

January 10, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Ice fishing season has started in the northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula. There may be ice in the southern Lower Peninsula however conditions for the most part are not safe and will deteriorate rapidly with rain and much warmer temperatures by the end of the week.

The public is reminded that helmets are still required to be worn when operating an ATV or snowmobile while recreating. This includes but not limited to operating on the ice, trails and state land.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Winds out of the west/southwest dropped not only the water levels along the shoreline but catch rates as well. Any ice in this area is unstable.

Huron River: The steelhead action was slow but a few fish were caught between Flat Rock and the mouth by those floating wax worms or casting Little Cleo's.

Detroit River: Fishing is spotty. Some are fishing in the canals near Gibraltar.

Lake St Clair: Has ice in a few places but it is marginal and with warm weather in the forecast, it could become unsafe by the end of the week. Anglers are encouraged to be patient and wait for safe ice before heading out.

Saginaw Bay: Ice conditions were marginal at best. Ice along the shoreline is expected to deteriorate with the warm weather this week. While it's true that most perch fishing takes place in 2 to 3 feet of water, anglers still risk getting wet. Perch anglers were out fishing off Palmer Road. The action was not red-hot but most were getting a few keepers. Off Linwood, perch were caught in the marina basin and out in front of the marina. Those casting tube jigs into the open water around the bubblers seem to catch more fish than the ice anglers. Near Quanicassee, a lot of anglers were fishing at Vanderbilt Park. While the bite was good, that many people out fishing may have spooked the fish as not many were caught.

Ice conditions up the east side of the bay were questionable. The area off Sebewaing is so shallow that fish are not attracted to it at this time. Most fishing activity was inside the marina basins at Sebewaing, Bay Port and Caseville where a few perch were taken.

Saginaw River: An ice breaker came up into the lower Saginaw River last Friday and broke up all the ice as far upstream as the Wirt Stone Dock, so anglers fishing the river mouth are out of business until it freezes up again.

Tittabawassee River: The river and boat ramp are ice free at Gordonville Road, and as far south as Tittabawassee Road, but no boat anglers were fishing.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Pier anglers are catching a few whitefish.

St. Joseph River: Those fishing the holes up near the Berrien Springs Dam caught steelhead on spawn.

Kalamazoo River: Those fishing below the Allegan Dam caught steelhead on spawn, plugs or Hot-n-Tots.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is producing steelhead near the 6th Street Dam. Anglers are using a jig with a wax worm under a bobber. Walleye were also caught near the dam. Try bouncing a jig with a minnow off the bottom. Some brown trout were caught between the dam and the Cottonwood Boat Launch. Try spoons, spinners or thundersticks.

Grand River at Lansing: Pike and walleye have been caught at the North Lansing Dam and the Moore's Park Dam. Try golden shiners and sucker minnows. Pike are still being caught in Grand Ledge. Pike minnows worked best.

Lake Lansing: Ice anglers were catching small pike on tip-ups when using small sucker minnows.

Muskrat Lake: Is producing the occasional bluegill.

Muskegon River: Continues to produce steelhead and limit catches of walleye.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Avalon: In Montmorency County is producing a few bigger splake.

Alpena: The boat ramps are frozen in. A few perch were caught in the harbor.

Au Sable River: The ramps are usable. Steelhead were caught from Foote Dam all the way down to Oscoda and the mouth. Boat anglers are back drifting plugs or casting spawn.

Higgins Lake: The boat launches are iced in but not enough ice for ice fishing yet.

Houghton Lake: Ice fishing is on and anglers are setting up their shanties. Be sure to use caution around the chunk ice on the south shore as well as near any inlets or outlets. Walleye fishing was good in in 4 to 8 feet of water.

Tawas: Anglers are getting some perch out of Jerry's Marina basin as well as off Jerry's in 10 to 15 feet of water. Walleye anglers are inching out to 15 to 17 feet and getting a few. No pike spearing yet.

Au Gres River: Has ice fishing in the lower river. Anglers are getting a few perch and sublegal walleye.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Newaygo, Oceana, Mecosta and Osceola County have good fishing. Ice fishing activity has really picked up.

Long Lake: In Grand Traverse County is producing some walleye.

Manistee River: Steelhead fishing remains fair with boat anglers in the lower river catching most of the fish.

Lake Missaukee: Has been good for bluegill for those out ice fishing.

Lake Cadillac: Ice fishing is in full swing. Anglers are catching pike, crappie and a few walleye.

Lake Mitchell: Is also producing pike and crappie.

Pere Marquette River: Steelhead are being caught but not consistently.

UPPER PENINSULA

Many lakes in Keweenaw, Houghton, and Baraga County had too much slush for ice fishing. The slush makes for difficult travel as well as slow fishing.

Lake Gogebic: Ice anglers caught perch in Bergland Bay. A few walleye were also caught along the north end.

Lac Vieux Desert: Ice anglers are catching good numbers of pike ranging 16 to 24 inches. Most are using tip-ups with golden shiners over the weed beds in 6 feet of water. Only a few anglers have caught walleye.

A good number of bluegills were caught on wax worms in 6 to 10 feet of water. The fish range 6.5 to 7.5 inches. Some caught crappie. As for perch, anglers are catching them however most of the fish caught were 8 inches or smaller.

Portage Lake: In Houghton County has ice. Anglers caught crappie near Chassell.

Keweenaw Bay: Has no ice. Huron Bay has shore ice only.

Groveland Mine Ponds: In Dickinson County have ice. Plenty of small bluegills along with a couple nice perch and crappie were caught in Island Pond. Try jigging wax worms, wigglers or minnows a foot off the bottom in 13 to 15 feet of water. The West Pond has small bluegills, crappie and sunfish in 15 feet of water for those jigging or using tip-ups. The East Pond has small perch and muskie in 12 to 20 feet of water. The South Pond had no reports of fish caught. Anglers were targeting walleye and panfish west of the boat launch in 30 feet of water.

Lake Antoine: Fishing was slow with only small perch caught by those jigging with natural baits. Most were on the north end of the lake in 8 to 10 feet of water.

Little Bay De Noc: Has some ice however most of the bay still has open water. A pressure crack has formed along the north end of Butler Island. Anglers should avoid this area. Anglers are just starting to fish in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor but most were fishing the Kipling area or the Gladstone side of the "Narrows". Fair catches of walleye were reported in Kipling by those jigging rapalas with minnows in 18 to 30 feet of water or Gladstone in 25 to 35 feet of water. Perch fishing had mixed results near Kipling in 8 to 35 feet of water with natural baits. The bigger fish were caught in the deeper water. Jumbo perch were caught near Gladstone when jigging. While most anglers are using a portable shanty some are bringing out the permanent ones and setting them up.

Manistique Lake: Anglers are ice fishing however caution needs to be used especially around the outlets. Small walleye and pike were caught but no perch.

Munuscong Bay: Has ice but anglers should avoid the area around the points, islands and deeper water. Perch fishing is fair on minnows. Walleye are hitting good and a few northern pike were also caught.

Cedarville and Hessel: Musky Bay and Hessel Bay have a couple ice shanties. Anglers are perch fishing in 10 to 12 feet of water. Wigglers worked best in Musky Bay however minnows were favored in Hessel Bay.

January 17, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Safety is a must if you're going ice fishing. Be sure to use the buddy system and let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return. Wearing a life jacket may seem silly however it will not only help keep you afloat should you fall through the ice but more important, it will save your life.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Those fishing in open water off the docks in the Metro Park Marina have caught a couple perch or bluegill. Ice in the area is not safe. There is still one dock in at the Metro Park launch.

Huron River: Is producing steelhead for those using wax worms or small spoons. Colder weather may have the fish holding in the deeper holes.

Detroit River: Is producing some jumbo perch in front of Gibraltar and along Grosse Ile. Anglers are using perch rigs with shiners off the docks, breakwalls and seawalls. A few perch were caught in the canals around Gibraltar.

Saginaw Bay: After heavy rain and near-record high temperatures last weekend, ice conditions were unsafe in most places. Anglers are cautioned to stay off the ice until the colder weather has a chance to make new ice. Perch fishing in shallow water should be possible again after a few days of frigid weather. A few pike and walleye came out of the Hot Pond by those using jigs or crank baits.

Kawkawlin River: Was high and muddy. Those using long-rods caught perch but they were small.

Saginaw River: Walleye fishing was pretty good before the rain and snow melt. Rising muddy water and floating ice chunks made fishing nearly impossible.

Tittabawassee River: Walleye fishing was good before the muddy water.

Quanicassee River: Fishing was slow however small perch were caught on minnows or wigglers.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Rain and warm temperatures took out most of the ice. Any remaining ice at this time would not be safe.

St. Joseph River: Anglers are catching steelhead. The bite is slow which is typical for this time of year. Try drifting Hot-n-Tots or floating a jig and wax worm.

Kalamazoo River: Those hitting the river have caught steelhead below the Allegan Dam. Try Hot-n-Tots, small plugs or a jig with wax worms.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Water levels are up however boat anglers need to use caution. **A couple boats have been ripped open by re-rod along the west side of the river. Be careful below Pearl Street, in front of the Ford Museum above the walk bridge, and near the carousal below Pearl Street.** Steelhead are still being caught on jigs with wax worm, wobble glows, spinners, black stone flies and yarn rigs with a six foot leader. Below the dam, anglers are trolling Hot-n-Tots. Try black and chrome or black and gold with a red lip. Some are back bouncing spawn in the deeper holes. Walleye catches were good for those using bucktail jigs tipped with a minnow. Some are floating minnows. Crappie and bluegill were caught near Riverside Park and Millennium Park.

Grand River at Lansing: Pike and walleye are still being caught at the North Lansing Dam and the Moore's Park Dam. Try golden shiners and sucker minnows. A nice walleye was caught below the Brenke Ladder. Decent size pike have been caught in Grand Ledge at Fitzgerald Park.

Reeds Lake: Crappie and bluegill were caught in the channel in open water.

Muskegon River: Water levels were up but those fly fishing have caught steelhead when using bright colored flies.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cautious anglers should be able to find some safe ice this weekend on Fletcher, Grand Lake and Long Lake. Hubbard Lake requires extra caution because of its size and depth. Anglers should not venture out on Hubbard Lake until they are sure of better ice conditions.

Thunder Bay River: Is partially frozen and the ramp is freezing in. Boats were out last weekend, but that will no longer be possible. The river is full of very small perch most of which are too small to keep. A couple steelhead can still be found up near the dam.

Au Sable River: This has been another unusual winter for the river. Like most of last year, the boat ramps are not iced in or snow covered so people are launching dories and other boats. Steelhead were moving in and out of the river. Quite a few of the fish caught were chrome colored and healthy. Try spoons, spinners, body baits, spawn or wax worms. Early morning and late evening were best. Fish can be found from the mouth to Foote Dam.

Higgins Lake: There is no safe ice. Remember, deep lakes take longer to freeze.

Houghton Lake: Has good ice for Tip-Up Town this weekend. Some big perch were caught by those using tip-ups with blues. Try minnows, wax worms or wigglers for bluegill. Those looking for walleye will want to fish along the weed beds and the drop-offs.

Au Gres River: Water levels were high and muddy. Those using long rods did manage to catch a few perch. Surf anglers fishing spawn off the mouth of Whitney Drain at the Singing Bridge caught some nice steelhead but they were putting in a lot of time for each fish caught.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Manistee River: While catch rates improved during the warm spell, the bite will be different now as arctic temperatures move into the region. Water levels were up some after the rain and snow melt.

Lake Missaukee: Still has ice. For bluegills, try minnows, wigglers or wax worms.

Lake Cadillac: Still has ice however anglers will need to use caution until cold temperatures have a chance to tighten the ice back up. Most areas are questionable especially the east side of the lake. Foot traffic is best. Some are targeting perch in shallow waters.

Lake Mitchell: Has ice however anglers are traveling on foot only, no machines. A few panfish have been caught including crappie and bluegill. Many were small however a couple bigger fish were starting to hit. With no snow on the lake, anglers would be wise to wear cleats for easier travel.

Pere Marquette River: Is producing the occasional steelhead or brown trout.

UPPER PENINSULA

Groveland Mine Ponds: High winds and rain made fishing difficult on Island Lake as it turned into an ice rink. Anglers may want to bring cleats for easier access. Bluegills were hitting on minnows, wigglers and wax worms in 8 to 12 feet of water. Many were small but a good number of 7 inch fish were also taken.

A few perch and black crappie were also caught. Both the East Lake and the West Lake had few anglers. The bite was slow with only small panfish caught by those jigging or using tip-ups.

Lake Antoine: Was producing bluegill and perch for those jigging minnows and wax worms however many were small. Most are fishing on the northeast side. Those targeting northern pike were spear fishing and using tip-ups with large minnows on the north end of the lake.

Little Bay De Noc: Rain and warmer temperatures deteriorated the ice. The weak spots, pressure cracks, shoreline and river mouths were all in rough shape. Most are traveling on foot if they go out. Almost all the fishing has been north of the Narrows.

A Safety Reminder: The pressure crack that runs across the north end of Butler Island is ALWAYS DANGEROUS. Anglers should avoid this area at all times even in good conditions. Several four wheelers and snowmobiles have already done through the ice. Overall, fishing was slow due to fewer anglers and no snow cover. The better catches were reported up at the head of the Bay near Garth Point when jigging wigglers and minnows in 10 to 13 feet of water. For walleye, those fishing well past dark did the best near Kipling, the Second and the Third Reef when jigging rapalas with minnows in 18 to 26 feet of water.

Newberry: Inland lakes in the area including the Manistique Lakes had slow fishing most likely due to ice conditions. Much colder temperatures in the forecast will once again shore-up the ice.

Munuscong Bay: Anglers pulled their ice shanties to shore after the warm weather. Be careful especially with all the holes in the ice. The area east of Roach Point is off limits, anglers should avoid the area.

Cedarville and Hessel: Those off Cedarville have pulled their ice shanties to shore. Musky Bay had a few shacks remaining, but no catch reports came in. Perch in Musky Bay were picking up before the warm up so colder temperatures should help with catch rates.

January 24, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Waters in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula are freezing but anglers still need to use caution. Rivers may have flow ice coming down so use caution. Anglers are reminded to wear a life jacket, test the ice before you go, never go out alone, take a cell phone and be sure to tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. Safety should always be your top priority when heading out on the ice.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Anglers are ice fishing for perch near the Metro Park and the Banana Dike. No machines for right now, foot traffic only.

Huron River: A couple anglers braving the cold were steelhead fishing.

Detroit River: Has ice coming down the river. Boats can no longer get out as the launch ramps are iced in. Those fishing Airport Bay are trying for perch but no word on catch rates. No machines are going out, foot traffic only.

Lake St. Clair: Cold temperatures are making ice but the process here is basically starting over again as the last warm spell completely wiped out all the ice. Anglers will need to use caution as this will be first ice all over again and first ice can be dangerous ice. Try the Metro Park for bluegill or perch. New ice was reported off Selfridge and Gino's however it may not be safe ice. Remember wind and currents can result in highly variable ice thickness.

Lexington: Anglers caught steelhead, brown trout and lake trout before the warm spell. The bite is sporadic and usually best on cloudy days. Most are using tiny jigs with spikes or small spawn bags. Brown trout eggs are good bait if you can catch one with eggs.

Port Sanilac: Ice is just getting started in the harbor. Some brown trout were caught in the south end of the harbor before the big thaw.

Harbor Beach: The Edison Plant is not generating so the discharge channel is not flowing. The harbor is starting to ice over again and one shanty was out a short distance from the boat launch.

Saginaw Bay: Mother Nature is making ice! With the cold weather, the prospects for ice fishing should improve this week. Ice is forming off White's Beach, Pinconning and Newman Road. The only spot on the west side producing fish the last few days was inside the Linwood Marina where they caught a few perch. Action near the Hot Pond, mouth of the Saginaw River and off Quanicassee should pick back-up soon. Ice is forming along the east side of the bay however extreme caution needs to be because once again, this is first ice. A few fishing in the marina basin at Sebewaing caught a couple bluegills and the odd crappie. No activity at Bay Port. In Wildfowl Bay, strong winds blew over several pike spearing shacks.

Saginaw River: A couple boats launching at Zilwaukee did manage to catch a walleye up near the beanery. Freezing temperatures will most likely put an end to boat fishing as ice has started to form. In Bay City, all the launches were unusable due to shore ice. Anglers will have to wait until there is enough for ice fishing.

Tittabawassee River: Floating ice, slush and high flow made the river unfishable.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Ice conditions are getting better in this part of the state however anglers still need to use caution. Bluegill and pike were caught during the day. Black crappie were caught at night by those using jigs and minnows.

St. Joseph River: Steelhead fishing slowed with the cold front. Try using wax worms and jigs, Hot-n-Tots or spinners.

Kalamazoo River: Steelhead fishing slowed and few anglers were out. Try Hot-n-Tots or floating a jig and wax worm near the Allegan Dam.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Steelhead are still hitting though the action did slow with the cold front. Most are using spinners, yarn rigs, wobble glows, wax worms or spawn. A few walleye can still be found throughout the river. As for panfish, try fishing near the parks.

Grand River at Lansing: Those fishing at the Moore's Park and North Lansing Dam are still taking a few walleye and pike along with the occasional steelhead. Everyone is shore fishing.

Lake Lansing: Reports a few anglers starting to ice fish.

Muskrat Lake: Is producing some bluegill.

Morrison Lake: Anglers are starting to ice fish.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Burt Lake: Perch and walleye fishing were spotty.

Black Lake: Is producing walleye.

Thunder Bay River: Is frozen but the ice is not safe. The harbor is also iced in.

Van Etten Lake: Has ice which should only get thicker by the end of the week.

Au Sable River: Boat ramps will be icy and there may be too much ice for floating by the end of the week. Rea Road to Whirlpool may still be good for boat anglers looking to float however ice buildup on the ramps may cause problems. With the lack of snow the river bank is clear for foot travel. Steelhead are in the river in good numbers and anglers had good success from the mouth to Foote Dam. Most catches are coming on spawn and wax worms. Bottom bouncing and floating bait from a bobber is working well. A few brown trout have also been caught. The most active sites have been right at the mouth and from the Rea Road Bridge to the dam.

Foote Dam Pond: Has ice which should only get thicker by the end of the week.

Higgins Lake: Has just started to freeze so no safe ice yet.

Houghton Lake: Ice anglers are catching walleye. Try the East Bay. For perch, try along the south shore. Pike anglers are using tip-ups with sucker minnows.

Lake Margrethe: Fishing was slow but should pick-up soon.

Tawas: Good numbers of perch were caught off Jerry's Marina back in the "Armpit" in 15 to 18 feet of water. Anglers are sorting out the small ones and still taking some fish home. Some caught the odd steelhead, lake trout, brown trout or pike. Walleye were caught near dusk. Pike spearing in Tawas Bay is just getting started.

Tawas River: Had no report. Floating ice has made fishing very difficult.

Au Gres River: Is in the process of freezing over.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Manistee River: Anglers are still catching some nice chrome steelhead. With fresh snow as a backdrop, fish were hitting on pretty much anything including bright colors.

Lake Missaukee: Anglers are ice fishing for bluegill, crappie or the occasional perch. Try the west side and look for weedbeds. Those looking to spear pike will want to try the east or northeast side of the lake.

Lake Cadillac: Is producing some bigger bluegills and crappie. Anglers are fishing in 10 to 12 feet of water with jigs and spikes or wax worms. Pike fishing is on for those using tip-ups with large minnows.

Lake Mitchell: Is producing bluegill, crappie and even some perch. Pike are hitting on tip-ups.

Pere Marquette River: Is producing steelhead and brown trout. Fish the deeper holes during the cold front.

UPPER PENINSULA

Lac Vieux Desert: Has good ice and excellent pike fishing with most fish averaging 16 to 24 inches and a few in the upper 20's to low 30's. Most are using golden shiners on tip-ups over submerged vegetation or along the edge of the weeds. A few walleye measuring 18 to 24 inches were caught at dusk and dawn. A good number of bluegills were caught in the bays when using wax worms in 6 to 10 feet of water. The fish were smaller at 6.5 to 7.5 inches. Crappie were caught but were still hard to find for the most part. Catch rates for perch were good but anglers are having a hard time getting fish over 8 inches. The better fishing was along the west shore and in Thunder Bay.

Groveland Mine Ponds: Island Lake was producing bluegills for those jigging or using tip-ups. West Lake had few anglers but those heading out did catch bluegill and sunfish when jigging wax worms. East Lake had a few anglers catching panfish but the bite was slow.

Lake Antoine: Is producing good numbers of small perch for those jigging wax worms or minnows near the City Park. Those fishing further out caught some nice bluegills, a few black crappie and a couple perch. The north end of the lake is where you will find those spearing or using tip-ups with large minnows for northern pike.

Lake Michigamme: Was producing 16 to 18 inch walleye on the north side.

Greenwood Reservoir: In Marquette County was producing a few walleye, pike and panfish however catch rates were mixed.

Little Bay De Noc: Ice conditions are improving and so are travel conditions with the added snow. Ice along the shoreline and the near the pressure cracks have water coming up due to the weight of the snow. Most anglers are still fishing from Gladstone to Garth Point. Some were venturing south but ice conditions were dangerous, caution was a must. Most walleye anglers were fishing in the evening with the better catches coming near Kipling in 17 to 30 feet of water. Fish were caught off Gladstone with minnows in 27 to 30 feet. Perch fishing has improved with fair to good catches reported between the Kipling Flats and Garth Point. Jumbo perch were caught in 18 to 22 feet of water. Those fishing in 8 to 14 feet had good catches but many were throw backs. Fishing is definitely getting better but anglers still need to use caution because ice thickness varies greatly.

Manistique Lakes: Have ice but catch rates were not good. Extremely cold temperatures and falling snow are responsible for fewer anglers heading out.

Munuscong Bay: Has a lot of snow on the ice which is preventing anglers from taking four-wheelers out. Walleye and perch fishing are fair for anglers trying to get out to 5 feet of water. The area east of Roach Point is dangerous because the ice deteriorated with the thaw and the new ice is still very thin. Avoid this area!

Cedarville and Hessel: Are ice covered once again but also have 16 inches of snow and slush in some areas. Musky Bay is good for perch in 10 to 12 feet of water when using minnows and wigglers. Ice shanties are popping back up on Hessel Bay where perch fishing is good.

January 31, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Ice anglers were out everywhere and catching fish until the warm spring weather returned. Anglers are ice fishing to the north but caution should still be used. Ice conditions in the southern sections of the state are not safe for the most part. Those fishing the rivers will experience higher water levels. Shore anglers need to use extreme caution as the river banks may not be stable after all the rain.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: The Metro Park Marina and the Banana Dike were good spots for perch and bluegills, if the ice holds. Be especially careful around the edges. Any remaining ice near Bolles Harbor is not safe.

Lake St. Clair: Finally got some decent ice but the warm rain will soften the shorelines, open up the pressure cracks, and muddy up the waters. Anglers need to use extreme caution especially around the shoreline, docks, pressure cracks, and areas where there is a current. Watch for soft spots.

Saginaw Bay: Was wet, slippery, sloppy and miserable. Conditions should improve by the weekend as much colder temperatures return. Before the drastic change in weather, perch fishing at Palmer Road was slow. Walleye anglers heading out a couple miles were getting fish. There was a lot of walleye activity about three miles off Erickson Road and near the Spark Plug off Linwood. Anglers need to use extreme caution as there are several pressure cracks between the shore and the fishing spots. There was a lot of perch activity at Quanicassee off Vanderbilt Park but catch rates were spotty. Those after walleye caught fish out near the Slot and beyond. From Sebawaing to Bay Port, anglers were after perch and pike just off the Mud Creek access site in Wildfowl Bay. Anglers need to watch where they are going because there were some spots with open water. Pike spearing was just getting started. Those fishing in the harbor and marina at Caseville caught some perch on live minnows. At Port Austin, some were pike spearing inside the harbor.

Saginaw River: Record high temperatures this week will make for dangerous fishing especially with a big push of water from the rain and snowmelt coming down.

Walleye fishing was good before the front moved in. Ice anglers were out in force with over 250 shanties between Saginaw and Bay City. After sorting out the small ones, anglers were still going home with at least a couple walleye. A few bigger perch caught near the mouth.

Tittabawassee River: Had no activity. There was too much ice to launch a boat and not enough to walk on.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

No ice fishing reports this week for the inland lakes. They may still have ice however it is not safe ice. Significant snowfall by the end of the week will not help. Anglers would be wise to wait and give the returning cold temperatures a chance to shore the ice up again.

St. Joseph River: Anglers should find steelhead near the mouth and the dams.

Kalamazoo River: Near Allegan is under a flood advisory. Those looking for steelhead and walleye should use caution.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has high water levels. The Rogue River below Rockford is under a flood advisory.

Grand River at Lansing: The weather has been good for those looking to catch steelhead, walleye or pike. Most are fishing near the dams. Use caution and try to find a solid surface to fish from as the banks may not be stable.

Looking Glass River: Is under a flood advisory.

Maple River: Is under a flood advisory in Clinton County.

Muskegon River: Water levels are up and will most likely keep rising till the end of the week. Those looking for steelhead need to use caution. With the muddy water, try using bright colored flies or jigs.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Most of the inland lakes were good for ice fishing but still use caution. Catch rates were fair to good.

Fletchers Pond: Those using tip-ups caught some nice pike. Crappies were taken on minnows, wax worms or spikes.

Au Sable River: Steelhead are in the river and catch rates were good. Anglers are using spawn, wax worms, small spoons and body baits. Most are fishing the mouth or from Rea Road to the dam. Not much activity was seen in the deeper holes. Those targeting steelhead have caught a couple brown trout near the dam.

Higgins Lake: Still has ice however anglers need to proceed with caution. There was no snow on the lake so bring cleats for easier travel. Those ice fishing caught pike, lake trout and a few perch. Those looking for smelt said the bite was slow.

Houghton Lake: Still has good ice but anglers will want to watch for pressure cracks and use caution near the inlets or outlets. No snow on the ice so it will be slippery. Anglers have caught walleye and pike. Perch fishing was steady.

Tawas: Was producing good numbers of decent size perch in 12 to 15 feet of water in the bay. Perch were also caught inside the State Harbor. Walleye were a little deeper in 15 to 20 feet of water and hitting at dawn or dusk. Those spearing have taken a few pike.

Au Gres River: Anglers were catching sublegal walleye and a few perch.

Rifle River: Is under a flood warning. Anglers may want to avoid the river until water levels have a chance to recede.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Ice is fine on the small lakes however slush will make travel a little more difficult. The big lakes such as Torch and Elk have either no ice or no safe ice.

Portage Lake: In Manistee County had ice fishing. Catch rates were spotty for perch and walleye.

Manistee River: Should have some good steelhead fishing until the next cold spell.

Lake Missaukee: Ice fishing is going strong. Anglers are catching the usual bluegill and crappie along with the occasional perch.

Lake Cadillac: Has good ice for those looking to catch panfish. Try 10 to 12 feet of water near the weed beds with minnows, wax worms or spikes. Those with tip-ups are targeting pike.

Lake Mitchell: Also has good ice. Anglers are catching bluegill and crappie in waters up to 12 feet deep. Pike are hitting on sucker minnows.

Pere Marquette River: Near Scottville is under a flood advisory.

UPPER PENINSULA

Lake Gogebic: Walleye fishing was good for those jigging rapalas or using tip-ups near the weed beds in 7 to 11 feet of water.

Imp Lake: In Gogebic County had good splake fishing.

Chicagon Lake: In Iron County had fair catch rates. A few walleye were caught after dark by those using tip-ups with sucker minnows in 10 to 15 feet of water. A few keeper size perch were taken along the edge of the weed beds during the day. Lake trout were caught by those jigging spoons in 30 feet of water on the west side. No whitefish to report yet.

Iron Lake: In Iron County was producing some bluegills however many were small. Most are using small jigs tipped with wax worms. The pike action was steady but many were small. Crappie fishing was slow. Those that found them only had a small window right at dark to catch them. Small minnows worked best.

Groveland Mine Ponds: Have good ice. Island Lake, East Lake and West Lake are all producing bluegills, perch and black crappie. Anglers are using tip-ups or jigging with minnows and wax worms in 8 to 12 feet of water. The fish caught were smaller at 6 to 8 inches.

Lake Antoine: Had good ice conditions. Bluegills and yellow perch have been caught by those jigging wax worms or minnows. A few walleye were caught on the south end in 15 feet of water. Try tip-ups with large shiner minnows. A couple large and smallmouth bass were caught however bass season is closed. Those spearing have taken northern pike on the north end.

Little Bay De Noc: Ice conditions improved however anglers still need to use extreme caution near the Escanaba ship docks and south to the Lighthouse because the area is dangerous. Snowfall has made for easier travel on the ice. Walleye anglers had fair catches in the evening with tip-ups and minnows in 20 to 30 feet of water near the Second and Third Reefs. Off the Terrace Bay Inn, anglers were jigging rapalas in 30 to 35 feet. Perch fishing was better throughout the bay. Try minnows or wigglers in 14 to 23 feet of water near Kipling, 10 to 20 feet off Garth Point, or 30 feet between Gladstone and the "Narrows". No whitefish reports as of yet but it will not be long as ice conditions continue to get better.

Munuscong Bay: Is slower than usual with deep snow and scattered areas of slush. Ice formation east of Roach Point remains variable so extreme caution needs to be used. Walleye fishing has slowed for those fishing in 3 to 5 feet of water. For perch, most are jigging or still-fishing with minnows.

Cedarville and Hessel: Cedarville has good ice. The perch fishing in Musky Bay was good however catch rates tapered off. Anglers have been harvesting nice catches of perch averaging 9 inches in 10 feet of water. Perch fishing at Hessel was slow. Most were using mousies, minnows or wigglers in 10 feet of water.

February 7, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Ice fishing is going strong in the northern half of the Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula. Those in southeast and southwest Michigan still need to use caution as the ice refreezes.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Those fishing the Metro Park Marina caught bluegills on wax worms or red spikes.

Huron River: Is producing the occasional steelhead. Try spawn or Little Cleo's. Blue and silver was a good color.

Detroit River: Has some flow ice coming down. Those fishing Airport Bay caught a few perch averaging 9 to 12 inches. Try minnows or wigglers.

Harbor Beach: The Edison Channel had open water. Ice fishing was limited to the inside of the City Harbor where anglers caught a few small perch.

Saginaw Bay: Ice fishing is on once again. Perch fishing was slow at Palmer Road because the water was muddy. Walleye anglers heading out to the Catfish Hole managed to catch a few. Anglers need to use caution along the west side of the bay because of all the pressure cracks including a large one that may be as much as 50 feet wide. Some are going way out and driving across the pressure cracks with little regard for the consequences of what could happen. Heading out after dark is not recommended. Walleye anglers going four to five miles off White's Beach caught fish. Walleye were caught off Erickson Road in 18 to 20 feet of water but the trip was not easy because anglers will have to head north almost to Pinconning to get around the big pressure crack. Walleye were caught out near the Spark Plug which is at Buoys 11 and 12 however this location is a long ways out! Ice near the mouth of the Saginaw River was marginal at best as the current remains strong. Both the river and the south end of the bay are very muddy.

Walleye anglers are going out from Callahan Road and fishing between Essexville and Quanicassee. Perch fishing at Quanicassee was slow due to the muddy water. Walleye anglers have done well eight to ten miles off Thomas Road however there are some soft spots between the shoreline and the fishing holes so anglers need to use caution. A couple machines have gone through the ice near the soft spots. The creeks and the marinas have extremely muddy water.

Saginaw River: Was iced over from Zilwaukee to the mouth however the ICE IS NOT SAFE at this time as it is composed of re-frozen ice flows and slush. Some great ice sculptures can be found as large sheets of ice have been thrust upward at all angles and frozen into place.

Tittabawassee River: Fishing was still impossible.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Even with the cold, ice conditions are variable because of the snow and wind. The small isolated lakes have some ice and were producing bluegill, crappie and pike.

St. Joseph River: Steelhead are still being caught but the bite is slow. Anglers were getting just a fish or two per trip.

Kalamazoo River: Steelhead anglers are still taking a couple fish even though the bite has slowed.

Gull Lake: Is producing some bluegills. Some are night fishing for smelt in the South Bay and the Second Bay. Catch rates were slow to average.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has some ice flow coming down. Steelhead are being caught by those using jigs with spawn and wax worms or wobble glows in bright colors like orange and chartreuse. Some are back bouncing. Walleye were hitting on bucktail jigs with shiner minnows and rapalas. Hot colors were chartreuse and silver, orange and gold or black and chrome. The ice near Millennium Park was not safe.

Grand River at Lansing: Those fishing near the dams have caught a few walleye and pike on minnows.

Lake Lansing: Anglers are taking pike on tip-ups however the fish were small.

Reeds Lake: Those ice fishing caught perch on shiners in 15 to 40 feet of water. Bluegills were in 25 to 40 feet and crappie were 10 to 15 feet down in 35 to 40 feet. Pike are hitting on sucker minnows 2 to 4 feet off the bottom in 8 to 30 feet.

Muskegon River: Water levels were receding however the water is still muddy.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

The inland lakes are in good shape except Hubbard Lake. Currents are generated most commonly in the big deep lakes so anglers need to use caution accordingly.

Alpena: Ice conditions on Thunder Bay are treacherous.

Thunder Bay River: There is no boat access in the lower river. Ice anglers fishing the Turning Basin and the marina caught small perch.

Cedar Lake: In Alcona County was producing perch. The fish were on the small side but lots of fish were caught.

Van Etten Lake: Was producing a good number of smaller perch.

Au Sable River: Those who brave the cold weather have caught steelhead which can be found in all areas of the river between the mouth and Foote Dam. A couple brown trout were caught up near the Rea Road launch and below the dam. Most are using spawn, wax worms, small spoons or body baits. Perch were caught in the impoundments.

Higgins Lake: Ice fishing is in full swing. Smelt are there however the bite has not turned on yet. Lake trout have been caught when jigging or using tip-ups in 100 to 120 feet of water. Whitefish are being caught on the bottom in 85 to 100 feet of water. As for perch, they are scattered throughout the lake. Anglers will want to fish the drop-offs and the weed beds.

Houghton Lake: Is producing a few pike. Most are small but every once in a while a keeper is taken. Perch have been caught on minnows. Walleye were biting around dusk. No bluegills to report.

Tawas: Had lots of anglers fishing in Tawas Bay. They caught some nice perch in 15 to 20 feet of water. The better fishing was between dawn and 11 AM. Some walleye were caught at dawn and dusk and a few brown trout were caught incidental to perch and walleye. Those spearing have taken some pike.

Tawas River: Had no reports.

Au Gres River: Just re-froze. On the East Branch, not much was going on near the Singing Bridge. Water levels were high, fast and muddy.

Pine River: At the access site, the river has a good current and an ice jam at the mouth. No one is going out.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Skegemog: Is producing some yellow perch.

Portage Lake: In Manistee County was producing yellow perch and other panfish.

Manistee River: No word on steelhead fishing however the water levels are back down so the river is fishable again.

Lake Missaukee: Ice anglers were doing well for panfish.

Lake Cadillac: Has good ice for those looking to catch panfish. Pike are hitting on tip-ups with sucker minnows. Crappie fishing was good.

Lake Mitchell: Is producing pike, crappie and bluegill.

Pere Marquette Lake: Had decent northern pike action for those using tip-ups.

Pere Marquette River: No word on steelhead activity however water levels were still quite high.

UPPER PENINSULA

Lake Gogebic: Had good walleye fishing with a number of legal size fish taken by those using tip-ups or jigging rapalas in 7 to 11 feet of water near the weed beds. The perch bite was fair in 12 to 17 feet of water.

Imp Lake: Had good splake fishing.

Keweenaw Bay: Catch rates were slow off the L'Anse Marina with only a couple lake trout, rainbow trout, Atlantic salmon and coho were caught. A few smelt were taken out from the Baraga Marina but ice conditions were not consistent. There is open water from Morin Fireworks on the Baraga side to the L'Anse side, just north of Jentoff's Dock.

Chicagon Lake: Fishing was fair with a few walleye caught just before and just after dark by those using tip-ups with sucker minnows in 10 to 15 feet of water. Perch ranging from 6 to 9 inches were caught just off the edge of the weed beds. Those jigging spoons caught a couple lake trout off the west side in 30 feet of water. No reports yet of any whitefish being caught.

Iron Lake: Fishing has picked up with a few nice catches of bluegill up to 7 inches however most are sorting through a lot of small ones to get a few keepers. Try small jigs tipped with a wax worm. Crappies are still being caught during a small window of opportunity just before dark. For pike, the action was steady with tip-ups but the fish were running small.

Groveland Mine Ponds: Have good ice conditions. Island Lake was producing mainly bluegills and a few yellow perch. Lots of smaller bluegills and a few crappie were caught in East Lake. West Lake was hit-or-miss. Some anglers found and caught good numbers of bluegill while others caught few. South Lake finally had some anglers. They caught a few nice yellow perch and some crappie straight out from the boat launch in 25 to 30 feet.

Lake Antoine: Has reports of good ice conditions. Those jigging have caught a good number of small bluegills and yellow perch on wax worms. Those fishing in 15 feet of water or deeper did catch bigger fish. No reports on walleye or pike.

Little Bay De Noc: Ice conditions were improving as anglers were moving to the southern end of the Bay. Ice thickness varies from the northern end down to the Escanaba River. Walleye catches were slow this season but with anglers moving south fishing has improved. Fair to good catches were reported between the Escanaba River and south to the beach area when using jigs or tip-ups in 25 to 30 feet of water. Fish were marked out from the Terrace Bay Inn but they were most likely whitefish. The bigger walleye were caught in the waters of the Southern Bay. In the Northern Bay, the better catches came from the Center Reef when using tip-ups in 6 to 23 feet of water. Smaller perch were caught southeast of Butler Island and off the southern tip of the Third Reef in 14 to 28 feet of water by those using minnows and wigglers. Northern pike were active throughout the bay however the better spots were the Center Reef and out from the Escanaba Power Plant. Those fishing near Sand Point were starting to catch whitefish when jigging spawn or minnows in 75 to 85 feet of water.

Munising: Angling effort has been widespread throughout the bay from the West Channel near Christmas to Sand Point. Despite the extreme cold the ice has been slow to build due to all the snow which is creating slush. Travel is difficult. Catch rates have been slow. Most anglers targeting whitefish had poor results. There have been scattered reports of splake catches at various locations. Some have caught perch. No reports have come in for Trout Bay.

Munuscong Bay: Has lots of snow on the ice and scattered areas of slush. Anglers still need to use caution east of Roach Point. The walleye bite was slow. Anglers were jigging or still-fishing with minnows.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch fishing in Musky Bay was slow. Anglers are fishing in 10 feet of water with minnows or wigglers.

February 14, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Michigan's annual "**Winter Free Fishing Weekend**" will be held this Saturday February 16th and Sunday February 17th. No fishing license is required however all regulations still apply. Novice anglers are encouraged to take someone new out and introduce them to the sport of ice fishing.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Most of the inland lakes still had ice however thin spots were present on many, especially the bigger ones. Anglers need to use caution.

Lake Erie: Those fishing the Metro Park Marina caught bluegills on wax worms or red spikes. Perch were caught on minnows. About a mile south of the Metro Park, anglers caught bluegill, perch and a few pike in Lake Pointe Marina.

Huron River: Is producing some steelhead. Try spawn, wax worms, small spoons or body baits in bright colors.

Detroit River: Still has some flow ice coming down. Boat anglers are heading towards Sugar Island and ice fishing for bluegill and perch at the Cross Dike. Others were open water fishing in the canals near Gibraltar.

Lake St. Clair: The snow has melted so getting around on the ice is easier now but anglers still need to use caution as ice conditions are not consistent. Caution needs to be used in areas where there is a current, around any structure such as pilings and docks as well as the ice near shore. Perch were caught by those using minnows.

Saginaw Bay: Four words say it all this week...**STAY OFF SAGINAW BAY!** There are numerous active pressure cracks which make ice fishing dangerous. Deep snow has covered up some of the pressure cracks and the weak spots so anglers don't know they are there until it is too late. Warmer temperatures along with a strong southwest wind will push offshore ice out into the open waters of Lake Huron. Ice conditions will be treacherous for the next several days. Machines have gone through the ice and people have found themselves in need of rescue.

Saginaw River: Is running high and muddy. Pretty much all the rivers around the bay are in the same shape. Rain, warm temperatures and offshore winds have increased the current. This will further erode any ice on the river. Ice conditions will be dangerous.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Heavy snow and rain have made ice conditions extremely variable. Small lakes and isolated coves that had ice most of the season continue to support some ice fishing. On others, ice formation was not consistent.

St. Joseph: The piers are ice covered and dangerous.

St. Joseph River: Higher water levels are requiring most anglers to use a boat. The bite was slow however anglers should still find some steelhead up near the dams.

Kalamazoo River: Has higher water levels. Boat anglers were fishing for steelhead or walleye up near the Allegan Dam.

Holland: The piers are ice covered and dangerous. Anglers should avoid the area.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has an ice jam at the US-31 Bridge so anglers should avoid this area. Those steelhead fishing will do best near the dam. Try jigs, spawn, small spoons or body baits. High water levels call for bright colors. Those fly fishing have caught fish. For walleye, try up near the dam or near the bridges.

Rogue River: Is producing some steelhead. Some are fly fishing while others are drifting spawn and wax worms.

Grand River at Lansing: Is producing walleye at Moore's Park and the North Lansing Dam. Minnows work best.

Reeds Lake: Is still producing bluegill, pike and crappie.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Most of the inland lakes in this region have good ice.

Cedar Lake: Ice anglers have caught a good number of panfish including some smaller perch.

Fletchers Pond: Is producing bluegill and perch and pike.

Van Etten Lake: Is producing lots of panfish.

Au Sable River: Steelhead can be found in good numbers. Anglers did well with spawn and wax worms. Pier anglers are using spawn, drifting wax worms or casting small spoons and body baits. The launch was plowed at the Whirlpool Access site.

Higgins Lake: Ice fishing continues. The lake is snow covered and there is also some slush. Lake trout have been caught on the north end by those using tip-ups with minnows or jigging Swedish pimples and sand kickers in 80 to 120 feet of water. Whitefish were caught along the flats on the north end. For perch, try the ridge along the Sunken Island or 20 to 40 feet of water around Treasure Island. Smelt anglers can be found in 40 feet of water off the west launch. While some are doing well others are only taking a few.

Houghton Lake: Has plenty of ice for those looking to go out this weekend. Snow on the ice has been packed down and there is some slush. Those using tip-ups and jigging have caught walleye, pike and perch.

Tawas: Was the most fishable spot along Saginaw Bay. Try the area called the "armpit" which is off Tawas Point, near Jerry's Marina but use caution. Anglers have caught perch and walleye and those spearing have taken a few pike.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Ice fishing is still going strong on the inland lakes.

Lake Skegemog: Is producing some yellow perch. For pike, try the east side or the far south end.

Green Lake: In Grand Traverse County is producing bluegill and a few small perch. For pike, try tip-ups off the State Park. Smelt can usually be found just off the Music Camp which is north of the State Park.

Fife Lake: Is producing pike. Best spot for those using tip-ups or those spearing is usually east of the boat launch. For perch, try the north end of the lake.

Manistee River: With the runoff and warmer temperatures, there should be plenty of steelhead in the river. Those fly fishing have caught fresh fish.

Lake Missaukee: Is producing a few walleye and some crappie.

Lake Cadillac: Ice fishing is still going strong with a fair to good number of panfish being caught. Anglers are using minnows and wax worms for bluegill and crappie. Those with tip-ups have caught pike. The better crappie fishing was early morning or late evening. For walleye, the better fishing is usually at night.

Lake Mitchell: Is producing pike, crappie and bluegill. For pike, try tip-ups with minnows in Big Cove. For bluegill, try teardrops with wax worms.

Pere Marquette River: Water levels were high with minor flooding near Scottville.

UPPER PENINSULA

Lake Gogebic: Walleye are still being caught in waters 7 to 12 feet deep. Try tip-ups with light line or try jigging rapalas near the weed beds. Catch rates for perch picked up for those using wigglers in 12 to 17 feet of water.

Keweenaw Bay: Catch rates were up and down. Those fishing off Sand Point and Lighthouse Point caught coho and lake herring 8 to 20 feet down in 30 to 90 feet of water. Those fishing on the Center Reef did well for lake trout in 80 to 110 feet of water. For whitefish, anglers did well east of the Baraga Marina in 70 to 95 feet of water. Lake trout were taken in 145 to 180 feet of water out from Jentoff's Dock but ice conditions were not consistent. Don't assume the ice is good just because you see someone else out there because some are still going out even though their spud broke through the ice. Those fishing at night caught smelt near the Baraga Marina or Bucks Marina.

Chicagon Lake: A few walleye were caught just before and right after dark by those using tip-ups with sucker minnows along the edge of the weeds in 10 to 15 feet of water. Bluegills were caught on wigglers and wax worms in 10 to 17 feet of water. A couple whitefish were caught in the early morning however the bite was slow.

Iron Lake: Is producing bluegill but many were small. Try small jigs or teardrops with wax worms, wigglers or spikes. Pike action was good but many were sub-legal. A few crappie were taken on minnows just before dark.

Groveland Mine Ponds: Ice fishing continues. On Island Lake, the bite was best in the early morning or late afternoon for bluegill, crappie and perch. West Lake was slow however a couple 11 to 13 inch perch were caught by those jigging in the middle or along the south end. Few anglers were out on the East Lake but the South Lake was producing some nice perch and some bluegills in 25 to 30 feet of water right off the boat launch.

Lake Antoine: Was producing bluegill, crappie and small yellow perch. A few smallmouth bass were also caught however bass season is closed. Anglers are using tip-ups with minnows and wax worms in 8 to 15 feet of water. Those spearing northern pike have seen fish but few were taken.

Little Bay De Noc: Ice conditions remain favorable north of the Escanaba River however ice thickness in the southern bay is not consistent as it ranges from 4 to 14 inches. Whitefish action was fair off Sand Point when using spawn or minnows in 75 to 85 feet of water or south of the "Narrows" in 33 to 40 feet. Catch rates for walleye were fair. Those fishing at night did better. Try the Third or Center Reefs using tip-ups with sucker minnows in 14 to 30 feet of water. Near the Escanaba River, anglers caught bigger fish on tip-ups or when jigging rapalas in 20 to 30 feet. Off the beach, anglers were jigging rapalas with minnows along the break in 23 to 30 feet of water. Perch fishing was hit-or-miss as some did well while others caught very few.

The hot spots were out from Brach's Cabins in 17 to 22 feet of water, Garth Point in 14 feet, and south to the Escanaba ship docks in 25 to 30 feet. Wigglers and minnows worked best. Northern pike spearing was good just off Butler Island in 10 to 12 feet of water. Those using tip-ups in 18 to 30 feet of water just off the Center Reef have also caught quite a few pike.

Munising: Anglers can be found from the West Channel near Christmas to Sand Point. Ice conditions have changed some after the mild weather. The snow has compacted which makes walking a little easier. Catch rates were still slow. Some are jigging a single egg for whitefish. A couple splake were caught. They range from sub-legal to 20 inches. A few perch were taken near Grand Island. Quite a few were targeting lake trout in the West Channel but no fish were reported. No reports from Trout Bay.

Cedarville and Hessel: Has ice however catch rates were extremely slow.

February 21, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Ice fishing continues around the state. Anglers in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula need to use caution and watch for honeycomb ice which forms after a quick thaw and refreeze.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Those fishing Bolles Harbor caught bluegill. Some were fishing off the boat ramp at Sterling State Park however few fish were taken. Perch were caught off Pointe Mouillee but it is a long walk to get out near the Banana Dike. While the number of fish taken was small, many averaged 9 to 12 inches.

Detroit River: Anglers were catching a fair to good number of perch off Milliken State Park. Catch rates are still on and off but some reported decent catches.

Lake St. Clair: Had fishable ice at the popular locations on the Michigan side including Selfridge, Brandenburg, Fairhaven, Metro Beach and Gino's. Catch rates were spotty but the lucky ones have caught some nice perch.

Saginaw Bay: **Ice conditions are not safe. Anglers are being warned to stay off the Bay!** The Coast Guard continues to rescue anglers from the ice flows. There is shore ice that extends about a mile out along the east side. Beyond that is open water. Strong west winds are churning up the waves where there is open water and this will weaken the shore ice. Anglers might want to stick to the inland lakes.

Saginaw River: Ice conditions continue to get worse and the water is muddy.

Tittabawassee River: Had some fishing activity up near the Dow Dam however conditions vary day to day depending on temperatures. Colder weather increases the amount of floating ice which makes fishing more difficult.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Anglers are getting out on some lakes however the small shallow lakes do have more ice than the large deeper lakes. The bluegill bite is slow but crappie have started to hit. The fish are suspended in 12 to 20 feet of water. Mornings or evenings are best.

St. Joseph: Stay off the piers. They are ice covered and dangerous.

St. Joseph River: Was producing good numbers of steelhead for boat anglers fishing between the Berrien Springs Dam and the Jasper Dairy Access site. Anglers do best on the warmer days.

Union Lake: In Branch County was producing some bluegills.

Rose Lake (Lake of the Woods): In Branch County had bluegill and crappie.

Marble Lake: Some anglers reported limit catches of bluegill.

Kalamazoo River: Boat anglers were fishing for steelhead up near the Allegan Dam. Some walleye were also caught.

Duck Lake: In Calhoun County was producing nice panfish including some very nice perch in small numbers.

Holland: Stay off the piers. They are ice covered and dangerous.

Grand Haven: Freezing spray has ice coated the piers.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is still producing steelhead. Some fresh fish were noted between the lake the Sixth Street Dam.

Grand River at Lansing: Catch rates slowed with the colder temperatures. Wait for the next warm up to target the dam in North Lansing and Moore's Park.

Jackson County: When and where there was thicker ice on the inland lakes fishing was good for panfish. Several anglers reported near limit catches.

Round Lake: In Clinton County was producing small bluegills and a few pike.

Muskegon River: Was producing good numbers of steelhead. Try floating yarn, spawn or wax worms.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

The inland lakes have ice however anglers should avoid the areas with inlets, outlets or a fast moving current because these areas may not be safe to travel over.

Au Sable River: Continues to produce good catches of steelhead. The Whirlpool and the Rea Road sties were accessible to most vehicles. Try spawn, wax worms, or small spoons. Fish making their way up into the river are fresh.

Lake Margrethe: Had ice fishing but catch rates were a bit slow.

Higgins Lake: Has been good for lake trout. Catch rates for perch and smelt were spotty at best.

Houghton Lake: Fishing was fair to good for walleye. A few large yellow perch have also been caught. Find the weedbeds and fish along the drop.

Tawas: The ice was holding but anglers were sorting through little perch all day long to come up with 10 to 12 keepers. The walleye bite and pike spearing were slow.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Pickerel Lake: In Emmet County was producing pike and walleye.

Intermediate Lake: In Antrim County is producing walleye and pike.

Green Lake: In Grand Traverse County is producing bluegill and a few small perch. For pike, try tip-ups off the State Park. Smelt are being caught just not in big numbers. Try just off the Music Camp which is north of the State Park.

Portage Lake: Is producing some perch but no big numbers.

Manistee Lake: Is producing perch. Some limit catches were reported.

Manistee River: Anglers are becoming more interested in steelhead fishing however the reports coming in were on the slow side.

Lake Missaukee: Is still good for panfish.

Lake Cadillac: Is still producing fish however the bite was not consistent. Anglers are marking a lot of fish however catch rates were slow.

Lake Mitchell: Is producing fish however the bite is slow just like Cadillac. For pike, try spearing or tip-ups. For panfish try teardrops with minnows or wax worms. The better fishing may be at night.

Hamlin Lake: Catch rates for bluegill were slow and the fish appear to be smaller than what they usually are this time of year.

UPPER PENINSULA

Lake Gogebic: Had good walleye fishing. Most are using tip-ups or jigging rapalas in 7 to 11 feet of water. Catch rates for perch were just fair in 12 to 17 feet.

Copper Harbor: Much of the ice broke up and blew out into the lake. There was still some ice around the State Dock but catch rates were slow.

Keweenaw Bay: Anglers fishing for smelt between Baraga and Bucks Marina have caught fish on teardrops with wax worms in 30 to 50 feet of water. Lake trout were caught out from Jentoff's Dock and Whirl-I-Gig Road. Try 180 to 230 feet of water. Some lake trout anglers have ventured out to the broken up pack ice that has frozen in place however this does not mean the ice is safe just because others are out there. Coho and lake herring have been nonexistent. A few whitefish were caught east of the Baraga Marina in 70 to 90 feet of water.

Chicagon Lake: Catch rates were fair with a few walleye taken just before and right after dark. Try tip-ups with sucker minnows along the edge of the weeds in 10 to 15 feet of water. Perch caught during the day were smaller. Bluegills are showing up in 10 to 17 feet of water. The whitefish action was slow with only a few fish caught in the early morning. Slush on the lake is bad in places so use caution.

Iron Lake: Has a few large patches of slush. Catch rates for bluegill were starting to pick up. Many were small but a few keepers were caught. Crappie fishing was slow. Best time to fish was just before dark. Pike continue to bite but most were small.

Groveland Mine Ponds: Island Lake and East Lake were slow with only a few smaller bluegill caught. The West Lake had bluegills, crappie and perch caught in the middle in 15 feet of water. Most were jigging wax worms or minnows. On South Lake, bluegill, crappie and perch were caught straight out from the boat launch in 25 to 30 feet of water.

Lake Antoine: Was producing small yellow perch and some bluegills for those jigging wax worms or using tip-ups. A few pike were seen but none taken.

Little Bay De Noc: Ice conditions remain good but travel on the ice has worsened with deep ruts from frozen slush especially in the heaviest traveled areas. The thickest ice is in the northern bay and it tapers down as you move south. A Coast Guard Cutter came in and broke up the ice near Escanaba, so caution needs to be used. Catch rates for walleye and perch slowed with the colder weather. Garth Point and the areas off Gladstone Beach and the Escanaba River had fair walleye catches at best. Anglers will want to fish from late evening into the night when jigging rapalas or using tip-ups in 18 to 30 feet of water. Good numbers of small perch were caught near Kipling. The bigger fish were in the deeper water. Try jigging minnows or wigglers in 14 to 30 feet. Pike spearing was fair to good just east of Butler Island in 10 to 12 feet of water with natural and artificial decoys. Whitefish action was fair to good out from the Terrace Bay Inn. Fish were caught on spawn or minnows in 30 to 40 feet of water. The better catches were near Sand Point in 75 to 85 feet.

Munising: Anglers are widespread from the West Channel near Christmas to Sand Point. There is at least six inches of snow on the ice which makes walking a little more difficult. Whitefish action was slow. A few splake were caught at various locations but catch rates remain slow. The fish range from sub-legal to 20 inches. A few perch were caught at Sand Point but many were small. Keepers were 8 inches with the occasional 10 inch fish. Many are jigging for lake trout in the West Channel but no fish were reported. For herring, those spearing in the early morning have not done well at all. Those fishing in the evening had good catches of burbot. No fishing in Trout Bay as ice conditions were not safe.

Munuscong Bay: Had good walleye and perch fishing for those jigging in the deeper water. Try off Rocky Point in 10 to 15 feet.

Cedarville and Hessel: Catch rates have picked up. Hessel and Musky Bay have a lot of smaller perch but also have some nice ones being caught. Most are fishing minnows, wigglers or wax worms in 10 feet of water.

February 28, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Ice fishing continues around the state. Snow and slush are making travel on the ice much more difficult. Those taking motorized vehicles out are getting stuck. As the month of March approaches, fishing typically improves.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Perch and bluegill were caught in the Metro Park Marina. Any ice past the main marina is not safe. Perch were caught out near the Banana Dike in 6 to 7 feet of water. A couple walleye were also caught. Be sure to stay away from the main channel as the ice is not safe.

Huron River: Is producing steelhead. Try small hair jigs with wax worms or spawn.

Detroit River: A few bigger perch were caught in the canals near Gibraltar. Airport Bay is still producing some perch however ice conditions are questionable.

Lake St. Clair: Ice fishing continues. Snow may cause some areas of slush. Perch fishing was very good off Geno's, Selfridge, Cotton Road, New Baltimore, Fair Haven and Metro Beach. Anglers need to use caution near Selfridge. Some ORV's have gone through the ice. The area has springs and pressure cracks so ice thickness varies.

Port Austin: Perch fishing and pike spearing were slow in the harbor.

Harbor Beach: A few were catching and sorting small perch in the marina basin.

Saginaw Bay: A few anglers were starting to fish before the first pressure crack off Palmer Road. Perch fishing was slow and the water was cloudy. Perch were caught off Cody-Estey Road and Newman Road in 4 to 5 feet of water. They are using plastic beads or live minnows. A few bigger perch ranging 10 to 12 inches were caught about 400 yards off the Bay City State Park.

The perch seem to prefer beads over the minnows. Bigger perch were caught out near Spoils Island in the shipping channel. Off Quanicassee, perch anglers are fishing out from Vanderbilt Park however caution needs to be used as a couple anglers went through the ice in 5 feet of water. Perch and walleye were caught off Tietz Drain but there was no activity off Sunset Bay or Thomas Road. At Sebewaing, anglers fishing inside the marina basin caught small perch and bluegills. Activity at Mud Creek was spotty. A warning to anglers, the area of open water and bad ice out in Wildfowl Bay continues to grow. At Caseville, those fishing inside the marina basins were sorting through a lot of small perch. A couple lake trout were caught out near the end of the breakwall.

Saginaw River: Ice on the upper river from Rust Avenue down through town is deteriorating but still too much to launch a boat. Those fishing downstream from Zilwaukee caught sublegal walleyes. In Bay City, those fishing just north of the bridge near Veterans Park said the ice was getting bad. It was better downstream of the Independence Bridge however anglers still need to use caution. Perch and walleye were caught. Fishing was slow at Essexville.

Tittabawassee River: A few anglers launching their boats at the Gordonville Road launch and fishing below Dow Dam have caught a decent number of walleye. The problem is the large mounds of snow in front of the launch ramp. The only way to launch a boat is to physically drag it with all your gear over the piles of snow. There was no activity downstream of Gordonville Road.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph River: Has steelhead up near the Berrien Springs Dam.

Kalamazoo River: Steelhead and walleye were caught up near the Allegan Dam.

Gull Lake: Smelt fishing was spotty. More anglers were fishing on the north end of the lake. The pike and crappie bite have picked up.

Jordan Lake: Had good bluegill action but the fish were small.

Gun Lake: With the longer days, northern pike and crappie have picked up.

Grand Haven: The piers are not safe.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is producing steelhead up near the Sixth Street Dam. Most are using corkies and wobble glows. Some are back bouncing spawn, floating a jig and wax worm or throwing Hot-n-Tots and spinners. Walleye are hitting on minnows, bucktail jigs, paddle tails or twister tails in chartreuse or white.

Reeds Lake: The pike and crappie bite have picked up. Perch were caught in waters 8 to 30 feet deep. Pike are hitting 3 to 4 feet off the bottom.

Murray Lake: Also has better pike and crappie action.

Muskegon Lake: Had perch in 30 to 40 feet of water near the Sand Docks.

Muskegon River: Continues to produce steelhead especially for those fly fishing.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Burt Lake: Is producing some walleye and perch. Use caution on the ice and watch for pressure cracks.

Mullett Lake: Those using tip-ups caught pike. For perch, try off the State Park in 10 to 20 feet of water.

Van Etten Lake: Is producing some walleye, pike and perch.

Au Sable River: With temperatures rising and the day's getting longer, conditions on the river are getting better. Most of the access points were open. Steelhead seem to be moving from the mouth to the dam and back out. The fish are silver which means they are fresh from the lake. Most were caught on spawn.

Higgins Lake: Has ice and snow. Use caution near Big Creek and the Conference Center. Pike are hitting on tip-ups along the drop off in 35 to 40 feet of water. Those spearing are also taking fish. Lake trout are just off the bottom in 100 feet of water. Try Swedish pimples tipped with minnows, smelt or minnow heads. Whitefish were caught by those jigging a Swedish pimple with minnows, wax worms or wigglers. For perch, try near the Sunken Island, Main Island, and Big Creek in 30 to 50 feet of water. No big numbers of smelt yet, but the fish are there. Try down near the West Launch or Big Creek when fishing at night in 50 feet of water.

Houghton Lake: Has pretty good walleye fishing along the east side of the Middle Ground and off Heights Marina. Some of the fish measured 22 and 23 inches. Those using tip-ups for walleye also caught some jumbo perch. Most were using blues. Pike anglers with tip-ups have done well. Bluegills are just getting started.

Tawas: Had lots of ice fishing activity in Tawas Bay. Anglers were fishing northwest of Jerry's Marina in 15 to 20 feet of water. Walleye fishing was slow with only a few fish taken in the evening. Perch were spotty and most of the fish caught were small.

Au Gres River: Had no fishing activity near the Singing Bridge.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Little Glen Lake: Is producing some perch.

Green Lake: In Grand Traverse County is producing bluegill, small perch and pike. The smelt bite was slow however anglers are getting a few more fish.

Manistee River: Those fishing below Tippy Dam have caught some bright colored steelhead when fly fishing.

Lake Missaukee: The ice is holding and fish are being caught. For walleye, try tip-ups along the east side of the lake in 15 to 20 feet of water. For crappie, try small jigging spoons in 10 to 15 feet of water. For pike, try the north end of the lake.

Lake Cadillac: Ice fishing continues but the bite is harder to come by. Try something new like a small hair jig with a small minnow or spike. Anglers are still catching pike on tip-ups.

Lake Mitchell: Is producing fish but again the bite is slow. For panfish try teardrops or anything small with minnows or wax worms. Pike are still hitting on tip-ups.

UPPER PENINSULA

Slush has become an issue on most of the inland lakes.

Lake Gogebic: Had good walleye fishing with many legal size fish caught. Anglers are using tip-ups or jigging rapalas in 10 to 18 feet of water. Perch action was fair with wigglers in 12 to 17 feet.

Lac Vieux Desert: Has some areas with deep slush so be careful as you travel out on the lake. Access may be difficult at the Misery Bay landing due to deep snow. Ice anglers have done well for bluegill and crappie over the last few weeks. Bluegills were hitting on wax worms in 6 feet of water in Rice Bay. The bigger perch were hard to find along the west side of the lake however those willing to put in the time did take enough for a meal. Walleye were still hard to come by but the few that were caught were taken at sun up or sundown. Those targeting pike have caught good numbers of smaller fish but a few were over 30 inches.

Chicagon Lake: Catch rates were slow. A few walleye were taken on tip-ups with sucker minnows right before and right after dark in 10 to 15 feet of water. Perch were small but a few averaged 9 inches. Bluegills were now hitting wigglers and wax worms in 10 to 17 feet of water. Whitefish action was slow with only a few fish taken in 40 to 50 feet. Slush is bad in some places so use caution when heading out.

Iron Lake: Bluegills are hitting on small jigs tipped with wax worms but many are small. Crappie fishing is fair for those using minnows just before dark. Pike action remains steady but many were small.

Groveland Mine Ponds: The lakes had a lot of fresh snow with water and slush under it and that makes travel more difficult. Island Lake was producing small bluegills while West Lake was giving up bluegills and yellow perch for those using tip-ups or jigging with minnows and wax worms. Few anglers were out on East Lake or South Lake.

Lake Antoine: Still has ice but drifting snow made it difficult for anglers to get to their ice shanties. A few panfish were caught by those jigging minnows and wax worms.

Little Bay De Noc: Ice conditions remain favorable however travel in some areas is difficult with a foot or more of snow. Anglers were moving ice shanties closer to shore. Walleye catches were fair to good. The better fishing was near the Center and Third Reefs when using tip-ups with sucker minnows in 12 to 20 feet of water or near Garth Point in 8 to 17 feet. The walleye appear to be staging for spawning. Jumbo perch were caught just south of the "Narrows" when jigging wigglers in 30 feet of water. Good catches of smaller perch were reported near Kipling in 5 to 17 feet. Good whitefish action off Sand Point for those jigging dead minnows in 75 to 85 feet. Good pike action near the mouth of the Escanaba Yacht Harbor with tip-ups and sucker minnows along the break.

Munising: Still had fishable ice between Christmas and Sand Point. Some areas have up to a foot of snow and slush which makes travel on the ice a challenge. Catch rates were slow for whitefish. Most were jigging a single egg or wax worm. Splake were scattered. A few perch were caught at Sand Point but most were 7 to 8 inches. Those trying for lake trout in the West Channel reported no fish. Reports of smelt were beginning to trickle in.

Munuscong Bay: Was slow for perch and walleye.

Cedarville and Hessel: For perch, anglers are fishing 10 feet of water using wigglers, wax worms and minnows.

March 7, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

For those interested, the Management Units will be hosting public meetings in March and April to discuss local and statewide fishing regulations. Here is a list of dates and times: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364-296272--,00.html>

The 2013 Fishing Licenses went on sale March 1st. This gives anglers one month to purchase their new license before they are required on April 1st. The 2013 Fishing Guides will be available at all license vendors so be sure to ask for your copy.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: The only location for active fishing was the containment ponds at the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area. Perch were caught for those willing to walk the two miles to get to the ice.

Huron River: Anglers are trying for steelhead at the Flat Rock Dam.

Detroit River: Anglers are still taking some nice bluegill and perch in the protected areas along the shoreline. Caution needs to be used when the warm weather moves in. Those fishing in Airport Bay caught perch and the occasional pike. Pay close attention to ice conditions.

Lake St. Clair: With temperatures in the 40's, ice conditions will deteriorate on a daily basis as more water opens up. This looks like the end of ice fishing season. The only thing caught was small perch.

Port Austin: About a third of the ice is gone so anglers are bringing their shanties in.

Harbor Beach: Had a couple perch anglers in the harbor but few were caught.

Saginaw Bay: Perch action off Palmer Road was slow. Anglers crossing the first crack did find some walleye in 10 feet of water. Perch were caught off Newman Road, Newburg Road and Townline Road in 5 to 8 feet of water.

A few walleye were caught in the evening. Some nice perch and a few walleye were caught off the Bay City State Park in 5 feet of water. Fish were caught off the mouth of the Saginaw River near Spoils Island in 10 feet of water. Off Quanicassee, perch were found in 6 to 7 feet of water off Vanderbilt Park. Up near Fish Point, there is open water about two miles offshore so anglers should avoid that area. At Sebewaing, the only thing caught was small perch inside the harbor. Due to low water levels, there is almost no activity out on the bay. Those looking for crappie had to go out to Maisou Island just to find enough water under the ice to fish in. The ice was not good in Wildfowl Bay. At Caseville, most of the ice shanties have been removed from the harbor and the marina basins.

Saginaw River: Anglers are reminded to use extreme caution especially with the cracks and open water. The Rust Avenue Ramp is iced in. The ice through downtown Saginaw is not safe. The ice around Zilwaukee was iffy at best. Those fishing Cass Avenue caught some walleye. Further downstream, walleye and perch were caught below the Independence Bridge however there is open water and ice conditions were not consistent. Walleye and perch were caught near the mouth. Anglers were using the Patterson Road access for the lower bay and Spoils Island.

Tittabawassee River: A few were carrying their boats so they could access the river. There is deep snow in the parking lots and launch ramps at Gordonville Road and Center Street. Those heading up to the Dow Dam from Gordonville and downstream to the confluence with the Shiawassee off Center Street caught some nice fish and some took limit catches.

Shiawassee River: Is producing small bluegills and some crappie in the backwaters.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Ice fishing on most lakes is producing some bluegills but the bite is slow. Crappie and yellow perch fishing continues to improve. Ice conditions were fair on most of the inland lakes.

St. Joseph River: Steelhead and walleye action is picking up. They are catching steelhead downstream from the Berrien Springs Dam.

Kalamazoo River: Walleye were caught between M-89 and the Allegan Dam. Steelhead are becoming more active.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has steelhead and walleye up near the dam.

Grand River at Lansing: Anglers are catching pike and walleye at the North Lansing Dam and the Moore's Park Dam. Minnows and crawlers worked best.

Muskrat Lake: In Clinton County was good for crappie.

Duck Lake: In Eaton County was producing pike, walleye and some big bluegills.

Jackson County: Had low angler activity but those heading out were catching panfish.

Muskegon Lake: Perch fishing continues. Though many are small, anglers are still taking the occasional fish measuring 10 inches. Be careful along the shoreline as the ice starts to deteriorate.

Muskegon River: Was producing a good number of steelhead and a couple walleye that were keepers.

White Lake: Is producing bluegill and sunfish.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Anglers may have a hard time finding access sites that have been plowed after the near record snowfall in February.

Burt Lake: Catch rates were spotty with light numbers of perch and walleye taken.

Mullett Lake: Is producing perch for those using minnows and wigglers. Pike continue to hit on tip-ups with sucker minnows.

Alpena: Few anglers were fishing the harbor or the Thunder Bay River even though the ice was good.

Oscoda: Ice was holding on the inland lakes but fishing was slow.

Au Sable River: Steelhead are still moving up and down between the mouth and the dam. Those fishing upstream are using spawn and wax worms. Between the bridge on 23 and the mouth, anglers are using spawn, spinners, spoons and body baits.

East Twin Lake: Near Lewiston had good ice but the perch bite was slow.

Lake Margrethe: Anglers are seeing some muskie.

Higgins Lake: Ice anglers are taking a fair to good number of lake trout when using tip-ups with minnows in 100 feet of water. Perch fishing stalled but should pick back up by the weekend. Try off the Sunken Island and off the South State Park. Rainbow trout were hitting on wigglers in the shallows off the Conference Center. As for smelt, catch rates were good for a day or two, and then they would no longer bite.

Houghton Lake: Has good ice but catch rates slowed. Those fishing at dusk have managed to catch a couple walleye however the fish were small. Most are jigging but some are using tip-ups. Bluegills are just starting.

Lake St. Helen: Catch rates were decent for bluegill and crappie in 5 to 8 feet of water. A few pike and walleye were caught but the bite was slow.

Tawas: Those fishing near Jerry's Marina in Tawas Bay have caught a few perch in 15 to 20 feet of water. A couple pike were speared and a few walleye were also caught. Perch anglers report seeing a lot of smelt down the holes, more than they have seen in years. A big field of ice off Tawas Point broke free and drifted out so anglers are pretty much staying well inside the Point.

Tawas River: Was frozen over so no early steelhead fishing just yet. Whitney Drain was frozen over.

Au Gres River: Some were fishing the lower river but catch rates were spotty.

Pine River: Is producing some small perch in the lower river.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Winter is still in full swing with lots of snow, ice and ice fishing activity.

Lake Charlevoix: Has been producing walleye.

Green Lake: Is producing a few more smelt. Try off the northeast side near the Music Camp. Night anglers sometimes do better in 30 to 50 feet of water.

Manistee River: Steelhead fishing is slowly picking up as fish become more active with the warmer temperatures and spring melt.

Arcadia Lake: Had good panfish action.

Lake Missaukee: Still has good ice fishing for walleye, crappie, pike and bluegills.

Lake Cadillac: Is producing good numbers of crappie and pike off the boat launch on the northwest side. Those fishing at night have done well for crappie and the occasional walleye.

Lake Mitchell: Is producing bluegill and crappie along the west side of the lake. Those with tip-ups continue to take pike.

Hamlin Lake: Catch rates for panfish are picking up once again.

Pere Marquette Lake: Pike fishing was hit-or-miss and perch fishing was fair.

Pere Marquette River: Has plenty of steelhead and the spring run should be underway soon.

UPPER PENINSULA

Inland lake fishing was light but should pick up with the warmer weather. Snow and slush on the ice are still an issue.

Copper Harbor: Conditions were dangerous as the ice is breaking up.

Keweenaw Bay: Travel can be difficult as float ice is piled high in some areas. Lake trout were caught in 180 to 260 feet of water off Whirl-I-Gig Road, 200 to 260 feet off Pequaming and 150 to 240 feet near Big Reef. Coho and lake herring were slow off Sand Point and the L'Anse Marina. Whitefish action was slow but a few fish were caught east of the Baraga Marina in 80 to 100 feet of water.

Huron Bay: Lake trout action was slow. Smelt fishing on the Baraga side of the bay has continued to get better.

Marquette: Much of the area from the Chocolay River to the Upper Harbor is covered with floating pack ice. A few were fishing from the "Bubblers" but activity is limited due to the moving pack ice. A road near the "Bubblers" was plowed out so anglers have access. Both the Upper and the Lower Harbors were iced in past the lighthouse.

Chicagon Lake: Ice conditions are good but travel conditions are not. Those with motorized vehicles are getting stuck in the deep snow and slush. Perch were active and some bigger fish were caught by those jigging small spoons. A couple walleye were caught in 20 feet of water.

Iron Lake: Travel on the ice here is also difficult due to the snow and slush. A few crappie ranging 8 to 11 inches were caught by those jigging minnows. Catch rates for bluegill were spotty.

Groveland Mine Ponds: Still have ice with deep snow and slush.

Lake Antoine: Still has ice but the snow is deep. There are plowed roads to reach most areas of the lake. Some are getting stuck. Perch were caught on wax worms. Most of the fish were 8 to 10 inches. Those targeting other species caught a couple smallmouth bass however bass season is closed. Pike action was slow.

Little Bay De Noc: Travel remains difficult in some areas because of drifting snow, slush and pressure cracks. Most anglers are now in the northern end of the bay and looking for walleye. Catch rates were fair to good with the better action at night on the Center Reef and the Third Reef with tip-ups and sucker minnows in 12 to 23 feet. Good numbers of fish were marked in the north end but catch rates were fair at best. For perch, many have caught good numbers of smaller fish. Those fishing deeper in 19 to 23 feet caught a few jumbo perch near Kipling. Near Gladstone, whitefish were caught on dead minnows in 30 to 35 feet of water. Fish were also caught near Escanaba and Sand Point in 75 to 85 feet.

Au Train: Few anglers were out because of the pack ice. Those jigging for coho caught nothing. The mouth of the Rock River and the Au Train River were iced in.

Munising: Walking on the ice may be a challenge because of deep slush in some areas. The whitefish bite was slow. Splake were still scattered. Perch were still being caught near Sand Point. Those spearing reported low visibility in the water. Trout Bay did have fishable ice but catch rates coho were slow. Anglers did manage to catch a few smelt and herring.

Munuscong Bay: Perch and walleye fishing were slow.

Cedarville and Hessel: Good numbers of perch and pike were reported in Musky Bay, Hessel Bay and Government Bay. Try 10 feet of water with wigglers, wax worms and minnows.

March 14, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

With high water levels in many of the river systems, boat and shore anglers need to use caution. Anglers are reminded that walleye, pike and muskie season on the Upper Peninsula Great Lakes, inland waters and the St. Mary's River as well as the Lower Peninsula inland waters will close on March 15th at midnight.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Rumor has it a few walleye were caught in Brest Bay. Perch were caught off the docks in the Metro Park Marina.

Huron River: Is producing steelhead between the dam and the mouth. Anglers are using small hair jigs or spawn. A couple walleye were also caught.

Detroit River: Anglers need to be careful and watch for ice flows. Boat anglers were catching perch up near Gibraltar and off South Gibraltar Road. Most are using perch rigs with minnows or a piece of crawler.

Lake St. Clair: Ice fishing here is done. Nearly all the ice is gone and ice along the shoreline is no longer safe. Boat fishing will be day-to-day until flow ice from southern Lake Huron passes through.

Saginaw Bay: Ice conditions on the bay and the river are deteriorating but those fishing near shore in a few locations are starting to get some nice perch. Palmer Road was producing perch in 5 to 10 feet of water and some walleye were caught in 10 to 12 feet. There was good perch fishing off White's Beach in 6 to 8 feet and off Cody-Estey Road and Newman Road in 5 to 7 feet. Try minnows or minnow heads on small spoons. Catch rates were better during the week, too many people on the ice during the weekends. Those fishing at Bay City State Park reported seeing lots of walleye through the ice, but they did not bite. Anglers need to use extreme caution as the strong west winds have caused the sheet ice to break off and blow out about a mile offshore from the beach at the State Park.

On the east side, perch were caught off Tietz Drain in 4 to 7 feet of water but the weekend crowds seem to shut fishing down. Anglers were ice fishing in the marinas at Sebawaing and Caseville but only small perch were caught. The shore ice is breaking up. Be especially cautious of the ice off Mud Creek and into Wildfowl Bay. Honeycomb ice can be found throughout the bay.

Saginaw River: Had lots of anglers launching at Rust Avenue and catching good numbers of walleye down as far as Zilwaukee. Most were vertical jigging with spoons or jig heads baited with minnows or Gulp baits. The ramp at Zilwaukee is ice free. Those launching have caught walleye as far down as Cass Avenue. The ice in Bay City is dangerous and should be avoided. Water levels are rising and becoming more turbid after all the rain and snow melt. Anglers are reminded that walleye, pike and muskie season closes on March 15th and will re-open on Saturday, April 27th.

Tittabawassee River: Has high water levels and is over the banks at Midland. The high muddy water will make fishing very difficult. Before the rain, boat anglers fishing just upstream of Gordonville Road were taking walleye on a white twister tail or a spoon. Those launching off Center Street caught walleye near the M-46 Bridge.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph River: The Fish Cam at the Berrien Springs fish ladder was restarted last week. Only a few fish were moving through last week however with rain and snow melt, steelhead movement has increased. The fish ladders at Berrien Springs, Buchanan, and Niles are open.

Kalamazoo River: More steelhead are showing up. Try jigs with wax worms and spawn or flies under a bobber. Those fishing below the Allegan Dam have caught some walleye.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has a good push of steelhead and walleye coming into the river. For steelhead, try jigs with wax worms or spawn and peach cobbler wobble glows. Those fishing off the east side boat launch are using a 6 to 8 foot leader with flies and yarn. Pink and chartreuse were good colors. Those fishing off the wall were using jigs and wax worms or wobble glows. In the lower river, boat anglers are plugging the holes or back bouncing with spawn. For walleye, try jigs and minnows, husky jerks, floating rapalas, and twister tails. Off Fulton Street, try ½ to ¾ ounce bucktail jigs with walleye minnows.

Grand River at Lansing: The fish ladders at Lyons, Webber, Portland and Grand Ledge are all open but no steelhead to report this far up. Those out for last minute pike fishing have done well below the dams. They are floating golden shiners under a bobber or fishing them right on the bottom. The occasional walleye was caught.

Red Cedar River: A small section of the river that passes through the MSU campus is now open to fishing. The downstream boundary is a fence that designates a wildlife protection area and the upper boundary is the bridge near the Sparty statue.

Reeds Lake: Anglers say the ice is holding. For crappie, try 15 feet down in 40 feet of water just before dark with minnows and glow lights. Bluegill and perch were in 8 to 40 feet of water. The pike action was still good.

Muskegon River: Water levels are up and steelhead are being caught as fresh fish move up into the river. Try jigs with wax worms or flies under a bobber.

White River: Is producing steelhead.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Ice conditions were still holding except where springs and runoff are thinning ice along the shoreline. Cautious anglers can still fish some of the lakes in this area.

Grand Lake: Was producing a few perch. Try 15 to 25 feet of water around Grand Island. For pike, try tip-ups in Black Bass Bay or Whiskey Bay.

Long Lake: Is producing bluegill and perch. Try a teardrop with a minnow or wiggler. Those using tip-ups with sucker minnows are taking some pike.

Thunder Bay River: Those wading below the dam have caught some steelhead.

Au Sable River: Water levels are up and fresh fish are coming in from the big lake. Catch rates were good for those using wax worms up river or spawn down near the mouth. Those casting small spoons or body baits off the end of the pier caught steelhead and the occasional brown trout.

Higgins Lake: Ice is good but anglers might want to bring cleats for easier travel. Smelt were caught in good numbers including some during the day. Try 20 to 40 feet of water. Catch rates for lake trout were decent with a 25 pounder taken in 30 feet of water as they are chasing the smelt. The perch have started to move in closer to shore, catch rates were better in the evening. Rainbow trout and brown trout can be found off Big Creek. They are hitting on wigglers.

Houghton Lake: The ice is still good. Bluegill action has picked up with fish ranging 10 to 12 inches being caught. Most are using wigglers and wax worms in 7 to 9 feet of water out by the Middle Grounds.

Lake St. Helen: The ice is still holding. Bluegills were caught in 5 to 8 feet of water.

Tawas: Most of the permanent ice shanties have been removed from Tawas Bay, the rest need to be removed no later than midnight on March 15th. Those fishing reported slow catch rates.

Tawas River: Has open water fishing again. Steelhead were caught on spawn.

Au Gres River: On the East Branch, Whitney Drain and the Singing Bridge was not fishable as it was still iced over.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Even with the rain and warmer temperatures, ice fishing was still decent. Anglers should still use caution and avoid areas where there are inlets, outlets or a current.

Green Lake: Is producing a few more smelt but no big numbers. Try off the northeast side near the Music Camp. Night anglers sometimes do better in 30 to 50 feet of water.

Crystal Lake: Was producing good numbers of smelt. For perch, try the edge of the weedbeds off Beulah in 25 to 40 feet of water.

Betsie River: Should have a fair to good number of steelhead.

Manistee River: Look for fresh steelhead after the rain and snowmelt.

Lake Missaukee: Still has ice. Some are catching panfish.

Lake Cadillac: Ice fishing continues. The bluegill and crappie bite has picked up for those using small jigs with minnows, spikes or wax worms.

Lake Mitchell: Still had good ice. Anglers are catching more panfish.

Pere Marquette River: Is producing steelhead. Try flies, spawn or wax worms.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Lake trout fishing was slow off Jentoffs, the Center Reef, Whirl-I-Gig Road and Pequaming. Those moving around in 120 to 270 feet of water did manage to catch a few. Some were caught in 100 to 150 feet of water off Newton's Reef, Farmers Reef and Big Reef or the south end of Big Reef in 260 feet of water. Coho, lake herring and smelt were slow but should pick back up.

Marquette: Most of the area is covered with floating pack ice. Boats now have access from the beach. Jigging for coho was slow. A couple anglers were fishing from the coal docks in the Lower Harbor but caution needs to be used. Strong winds will cause the ice to shift.

Chicagon Lake: Is producing a good number of small perch. The few walleye that were caught were taken in waters 25 feet or deeper. The slushy conditions are worse than they have been all winter. Don't drive on it if it is not plowed.

Iron Lake: Fishing was slow with only a few small pike and some bluegills caught. Deep snow and slush make for difficult travel.

Groveland Mine Ponds: Still have ice however slush is making travel more difficult. Island Lake is producing a lot of small bluegills for those jigging wax worms. Perch and crappie were also caught. West Lake was producing bluegills and perch out in the middle. Anglers on South Lake were fishing near the boat launch but catch rates were slow for perch, crappie and bluegills.

Lake Antoine: Still has ice but slush is making travel difficult. Both the south end and the east side of the lake have produced some perch. Many were small but anglers still managed to catch some ranging 8 to 10 inches. Bluegill fishing slowed but a few were caught in the middle. Anglers are jigging wax worms or still-fishing with tip-ups and minnows. Pike spearing was slow.

Little Bay De Noc: Has ice but travel has become difficult after the rain and heavy wet snow. Walleye catches were fair at best with the majority of anglers north of the "Narrows". Most of the fish caught were females measuring 25 to 30 inches. Walleye were caught in 3 to 6 feet of water around Garth Point when using tip-ups with sucker minnows. Even though scattered catches were reported all along the reefs the overall harvest was much lower than this time last year. Perch fishing was best along the Kipling Flats and the "Narrows". Most are jigging minnows and wigglers in 19 to 30 feet of water. At Sand Point, anglers need to use caution and watch for areas where the ice is breaking up along the pressure cracks.

Au Train: Still had some ice beyond Au Train Island. Anglers need to use caution as some of the ice has started to buckle. Anglers were jigging for coho off the mouth of the river but catch rates were poor. The Brownstone launch had an average of 2 or 3 feet of snow.

Munising: Ice conditions changed as heavy wet snow and drifts were difficult to navigate. There continues to be 6 to 12 inches of snow and slush in some areas. Anglers are widespread throughout the bay with fishable ice from the West Channel near Christmas to Sand Point. The whitefish bite was slow and the keepers were typically 9 to 14 inches. Splake were still scattered and size ranged anywhere from sub-legal to 20 inches. A few perch ranging 7 to 10 inches were caught at Sand Point. Those targeting lake trout in the West Channel reported slow catch rates. Those spearing for herring did best in the early morning. Some are picking up a few smelt. Trout Bay had fishable ice but catch rates were slow. Always use caution in this area as ice conditions can change rapidly.

Munuscong Bay: Perch fishing picked up until the rain and warmer weather. Walleye were caught in 10 to 20 feet of water in Raber Bay and off Rocky Point.

Cedarville and Hessel: The better perch fishing was in Hessel Bay, Musky Bay and Government Bay. Try 10 feet of water with minnows, wigglers and wax worms.

March 21, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Remember, walleye and pike season are open all year on Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River, Detroit River and the Lower Peninsula Great Lakes which includes Saginaw Bay. Ice fishing continues to the north while boat anglers are starting to come out in Southeast Michigan.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: A few holdouts were fishing the ponds at Pointe Mouillee. A couple boats were seen out in Brest Bay but other than that, there was little activity.

Huron River: Is producing a few steelhead. Anglers are using small jigs in a variety of colors with spawn or wax worms.

Detroit River: Boat anglers are jigging minnows for walleye. Try the hot water discharge off the Trenton Edison Plant. The launch at Elizabeth Park is not open yet so most are using the Metro Park. Boat and shore anglers caught jumbo perch in the canals and marinas of Grosse Ile and Gibraltar. They are using perch rigs with shiners, a piece of crawler or leaf worm. A few pike were caught in the canals and marinas. Boat anglers need to go slow and watch for ice coming down the river.

Lake St. Clair: Is in between fishing seasons. There is no ice left. The boat launches were ice free however the docks were not in. Anglers will need waders if they want to launch a boat.

Clinton River: A few perch were starting to move into the river and the spillway. Minnows were the preferred bait.

Harbor Beach: A couple anglers were fishing right off the boat launch.

Saginaw Bay: Palmer Road had limited ice fishing in 5 feet of water. Catch rates for perch were slow. Very small perch were caught in the Eagle Bay Marina. Those fishing off Neuman Road, Townline Road and the State Park caught perch on minnows and beads in 4 to 6 feet of water. Walleye were in 7 feet. The ice in Wildfowl Bay was bad. Small perch were caught in the Sebewaing Marina and off Caseville. Most were using perch rigs with ice fishing poles.

Saginaw River: Not much going on since walleye season closed. Ice is still a problem along the river.

Quanicassee River: Boat anglers were fishing in the morning.

Flint River: Suckers were starting to move in before the cold weather returned.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

There are still a few lakes providing ice fishing opportunities. Check with local bait shops for locations and use extreme caution. There have been some reports of anglers going through the ice.

St. Joseph River: Has decent steelhead fishing below the Berrien Springs Dam. Most anglers are back bouncing spawn. Fish were in the deeper holes. Video files from the fish cam indicate that a large push of steelhead moved through the ladder on March 10th. Fish movement has slowed with the return of the colder weather however preliminary signs suggest that there is going to be a good run.

Kalamazoo River: Steelhead fishing is fair to good. The bite is better on warmer days. Try spawn or wax worms under a bobber, spinners, or back trolling plugs.

Grand Haven: Pier anglers were catching the occasional steelhead. The activity was light and very weather dependent.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Had some steelhead activity at the Sixth Street Dam. With the water clarity try using bright colored yarn and flies. Boat anglers are plugging the deeper holes with the colder weather.

Grand River at Lansing: Was producing a few crappie in the backwaters. The fish ladders at Lyons, Webber, Portland and Grand Ledge are open but no steelhead yet. It's time to starting thinking catfish. Try live baits, fresh dead minnows, shrimp or small bluegills.

Muskegon River: Water levels are still a bit high and clarity is not so good but anglers are catching steelhead. Most are fly fishing with egg patterns. Yellow perch were caught near Davis Bridge which is on White Cloud Road, north and west of Stanwood, just off U.S. 131.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Oscoda: Those fishing off the end of the pier have caught steelhead on small spoons. Some walleye were also caught but most are targeting steelhead. If anglers are looking for walleye, be sure of the boundary cut-off between the lake and the river. Ice conditions are not safe for the most part. Shorelines are receding and pressure cracks are forming because of the strong winds.

Au Sable River: Even with a down turn in the weather fishing continues to get better. Steelhead were plenty between the mouth and the dam. The fish are hitting on spawn or wax worms.

Higgins Lake: Still has good ice, no slush and 4 to 5 inches of the powder snow. Lake trout can be found along the drop-off in 80 to 100 feet of water. Rainbow trout and brown trout have been caught near the creeks where the warm water comes in. Anglers have caught a 24 inch rainbow and a 27 inch brown trout. Perch fishing was slow but the bigger fish should start moving closer to shore. Try around Treasure Island in 20 to 30 feet of water or the drop-off around the Sunken Island with minnows and wigglers. Smelt fishing was good until the weather changed. Catch rates should pick back up by the weekend.

Houghton Lake: The ice is still good and the bluegill action will pick up. Try near the canals or out by the Middle Grounds in 7 to 9 feet of water with minnows, wigglers or wax worms.

Tawas: Ice anglers are still fishing off Jerry's Marina. Perch and lake trout were caught in 10 to 15 feet of water. The State Harbor and marina were producing brown trout and lake trout for those using treble hooks and minnows.

Tawas River: Those floating spawn bags have caught steelhead.

Au Gres: A few walleye were caught in 4 feet of water north of the breakwall.

Au Gres River: Some are surfcasting for steelhead off the East Branch. Ice is a problem in the lower river.

Rifle River: Was high, turbid and too much ice.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Winter continues to hang on in this region of the state. There is plenty of snow and ice fishing continues.

Thumb Lake: In Charlevoix County is producing small perch and the occasional splake.

Green Lake: Is giving up smelt.

Crystal Lake: Continues to give up smelt.

Betsie River: Is producing a fair number of steelhead. Try flies, spawn or a wax worm in the deeper holes until it warms up.

Manistee River: Steelhead fishing was decent. Bright chrome fish have been caught in the deeper holes.

Lake Missaukee: Ice fishing continues for panfish.

Lake Cadillac: Ice fishing continues for panfish. Bluegill and crappie are hitting on minnows, wigglers and wax worms. Try early morning or late afternoon.

Lake Mitchell: Still had good ice. Anglers are catching more panfish.

Pere Marquette River: Is producing steelhead. Try flies, spawn, wax worms, small spoons or spinners.

UPPER PENINSULA

Copper Harbor: Has no ice and no anglers.

Keweenaw Bay: Catch rates for coho and lake herring were poor. Lake whitefish smelt and lake trout were spotty. Anglers could be found at the Center Reef, Newton's Reef and Big Reef in waters 80 to 260 feet deep. Try $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 ounce jigs with smelt or cut bait such as suckers. Some are using Swedish pimples in 80 to 150 feet. Hot colors were white, orange and white, green and white or hammered brass.

Marquette: Was starting to produce a few coho and splake. Fishing was limited by a large area of ice. Those fishing near the "Bubblers" are using assorted jigs and spoons with spawn or cut bait. Dawn is the best time to fish. Strong winds will be shifting the ice packs this week. Most of the area still had ice with large pressure cracks near shore. Use caution. Whitefish action was slow.

Carp River: Anglers caught a couple steelhead. Try small orange in-line spinners, spoons or spawn. Not much open water at the mouth.

Groveland Mine Ponds: Travel on the lakes remains difficult. Island Lake had good bluegill action with a few nice ones in the mix. East Lake was producing some bluegills for those jigging wax worms. A few limit catches were reported.

Lake Antoine: Travel is difficult due to deep snow. Anglers need to use caution. There are two layers of ice after the thaw and refreeze. Some got caught up on broken ice. Bluegill and perch were in the middle of the lake but the bite was slow.

Little Bay De Noc: Ice remains but travel is difficult because of the snow cover. With walleye season closed, anglers are targeting perch. A few jumbo perch were caught in the Kipling Flats. Try wigglers or wax worms in 19 to 25 feet of water. Near Gladstone, try 30 feet of water. The better catches came near the Day's River for those using large minnows in 14 feet. Those targeting whitefish off Sand Point had fair catches in 80 feet of water when using minnows or spawn. Anglers need to use caution in this area as the Coast Guard has cut shipping lanes.

Au Train: Few anglers fished the Bay because of limited access with ice and snow. Ice extends out past Au Train Island. The Rock River remains frozen with no water flow over the spillway. Ice is still packed in tight at the mouth. The Brownstone ramp still has a good 3 feet of snow. Those jigging for coho off the mouth of the Au Train River said catch rates were poor.

Munising: Was producing a few splake, smelt and coho in the waters of Lake Superior. Perch were caught in Garden Bay but fishing was slow.

Munuscong Bay: Still has ice however fishing was slow. Anglers will start perch fishing soon.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch fishing is fair to good. Hessel Bay, Musky Bay and Government Bay were the hot spots for anglers using minnows, wigglers or wax worms in 10 feet of water.

March 28, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

On Monday, April 1st, all anglers 17 years of age and older will be required to have a 2013 fishing license. Be sure to pick up a copy of the 2013 Fishing Guide when you purchase your license. Even though the calendar says spring, ice fishing is going strong in the northern half of the Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula. While spring is slow to arrive this year, a long, slow warm-up is better for fish production.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Steelhead runs appear to be underway in area streams but the suckers didn't get the memo about dip-net season opening on March 20th because no fish were in the Rifle River yet.

Huron River: Is producing some steelhead and the occasional sucker.

Detroit River: Walleye anglers are fishing the lower river including the Trenton Channel. Catch rates were slow as water temperatures are still quite cold. Perch were caught in the canals around Grosse Ile and Gibraltar.

Lake St. Clair: The slow start to spring has really stalled fishing. Most of the ramps are open however the Parks and Recreation Division have not yet installed the skid piers at the DNR sites. Windy conditions will have the lake stirred up for a few days. Look for catch rates to improve by the weekend.

Harbor Beach: The ice is not safe. The Edison Channel is all open water.

Saginaw Bay: Ice conditions are quickly deteriorating, but anglers staying close to shore are getting some perch. Ice fishing continued off Palmer Road however catch rates were hit-or-miss for 6 to 8 inch perch. Small bluegills, crappie and perch were caught in the basin of the Eagle Harbor Marina. Last-ice perch anglers caught fish in 5 feet of water off Newman and Newburg Roads. Average was 10 to 25 fish for those using minnows and beads.

A few perch were caught off the State Park however the honeycomb ice is not encouraging. Be extremely careful. Not much going on east of Bay City as the ice is bad with lots of holes, thin spots or ice that has piled up. A few boat anglers looking for perch were going out of Quanicassee but success was spotty. Those fishing the marinas at Sebewaing, Bay Port and Caseville did manage to catch a few perch.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph River: Water levels were getting back to normal. Water temperatures dropped back down to 37 degrees. Very few steelhead moved through the Berrien Springs ladder during the cold spell. Fish movement is expected to increase over the weekend with the arrival of rain and warmer weather.

Kalamazoo River: Steelhead fishing slowed but there are still fish to be caught.

Gull Lake: Still had some ice on the south end but those fishing said the bite was really slow with only a few bluegill and perch biting during the day and a few smelt at night. Extreme caution needs to be used this time of year.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: As water levels come down, water clarity improves. Rain and warmer temperatures by the weekend should help to move fresh fish into the river.

Grand River at Lansing: Steelhead are now being caught near Ionia in Prairie Creek, so they are moving this way. Those looking for bluegill or crappie might want to check out the backwaters.

Muskegon River: Water levels are back to normal and the clarity is nice and clear. The steelhead bite slowed with the cold weather. Look for good fishing once spring gets here and stays.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

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

Au Sable River: Is producing some steelhead and a few suckers. Most of the steelhead seem to be fresh from the lake. Anglers are using wax worms, spinners, or Hot-n-Tots and some are fly fishing. The access sites are open but most still have ice in the parking lots and on the ramps.

Higgins Lake: Still has good ice. Lake trout are hitting on grays just off the bottom in 80 to 100 feet of water. A good number of rainbow trout were caught on wigglers near the Conference Center. Some nice perch were caught in 20 to 25 feet of water around the Sunken Island. Smelt have been caught off Big Creek. Some near limit catches were taken by those fishing in 20 to 30 feet of water at night.

Houghton Lake: The bluegill bite was slow with the cold front but anglers should still find some nice fish by the weekend. Try the Middle Grounds.

Tawas: Ice anglers caught small perch near Jerry's Marina in Tawas Bay. Those fishing inside the state harbor are getting brown trout and lake trout on tip-ups and short rods and the bigger live minnows.

Tawas River: Is producing some steelhead. A few fishing at the mouth were casting lakeward for walleye but the bite was slow.

Au Gres: Some are walleye fishing in the big water off the mouth of the river however catch rates were slow.

Au Gres River: Steelhead were reported in good numbers in the East Branch both upstream and at the mouth near the Singing Bridge.

Rifle River: Dip-netting for suckers is open at Omer but the suckers were not running yet. They should start moving in soon.

Pine River: Has opened up but there was no fishing activity.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Green Lake: The smelt bite slowed but should pick back up with warmer weather.

Crystal Lake: Continues to give up smelt. No big numbers yet but catch rates should improve soon.

Manistee River: Steelhead fishing is in a bit of a holding pattern right now. Plenty of fish around, but water temperatures are cold and water levels are back down to normal. The next thaw should really get it fired up!

Lake Missaukee: Still has ice fishing.

Lake Cadillac: Ice fishing could last for another two weeks at this rate. Panfish are being caught but the bite has slowed. A few crappie were caught along the east end.

Lake Mitchell: Ice fishing is going strong with no end in sight, at least not right now. The bite was slow but panfish were caught in the coves.

Pere Marquette River: Has steelhead but catch rates were slow due to the cold water. The next warm-up should provide some excellent trout fishing.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Catch rates for lake trout were spotty. Those fishing on the reefs are using lead head jigs cut bait such as smelt or suckers in 120 to 180 feet of water. Those fishing out from Whirl-I-Gig Road and Pequaming were in 240 to 275 feet of water but catch rates for coho, lake herring and whitefish were hit-or-miss. A nice lake trout measuring just over 37 inches was caught off Big Reef. Anglers say they can see clouds of smelt on the fish finders however it seems they are not feeding because catch rates were slow.

Falls River: Was producing a few rainbow trout.

Marquette: Changing wind directions have been shifting the ice so much that it is no longer safe to venture out. The Lower Harbor and breakwall were still iced in at the launch. The Upper Harbor has one launch open for boat access. Anglers did manage to catch some coho, lake herring and splake near the "Bubblers." They were using small jigs and spinners tipped with crawlers or cut bait.

Carp River: Those casting from shore had no luck for coho and steelhead.

Chicagon Lake: Whitefish are active in 45 to 65 feet of water most mornings. Perch fishing was spotty.

Iron Lake: The morning bite was good for perch and bluegill. Use minnows or wax worms in 14 to 17 feet of water. Slush is making travel difficult.

Groveland Mine Ponds: Few anglers were out because of deep snow on the lakes. The road getting to the lakes is in poor condition because of the deep snow. Those that could make it out did catch some nice bluegills in 25 feet of water near the boat launch on South Lake. They were jigging wax worms at different depths.

Lake Antoine: In Dickinson County also has a good amount of ice but deep snow continues to make travel difficult. The few anglers that were out did catch a few small perch on wax worms near the middle of the lake.

Little Bay De Noc: Ice was holding across the Bay however large ships have been moving in and out near Escanaba. Angler participation has been low with many removing their ice shanties. All shanties must be off the water by midnight March 31st. Perch fishing was fair between the "Narrows" and the Second Reef. Some jumbo perch were caught on minnows and wigglers in 8 to 30 feet of water. Good catches of small perch were reported around Butler Island in 5 to 10 feet of water. Whitefish anglers off Sand Point were lucky to catch a couple fish in 75 to 85 feet of water when using minnows or spawn.

Au Train: The bay is still iced in. The Brownstone Launch still has about 3 feet of snow and wayside near the river is not plowed. The Rock River remains frozen with no flow at the spillway.

Au Train River: Is open near the mouth. Anglers jigging for coho had poor results.

Munising: Few anglers were out and few fish were caught. There continues to be about 6 to 12 inches of slushy snow on the ice and some soft spots as well. Catch rates for trout and salmon were not good and the whitefish action has slowed as well. Splake were scattered. The fish caught ranged from sub-legal to about 20 inches. Perch anglers were getting mostly 7 to 8 inch fish near Sand Point and in Murray Bay. Those jigging halfway down near Sand Point did catch a few smelt. Those trying to spear herring had poor results. Trout Bay had fishable ice. Anglers did well for coho, some herring and even a few smelt. Use caution in this area as conditions can change quickly.

Munuscong Bay: Catch rates were slow however those targeting perch are fishing the north end by Moon Islands in 8 to 10 feet of water. Raber Bay may also produce some fish in 10 to 15 feet of water.

Cedarville and Hessel: Hessel Bay is producing some nice yellow perch in 10 to 12 feet of water for those using minnows. Musky Bay, off Rice Point is producing fewer fish but those caught were good size. In Government Bay, try minnows in 20 to 27 feet of water for bigger perch.