: With the warmer weather, melt off is increasing the river flow. Spawn, spoons, spinners and body baits are working well down near the mouth. Upstream, try spawn, spinners, wax worms or flies. Look in the deeper holes as most fish were not on the gravel.

Higgins Lake: Still has ice however the shoreline along the west side has started to deteriorate. Anglers can access the ice off the North State Park and the west boat launch however access is now determined on a day-by-day basis. Smelt were caught off Big Creek, the west launch and the North State Park. A few perch were caught out near the Sunken Island.

Houghton Lake: While many have quit ice fishing, those still going out have caught a few perch and some bluegills. Honeycomb ice is starting to show up along the surface only.

Tawas: Ice anglers inside the state harbor and open water anglers fishing outside the wall are getting brown trout, steelhead and lake trout. Live minnows are best but spoons were also working in open water.

Tawas River: Those casting lakeward off the mouth have caught a few walleye.

Au Gres: Boats trolling off the mouth are getting a few walleye.

Au Gres River: Is high and muddy. A few perch and a good number of steelhead have been caught where there is open water in the river and by those surfcasting.

Rifle River: The sucker runs are just getting started. The action should pick up through the week and peak sometime next week.

Pine River: An ice jam at the mouth was preventing boats from launching. The water is high and muddy. The only thing caught was a couple small perch.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Crystal Lake: Continues to produce smelt.

Manistee River: More anglers are turning their attention to steelhead fishing. The better action was near the mouth. Water temperatures are still on the cold side so anglers were fishing the deeper holes.

Lake Cadillac: Ice fishing continues however the shoreline ice is starting to deteriorate. Those fishing have caught crappie and bluegill but catch rates were hit-or-miss.

Lake Mitchell: Still has ice fishing. Be careful along the shoreline. Those fishing in the coves have caught a few fish.

Pere Marquette River: Fresh steelhead are moving into the river system. Anglers could see a big push of fish in the next week or so as temperatures and water levels slowly rise.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: The lake trout bite continues to be hit-or-miss out near Big Reef, Newton's Reef and Farmers Reef in 130 to 180 feet of water. Those fishing off Whirl-I-Gig Road did well when using lead jigs with cut smelt. Try 200 to 265 feet of water.

Falls River: Is fishable. Anglers will find some rainbow trout.

Marquette: Strong northwest winds have opened up areas close to shore. There is still substantial ice flows on the lake and the area from the Chocoday River to Shot Point remains iced in. Both launches at the Upper Harbor are free of snow but the Lower Harbor remains iced in. The breakwalls are still ice covered.

Carp River: Has steelhead moving into the river. Anglers have caught a few when casting real or artificial crawlers and small crank baits.

Groveland Mine Ponds: Ice fishing is still going strong however deep snow is making travel much more difficult. Those fishing Island Lake caught lots of small bluegills when jigging wax worms.

Lake Antoine: Still has ice but the accumulation of snow has made travel difficult. A few perch were caught by those jigging with wax worms or using tip-ups with minnows in the middle of the lake.

Little Bay De Noc: Still has significant ice north of Escanaba. To the south is open water starting at Portage Point. Perch anglers with portable shanties are fishing near Butler Island and the "Narrows." Catch rates were fair in 18 to 30 feet of water when using wigglers, minnows or mousies. Rivers in the area were still iced over but starting to show signs of breaking up.

Au Train: The bay is still iced in. A few anglers were jigging for coho off the Brownstone Launch but no fish were caught. There is still a good foot of fishable ice however strong northwest winds have created pressure cracks near shore. The Brownstone launch still has close to three feet of snow.

Au Train River: Has open water at the mouth. Those jigging caught no fish.

Rock River: Is slowly opening up but remains frozen at the mouth.

Munising: Fishable ice could still be found from the West Channel near Christmas to Sand Point. Walking conditions improved as melting from the sun followed by cold nights helped to firm up the top layer. Catch rates for coho were slow but a few whitefish were caught by those jigging a single egg or wax worm. Splake were still scattered so catch rates were slow. Good catches of smelt were reported near Sand Point. Anglers were jigging about halfway down. Burbot have been caught in the evening. Those hoping to catch lake trout in the West Channel had no luck. Trout Bay had fishable ice. Those targeting coho reported some limit catches.

April 11, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Heavy rain this week will bring more fish in however many rivers will be high and muddy. Anglers need to use extreme caution in light of the flood warnings and watches. Those shore fishing need to be careful as the banks will be saturated and could easily collapse.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: A few docks have been put in at Bolles Harbor and Sterling State Park. Anglers are targeting walleye in 12 to 18 feet of water in Brest Bay when trolling body baits a few feet off the bottom. Those jigging around Turtle Island are picking up a few but overall fishing was slow.

Detroit River: Walleye fishing picked up in the Trenton Channel and the mid-river.

Lake St. Clair: Had very little fishing activity. The docks are in at the DNR launches but low water levels have created some launching issues especially for larger boats at the Selfridge, Fairhaven and Clinton River Cut-off sites.

St. Clair River: Shore anglers at Port Huron have caught steelhead and brown trout. A few walleye were caught in the lower river near Algonac.

Lexington: Pier anglers caught steelhead, brown trout, and a few coho when casting small spoons or live minnows. Only small perch were caught off the dock. Boat anglers caught trout and salmon when trolling body baits in 10 to 20 feet of water north and south of the harbor.

Port Sanilac: Pier anglers are catching steelhead and brown trout.

Harbor Beach: Pier anglers caught steelhead and brown trout.

Port Austin: Pier anglers caught steelhead off the gas dock when casting small spoons. Late afternoon and early evening were best.

Saginaw Bay: Had excellent walleye fishing off the mouth of the Saginaw River. Walleye were hitting pretty much anything thrown at them including jigs and minnows. Some channel cats were caught in the Hot Ponds. Perch fishing near the Pigeon River has not yet started because the water is colder north of Sand Point.

Kawkawlin River: Perch fishing was good off the bridge at State Park Drive.

Saginaw River: Had good perch fishing between the mouth and Essexville. Fish ranging 10 and 11 inches were caught on minnows.

Quanicassee River: Had good perch fishing but the action has tapered off as it appears the season may have already peaked. Rain may bring in some fresh fish, but don't wait too long to get out there.

Sebewaing River: Also had good perch fishing but has tapered off.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Overall fishing is pretty good. Pier anglers were doing best with a good number of coho taken with spawn fished on the bottom. A few whitefish were caught. Boat anglers caught coho and brown trout when trolling small spoons or body baits.

South Haven: Windy conditions have kept most boats off the lake. Pier anglers caught a few whitefish or brown trout but overall fishing was slow.

Holland: When the lake is calm, anglers trolling close to shore caught brown trout. Be careful of low water levels at the boat launch.

Port Sheldon: Those trolling have caught brown trout on body baits. Orange and yellow were hot colors. Water levels are low at the boat launch.

Grand Haven: Both piers were hit-or-miss for steelhead and brown trout. Shore anglers caught a few on spawn or skein. Boats using planer boards with body baits caught fish along the shoreline. Orange and yellow were good colors. Boat anglers need to use caution due to low water levels at the launch.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Rain this week could bring the final push of steelhead. Suckers are starting to move in. Bluegill, crappie and perch were caught at Riverside Park.

Grand River at Lansing: Anglers are hoping the rain will push steelhead up into the Lansing area. Suckers are being caught near Lowell and Lyons. Try crawlers or red worms on the bottom.

Reeds Lake: Was producing bluegill in the channels, crappie in 15 to 20 feet of water and perch in 5 to 10 feet.

Whitehall: Pier anglers caught steelhead when still-fishing with spawn.

White Lake: Boat anglers were starting to catch some steelhead.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: The ice is just about gone however some big sheets were still blocking the launch ramp. Anglers were casting off the wall but no fish were caught.

Ocqueoc River: Had lots of angler activity but few fish were caught. Anglers were drifting spawn and yarn flies. We need warm weather and rain to kick the steelhead run into high gear.

Rockport: No docks were in yet as there is still a little bit of ice at the launch site. The gate is locked for the parking area in front of the old dock.

Alpena: Has ice in the marina. Boat anglers can launch from the river.

Thunder Bay River: Is producing the occasional steelhead below the Ninth Street Dam. Try spawn, wax worms, flies or rubber eggs.

Au Sable River: Steelhead were caught from the mouth to the dam. Skid piers at the mouth were still on shore so unloading and loading will be difficult. Access sites upstream are open with ample parking. Spawn, flies and wax worms are best for those drifting and those casting are using small spoons, body baits or spinners. Most of the fish caught seem to be fresh and the signs are good for a long consistent run.

Higgins Lake: Has no one fishing. The shoreline ice is deteriorating rapidly. Anglers are now waiting for open water fishing.

Tawas: Pier anglers casting along the outside of the harbor have caught lake trout, steelhead, brown trout and the occasional whitefish. Those wading off the mouth of the river caught a few walleye on rapalas. Ice inside the harbor is finally breaking up.

Au Gres: A couple boats trolling off the mouth of the river caught a few walleye.

Au Gres River: Had very good steelhead fishing near the Singing Bridge and about a half mile upstream. Most are drifting fresh spawn. Steelhead can be found as far up as M-55. Surfcasting at the Singing Bridge was not as good as the river fishing.

Rifle River: Steelhead have been caught from Selkirk Road downstream to Greenwood Road. Many were float fishing in canoes or wading near access points. The sucker run is finally underway at Omer for both hook and line anglers and those with dip nets.

Pine River: Near Standish had excellent perch fishing with limit catches of fish ranging 7 to 10 inches for those that put in the time. Anglers were fishing upstream from the boat ramp. The launch was not usable due to an ice jam.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Traverse City: A few boats have been out jigging for lake trout and cicso. Catch rates were fair in 100 to 150 feet of water. Those surfcasting have caught a couple steelhead on spawn bags.

Elk River: Is producing the occasional steelhead. Try spawn bags or small jigs tipped with wax worms.

Boardman River: Is producing the occasional steelhead and brown trout. Steelhead fishing is slow but steady with spawn bags or a jig tipped with a minnow. Some were caught on flies.

Platte Bay: Steelhead are starting to show up. Try surfcasting with spawn bags.

Frankfort: Those fishing before the elbow on both piers caught steelhead in the morning. Orange spawn bags with chartreuse floaters seem to work best however the hits were light. A couple brown trout were caught off the south pier when using body baits.

Betsie River: Should have good steelhead fishing by the weekend.

Onkama: Pier anglers caught a couple steelhead or brown trout when using spawn or casting spoons and body baits.

Portage Lake: The Ice is nearly gone but watch for flow ice. The boat launches have open water but no docks.

Manistee: Boat anglers caught steelhead and brown trout on orange body baits. Catch rates for pier anglers were hit-or-miss. They are using orange or chartreuse spawn bags.

Manistee River: Has steelhead however it appears the run will be more drawn out this year as we wait for a good spring push. Water temperatures were not getting out of the 30's so fish the deeper holes.

Lake Cadillac: Still has ice however the shoreline is deteriorating. Rain this week will most likely put an end to the ice fishing season.

Ludington: Pier anglers caught steelhead on spawn bags. Boat anglers caught steelhead and a few brown trout when trolling around the piers with small body baits.

Pere Marquette River: Successful anglers were fishing the deeper holes. While some have started spawning, this week could bring a good push of fresh fish.

Pentwater: Pier anglers caught steelhead especially off the South Pier. Those fishing in the channel and off the Long Bridge also caught fish.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: The Ice at Big Reef, Mud Banks, Newton's Reef and Farmers Reef is all busted up and is floating pack ice now. Do not attempt to head out to these locations or you will be swimming. Lake trout fishing was spotty. Anglers are still getting out from Pequaming, Whirl-I-Gig Road and Old Mission and fishing in 100 to 265 feet of water. Coho and lake herring is slow but anglers are reporting big schools of herring. Salmon are being caught on tip-ups with live minnows out from the Falls River in L'Anse.

Falls River: Is producing rainbow trout as water levels are on the rise.

Marquette: Anglers reported fair catch rates for coho and steelhead off the Carp River and the "Bubblers". They are using crawlers, spawn or small crank baits. Ice between the Chocoy River and Shot Point is slowly deteriorating. There is a slight increase in runoff at the Carp River and Dead River and the bank is still ice and snow covered. The Upper Harbor is free of snow but the Lower Harbor is still iced in. Some were trying for coho and splake off the coal docks but no fish were taken.

Menominee: The bay was still frozen.

Menominee River: Is starting to break up just downstream from Boom Landing and upstream to the first Dam at Hattie Street. Anglers can launch without a dock at Boom Landing and Stephenson Island. Anglers caught a few walleye, brown trout, steelhead, and whitefish near the Hattie Street Dam. They are casting different colored rapalas with or without a piece of live bait. Overcast days, late afternoon or early morning seem to be the best time to fish.

Little Bay De Noc: Remains iced over but no anglers were fishing south of the "Narrows". Snow and rain have weakened the ice along the edges so taking vehicles out on the ice is no longer safe. Fishing has turned to perch especially near Kipling where catch rates were good in 30 to 45 feet of water with wigglers, minnows and spikes. Smaller fish were caught in shallow waters. Rivers in the area were still iced over except for the mouth of the Ford River and the Escanaba River which had open water up to the First Dam for shore anglers.

Big Bay De Noc: Had few anglers. Garden Bay had ice but no anglers. Fairport had partial ice cover but no activity. Most rivers are iced over with the exception of some areas on the Ogontz River.

Au Train: Had light ice fishing activity with the bay still iced in. A few anglers were jigging for coho off the Brownstone Launch but no fish were caught. The launch still has almost two feet of snow. While there is still ice, watch the pressure cracks.

Au Train River: Is open at the mouth. Those jigging for coho had no luck.

Munising: Still had ice between Christmas and Sand Point. Those walking were still heading out to fish. Use caution near the mouth of the Anna River as strong currents were taking out some of the surrounding ice. Shoreline ice is starting to open up. Catch rates were slow. A few whitefish were caught in shallow waters by those jigging a single egg or wax worm. A few small perch were caught near Sand Point. Smelt action was fair at Sand Point. Try jigging about halfway down with a wax worm. Trout Bay had no fishable ice. Small boats were starting to fish for coho.

Grand Marias: The bay and boat launch are iced in. The pier and parking areas were buried in snow. There is open water between the pier and breakwall.

Cedarville and Hessel: Still have ice however anglers need to use caution and pay close attention to the weather. Hessel Bay is producing some nice perch in the middle and along the east end in 5 to 10 feet of water. Perch were also caught along the west end of Musky Bay in 6 to 8 feet of water.

April 18, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Heavy rain has put a damper on fishing and more rain this week will lead to renewed flooding. Shore anglers will still need to use caution as banks and shorelines are saturated and unstable. Boats will need to watch for floating debris.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Attention walleye anglers: The daily limit for walleye in Michigan waters from May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2014 will remain six (6) fish. Rain and high winds have stained the lake. Catch rates were slow but those trolling in 14 to 19 feet of water in Brest Bay were marking a good number of fish. Those fishing in 6 to 12 feet of water around Turtle Island or 16 feet of water near the Dumping Grounds caught a few fish when jigging blade baits and hair jigs.

Detroit River: Walleye fishing was spotty with the muddy water. Handliners usually have better success in these conditions than those jigging.

Lake St. Clair: Is a muddy mess with all the wind and rain.

Lexington: Boats trolling in 12 to 20 feet of water caught chinook, coho and steelhead. It is easier to get a bigger boat out of Lexington than Port Sanilac because of sand near the launch ramp.

Port Sanilac: Is producing some steelhead and brown trout.

Harbor Beach: Pier anglers have caught a few brown trout.

Saginaw Bay: Few anglers were out because of rain and strong winds. Perch anglers were getting a few fish from the cut at the end of Palmer Road. Depending on the weather, anglers could be waiting another week for conditions to improve.

Saginaw River: Water levels are very high and fast as flood warnings continue. No one is fishing under these conditions. Let's hope the water levels go down before the walleye opener next weekend.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Boat fishing has been hampered by high wind and waves. Pier fishing was slow with a light number of coho, brown trout and whitefish caught by those using spawn on the bottom.

St. Joseph River: Had a lot steelhead moving through the Berrien Springs fish ladder.

South Haven: The few boats able to get out did not catch many fish. Pier anglers caught the occasional brown trout or whitefish on spawn.

Duck Lake: In Calhoun County was producing bluegill.

Gordon Lake: Is also producing a small number of bluegill and other panfish.

Holland: Boat anglers trolling along the shoreline have caught mostly brown trout and the occasional steelhead with spoons and body baits. Orange and gold were good colors. Pier anglers were using spawn.

Port Sheldon: Water levels at the boat launch were still low. While the mouth of Pigeon Lake is being dredged, water in the harbor is very muddy all the way out to 40 feet deep or more. Those trolling along the shoreline caught steelhead and brown trout on spoons or body baits in 30 to 40 feet of water.

Grand Haven: Pier anglers caught steelhead, brown trout and whitefish on spawn.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Water levels are high and the flow is extremely fast which makes it almost impossible to fish right now. Those shore fishing at Millennium Park have caught bluegill and crappie.

Grand River at Lansing: Some steelhead were caught at Moore's Park. Try crawlers, spawn bags or wax worms under a float.

Muskrat Lake: Was producing some crappie for those fishing minnows and butter worms in the shallows.

Reeds Lake: Boat anglers caught crappie and bluegill in the channel.

Muskegon River: Has a good number of steelhead however water levels are high and stained. Most fish were caught up near Croton Dam.

Whitehall: Was producing good numbers of steelhead for those still-fishing with spawn. Brown trout were caught on orange and silver Cleo's. Anglers have also caught some of the first walleye this spring when casting body baits.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Had very little activity. The few anglers that were out did not catch any fish. The ice is gone in the marina and out in the lake. All the docks are in at the launch sites but everything else is still closed. Be very careful fishing off the rocks around the break wall and marina. They are slippery because of ice and snow cover.

Ocqueoc River: Had plenty of anglers and they are getting fish. Most are drifting fresh spawn bags or flies and jigs. The deeper holes seem to be holding the most fish. Each day there seems to be more fish entering the river. The warm up this week could kick fishing into high gear.

Rockport: The docks were not in.

Thunder Bay River: Those fishing up to the Ninth Street Dam have caught steelhead on spawn, wax worms, flies or rubber eggs. Very few brown trout were caught. The docks are now in at the river launch but not in the marina. The cleaning station has not yet opened.

Harrisville: Had few anglers even though fish are in and around the harbor. Steelhead were trying to work their way up and walleye were reported along the outside wall. Spoons, body baits and floating spawn should all work well.

Au Sable River: Had increased flow as water levels were up. Fish are making their way from the mouth to the dam. Look for steelhead in the deeper holes when using spawn, spoons, body baits or flies.

Tawas: Pier anglers fishing large live minnows along the outside of the harbor got a few brown trout, lake trout and steelhead. A few perch were caught inside the harbor. Boats trolling off the mouth of the Tawas River were marking fish but not very many were caught.

Au Gres River: There was a small smelt run near the Singing Bridge. Dippers should not expect to get a lot, but they might get enough for a couple meals.

Rifle River: Had very high water levels.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

It looks like ice fishing is pretty much done as rain and warmer temperatures pick away at any remaining ice. Rivers and streams are at or near flood stage.

Traverse City: Few boats have been out on either bay. Catch rates for cisco were good in 60 feet of water. Some also caught the occasional lake trout. Pier fishing was slow. Shore anglers caught steelhead on spawn bags.

Elk River: Steelhead fishing has been hit-or-miss. Some did well when drifting jigs tipped with wax worms while others caught fish on spawn bags.

Boardman River: Steelhead fishing has been relatively slow but a few fish were caught on a jig and wax worm or spawn bags.

Frankfort: Boat anglers trolling both inside and outside the breakwalls have caught a few brown trout on spoons or black and silver body baits.

Betsie River: Had reports of several steelhead passing over the Homestead Dam and steady movement upstream.

Portage Lake: Is ice free. The boat launches are accessible however the docks are not in so launching a bigger boat might be a problem.

Manistee: All the docks are in at the First Street launch and the new fish cleaning station is under construction. Boats trolling along the shoreline caught brown trout on body baits. Orange and yellow were good colors. Pier anglers caught steelhead and brown trout on spawn. Fishing was better when there was a good chop on the lake.

Manistee River: Steelhead were caught up near Tippy Dam. High water levels make fishing a little more difficult.

Lake Cadillac: Is opening up as rain and warmer temperatures take their toll on the remaining ice.

Lake Mitchell: Was still ice covered but the shorelines were starting to open up. Anglers are now waiting for open water fishing.

Ludington: Has one dock in at the Loomis Street launch. Pier anglers using spawn are catching light numbers of steelhead and brown trout. Those out trolling found brown trout along the shoreline and around the piers. Try orange, blue or yellow body baits.

Pentwater: Pier and channel anglers have caught steelhead on spawn. A few boats trolling the shoreline managed to catch some brown trout.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Those lake trout fishing are putting in a lot of time but catch rates were very slow. Those fishing out from the Falls River and Perch Corner in L'Anse said the bite was slow for salmon, trout and whitefish. The only good thing is smelt fishing. Anglers have done well between Baraga and Bucks Marina.

Falls River: Has trout however the water is cold and the bite is slow.

Marquette: Gusty northeast winds blew pack ice into the shoreline and the mouth of the Carp River. Those fishing the “Bubblers” had mixed results for coho. A few limit catches were taken in the early morning when using jigs tipped with crawlers or cut bait. Only the launches in the Upper Harbor are snow free.

Carp River: Catch rates were slow but a couple steelhead were caught on spawn or small crank baits.

Cedar River: Still had solid ice at the boat launch, down to the mouth and up to the first rapids until it starts to open up. The water at the rapids is high and too fast to wade. There were no signs of steelhead.

Menominee River: The storm blew ice back in the river upstream of the mouth. Anglers can launch at Boom Landing but will have a hard time getting to the mouth. Those jigging minnows near Boom Landing did catch some walleye, pike and whitefish. Those launching at Stephenson Island caught a few walleye and brown trout. Anglers walleye fishing off the Cat Walk did better at night but a couple brown trout were caught in the morning. Most are casting rapalas. Some are wading on both the Michigan and Wisconsin side near the Hattie Street Dam.

Little Bay De Noc: While the bay still has ice, weak spots are popping up every day so use caution. The edges are starting to show signs of spring melt. Heavy wet snow made for difficult travel once again. Perch anglers were north of the “Narrows” and near Brach’s Cabins. Deeper water was better although fish were caught in all areas including 18 to 40 feet of water. Try minnows, wigglers or mousies. Rivers in the area are starting to open up. The Ford River is completely open, the Escanaba River up the first dam is open and the Days River is 75% open.

Big Bay De Noc: Had a few anglers catch perch in 14 feet of water near the mouth of Garden Bay. The ice here is starting to melt so getting on at the Garden Launch has been difficult. Travel worsened after the recent snowfall.

Au Train: Had light fishing pressure after the winter storm left another 6 to 10 inches of snow. The bay remains iced in. Those fishing off the mouth of the Rock River for salmon and steelhead had no luck. The river itself is open. No one fishing off Brownstone as the launch still had between two and three feet of snow.

Munising: Still had fishable ice throughout the bay and most areas still had one or two feet of packed snow and ice. Exercise caution near the Anna River mouth as strong currents have eaten away at surrounding ice. Catch rates for coho were poor. A few whitefish were caught in shallow waters. Try a single egg or wax worm. A few small perch were caught at Sand Point. Try a jig and wax worm halfway down for smelt. Small boats were coho fishing in Trout Bay.

Grand Marias: Half of the bay has open water but the boat launch remains iced in. The lower parking area near the pier has been plowed however the pier is snow covered. The upper parking lot is partially opened but has construction equipment and debris present. There is open water between the pier and breakwall with large amounts of pack ice that will shift depending on wind conditions.

Albany Creek: The access is snowed in but a few anglers were hiking down to Lake Huron and casting spawn or spinners near the rocks.

Cedarville and Hessel: Anglers are perch fishing in 5 to 8 feet of water along the east end of Hessel Bay but more fish were caught in Musky Bay. Try 10 feet of water or more with minnows, wax worms or wigglers.

Carp River: Those fishing near the mouth have caught steelhead on spawn. The access site is still snowed in; four wheel drive is a must.

April 25, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Anglers and others interested in fisheries management in Michigan are invited to join the Department of Natural Resources at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30 for “**DNR Live: Fish**” – a one-hour online forum designed to answer questions from the public about the state’s fisheries, fishing seasons and regulations. The one-hour video event will stream live on the DNR’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/miDNR. A Facebook account is not required to access the page and watch the live stream event. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/fishing.

This coming Saturday, April 27th marks the opening day of trout season on the Type 1 and Type 2 streams as well as the walleye, northern pike and muskellunge opener on the Lower Peninsula inland waters. The “Catch and Immediate Release” bass season for all the Lower Peninsula waters including the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River and the Detroit River will also open this coming Saturday. The openers may be a little slower because of ice in the upper regions or flooding in the central and lower regions. For the trout opener, try the small feeder streams at the top of the watersheds as they are more likely to be fishable than the bigger rivers.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Attention walleye anglers: The daily limit for walleye in Michigan waters from May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2014 will remain six (6) fish. Though water clarity and catch rates were poor, anglers were marking good numbers of fish in 12 to 16 feet of water from Brest Bay to Turtle Island. The majority of boats are jigging hair jigs or blade baits. The fish cleaning station is now open at Sterling State Park.

Detroit River: Word has it walleye fishing has been very good when it is not too windy. Catch rates should continue as it dries up and the water clears up.

Lake St. Clair: Was not hit as hard with rain and flooding but the water is still dirty. Not much activity to report right now but anglers should be out this coming Saturday as the catch and immediate release bass season opens.

Lexington: Anglers were catching a nice mix of coho, chinook and steelhead straight out and north of the harbor in 15 to 30 feet of water. Find the clean water and you will catch fish.

Port Sanilac: Coho were caught on body baits in 22 feet of water north of the harbor.

Harbor Beach: Is producing the occasional coho or brown trout for those casting Cleo's off the breakwall. Not much in the way of boat activity yet.

Grindstone City: The water is too shallow, no fishing activity.

Saginaw Bay: Those trolling husky jerks off Linwood caught a fair to good number of walleye in 16 to 18 feet of water. The trick is to find clean water. Walleye were caught east of Spoils Island. The east side of the bay from Quanicassee to Port Austin had nothing to report. The post spawn walleyes have just undergone a two week stretch of high water and strong currents. Under these conditions, the fish can be urged to move back down toward Saginaw Bay.

Saginaw River: While water levels have crested in most of the central Michigan rivers, flooding remains widespread and the prognosis for the upcoming walleye opener is guarded at best. There is no telling what shape the launch ramps will be in, but expect a lot of mud and woody debris. Those living close to inland lakes with walleye might want to try fishing those lakes as an alternative to the rivers.

Tittabawassee River: Had high water levels and a strong current. The river could be back within its banks by the weekend if it does not rain.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Boat anglers will need to find clean water when trout fishing. Pier fishing was slow with all the muddy water.

St. Joseph River: Water levels were extremely high and turbid and there is a large amount of debris in the river. Boat anglers will need to use caution. The docks at the DNR launch in Benton Harbor and the city launch in St. Joe were underwater.

South Haven: Fishing was very slow this week. Few boats were out.

Black River: Had high water levels. Boat anglers need to use caution because of floating debris in the river.

Holland: Boat anglers reported stained water all the way out to waters 40 to 50 feet deep and as far south as Saugatuck. Boats trolling beyond the stained water have caught a few salmon and trout 30 to 40 feet down. Try orange and gold spoons or body baits. No perch to report. Pier anglers did not have much luck.

Grand Haven: Dirty water and debris from the rivers and lakes has made fishing difficult for boat and pier anglers. Those using spawn have caught the occasional steelhead, brown trout or whitefish. No perch to report. The docks were not in at the launch on Harbor Island.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Flood warnings all the way up to Ionia continue. Until the water levels come down, anglers may want to target the small feeder streams for the trout opener.

Grand River at Lansing: No reports this week. Anglers are gearing up for the walleye and trout opener.

Maple River: Was still at flood stage. Shore anglers need to use caution.

Muskegon River: Water levels were still high and muddy. Those trout fishing will want to use large flies in bright colors.

Whitehall: Pier anglers using spawn have caught more brown trout than steelhead. Boat anglers were fishing for walleye just beyond the pier.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: The docks are in at the boat launches but everything else will be closed until early May. Water temperatures were still in the upper 30's. Anglers should be casting off the breakwall anytime now that the ice and snow is gone. Try bright colored spoons like orange, chartreuse, yellow, silver or gold. Atlantic salmon and brown trout should start showing up soon.

Ocqueoc River: Recent rain brought the water levels up a good four to five inches. Anglers did well between the lamprey weir and the mouth when drifting spawn bags under a bobber or using small artificial jigs. Water clarity was a bit stained but not bad. The next couple weeks should be good for steelhead fishing.

Rockport: The docks were not in and gate for the old pier parking lot was locked.

Thunder Bay River: Steelhead are being caught below the 9th Street Dam even with the stronger current. Most are using beads, spawn or flies. The docks are in at the marina boat launch.

Harrisville: Fishing has improved around the harbor as good numbers of steelhead have been caught on spoons, spawn or body baits. Walleye are moving in and out of the harbor. Catch rates were best with body baits in the early morning or evening.

Au Sable River: Is high and fast. The strong current actually turned the dock at the Rea Road launch site. Even with the high water levels, shore anglers reported good fishing. Upstream, they are using spawn, flies and wax worms. Down at the mouth, try spawn, spoons or body baits off the end of the pier. There were reports of a couple walleye taken off the end of the pier late at night.

Tawas: Is producing a few walleye for those trolling crank baits off the mouth of the Tawas River and back in the bay off Jerry's Marina. Nothing going on inside the harbor, it is just too muddy.

Au Gres: A lot of boats have been going out on the bay and looking for clean water. A good number of walleye have been caught in 15 to 20 feet of water around Point Lookout and White Stone Point when trolling body baits or jigging with jig heads tipped with minnows or smelt. Some limit catches were reported.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Traverse City: Catch rates for cisco were very good in the southwest portion of the West Bay. Try jigging spoons in 40 to 80 feet of water. A few lake trout were caught as well. Pier fishing was slow with a few lake trout taken on spawn bags.

Elk River: Steelhead fishing was steady. Try spawn bags or drifting a dark colored jig tipped with wax worms.

Boardman River: Steelhead fishing was slow even though water levels have come down a little. A few fish were caught on spawn bags and jigs tipped with wax worms.

Big Glen Lake: Is ice free but no anglers were out.

Platte Bay: Fishing has picked up as steelhead are now moving into the river. Those surfcasting with spawn have caught a few fish.

Frankfort: Catch rates slowed however a few brown trout and steelhead were caught by those using spawn off both piers. Those trolling for brown trout reported some strikes but landed only a few.

Betsie River: Those fishing up at the Homestead Dam are catching steelhead.

Onkama: The dock has been put in at the park downtown. Water levels were good at the launch site and in the channel leading to Lake Michigan.

Portage Lake: The dock is in and anglers are testing the waters for perch. A good number of fish were hitting on wigglers however the fish were small.

Manistee: Pier fishing was slow for steelhead and brown trout. Boat anglers caught a few browns when trolling around the piers. Try orange or chartreuse body baits.

Manistee River: Steelhead are being caught even though the river is high and muddy. Those fishing at Tippy Dam have caught fish.

Lake Cadillac: Has pretty much opened up.

Lake Mitchell: Still had ice.

Ludington: Had slow brown trout fishing off the piers but those trolling orange spoons or body baits did manage to catch a few.

Pentwater: Anglers have caught steelhead and brown trout from the channel. The strong current has prevented pier fishing. Some boat anglers caught brown trout when trolling spoons along the second sand bar. Chinook salmon were found out from the Silver Lake Sand Dunes in 60 feet of water.

UPPER PENINSULA

Trout streams were flowing high and fast. Access will be difficult on most lakes and streams as snow pack is quite deep in places. The trout opener will be slow but look for good fishing in the weeks following as the ice melts and the trout move into the shallows to feed.

Keweenaw Bay: The Ice has broken up almost straight out from Carla's Restaurant and the ice is gone from Keweenaw Bay Park. Shoreline ice in many places has started to erode. Some fishing out from the L'Anse Marina have gone in up to their knee's after stepping into old holes that were eroding from underneath. Anglers have caught a few chinook, coho, rainbow trout or lake herring off the L'Anse Marina and up near Perch Corner. The smelt bite between Baraga and Bucks Marina slowed.

Falls River: Has rainbow trout but the bite was slow.

Marquette: Pack ice is still present along the shorelines between the Carp River and the Chocolay River. There are large areas of floating ice along M-28 about a half mile off shore. The Upper Harbor is ice free and ready for launching. The Lower Harbor could be ice free by the end of the week. The breakwalls were still dangerous due to ice cover. Catch rates for coho were not good however a couple steelhead were caught by those using spawn, crawlers, spinners or small plastic worms.

Chocolay River: Has steelhead although the big push has not yet occurred. Many are fishing here because most of the snow is gone.

Menominee: The bay is ice free however the marina was still iced in.

Menominee River: Walleye were caught upstream of Boom Island when jigging minnows. The shoreline between Stephenson Island and the dam was busy with shore anglers and those wading while casting rapalas. The Cat Walk and fishing platforms at the Hattie Street Dam were also busy with walleye anglers. Try casting different colored rapalas, jigging with zip lures or jig heads with and without minnows. Those looking for brown trout had no luck.

Cedar River: Is ice free. One boat trolling off the mouth had some difficulty with floating ice. They were targeting brown trout but had no strikes. Stoney Point was still iced in.

Little Bay De Noc: Even though much of the bay was still iced over conditions are deteriorating on a daily basis. All the rivers are open and flowing high and fast. Steelhead anglers have started but water temperatures were still cold. The Ford River launch is open but the dock is not in and the current is quite strong.

Big Bay De Noc: Is in the same condition as Little Bay. All the rivers are open but running high and fast. Perch anglers are hoping the ice will be gone as we move closer to spring fishing. At Fairport, the launches are ice free and open.

Au Train: The bay is still iced but movement of the ice is causing pressure cracks. Two feet of snow remains in the parking lot at the Brownstone launch. Some were fishing near the mouth of the river but no fish were caught.

Munising: Had very low fishing pressure as ice conditions have changed dramatically over the last week. Ice is present but no longer safe in the west channel. Sand Point had ice but there is open water along the length of the shoreline. While many areas still had packed snow and ice anglers need to be cautious of potentially large pressure cracks hidden under the snowfall. The best access to the ice is near the mouth of the Anna River but use caution around any open water. Catch rates for coho and splake were poor. A couple whitefish were caught in shallow waters near the Anna River. Access to Trout Bay has been cut-off due to shoreline conditions.

Sucker River: Has steelhead moving in. Deep snow will make it difficult for shore anglers navigating along the river.

Two Hearted River: Steelhead were starting to move in. Water temperatures are still cold so anglers are still waiting for that big push of fish. Access is very difficult right now unless you fish near the High Bridge. The snow was still two to three feet deep in places along the watershed.

Albany Creek: The access is still snowed in but those hiking down to the lake have caught some steelhead. They are wading near rocks and casting spawn or spinners.

Cedarville and Hessel: Anglers continue to target perch in Hessel Bay but the better fishing was in Musky Bay. Try minnows, wigglers and wax worms.

Carp River: A few anglers have caught steelhead on spawn. Look for the beginning of the smelt run now that the mouth of the river is ice free.

May 2, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Starting this spring, the DNR will be conducting angler surveys in various locations throughout the state. Angler participation in these survey efforts will be a key tool in proper fisheries management. All surveys have two options for participation, on-site postcards and online surveys. Click here <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364-301084--,00.html> to see each survey.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Most boats are jigging or trolling in shallow waters from Brest Bay to Turtle Island for walleye. Catch rates were slow for most however those fishing the cleaner water on the north side of Brest Bay found fish in 12 to 14 feet. Green and white were good colors. The water is still cold enough so once the lake cleans up, the jig bite should be back on. The catch and release bass opener was good for those casting crank baits along the canals and rock walls in Brest Bay.

Detroit River: Has very good walleye fishing in the lower and mid-river areas. Anglers are jigging with Wyandotte worms. Chartreuse was a hot color. Limit catches were reported. White bass are also starting to show up.

Lake St. Clair: The smallmouth bass opener was good from Metro Beach south to Nine Mile Road and off Selfridge. Some pike were also caught.

Clinton River: Is producing a good number of rock bass.

St. Clair River: Had good walleye fishing in the lower river especially near Algonac.

Lexington: Had good fishing. Those trolling caught a lot of coho and a surprising number of chinook that averaged 10 to 15 pounds. Steelhead, brown trout and lake trout were caught. All the trout and salmon were full of smelt. Body baits, spoons, and cut bait were all producing fish. This is the typical southern Lake Huron early spring fishing pattern, but it developed later this year because of the late spring. Eventually the fish will move north along the coast to Harbor Beach and Port Hope before they disperse for the summer.

Port Sanilac: Salmon trollers between here and Lakeport caught a mixed bag of chinook, coho, steelhead and lake trout. The fish were full of smelt.

Harbor Beach: Some boats were getting coho in 20 to 30 feet of water.

Saginaw Bay: The inner bay is still pretty muddy and success was limited to the west side. Walleye fishing was very good around Spoils Island for those vertical jigging or trolling. Vertical jigging was more effective than trolling near the rocks. No reports from Linwood but chances are fish are being caught there as well. The east side is still very muddy so not much going on from Quanicassee to Caseville. Boat anglers will need to be careful throughout the area when launching because of shallow water at the ramps. Dredging will take place shortly at Bayshore Marina near Bay Port and at Caseville. Be sure to watch your depth gauge because not all the channel marker buoys were in place yet.

Kawkawlin River: Small boats trolling body baits down from the Euclid Avenue Bridge did very well for walleye. Rapalas and shad-raps were also good baits.

Saginaw River: Had very good walleye fishing during the opener.

Tittabawassee River: Fishing was actually quite good as a lot of walleye stayed in the river after the floods. The launch ramps at Imerman Park, Center Road, and Rust Avenue were closed due to high water levels but they should all be open sometime this week as levels recede. The better fishing was about a mile downstream of Freeland. Anglers were trolling rapalas, shad-raps, walley divers or Hot-n-Tots. Fishing should be good for another two weeks or so.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

New Buffalo: Reported good catches of lake trout. The action was so good that quite a few boats from St. Joe were heading down for lake trout. Most fish were caught in 60 feet of water.

St. Joseph: Several boats reported damage after hitting logs that come down out of the river. Anglers need to use caution. Overall fishing was slow with only a few lake trout, brown trout or whitefish taken. There is still water over the piers at both of the boat launches in St. Joe. The water is slowly coming down but anyone looking to launch a boat should come prepared.

St. Joseph River: Water levels were still high and there is a lot of debris in the system. Water levels in the lower river are dropping, but were still less than a foot below flood stage at Niles and slightly above flood stage at Three Rivers. Steelhead are still in the river but water temperatures are expected to rise rapidly this week so the steelhead run will be winding down soon.

South Haven: Overall fishing was slow for boat and pier anglers. A few lake trout were caught by those trolling but no coho or brown trout.

Holland: Neither boat or pier anglers were catching fish. To find clean water, boats were heading out to water 75 feet or deeper.

Grand Haven: Pier anglers fishing spawn for steelhead and brown trout had no luck. Boats were trolling in 20 to 120 feet of water but no fish were caught. To find clean water, anglers had to go out to water 75 feet or deeper. There was one dock in at the Harbor Island boat launch.

Grand River at Lansing: High water levels have slowed catch rates but some were starting to catch panfish.

Jackson County: The inland lakes were starting to produce a few crappie.

Muskegon River: The walleye opener was good with some limit catches reported. The trout opener was also good. An 18 inch brook trout was caught and steelhead activity was good at Croton Dam.

Whitehall: Pier fishing for steelhead and brown trout has dropped off. A couple walleye were caught by pier anglers casting body baits. Limits of brown trout were caught three to four miles north of the channel in 12 feet of water when trolling green and purple spoons.

White Lake: Reported limit catches of pike in 10 to 14 feet of water.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan: Steelhead and walleye were caught below the dam.

Rogers City: Those fishing off the wall caught a limited number of brown trout and Atlantic salmon when casting spoons or body baits in bright colors or anything that looks like smelt. Boat anglers are also getting fish. Use bright colors in the stained water or anything that looks like smelt in the clear waters. Most are trolling south towards Calcite and Swan Bay but also try in front of the marina.

Ocqueoc River: Has good steelhead action. Water levels and clarity are good. The better fishing was between the mouth and the lamprey weir when drifting spawn, artificial beads and yarn flies. Small jigs have also been used.

Thunder Bay River: Is producing steelhead, walleye and suckers. Try spawn and flies for steelhead at the 9th Street Dam. The walleye opener was a bit slow but water temperatures were still in the low 40's. Some nice smallmouth bass were caught and released. All the docks are in but the fish cleaning station was still closed.

Harrisville: Has a good number of steelhead in the harbor. Fish were hitting on spoons, spinners, and body baits. Walleye were caught early morning or late evening. Shore anglers are using small spoons or body baits. Boat anglers were using crawlers and body baits.

Shupac Lake: Reported good catches of trout.

Lake St. Helen: Was producing some panfish.

Houghton Lake: Had slow fishing for walleye and northern pike.

Oscoda: Pier anglers caught some walleye at night. Try body baits and crawlers.

Au Sable River: Consumers Energy closed the public access site at Foote Dam on May 1st. The company plans to rebuild the wall that provides the principal shore fishing access. The area will be closed for most of the 2013 construction season. Steelhead were coming out of the deep holes and making their way to the beds. Spawn, wax worm, spinners and body baits were all producing as the river was full of fish from the dam to the mouth.

Tawas: Boat anglers caught walleye off the mouth of the Tawas River when trolling body baits in 10 to 20 feet of water. Fire-tiger or blue and silver were the hot colors. Those jigging over the artificial reef were also taking a good number of walleye. Those trolling in deeper water off the tip of Tawas Point caught a few coho and brown trout. Pier anglers walleye fishing at night outside the breakwall managed to take a few limit catches when casting body baits.

Tawas River: Walleye have been caught in the lower river.

Au Gres: Had lots of walleye activity off Point Au Gres including some limit catches coming from 10 to 20 feet of water. They were hitting on crawler harnesses and body baits. Some are trolling while others are drifting harnesses or jigs baited with crawlers, minnows or Gulp baits.

Au Gres River: Those surfcasting with body baits at night near the Singing Bridge have caught a few walleye.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Spring has finally arrived, and most of the lakes south of M-72 are ice free. The rest should be ice free by the weekend. The trout opener was ok for the most part. The large rivers were still high and muddy but the smaller creeks were fishable. There are still plenty of steelhead in all rivers.

Torch Lake: Was producing Atlantic salmon and the occasional brown trout.

Traverse City: Cisco fishing was good in the West Bay. Most are jigging spoons in 60 feet of water. Lake trout and the occasional whitefish were caught. Shore anglers caught steelhead and lake trout on spawn bags or minnows.

Elk River: Had good numbers of steelhead. The bite was a little slow but anglers still found success when using small spawn bags or jigs tipped with wax worms.

Boardman River: Steelhead fishing was slow but a few were caught when drifting spawn bags or jigs tipped with wax worms.

Big Glen Lake: Is producing good sizes and numbers of perch. Some limit catches of 8 to 12 inch fish were taken on minnows and wigglers.

Platte Bay: Those surfcasting with spawn or casting spoons are getting a few fish. Boat anglers trolling spoons about a mile out were getting one lake trout per trip.

Platte River: Anglers were finding a lot of steelhead and walleye.

Frankfort: Water temperatures reached into the 50's for the first time this year and several brown trout were caught by those trolling body baits both north and south of the port. Pier anglers on the north wall caught steelhead and brown trout on spawn bags. A few walleye, lake trout and whitefish were caught. Some reported the first sighting of alewife.

Crystal Lake: The fishing at Beulah Beach has not yet started. The lake is ice free and the water is warming, but no steelhead or coho yet.

Betsie River: Those drifting flies or spawn bags caught steelhead between the Homestead Dam and Betsie Bay.

Onekama: A few brown trout were caught off both piers. Try spawn or body baits. Those trolling south along the shoreline caught fish.

Portage Lake: Had a great walleye opener with higher than average numbers and size caught. Olive drab was a good color. The catch and release bass opener was also good for large and smallmouth. Pike action was good but many were sub-legal. Perch anglers were disappointed with the size and numbers of fish caught.

Manistee: Boat anglers trolling along the shoreline caught a few brown trout and lake trout. Orange or green body baits worked well. Pier fishing was slow.

Manistee River: Was a hot spot for walleye. Steelhead are still present in the river and in the local streams as the run is not through yet but it will start winding down as water temperatures rise and the fish prepare to spawn.

Lake Cadillac: The pike opener was good with some decent fish caught mainly in shallow waters. The walleye opener was slow with very few fish caught. As for panfish, catch rates were very slow. Wait for the water to warm up.

Ludington: Those trolling body baits in the harbor and along the shoreline have caught a few lake trout and brown trout. Hot colors were black and gold or black and silver. Pier fishing was slow.

Pentwater Lake: Had limited success for boat anglers catching crappie. They were still-fishing with minnows near Long Bridge.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Anglers need to stay off the ice in the Baraga Marina and north towards Carla's because the ice is no longer safe. Boats are still not able to get out into the bay even though the ice is breaking up. The launch in Traverse Bay is open but the dock was not in. Few parking spots were open because of the snow. At the South Portage Entry, the launch ramp is open and the parking lot was almost completely open.

Falls River: Had fair rainbow trout action. Water levels were high and fast. No word on smelt as of this report.

Marquette: Dredging in the Upper Harbor is scheduled to start sometime around May 5th so the entrance to the harbor will be blocked off. Boat anglers will have to use alternate launches such as the one in the Lower Harbor. A couple chinook and brown trout were caught outside the Lower Harbor. Those fishing the "bubblers" caught a couple coho and the occasional lake trout was caught near the "sand hole" in 120 feet of water. Most are trolling assorted crank baits but the hot colors were silver and chartreuse.

Carp River: Catch rates for steelhead and trout were slow with the high water levels. Anglers were fishing spawn, crank baits, small spinners and yarn flies.

Chocolay River: Had high water levels and the M-28 wayside was flooded.

Menominee: Those targeting steelhead and brown trout reported slow catch rates. Some caught walleye and smallmouth bass accidentally when trolling spoons and rapalas along the shoreline in 12 to 14 feet of water. Stoney Point still had ice south of the launch site.

Menominee River: Had a lot of anglers jigging for walleye because there was not enough room for trolling at the mouth. Shore anglers were casting different colored rapalas or jigging minnows from Stephenson Island upstream to the Hattie Street Dam. Catch rates were fair to good. The daily bag limit for walleye goes up to five (5) fish on Saturday May 4th.

Cedar River: Steelhead action was very slow near the first rapids.

Little Bay De Noc: Has pretty much opened up except for some lingering ice in the north end. Few were out but the perch anglers should be ready. Water temperatures were in the mid 40's. The ramps are in at the Ford River and Rapid River launches. The Rapid River launch was dredged this winter and has new channel makers.

Day's River: Is high and fast however some steelhead were caught between the mouth and the highway.

Ford River: Was producing some steelhead just before US-2 and M-35.

Big Bay De Noc: Garden Bay is ice free and hopefully the dock will be in this week. The only docks in were at the Ogontz and the Fayette launch however there was still some ice near Ogontz. A few boats went out for perch but catch rates were still slow. Rivers are running high and fast. At Fairport, the ice is gone from the launch area.

Au Train: The bay is pretty much ice free except for some floating pack ice near shore and a couple large areas toward Au Train Point and Wood Island. The Brownstone launch was still iced in but could be open by the end of the week. The parking lot has small snow banks but is still accessible.

Rock River: Water levels were high and cresting over the banks.

Au Train River: Those fishing the mouth had no luck as water levels were high.

Munising: The ice finally moved out of the bay. The docks are in at the city launch. With high water levels due to run-off, small boats can use the Anna River launch. The small craft launch at Sand Point is sand covered, but available. Catch rates were slow but starting to pick up. Those targeting whitefish in small boats were fishing the open water right next to the ice. Catch rates were fair with a mixed bag of trout and salmon. Pier anglers casting spawn reported slow catch rates due to muddy water. A few whitefish averaging 15 inches along with a couple splake running 16 to 20 inches were caught. Steelhead were 3 and 6 pounds.

Grand Marais: The boat launch is open and most of the pier near the lighthouse museum is clear of ice and snow. The upper parking area was still blocked with construction debris. Pier anglers reported a mix of menominee, coho, steelhead and whitefish. Boat anglers have done well for coho and steelhead, some reported limit catches. Boats need to use caution when navigating around the newly completed breakwall as water levels were very shallow between the shoreline and the south end of the breakwall. The water is very shallow on the bay side of the wall so boat anglers will need to use caution and watch for rocks.

Sucker River: Shore anglers at the mouth reported high water and low catch rates.

DeTour: Anglers are steelhead fishing at the mouth of Albany Creek and off the rocks on the west shore.

Drummond Island: Limits of perch were caught in Maxton Bay. Try drifting or still-fishing with minnows in 4 to 6 feet of water. Water levels are coming up however boat anglers need to watch for rocks and sand bars around the island.

Cedarville and Hessel: Ice fishing is done for this year. The pier just opened up but the harbors still had ice at the boat launches. Steelhead opportunities exist at Bush and Beaver Tail Creeks.

Carp River: Limits of smelt were taken near the mouth but those upriver were getting few fish. The run seems to be hit-or-miss, perhaps because the water was still cold and muddy.

May 9, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Walleye, pike and muskellunge season for the Upper Peninsula Great Lakes, St. Mary's River and the inland lakes will open on May 15th. Bass anglers enjoying the early catch and release season in the Lower Peninsula are doing very well. The opener for the Upper Peninsula is May 15th.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Catch rates were slow for walleye. The majority of anglers are starting to troll harnesses with inline weights. Some fish were caught near the Dumping Grounds and in front of Sterling State Park when trolling or jigging in 16 to 18 feet of water. Until the water cleans up, anglers will want to stay in 12 to 18 feet and fish throughout the water column.

Huron River: Has lots of white bass being caught. Good smallmouth bass action as well but all these must be released immediately. Walleye have been caught in the evening up near the Flat Rock Dam. Try pink and black flies. The steelhead run is just about done.

Detroit River: Has very good walleye fishing. Anglers are jigging lead head jigs with minnows or worms. Good colors were green, orange, black, purple or pink. Perch were caught along the south side of the Cross Dike. Very good white bass action as the river is full of them. Smallmouth bass were also caught and released.

Lake St. Clair: Smallmouth bass fishing is heating up. The usual areas like Selfridge, Metro Beach, and off the Mile Roads have all been good.

Clinton River: Had excellent rock bass fishing at the mouth.

St. Clair River: Is good for walleye especially between Marine City and Algonac.

Lexington: Pier fishing has been slow with only a couple bullhead and a few rock bass taken by those still-fishing. Those casting caught the occasional steelhead. For boat anglers, those trolling spoons or body baits caught chinook, lake trout, brown trout and steelhead. The fish were scattered in waters 20 to 70 feet deep.

Harbor Beach: Pier fishing was slow but boat anglers were getting a few trout and salmon in waters 20 to 60 feet deep.

Port Austin: Had rumors of a few walleye being caught.

Saginaw Bay: Had very good walleye fishing between Linwood Road and the Saginaw River. Off Linwood, try crawlers in 18 to 20 feet, crawler harnesses in 4 to 6 feet off Kawkawlin, jigging crank baits around Spoils Island or jigging minnows and plastic worms near Consumers. No perch to report. On the east side, the water remains muddy and most of the marinas were not open yet. Quanicassee had no activity as the skid piers were not yet in. At Sebewaing, bass were caught from the channel and in the canals. The marina at Bay Port is still being dredged and the water is muddy. Only a couple boats were out trolling near the sailboat buoys. Bass anglers had fair action out by North Island. At Caseville, those fishing off the wall caught a few walleye. Smallmouth bass were caught and released.

Saginaw River: Many walleye were caught in the lower river.

Tittabawassee River: Had excellent walleye fishing between the Center Street launch and the M-46 launch. Anglers are also catching fish by the Caldwell launch which is near the Gordonville-Mapleton area. Try rapalas or jigging with crawlers.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Fishing overall was very slow. Pier anglers are catching a few catfish and freshwater drum on crawlers. No trout or salmon were caught. Boat anglers were struggling to find fish.

St. Joseph River: Water levels are slowly receding. The DNR launch in St. Joe still had some water over the docks. The St. Joe city launch is almost back to normal.

South Haven: Overall fishing was slow. There still seems to be a few fish in 45 to 60 feet of water but the bite was slow. Boat anglers did manage to catch a few lake trout when trolling.

Black River: In South Haven is currently being dredged. Boat anglers need to use caution around the buoys in the river channel because there is a floating dredge pipe hanging under them.

Holland: Boat anglers are starting to catch chinook and coho when trolling in waters 40 to 150 feet deep however 80 to 120 feet was best. The fish are high in the water column. They are trolling spoons in green, yellow, blue and gold as well as green and blue flies with pearl flashers. Pier fishing was slow. No perch to report.

Grand Haven: Dredging is underway at the Island Harbor boat launch. The boat ramps were not in but the launch is open. No word on when the dredging will be done. Chinook and coho salmon are just starting to show up. Boats are trolling in waters 80 to 120 feet deep with spoons. The salmon are high in the water so small lead core is working best. For spoons, best colors were green, blue, yellow and gold. Flashers and flies worked well. Pier fishing is very slow. Some are throwing cast nets for alewife but none were taken.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is producing some walleye. Try Hot-n-Tots, body baits or a jig and crawler. Catfish are hitting on live or cut bait.

Grand River at Lansing: Catfish and smallmouth bass are being caught below the dam at Moore's Park. Anglers should be able to find catfish below any of the dams. Live bait or cut bait works best.

Muskegon River: Water levels were still high and stained but steelhead and walleye are still being caught. Try flies, spawn, wax worms, spoons or body baits.

Whitehall: Very few walleye have been caught from the pier. Anglers were casting body baits with not much luck. Those trolling did well for brown trout in the shallows about a mile or two north and south of the pier. A couple coho were also caught.

White Lake: Boat anglers are still taking good numbers of pike. They are using spinners in 4 to 15 feet of water.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan River: Steelhead and walleye were caught below the dam.

Ocqueoc River: Still had a good number of steelhead. Many were moving to the beds as they prepare to spawn. Fish were caught between the mouth and the lamprey weir. Try the deeper holes and the gravel when drifting spawn bags, flies, yarn or small jigs. Depending on the weather, the run might last another week. A few suckers were caught.

Rogers City: The docks are in at the launch ramp however the fish cleaning station was still closed. Boats up to 24 feet were launching with no problem. Catch rates were slow because water temperatures were still just a little too cold. Catch rates will increase once water temperatures reach the mid 40's. For now, try fishing the shallow waters of Swan Bay and Calcite. Lake trout season is open but there is not much to report. Anglers will have to find the fish. Try fishing shallow, suspended, or just off the bottom in 40 to 60 feet of water.

Presque Isle: The dock is in at the launch site. Those out lake trout fishing had to work hard to catch a few as the water is just too cold. Try cowbells and spin glo's either suspended or just off the bottom.

Rockport: The docks are in and the gate is open. No boats were out and those fishing off the old dock caught nothing.

Alpena: Those fishing in the bay caught a few walleye between the pier and Grass Island. The fish cleaning station in the marina is now open.

Thunder Bay River: Is still producing a couple steelhead and walleye even though the steelhead activity has slowed now that spawning is just about done. Those targeting suckers have done very well.

Harrisville: Boat anglers reported good catches of steelhead in and around the harbor. Spoons and body baits seem to work the best. As of now the water is high enough at the docks to launch most boats. Tandem axel trailers had no problem getting in and out. The channel depth seems to be deep enough, however be very careful as the makers were not in yet and you will need to swing out at the mouth to avoid shallow water. Walleye are starting to make their way into the area. Early morning and late evening were best for those using crawler harnesses or body baits.

Au Sable River: The water is up, making it easier for boats to make their way up and down the river. The water is still muddy but looks to be clearing. Good numbers of steelhead can be found. They are hitting on flies, spawn, wax worms, spoons and body baits. Suckers are also making their way up into the river but walleye were still moving in and out. Those fishing down near the mouth did catch walleye in the late evening when using crawlers, leeches or body baits.

Tawas: Catch rates slowed with only a couple walleye taken in 14 to 16 feet of water off Jerry's Marina. Most were using Hot-n-Tots or body baits. Pier fishing was slow.

Au Gres: Had good walleye fishing with an average of five to eight fish per boat. Boats were fishing straight as well as north and south of Point Au Gres. Try 15 to 30 feet of water. Pier fishing was slow.

Au Gres River: A few walleye were caught near the Singing Bridge.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: The dock was not in at the public boat launch. According to the city, the harbor is being dredged so the dock may not be in until May 15th.

Petoskey: Pier anglers have caught steelhead on spawn. Some were fishing the "bobber hole" at the mouth of the river but no fish were caught. A few boats were starting to head out to Bay Harbor for lake trout but no fish were reported.

Bear River: Had good steelhead fishing but the number of fish caught has dropped. The run is winding down. Anglers can still try spawn bags and rubber eggs between the mouth and the dam. Early morning was best. Those looking for suckers should get out now as the river is full of them.

Charlevoix: Fishing was slow. A few were trying the channel for walleye but no fish were caught. Night fishing for walleye should pick up soon.

Lake Charlevoix: Had a lot of boats going out for walleye and perch. Rumor has it walleye were caught on the north end of the South Arm near Holy Island. For perch, they were fishing in front of the Belvedere Club and around Two Mile Point.

Traverse City: Lake trout fishing has been good in the bays. Depths were variable with some caught while jigging in 125 feet of water but others caught when trolling plugs in water as shallow as 8 feet. A couple cisco were also caught. Pier and surfcasting were hit-or-miss with the occasional steelhead taken on minnows or spawn bags. Smallmouth bass are being caught and released. Try tube baits in 10 to 35 feet of water.

Elk River: Has a decent number of steelhead. The bite was slow for most but some were able to catch a few fish using fresh spawn or a jig tipped with wax worms.

Boardman River: Steelhead fishing is winding down there is a good number of suckers in the river. A few pike and carp were caught.

Glen Arbor: The boat launch is now open.

Platte Bay: Fishing pressure has slowed. Those trolling spoons caught lake trout and brown trout.

Platte River: Continues to produce walleye and steelhead.

Frankfort: Pier anglers on the north wall were catching a couple steelhead and brown trout on spawn bags. The water is beginning to clear up and anglers can see alewife. Those trolling caught brown trout on UV spoons (not Magnums) and body baits. Black and silver or black and gold were still the hot colors. Lake trout were active in waters over 25 feet deep.

Onekama: Pier anglers targeting brown trout reported hit-or-miss. Catch rates were better when the water was choppy. Try casting spoons, body baits or spawn. Those trolling the shoreline did best north to the golf course and south to Bar Lake in 15 to 22 feet of water with silver and perch body baits.

Portage Lake: Catch rates for the bigger perch have slowed but several small ones have been caught. Try minnows and wigglers. Those trolling for walleye have caught fish ranging 5 to 7 pounds. The water is beginning to settle so bass anglers are having a great time with the early catch-and-release season.

Manistee: Pier anglers have caught perch on wigglers. Brown trout action was slow for those trolling around the piers.

Manistee River: Anglers continue to take good numbers of steelhead and walleye. They are using spoons, crank baits and flies.

Lake Cadillac: Is producing some walleye. The better fishing starts in the evening and runs through dark. Most are casting floating rapalas from shore. No word on bluegills yet but crappie are starting to hit on minnows.

Ludington: Brown trout action continues to be slow for boat and pier anglers. A few have been caught on black and silver body baits and orange spoons.

Pentwater Lake: Had very few anglers but a couple nice walleye were caught in the channel by those casting body baits. Those trolling Lake Michigan had no success.

UPPER PENINSULA

Copper Harbor: Splake fishing was slow with only a few fish taken. The boat launches are finally open and boats traffic is picking up. The local rivers are still very high and fast making them impossible to fish.

Eagle Harbor: The boat launch is open but catch rates were slow. A few splake and coho were caught off the marina wall.

Keweenaw Bay: A few boats were finally able to get out and start trolling for salmon. The bite was slow but a couple coho were caught. Those fishing off the pier in L'Anse were able to catch a couple fish when the floating pack ice allowed them to fish. No word on smelt in this area.

Falls River: Was fishable. Water levels were still high but starting to come down.

Stannard Rock: Catch rates were fair for those heading out on their first trip. They were jigging for lake trout in 150 feet of water and took one or two fish per hour. Size ranged from 20 to 27 inches.

Marquette: Fishing was slow. Most were trolling crank baits or stick baits for coho but few fish were caught.

Carp River: Had few anglers due to the strong current.

Chocolay River: Still had high water levels but steelhead were caught.

Menominee: The mouth of the river was a popular spot for boats to anchor or trolling if there was enough room. Some walleye have been caught but the number has dropped since last week. A few brown trout were also caught. Anglers are jigging with or without minnows, trolling rapalas and crawler harnesses. Early morning and late evening were best. Those that headed south of the mouth also picked up a few walleye. Those trolling off the Cedar River caught brown trout in shallow waters in front of Wells State Park when trolling rapalas or spoons. This area is full of large boulders so anglers must use caution! Early morning was best. Near Stoney Point, a few boats were launching however anglers need to be careful because of shallow water heading out of the launch. It has been flagged. A few walleye and brown trout were caught by those trolling rapalas or spoons in 10 to 15 feet of water.

Menominee River: Shore and boat anglers between the mouth and the Hattie Street Dam picked up some walleye and white suckers. They were mainly casting or trolling Rapalas. Quite a few of the walleye were ripe or spent.

Little Bay De Noc: All the launches are open and the docks are in. The spring perch action is just starting. Good perch fishing was reported off the sand bar near the Day's River. Anglers are still-fishing with crawlers and wigglers in 18 to 25 feet of water. Perch anglers could be found near Kipling and the "Narrows" but catch rates were slow. Last year; the best catches were after the Big Bay run which is going on now. Rivers were still high so steelhead fishing was a bit difficult.

Day's River: Anglers caught steelhead between the mouth and the Golf Course.

Big Bay De Noc: The spring perch run has started with fair to good catches in Garden Bay. Most are using minnows or worms in 6 to 8 feet of water. Boats were averaging 20 to 30 fish and many were 9 to 11 inches.

Sturgeon River: Was close to flood stage. Those looking for steelhead will have to wait until water levels come down.

Ogontz River: Suckers are running and catch rates were good.

Au Train: The bay is ice free and the dock is in at the Brownstone Launch. Boat anglers targeting coho caught four to ten fish after five to six hours of fishing. Many had a mix of coho, chinook, steelhead and brown trout. The coho were about 16 inches, steelhead were 20 to 26 and the browns were right around 20. One large whitefish was caught. Most are trolling small crank baits or stick baits between the Brownstone Launch and Au Train Point.

Au Train River: Water levels are coming down but the current was still strong enough to make fishing difficult.

Newberry: Lakes in area are open but some of the access roads still had snow pack on them. Rivers and streams were still high everywhere but conditions will improve as the rivers should come down this week.

Sucker River: Has steelhead.

DeTour: Those fishing Albany Creek have caught steelhead on spawn.

Drummond Island: Has very good perch fishing in Scott Bay and Maxton Bay. Try minnows and leaf worms in 2 to 4 feet of water.

Cedarville and Hessel: Some nice splake have been caught off the pier when using smelt or minnows. Those trolling caught also caught fish on blue and silver or purple Cleo's.

Carp River: Water levels have dropped but there is still a strong current.

May 16, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Walleye, musky and pike season on the Upper Peninsula Great Lakes, inland waters and the St. Mary's River opened on May 15th. The early catch and immediate release bass season also opened on May 15th.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Walleye fishing has been good for most. Anglers are drifting harnesses with inline weights or bottom bouncers in 12 to 23 feet of water in Brest Bay and the Dumping Grounds. Orange, copper and purple were the hot colors. The "Hot Hole" was producing limit catches of catfish when using live bait.

Huron River: Those fishing in the evening have caught the occasional steelhead or walleye. Catch rates for white bass have slowed but those using minnows have caught catfish. Crappie can be found in the backwaters.

Detroit River: Has lots of white bass. Walleye were scarce but only because the white bass were so dominate. Anglers were still doing fairly well for walleye in the lower river when bouncing jigs. Minnows were the top bait for white bass however fish were also caught on spinners.

Lake St. Clair: Walleye are starting to be caught in the south end of the lake. A few yellow perch and panfish were caught by shore anglers. Large channel cats were caught by shore anglers fishing at night. Try crawlers or cut bait.

Clinton River: Rock bass fishing remains fast and furious.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing continues throughout the river system.

Lexington: The fish are scattered but those trolling have caught chinook, steelhead lake trout and the odd coho in 80 to 90 feet of water. Try 15 to 20 feet down with spoons. Pier anglers caught bullhead and rock bass on crawlers.

Harbor Beach: The fish were scattered so anglers were trolling in waters 80 to 100 feet deep with spoons. Fish anywhere from 15 to 60 feet down. Pier anglers caught bullhead and rock bass.

Grindstone City: Had shallow water.

Saginaw Bay: Catch rates were a bit slow but a few walleye were caught in 18 feet of water off Linwood and 12 to 14 feet near the Pinconning Bar. Anglers have switched from body baits to crawler harnesses on bottom bouncers. A couple fish were taken off Jones Road and Finn Road. Walleye were taken in the lower Slot from Quanicassee north to Sunset Bay. Average catch were two to three fish per boat. The skid pier is now in at Quanicassee. Not much going on from Sebewaing to Bay Port. At Caseville, rumor has it some walleye were caught off the wall at night.

Saginaw River: Was still producing some walleye in the lower river. Anglers were trolling body baits near the Power Plants.

Tittabawassee River: Walleye were still being caught from Imerman Park downstream to Center Road and the confluence with the Saginaw River. The fish are clearly slipping back down the river but a fair number of fish remain. Smallmouth bass action has picked up. Anglers are catching and releasing lots of white bass because Community Health recommends not eating white bass from Saginaw Bay or its tributaries.

Quanicassee River: Catfish were just starting to bite even though it is a bit early yet.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Had slow fishing as boat anglers were struggling to find fish. There are a few salmon around but the bite was slow. Pier anglers caught catfish and freshwater drum.

South Haven: Fishing was very slow for boat and pier anglers.

Kalamazoo River: Is producing pike and smallmouth bass above Marshall.

Holland: Boat anglers caught chinook and coho when trolling in waters 70 to 150 feet deep. Try the upper half of the water column but go deeper if needed. Hot colors were green, blue and gold. No perch to report.

Grand Haven: Dredging at the Harbor Island boat launch could be finished by the weekend. Pier anglers lucky enough to get some alewife with cast nets have caught chinook salmon. Boat anglers were starting to catch salmon in the top 45 to 65 feet in waters 75 to 100 feet deep. Super slim or regular size baits in green, gold and blue worked well along with white or UV paddles with green and white or blue and white flies. No word on perch.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is still producing the occasional steelhead. Walleye fishing was good for those using body baits and crawlers. A good number of flathead and channel cats are being caught on live suckers or cut bait. Riverside Park and Millennium Park were good for bluegill and crappie. The bluegills were hitting on leaf worms and wax worms. The pike action was good for those using large sucker minnows, spinners or body baits.

Grand River at Lansing: Catch rates have started to pick up along the Grand and the Red Cedar. No limit catches but anglers were still picking up bluegill, crappie, bass and catfish.

Lake Ovid: Is producing some musky.

Looking Glass River: Still had high water levels.

Maple River: Is producing a few crappie.

Byron Mill Pond: In Shiawassee County was producing bluegill and crappie. The fish were good size and some were getting near limit catches.

Reeds Lake: Is producing crappie in the channels. Bluegill, perch and pike were also caught.

Muskegon River: Had good walleye action with a few limit catches reported. Many were small but the keepers were average size. Steelhead fishing has slowed.

Whitehall: Very few walleye have been taken from the channel and the pier. Anglers were casting body baits but had no luck.

White Lake: Boat anglers continue to catch good numbers of pike and bass when casting spinner baits. The fish are still close to shore.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: The marina, the fish cleaning station and the restrooms are now open. Large boats have been able to launch with no problems so far. Catch rates were slow for boat and pier anglers however the brown trout, lake trout and Atlantic salmon should start showing up as the water gets warmer. For now, try trolling in shallow waters or areas where there is run-off. Use bright colored body baits in stained water as opposed to silver, black or blue in clean water. For lake trout, try high-lining in the shallows with cowbells and spin-glo's. A few pike and bass were caught.

Presque Isle: Catch rates were slow because the water is just too cold. For Atlantic salmon, try close to the wall down by Stoneport with bright colored spoons and body baits. Lake trout should start showing up in the shallows between the two lighthouses so try dodgers or cowbells with spin-glo's in water up to 40 feet deep. Those fishing the marina caught smallmouth bass.

Rockport: Had few anglers. Lake trout activity was slow as surface water temperatures were still very cold. No Atlantic salmon to report.

Alpena: The bite in Thunder Bay has been slow.

Thunder Bay River: Anglers are catching a few walleye, pike, smallmouth bass and the occasional steelhead on rapalas, spinners or leeches.

Harrisville: Water levels in the harbor were up so launching should not be a problem for most boats. Dredging will start soon, as crews have started moving equipment into the area. Steelhead can still be found in and around the harbor. Boat and pier anglers are using small spoons or body baits. For walleye, try crawler harnesses in 15 to 25 feet of water.

Oscoda: Pier anglers are catching walleye in the early morning or late evening. Try crawlers, leeches, small spoons or body baits.

Au Sable River: Steelhead are on the beds between the mouth and the dam. High Banks has had the most angler activity, and produced the most catches. Fish can be found throughout the river so move around if one location becomes too crowded. Flies seem to work best but spawn and wax worms have also taken fish. Walleye are moving in and out of the river.

Houghton Lake: Had fair to good panfish action.

Lake St. Helen: Those fishing the canals caught panfish.

Tawas: Pier fishing was slow with the occasional bass, pike, or walleye caught. Boat anglers were getting a few walleye over near the artificial reef when vertical jigging or trolling body baits.

Tawas River: Shore anglers caught the odd bass or walleye in the lower river.

Au Gres: Walleye were caught by those trolling crawler harnesses in 15 to 30 feet of water off the mouth of the river.

Au Gres River: Some walleye were caught by those surfcasting with body baits near the Singing Bridge. Most were fishing at night.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: The dock at the public boat launch was still not in because of dredging. There were no boat or pier anglers in sight.

Petoskey: Pier anglers targeting steelhead with spoons or spawn had no luck. Those fishing near the “bobber hole” were not getting any bites.

Bear River: Still has steelhead between the dam and the mouth. Fish were on the beds upstream of the dam. Steelhead were caught all the way up to Sheridan Road. Orange spawn bags or rubber eggs seemed to work best.

Charlevoix: Boat anglers looked for perch in 50 to 100 feet of water outside the channel but no fish were marked. Those trolling crawlers for walleye in the channel had no luck.

Lake Charlevoix: Anglers were not able to find the large perch they found the week before. Schools of small perch were hitting on wigglers near Two Mile Point. Walleye were spotted in 20 to 30 feet of water right off the Irish Boat Launch but they would not bite.

Traverse City: Lake trout and cisco are being caught in both bays. For lake trout, anglers are trolling in 10 to 15 feet of water or jigging in 150 feet. For Cisco, they are jigging in 50 to 75 feet. Catch and release smallmouth bass fishing should continue to improve as water temperatures slowly rise.

Elk River: Still has a good number of steelhead being caught. Drifting fresh spawn bags has been the most consistent.

Boardman River: The steelhead action continues to wind down even though a few fish are still being caught. Carp, northern pike, suckers, and a few smallmouth bass are also in the river.

Platte Bay: Fishing was slow with the cold front. One boat that was out trolling did manage to catch a nice lake trout.

Frankfort: Cooler temperatures and winds out of the north were keeping the water between 46 and 51 degrees. Anglers are still picking up brown trout around the piers and when trolling the shoreline with body baits or UV spoons. There have been reports of salmon in the area.

Portage Lake: Perch fishing slowed but anglers might still find some good catches if they can get out there early in the morning. Wigglers and minnows worked best but once the bluegills move in, the perch will be gone. Bass anglers are still doing very well during the catch and release season.

Manistee: Brown trout fishing continues to be slow for boat and pier anglers. A couple were caught by those trolling around the piers with gold and black or silver and black body baits. Perch fishing slowed.

Manistee River: Is still producing some steelhead and walleye. Try small spoons, crank baits and flies. Orange and chartreuse were good colors.

Lake Cadillac: Those seeking walleye did best at night when casting rapalas or Hot-n-Tots. Some nice crappie were caught off the State Park in 8 to 10 feet of water. Bluegills were starting to bite in shallow water.

Lake Mitchell: Is producing some walleye for those trolling at night. Shore anglers are casting rapalas. A fair number of crappie are also being caught.

Ludington: Reported slow brown trout action. Only a few fish were taken by those trolling around the piers with silver and black body baits or bright colored spoons.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Those trolling in shallow waters near the mouth of the Falls River did catch some salmon. Pier anglers caught coho and steelhead when casting lures or spawn bags.

Falls River: With water levels receding, anglers picked up a couple rainbow trout. The smelt run started. Some anglers said they put in a lot of time to get a couple gallons while others said they hit the run at the right time. Lake trout were caught in Little Traverse Bay by those trolling. Fish were also caught by those jigging in 140 to 170 feet of water out from Hermits Cove.

Silver River: Had reports of smelt.

Ravene River: Had reports of smelt but not sure how long the action will last.

Marquette: Fishing was slow for those trolling crank baits or stick baits. A few coho and smaller brown trout were taken between the Carp River and the Chocolay River. Anglers are reminded that the Upper Harbor is closed for dredging. The tentative completion date is early July. Boat anglers will have to use the Lower Harbor launch.

Carp River: Had few anglers once again because of the strong current.

Sporley Lake: Near Gwinn - the road is impassable due to washout and ruts. A construction crew will get there when the road restrictions are lifted.

Greenwood Reservoir: The spillway is like a water fall with no barrier. Boaters that are not paying attention could float off the edge.

Menominee: Those targeting walleye and brown trout had fair catches when trolling along the drop off in Michigan and Wisconsin. Some boats were anchoring in front of Seagull Bar Park and jigging. Those trolling north or south off Stoney Point caught some walleye and brown trout in 10 to 14 feet of water. Early morning was best with rapalas. Use caution when leaving the launch due to low water levels. Those trolling for trout in 8 to 14 feet of water near the Cedar River had slow catch rates.

Menominee River: Catch rates for walleye were slower but persistence paid off with at least one walleye per boat. Fishing from Stephenson Island upstream to the Hattie Street Dam was difficult because of the high water levels and the amount of water coming over the dam. White suckers were caught near the dam.

Cedar River: Some were steelhead fishing between the mouth and the Cedar River Campground but no fish were caught. They were casting spoons and spinners or floating yarn and flies. The walleye as well as the catch and release bass openers should be good.

Little Bay De Noc: Perch fishing picked up along the northern end of the bay for those using minnows and wigglers in 18 to 23 feet of water just off the green buoy. The "Narrows" also reported a few catches using crawlers and minnows in 30 feet. The walleye opener this week looks good especially near the mouth of the Whitefish River and near Kipling.

Big Bay De Noc: Had perch in Garden Bay but spawning is done so the number of fish caught has dropped. Anglers were still-fishing with minnows and crawlers in 6 to 12 feet of water in front of the Fishery. Many are anticipating a good walleye opener. Try fishing the head of the bay up by Tylene's and out to the "Boot", out by the Sand Pit near Nahma and over by the East Bank near Ogontz.

Au Train: Had good action over the last week for those trolling shallow running crank baits and stick baits in less than 20 feet of water. Catch rates were average between the Brownstone Launch and the Au Train River where they caught mainly coho, steelhead and brown trout. Those fishing near the mouth of the Rock River with spawn picked up couple steelhead.

Munising: Catch rates were just fair. Pier anglers caught a couple splake and steelhead when casting spawn. When boats can get out, they did manage to take a couple coho, steelhead and maybe a chinook. Shore anglers caught a couple steelhead or splake.

Grand Marais: The upper parking area is still blocked with construction debris. Strong winds produced enough wave action to remove the remaining snow and ice off the end of the pier. Those fishing off the pier caught a mix of whitefish, menominee, coho and steelhead. The whitefish were 12 to 15 inches but some bigger ones were caught. Coho were about 16 inches. Those surfcasting off the beach caught a couple coho. Boat anglers reported slow catch rates. Be sure to use caution when navigating around the newly completed breakwall. The water is very shallow between the shoreline and the south end of the breakwall. Watch for rocks in shallow waters on the bay side of the wall.

Two Hearted River: Has trout despite the high water levels.

Sucker River: The mouth has rerouted itself and is now coming out directly at the end of Cemetery Road. This allows much easier access.

Detour: The water was cold and muddy. Temperatures here dropped from 85 to 35 degrees and the area received three inches of snow with the cold front.

Drummond Island: Yellow perch have been caught off Monahan's Dock. Worms or small perch minnows worked best.

Cedarville and Hessel: Splake fishing was not very good most likely due to the change in weather. Pike and walleye season opened on May 15th.

Carp River: Has been producing a good number of steelhead. Anglers are using fly rods with artificial baits, spinners or spawn. Hot colors were green, pink and red.

May 30, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

This coming Saturday, May 25th is the opening day of bass season on the Great Lakes and all inland waters **except** Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River and the Detroit River which do not open until the 3rd Saturday in June. The early catch and release season has been excellent so the opener should be as well.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Anglers are catching a fair number of walleye in 18 to 22 feet of water between Fermi and the Raisin River buoys 1 and 2. Though most are trolling or drifting crawler harnesses some did better with spoons or body baits. Walleye were caught when drifting crawler harnesses or jigging in 15 feet of water off the Metro Park. Boats launching out of Bolles Harbor are doing well on the north end of the Dumping Grounds in 18 feet of water. Hot colors for walleye were chartreuse, purple, green and white. Bass anglers continue to do well in the harbors and backwaters with crank baits or tube baits.

Huron River: Anglers are still getting the occasional steelhead when fishing between the dams. White bass are still being caught. Keeper size bluegills have been caught below the dam at Flat Rock. Try small minnows, leaf worms or wax worms. Those looking for crappie are fishing the backwaters.

Detroit River: Has lots of white bass in the lower Trenton Channel. Perch have been caught near the Cross Dike.

Lake St. Clair: Is still producing some walleye especially at night. Shore anglers are catching a few perch on minnows. The catfish action continues to be good. Crawlers and cut bait worked best.

Lexington: Those trolling caught a mix of trout and salmon in 40 to 50 feet of water. Many say the fish are starting to move north along the Thumb which is why more fish are being caught up near Harbor Beach.

Port Sanilac: Trout and salmon were scattered in waters 40 to 70 feet deep so fish at all depths for chinook, coho, steelhead and lake trout.

Harbor Beach: Salmon are being caught in 40 to 80 feet of water straight out and north of the harbor. Try spoons off downriggers and dipseys, or 2, 5, and 10 colored lines. Orange, red, blue, gray, or green were the hot colors. Steelhead were also caught but the fish were closer to the surface. Lake trout were in 60 to 100 feet. Try dodgers with spin glo's or spoons just off the bottom. For brown trout, try long lines with bright colored spoons and body baits close to shore. Pier anglers caught walleye at night when casting crank baits.

Port Austin: Those trolling have caught coho and lake trout in 35 to 90 feet of water. A few walleye were caught off the North Wall. Shore anglers on Bird Creek caught some big bullhead on crawlers.

Saginaw Bay: Had good walleye fishing in 10 to 12 feet of water between Linwood and the mouth of the Saginaw River and in the old shipping channel. Anglers are trolling harnesses. Fish were caught out in the Slot from Quanicassee north to the Sunset Bay Marina. At Bay Port, catch and release bass fishing was more popular than walleye fishing with good numbers of smallmouth keeping anglers busy. Walleye fishing from Bay Port and Caseville was concentrated around the big buoy off Sand Point. Channel cat fishing in Wildfowl Bay is excellent right now. A couple flatheads were also caught.

Saginaw River: Had some of the best walleye fishing in the lower river between the Karn-Weadock Power Plant and the Coast Guard Station. Most are trolling fire-tiger hot-n-tots but some are vertical jigging. There's a lot of bow-fishing activity for carp from Jones Road to the south end of the bay. Shore anglers at Smith Park in Essexville are taking catfish, freshwater drum and white bass.

Tittabawassee River: Walleye anglers are still doing very well on the lower river near the Center Road boat launch when trolling shad raps. Fire-tiger or silver and blue were good colors. Some were getting their limits. The white bass are in and catch rates were very good. The catch and release smallmouth fishing was excellent especially around the Dow Dam. The opener this Saturday looks to be very good.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Fishing improved as boat anglers caught chinook, coho or lake trout in 40 to 90 feet of water. Pier anglers continue to catch channel cats and freshwater drum with crawlers on the bottom.

South Haven: Catch rates did improve slightly for boat anglers. They caught chinook and lake trout in 60 to 90 feet of water. Pier fishing was slow.

Holland: Boat anglers are catching a few salmon in waters up to 150 feet deep. The coho were deeper than the chinook. Most are trolling blue or green spoons or white paddles with blue and white or green and white flies.

Grand Haven: Pier anglers are using cast nets for alewife so they can use them bait. Catch rates were hit-or-miss for chinook and coho. Boat anglers are fishing 80 to 110 feet down in 130 to 150 feet of water using white paddles with blue and white or green and white flies. Blue or green magnum spoons also worked. The coho were out deeper and hitting on bright orange and red spoons in the top 35 feet. No perch to report.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has been good for walleye. Steelhead action is almost done but the occasional fish is still being caught. A good number of flathead and channel cats are being caught on live suckers, cut bait or crawlers. Riverside Park and Millennium Park were good for bluegill and crappie. Try minnows, wax worms or leaf worms. Pike are hitting on spinners, body baits or large sucker minnows.

Grand River at Lansing: Walleye, carp, catfish and rock bass were hitting on crawlers and curly tail grubs at the North Lansing Dam. At Moore's Park, walleye and catfish were hitting on minnows and crawlers. Walleye, pike, smallmouth bass and catfish have been caught by the Smithville Dam near Eaton Rapids. Golden shiners were the ticket.

Lake Ovid: Is producing bluegills but they are very small. Bass and crappie were caught on spec minnows.

Looking Glass River: Is producing some pike and bowfin. Anglers should also find some bluegill and bass.

Sessions Lake: Anglers caught crappie on wax worms and spec minnows. Catfish were hitting on golden shiners.

Morrison Lake: Was producing some nice bluegills.

Muskegon River: Has high water levels once again. Some reported a Caddis hatch. Those looking for trout have taken some browns along with the occasional steelhead.

Whitehall: Salmon appear to be scattered. Boat anglers picked up coho in 20 feet of water when trolling green and yellow spoons. Others caught chinook and coho about 50 feet down in 150 feet of water. Pier anglers caught a few chinook and brown trout. Pink and silver were the hot colors.

White Lake: Boat anglers have done well for pike when casting spinner baits. Good bluegill action for those using live bait.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Anglers able to get out had little success. The water is still too cold with surface temperatures barely reaching 44 degrees. As it continues to warm up, try up towards Forty Mile Point or south towards Swan Bay and Calcite Harbor in 10 to 100 feet of water. Try high-lining in the shallow waters or 10 feet off the bottom out deeper with cowbells, spin glo's and dodgers. Try bright colored spoons and body baits up high for the occasional Atlantic salmon or brown trout. There is a very heavy hatch of midges around the marina right now.

Presque Isle: Boats did manage to catch a few lake trout in waters 70 to 100 feet deep. They are using dodgers with spin glo's just off the bottom. Anglers saw Atlantic salmon swimming around the marina.

Rockport: Had few anglers. A couple lake trout were caught towards False Presque Isle. Atlantic salmon activity seems to be slower this year.

Thunder Bay River: Is producing a few walleye for those using crawlers, leeches or crank baits. Anglers are catching and releasing some nice smallmouth bass.

Harrisville: Those heading out in boats caught lake trout, steelhead and walleye. It is still early in the season so the fish are in closer to shore. Spoons have been the most effective but you can also try body baits, flies and J-plugs. Walleye have been caught by boat and pier anglers using crawler harnesses, body baits or small spoons.

Oscoda: Walleye catches have slowed but fish are still being caught. Late evening was best off the pier when drifting crawlers and body baits.

Au Sable River: Steelhead can still be found and they are in good shape. It seems fresh fish are coming in day by day. The water is a little high and dark from run-off but the reports were still good. Flies seem to work best in the warmer weather but crawlers, wax worms and spawn were also producing well.

Houghton Lake: Bluegill and crappie have moved from the channels and are now being caught on the weed beds in 6 to 8 feet of water. The walleye bite was slow but the bass opener this weekend should be good.

Lake St. Helen: Fishing was slow however bluegills are being caught on crawlers and wax worms in 3 to 5 feet of water. Anglers are not seeing any beds yet so spawning is a little behind this year.

Tawas: Pier anglers caught walleye in the evening when casting body baits and jigs. A few pike were taken and smallmouth bass were caught and released. Those trolling did well for walleye in 20 to 30 feet of water out near Tawas Point. Some were vertical jigging over the artificial reef and doing well.

Tawas River: Shore anglers caught walleye and smallmouth bass. Those wading at the mouth caught walleye at night.

Au Gres: Had a lot of walleye activity between Point Lookout and Pointe Au Gres. Limit catches were taken with crawler harnesses in 15 to 30 feet of water.

Au Gres River: Is producing some walleye. Those surfcasting at night caught walleye down near the Singing Bridge.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Boat anglers are slowly heading out around the point for lake trout. Try just off the bottom in 85 feet of water.

Petoskey: Pier anglers were catching a mixed bag of steelhead, brown trout, pike and carp. Boats are trying for lake trout near Bay Harbor. They are trolling spoons and spin glo's in 50 to 100 feet of water.

Bear River: Still has some steelhead around the dam as well as upstream. Most of the fish are spawned out. Some are using spawn bags while others are fly fishing with an artificial egg fly. Fish early morning.

Charlevoix: Walleye have started running through the channel but the bite does not start until after dark. Fish have been caught down by the bridge near the Beaver Island Ferry Dock, and at the end of the pier near the lighthouse. Anglers are using a ¾ to 1 ounce jig with a scented rubber minnow or deep diving crank baits. A couple pike were caught in the channel and smallmouth bass are starting to show up.

Traverse City: Anglers in the East Bay are targeting lake trout, cisco, whitefish, or smallmouth bass. Lake trout are scattered. Cisco and the occasional whitefish were caught in 40 to 60 feet of water on Swedish pimples or other jigging spoons. Smallmouth bass were caught in 10 to 35 feet of water. In the West Bay, lake trout were caught by those trolling or jigging. A few whitefish were also caught when jigging. Pier fishing for salmon was slow but the smallmouth action was good.

Elk River: Anglers will still find some steelhead even though the peak of the run is over. Smallmouth bass are showing up in decent numbers and should offer good fishing for the opener this Saturday. Try leeches, crawlers, plastic baits, or jigs.

Boardman River: Steelhead fishing is all but over. Anglers are now targeting smallmouth bass, northern pike, and carp. There are plenty of suckers in the river. Smallmouth bass fishing should be decent for the opener.

Frankfort: With the cooler waters, brown trout have been caught between the piers and along the shoreline. Anglers are out very early in the morning with black and gold or black and silver body baits and UV spoons. The first chinook salmon of the year were reported. Alewives are starting to move in towards the piers.

Onekama: Is producing brown trout in 18 to 22 feet of water. Body baits are best.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers are still having a great time catching largemouth on the beds or smallmouth along the drop-offs. Bluegills are moving into the weeds and becoming more active in the afternoon. Some nice perch are still being caught in the early morning however bring lots of bait because you will have to sort the small ones.

Manistee: Boat anglers are starting to catch salmon 100 to 200 feet down in waters 200 to 300 feet deep. Meat rigs worked best. Those trolling along the shoreline for brown trout only caught a few fish. Try black and silver or black and gold body baits.

Manistee River: Those casting or slow trolling spoons, crank baits or flies are still taking walleye and the occasional steelhead.

Lake Cadillac: The bass opener this weekend should be good as anglers have been catching and releasing good numbers of fish. Walleye are still being caught but the bite did slow. Anglers are using crawlers, leeches, and rapalas. Many are still waiting for the bluegills. No beds have been seen so it looks like they could be spawning well into June.

Lake Mitchell: Night anglers are still taking some walleye even though the bite has slowed. Crappie and bluegill can be found in the shallows but both are moving between deep and shallow water. Water temperatures are still a bit cold.

Ludington: The fish cleaning station is now open at the Loomis Street Launch. Boat anglers were catching salmon 80 to 200 feet down in 200 to 300 feet of water. Try blue or green meat rigs. Not much in the way of brown trout action.

Pentwater: Fishing is slowly picking up. Boat anglers caught a few salmon about 60 feet down in 140 feet of water. Those fishing the channel caught some nice pike.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Is producing a mix of coho, chinook and the occasional brown trout but anglers are putting in a lot of time to catch a few fish. The water is still dirty. Anglers reported debris getting caught in their lines. Those fishing off the rock dock near the L'Anse Marina are picking up the occasional coho or rainbow trout on spawn, spoons or crawlers.

Falls River: The smelt run is over however anglers are picking up some rainbow trout. Try spoons, spawn or crawlers.

Silver River: The smelt are done but anglers caught rainbow trout.

Huron River: Is producing rainbow trout.

Marquette: Catch rates for coho were very slow with most reporting no fish. Lake trout action was good for those trolling just off the bottom in 200 to 230 feet of water near the Sand Hole. Try assorted spoons with sucker bait. Large schools of sticklebacks were associated with the lake trout. Most fish were 3 to 4 pounds but some went as high as 15 pounds. A few chinook salmon were caught by those trolling near Shot Point.

Menominee: Had a few reports of brown trout being caught by those in 30 feet of water. Most are going very slow, about 2 mph. Boat anglers are trolling near the mouth of the Menominee River. Catch rates were fair to good however the better action was in the evening. Those trolling north and south of the Cedar River caught walleye in the evening when using rapalas in assorted colors.

Menominee River: Water levels dropped and fishing was much easier. Some walleye were caught by those casting rapalas off the Cat Walk and near the dam. Suckers and the occasional catfish were also caught.

Cedar River: Is producing some walleye, smallmouth bass and carp for those trolling, casting crank baits or drifting crawlers.

Little Bay De Noc: Had a pretty good start for the walleye season although water temperatures were a bit cold. The fish did not seem too aggressive and a small percentage had not yet spawned. The average size was up compared to previous years. Good numbers of fish were reported around the head of the bay. The better catches were taken in 20 to 23 feet of water using crawler harnesses during the day or trolling and casting crank baits at night. The "Narrows" were a hot spot for walleye but most anglers were targeting perch. Try 30 to 33 feet of water with crawlers or minnows. Fair to good perch fishing was reported near the green buoy off the Days River in 20 to 24 feet.

Escanaba River: Was producing some walleye. While some limit catches were taken others struggled to catch fish.

Big Bay De Noc: A few walleye were caught just north of Kate's Bay by those trolling crawler harnesses in 23 feet of water. Catch rates for perch were down but some were still caught as they move out of Garden Bay. Try crawlers in 8 to 12 feet of water. Smallmouth bass were active between Ansell's Point and the head of the bay as well as near Ogontz.

Au Train: Catch rates for coho slowed dramatically. Anglers trolled several hours but caught few fish. Lake trout action was better for those trolling spoons and sucker baits in 150 to 200 feet of water. The fish averaged 3 to 4 pounds.

Munising: Pier anglers reported slow catch rates with only the occasional steelhead or splake taken on spawn. When boats can get out, they caught a mix of chinook, coho and splake. The chinook ranged 3 to 10 pounds. Lake trout up to 25 pounds were caught by those trolling the Big Reef but not everyone out there caught fish.

Grand Marais: The upper parking lot is still blocked with construction debris. Few boats have been out but the number of pier anglers has increased. They are catching mostly whitefish and coho. The whitefish were 10 to 15 inches and the coho were averaging 16 inches. Try spawn, crawlers or casting small spoons and rapalas in the morning. The few boats that did go out managed to pick up a few coho and steelhead. Remember to use caution because of shallow water and rocks by the new breakwall.

Drummond Island: Walleye are slow as water temperatures were about 52 degrees. Anglers had excellent northern pike action at the mouth of Maxton Bay when trolling or casting double bladed spinner baits just off the DNR launch. Lots of bullhead are being caught in 4 to 6 feet of water in Maxton Bay. Try worms or minnows on the bottom.

Cedarville and Hessel: Anglers are targeting northern pike while trolling Hessel Bay and casting off the pier. Harvest rates were fair as the water is still a bit too cold. Anglers did better in Musky Bay and Cedarville Bay where the water was warmer but the best action was in the Moscoe Channel. Splake can still be found around Hessel. Lots of large and smallmouth bass were being caught and released.

Carp River: The number of fish caught is down as the water is running fast and muddy. Some suckers were harvested; a sure sign that steelhead are on their way out.

May 30, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Fishing continues to get better as the weather improves. Bluegill and bass are on the beds in some areas while other areas are still a bit behind because of the cooler temperatures. Pike and walleye are biting.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Walleye fishing has been great for most with limit catches taken in 19 to 24 feet of water between the Raisin River buoys and Stony Point. Most were using crawlers but others did well with purple or chartreuse spoons. The bass opener was good with smallmouth caught near the rock piles off Sterling State Park.

Detroit River: Walleye fishing remains very good.

Lake St. Clair: Continues to have good walleye fishing off the Dumping Grounds, the Metro Beach and the 400 Club. Smallmouth bass fishing remains good along the Mile Roads and is picking up in Anchor Bay.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing has been good for those trolling crawler harnesses but success when jigging has picked up in recent days.

Lexington: Had very good fishing for Chinook, lake trout, steelhead and even a couple coho. The bigger fish were caught in 80 to 100 feet of water.

Harbor Beach: Is producing salmon straight out and north of the harbor in 40 to 85 feet of water. Try spoons off downriggers and dipseys, or 2, 5 or 10 colored lead lines. Orange, red, blue, grey, or green were the hot colors. Steelhead were caught for those trolling bright colored spoons with offshore boards closer to the surface. Lake trout were taken with dodgers and spin glows or spoons near the bottom. Brown trout were closer to shore. Try long lines with bright colored spoons or body baits. Bass were caught inside the harbor and close to shore by those casting or trolling spoons and body baits. Pier anglers caught walleye when casting rapalas in the early morning or at night. Water levels were good at the ramp and in the channel.

Saginaw Bay: Had good walleye catches off the Pinconning Bar in 10 to 12 feet of water, three to four miles out from Linwood, one mile north of Callahan Road, and in six feet of water off Finn Road. Most are using crawler harnesses. Between Quanicassee and Sebewaing, walleye fishing was good along the north end of the Slot. The fish here were bigger and some limit catches were reported by those using pink and green crawler harnesses. Walleye fishing off Bay Port was slow. Good smallmouth bass fishing in Wildfowl Bay. At Caseville, anglers were walleye fishing off the wall.

Saginaw River: Is producing walleye between the Coast Guard Station and the mouth. Most are using Hot-n-Tots. Freshwater drum and catfish were caught at Essexville Park.

Tittabawassee River: Water levels were high and muddy. No anglers were out.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Boat anglers had decent fishing for Chinook, coho and lake trout in 40 to 140 feet of water. Pier anglers continue to catch catfish and freshwater drum. Perch fishing was slow.

St. Joseph River: Is producing channel catfish and freshwater drum for those using crawlers on the bottom.

Union Lake: In Branch County was producing good numbers of bluegill and crappie. Some say crappies are on the beds and the gills were closer.

Lake of the Woods: In Calhoun County was producing some nice bluegills.

Duck Lake: In Calhoun County was good for crappie and bluegills.

South Haven: Boat anglers reported some improvement but catch rates were still slow. Chinook and lake trout were caught in 90 to 140 feet of water. A few perch were starting to show up however they are very deep and the bite was slow. Pier fishing was slow except for freshwater drum hitting live bait on the bottom.

Holland: Boat anglers are catching a few Chinook and coho in 100 to 200 feet of water. White paddles with blue and white or green white flies were still taking fish right along with spoons in green, blue, yellow or gold. Pier fishing was slow.

Grand Haven: Boats are fishing in 110 to 200 feet but the better fishing was out further in 150 to 180 when targeting the top 85 feet. Some salmon were still caught out deeper. White paddles with blue and white or green and white flies were still the ticket but some also caught fish on regular or magnum spoons in blue, green, gold and yellow. Most of the fish caught were Chinook and coho. Pier fishing was hit-or-miss. The Harbor Island parking lot for boat trailers has limited parking because of all the dirt from dredging.

Grand River at Lansing: Fishing activity picked up with the warm weather. No limits to report but anglers are catching catfish, bass, crappie and sunfish. Walleye and carp were hitting near the dams.

Park Lake: In Clinton County had good bass fishing.

Lake Ovid: Had good catches of bluegill but the fish were small.

Morrison Lake: Was producing some nice bluegills.

Muskegon River: Had reports of good walleye fishing in Mecosta County.

Whitehall: Had few anglers but those able to get out caught Chinook south of Duck Lake. Try 45 to 160 feet down in 200 feet of water.

White Lake: Anglers had considerable action while fishing within the seven foot range along the shoreline. They caught perch, northern pike, and bass. Some caught all three species with jerk baits. Those fishing the channel have started to catch channel cats when casting crawlers or spoons and running them close to the bottom.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Mullett Lake: Walleye fishing was slow.

Rogers City: Lake trout are just starting to show up. Those fishing south towards Swan Bay and Adams Point caught salmon and trout. The fish appear to be scattered up and down the water column or 10 feet off the bottom. Try cowbells or dodgers with spin glo's. The Atlantic salmon and steelhead are coming up high on bright colored spoons. There is still a large hatch of midges in the area and the fish are moving in to feed on them. Trout and salmon have been caught from the breakwall by those casting orange or gold spoons with a touch of silver.

Ocqueoc River: Has another fresh run of steelhead. Try drifting spawn under a bobber or small jigs and flies. They will be spawning soon.

Presque Isle: Was producing some lake trout along with a few Chinook and Atlantic salmon in 30 to 80 feet of water. The lake trout were about 10 feet off the bottom. Try cowbells or dodgers with spin glo's or green spoons. The fish caught had bellies full of goby and smelt.

Rockport: Those getting out have caught some lake trout. Atlantic, Chinook and steelhead have also been caught but water temperatures were still in the low 40's.

Grand Lake: Walleye fishing was slow.

Alpena: Anglers have done well for lake trout and the occasional steelhead or salmon. Lake trout ranged four to 12 pounds. Walleye fishing in the bay has slowed.

Thunder Bay River: Those fishing up near the 9th Street Dam have caught a few walleye, pike and smallmouth bass.

Harrisville: Boat anglers were coming in with steelhead, lake trout and walleye. Lake trout and steelhead were still in 50 to 70 feet of water. Try spoons, flies and body baits. Walleye were caught in 12 to 40 feet early morning or late night.

Lake Margrethe: Was producing walleye and panfish.

Oscoda: Walleye are making their way in. Pier anglers have done well late in the evening and just before sun up.

Au Sable River: Steelhead are still making their way up the river. Most of the fish caught are silver and fresh from the lake. Foote Dam is closed for construction. The Rea Road launch is accessible and the trail was open. Fish were still on the beds at Whirlpool, the Boy Scout Camp and near High Banks.

Houghton Lake: Is producing the occasional walleye and some panfish.

Tawas: Was slow, cold and windy. Those trolling between Jerry's Marina and Buoy #2 caught very few fish. Boat anglers in Tawas Bay caught smallmouth bass.

Tawas River: Is producing smallmouth bass, catfish, freshwater drum and bowfin.

Au Gres: Was producing limit catches of walleye with crawler harnesses in 30 feet of water between Point Au Gres and Pointe Lookout. A few boats were going northeast of Point Lookout and fishing along and beyond the gravelly shoal.

Au Gres River: Is producing freshwater drum, catfish and bowfin.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Boats anglers caught smallmouth bass around the docks.

Petoskey: Pier anglers did well for smallmouth bass. They were using crawlers, spoons or crank baits. A walleye was caught off the pier. Lake trout action was slow and most of the fish were sub-legal. Try south of the pier with blue and white spoons.

Bear River: Was producing steelhead before the high water levels. Try spawn bags. Smallmouth bass and rock bass were caught on crawlers. Brown trout were hitting on small spoons.

Charlevoix: A few boats were searching for lake trout but none were located. Water temperatures were 39 degrees at 100 feet down. Anglers continue to do well in the channel when walleye fishing after dark. The bite usually starts around 9:30 p.m. Fish on the Lake Michigan end of the channel when the current is going out and try

near Round Lake when the current is moving in. Anglers are using ¾ to 1 ounce jigs with rubber minnows and rubber worms as well as deep diving crank baits. Smallmouth bass were hitting on crawlers and leeches in the channel.

Traverse City: The East Bay had good smallmouth bass fishing in waters six to 25 feet deep. Cisco, lake trout and whitefish were caught on Swedish Pimples in 20 to 70 feet. A couple lake trout were taken in 10 to 50 feet. In the West Bay, lake trout were caught by those trolling plugs in 10 to 30 feet. Whitefish and lake trout were taken by those jigging in 130 feet. Pier anglers caught smallmouth bass on minnows or crawlers.

Elk River: A couple steelhead remain in the river but the bite was slow. Try drifting fresh spawn bags or a jig and wax worm. Smallmouth fishing should improve as the water warms up.

Boardman River: Anglers are pulling in a mixed bag of fish. Smallmouth bass were caught on leeches or crawlers. Northern pike were hitting on live minnows. Anglers will find carp and plenty of suckers as well.

Frankfort: Brown trout are still hitting around the piers and limit catches were reported by those using alewife. Body baits in black and silver or black and gold were also working. Those fishing alewife off the north pier did well from the elbow to the end. Cold water has kept the Chinook out in deeper water.

Onekama: Anglers heading south and fishing in 250 feet of water landed some nice Chinook salmon. The fish are scattered so try all depths. They are hitting mostly on flies with meat rigs. Lake trout, brown trout and steelhead were not as deep.

Portage Lake: Panfish were very active with nice catches of bluegill, crappie and rock bass hitting on worms. Bass anglers were working the drop-offs. Few fish were actually on the beds. Northern pike were more active and hitting on spinner baits.

Manistee: Salmon fishing was starting to pick up. Try 70 to 180 feet down in 200 to 300 feet of water. Meat rigs with green or blue flies worked best. Pier anglers caught a few brown trout on spoons or alewife.

Lake Missaukee: Was producing some panfish.

Lake Cadillac: Walleye fishing slowed but a few fish were still being caught during the day and at night when drifting crawler harnesses. Anglers did well on bluegills. as the fish were starting to show up on the beds. The bass opener was very good with lots of large and smallmouth caught. Pike are hitting on live bait.

Lake Mitchell: Is producing a few walleye, some nice bluegills and the occasional small pike.

Ludington: Boat anglers are picking up a few salmon 75 to 150 feet down in 150 to 250 feet of water. Meat rigs have worked well along with orange or blue spoons.

Pentwater: Salmon fishing was best in the early morning and the fish were large for spring fishing. Anglers did best 45 to 70 feet down in 60 to 120 feet of water. Steelhead and coho were also caught. They are fishing across from the sand dunes at Silver Lake. Blue and green were the hot colors.

UPPER PENINSULA

Walleye anglers had good success across Iron, Dickinson and Gogebic County. Many limit catches were checked.

Copper Harbor: Splake fishing was spotty. Jigs with cut bait like sucker or smelt worked best but crawlers took a few fish. Those fishing near the mouth of Fanny Hoe Creek caught a few fish when drifting worms in the current. In Eagle Harbor, those trolling around the mouth and in shallow waters caught a few splake and brown trout.

Keweenaw Bay: The water is still dirty from run-off but not as bad as it was. Catch rates picked up a little as those trolling caught Chinook, coho and lake trout. They were fishing 30 to 50 feet down in 40 to 60 feet of water from the head of the Bay north to Old Mission with spoons. Green was a good color. Those jigging off the water tower at Pequaming picked up lake trout in 200 to 230 feet of water with cut bait. In Traverse Bay, those trolling or jigging in 130 to 150 feet caught lake trout out from Big Louie's Point and Gay Point.

Marquette: Catch rates improved with Chinook averaging four to five pounds caught towards Shot Point, the drop-off along M-28 and outside the Lower Harbor breakwall. Try spoons or stick baits in orange and silver. Lake trout action was fair. The fish were suspended 50 to 60 feet down in 160 to 200 feet of water. The lake trout are eating a large quantity of sticklebacks. Water temperatures were at 40 degrees.

Menominee: A few walleye were caught in 12 to 15 feet in Wisconsin waters. A few bass were caught and pike were abundant in the shallow waters. Those trolling north and south of the Cedar River caught pike and bass.

Menominee River: Had a good number of musky anglers. There was a report of one 58 inch fish caught and released. Anglers are drifting or casting large musky baits between the mouth and the dam. A good number of suckers have been caught up near the dam. Those shore fishing for trout reported slow catch rates.

Cedar River: Bass season opened with lots of fish caught. Many were small but some nice ones were caught on crawlers or crank baits under the M-35 Bridge.

Little Bay De Noc: Water temperatures were in the low 50's. The better walleye and perch fishing were along the "Narrows." Fish were also caught from the Kipling Flats south to the Gladstone Beach. Perch were hitting on minnows or crawlers in 20 to 30 feet of water. Walleye anglers were trolling crawler harnesses or rapalas in 18 to 30 feet. Walleye were caught near the mouth of the Whitefish River.

Ford River: Was busy with anglers during the bass opener. This is a good place for shore anglers to target smallmouth. Fair catches were taken by those casting tube

baits or crank baits along the edge in four to eight feet of water. Boats usually drift and cast down near the mouth.

Escanaba River: Walleye fishing slowed although some good catches were reported down near the mouth. Anglers were trolling or drifting crawlers in 10 to 20 feet of water.

Big Bay De Noc: Is known for its terrific smallmouth bass fishing and the opener last weekend was no exception. Good numbers of fish were reported throughout the bay. The better areas were the Nahma "Sand Pit", the head of the bay up near Tyleno's, Ogontz, Puffy Bay and South River Bay. The fish were a little deeper in 10 to 16 feet of water. Many fish were in the five pound range. Some perch were caught in Garden Bay. Try crawlers in eight to 12 feet.

Au Train: Catch rates improved somewhat for those targeting Chinook, coho and lake trout. For salmon, anglers were trolling or casting spoons and stick baits in less than 50 feet of water towards Shelter Bay and Au Train Point. Water temperatures were still cold. For lake trout, anglers are trolling between Au Train Island and Wood Island in 160 to 200 feet of water.

Munising: Boat anglers have caught Chinook ranging three to 10 pounds. A few splake were caught when trolling on the east side of the bay between the hospital and Sand Point. Try spoons, flashers, dodgers and flies. Pier anglers casting spawn and shore anglers still-fishing with spawn had limit catches of splake.

Grand Marais: Pier anglers caught coho and whitefish. Try spawn near the end of the pier. Some nice fish were caught but many were running on the small side. Early morning was best. Boat anglers caught coho when trolling east and west of the bay in waters less than 20 feet deep. The fish were 16 to 18 inches and limit catches were reported.

Manistique Lake: Both lakes were slow but producing some bass, pike and walleye.

DeTour: Anglers caught Atlantic salmon in 10 to 25 feet of water. Lake trout and Chinook were out deeper in 45 to 65 feet. Green was the hot color.

Drummond Island: Walleye were caught in four feet of water in Scott Bay. Pink and black were the hot colors.

Cedarville and Hessel: Pike fishing is good all throughout the islands. Anglers are still-fishing or casting with chubs. Harvest numbers will only increase with warmer weather. Large and smallmouth bass fishing were very good.

June 6, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

It's here! Michigan's annual Summer Free Fishing Weekend will be observed this Saturday, June 8 and Sunday, June 9. Both residents and non-residents can fish without a license however all regulations still apply. This is a great opportunity for novice anglers to introduce someone new to the sport of fishing.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Walleye fishing remains good for most. They are using crawler harnesses or spoons in 18 to 25 feet of water. Fish have been caught in 22 to 24 feet of water between Stony Point and the north end of the Dumping Grounds. Hot colors were orange, purple and chrome. Smallmouth bass were caught throughout Brest Bay and the shallow humps off the River Raisin.

Detroit River: The white bass action has been fast and furious. Fishing is limited with all the white bass but a few perch were caught near Celeron Island and a few walleye were taken near the Ford Yacht Club.

Lake St. Clair: Musky fishing was slow.

St. Clair River: Had good walleye fishing at Port Huron and Algonac. Anglers are jigging or using crawler harnesses. Night fishing was best.

Lexington: Is producing trout and salmon for those trolling spoons in 50 to 60 or 80 to 100 feet of water. A good number of lake trout were caught. Pier anglers caught white bass, rock bass, pike, freshwater drum, smallmouth bass and even a few perch.

Harbor Beach: Some are catching whitefish. For salmon, try straight out and north of the harbor in 40 to 85 feet. For lake trout, try 80 to 100 feet with dodgers and spin glows or spoons just off the bottom. Steelhead were hitting near the surface. Try bright colored spoons with offshore boards. Brown trout were closer to shore. Bass are being caught inside the harbor and close to shore. Keep a towel handy to clear off your line as the green vegetation is here for a while.

Port Austin: Was producing Chinook, coho, steelhead and lake trout in 50 to 100 feet of water. They caught more lake trout than salmon or steelhead. Most are trolling spoons.

Saginaw Bay: Had good walleye action in five to six feet of water along the Callahan Reef and off the Kawkawlin River when using crawler harnesses or spoons. Walleye were caught off Quanicassee and north of the Slot. It appears the fish are moving out. Good walleye action off Sebewaing for those trolling spoons or crawler harnesses in 11 to 13 feet of water and in Wildfowl Bay when drifting crawlers near the weed line. At Bay Port, walleye were caught out by the islands. Those bowfishing in the shallows are taking a good number of carp. Bird Creek is producing bullhead.

Saginaw River: Those trolling crank baits or crawlers caught walleye between Consumers and the Coast Guard Station.

Quanicassee River: Shore anglers are taking catfish.

Sebewaing River: Is producing a few pike.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Holland: Is producing salmon 40 to 80 feet down in 180 to 220 feet of water. A few Chinook were caught 100 feet down. Use green and blue regular size spoons and paddles and flies in white, blue and green. Pier anglers caught freshwater drum.

Grand Haven: Pier anglers are getting alewife with cast nets but the only thing they are catching is freshwater drum. Boat anglers are catching salmon 40 to 80 feet down in 160 to 300 feet of water. Many fish were caught in the 180 to 220 range. Blue and green spoons along with blue, green and white paddles and flies were the ticket. Steelhead are higher in the water and hitting on orange and green spoons.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Smallmouth bass are hitting on crawlers, leeches, soft shell crabs and top water baits. Channel cats are hitting on chicken liver crawlers, leeches and cut bait. Flatheads prefer live bluegill or suckers. Those using leaf worms or wax worms caught bluegill. Crappie and bluegill have been caught at Millennium Park and Riverside Park. Pike are hitting on big spinners, body baits or live suckers.

Grand River at Lansing: When anglers can find them, some decent bluegill and crappie were caught above and below the Moore's Park Dam. Smallmouth bass were caught below the North Lansing Dam. Crank baits worked better than live bait. For catfish, try cut bait, small bluegills, leeches, crawlers or chicken liver.

Lake Ovid: Was producing a few crappie and some small bluegills. If you find fish on the beds, try rubber spiders.

Reeds Lake: Bass fishing was good and some nice perch were caught in 15 to 25 feet of water near the sunken island.

Muskegon River: Has good trout fishing especially for those fly fishing. A drake hatch is currently underway.

Whitehall: Pier anglers casting blue and silver spoons caught coho, brown trout and some large pike. Boat anglers did best south of Duck Lake in 150 to 200 feet. Try fishing all depths as the fish were scattered.

White Lake: Was still producing bluegill, perch, bass and pike close to the shoreline. Catfish are still hitting in the channel. Anglers are casting crawlers or spoons and running them very close to the bottom.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Runoff after all the rain not only muddied the water but also raised the surface water temperatures to the high 40's. Lake trout have been caught off Sea Gull Point, Adams Point and west towards Forty Mile Point. Fish the entire water column or close to the bottom in 40 to 70 feet with cowbells and spin glows or spoons. Hot colors were green, orange, yellow and blue. Chinook, Atlantic salmon and steelhead have also been caught. Pier anglers caught Atlantic salmon. Good colors were orange and gold or chartreuse and silver.

Presque Isle: Had good lake trout fishing in 30 to 60 feet of water with dodgers or cowbells and spin glows. Those high-lining in the shallows did well off Big Lighthouse Point. A couple Atlantic salmon were taken towards Stoneport. Try bright spoons.

Alpena: Those walleye fishing caught a few on crawler harnesses. If fishing for lake trout, try the Thunder Bay Island area.

Thunder Bay River: Is producing smallmouth bass and a few smaller walleye up near the 9th Street Dam. Crawlers and leeches worked best. Anglers may still find the odd steelhead up near the dam.

Harrisville: The lake trout are moving out at a slow pace. Most of the fish caught were suspended in 50 to 80 feet. Average size was 10 pounds. Most are using spoons, flies and body baits with downriggers, lead core and planer boards. Steelhead should be in the area.

Oscoda: Pier anglers are catching walleye in the early morning or late evening however; don't rule out those overcast afternoons. Crawlers, leeches and body baits were the ticket.

Au Sable River: Steelhead are still moving in however the number of fish is declining. Catch rates were inconsistent. The brown drake hatch should occur in the next week as a few are hatching at this time.

Houghton Lake: Walleye fishing usually picks up between the storm systems. Anglers caught largemouth bass but the bluegill fishing was hit-or-miss. Cooler weather has delayed spawning in much of the state. Some caught rock bass.

Tawas: Pier anglers are catching bass. Those fishing out in the bay caught smallmouth when casting tube jigs. A few walleye were caught in 25 to 30 feet of water. The area is currently seeing a mayfly hatch.

Tawas River: Is producing catfish, bowfin, freshwater drum and even the occasional walleye.

Au Gres: Those trolling for walleye did well in 30 to 35 feet between Pt. Au Gres and Pt. Lookout, south of Pt. Au Gres or North towards the gravelly shoals and the Charity Islands. Bass fishing was good.

Au Gres River: Is producing channel cats but some are trying for walleye.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

There were reports of panfish starting to stage for spawning, but that will probably be set back now because of the cold front. The trout streams are running a bit high but fishing can be good on the higher water, especially for those using bait. Along Lake Michigan, rumor has it there are fewer Chinook salmon compared to last year however the average size is bigger.

Harbor Springs: Boat anglers might want to try for lake trout near Harbor Point. Look for smallmouth bass around the docks.

Petoskey: Anglers fishing off the pier with crank baits and crawlers caught smallmouth bass. Look for pike, carp or rock bass as well.

Bear River: Has been high and fast. A couple steelhead can still be found up near the dam but most of the fish have spawned. Try spawn bags above the dam.

Charlevoix: Anglers continue to do well for walleye in the channel after dark. The bite usually starts between 10-11 p.m. Anglers are fishing on the Lake Michigan end of the channel when the current is going out or the Round Lake end when the current comes in. Use deep diving crank baits or a ¾ to one ounce jig with a rubber minnow or rubber worm with a twisty tail. The fish were not interested in crawlers or leeches. A couple smallmouth bass were also caught. Boat anglers caught lake trout 80 to 100 feet down in 100 to 220 feet off North Point. Try green and orange spin glows with dodgers or cowbells. A few fish were caught near the can at St. Mary's Cement.

Traverse City: Lake trout catches were decent for those trolling or jigging in the East Bay. Ciscoes were caught on jigging spoons in 20 to 70 feet of water. Smallmouth action slowed with the cooler weather. The West Bay had fair lake trout fishing. Depths were variable. Those jigging caught lake trout and the occasional whitefish.

Elk River: Smallmouth bass were hitting on crawlers and artificial baits. Catch rates will improve with warmer weather. Steelhead can still be found but most anglers were targeting bass.

Boardman River: Is producing pike, smallmouth bass, rock bass, perch, carp and suckers. Try crawlers, leeches or plastic baits for smallmouth.

Frankfort: Brown trout are still hitting between the piers and outside to the elbows. Early morning was best starting about 5 a.m. There is a large number of alewife around the piers. With the cooler than average temperatures, the Chinooks are slow to arrive this year.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers are having a great time working the beds and along the drop-offs. Anglers reported good catches of bluegill, crappie, sunfish and pumpkinseed. Crawlers worked best. Walleye have slowed but the pike are becoming more active.

Manistee: Salmon have been caught 50 to 120 feet down in 100 to 200 feet of water. Anglers are using green and blue dolphins or green and blue meat rigs. Pier anglers casting spoons caught a few brown trout.

Lake Cadillac: Bluegills were on the beds. Anglers are using a piece of crawler or leaf worms. Only a few crappie were caught. The pike action was good however the fish are running small. For walleye, anglers are trolling crawler harnesses in 12 to 16 feet of water.

Lake Mitchell: Is producing a few crappie for those using minnows. Bluegills were on the beds. Pike are still hitting but the fish are small. Large bowfin were caught.

Ludington: Salmon action has been hit-or-miss. Fish were caught 60 to 120 feet down in 120 to 140 feet of water with meat rigs or green and orange spoons.

Pentwater: Anglers caught a mixed bag of Chinook, coho and steelhead 45 to 70 feet down in 90 to 150 feet of water across from the Silver Lake sand dunes. Blue and green were the hot colors.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Salmon catches were hit-or-miss. When they were hitting, anglers did well when trolling 25 to 60 feet down in 30 to 70 feet of water between the head of the Bay northward to the Keweenaw Bay Roadside Park. Coho and lake trout were also caught. Most were using spoons and trolling between 2 and 2.4 mph. A chinook salmon weighed in at just over 18 pounds. Those trolling the South Portage Entry caught a few lake trout near Farmers, Newton's and the Big Reef. Chinook and coho were taken 35 to 40 feet down in 40 to 50 feet of water from the Entry south towards the Keweenaw Roadside Park.

Marquette: Had good salmon action with some getting their limit of Chinook. The fish were averaging four to eight pounds but a few went as high as 10 to 18 pounds. Good coho action as well with the fish running one and a half to three pounds. Best areas to fish are still outside the Lower Harbor breakwall and towards the Chocoday River or the Sand River when trolling in 100 feet or less. The occasional coho, steelhead or brown trout were also mixed in. Lake trout were caught as shallow as 50 feet or as deep as 150 feet between Shot Point and Granite Island. The fish are eating sticklebacks. Stannard Rock is producing good numbers of lake trout for those jigging along the breaks. Fish up to 25 pounds were reported.

Menominee: Anglers jigging with minnows are still picking up some nice walleye in Wisconsin waters not far from the mouth. Those trolling crawler harnesses had fair catches. Those launching off the Cedar River were trolling north and south in 12 to 14 feet of water with crawler harnesses or rapalas.

Menominee River: Is producing walleye, catfish, pike and freshwater drum for those casting spoons or rapalas. Those anchoring by the deep holes near the paper mill did well when jigging minnows. A few walleye were caught at night by those fishing off the Cat Walk. They are casting rapalas or jigging minnows.

Cedar River: Anglers caught smallmouth bass when drifting minnows but the fish were running small. Pike were caught down near the mouth. No trout were reported.

Little Bay De Noc: Perch fishing slowed but a few were still caught near Gladstone Beach in 14 to 25 feet or the Kipling Flats in 17 to 28 feet. Fair to good walleye catches reported at the mouth of the Whitefish River in eight to 12 feet. Crawlers with jig heads or harnesses worked best. The reefs produced a few fish during the day but the better fishing was at night. From the "Narrows" south to the "Black Bottom" was best for walleye. Anglers are trolling or drifting crawlers in 18 to 30 feet of water.

Ford River: Had good smallmouth action around the mouth and up to the bridge. Shore and boat anglers are casting tube baits or crank baits.

Big Bay De Noc: A few walleye were caught in Kate's Bay and out to the "Boot" when trolling stick baits or crawler harnesses in 18 to 23 feet. Smallmouth bass were drawing anglers to Ogontz, South River, the "Sand Pit", Tylene's Bay, Kate's Bay and Garden Bay. Water temperatures are still cold for this time of year. Try plastics or crank baits in four to 10 feet of water. Fairport had no salmon reports.

Au Train: Is producing a good number of trout and Chinook salmon for those trolling from the Rock River and Shelter Bay to Au Train Point. Most are using spoons or stick baits in water 60 feet deep or less. Gusty north winds cooled the surface water to 40 degrees. Large schools of sticklebacks were reported in the area. Lake trout were common in waters less than 50 feet deep.

Munising: Pier fishing for splake was fair with only a few fish taken by those casting spawn. The fish range 13 to 20 inches. Boat anglers had good results for Chinook in the early morning. The average size was five pounds. A few splake were also caught. They are trolling spoons in 100 feet of water.

Grand Marais: The upper parking area continues to be blocked with construction debris. Pier anglers have done well taking a mix of whitefish, coho and rainbow trout when using spawn off the end of the pier. The majority of whitefish were small but some caught their limit. Early morning is best. Boats trolling east and west caught coho in less than 20 feet of water. Catch rates for pike were slow.

St. Mary's River: Had very good walleye fishing up near 15-Mile Road, off Cherokee Beach when trolling crawler harnesses at night in two to four feet of water. Good perch fishing at Neebish Island directly across from the Neebish Island Ferry Boat. Try minnows in four to six feet of water.

Drummond Island: Had excellent smallmouth bass fishing off Paw Point in Scott Bay for those casting or jigging tube baits or crank baits in shallow waters about three feet deep. Walleye catches were good in Scott Bay when trolling crawler harnesses with bottom bouncers in four to six feet of water or running planer boards between Paw Point and Peck Island. Bullheads were caught in the shallow waters of Maxton Bay. Smallmouth bass were caught by those casting tube jigs or still-fishing with minnows just north of the DNR launch.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch have been caught in Cedarville Bay by those using worms in six to eight feet of water near Little Joe Island. Pike fishing remains good throughout the Les Cheneaux Islands. Try still-fishing or casting with chubs. Bass fishing has been very good.

Carp River: Anglers are fishing at the Mackinaw Trail Bridge, the McDonald Rapids and at the mouth. They have caught steelhead, brook trout and brown trout on spinners.

June 13, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

This coming Saturday June 15th is the bass opener on Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River and the Detroit River. Catch rates have been good during the catch and release season so the opener should also be good.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Is producing walleye in 22 to 26 feet of water between Stony Point and the Raisin River buoys. A couple boats found success off Sterling State Park in 18 feet of water. They are running crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers or dipsey divers with spoons. Those launching from Bolles Harbor and Luna Pier found good numbers of fish around the Dumping Grounds. Hot colors were pink, green and purple. A few perch were caught off Sterling State Park in 22 to 24 feet of water.

Detroit River: The white bass are starting to thin out. Perch have been caught around the northeast and southeast corners of Celeron Island. Walleye were caught between Sugar Island and Grosse Ile and off the Ford Yacht Club by those hand-lining or jigging.

Lake St. Clair: Has very good bass fishing along the Mile Roads. Anglers are taking near limit catches of white bass near Sunshine Point and Huron Point which is the tip of the Metro Park. Boat anglers anchoring off these points are also catching white bass.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing remains very good for those jigging or trolling bottom bouncers and crawler harnesses. Walleye have been caught in the mouth of both the Middle and the South Channels. At Port Huron, white bass are starting to show up.

Lexington: Those trolling spoons and lead core in 30 to 110 feet of water have caught a mix of trout and salmon. A few walleye and whitefish were caught. Pier anglers are getting rock bass and bullhead.

Harbor Beach: Had good lake trout fishing in 80 to 120 feet in all directions. Try dodgers with spin-glo's or spoons just off the bottom. The salmon are in 60 to 100 feet and hitting on spoons in green, orange and black or mountain dew.

For steelhead, try bright colored spoons near the surface. For brown trout, fish closer to shore with long lines and bright colored spoons or body baits. Bass were caught by those trolling or casting spoons and body baits close to shore. There is a bug hatch currently underway so be prepared when you go out. Pier anglers caught rock bass, bullhead and a few walleye off the north wall.

Port Austin: Catch rates were spotty for chinook, coho, lake trout and steelhead. A few anglers were targeting walleye and whitefish near the lighthouse when trolling small spoons in 20 feet. Lake trout were caught near the bottom in 110 to 140 feet.

Saginaw Bay: Had good walleye catches at the Saganing Bar and the Pinconning Bar in 10 to 12 feet, off Finn Road in 5 to 8 feet, at the Coryeon Reef, the Callahan Reef and the Spark Plug. From Quanicassee to Fish Point, the action seems to be moving up the Slot. Anglers are using orange, chartreuse and copper crawler harnesses. Bay Port was slow but a few walleye were caught in the weeds and near the sailboat buoy at the end of the Slot. Fewer catfish were caught.

Saginaw River: Is still producing some walleye for those trolling in the lower river or jigging near Consumers.

Holloway Reservoir: Was producing some good catches of walleye.

Lobdell Lake: In Genesee County was producing some nice bluegills.

Lake Fenton: Was producing a fair to good number of crappie for those fishing in the deeper holes.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Salmon fishing was steady as the fish moved into shallow waters 60 to 90 feet deep. Perch fishing is slow. Pier anglers reported slow catch rates for salmon and steelhead but did catch freshwater drum and catfish.

St. Joseph River: Is producing catfish and freshwater drum for those using jigs and live bait on the bottom.

Coldwater Lake: Fishing was slow but a few anglers caught some large bluegill and a few perch.

Duck Lake: In Calhoun County is producing bluegill, bass and other panfish.

Winnipeg Lake: Was also producing bass and panfish.

South Haven: Fishing improved somewhat for boat anglers. A few perch were caught in waters 50 feet or deeper.

Holland: The harbor is currently being dredged. Boat anglers targeting salmon are struggling. Most were fishing the bottom 20 feet in 80 to 120 feet of water. Pier anglers using shrimp caught a couple steelhead. Small perch were caught in 40 to 60 feet of water.

Grand Haven: Those salmon fishing had to work hard. Try UV paddles and flies or spoons in green, gold or blue. Pier anglers using shrimp 3 to 4 feet down for steelhead had better luck than the pier anglers in Holland. A few perch were caught on minnows.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has good channel cat action up and down the river for those using cut bluegills and suckers. The flathead action is picking up with the warmer water. Try fresh cut bait or live suckers and creek chubs with 3 to 4 ounces of weight. Pike are hitting on bluegills, suckers and large spinner baits. Walleye anglers have done well when drifting crawlers and leeches, vertical jigging or casting body baits. Riverside Park and Millennium Park were good for bluegill and crappie.

Grand River at Lansing: Has good smallmouth bass fishing below the dams. Those fishing off Riverside Park have caught bass, pike and catfish. Try golden shiners for the pike and bass. Bluegill and crappie are being caught at Moore's Park. Catfish are hitting on live bait, cut bait, crawlers, leeches or chicken liver.

Jackson County: Lakes were producing near limit catches of panfish. Northern pike and largemouth bass have also been caught.

Reeds Lake: Is producing bluegill for those using leaf worms and wax worms. Pike, crappie and bass were also caught.

Muskegon River: Had good trout fishing with a lot of keeper size rainbows. Walleye have been caught in the Hardy Dam Impoundment. Many were small but anglers have taken some keepers.

Whitehall: Pier fishing was good for steelhead and brown trout. Anglers are still-fishing with alewife or casting silver spoons.

White Lake: Those seeking panfish have done very well for bluegill and perch.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Bass fishing on area lakes has been very good, producing some smallmouth bass in the 6 pound range. Brook trout fishing has been good on area streams and rivers.

Mullett Lake: Walleye catches were sporadic.

Rogers City: Lake trout action is in full swing with limit catches reported from Swan Bay, Adams Point, the "Humps", Seagull Point and Forty Mile Point. Water depth and technique vary day to day but most were in 40 to 80 feet.

Some days you need to fish right close to the bottom while other days the fish were suspended. Green, blue, chartreuse and yellow spoons were good right along with dodgers and spin-glow's or tube baits. Try large cowbells near the bottom. Pier fishing was slow. There are lots of smallmouth bass and rock bass in the marina.

Presque Isle: Has good lake trout action but some days are still better than others. Most of the fish were suspended and not on the bottom. Try 30 to 70 feet with dodgers or cowbells with spin-glo's or spoons. Try the Lighthouse, straight off the Red Can, and south towards Stoneport. Look for Atlantic salmon as well. Successful anglers are looking for structure. The lake trout are stuffed with gobies and smelt.

Rockport: Was producing some lake trout around Middle Island.

Alpena: Those fishing the Bay caught a few catfish, walleye, smallmouth bass, and lake trout. Try crawler harnesses and leeches for the walleye. Bigger lake trout were caught around Thunder Bay Island.

Harrisville: Is producing the occasional chinook, lake trout or steelhead. Water temperatures are still cold so you may need to go out to waters 50 to 80 feet deep and fish higher in the water column. Planer boards, dipsey's and lead seem to work best. Hot colors were orange, blue, and green.

Oscoda: Steelhead, salmon and lake trout are being caught in 60 to 80 feet of water. Try planer boards, lead and copper lines. Walleye are starting to come in good numbers. Use crawlers, leeches and body baits.

Au Sable River: Is producing brown trout for those fly fishing. The brown drake hatch was taking place.

Lake Margrethe: Those trolling rapalas or drifting crawler harnesses caught walleye.

Higgins Lake: Is producing some nice rock bass.

Houghton Lake: Had decent fishing for walleye and panfish.

Lake St. Helen: Is producing a fair to good number of panfish.

Tawas: A few boats trolling near Buoy #2 and beyond did catch a couple walleye. Pier anglers caught smallmouth and catfish.

Tawas River: Is producing some walleye, bluegill, bass and catfish. Try crawlers on the bottom or under a bobber.

Au Gres: Has been the hot spot with many limit catches of walleye. Anglers are trolling crawler harnesses in 35 feet of water between Pt. Au Gres and Point Lookout. A few perch or catfish were also caught.

Au Gres River: Is producing catfish. Try crawlers or cut bait.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Because of the cooler temperatures, the bluegill and sunfish are just starting to spawn on the inland lakes. Local streams are finally starting to drop to normal levels. Wading will be easier but the fish will spook easily with the clear water.

Harbor Springs: Boats were traveling five to six miles north of the boat launch or fishing around Harbor Point for lake trout. Fish were caught to the north by those using spin-glo's and cowbells 100 feet down in 150 feet of water.

Petoskey: Lots of anglers are fishing the breakwall and D Pier at the mouth of the river and taking smallmouth bass, walleye and even a few pike. Those on the D Pier caught rock bass on crawlers. Boat anglers caught lake trout but no salmon. Lake trout were 10 feet off the bottom in 70 feet of water in front of Bay Harbor. Many were fishing 60 to 100 feet down between the pier and Bay Harbor. A couple lake herring were also caught.

Bear River: Had few anglers but one was lucky and caught a steelhead above the dam. A couple small brown trout were caught on spinners.

Charlevoix: Walleye were still being caught in the channel at night but other than that, pier fishing was slow. Try jigs with rubber worms or deep diving crank baits. Boat anglers searching for salmon had no luck. Lake trout were caught between Fisherman's Island and Nine Mile Point. The fish were scattered throughout the water column. Try cowbells with orange or green spin-glo's, spoons and body baits.

Lake Skegemog: Had good bluegill and bass fishing.

Traverse City: The East Bay has good smallmouth bass fishing for those using tube baits. Lake trout and cisco were caught when casting or jigging in 30 feet of water. The lake trout were scattered. A few whitefish were caught. Those fly fishing on the flats caught carp. In the West Bay, lake trout and cisco were caught in shallow waters 10 to 20 feet deep. Those jigging for lake trout caught fish in 100 feet of water. Smallmouth bass fishing was good.

Elk River: Despite dredging in the harbor, smallmouth bass fishing has been fairly steady. Try live bait or tube baits. A couple late steelhead were caught.

Boardman River: Had good smallmouth bass fishing. Carp, suckers, rock bass and a few northern pike were also caught. Use live baits like crawlers, leeches and minnows.

Lake Leelanau: Had reports of good yellow perch fishing.

Frankfort: Trout are still hitting in and outside the breakwalls. Early morning is best with small body baits. Chinook salmon have arrived. Some were caught near the piers but most were taken 120 to 200 feet down in 170 to 350 feet of water.

Onekama: Chinook salmon are in the area however the cooler weather has them out in deeper water. Try 120 to 200 feet down in 200 to 300 feet.

Portage Lake: Has good fishing for all ages. Largemouth bass were hitting near the drop-offs on the east end. Perch, sunfish and bluegills were caught near Little Eden. Rock bass can be found near the buoys. Smallmouth bass were caught in the southwest corner between the inner pier and the marina. Crawlers work best. The Mayfly's have not hatched yet so the fish are out a little deeper.

Manistee: Catch rates were difficult as the fish are scattered. A few salmon were caught 45 to 110 feet down in 100 to 250 feet. Try UV paddles and dolphin colored spoons. A few fish were caught really deep on meat rigs.

Ludington: Had slow catch rates. A few salmon were caught 45 to 150 feet down in 80 to 225 feet of water with orange or green spoons and meat rigs.

Pentwater: The trout and salmon are scattered and hard to find. A couple lake trout were taken by those trolling 45 feet down in 160 feet of water. Pier fishing picked up with all the baitfish in the channel. Anglers have caught pike and smallmouth bass.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Anglers caught salmon when trolling from the head of the Bay northward to the Keweenaw Roadside Park. Try 25 to 60 feet down in 20 to 70 feet of water with spoons. Some caught a mix of chinook, coho and lake trout. Lake trout were caught near Farmers Reef, Newton's Reef and Big Reef. Lake trout and chinook were found between the Entry and the red rocks. Chinook and coho were caught near the Lighthouse when trolling 30 to 45 feet down in 40 to 50 feet. In Traverse Bay, those trolling or jigging caught lake trout near Hermits Cove, the Gay Stacks, Big Louie's Point or Five and Six Mile Reef. Try 130 to 160 feet of water when slow trolling or 130 to 220 feet when jigging with cut bait.

Marquette: Catch rates were average with anglers getting no fish or up to five with an assortment of chinook, coho, steelhead and lake trout. Best area for chinook was outside the Lower Harbor breakwall or towards the Chocoday and Sand Rivers. Try spoons and stick baits in less than 60 feet of water. Lake trout were caught near the "Sand Hole" and north of Granite Island in 180 to 200 feet of water. Some caught coho on high-lines 20 to 50 feet down. Stannard Rock is producing lake trout.

Lake Independence: Is producing a fair number of walleye.

Menominee: Had slow walleye fishing. No chinook were marked or caught.

Menominee River: Seems to be more productive than the Bay for those targeting walleye. They are trolling crawler harnesses and rapalas or jigging with minnows between the mouth and Stephenson Island. Shore anglers near the Hattie Street Dam caught walleye, smallmouth bass, rock bass and freshwater drum. Musky anglers did fair when drifting or casting musky baits.

Cedar River: Shore anglers are targeting smallmouth bass but few were caught.

Little Bay De Noc: Water temperatures were still 54 to 58 degrees. Walleye fishing was fair in the northern parts of the Bay. The better catches came in 14 to 28 feet of water however the exception was near the mouth of the Whitefish River where anglers did well in 8 to 12 feet when drifting or trolling crawler harnesses. A lot of fish were marked along the "Black Bottom" but few were caught. Walleye and perch were caught in the "Narrows" in 20 to 30 feet of water. The Kipling Flats produced some perch in 17 to 23 feet. Catch rates for smallmouth were fair.

Escanaba River: Catch rates slowed however walleye were still caught.

Ford River: Had fair to good smallmouth action along the river and just off the mouth. Most were casting plastics or crank baits along the shoreline.

Big Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers were struggling with only a few fish caught in 6 to 14 feet of water near Ogontz. Smallmouth bass fishing was fair to good throughout the Bay especially near South River, Kate's Bay and Garden Bay. Try plastics or crank baits in 3 to 10 feet of water. The bass were on the beds even though water temperatures remained cold. At Fairport, salmon anglers were few. Look for catch rates to pick up between the middle and the end of June.

Au Train: Had fair catches of chinook and lake trout. Some caught two or three chinook while others caught none. Lake trout were still hitting in 150 to 180 feet of water between Au Train Island and Wood Island. The lake trout were three to four pounds and the chinook averaged four to five pounds.

Munising: Boat anglers caught a fair number of chinook salmon. The fish were scattered so while some boats were lucky enough to find them others came back with empty coolers. Best times to fish were early morning or sunset when trolling spoons in waters up to 100 feet deep. Lake trout action was fair near Grand Portal but slow near Miners. Pier anglers casting or using spawn for splake caught few fish.

Grand Marais: The upper parking area has been cleared of construction debris and is now open. Whitefish catches saw a dramatic drop. Very early morning was best but the fish have been small. Try still-fishing with a single egg. Boat anglers caught a few lake trout in 50 to 300 feet of water. Pier anglers caught whitefish and coho.

St. Mary's River: Those fishing Raber Bay caught walleye around Burnt Island when trolling crank baits in 3 to 4 feet of water and 6 to 8 feet behind the boat. Catfish were also caught. Up near Barbeau, anglers are catching musky along the south end of the rock near Teacup Island. Most are trolling large crank baits in 4 to 10 feet of water. Good smallmouth action on the south end of Neebish Island and around Moon Island when casting crank baits or tube baits in 4 to 5 feet of water.

DeTour: Anglers caught chinook, Atlantic salmon and a few lake trout. Atlantic salmon are hitting in 15 to 30 feet of water. Pink was the hot color. Chinook were deeper in 45 to 55 feet. Anglers are fishing from the city launch south to the #3 Green Can, around the lighthouse and the Red Can. Over by Drummond Island, walleye anglers are fishing in the shallow waters near Scott Bay and Maxton Bay. Anglers need to use caution and watch for the nets near Drummond Island. Two are set near the Green Can and one is set just past the ferry boat.

Cedarville and Hessel: Northern pike action slowed around the Les Cheneaux Islands but anglers may still catch fish when casting or still-fishing with minnows or chubs. Perch are hitting in Hessel Bay, off the marina pier, in Cedarville Bay and around Little Joe Island. Use worms or minnows. Large and smallmouth bass are plentiful along the east end of Hessel Bay, the west end of Musky Bay and the Snows Channel. Rock bass are spawning, and hitting as well.

June 20, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Cooler temperatures and windy conditions have kept anglers at bay. Shore anglers fishing the rivers need to be careful as the banks may not be stable after the heavy rains.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Had fair walleye fishing over the past week. Those fishing in Ohio waters have done well. In Michigan waters, anglers can be found out from Estral Beach and the south end of Stony Point. Slow trolling and bright colors seem to work best in 17 to 25 feet of water. Good numbers of perch have been caught around the Raisin River Buoys 1 through 4. Smallmouth bass were hitting near the Dumping Grounds, the "Humps" and the mouth of the Raisin River.

Huron River: Bass were hitting on golden shiners and catfish on crawlers and leeches. Check the backwaters for crappie.

Detroit River: Those fishing around Rat Island have caught some perch. Bass season is open and catch rates were fair to good.

Lexington: Some large rock bass along with a few pike and smallmouth bass were caught off the docks. The fish were scattered but Chinook, coho, steelhead and lake trout were caught in waters 50 to 60 feet or as deep as 100 feet or more.

Harbor Beach: Anglers have caught whitefish and walleye in 30 feet of water however most of the fish caught were whitefish. For salmon, try 120 to 160 feet straight out, north or south of the harbor with spoons off downriggers and dipsey's or 5 and 10 color lead lines off the boards. Orange, black, purple and green were good colors. Steelhead were also caught on bright colored spoons up near the surface. Lake trout are in 80 to 150 feet. Try dodgers with spin-glo's. Bass are still being caught inside the harbor and close to shore.

Port Austin: Anglers are getting a few walleye and whitefish in 20 to 30 feet however the water was still cold so the bite was slow.

Saginaw Bay: Had fair to good walleye fishing along the Coryeon Reef, Callahan Reef, the Slot, Wildfowl Bay and North Island. Caseville and the area around Big Charity Island were slow.

Saginaw River: Those fishing off Smith Park caught smallmouth bass, channel catfish and freshwater drum.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Pier anglers have caught the occasional steelhead when floating shrimp under a bobber.

Kalamazoo River: Those fishing near the Allegan Dam caught walleye, bass and catfish. Some are using live bait.

Holland: Boat anglers are struggling when fishing in 80 to 150 feet of water. Pier anglers were also struggling.

Grand Haven: Pier anglers continue to catch steelhead when using shrimp under a bobber. Boat anglers are struggling to catch Chinook. They are fishing the top 40 feet in 80 to 130 feet of water with blue, green and orange lures. Steelhead were caught near the mouth of the river as well as in waters 200 feet or deeper with lead core in one to three colors. Try orange body baits or super slims.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Continues to produce smallmouth bass. Channel cats are hitting on chicken liver, crawlers, leeches and cut bait. For flatheads, go with live bluegills or suckers. A few pike were caught by those casting body baits, spinners or sucker minnows.

Grand River at Lansing: Fewer anglers were fishing with the higher water levels. The fish are there however it will be hard to keep your bait in place. Conditions may improve by the end of the week.

Jackson County: Many are fishing the inland lakes. Shore and boat anglers were taking some near limit catches of panfish. Northern pike and largemouth bass have also been caught.

Muskegon River: Is producing trout and bass.

Whitehall: Anglers are running into Chinook and coho in 45 to 60 feet of water. Some of the Chinook were quite large. Blue flies are working well. Orange and green were the hot colors. Coho were near the top of the water column. Anglers had luck using sliders and copper. Those fishing the channel and off the pier caught catfish on pink crawler harnesses.

White Lake: Panfish were caught on crawlers. Some caught a few perch.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Had no report this week however the lake trout fishing should still be in good shape for those fishing in the bays and off the points. Windy conditions may have the fish scattered.

Harrisville: With water temperature slowly rising, lake trout are moving out to deeper waters. The fish are suspended in 70 to 100 feet. Try spoons, body baits or J-plugs. Steelhead were near the surface in 40 to 60 feet. Orange and blue were the hot colors.

Oscoda: Walleye seem to be moving in and out of the river. Lake trout were hitting in 80 to 100 feet. Try spoons and flies that resemble smelt.

Au Sable River: Boat anglers targeting walleye have done very well when drifting. Catch rates were fairly consistent when using crawlers, leeches or body baits. Steelhead are still coming up into the river. Most of the fish were males that were still fresh. Try spawn, crawlers, wax worms or flies.

Houghton Lake: Is still producing the occasional walleye and some bluegills. Catch rates for bass were fair to good in the early morning or evening.

Tawas: Some caught a few walleye when trolling in 35 to 50 feet of water however many were heading toward Au Gres.

Au Gres: Continues to be the hot spot for walleye. Anglers are fishing in 35 to 50 feet of water between Pt. Au Gres and Alabaster. Limit catches were taken however there is a lot of fishing pressure in the area. Some caught the occasional perch, catfish or freshwater drum.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Trout fishing remains very good with rain helping to keep water levels up. No word on the hex hatch but it should be coming soon. Panfish are spawning on the inland lakes and this is a great time to get them.

Harbor Springs: Lake trout fishing was a little slower this week because of the wind. Smallmouth bass fishing has been very good. Try green tube baits or pink crawlers out in front of the Petoskey State Park. A good number of the fish caught were over four pounds.

Petoskey: Pier anglers are catching smallmouth and pike when casting crank baits or still-fishing with crawlers. The old pier near the mouth is a popular spot for kids to catch rock bass. Boat anglers were still had difficulty finding salmon because of the cooler water temperatures. Lake trout were 10 feet off the bottom in 70 feet of water. Lake herring were also caught.

Bear River: Is still producing some steelhead.

Charlevoix: Pier anglers continue to catch walleye at night when casting crank baits. Lake herring are also in the channel. One was caught on a crawler in the middle of the day however most were caught at night by the walleye anglers. Salmon action is still slow however lake trout have been caught throughout the water column by those using cowbells and orange or green spin-glo's.

Traverse City: Lake trout and cisco fishing should be good in the East Bay however few boats have been out. Smallmouth bass have been caught on the beds or along the first drop off. Try green and brown tube baits. In the West Bay, smallmouth bass are being caught in the shallows. Lake trout have been caught at variable depths by those trolling or jigging.

Elk River: Has decent smallmouth bass fishing. Try crawlers, leeches or plastic baits. Many have caught smaller fish.

Boardman River: Those using crawlers and leeches have caught smallmouth bass and rock bass. Pike and carp were also caught.

Frankfort: Most anglers are catching lake trout in 90 to 115 feet of water when bouncing slide divers with chrome dodgers off the bottom. Those targeting Chinook salmon have been disappointed by the lack of warm water that is needed to bring the fish in.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers are still catching a good number of fish when casting rubber worms or crank baits along the shoreline. The annual Mayfly hatch is just finishing up. Water temperatures are still a bit on the cold side so the fish are in closer to shore. Bluegills, rock bass, perch and pumpkinseed have been caught between Little Eden and the buoy.

Manistee: Salmon fishing has been difficult. Steelhead and lake trout have been caught in the top 80 feet of water with orange or yellow spoons. Pier fishing is slow.

Lake Cadillac: Is producing a good number of largemouth bass. Try crawlers, leeches or spinners. Crappie could be found in 10 to 15 feet of water.

Lake Mitchell: Anglers are catching pike. Some are using sucker minnows. Bluegill and crappie were in deeper water. Largemouth bass have been caught in the shallows in the early morning or evening.

Ludington: Boat anglers heading out twelve miles or more found lake trout and steelhead. Orange, green or yellow spoons were the ticket. Salmon fishing was slow.

Pentwater: Anglers fishing the channel have taken bass and catfish when still-fishing with live bait. In the big lake, look for salmon in 45 to 60 feet of water.

Pentwater Lake: Those fishing off Long Bridge caught some nice panfish.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Those salmon fishing did well for when trolling north to the Roadside Park. Try 25 to 60 feet down in 30 to 70 feet of water with spoons. Some got a mix of Chinook, coho and lake trout. From the South Portage Entry, lake trout were caught by those jigging near Farmers, Newton's and Big Reef. Try south to the Red Rocks or along the breakwall and fish 25 feet of water. Traverse Bay anglers did well when jigging for lake trout near Hermits Cove, the Gay Stacks and Big Louie's Point. Try spoons in 130 to 160 feet with speeds between 1.9 and 2.4 mph or jigging with cut bait in 130 to 220 feet.

Marquette: Catch rates were a bit slower but anglers have caught Chinook near the Chocolate River and the Sand River. A few less coho were taken with the fish suspended in 20 to 30 feet of water. Lake trout action remains consistent about four miles to the east towards Shot Point or the "Sand Hole" in 200 feet of water. Good lake trout fishing around Stannard Rock for those jigging.

Menominee: The bay has been slow for walleye. Most are trolling crawler harnesses north and south of the Cedar River.

Menominee River: Anglers trolling crawler harnesses have caught walleye right along with smallmouth bass, rock bass, channel cats and even a few pike. Those jigging in some of the deeper holes have also caught fish. The gates to the dam were closed which shut fishing down near the dam. A few were casting rapalas with not much luck. Muskie anglers were having a slow week.

Cedar River: Had some good catches of smallmouth bass, walleye and pike. Anglers were drifting crawler harnesses or casting rapalas.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye action slowed some but fish were still being caught between the Whitefish River and the Days River when trolling or drifting crawlers in 12 to 23 feet of water. Fish were caught near the "Black Bottom" in 14 to 25 feet. Perch fishing was fair near Kipling and Gladstone Beach. Try minnows or crawlers in 18 to 28 feet of water. Good smallmouth action near the Ford River. Try crank baits or plastics in three to 10 feet of water.

Big Bay De Noc: Was producing some nice catches of walleye between the "Boot", Ansell's Point and Kate's Bay. Most are trolling crawler harnesses in 18 to 22 feet of water. A few perch were caught in Garden Bay by those using crawlers in eight to 12 feet of water. Smallmouth bass fishing has been good. Some of the fish have spawned and are now a little deeper. Bass and walleye were caught in six to 12 feet of water near Ogontz. Crawlers and crank baits were the ticket. Garden Bay, Kate's Bay, Martins Bay and Porcupine Point were producing fish. Try minnows, crank baits or plastics in three to 16 feet of water. Off Fairport, several anglers were marking fish off the northeast corner of Little Summer Island but none were caught.

Au Train: Salmon fishing was very slow in Au Train Bay. Try 180 to 200 feet of water. A few tried high-lines for coho but had no success. Lake trout fishing was consistent with most averaging two to five fish. Offshore water temperatures were in the mid 40's.

Munising: Boat anglers targeting Chinook salmon had poor to fair results. A few boats managed to catch a few fish but most were coming back empty-handed. Early morning and evening seem to be the best time to fish in 100 feet of water. Pier anglers caught a few splake when casting or still-fishing with spawn but many were small.

Grand Marais: Pier anglers were still taking some whitefish and the occasional coho. Early to mid-morning was best but smaller fish were caught around sunset. Target the whitefish by still-fishing with a single egg. Shore anglers did not have much success for pike or perch.

St. Mary's River: In Raber Bay, walleye are hitting at Carlton Creek. Most are trolling bottom bouncers and crawler harnesses in six to eight feet of water. In Munuscong Bay, walleye fishing was good near Pine Island and out from Dan's Resort. Most are trolling small crank baits of crawler harnesses with small split shot. The north end of Grassy Island had walleye in three to four feet of water.

DeTour: Anglers are trolling from the city launch out to the #3 Green Can, around the lighthouse and over to the #2 Red Can. Salmon and lake trout were most active in the early morning. At Drummond Island, walleye were caught in Maxton Bay near the mouth of the river and in Scott Bay between Paw Point and Peck Island. Most are trolling bottom bouncers with crawler harnesses in three to six feet of water. Good smallmouth action in Scott Bay. Try casting and jigging tube baits on the south end of James Island.

Cedarville and Hessel: Northern pike fishing is good in the Les Cheneaux Islands. Try minnows or chubs in six to 10 feet of water. Hessel Bay, Musky Bay and Snows Channel were good for large and smallmouth bass. A few perch were caught in Hessel Bay and Cedarville Bay.

Carp River: Is producing a good number of rainbow trout.

June 27, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The Fisheries Division is now producing a quarterly outreach publication for anglers titled "Reel in Michigan's Fisheries" which will showcase waters that are actively managed and provide the public with enhanced knowledge and the opportunity to access information contained in survey reviews and management reports. The quarterly publication can be found at: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364-306572--,00.html>.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Had a large mayfly hatch. Walleye fishing was slow in Michigan waters. Those heading out to Ohio waters caught fish around West Sister Island. Perch fishing was good in Brest Bay in 18 to 20 feet or off Toledo Beach in 15 feet. Anglers are trolling orange, copper and purple spoons or crawler harnesses in 19 to 23 feet of water between Stony Point and the River Raisin. Catch rates were inconsistent but anglers were taking fish.

Huron River: Bass are being caught from Dexter to Ypsilanti.

Detroit River: White bass are still being caught in the upper river although the peak of the run is over. Smallmouth and largemouth bass are also being caught.

Lake St. Clair: Had very good walleye fishing around the shipping channel, the Dumping Grounds and off the 400 Club. Most are using crawler harnesses.

St. Clair River: Also had very good walleye fishing for those using crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers. Walleye were caught near the Blue Water Bridge.

Lexington: Is producing a good number of white bass.

Port Sanilac: Is producing some perch along the weed beds. A few fish were up near 16 inches.

Harbor Beach: Has produced some nice salmon and steelhead in the top 50 feet of waters 150 to 220 feet deep. Try spoons off downriggers or 5 and 10 color lead lines with offshore boards. Hot colors were orange or glow with black as well as silver and black. Use regular or magnum spoons. Lake trout fishing is good in 80 to 120 feet with dodgers and spin-gloves or spoons just off the bottom. Brown trout are still close to shore in 30 to 40 feet. Try long lines with bright colored spoons or body baits. A few walleye were caught on body baits. Bass and pike can be found in the harbor. For perch, try inside the harbor or south near the cemetery.

Port Austin: Walleye fishing is just getting started with a few fish taken off the reefs. As the water continues to warm, walleye fishing off the tip of the Thumb will improve. Pier anglers are taking a few walleye near dusk and after dark.

Saginaw Bay: Has excellent walleye fishing from Au Gres to Sand Point. Limit catches are common. Crawler harnesses are working everywhere but some are starting to use Hot-n-Tots or spoons. Excellent fishing was noted off the Pinconning Bar, Gambil's Marina, Linwood, the Spark Plug, the Callahan Reef, the Coryeon Reef, the Slot between Quanicassee and North Island, the Bar, Wildfowl Bay and off the mouth of the Kawkawlin and the Saginaw Rivers. While lots of fish are being caught, plan to catch about one sub-legal fish for every keeper.

Saginaw River: Walleye have been caught in the lower river by those trolling Hot-n-Tots between the mouth and the Coast Guard Station. This is a good option for those with smaller boats that might not be able to get out on the open water.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Overall fishing has been slow. Boat anglers are targeting waters 60 to 300 feet deep. Pier anglers have caught the occasional steelhead. Alewife and shrimp worked best. Perch fishing was also slow as the fish were scattered in 20 to 65 feet of water.

South Haven: Had slow catch rates for boat and pier anglers. Boats were fishing anywhere from 40 feet to 250 feet or more. Perch fishing is slow.

Kalamazoo River: Those fishing upstream of Marshall caught pike and bass.

Holland: Pier anglers are still catching an occasional steelhead when floating shrimp under a bobber. Some are targeting freshwater drum just for the fun of it.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers are struggling for salmon. Pier anglers have caught a handful of perch when using small minnows or alewife. The perch are small, 6 to 8 inches.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Smallmouth bass are hitting on crawlers, leeches, spinners and tube baits. Channel cats are hitting on chicken liver, crawlers, leeches and cut bait. For flatheads, go with live bluegills or suckers. A few pike were caught by those casting body baits, spinners or sucker minnows.

Grand River at Lansing: Is producing some catfish. Try live or cut bait.

Jackson County: Inland lakes were producing near limit catches of panfish along with some bass and pike.

Calhoun County: Duck Lake was producing nice panfish including redear sunfish and crappie. Nottawa Lake was giving up some nice panfish and a few bass. Word has it no pike have been caught this year.

Branch County: Lake Lavine was producing bluegills. Union Lake and Marble Lake were good for bass.

Muskegon River: Had very good trout fishing below Croton Dam.

Whitehall: Is producing some coho, steelhead and lake trout. Try copper, dipsey's and green flashers. Pier and channel anglers caught freshwater drum.

White Lake: Anglers were catching a good number of bass. Green and chartreuse worked well in the weeds or black and yellow near the lilies.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Is producing decent numbers of lake trout however some of the fish were smaller. Try Adams Point, Forty Mile Point and Sea Gull Point with cowbells and dodgers with spin-glow or spoons near the bottom. Chinook, steelhead and the occasional Atlantic salmon are starting to show up. No big numbers yet but anglers should find a fish or two. Try west towards Forty Mile Point, off the State Park or south towards Adams Point 25 to 75 feet down in 60 to 120 feet of water. Hot colors were green, blue, orange and green or silver. Glow or darker colors early or late.

Presque Isle: Has a good number of lake trout however they seem to be shallow one day and out deeper the next. Try cowbells or dodgers with spin-glow when high lining in the shallows or fishing just off the bottom out deeper. Chinook are starting to show up. The hot spots were straight out from the Red Can and west between the two lighthouses about 30 to 80 feet down in 60 to 120 feet. Hot colors were green and silver, blue and silver, orange and green or blue and green.

Rockport: Those looking for lake trout were fishing in 70 to 100 feet around Middle Island. Flashers or dodgers with spin-glow did catch a few lake trout. Chinook and Atlantic salmon were rare but a few were caught. Walleye anglers did not have much luck but a few did take some nice fish.

Alpena: Catch rates were spotty for walleye. Those trolling crawler harnesses did catch a few fish. Blade colors did not make a difference. A few fish were caught on pink and purple crank baits. Lake trout were caught around the ship wrecks. Try spoons or spin-glow behind flashers and dodgers in 70 to 100 feet of water. A couple pink salmon were also caught.

Thunder Bay River: Was very slow during the day with only a couple freshwater drum or smallmouth bass caught. Those fishing at night did best for walleye.

Harrisville: Fishing has turned into a guessing game. Lake trout have been caught in waters as shallow as 30 feet or deeper in 100 feet. Steelhead and salmon were found in 40 to 70 feet. The only certain thing is the fish are suspended and all seem to be chasing the same colors of blue, orange, white and silver. Planer boards with lead core worked best. Walleye were caught near the lighthouse in 12 to 20 feet with crawler harnesses or body baits.

Oscoda: Lake trout and steelhead are coming in, but few and far between. Lake trout should be in 60 to 100 feet of water and steelhead should be in 50 to 70 feet. Look for the scum lines.

Au Sable River: Walleye seem to be the biggest draw. Early morning and late evening were best when using crawlers, leeches and body baits. Steelhead are still making their way up into the river. Anglers reported fish on the beds near the Boy Scout Camp and High Banks or the deeper holes by the Whirlpool.

Tawas: Those trolling around Buoy #2 and beyond in 30 to 70 feet of water are taking good numbers of walleye. Smallmouth bass and the occasional walleye were caught inside the bay. Pier anglers caught a few bass and pike.

Tawas River: Shore anglers are getting catfish and freshwater drum.

Au Gres: Is most likely the busiest port on Saginaw Bay right now. A lot of boats are catching a lot of walleye. Most of the action has been between Pointe Au Gres and Point Lookout however some are heading north toward Alabaster or south. They are taking limit catches in 30 to 40 feet of water.

Au Gres River: Had slow catch rates with only a few catfish taken.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Lake trout were caught 50 feet down with spoons, cowbells and dodgers around Harbor Point. Many were sub-legal. A good number of smallmouth bass have been caught on tube baits and crank baits around the docks or on the Harbor Springs side of the State Park. Some caught cisco right off the bass beds.

Petoskey: Boat anglers did not find the salmon. Lake trout fishing was best in front of Bay Harbor and near the breakwall. Try 80 feet down in 130 feet of water with spoons. Steelhead and freshwater drum were also caught. Pier anglers did manage to catch a couple walleye off the D Pier. One was caught on a crawler and the other on a jig with a twisty tail. Smallmouth bass, rock bass, freshwater drum and carp have also been caught.

Bear River: Had few anglers. Steelhead were caught on spawn up near the dam.

Charlevoix: Is producing lake trout near Nine Mile Point. The fish are suspended or near the bottom along the shelves. Try 50 to 80 feet of water with spin-gloves, spoons or green p-nuts. Fish were also marked in 200 feet of water near the can at the Cement Plant. No salmon to report. Walleye have been caught at night in the channel. Try crawlers and leeches on crawler rigs or a single hook, artificial minnows or crank baits. Smallmouth bass were caught on crawlers or leeches. Lake herring were taken on small blue and grey spoons in the evening. Carp and pike were seen off the end of the North Pier.

Lake Charlevoix: Had reports of smallmouth bass on the beds in 7 to 8 feet of water. The walleye had their bellies full of mayflies.

Traverse City: The East Bay has good smallmouth action. Try tube baits or other plastics that mimic gobies or crayfish. Lake trout were caught in 35 to 110 feet of water. The West Bay is producing lake trout, cisco and smallmouth bass. Most of the lake trout were caught by those jigging in 100 feet of water.

Elk River: Is still producing good numbers of smallmouth but many were sub-legal.

Boardman River: Is producing a variety of fish including smallmouth bass, pike, rock bass and carp. Go with leeches or plastic baits.

Frankfort: Chinook salmon are starting to show up in 120 to 220 feet of water. Anglers are fishing 45 to 90 feet down along the Shelf. Early morning is best with blue magnum spoons. Lake trout were caught near the bottom in 80 to 120 feet with cowbells. Those heading out 12 to 16 miles have caught steelhead near the surface.

Onekama: Anglers reported chinook salmon straight out in 100 to 220 feet of water. Most are trolling 40 to 100 feet down with flies and spoons.

Portage Lake: Bluegills, rock bass, perch and pumpkinseed are hitting on crawlers along the weed beds and the drop-offs. More bass have been caught now that the mayfly hatch is done. Walleye were taken on crawler harnesses.

Manistee: Fishing has not been easy. A few chinook were caught 45 to 100 feet down in 100 to 200 feet of water with orange spoons and meat rigs. A couple steelhead and lake trout were also caught.

Manistee River: A few summer-run steelhead have been caught below Tippy Dam. Small brown trout were caught between M-72 and the CCC Bridge. Salmon were reported as far up as the Nine Mile Bridge in the Little Manistee.

Ludington: Salmon fishing continues to be slow. A few trout and salmon were taken 45 to 120 feet down in 80 to 180 feet of water. Most are using orange or green spoons with meat rigs.

Pentwater: Has baitfish close to shore. Pier and channel anglers caught freshwater drum or the occasional bass. Boat anglers reported large schools of trout and salmon in both shallow and deep waters. A couple steelhead or small chinook were caught in 40 feet of water north and south of the pier. Those trolling 50 to 100 feet down in 170 to 200 feet caught chinook and coho.

Pentwater Lake: Walleye and large panfish were caught on crawlers or leeches.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Catch rates for salmon were fair for those trolling 25 to 100 feet down in 150 to 240 feet of water between Sand Point and Carla's. Try spoons and flies. From the South Portage Entry, lake trout were caught by those jigging near Farmers Reef, Newton's Reef and Big Reef. Chinook, lake trout and coho were caught when trolling south towards the Red Rocks and the Roadside Park. Try 30 to 45 feet down in 40 to 50 feet of water. Anglers did well for lake trout near Hermits Cove, the Gay Stacks, Big Louie's Point and along Five and Six Mile Reefs. When trolling, target 130 to 160 feet or 130 to 220 feet when jigging cut bait.

Marquette: Had good chinook and coho salmon action. No limits but anglers are picking up four or five coho and the occasional chinook weighing up to 14 pounds outside the Lower Harbor breakwall near the "Green Can" and near Shot Point in 50 to 70 feet of water. Lake trout action was good near the "White Rocks" and near Sand Hole. A couple coho were caught on high-lines about 20 feet down in 200 feet of water. Stannard Rock has been good for those jigging for lake trout. Areas near the Chocoy River and Shot Point had slightly warmer water temperatures.

Menominee River: Is producing walleye, smallmouth, rock bass, channel cats and freshwater drum. The walleye were smaller but some nice smallmouth bass have been caught by those trolling crank baits or crawler harnesses. Shore anglers are drifting crawlers and minnows or casting crank baits.

Cedar River: The smallmouth bass fishing has been phenomenal with fish 20 inches and bigger being caught by those casting rapalas or drifting crawler harnesses. A couple pike have also been caught.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers had fair catches with the hot spot near Breezy Point when trolling crawler harnesses in 10 to 18 feet of water along the drop-off. Fish were caught along the "Black Bottom" in 14 to 20 feet and along the Kipling Reef when trolling crawlers in 12 to 23 feet. Perch fishing was fair along the Kipling Flats and south of the "Narrow". Try still-fishing with crawlers or minnows in 18 to 30 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: Had good walleye fishing for those trolling or drifting crawler harnesses in 16 to 23 feet of water around the "Boot" and Ansell's Point. Ogontz is still producing smallmouth bass when trolling or casting crank baits, plastics or minnows in 3 to 14 feet. A few perch were caught in Garden Bay when drifting or still-fishing crawlers in 8 to 12 feet of water. At Fairport, a few boats were starting to get some fish when trolling spoons in 45 to 110 feet of water.

Au Train: Success rates for lake trout were mixed with anywhere from no fish to five fish caught. Some were lucky enough to catch the occasional chinook or coho. Most were using spoons along the east shoreline near the Au Train River or Shelter Bay. Near shore water temperatures were in the low 50's and the offshore waters were still averaging the mid 40's.

Manistique Lake: Is producing some bluegill and a few pike.

St. Mary's River: Is producing northern pike in Raber Bay and near Lime Island. Anglers are trolling crank baits in 5 to 7 feet of water. Fair to good walleye action near the mouth of the Gogomain River when trolling small crank baits or crawler harnesses in 3 to 4 feet. No word yet on lake herring. Boat anglers need to be careful and watch for rocks and sand bars along the river and near Drummond Island.

DeTour: Anglers are trolling from the city launch out to the #3 Green Can, around the lighthouse and over to the #2 Red Can near Drummond Island. Some boats are venturing three miles further to the south and fishing around the flats. Early morning was best for Atlantic salmon, chinook salmon and lake trout. Hot colors were orange, watermelon and green. Good walleye fishing around Swedes Point for those using minnows with slip bobbers.

Drummond Island: Walleye fishing was slow however rock bass and channel cats were caught on worms in 5 to 7 feet of water in Maxton Bay.

Cedarville and Hessel: Northern pike fishing is good in the Les Cheneaux Islands. Try minnows or chubs in 6 to 10 feet of water. Large and smallmouth bass have been caught in Hessel Bay, Musky Bay and Snows Channel when casting or trolling. A few more perch were caught in Hessel Bay and Cedarville Bay. The mayfly hatch is in full swing so catch rates tend to go up and down.

St. Ignace: A handful of anglers were out targeting chinook and lake trout on the backside of Mackinaw Island, along the flats and between the old fuel tanks and the Coast Guard Station.