

July 4, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

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

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Anglers are seeing good walleye fishing between Fermi and the Banana Dike in 17 to 19 feet of water. The dumping grounds south of Bolles Harbor are also producing good numbers of walleye. Most fish are being caught on purple and pink harnesses or spoons. Good numbers of perch have been caught in Brest Bay in 17 to 19 feet of water and out from Toledo Beach in 14 to 16 feet of water.

Lake St. Clair: White bass are showing up in good numbers at the Clinton Beach and Metro Beach points.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing has been good in the river at Port Huron and downriver to Marine City. White bass are prevalent in the river channels all the way up to Lake Huron.

Harbor Beach: Some anglers have reported that fish are scattered. When anglers can get out, they are fishing steelhead and lake trout in 100 feet of water running baits in 70 feet of water to the bottom.

Port Austin: has been very windy with a few walleye being caught. Fish appear to be scattered.

Caseville: Anglers are starting to pick up a few walleye off Sleeper State Park.

Saginaw River: Walleye trolling from Consumers to the Coast Guard Station and at Smith Park (Essexville) – some freshwater drum, channel catfish, and smallmouth.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Salmon anglers are still finding fishing very spotty. Most fish are being caught in 60 to 100 feet of water. Pier fishing has been slow but anglers have caught some steelhead. Anglers casting orange spoons were doing best. Some fish were also caught on shrimp and alewives fished under bobbers. Perch fishing has been very spotty. The fish seem to be moving a lot and have been caught in 20 feet out past 50 feet of water.

South Haven: Perch fishing is finally improving. They are being caught in 35 to 45 feet of water. Anglers that are drifting are doing significantly better than anglers who are anchoring. Salmon anglers are catching a few fish in 75 to 140 feet of water. Anglers that were doing best were targeting the upper half of the depths they are fishing. Pier anglers are catching the occasional steelhead, but overall pier fishing is slow.

Holland: One boat angler had good luck fishing in 80 feet of water targeting lake trout while fishing the bottom with "trash cans" and picked up one lake trout and a king. Boat anglers here are pretty sparse. Perch are being caught south of Saugatuck. Pier anglers are struggling to catch steelhead with shrimp and a bobber.

Grand Haven: Salmon anglers are targeting steelhead since kings are still scarce in 200 to 240 feet of water at the top portion of the water column. Spoons that are orange are working best. Water around the piers has warmed so pier anglers are struggling to catch steelhead. They are using shrimp and a bobber for bait. No perch.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is producing smallmouth bass, channel catfish, flathead catfish and the surprise summer run steelhead.

Branch County: Coldwater Lake is producing largemouth bass, northern pike, rock bass, and bluegills along the drop offs.

Kalamazoo River: Smallmouth bass are biting when the water clears between rains.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Fishing here is definitely on the upswing. Anglers are catching mostly lakers, Chinook salmon and steelhead. The occasional Atlantic salmon, coho and pinks are also showing up. Bugs are really starting to show up on the surface and steelies are starting to show in some numbers. Anglers are fishing high for them with lead cores of 1, 3, 5, and 7 colors. Chinook are being caught in 60 to 120 feet of water and about half way down with spoons. Greens, blues, black and white, yellow and chartreuse have all been good colors. A lot of smaller fish are now making up the catch with many just over 15 inches. Remember 15 inches and up is the legal size for keeping lake trout in this area. They are being taken close to the bottom with spoons, cowbells or dodgers with spin glows.

Please be on the lookout for adipose fin clipped fish. Many of these fish contain a metal tag that was planted in them when they were released. These fish are part of a study that is helping to determine the many things that are happening with them out in the lake. Please take the time to save the head and to fill out a small data sheet. The bags and data sheet are located in the cleaning station in Rogers City. You can also see the creel clerk for a kit and more information.

Presque Isle: Weather has kept many anglers off the lake here. Lakers are still being taken off the red can or off the big lighthouse point. Try waters up to 80 feet and fish the bottom 25 feet or so with cowbells, dodgers and spin glows. The fish have been scattered all over in waters 50 to 120 feet. Anglers are using downriggers, lead cores, dipseys and high lines to catch fish.

Rockport: Angler pressure out of Rockport this week was very low. No walleye were reported and a handful of lake trout up to 15 pounds were caught. A few steelhead were also being caught. Look for trout and steelhead in around 60 to 70 feet of water around Middle Island. Flashers and peanuts were catching lake trout.

Alpena: Thunder Bay out from Alpena has been fished heavy this week for walleye. Many people are venturing out at all times of the day with best catches coming late evening into the night and even after dark. Limits have been reported with most people getting 3 to 4 fish. Most are fishing off of the north shore and Sulfur Island in 15 to 20 feet of water. The occasional catfish, northern pike, and smallmouth bass have also been caught.

Harrisville: Angler traffic has been light, but those making their way have had good success with lake trout, steelhead, salmon and walleye. Steelhead are in 50 to 70 feet of water. Lake trout and salmon seem to be in 80 to 100 feet of water. Walleye early in the morning and late evening are in 12 to 20 feet of water in front of the harbor and north up to Sturgeon Point.

Oscoda: Walleye have slowed in the river, but water temps are coming up so they should be making their way in and out. Crawlers and body baits seem to be hot right now. Lake trout seem to be in 70 to 90 feet of water and suspended along with a few salmon. Steelhead have been hanging in the 40 to 60 foot range and along any scum lines.

Tawas: Trollers are still finding walleye in 25 to 60 feet of water, often fishing 30 feet down using crawlers and some plastics. A few smallmouths are being caught. No pier action reported.

Tawas River: Anglers are fishing catfish, freshwater drum, and smallmouth bass.

Au Gres: has slowed somewhat but walleye anglers are still getting fish and many limits. Anglers have been fishing in 30 to 40 feet of water from Pt. Au Gres to Point Lookout, the Charities and Gravelly Shoals. Fish appear to be a bit more scattered. Incidental catches of freshwater drum and catfish.

Au Gres River: Anglers are still getting catfish and freshwater drum.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Lake trout were being found around Harbor Point on spoons with cowbells or dodgers, spin n' glows and spoons. There have been lots of undersized lake trout caught but some keepers as well. There are still lake trout to be caught further north between the condos and 7 Mile Point.

Petoskey: The pier is producing lots of small smallmouth bass, rock bass, and bullhead. Most people are fishing with crawlers, but some are using crank baits, spinners, and jigs with soft plastic lures. Anglers on the break wall were catching some smallmouth and an occasional yellow perch on crawlers and minnows. Boat fishing is still pretty slow but it is expected to pick up when reports of salmon start coming in.

Bear River: There were very few people fishing at the dam or in the river this week. Anglers that were there trying for steelhead with spawn bags were having their bait swiped by chubs.

Charlevoix: Walleye fishing in the channel has been slow for the last week. Smallmouth are being caught in the channel on crawlers as are freshwater drum and rock bass. Boat fishing has been slow in Charlevoix. A lot of undersize lake trout are being caught.

Traverse City: The East Bay reports good smallmouth bass fishing in 5 to 15 feet of water. Lake trout, cisco, and a few whitefish were caught jigging in 50 to 80 feet of water. Lake trout were also caught trolling at depths around 75 feet. Anglers fishing in West Bay report lake trout catches while jigging and trolling in depths around 100 feet. Smallmouth bass were caught in 10 to 20 feet of water.

Elk River: Smallmouth bass fishing has been good, but most of the fish are on the small side. Try leeches, crawlers, or plastic baits for the bass.

Boardman River: Fishing has been relatively slow. Smallmouth and rock bass have been caught along with the occasional pike. Live bait seems to be working the best.

Frankfort: Chinook salmon are in the area but not in great numbers. The ones that are being landed are caught in 180 to 220 feet of water and trolling 65 to 110 feet down. Limits of lake trout have also been reported around the six mile hole area while bouncing the bottom with spin and glows and cow bells.

Onekama: Anglers are reporting a good early morning bite in 140 to 240 feet of water trolling 70 to 120 feet down just off the golf course. Several kings are being reported hitting on blue spoons and on meat. Lake trout are also hitting well in the same area on cow bells.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers are working the drops due to warming temperatures. Activity has slowed but still some nice large and smallmouths are being caught. Bluegills, sun fish, rock bass and perch are all reporting good numbers off all the weed beds. Please be cautious in the area with all the vacationing recreational boaters.

Manistee: Fishing continues to be tough. Salmon and trout have been caught 40 to 80 feet down in 120-240 feet of water. Try running green or orange spoons. Freshwater drum have been caught off the pier.

Ludington: Boat anglers have found the salmon and trout bite tough. Some fish have been caught 40 to 100 feet down in 110 to 240 feet of water. Try running blue and green spoons along with meat rigs down deeper.

Pentwater: A few anglers have taken steelhead and chinook salmon. These anglers fished in 100 to 150 feet of water and trolled with lines running 50 to 80 feet down. Anglers are still taking a few pan fish from Longbridge and from various points along the shoreline.

Whitehall: Anglers trolling in 100 to 150 feet of water are taking a few coho salmon. Pier and channel fishing at both ports have turned up little besides freshwater drum and a few catfish. Pan fishing is slowing down but anglers are still taking a few from the channel at Whitehall.

White Lake: Bass fishing continued to be very good this week. These fish are still in tight to shore with green, white, and gold being the hot colors this week.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Fishing has been slow the past few days. Pollen is very thick on the water right now. Anglers fishing for salmon here in the Bay had some success through most of the week. Anglers were trolling from Sand Point up to Carla's restaurant trolling in 150 to 240 feet of water 25 to 100 feet down. Flies and spoons in a variety of colors were working best.

South Portage Entry: Anglers here have picked up some lake trout trolling and jigging near Farmers, Newton's and Big Reefs. A few chinook lake trout and coho have been caught trolling from the Entry southward to the Red Rocks near Keweenaw Bay Roadside Park and trolling the White City break wall in 25 feet of water in the early morning. Some chinook and coho have also been picked up near the lighthouse. Anglers have been trolling in waters 150 to 170 feet deep and 30 to 140 feet down using a variety of spoons and colors.

Marquette: The upper harbor dredging of the launch area is complete and is open to boaters. A number of anglers have had success for coho salmon outside the lower harbor break wall, trolling with high-lines near Shot Point/Sand River area and near the White Rocks. Lake trout anglers have reported some limits for about five hours of fishing. Most anglers are using assorted spoons and others reporting good success

trying spoons tipped with sucker meat. Stannard Rock continues to produce good catches of lake trout with jigging being the most productive method.

Menominee River: Walleye anglers are doing fair to good. They are jigging minnows, trolling crawler harnesses or trolling different size and colored Rapalas. These anglers are also catching freshwater drum. Shore anglers are catching smallmouth bass, walleye, freshwater drum, and rock bass. These anglers are mainly drifting crawlers or minnows or casting crank baits.

Traverse Bay: Anglers did well trolling and jigging for lake trout on or near Hermits Cove, the Gay Stacks, Big Louie's Point and 5 and 6 mile reefs. Anglers trolled in water from 130 to 160 feet with spoons of different colors with speeds of 1.9 to 2.4 mph. Anglers also did well with lead headed jigs and cut bait in water of 130 to 220 feet deep.

Cedar River: Anglers trolling the Bay are looking for trout and salmon. They have marked a few game fish but no catches were reported. The river anglers are getting fair to good catches of smallmouth bass casting with crank baits or drifting crawlers. They are also getting fair catches of northern pike with a few carp in the mix.

Little Bay De Noc: May fly hatches have slowed catches considerably in both Bay's. The best walleye catches were reported from the Escanaba River and out to "Black bottom" area and south off Breezy Point. Most trolled or drifted crawlers or cranks just off the break 10 to 20 feet down or up on the shelf in 8 to 12 feet of water. Escanaba River area anglers trolled or drifted the river using crawler's w/harnesses. Fair catches of perch reported in Gladstone off the beach area using crawlers in 16 to 23 feet of water.

Big Bay De Noc: Anglers have reported walleye catches out by the "Boot" and south off Ansell's Point with most using crawlers w/harnesses in 18 to 22 feet of water. Smallmouth anglers reported fair catches in Ogontz trolling cranks in around 14 feet of water. Garden Bay anglers have reported fair to good catches of bass using cranks, plastics and crawlers in 14 to 18 feet. Garden Bay was also producing good catches of rock bass drifting around the area using crawlers.

Au Train: There has been light fishing pressure this past week. The catch rate has declined for lake trout anglers where most parties were catching three to five fish within about six hours of trolling. Water temperatures remain cool generally off-shore in the mid 40's where near-shore temperatures are in the low 50's. Rain and north wind kept angling limited.

Munising Bay: reports a low amount of fishing effort this past week due to multiple days of wind and rain. Catch rates have been fair to poor with boat angling effort continuing to be slow over the past week. Catch rates for pier fishermen have been fair to good over the past week with a couple limit catches of splake having been reported. Some anglers have reported catches throughout the day both casting and still fishing with spawn. Sub-legal splake from recent stockings continue to be present but have decreased some. Larger splake have been reported up to 22 inches.

Fairport: Anglers have been patiently waiting for the salmon to turn on. There's still only a few boats going out each day and they are marking bait fish and salmon but few catches have been reported.

Grand Marais: reports a low amount of fishing activity over the past week. Pier anglers targeting whitefish continue to dwindle as many anglers begin to call it a season on whitefish. Recent reports indicate there are still limit catches to be caught though they are becoming less common, even on smaller fish. Evening fishing activity has been very light with best action in the hour around sunset, usually on fish less than 13 inches.

DeTour: Anglers are trolling from the city launch out to the #3 green can, around the lighthouse area and over to the #2 red can by Drummond Island. A few boats are venturing out to the flats (3 miles further south). Atlantic salmon, chinook salmon and lake trout are active, with early morning fishing producing the best on orange, watermelon, green and gold.

Drummond Island: Anglers are targeting and looking for lake herring. Walleye are good in Maxton Bay fishing crawler harnesses at Bay Island in 6 to 7 feet of water. Early morning is good, just on the edge of weed beds. Anglers report harvests of musky at Lime Island trolling large crank baits in 4 to 6 feet of water off the weed beds. Moving further up the St. Marys River to Gogomain River mouth, walleye are good in 3 to 4 feet of water using crawler harnesses with a #4 hook.

Cedarville and Hessel: Hessel Bay is producing limited perch catches off the marina pier. Pike are also good in Hessel Bay with anglers still fishing with chubs. Pike are also hitting in Musky Bay and Moscoe Channel.

St. Ignace: A handful of anglers are fishing lake trout and chinook salmon, fishing the SW side of Mackinaw Island and the flats.

July 11, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The extended warm and humid weather is pushing the fish into deeper waters in both the inland lakes and the Great Lakes. Strong storms coupled with strong winds have muddied some of the waters around the state.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Walleye fishing remains good for most with some reporting limit catches between Fermi and the Banana Dike in 18 to 20 feet of water with spoons. Expect to catch your fair share of freshwater drum and white perch. Those targeting perch are marking fish in 18 feet of water around Brest Bay and the River Raisin however they are not biting.

Washtenaw County: Bruin Lake was producing some decent size pike. White bass and white perch were caught in Ford Lake.

Detroit River: Is producing a good number of smallmouth bass and some walleye.

Lake St. Clair: Anglers caught smallmouth bass, walleye and some nice musky.

Port Sanilac: Perch fishing is hit-or-miss. Most were caught along the weed beds in 15 feet of water. On the good days, anglers caught 12 to 24 large perch per boat.

Harbor Beach: Had fair lake trout action in 80 to 120 feet north, south or straight out from the harbor. Try dodgers with spin glows or spoons near the bottom. Brown trout are closer to shore in 30 to 40 feet. Use long lines with bright colored spoons and body baits. Offshore boards will let you get in closer to shore. Salmon and steelhead were out deeper in 105 to 180 feet and hitting on spoons in the top 50 feet. Hot colors were orange and black, green and bright yellow or black and silver screwballs. A few walleye were caught on crawler harnesses in 25 to 40 feet of water between the wall and the shoreline.

Port Austin: Walleye action is picking up on the reefs to the west and out near the lighthouse. Fishing is good to excellent all the way around the tip of the Thumb to Lighthouse Park, southeast of Grindstone City. Anglers are trolling crawlers, body baits and spoons in 15 to 45 feet of water.

Saginaw Bay: Is producing limit catches of walleye at virtually every port. Everyone was bringing in fish even on the bad days. Surface water temperatures have warmed to the mid 70's and the walleye are hitting on body baits, spoons and crawler harnesses. One of the keys is to use planer boards for trolling. In-line planer boards are becoming more popular than the traditional large boards. Fish are being caught from the usual hot spots such as Linwood, the Spark Plug, the Slot between Quanicassee and Sand Point, the Bar, and the Callahan Reef. Weeds are starting to become a problem in many of the shallow areas but those fishing along the edge of the weeds in Wildfowl Bay caught good numbers of walleye. Freshwater drum, catfish and yellow perch are hitting on crawler harnesses. As the water continues to warm, there are signs that the walleye may be moving out deeper.

Saginaw River: Some limit catches of walleye are still coming from the lower river and the shipping channel out to Spoils Island.

Flint River: Had lots of boat and shore anglers fishing the Holloway Reservoir.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Boat anglers caught a few salmon in 80 to 100 feet of water. Pier anglers caught steelhead when using shrimp under a bobber however water temperatures are on the rise so catch rates will slow. Perch anglers are drifting in 30 to 40 feet of water.

Branch County: Union Lake was producing some bass.

Calhoun County: Duck Lake was producing a few decent pike but the bluegill and crappie were small. Prairie Lake had some nice crappie along with a handful of bluegills. Graham Lake and Lee Lake had slow catch rates.

South Haven: Perch fishing was pretty good. Anglers should try drifting if the wind allows and target 30 to 40 feet. Salmon action was slower with only a few fish caught in 130 feet of water.

Kalamazoo River: Had shore and boat anglers. A nice pike was caught above the Marshall Dam.

Holland: Those fishing south of the port caught more fish than those heading straight out. Try 30 to 85 feet down in 160 to 180 feet of water with spoons, spinnies and flies. Good colors were orange, blue and green. Pier anglers were struggling to catch steelhead or perch.

Port Sheldon: Those fishing 40 to 120 feet down in 220 to 250 feet of water did well for chinook and steelhead. Try orange, blue and green spoons. Those using 150, 225 and 300 coppers worked well as did the 10 color lead core.

Grand Haven: Some are targeting lake trout but those heading south towards Port Sheldon did better. Pier anglers are struggling to get steelhead and perch.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is producing smallmouth bass and the occasional walleye. Those fishing with live or cut bait are taking channel cats and flathead cats.

Grand River at Lansing: Smallmouth bass were biting at Moore's Park and Fitzgerald Park in Grand Ledge. Those fishing at Moore's Park caught a few walleye and catfish. Try fishing below any of the dams.

Jackson County: Lakes are producing a light number of bass and panfish.

Maple River: Anglers have caught some nice bluegill and pike.

Muskegon River: Walleye fishing was good near the Hardy Dam and Hardy Pond. The bluegill bite has been good. Trout have been caught in the lower river.

Whitehall: Catch rates were slow. Some reported fish in 120 to 200 feet of water however baitfish could also be found. Anglers might want to try using cut bait. Not much for pier anglers besides catfish and freshwater drum. Water temperatures are just too warm.

White Lake: Continues to produce a good number of bass. Hot colors were green, white and gold.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Catch rates have improved for chinook, lake trout and steelhead. Some even caught the occasional coho, pink or Atlantic salmon. Try heading north towards the State Park and Forty Mile Point while fishing the top half of waters 60 to 120 feet deep. Try downriggers and lead core up to 10 colors. Steelhead are hitting orange spoons on high-lines. Salmon fishing was best in the early morning or late evening when trolling glow spoons. Other hot colors were green, blue, chartreuse or a combination of green and blue.

Presque Isle: Fishing has picked up with a mixed bag of trout and salmon caught. The better action was straight out of the harbor and fishing between the Red Can and the two lighthouses in 60 to 120 feet of water. Use the same colors and methods as Rogers City.

Rockport: Catch rates were 2 to 4 fish consisting of chinook, steelhead and lake trout. Boats are starting out in shallow water in the early morning and moving out to 100 to 120 feet as the day progresses. Try orange and silver spoons.

Alpena: Walleye fishing in Thunder Bay has slowed. Those catching fish did so around Sulfur Island when trolling or drifting crawler harnesses. Hot colors were pink, purple and brass. After dark, anglers were switching to crank baits.

Thunder Bay River: Was slow for those shore fishing. A few have caught walleye on leeches. Smallmouth bass, white bass and freshwater drum were also caught.

Harrisville: Is producing salmon, lake trout, steelhead and walleye. Lake trout were suspended in 70 to 90 feet. Steelhead and salmon were closer to the surface. Walleye have started to hit south past the State Park and to the north. Early morning and late night were best.

Oscoda: Lake trout have been abundant, but steelhead are picking up. Lake trout have moved out deeper so try 100 to 150 feet. Steelhead are in 60 to 80 feet.

Au Sable River: Walleye are still moving up into the river but catch rates have dropped and the fish were smaller.

Tawas: Was experiencing a large mayfly hatch. Those trolling south toward Alabaster continue to catch walleye in 30 to 50 feet of water when using body baits. Fish were also caught about a mile beyond Buoy #2. Pier anglers caught the occasional smallmouth bass.

Au Gres: Everybody is bringing in walleye. Most of the action was in 25 to 35 feet of water between Point Lookout and Pointe Au Gres however a few boats were heading as far south as the Saganing Bar.

Au Gres River: Shore anglers caught catfish and freshwater drum.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Lake trout are being caught but no sign of salmon. Lake trout were caught around the point however some were on the small side. Try spoons 65 to 70 feet down. Smallmouth anglers continue to do well on tube baits or soft plastics on the Harbor Springs side of the State Park. A few crappie were caught on worms near the marina.

Petoskey: Lake trout action continues to get better with anglers catching fish averaging 20 to 25 inches. Most are fishing in 60 to 70 feet but a few fish were also caught in shallow waters. Those trolling for lake trout have caught Cisco. Smallmouth were caught near the breakwall and carp were jumping near the D Pier.

Bear River: Anglers were catching steelhead on spawn near the dam but catch rates fell. Some caught bullhead.

Charlevoix: Boat anglers reported slow catch rates for chinook and lake trout. Salmon were caught 50 feet down near the cement plant. A few walleye are still running through the channel after dark.

Traverse City: The East Bay is producing lake trout for those trolling or jigging in 50 to 100 feet. A few whitefish were also caught. Smallmouth bass are still hitting in the shallows and along the drop-offs. In the West Bay, lake trout were a bit deeper in 80 to 110 feet and smallmouth bass were in 20 feet.

Elk River: A good number of smallmouth bass have been caught but many were sub-legal. Try crawlers, leeches, or plastics.

Boardman River: Fishing continues to be slow with only a few smallmouth bass or rock bass taken on crawlers or leeches.

Frankfort: Water temperatures are still on the cool side which makes salmon fishing a bit slower. Some have been caught 65 to 120 feet down on chartreuse and blue spoons. For lake trout, anglers are heading north and bouncing spin-gloves off the bottom in 60 to 80 feet.

Onkama: Chinook salmon have been caught in 18 to 22 feet of water out near the Barrel. Limits of lake trout were caught on cowbells and spin-gloves along the bottom.

Portage Lake: Bass fishing was slow but some nice largemouth weighing four pounds or more have been caught around the docks and drop-offs. Warm water temperatures have the panfish in deeper water.

Manistee: Salmon fishing is slowly picking up with a few fish taken 50 to 110 feet down in 100 to 160 feet of water. Glow spoons were best in the morning but switch to green and orange later in the day. Green meat rigs and flies have worked deeper in the water column.

Ludington: Salmon fishing here has been somewhat difficult but catch rates are improving. Try 40 to 100 feet down in 120 to 240 feet of water with orange spoons and green flies. Lake trout were caught by those bouncing cowbells or dodgers off the bottom.

Pentwater: Anglers caught primarily lake trout but rumor has it chinook were caught. With warm water in the channel, the only species caught were freshwater drum and the occasional catfish.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Salmon have been caught by those trolling 25 to 100 feet down in 150 to 240 feet of water between Sand Point and Carla's. Try flies and spoons. Those fishing the South Portage Entry caught a few lake trout when trolling or jigging near Farmers Reef, Newton's Reef or the Big Reef. A couple coho, chinook and lake trout were caught from the Entry south to the Red Rocks near the Roadside Park or the white breakwall in the early morning. Salmon were caught 30 to 140 feet down in 150 to 170 feet of water near the lighthouse. Those jigging for lake trout in Traverse Bay did well near Hermits Cove, the Gay Stacks, Big Louie's Point and the reefs when trolling spoons in 130 to 160 feet or using jigs with cut bait in 130 to 220 feet.

Marquette: Those targeting lake trout had success in waters less than 100 feet deep near Shot Point. Fish were also caught near the “White Rocks, Granite Island and the “Sand Hole” in 180 feet. A few salmon were caught but catch rates were down. Near shore surface water temperatures were in the low 60’s and the offshore waters were in the mid to upper 50’s.

Menominee: Those fishing Green Bay have marked baitfish along with some bigger fish but catch rates were very slow. Off the Cedar River, boat anglers are targeting trout, salmon or walleye but catch rates were not good.

Menominee River: Had fair catches of walleye, smallmouth bass, rock bass, channel cats and freshwater drum. Anglers are jigging with crawlers and minnows or trolling crawler harnesses and rapalas.

Cedar River: Had fair to good smallmouth bass fishing and fair northern pike action. A lot of fish were small however some bigger ones were caught by those drifting crawlers or casting crank baits.

Little Bay De Noc: Angler participation was low due to the alewife and mayfly hatch contributing to the food supply. Walleye reports were spotty at best with a few catches reported off the Second Reef when jigging or drifting crawlers in 18 to 25 feet. Walleye and some perch were caught off Gladstone Beach in 14 to 23 feet. Catch rates were spotty between the mouth of the Escanaba River and the “Black Bottom” in 8 to 25 feet. South winds produced some walleye around Breezy Point for those trolling or drifting crawlers in 10 to 16 feet. Lots of freshwater drum have been caught. Some are heading out for salmon but few fish have been caught. Fair catches of smallmouth bass off Hunters Point, the west side of Gladstone Bay and south of the Ford River. All are trolling or casting crank baits or plastics in 10 to 12 feet of water.

Big Bay De Noc: Walleye catches slowed however the best area to fish was Sand Bay off Nahma when trolling crawler harnesses in 14 to 20 feet. Smallmouth bass fishing slowed in Garden Bay and Kate’s Bay. Several northern pike were caught near Ansell’s Point. Try trolling crank baits in 15 to 20 feet. Salmon off Fairport is still slow. Surface temperatures out deeper were as low as 41 degrees.

Au Train: Most anglers are targeting lake trout or using high-lines for salmon outside Au Train Island and along the east shoreline near Au Train Point. Catch rates were slow. Surface water temperatures are now in the low 60’s.

St. Mary’s River: Walleye fishing was good near Raber Point when trolling planer boards and crawler harnesses just off the weed beds in 4 to 6 feet of water and near the mouth of the Gogomain River when trolling or jigging crank baits and twister tails in 3 to 4 feet. Closer to Barbeau, a few musky were caught near Teacup Island when trolling large crank baits in 8 to 10 feet. Atlantic salmon and herring are showing up in Sault Ste. Marie.

DeTour: Early morning is the best time for trout and salmon when trolling spoons. Hot colors were green, orange, watermelon and gold. Fish are being caught between the launch and the #3 green can, around the lighthouse and over near the #2 red can by Drummond Island.

Drummond Island: Catch rates for lake herring were very slow. Good smallmouth action around Harbor Island for those using crawlers or jigging dark green and brown tube baits.

Cedarville and Hessel: Hessel Bay is very good for northern pike. Try still-fishing with chubs along the south shore, the east end of Hessel Bay or the south shore of Musky Bay. Perch fishing was slow in Musky Bay, the Middle Entrance and Cedarville Bay. Prentice Bay is usually the hot spot for lake herring however no fish were reported.

July 18, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Extremely hot weather is causing some natural fish kills. On the inland lakes, the fish should be in deeper waters anywhere from 10 to 20 feet down depending on the lake. Those fishing the warm water rivers may find the fish a bit sluggish and not very cooperative. The rivers do not thermally stratify like the lakes so the temperature stays the same from top to bottom. Out on the Great Lakes, walleye and other game fish are moving out deeper to find cooler water temperatures.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Anglers are finding good numbers of walleye from the Detroit Light (the Bell Buoy) to south of the Banana Dike. They are using both crawler harnesses and spoons. Hot colors were pink, purple and orange. Fish were caught off Fermi in 18 to 24 feet of water. Perch fishing was fair off the Raisin River Buoys 1 and 2 and around the E Buoy in 18 feet. Perch were caught off Stony Point and near Rat Island.

Detroit River: Some are jigging for walleye while others are hand-lining between Grosse Ile and Sugar Island or near Mud Island.

Lexington: Anglers caught a fair number of perch around the weed beds. Pier anglers were taking some nice bluegills.

Port Sanilac: Is producing a fair number of yellow perch for those drifting minnows around the weed beds. Pier anglers took a couple of brown trout and walleye in the late evening or at night.

Harbor Beach: Those trolling have caught trout in 100 to 145 feet of water. Steelhead were in the top 30 feet and lake trout were near the bottom. Walleye have been caught by those trolling in 30 feet.

Grindstone City: Has excellent walleye fishing. It should be noted that boats are getting out of the state launch site as long as they are not too big and they take their time in the channel.

Port Austin: Had excellent walleye fishing along the reefs and off the tip of the Thumb in 25 to 40 feet of water.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye fishing continues to be red-hot pretty much anywhere you go. Limit catches are almost the rule, and everybody is coming in with fish. Those trolling are getting good numbers of fish with planer boards, crawler harnesses on bottom bouncers and in-line weights. Those using Hot-n-Tots, thundersticks or small spoons also caught fish. As water temperatures warm, fishing in the shallows has tapered off as the fish are moving to deeper water. Good fishing off Pinconning, around the Spark Plug (Buoys 11 and 12), and off the mouth of the Kawkawlin River. Catfish have been caught in the Hot Ponds.

Saginaw River: Has good walleye fishing between the mouth and the Coast Guard Station. Shore anglers at Smith Park in Essexville are catching catfish and bass.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Had good yellow perch fishing. Salmon fishing has started to pick up. Anglers are using copper wire, boards and dipsey divers. The fish are in the top 30 feet so downriggers were not producing.

St. Joseph River: Has good smallmouth bass fishing.

South Haven: A light number of salmon have been caught in the top 30 feet of waters 70 to 100 feet deep. Copper wire, boards and dipsey divers were working better than downriggers. Anglers report good perch fishing in 30 to 40 feet of water.

Kalamazoo River: Has good smallmouth bass fishing.

Holland: Boat anglers are trolling 40 to 70 feet down in 75 to 160 feet of water for salmon. The hot baits were regular or super slim spoons in orange or blue. Pier anglers are catching freshwater drum. Those looking for perch had no luck.

Grand Haven: Salmon have been caught in the bottom 30 feet of waters 160 to 210 feet deep. Most are using 150, 300 or 450 coppers. Green and yellow meat rigs on wire divers were also taking fish. The majority of the bite was on super slim spoons in orange, blue and yellow. Pier anglers caught freshwater drum. Perch anglers are fishing minnows and spikes in 30 to 40 feet.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Continues to produce smallmouth bass. Catfish action was good in the early morning or at night.

Grand River at Lansing: Continues to produce a good number of smallmouth bass and some channel cats. The better fishing can be found below any of the dams such as North Lansing, Moore's Park, Smithville, Portland and the Grand Ledge Dam.

Muskegon River: Is producing a fair to good number of smallmouth bass.

Whitehall: Catch rates improved with anglers bringing in Chinook, coho and steelhead when fishing 50 to 70 feet down in 120 to 160 feet of water. Cut bait worked well for salmon but orange spoons worked better for steelhead.

White Lake: Is producing limit catches of northern pike. Yellow, green and red body baits worked best.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Anglers are fishing straight out, up towards Forty Mile Point or south towards Adams Point. Fish were caught anywhere from 50 to 150 feet of water when trolling spoons. They are catching chinook, steelhead, lake trout and the occasional Atlantic or pink salmon. Chinook salmon were caught about halfway down. Hot colors were green, blue, silver, purple and orange. Steelhead were caught higher in the water column with orange and silver spoons. Pay close attention to the wind. A south, east or southeast wind will bring the colder water in which always improves catch rates.

Presque Isle: Anglers are fishing straight out from the red can and west towards the two lighthouses. Most are fishing halfway down in 50 to 120 feet with spoons. Chinook, steelhead and lake trout were a bulk of the catch.

Rockport: Had mixed catches of chinook, steelhead and lake trout. Chinook were found 35 to 50 feet down in 90 to 120 feet of water. Lake trout were caught just off the bottom or higher up with the salmon. Spoons are working well for the salmon and steelhead but spin-gloves and peanuts worked better for the lake trout. Very few walleye were reported.

Alpena: Walleye fishing has started to pick back up for those using purple and pink crawler harnesses during the day or body baits after dark. Sulphur Island and North Point are good areas to try. Lake trout can be caught around Thunder Bay Island and up towards the wreck. Try 90 to 180 feet of water.

Thunder Bay River: Walleye action was slow. During the day, smallmouth bass and freshwater drum were keeping anglers busy. Use leeches for smallmouth during the day and walleye at night.

Harrisville: Is providing a mixed bag of catches. Lake trout have moved deeper to waters 90 to 120 feet. Most of the fish are suspended and coming off downriggers in the bottom third of the water column. Steelhead are in the 60 to 80 feet and hitting on lead core and planer boards. Orange and silver or blue and silver were the hot colors. A good number of walleye have been caught. The fish moved to deeper water so try 35 to 50 feet with crawler harnesses, body baits or small spoons.

Oscoda: Pier anglers are starting to catch walleye. Early morning through mid-day and again in the evening was best when using crawlers, leeches and body baits. Boat anglers caught lake trout in 80 to 150 feet and steelhead up high in 50 to 90 feet. Spoons in a variety of colors worked best.

Au Sable River: Boats drifting to the mouth had luck when using bottom bouncers.

Tawas: Walleye fishing was excellent off Alabaster, north of Big Charity Island and around the Steeples.

Au Gres: The deep part of the basin south of Pointe Au Gres was a walleye hot spot.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Is producing smaller lake trout however a couple bigger fish were also caught. Boat anglers heading up to Good Hart had the best luck when using spoons and spin-glows with cowbells. Those jigging around Harbor Point managed to catch a couple cisco.

Petoskey: A couple salmon were caught but they were small. Lake trout were caught in 70 to 80 feet of water between the hospital and Bay Harbor. Those fishing off the end of the D Pier caught smallmouth bass on crawlers or plastic worms. Some nice bluegills were also caught.

Bear River: Summer steelhead are still being caught near the dam and downstream. Try spawn or flies in the early morning.

Charlevoix: Boat anglers caught a few lake trout and whitefish in 65 to 70 feet of water between the cement plant and North Point. Walleye fishing was slow in the channel but a couple fish were caught at night. Lots of bass were caught on crawlers and leeches but many were small. Cisco were caught on spoons in the channel.

Lake Charlevoix: Continues to produce walleye despite the mayfly hatch. Anglers are fishing anywhere from Charlevoix to Boyne City.

Traverse City: Lake trout and the occasional whitefish were caught in the East Bay when jigging in 50 to 90 feet with sand kickers and spoons or trolling in 50 to 100 feet. Smallmouth bass fishing was good. In the West Bay, lake trout were a little deeper in 90 to 110 feet. Smallmouth could be found in waters 5 to 40 feet deep.

Elk River: Anglers are catching lots of smallmouth bass however most were sub-legal. Try crawlers, leeches, plastic baits, or crank baits.

Boardman River: Fishing continues to be slow especially with the warm weather. Those using live bait caught the occasional smallmouth or rock bass.

Frankfort: The kings have arrived and they are hitting anywhere from 50 to 85 feet down in 100 to 180 feet of water. Try blue spoons or black and white meat rigs. Good lake trout action in 70 to 90 feet of water when bouncing cowbells and spin-glows off the bottom. Water temperatures are 45 to 55 degrees with plenty of baitfish in the area.

Onekama: Anglers are taking good numbers of lake trout including some limit catches coming from the "Barrel". Chinook salmon were starting to hit in the same area. Early morning was best with pink, chartreuse or blue spoons.

Portage Lake: With the hot weather, bass and panfish are heading to deeper water. Those fishing along the drop-offs in 18 to 22 feet caught some nice bass. For bluegills, try the weed beds and around the buoy with crawlers in the early morning.

Manistee: A few chinook salmon were caught 40 to 100 down in 120 to 200 feet of water. Try running glow spoons in the early morning or meat rigs down deeper later in the day. Boats heading out to 300 feet caught steelhead and coho 30 to 60 feet down with orange and green spoons.

Manistee River: Anglers are now catching a good number of smallmouth bass. Try crawlers, crayfish, plastics or poppers.

Ludington: Light numbers of chinook were caught 50 to 100 feet down in 120 to 180 feet when trolling glow spoons or green meat rigs and flies. Those heading out deeper caught steelhead and coho when trolling orange spoons 30 to 60 feet down.

Pentwater: Boat anglers caught a fair number of salmon and steelhead. Some were running lines 50 to 70 feet down in 120 to 160 feet while others managed to catch Chinook in 30 to 60 feet. Pier anglers caught catfish in the evening.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Those salmon fishing caught some when trolling 25 to 100 feet down in 150 to 240 feet of water between Sand Point and Carla's. They are using flies and spoons in a variety of colors. Lake trout action was good in 200 feet off Point Abby. Lake trout were caught near the South Portage Entry when trolling along the reefs. Chinook, coho and lake trout were taken between the entry and the red rocks near the park in 150 to 170 feet or along the white breakwall in 25 feet in the early morning. For Traverse Bay, those trolling and jigging did well for lake trout near Hermits Cove, the Gay Stacks and Big Louie's Point in 120 to 180 feet. Try spoons and trolling speeds between 1.9 and 2.4 mph.

Marquette: Fishing improved as surface water temperatures near shore have warmed into the low 60's and offshore in the mid 50's. Water temperatures north of Granite Island remain in the low to mid 50's. Lake trout anglers have done well catching a mixed bag of trout and salmon. Lake trout were caught along the drop offs near the Sand Hole in 160 to 220 feet. Those fishing near the white rocks caught lake trout on spoons and coho on high-lines. Shot Point was also producing a few lake trout. Some were having better luck with flies and cut bait especially with the mayfly hatch and the flying ants. Anglers are reminded to watch for tagged lake trout. Most of the tags are a fluorescent green and can be found near the dorsal fin.

Menominee: Anglers trolling near Green Island were marking some big fish but getting them to bite was the problem, maybe because of all the alewife. A few walleye were caught near the Red Arrow Park in 50 to 70 feet of water.

Most were trolling crawler harnesses or rapalas. A few chinook salmon were caught in Wisconsin water near Washington Island. Try about halfway down in 90 to 120 feet with dipsey divers, spoons and flashers. Many reported dead alewife on the surface.

Menominee River: Was producing some walleye however most of the fish caught were on the small side. Smallmouth bass, rock bass, pike and freshwater drum were also caught by those drifting crawlers and minnows.

Cedar River: Those drifting crawlers or casting crank baits caught some nice smallmouth bass and the occasional pike.

Little Bay De Noc: Low angler participation and fewer catches were reported as the dog days of summer set in. Walleye reports were spotty with only a few fish taken near Round Island when trolling stick baits at night in eight to 10 feet of water or off the mouth of the Escanaba River, Gladstone Beach and the Kipling Flats when trolling or drifting crawler harnesses in 14 to 30 feet. Several perch were caught on crawlers in eight to 23 feet near Kipling. Good smallmouth action in and around the mouth of the Ford River. Try casting spinners, crank baits or plastics near the shoreline.

Big Bay De Noc: No walleye anglers as most were after smallmouth bass near Ogontz, Nahma and Garden Bay. Try 12 to 18 feet when trolling, drifting or casting plastics, crank baits or crawlers. Perch were caught by those using crawlers in 10 to 16 feet in the Fayette Harbor. Off Fairport, anglers reported fair to good catches of large Chinook salmon. They are fishing the southern end of the "Gap" between the islands and using natural cut baits with dipsey's 30 to 65 feet down in 60 to 120 feet of water.

Au Train: Surface water temperatures have climbed to the low 60's near shore and the middle 50's out deeper. Boat anglers targeting salmon and lake trout reported fair catches. Those fishing in 60 to 100 feet near the east shoreline caught a mix of trout and salmon when using high-lines with spoons and flies.

Munising: Those heading out early did manage to catch a couple salmon and lake trout in waters less than 100 feet deep. The salmon were less than 20 inches and the lake trout were about two pounds. Those fishing the Big Reef had to work harder while fishing in deeper waters. Pier fishing was light with some still-fishing spawn for splake.

Grand Marais: Pier anglers caught whitefish in the early morning but many were small. Most are still-fishing with a single egg. Assorted insects found inside the lake trout indicates some of the fish are staying shallow to feed on the hatches. Fish have also been caught five to seven miles north in 150 to 250 feet along the shipping channel. Those running high-lines have also caught the occasional coho. Pike fishing was slow for shore anglers.

DeTour: Anglers continue to troll from the city launch out to the #3 green can, around the lighthouse and over to the #2 red can near Drummond Island.

They have caught Atlantic salmon, chinook salmon and lake trout. Early morning was best with green and white flashers and flies. For spoons, try white with orange dots, green and gold or blue and silver.

Drummond Island: Walleye have been caught in Scott Bay when trolling crawler harnesses around Paw Point in the early morning in four to five feet of water or near Peck Island in eight to 12 feet with crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers. Yellow perch were caught in Sturgeon Bay. Try eight to nine feet off the weed beds near Andrews Island. Lake herring are hitting in Pigeon Cove with a few limits. Arrow Island, Big Trout Island, Andrews Island and Butterfield Island are also producing lake herring.

Cedarville and Hessel: Musky Bay, Hessel Bay, the Middle Entrance, Cedarville Bay and Snows Channel are producing a limited number of perch but good numbers of bass and pike.

St. Ignace: A light number of anglers are fishing the east side of Mackinaw Island in 150 feet of water and along the flats between the old fuel tanks and the Coast Guard Station. They are targeting Atlantic and Chinook salmon or steelhead.

July 25, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Cooler temperatures will be good for both fish and anglers. Walleye fishing continues to be good in Saginaw Bay and around the Thumb. Inland lakes and rivers are producing bass, pike and panfish.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: The majority of limit catches for walleye have come in deeper waters around West Sister Island which is in Ohio waters. Those fishing in Michigan waters were still taking a fair number of fish when trolling or drifting harnesses and spoons between the Banana Dike and the Bell Buoy or between the Dumping Grounds and the E Buoy. Hot colors were purple, fire-tiger or a perch pattern. The smallmouth bass fishing has been great in 12 to 14 feet of water throughout Brest Bay and the Raisin River Channel.

Detroit River: Was producing some walleye in the lower river between Humbug Island and Celeron Island. Most anglers were using jigs with crawlers. Walleye and smallmouth bass were caught in the Livingston Channel.

Lake St. Clair: Has very good smallmouth bass fishing. Anglers are finding bigger fish in the deeper water. Try the mid-lake area on the Michigan side in waters over 15 feet deep. Walleye fishing was spotty but some managed to take limit catches when trolling crawler harnesses along the shipping channel and south of Huron Point in water over 17 feet deep. Muskie fishing was good. Anglers are reminded that warm water temperatures in the lake can result in stressed fish so it is important to limit the time a muskie is out of the water when practicing catch and release. A few yellow perch showed up in Anchor Bay however catch rates were not consistent. Sturgeon season is now open on both Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River. Sturgeon anglers need to obtain a free non-transferable Lake Sturgeon Tag from a license vendor before they go sturgeon fishing.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing was spotty for the most part. Smallmouth bass were starting to move up into the channels where water temperatures were in the mid-70's. White bass have slowed down, but walleye anglers are still catching them when jigging or trolling in the delta channels.

Lexington: Has seen a good number of pleasure boats out and about. Pier anglers caught bluegill and rock bass.

Port Sanilac: Catch rates for perch were spotty in 15 to 40 feet of water. Those that caught fish were drifting minnows on perch rigs until they find the fish, then anchor. Coho and steelhead were caught in 85 to 100 feet. Pier anglers caught a few brown trout and pike in the evening.

Harbor Beach: Some limits of walleye have been caught in 20 to 40 feet of water between Harbor Beach and Port Hope. Try small spoons and body baits with offshore boards or crawler harnesses with crawlers. Even those casting body baits in the early morning or late evening caught walleye. Lake trout action was fair in 95 to 130 feet. Brown trout were caught on bright colored spoons or body baits in 25 to 40 feet. Steelhead are hitting on spoons in the top 50 to 60 feet. Hot colors were blue, silver, green or anything bright. Bass and pike were caught close to shore but perch fishing was slow.

Grindstone City: Walleye fishing off the tip of the Thumb is still very good in 30 to 40 feet of water. Boat and shore anglers caught walleye inside the harbor at night.

Port Austin: Has excellent walleye fishing in 25 to 30 feet of water near Hat Reef and other reefs. Pier anglers caught walleye and catfish in the evening.

Saginaw Bay: The west side is still producing walleye pretty much everywhere including the Spark Plugs, both the Saganing and Pinconning Bars, the Black Hole, off the mouth of the Kawkawlin River, and two to three miles northeast of Spoils Island. On the east side, walleye fishing in the Slots has slowed. Most boats from Quanicassee, Sebewaing and Bay Port are crossing The Bar and heading to deeper water on the other side. For those that do not want to go that far, walleye are being caught along the edge of the weed beds in Wildfowl Bay. At Caseville, boats are doing well off Oak Point, north of the Charity Islands, and the reefs between Caseville and Port Crescent State Park.

Saginaw River: Small boats trolling Hot-n-Tots in the lower river are still getting some walleye. Shore anglers at Smith Park in Essexville caught bass and catfish.

Shiawassee River: Is producing a few bass that were keepers. Small panfish have been caught in the backwaters.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Is producing the occasional steelhead or perch but overall fishing was slow. Boat anglers managed to catch a few salmon in 100 feet of water when using spoons. A few perch were caught south of the piers in 25 feet. Pier fishing was slow.

South Haven: Perch fishing was still good with decent catches in waters as shallow as 18 feet or as deep as 30 feet north or south of the piers. Boat anglers said fishing was a challenge for trout and salmon. Those that were lucky enough to catch fish did so when trolling spoons in waters 120 feet or deeper.

Kalamazoo River: Is producing a few walleye up near the Allegan Dam.

Holland: Salmon have been caught in 120 to 170 feet although the action was best in 120 to 140 feet. Downriggers were set at 60 to 110 feet. Anglers are using 250 coppers. More fish were caught on flies than spoons. Warm water around the piers has limited fishing. No perch to report.

Grand Haven: Anglers are catching salmon in 70 to 200 feet of water however they did best in 125 to 180 feet. A good number of salmon were over twenty pounds. Downriggers were 45 to 95 feet with 150, 225 or 300 coppers. Use small spoons in blue, yellow, orange or blue and green. Fish were also caught on white paddles with mirage flies. Pier anglers were casting for smallmouth bass. No perch to report.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is producing catfish for those fishing off the bridges. Flatheads up to 35 and 40 pounds have been caught. Most are using suckers, bluegills or fresh cut bait. A fair to good number of pike were caught on sucker minnows. Smallmouth bass are hitting on tube baits, crank baits, crawlers, leeches and soft shell crabs. Millennium Park was good for bass and bluegills. Those fishing up near the dam have caught the occasional summer steelhead.

Grand River at Lansing: Those fishing below any of the dams have caught channel catfish and smallmouth bass. Look for bluegill and crappie in the backwaters.

Looking Glass River: Is producing some pike and bowfin. Anglers will also find largemouth bass, bluegill and the occasional perch.

Muskrat Lake: Was producing some crappie.

Maple River: Is producing some catfish and the occasional walleye.

Reeds Lake: Anglers caught some nice largemouth bass when using top water baits. Blue or white with chartreuse was a good color.

Muskegon River: Is producing a good number of smallmouth bass for those casting spinners, tube baits or poppers along the rocks and near the drops. Walleye fishing was steady with some limit catches taken in Hardy Pond.

Whitehall: Most anglers have caught chinook and coho along with the occasional lake trout or steelhead west of the pier, out from Duck Lake and several miles to the north. Try 50 to 60 feet down in 100 to 150 feet of water. Lake trout were 80 feet down. Pier anglers caught bass on crawlers and wax worms.

White Lake: Walleye fishing has picked up. For salmon, the hot colors were green, blue, orange or anything that glows.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Mullett Lake: Was producing some walleye.

Rogers City: The fish were scattered after the wind but try Seagull Point, Forty Mile Point, the State Park, Calcite Harbor, Swan Bay and Adams Point. Target 50 to 130 feet of water with downriggers, dipsey's, and lead core off planer boards. Put the downriggers about halfway down or look for the thermocline. Good colors were green, blue, black, purple, yellow, orange or anything that glows. Darker colors seem to work better in the warm water.

Presque Isle: Head straight out, north between the lighthouses or south towards Stoneport while looking for structure and baitfish. Set downriggers about halfway down in 50 to 130 feet. Use the same colors as Rogers City. Anything that glows or dark colors seem to work better early and late.

Rockport: Anglers are fishing anywhere from Stoneport down towards the wreck and taking a mixed bag of chinook, steelhead, lake trout and walleye. Look for salmon in the top 50 feet of waters 80 to 120 feet deep. Walleye anglers are catching fish on crawler harnesses and body baits. Purple was the hot color.

Grand Lake: Was producing some walleye. Try drifting or slow trolling crawler harnesses with bright colored blades around Grand Island.

Alpena: Those fishing Thunder Bay are heading out to deeper water for walleye. Fish have been caught in waters 20 to 50 feet deep near Sulphur Island, Scarecrow Island and North Point. Most are running crawler harnesses and reef runners. Hot colors were pink, purple and chartreuse. Lake trout were caught out further around Thunder Bay Island, the Nordmere Wreck and the Humps. Some caught the occasional steelhead or brown trout.

Thunder Bay River: Has smallmouth bass and freshwater drum.

Harrisville: Anglers found salmon, steelhead, lake trout and walleye all at the same depth. Boats targeting trout and salmon have caught a few walleye. Lake trout were suspended in 80 to 100 feet. Salmon and steelhead were either in closer or out further. Most are using spoons, flies, cut bait or body baits.

Oscoda: Is producing salmon, steelhead, lake trout and a good number of walleye. They are fishing 80 to 150 feet of water with spoons, flies, wobble glows and cut bait. As the water turns over and cooler waters move closer to shore, it will not be long before fish start moving into the river.

Tawas: Those walleye fishing in the bay were heading toward Alabaster and fishing in 30 to 50 feet of water. Walleye anglers also caught several steelhead when trolling or drifting crawler harnesses. Pier anglers caught large and smallmouth bass, rock bass and a couple small perch outside the wall.

Au Gres: Walleye have been caught on the north side of Big Charity Island in 20 to 30 feet of water. Limit catches are still taking place beyond Pointe Au Gres, along the inner bay north of Buoys 1 & 2 and off Point Lookout in 40 feet of water.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: No sign of salmon yet but lake trout have been caught 80 to 100 feet down near Harbor Point. Some were keepers and some were not. Lake trout were also caught near 5-Mile Point.

Petoskey: Those fishing from the D Pier which is near the mouth of the river have caught bluegill and freshwater drum on crawlers and spinners. Small perch were caught inside the piers.

Bear River: Water levels were still quite low. Those fishing for steelhead have not had much luck.

Charlevoix: Angler effort for trout and salmon is starting to pick up. Boat anglers caught lake trout 65 feet down near the can at the Cement Plant and off North Point. Spin-glow worked best. The size of the lake trout is starting to increase. A few salmon were caught however the fish range from a couple pounds all the way up to 22 pounds. Try straight out from the channel with spoons or meat rigs 60 to 80 feet down in 120 to 200 feet of water. The last thermocline was between 60 and 70 feet. Lots of smallmouth bass were caught in the channel when using crawlers or leeches.

Traverse City: Lake trout and cisco were caught in 60 to 120 feet of water in the East Bay. A few salmon are beginning to arrive. Smallmouth bass fishing was steady for those using tube baits and plastics near the drop-off in 20 to 40 feet. In the West Bay, lake trout were taken by those trolling or jigging in waters 50 to 120 feet deep. Salmon fishing was limited as the fish are just starting to come in. Smallmouth bass were caught along the drop-off in 30 feet.

Elk River: Had fair smallmouth action however some of the fish caught were good size. Try early morning with leeches, crayfish or scented plastic baits.

Boardman River: Had slow fishing except for a couple smallmouth bass or rock bass taken on crawlers, crank baits or spinner baits.

Frankfort: Chinook are hitting throughout the area with early morning the best when fishing 55 to 85 feet down in 120 to 220 feet of water. The number of fish is down a bit for now but is increasing daily and the size of fish being caught is impressive with several fish in the mid-to-high twenties. Fish are actually breaking lines and straightening swivels so make sure you rig for big fish. Many are using blue and orange magnum spoons early and switching to UV spoons after daylight. Lake trout are hitting on spin-glow bounced off the bottom in 70 to 90 feet.

Onekama: Those fishing the “Barrel” are taking chinook salmon early and lake trout throughout the day. The chinook are 50 to 90 feet down in 175 to 250 feet and hitting on UV spoons. Those bouncing spin-gloves off the bottom caught lake trout.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers are having some trouble landing the big ones but the bite is good for this time of year. Several large and smallmouth over four pounds have been reported. Perch are hitting crawlers along the weed beds. Those fishing in the early morning caught bluegill, rock bass and pumpkinseed.

Lake Missaukee: Anglers caught bluegill, pike and bass.

Manistee: When boats can get out, anglers caught salmon near the Ledge and beyond. Try green or glow spoons 30 to 70 feet down in 80 to 160 feet. Coho and steelhead were caught on orange spoons.

Manistee River: Bass were still hitting on crawlers, crayfish, tube baits or plastics. Those fishing the Little Manistee have caught a few salmon.

Ludington: Is producing chinook about halfway down in waters 60 to 120 feet deep. Use spoons, meat rigs and flies. Hot colors were green, orange or glow. Steelhead and coho were hitting on orange spoons in the top 60 feet.

Pere Marquette River: Is producing a fair to good number of brown trout especially for those fly fishing.

Pentwater: Boat anglers caught salmon in shallow waters 60 to 70 feet deep in the early morning. Some are fishing 50 to 70 feet down in 100 to 120 feet of water near the Silver Lake sand dunes and off the point. They caught a mix of chinook, coho, steelhead and lake trout.

UPPER PENINSULA

Marquette: Anglers are fishing in 160 to 200 feet of water between the White Rocks and Granite Island. Fish were also caught in 180 feet near the Sand Hole. A couple chinook salmon were taken in 50 feet or less near the upper harbor and towards Shot Point. Water temperatures were in the low to upper 50's.

Menominee: Anglers are still waiting for the salmon to start biting. Those fishing out near Washington Island and beyond were lucky to catch one fish.

Menominee River: Walleye are still being caught but many were on the small side. Anglers are catching smallmouth bass, pike and freshwater drum.

Cedar River: Has good smallmouth bass fishing but many were small.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye fishing was fair. Anglers did best along the “Black Bottom” when trolling or drifting crawler harnesses in 18 to 25 feet. Fish were also caught along the reefs near Kipling in 20 to 30 feet. Perch were caught near Kipling in 8 to 14 feet however most of the fish were small.

Pike were hitting on spinners in 17 to 25 feet between the Day's River and Brach's Cabins. A few smallmouth bass were caught off the mouth of the Ford River by those casting spinners or tube baits in 10 to 15 feet. Salmon were caught 30 to 40 feet down in 50 to 60 feet of water near the Ford River Can.

Big Bay De Noc: Anglers are still taking a fair number of smallmouth bass in Nahma, Kate's Bay and Garden Bay. Use crank baits, spinners or plastics in 14 to 22 feet of water or go shallow along the weed beds. A few perch were caught in Garden Bay and Fayette Harbor. Most are drifting or still-fishing crawlers in 8 to 16 feet of water. Off Fairport, chinook were caught 30 to 60 feet down in 50 to 110 feet of water when trolling spoons or cut bait.

Manistique Lake: Anglers have caught walleye and pike.

Au Train: Had fair lake trout action with anglers taking three to six fish per boat. Surface water temperatures are in the mid to upper 50's as opposed to last year at this time when water temperatures were close to 70 degrees.

Munising: Most were fishing early for lake trout in Munising Bay, Trout Bay and Murray's Bay in waters less than 100 feet deep. Fish up to nine pounds were reported but overall the bite was slow. Pier fishing was light as catch rates for splake were slow.

Grand Marais: Pier anglers targeting whitefish in the early morning were not having much success as most of the fish were in the 9 to 12 inch range. Most are still-fishing with a single egg in the early morning or evening. When boats can get out, lake trout were caught five to seven miles north of the bay and the shipping channel in 150 to 250 feet of water. Pike fishing was slow.

St. Mary's River: Fly hatches were moderate in Raber Bay. A few walleye were caught at Raber Point and Carlton Creek. Most are trolling crawler harnesses near the weed beds in 12 feet of water.

DeTour: Those heading out to the red and green cans or around the lighthouses have caught chinook and lake trout in the early morning. Try spoons in colors like white with orange dots, green and gold, blue and silver, yellow, green, or white. Lake herring and a few whitefish were on the east side of Long Island.

Drummond Island: Has good walleye fishing in Maxton Bay. Fish were caught in the evening until dark in 8 feet of water near Bay Island which is just south of James Island. Most are trolling pencil plugs. Walleye and smallmouth bass were caught in 12 feet of water on the northwest side of Peck Island. Most are jigging crawlers and tube jigs. Pike were caught in 6 to 8 feet around Grape Island in the early morning. Lake herring were still being caught near Long Island, Maple Island and Butterfield in 27 to 30 feet of water. The bite may not last much longer as the fly hatches are slowing down.

Cedarville and Hessel: Anglers are still taking a limited number of perch in Hessel Bay, Musky Bay, Cedarville Bay, Snows Channel and the Middle Entrance. Good numbers of pike and bass have also been caught.

St. Ignace: Boat anglers are fishing the backside of Mackinaw Island for trout and salmon. Most are trolling in 150 feet of water.

August 1, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Rain and windy conditions were making it hard for anglers to get out, especially on the big waters. The cold front will make fishing a little more difficult.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Still had good walleye fishing around West Sister Island which is in Ohio waters. Walleye fishing in Michigan waters slowed but a few fish were still caught around the Bell Buoy and the Dumping Grounds. Perch fishing was fair to good in 18 feet around Brest Bay and 23 feet off Stony Point. Anglers should expect to catch white bass, white perch and freshwater drum as well. Smallmouth bass were caught in 12 to 16 feet. Channel catfish were caught offshore near the Metro Park and Pt. Mouillee.

Huron River: Anglers caught smallmouth bass and catfish.

Detroit River: Had few anglers as most are heading down to Lake Erie for walleye. Check around the islands for smallmouth bass or the occasional perch.

Lexington: Perch fishing was spotty. Try 15 to 30 feet of water. Boats out trolling caught lake trout, steelhead and the occasional coho.

Port Sanilac: Those trolling caught salmon and lake trout in waters between 80 and 145 feet deep. Perch fishing was hit-or-miss in 20 to 30 feet near the weed beds. Pier anglers caught some brown trout early or late when casting Cleo's. A few pike were caught.

Harbor Beach: Walleye were caught in 35 to 50 feet. Those trolling for salmon and lake trout caught fish in waters 85 to 140 feet deep. Steelhead and coho were found in the top half of the water column and lake trout were at the bottom.

Grindstone City: Is producing walleye straight north in 22 to 30 feet and off Lighthouse Park.

Port Austin: The best walleye fishing is still west and south of town around the Hat, the Flat Rock Reefs, and the Perch Reef north of the lighthouse.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye fishing along the southernmost part of the bay is slow because the fish are moving to deeper waters. Many boats are making the trip out to Buoys 1 & 2. Walleye are still being caught in Pinconning off Gambil's Marina, the Pinconning and Saganing Bar and the Spark Plug (buoys 11 & 12). Most are using crawler harnesses, crank baits or spoons. Along the east side, persistent anglers are still taking a few walleye from the Slot however most of the boats from Sebewaing and Bay Port are crossing the Bar and heading for deeper water on the west side.

Saginaw River: A few walleye are still being caught in the lower river but catch rates are slowing down. Shore anglers at Smith Park caught a few catfish, bass and freshwater drum.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Skamania runs in the region have been good because of the unusually cool weather. Try fishing the tributaries to the St. Joseph River, Paw Paw River, Black River, and the Galien River just to name a few.

Kalamazoo River: Is producing a few walleye, smallmouth bass and catfish below the Allegan Dam. Check the backwaters for panfish.

Holland: Boat anglers are using bright green or yellow spoons 55 to 80 feet down in in 80 to 200 feet of water for salmon. White paddles with blue flies worked deeper. Meat rigs were also taking fish. Perch fishing was slow.

Grand Haven: Salmon anglers are fishing 55 to 80 feet down in 80 to 200 feet of water. Try spoons in bright colors such as yellow and green in 55 feet or white paddles with blue flies out deeper. Meat rigs that glow caught fish. Others did well with 150, 225 and 300 copper or 5 to 12 colors of lead. Pier fishing was slow. Some were trying shrimp under a bobber for steelhead.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has a good number of Skamina (summer steelhead) and some were seen jumping the Sixth Street Dam in the early morning. Anglers are using half a crawler, gold and orange spinners, or chrome and blue Hot-n-Tots with a red lip. A few walleye are still being caught on crawlers and leeches. Catfish are hitting on suckers and cut bait. A couple salmon were caught downriver by those casting thundersticks.

Grand River at Lansing: Good size channel cats along with some bass were caught below the North Lansing Dam. Try live baits such as crawlers and minnows. A few pike were caught over at Fitzgerald Park in Grand Ledge.

Jackson County: The inland lakes are producing bluegill and crappie. Try live bait such as spec minnows.

Reeds Lake: Bass are still feeding even with the cooler temperatures.

Muskegon River: Continues to be good for smallmouth bass. Fish can be found in and around the brush piles. Try top water lures, spinners, tube baits or plastic crawlers. Walleye were caught on crawlers or leeches.

Whitehall: Boat anglers are fishing west of the channel or out from Duck Lake. Pier anglers caught some nice catfish at night. During the day everyone caught freshwater drum.

White Lake: Had very good walleye fishing.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

In Lake Huron, fish seem to be scattered in small active pods. If you catch fish, be sure to turn back on that area and stay on the active ones. Anglers may also want to try running a couple lines up high and away from the boat.

Rogers City: Fish are scattered so target waters 45 to 120 feet deep with downriggers, lead core, copper and dipseys to get lines about halfway down. Anglers are fishing all over the place and have caught mostly chinook followed by lake trout and the occasional steelhead. Good colors are orange and silver, green or blue with silver, chartreuse, black and white or purple. Conditions are constantly changing right now so anglers will have to be ready to adjust each day.

Presque Isle: The fish are scattered so put your lures between 20 feet down and halfway down in waters 45 to 90 feet deep. Anglers have caught chinook, steelhead, walleye and smaller lake trout.

Rockport: Was producing a mix of trout, salmon and walleye off Stoneport, Middle Island and down near the wreck. Salmon and steelhead were caught 10 to 50 feet down in 60 to 120 feet of water. Walleye were caught south of Rockport. Hot colors were pink and purple.

Alpena: Those trolling caught brown trout, steelhead and walleye around Thunder Bay Island, the "Humps", and out near the Nordmere Wreck. Most are using spoons, peanuts and spin-gloves for lake trout and salmon. Steelhead were caught on green, blue and orange spoons.

Thunder Bay River: Had few anglers. The walleye were small but some nice smallmouth bass were caught on crawlers or leeches.

Harrisville: Is producing a good number of lake trout, steelhead, salmon and walleye. All species seem to be in the same area as far as depth and water temperature. Most fish were in 80 to 150 feet and hitting on spoons, flies and cut bait. Target the fish in the lower 2/3 of water. Look for the scum lines for good numbers of steelhead.

Oscoda: Pier fishing for walleye has slowed but good numbers of smallmouth bass and freshwater drum were caught. Late night fishing is producing good numbers of catfish. Boat anglers caught walleye, salmon, steelhead, and lake trout. A good number of walleye were caught in 100 to 150 feet of water. As for salmon, fish were on the small side but the numbers were up.

Higgins Lake: Look for lake trout in 80 to 100 feet. Anglers are catching a good number of rock bass. For smallmouth, try the weed beds, off the points and out near Treasure Island.

Houghton Lake: Catch rates were steady but not great. Walleye and bluegills were found in 6 to 10 feet along the weed beds.

Lake St. Helen: Is producing bluegill and other panfish in 6 to 8 feet. Catch rates for walleye were slow but the bass fishing was good for those using top water baits or plastic worms around the weeds and lily pads. Pike fishing was average.

Tawas: Pier fishing was slow except for a few smallmouth bass or rock bass. Walleye were caught in the early morning or evening when casting spoons. Those trolling in 20 to 40 feet were still catching walleye north of Big Charity Island and down near Alabaster. The occasional steelhead or brown trout was taken 15 feet down in 50 feet of water near Alabaster.

Au Gres: Continues to have very good walleye fishing with most boats heading north of Big Charity Island, south to the inner bay and the north end of the shipping channel in 20 to 40 feet of water.

Au Gres River: Is producing quite a few catfish.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Still has a good number of lake trout but no sign of salmon on the harbor side of the bay. Lake trout can be found just off the bottom. The thermocline in Little Traverse Bay was more defined in 75 feet of water.

Petoskey: Those fishing near the mouth of the river caught bass, bluegill, freshwater drum and rock bass. Small perch were caught inside the piers. Charter boats did manage to catch a few salmon. Lake trout were caught in front of Bay Harbor. Anglers are using glow spoons and flies. Salmon were 70 to 80 feet down and hitting on spoons, dipsey divers and flies. Some are using meat rigs. Charter captains were also catching whitefish when trolling for trout and salmon.

Bear River: Water levels rose with all the rain. This usually triggers an influx of fish. Some reported a few salmon up at the dam. A couple nice steelhead were taken on flies in the early afternoon.

Charlevoix: Lake trout are once again just off the bottom in 120 feet. On the windy days, try 60 to 80 feet down in 130 to 160 feet. Most were using glow spoons. A couple salmon were caught however they are still few and far between. Salmon were caught higher in the water column. Spoons and meat rigs worked best in the early morning. Try between the cement plant and North Point. Pier anglers were catching mostly sub-legal smallmouth bass when using leeches, crawlers or minnows near the bottom. Rumor has it a couple walleye were caught in the early morning.

Traverse City: The East Bay is producing lake trout in 60 to 110 feet of water. Those jigging caught whitefish. Chinook salmon were taken on spoons along the southern end of the bay. Try 60 to 110 feet down. Smallmouth bass were holding near the drop-off in 20 to 40 feet. In the West Bay, those trolling in 70 to 110 feet caught lake trout. Chinook were 70 to 80 feet down near "the Hole". For smallmouth bass, try fishing along the drop-offs.

Elk River: Is producing some moderate size smallmouth bass. Try crawlers, leeches or plastic baits.

Boardman River: Was slow. Some decent panfish were caught near the dam. Most were using live bait.

Frankfort: Boat anglers were trolling 40 to 50 feet down in 150 to 200 feet of water. Hot colors were pink and chartreuse. Those trolling the harbor and car ferry caught chinook on J-plugs or brown trout on spoons.

Betsie River: Is producing the occasional chinook salmon as far up as the Homestead Dam however the number of fish is still very low. Fish coming into the cleaning station have immature eggs.

Onekama: The "Barrel" and the golf course are still good for chinook and lake trout. Chinook weighing 20 pounds or more were caught in the early morning. Lake trout were caught later in the day when bouncing spin-gloves along the bottom.

Lake Cadillac: Walleye fishing has been hit-or-miss. Those trolling crawler harnesses caught a few. Crappie were hitting near the surface in the early morning. Anglers have done well for bass and pike. They are using crawlers, leeches, spinners or crank baits.

Lake Mitchell: Those fishing the weed beds in the early morning caught walleye on jigs with leeches. Look for bass along the weed beds in the early morning or evening. During the day, fish deep. Pike have also been active.

Manistee: Salmon fishing is slowly picking up with fish caught 25 to 60 feet down in 60 to 120 feet of water. Glow plugs and orange or green spoons worked best in the morning. Even with the rough weather, boat anglers have caught a mixed bag of chinook, lake trout and steelhead. The chinook are much bigger this year with many over 20 pounds and a few over 30 pounds.

Manistee River: With cooler temperatures, a light number of salmon moved up into the river. No big numbers yet, it still too early. Those fishing below Tippy Dam have caught some nice smallmouth bass. Try crawlers, tube baits or plastics.

Ludington: Salmon have been caught 20 to 60 feet down in 40 to 100 feet of water. Most are using glow plugs or green, orange and glow spoons.

Pere Marquette River: Brown trout are still being caught. Most are fly fishing but a few were casting small spoons.

Pentwater: Chinook, coho and steelhead were caught 50 to 70 feet down in 120 feet of water due west of the channel, straight out from the Silver Lake Sand Dunes and off the point. Green and blue were the hot colors for salmon but steelhead were hitting on orange. Those fishing the channel caught bass on crawlers. Pier anglers caught a few perch on minnows.

UPPER PENINSULA

Marquette: Had fair lake trout action for those using spoons tipped with cut bait in 180 to 220 feet of water. Try north of the White Rocks and out near Granite Island. Some fish were marked in 100 feet, they could be salmon.

Little Bay De Noc: Had few walleye anglers as catch rates were slow. A couple fish were taken on crawler harnesses in 18 to 25 feet of water along the "Black Bottom" or in 16 to 30 feet along the shoals. Perch were spotty but caught in 10 to 19 feet near Kipling and off the mouth of the Ford River in 8 to 12. Crawlers and minnows worked best. Smallmouth bass fishing was good near Round Island and south of the Ford River in 5 to 12 feet. Try crank baits, spinners or plastic baits.

Big Bay De Noc: Had no walleye reports but the smallmouth action was good in Kate's Bay, the mouth of Garden Bay and off Nahma. Use crank baits, spinners or plastics in 6 to 18 feet. Fairport was producing few salmon. Better catches were 60 feet down in 80 to 120 feet with spoons or cut bait.

Au Train: Had a few boats heading out to target lake trout. A few fish were caught spoons in 160 to 180 feet of water. Surface water temperatures remain cool in the mid to upper 50's.

Munising: Catch rates were fair at best. Most were targeting lake trout but some have shifted to salmon but the fish were small. The popular spots to fish were Munising Bay, Trout Bay, Murray's Bay and north of Wood Island in 100 feet of water. Surface water temperatures were in the low 60's. Pier anglers have caught a few fish when still-fishing with spawn. The bigger splake were up to 21 inches and 3 pounds.

Grand Marais: Boat anglers had good lake trout action and a few limit catches were reported. Fish were caught in 150 to 250 feet of water in the shipping channel or 5 to 7 miles north. Many were small at 2 to 4 pounds but some went as high as 12 pounds. Those targeting salmon in 50 feet of water west of the bay had fair results. The fish were 18 to 20 inches long and about 2 pounds. Pier anglers were still-fishing with a single egg for whitefish.

St. Mary's River: Walleye fishing was very good at the north end of Lime Island which is in Raber Bay. Most are trolling bottom bouncers with crawler harnesses in 12 to 14 feet of water. Walleye also moved into the shipping channel near Buoy 25. Try crawler harnesses with bottom bouncers in 25 to 30 feet of water.

DeTour: Atlantic, chinook and lake trout are all active in the early morning. Anglers are using green and white flashers and flies or spoons in blue and silver, green and gold, green, white or yellow.

Drummond Island: Had excellent walleye action in Scott Bay, around Peck Island. Try the northwest side when trolling bottom bouncers and crawler harnesses in 12 to 15 feet of water. Smallmouth bass were good at Peck Island for those using tube jigs or still-fishing with minnows.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch fishing is good in Musky Bay, Hessel Bay, Middle Entrance and the Moscoe Channel. Use minnows, leaf worms or crawlers. Hessel Bay was good for those targeting pike. Large and smallmouth bass are being caught in Musky Bay, Duck Bay and Snows Channel.

St. Ignace: Anglers are targeting chinook and Atlantic salmon in waters up to 150 feet deep on the backside of Mackinac Island, Round Island and the Coast Guard Station.

August 8, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Rain and cooler temperatures shut fishing down in some areas. The return of stable weather will once again enhance fishing conditions around the state.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Still had good walleye fishing in Ohio waters. A few walleye were caught in Michigan waters but not as many as Ohio. Some perch were caught off Stony Point and the Dumping Grounds off Bolles Harbor.

Huron River: Is producing small panfish, smallmouth bass and some white bass.

Detroit River: A few walleye were caught on jigs with crawlers in the Trenton Channel. Those trolling the deeper channels with crawler harnesses also caught a few fish. Walleye and smallmouth bass were caught along the south end of the Trenton Channel as well as the cuts on either side of Sugar Island.

Lake St. Clair: Has good bass fishing in Anchor Bay. Try watermelon or black plastics in 8 to 11 feet of water. Musky anglers have caught some large fish.

Lexington: Perch fishing was spotty in 20 to 45 feet. Boat anglers caught trout and salmon in 80 to 100 feet. Pier fishing was slow.

Port Sanilac: Some perch were caught to the north in 32 to 40 feet of water when drifting shiners. Those trolling caught chinook, lake trout, steelhead and the occasional walleye straight out or north of the port in 80 to 100 feet.

Harbor Beach: Fishing came to a halt with the recent storms. When the weather clears, anglers will want to start fishing in close to shore and work your way out to deeper water. Those casting spoons and body baits off the wall in the early morning should find some fish.

Saginaw Bay: Catch rates slowed with the storms and cold front. A few walleye were still being caught west of the Spark Plug, west of Buoys 1 and 2 in 25 feet of water, off Pinconning in 23 feet, off Fin Road in 8 to 10 feet and along the Saganing Bar. Fishing on the east side of the bay was slow.

Saginaw River: A few walleye were caught by those trolling between Weadock and the Coast Guard Station. Some caught smallmouth bass. Those fishing at Smith Park caught channel catfish and freshwater drum.

Shiawassee River: Walleye were caught at the spillway off Main Street in Owosso and at the Corunna Dam.

Indian Lake: In Livingston County was producing bluegill and crappie.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Perch fishing was spotty in 40 to 50 feet. Pier fishing was slow. Boat anglers targeting salmon said catch rates were spotty in waters 60 to 160 feet deep.

St. Joseph River: Summer run steelhead are in the river and the tributaries.

Branch County: Union Lake was producing a few panfish.

Calhoun County: Catch rates were moderate at best. Brace Lakes and Lee Lake were producing a few panfish.

South Haven: Salmon fishing was slow. Some lake trout were caught in 80 feet but many were scattered in 80 to 150 feet. Perch fishing was slow with only a few fish caught in 40 feet of water.

Holland: Was producing salmon 60 to 80 feet down in 80 to 110 feet of water. Blue and green were the hot colors. Some perch were caught in 30 to 50 feet of water.

Grand Haven: Salmon anglers caught fish in 80 to 120 feet or 160 to 200 feet when fishing 50 to 80 feet down. They are using blue and green spinnies with blue and green flies on 300 and 450 coppers or glow spoons on 225. Pier and boat anglers caught perch around the piers.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Summer steelhead can still be found up near the Sixth Street Dam. Anglers are using spinners or Hot-n-Tots. Gold and orange or blue and silver were good colors. Channel cats and flathead catfish were caught on suckers, small bluegills or cut bait.

Grand River at Lansing: Continues to produce bass and channel cats for those using live bait. Try the backwaters for bluegill.

Jackson County: The inland lakes are producing smallmouth bass and panfish. A few perch were also caught.

Muskegon River: Has good smallmouth action. Hardy Pond is producing panfish.

Whitehall: Pier anglers picked up the odd salmon however the fish caught were just a few stragglers. No real hot spots in Lake Michigan so most of the boat anglers were just heading west.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Bad weather has scattered the fish. When anglers can get out, they might want to try up near Forty Mile Point or south near Adams Point and Swan Bay. Baitfish were reported in 40 to 70 feet. Anglers are using downriggers, lead core, copper and dipseys about halfway down. Keep the lines away from the boat. Good colors were green, orange, light blue and silver, yellow and green or black and white. Anything that glows was good early or late.

Presque Isle: Anglers are heading straight out of the harbor from the red can and north between the lighthouses. Salmon, steelhead and walleye were caught about halfway down in 45 to 130 feet. Focus more on structure and baitfish instead of water temperature.

Rockport: Fishing was difficult as the fish were scattered. Once you find them, stay in that area. Because of the strong wind and storms, there is no pattern at this time. A few more walleye were showing up. Scatter your lines and fish deeper.

Alpena: Walleye fishing in Thunder Bay was not good as the fish are scattered and they have moved out to deeper water. A couple walleye were caught in 90 feet or more. Anglers will want to scatter their lines throughout the water column.

Thunder Bay River: Catch rates were slow with only a few smallmouth bass and small walleye caught.

Harrisville: Walleye have been caught in deeper water. Those able to get out far enough did catch steelhead. Try near the surface in 60 to 80 feet. Salmon should start coming in soon. Lake trout could be anywhere in the water column as they tend to travel to where the baitfish are.

Oscoda: Catch rates were hit-or-miss for those heading straight out, north or south of the river. Steelhead could be found near the surface along the scum lines in 65 to 85 feet. Salmon were caught but the fish were small at 6 to 10 pounds. Walleye were hitting on spoons in 80 to 140 feet of water. Lake trout are top to bottom. Hot colors were blue and silver, orange and silver, or black.

Higgins Lake: Lake trout were caught by those jigging Swedish pimples, sand kickers and 5/8 to one ounce spoons along the bottom. Those trolling are fishing just off the bottom in 80 to 100 feet. Perch were caught around Treasure Island, Sunken Island and along the west shore when using minnows in 30 to 40 feet. This is the time of year to catch a lot of rock bass.

Tawas: Anglers are still catching walleye beyond and near the Charity Islands when using Hot-n-Tots or crawler harnesses. Fish were also caught near Buoy 2, inside the bay near Buoys 4 and 6 in 10 to 20 feet or near Alabaster in 15 to 20 feet. Some caught the incidental steelhead or brown trout. Pier fishing was slow with only a few small perch taken.

Au Gres: Fishing was difficult. Baitfish were abundant and catch rates were low. Head out to the islands or straight out from the harbor and try 20 to 35 feet of water.

Au Gres River: Is producing a good number of catfish and some freshwater drum.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Some good catches of bluegill and sunfish have come from inland lakes in the area. Bass and pike catches were decent.

Harbor Springs: Is producing lake trout 100 to 110 feet down around Harbor Point. The occasional salmon was caught up near Five Mile Point. Try blue and chartreuse spoons and blue meat rigs. Those targeting smallmouth bass caught a mix of legal and sub-legal fish when using crawlers, crank baits or tube baits.

Petoskey: Lake trout were the most abundant fish caught however a couple large salmon were also taken. The salmon were 80 to 100 feet down in 120 to 130 feet of water and hitting on spoons in fire-tiger or glow. Baitfish were marked in 70 to 130 feet. Lake trout were caught on spoons 95 to 110 feet down between Bay Harbor and the pier. Those fishing off the pier caught rock bass, a couple bluegill and sub-legal smallmouth bass.

Bear River: It is true; there are some salmon and steelhead jumping at the dam. Fish have been caught by those drifting flies or spawn bags. A couple brown trout were caught but the fish were small. Those fishing down near the mouth caught steelhead on spawn.

Charlevoix: Pier anglers are still catching bass but many are sub-legal. They are fishing near the bottom with crawlers, leeches and minnows. A couple rock bass were also caught. Salmon were caught on spoons 70 feet down near the Cement Plant and North Point. Some heading down to Cathead Bay caught a few fish. Lake trout were caught 100 to 110 feet down in 120 to 140 feet or suspended about 60 feet down in 125 feet of water.

Traverse City: Lake trout were caught in the East Bay by those trolling in 90 to 130 feet of water. Salmon anglers were not taking a lot of fish however the chinook were over 20 pounds. Try spoons, plugs or flies 70 to 90 feet down in 150 feet of water. Those trolling in the West Bay caught lake trout and the occasional chinook salmon in 100 to 130 feet. Depths were variable but most were fishing 50 to 90 feet down. Smallmouth bass were caught near the drop-offs.

Elk River: Anglers have caught some nice smallmouth bass and rock bass on plastics, crawlers, or leeches.

Boardman River: Had a few reports of smallmouth bass and rock bass hitting on crawlers.

Lake Cadillac: Anglers are catching bass, pike and even the occasional walleye. Try spinners, plastics or live bait along the weed beds. Those seeking panfish caught crappie, bluegill, rock bass and a few perch.

Lake Mitchell: Has been good for pike as they are in the beginning of the cold weather feeding frenzy. Those fishing the coves caught pike and bass along the weed beds. Panfish numbers were fair to good.

Manistee: Catch rates for salmon were slow but still improving. Try 25 to 60 feet down in 50 to 120 feet with glow spoons and plugs or green and orange spoons.

Manistee River: Even though it is a bit early, a light number of salmon have started to move up into the river. The Little Manistee is getting an early run of salmon.

Ludington: Catch rates were hit-or-miss. Salmon were found 20 to 70 feet down in 50 to 120 feet. Try running glow plugs and spoons in the early morning. As the sun comes up, switch to orange or green spoons with green flies. Pier anglers caught freshwater drum.

Pere Marquette River: Is getting an early run of salmon. Brown trout are still being caught. Most are fly fishing but a few were casting small spoons.

Pentwater: Had good fishing but the fish have been scattered. Trout and salmon moved closer to shore because of the cooler weather. Some are fishing in 60 to 80 feet while others are heading out to waters 200 feet or deeper. Sliders, copper and dipseys worked well. Hot colors were orange and red.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Those trolling have done well for chinook, coho, lake trout and steelhead when trolling between Sand Point and the red rocks. They are using spoons in black, white, raspberry, chartreuse, gold, blue or anything that glows. Go 25 to 75 feet down in 30 to 80 feet. Near the South Portage Entry, a good number of lake trout, coho and steelhead were taken by those trolling near the lighthouse, Mud Banks, Farmers Reef, Newton's Reef or Big Reef. Those jigging in Traverse Bay caught lake trout in 170 to 220 feet off Gay Point and Big Louie's Point. Those trolling took lake trout between Gay Point, Big Louie's Point and Hermits Cove. Go 60 to 145 feet down in 80 to 150 feet. Salmon were caught 25 to 50 feet down in 30 to 60 feet.

Marquette: Surface water temperatures were in the upper 50's. Lake trout and coho were caught on high-lines in 200 to 230 feet north of the white rocks and north of Granite Island. Some came in with limit catches of lake trout. Those fishing near Shot Point caught fish in 120 to 180 feet when using spoons and assorted flies with cut bait. Some went out to Stannard Rock and caught fish. In general, the fish averaged 4 to 5 pounds however a few were 20 pounds. The coho were 2.5 pounds and 18 to 20 inches long.

Menominee: Those trolling for salmon north and south of Green Island were not having any luck. A few salmon were caught 60 to 80 feet down in 120 to 150 feet east of Sturgeon Bay. Anglers are picking up some salmon out near Washington Island and Rock Island. Try different colored spoons with flashers 50 to 60 feet down in 120 feet of water. A few boats launching from Stoney Point were fishing near Chambers Island but catch rates were very slow.

Menominee River: Was producing walleye, smallmouth bass and a good number of freshwater drum.

Cedar River: Is producing smallmouth bass, northern pike and freshwater drum. Anglers are drifting crawlers or casting crank baits.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye fishing was still on the slow side. Those fishing the southern waters had fair catches when trolling crawler harnesses in 8 to 14 feet between Round Island and the "Fingers". Perch fishing was fair to good near Kipling and Butler Island when still-fishing with crawlers in 6 to 23 feet. Smallmouth bass action was fair off the mouth of the Ford River in 6 to 14 feet. Try plastics, crank baits or spinners along the weeds. A few salmon were caught out by the Ford River Can when trolling spoons or cut bait 50 to 65 feet down in 135 feet.

Escanaba River: Walleye anglers trolling or drifting crawlers in 18 to 25 feet caught fish but many were sub-legal.

Big Bay De Noc: Had no walleye catches to report. Perch fishing was fair when using crawlers in 8 to 24 feet in Fayette Harbor. Smallmouth bass were caught in 8 to 14 feet off Ogontz and in Kate's Bay when using crank baits or plastics. Salmon fishing off Fairport was fair. Some fished 40 to 60 feet down in 150 feet south of Poverty Island while others fished 50 to 60 feet down in 110 to 300 feet. They are using a variety spoons or cut bait.

Au Train: Surface water temperatures remain cool in the upper 50's. Northwest winds have made fishing difficult and catch rates were slow. Those able to get out were lucky to get two to five lake trout in five hours of fishing. Try just off the bottom in 150 to 200 feet of water.

Munising: Lake trout were slow and the salmon action was fair to poor. Most are fishing Munising Bay, Trout Bay and Murray's Bay in waters less than 100 feet deep. A couple coho were caught in Trout Bay. Pier anglers have taken some limit catches of splake when still-fishing with spawn.

Grand Marais: Pier anglers targeting whitefish are still-fishing with a single egg in the early morning. When boats can get out, lake trout were caught five to seven miles north along the shipping channel in 150 to 250 feet. The fish averaged 2 to 5 pounds.

St. Mary's River: Walleye were caught in Raber Bay near Carlton Creek. Anglers are trolling crawler harnesses with blue blades. Those trolling in 28 to 30 feet along the shipping channel caught walleye when using bottom bouncers and crawler harnesses. Most of the fish were caught between Buoy 25 and the old bell buoy.

DeTour: Chinook, lake trout and steelhead were caught between Frying Pan Island, the #3 green can, the lighthouse and the #2 red can. Anglers are using silver and green flashers with small flies or spoons in black and chartreuse, purple and yellow, white with a red nose, or green with black dots.

Drummond Island: Had good catches of walleye and smallmouth bass in Scott Bay when fishing on the northwest side of Peck Island. A few walleye were caught around Bay Island in Maxton Bay when drifting or jigging crawler harnesses just off the weed beds in 8 to 12 feet. For pike, anglers are trolling or casting chrome spoons in the weed beds around Grape Island. Moving west of Maxton Bay to Sims Point, a few yellow perch were caught in 8 to 14 feet around Arrow Island.

Cedarville and Hessel: Anglers are targeting perch in 8 to 12 feet of water around Haven Island. Some nice catches were reported in front of the marina dock and from the east end of Hessel Bay. Fair catches were taken in Musky Bay, Middle Entrance and the Moscoe Channel. Pike fishing was very good in Hessel Bay, Snows Channel, the west end of Musky Bay, and Government Bay. Most are still-fishing chubs. Bass fishing is good all over. Salmon were fair in the Yacht Entrance in 40 to 70 feet.

St. Ignace: When they can get out, boat anglers are fishing from the old fuel tanks, the flats and the Coast Guard Station. Fish have been caught around the islands. Try green flashers with flies or spoons in purple and pink, white and gold, green, white, and yellow.

August 15, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Attention Anglers: Starting September 5th, the Weekly Fishing Report will be accessible through a new toll-free telephone number. You will be able to obtain news and information on fishing conditions around the state by calling 1-855-777-0908. The 373-0908 number will no longer provide access to the report.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Catch rates for perch were slow and steady. Those willing to put in the time could catch a decent number of fish when using minnows. Weeds and algae were making it difficult for those trolling for walleye. Some limit catches were taken in Ohio waters around West Sister Island.

Detroit River: Catch rates for perch were spotty. Anglers have been fishing the Cross-Dike and the south side of Sugar Island.

Lake St. Clair: Continues to produce musky for those trolling. Bass are still being caught in waters 6 to 10 feet deep.

Lexington: Anglers are getting a mixed bag of lake trout, coho, chinook and steelhead in 60 to 100 feet of water. Magnum spoons worked best.

Port Sanilac: Perch fishing was spotty but a few boats did manage to catch some fish in 40 feet. Those heading out deeper caught chinook, coho, steelhead and lake trout when trolling large spoons.

Harbor Beach: Lake trout were scattered in 80 to 120 feet. Try dodgers with spin-gloves and spoons just off the bottom. Steelhead were hitting on small or regular size spoons. Walleye fishing slowed but a few were caught between here and Port Hope in 60 to 90 feet. Crawler harnesses at night worked best. Those using small body baits off the wall early or late caught the occasional walleye. A couple brown trout were caught in 50 feet. Bass are still being caught but perch were slow.

Grindstone City: Those trolling to Lighthouse Park have caught smallmouth bass in 25 to 35 feet and walleye in 35 to 45 feet. Those trolling spin-gloves for lake trout also caught a couple walleye in 140 to 160 feet.

Saginaw Bay: For the most part, the walleye have moved far offshore, even beyond the Charity Islands. This is typical for August as the fish head out to deeper water. The baitfish that hatched last spring are now big enough to interest the walleye. With that said, your crawlers and crank baits are competing with millions of shiners and gizzard shad. Most of the walleye anglers from Pinconning to Essexville are making the long trip out to Buoys 1 and 2 as well as 4 to 5 miles past them. Walleye have been caught northeast of the Black Hole in 22 feet. No perch activity to report. Boat anglers from Quanicassee, Sebawaing and Bay Port are heading across the Bar to fish deeper water along the east side of the shipping channel or going out to and past Buoys 1 and 2. Catch rates were not great with only one to four fish per boat. The walleye off Caseville and Port Austin have moved to deeper water.

Saginaw River: Is producing some catfish, freshwater drum and smallmouth bass in the lower river near Essexville. The Hot Pond is producing catfish.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Salmon fishing remains slow as the fish seem to be scattered in waters 80 to 140 feet deep. Perch were still being caught in 36 feet of water. Pier fishing was slow.

St. Joseph River: Has experienced a large run of steelhead during the first couple weeks of August. Lots of fish were distributed throughout the river in Berrien County and some have moved into the cold tributary streams such as the Dowagiac River.

South Haven: Had slow fishing as the fish were scattered here as well. Try trolling in 60 to 140 feet. Start shallow and move out as the sun comes up. Perch are still being caught in 18 to 20 feet. Pier fishing is slow.

Holland: Fish have been caught in 90 to 120 feet of water with 250 or 300 copper with plugs and divers with meat rigs. Hot colors were glow, white, green or yellow. Boat anglers caught a few perch in 30 to 60 feet.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers are fishing between the end of the pier and 120 feet of water. Most are fishing the top 50 feet with meat rigs that glow on divers or plugs. Hot colors were glow, white, green or yellow. Pier and boat anglers managed to catch a few perch. Boats fishing off the north pier were just off the mud line.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has a good number of steelhead. Fish are being caught on half a crawler, spawn bags, wobble glows, spinners with four to five blades and small blue and glow Cleo's. A good number of walleye are also in the river. They are hitting on body baits like perch runs or Hurky jerks. Anglers are catching bluegill and crappie up and down the river and in the bayous. Pike are hitting on suckers or half ounce spoons. Panfish have been caught in Millennium Park.

Grand River at Lansing: Continues to produce bass and channel cats for those using live bait. Try the backwaters for bluegill. Anglers might find a walleye or two near the Moore's Park Dam.

Reeds Lake: Is producing some panfish. Bluegills and crappie were hitting on minnows, leaf worms and wax worms. Perch were caught by those using perch rigs on the bottom.

Muskegon River: Water levels were low and clear. Anglers are still taking good numbers of smallmouth bass.

Whitehall: Is producing trout and salmon as shallow as 60 to 80 feet or as deep as 200 feet or more. Most are using spoons in red, orange or glow. Pier fishing was slow but some nice bluegills were caught in the channel by those using live bait.

White Lake: Anglers have caught a good number of walleye and pike when trolling crawler harnesses in 20 feet.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Anglers are getting a few chinook, steelhead or lake trout but they are working to get them. Try straight out from the harbor, south towards Swan Bay and Adams Point or north and west near the State Park and Forty Mile Point. Most are fishing halfway down in waters 40 to 150 feet deep with spoons, plugs and flashers with squid or flies. Good colors were blue and silver, orange and silver, orange and green, black and white, purple, green or chartreuse.

Presque Isle: The better fishing was straight out from the red can and north between the two lighthouses in 45 to 130 feet of water.

Rockport: Walleye were caught however anglers need to move around to find them. Most are using crank baits but crawler harnesses may also be a good choice. The fish are scattered throughout the water column. Salmon were caught 40 to 70 feet down in 100 to 200 feet. Spoons worked best.

Alpena: Most of the walleye were caught both north and south of the bay. The fish are scattered throughout the water column. Lake trout were caught out near the Humps. Anglers are trolling deep with spin-gloves behind flashers.

Thunder Bay River: Gave up a few smallmouth bass and rock bass.

Harrisville: Few anglers have been out. A couple chinook were caught by those casting spoons in the harbor. This seems a bit early but the cool water temperatures may jump start the pier fishing. Walleye seem to be moving in from deeper water. More boats are fishing north of the harbor and near the Black River. Late night was best for walleye in 25 to 100 feet when using spoons, crawler harnesses and body baits.

Oscoda: Catch rates were slow as the fish were scattered.

Au Sable River: Steelhead should be making their way in especially with the cooler water temperatures. Catfish have been caught in good numbers in the late evening. Crawlers and minnows worked best. Walleye catches were slim and most of the fish were on the small side. A good number of smallmouth bass are in the river.

Higgins Lake: Those trolling spoons, body baits, cowbells and rapalas continue to catch lake trout. Those jigging Swedish pimples, sand kickers and small spoons just off the bottom have also caught fish. Perch anglers are still taking some fish around Treasure Island and the Sunken Island. Rock bass are everywhere.

Houghton Lake: Catch rates were slow but a few walleye were caught. Cooler water temperatures have the bluegill in 6 to 8 feet.

Tawas: Those trolling are heading out past Buoy #2 to waters 35 to 45 feet deep. Some are fishing around Tawas Point and up near Au Sable Point in 80 feet. Walleye were suspended 25 to 50 feet down. In Tawas Bay, a few walleye were caught on crawler harnesses in 20 to 25 feet off Jerry's Marina.

Au Gres: Still has a good number of walleye anglers. A few limit catches were taken by the die-hards. Some are heading straight out from the mouth of the river to waters 25 to 35 feet deep but catch rates were slow. Others are traveling anywhere between 2 and 9 miles south of Pointe Au Gres. A few were perch fishing in 35 to 40 feet off the hotel but most of the fish caught were small.

Au Gres River: Is producing a good number of catfish and some freshwater drum.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Most of the boat anglers were fishing around Harbor Point in 180 to 200 feet of water. The salmon were up higher in 60 to 80 feet but the lake trout were deeper at 100 to 120 feet. Spoons were the ticket.

Petoskey: Few fish were seen or caught off the breakwall, the D-Pier, or at the Bobber Hole. A couple salmon were caught between the pier and the water treatment plant. Salmon and lake trout were caught 90 feet down in 120 feet of water with spoons, flashers and flies. One angler managed to land a 27 pound salmon.

Bear River: Chinook and steelhead can be found up near the dam however the big push of fish has not yet occurred. The fish being caught are the typical early ones that come in every year.

Charlevoix: Boat anglers are getting a few salmon but catch rates were still low. The fish caught were over 20 pounds and taken 80 to 100 feet down in 90 to 120 feet between North and South Point. Fish were caught on spoons without dodgers, dipseys and green flies.

Salmon, lake trout and cisco were caught off Fisherman's Island. Lake trout were 70 to 85 feet down in 120 feet and cisco were 80 feet down. Pier anglers caught rock bass and sub-legal smallmouth bass on crawlers, minnows and leeches.

Traverse City: Chinook have been caught in the East Bay. Most were running about 80 feet down, but the fish were scattered. Some were caught just 50 feet down. Numbers are low, but the salmon are very good size, up to 30 pounds. Lake trout and the occasional whitefish were caught. Smallmouth bass fishing was decent in 40 to 50 feet. Try drop-shotting with plastic baits. In the West Bay, salmon were caught by those trolling along the west shore. Try spoons or a Hoochie Mama 50 to 90 feet down in 90 to 200 feet of water. A few lake trout were caught. Those looking for smallmouth bass will want to fish the drop-off in 30 to 50 feet.

Elk River: Anglers have caught smallmouth bass and rock bass on plastics, crawlers, and leeches. There has been rumor of salmon or steelhead being spotted near the power dam.

Boardman River: Fishing was slow with only a few smallmouth bass or rock bass taken. A couple steelhead and salmon were in the river but they will not stay long with the warmer temperatures.

Frankfort: Has good fishing with several chinook salmon weighing in between 22 and 30 pounds. Anglers are heading straight west of the lighthouse to waters 180 to 220 feet and then trolling 55 to 110 feet down while heading north. Fish were caught on splatter back plugs, meat rigs, UV ladder back spoons in green or blue and flies. Coho and steelhead were also caught. Early morning is best.

Onekama: Is producing some fish. Anglers are trolling 60 to 90 feet down in 180 to 220 feet with J-plugs. Those trolling north to the "Barrel" reported lots of baitfish right along with trout and salmon in 60 to 70 feet.

Portage Lake: Those looking for bass and panfish will want to look for an area where the fish are moving in and out of the shallows. Those moving around seem to catch more fish.

Lake Cadillac: Is producing some bluegills along the weed beds. Those fishing near the High School did well for pike and bass. Crappie were a bit scattered but some have taken limit catches.

Lake Mitchell: Has good pike fishing. Try spoons or live bait. Panfish are being caught along the weed beds.

Manistee: Boat anglers found trout and salmon 40 to 90 feet down in 60 to 220 feet of water with glow spoons, plugs or meat rigs. Hot colors were green, red or purple.

Manistee River: Continues to provide very good smallmouth bass fishing. A light number of salmon were reported in the lower river.

Ludington: Trout and salmon were caught anywhere from 60 to 400 feet of water. Early morning was best. Coho and steelhead were taken on glow spoons, plugs or meat rigs. Good colors were green and orange, black and white or red. Freshwater drum were caught but pier fishing is slow.

Pere Marquette River: Has a light run of salmon moving into the lower river, but no big numbers yet as it is still a bit early. Anglers continue to catch a fair to good number of brown trout when casting small spoons or flies.

Pentwater: Fishing was good as salmon and trout moved in closer to shore. Some caught fish in 60 to 80 feet while others did well in 200 feet or more when trolling 50 to 70 feet down with red, orange and glow spoons. Pier fishing was slow.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Catch rates were hit-or-miss but anglers did manage to catch chinook, coho and lake trout. Fish were caught between Sand Point and the red rocks when using spoons 25 to 75 feet down in 30 to 80 feet. Trolling speeds were between 1.2 and 2.6 mph. Those jigging for lake trout did best out from the pine tree on Pequaming Point. Boats trolling near the Lighthouse, Farmers, Newton's and the Big Reef took a fair number of coho and lake trout 25 to 70 feet down in 30 to 90 feet. Traverse Bay anglers are jigging for lake trout in 170 to 220 feet off Gay Point and Big Louie's Point or trolling 60 to 145 feet down in 80 to 150 feet. Fish were also caught near Five Mile and Six Mile Reef.

Marquette: Surface water temperatures are averaging 60 degrees. Most anglers are targeting lake trout because few salmon were caught. They are heading north towards Presque Isle and the Clay Banks and using spoons or flies tipped with cut bait. Lake trout were averaging 4 pounds but a few were up to 12 pounds. A large fish weighing in at 34 pounds was caught last week! Some lake trout were caught out near Stannard Rock.

Menominee: Those heading out to the Whalesback and Green Island for salmon have not had much luck. Many were switching to walleye fishing. They are trolling north and south along the first drop off.

Menominee River: Those trolling crawlers or rapalas have caught smallmouth bass, walleye, pike, catfish and freshwater drum.

Cedar River: Anglers caught some nice smallmouth bass right along with the small ones when drifting crawlers, artificial shad or crayfish.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye fishing was slow. Anglers were trolling or drifting crawler harnesses or rapalas in 18 to 23 feet of water near the mouth of the Escanaba River. When the weather allows, boats were heading south to Round Island, the "Fingers" or the Minneapolis Shoals. Those trolling crank baits in the early morning caught fish in 10 to 18 feet.

A few nice perch were taken in 18 to 25 feet off the mouth of the Escanaba River. Perch fishing was fair to good around Butler Island but the fish were smaller. Try minnows or crawlers in 6 to 23 feet.

Escanaba River: Has had the most consistent walleye fishing. Anglers are trolling or drifting crawler harnesses or rapalas.

Big Bay De Noc: Bass fishing was fair off Ansell's Point and Garden Bluff. Anglers were fishing 6 to 28 feet of water with crawlers and minnows. Some were trolling or drifting crank baits, spinners or plastic baits along the weeds. Ogontz had smaller fish. Perch anglers in Fayette reported several nice catches in the harbor when using crawlers along the weeds in 8 to 14 feet. Those salmon fishing at Fairport picked up the occasional large fish. Some are fishing out deep but most were trolling spoons 60 feet down in 80 to 120 feet of water along the "Gap".

Au Train: Those targeting lake trout had poor results as few fish were caught. Those salmon fishing had no luck. Anglers were fishing off the Shelter Bay Flats and just east of Au Train Island in 140 to 180 feet.

Munising: Windy conditions have kept anglers at bay. Surface water temperatures were in the low 60's. Boat anglers targeting lake trout reported slow catch rates while those fishing for chinook and coho reported fair catches. Small splake were also caught. Try Murray's Bay or Trout Bay in 100 feet of water or less. There was a mixed catch of bass, pike, and perch in the bay and around Grand Island. Those still-fishing off the pier for splake had poor results.

Grand Marais: Also had windy conditions. Boat anglers targeting lake trout were fishing five to seven miles north in the shipping channel in 150 to 250 feet of water. The fish range 2 to 5 pounds. Those targeting coho were fishing east and west of the bay, about halfway down in 50 to 60 feet. Pier anglers targeting whitefish reported very slow catch rates and small fish. Try a single egg in the early morning.

St. Mary's River: Had good walleye fishing in the shipping channel between the north end of Lime Island and the old Bell Buoy. Most are using crawler harnesses with bottom bouncers. Gold beads and gold spinner blades worked best. Walleye were caught across from the Neebish Island Ferry Dock. Try minnows or small worms just off the weed beds in 8 to 12 feet.

DeTour: Anglers are catching chinook, Atlantic salmon and lake trout between Frying Pan Island, the lighthouse and the #2 red can near Drummond Island. Good colors were white, green or any other color with some white on it.

Drummond Island: Yellow perch are good outside Harbor Island in 8 to 10 feet. Smallmouth bass have been caught near Peck Island. Most are trolling crawler harnesses in 12 to 14 feet.

Cedarville and Hessel: Catch rates for perch picked up around Haven Island in 8 to 12 feet. Some nice catches were reported from the marina dock, the east end of Hessel Bay, Musky Bay, the Middle Entrance and Moscoe Channel. Good pike action in Hessel Bay, Snows Channel, the west end of Musky Bay and Government Bay. Salmon were caught in Yacht Entrance in 70 feet.

St. Ignace: Boat anglers are fishing from the city launch to the flats and over to the Coast Guard Station. Chinook salmon were caught on spoons in white with multi-color strips, blue and white, black and white or green.

August 22, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

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SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Those willing to put in the time have caught a decent number of yellow perch in 18 to 20 feet of water near the River Raisin Channel and the E-Buoy. White perch, white bass and freshwater drum were also caught. Most of the walleye were caught in Ohio waters.

Huron River: Is producing smaller white bass, smallmouth bass and panfish.

Detroit River: Those looking for perch are fishing near the Cross-Dike or the south end of Sugar Island. Not many but the occasional walleye was caught.

Lake St. Clair: Had clear water conditions. Smallmouth bass remain scattered in the deeper waters.

St. Clair River: Smallmouth bass are showing up in all three channels. Walleye fishing was slow but some anglers did manage to find a few keepers in the shipping channel. Perch fishing also picked up.

Lexington: Is still producing a mixed bag of chinook, steelhead, lake trout and the odd walleye in 100 to 135 feet. Most fish were caught between 80 feet down and the bottom. Pier fishing was slow.

Harbor Beach: Fishing started to pick up with some lake trout taken in 120 to 140 feet. Try dodgers or cowbells with spin-gloves, peanuts or spoons just off the bottom. Salmon and steelhead were hitting on small or regular spoons in 90 to 120 feet. A few walleye were caught between here and Port Hope. Try 60 to 90 feet with small body baits and spoons or crawler harnesses. Bass are still hitting on spoons or body baits. Perch fishing was slow.

Grindstone City: Was slow with only a couple walleye caught.

Port Austin: Boat anglers trolling around the lighthouse caught smallmouth bass in 12 to 15 feet. Those heading out to waters 160 to 190 feet deep caught chinook, lake trout and even walleye. The thermocline started about 110 feet down. Lake trout were within 10 feet of the bottom.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye fishing is slow all over, and the perch have not really started yet. A few walleye were caught off Gambill's Marina near Pinconning and off the mouth of the Kawkawlin River in 14 feet or west of Buoys 1 & 2 in 25 feet. A couple perch were taken near the Red Spark Plug (Buoys 11 & 12) but no big numbers yet. Perch fishing will improve as the cooler weather moves in. Walleye anglers on the east side had a slow week. Those trolling off Quanicassee, Sebewaing and Bay Port were lucky to get one fish per angler.

Shiawassee River: Is producing the occasional walleye at the Corunna Dam and the spillway off Main Street in Owosso. Panfish and smallmouth bass were also caught. Most are using shiners or crawlers. Catfish numbers were down however the fish were bigger.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Had good perch fishing north of the piers in 35 feet. Salmon fishing was slow as the fish were scattered. A few were caught about 60 feet down in waters up to and beyond 140 feet deep. Pier fishing was slow.

St. Joseph River: Warmer weather has slowed the steelhead bite. Target the deeper holes.

Branch County: Near limit catches of panfish were taken from Morrison Lake.

South Haven: Perch were caught north or south of the pier in waters 20 to 40 feet deep. Those trolling for salmon caught chinook and coho along with the occasional steelhead in 100 feet. Pier fishing was slow.

Holland: Salmon were hitting 40 to 70 feet down in 50 to 170 feet of water. Use 5 color lead and 150 coppers with bright orange or yellow spoons and green spinnies with green flies out deeper. Pier anglers caught a couple perch and steelhead. Try live bait such as minnows for the perch. For steelhead, go with shrimp under a bobber. Anglers were perch fishing off the State Park.

Grand Haven: Perch are still being caught of both piers and just off the mud line in Lake Michigan. Minnows worked well. Boats are finding fish in 50 to 150 feet with downriggers set about halfway down. Most are using orange and yellow spoons up high or green spinnies with green flies out deep.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Steelhead were caught up near the 6th Street Dam in the early morning. With the warm temperatures, target the deeper holes. Bluegill and crappie fishing were fair to good. Catfish slowed but some big flatheads were taken on live bait, cut bait or crawlers.

Grand River at Lansing: Continues to produce bass and channel cats for those using live bait. A few limits of panfish were reported. Try the backwaters for bluegill. Anglers might find a walleye or two near the Moore's Park Dam.

Clinton County: The inland lakes had mostly small bluegills.

Muskegon River: Water levels continue to be low and clear. This may be good for bass fishing but not good for salmon and steelhead. Fish the weed beds for bass but try the deeper holes for trout.

Whitehall: Catch rates slowed. Many were fishing around Minor Park but some traveled as far as Stoney Creek. The water near shore is very warm but seemed to be cooler near Stoney Creek. The bite was better in the early morning with fish caught on anything that glows before daylight. Try 50 to 70 feet down in 150 feet of water with green flashers and blue flies. Pearl J-plugs on lead core worked well. Pier anglers caught freshwater drum.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rockport: Has no set pattern for catching fish at this time. The thermocline is very deep or is not found at all in depths less than 100 feet. Fish are scattered and are difficult to target. Lake trout can still be found near bottom when fishing spoons. Some caught the occasional chinook or Atlantic salmon. A few walleye were found and actually caught out in waters 120 feet or deeper.

Long Lake: In Alpena County was producing good numbers of bass and pike.

Alpena: Had few anglers fishing Thunder Bay because the walleye have moved out to deeper water. Some may still find the occasional walleye, bass or catfish.

Thunder Bay River: Is producing the occasional rock bass, under-sized smallmouth bass, freshwater drum or channel catfish.

Harrisville: Catch rates were slow as the fish are scattered and out deep. Steelhead should start to show up closer to shore. Try up near the surface in 50 to 70 feet. For trout and salmon, lead core and planer boards have worked best this year. Spoons with dodgers, wobble glows and body baits have caught fish but don't be afraid to experiment with other bait combinations.

Oscoda: A few salmon were showing up around the pier. Those fishing late night with glow spoons did catch a couple fish.

Au Sable River: A few walleye were caught but no big numbers. The water is too warm for trout and salmon.

Gladwin County: The inland lakes were producing limit catches of bass and panfish but anglers are working hard to get them.

Clare County: The inland lakes are producing some nice bass.

Tawas: Walleye anglers trolling out around Tawas Point and north to Au Sable Point found success in 50 to 80 feet. Fish were also caught in 20 to 50 feet off Alabaster and in 20 to 25 feet along the weed beds off Jerry's Marina. Pier anglers caught walleye, large and smallmouth bass, rock bass and small perch.

Au Gres: Walleye fishing slowed a great deal but those trolling did pick up the occasional 10 or 11 inch perch.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Boat anglers were focusing their effort between Harbor Point and Five Mile Point. Try 65 to 70 feet down in 180 to 190 feet for salmon or 100 feet down for lake trout.

Petoskey: Is producing a light number of salmon for those trolling between the Hospital and the Water Treatment Plant. Anglers are using spoons and flies. Green was the hot color. Meat rigs with cut bait caught fish. The occasional lake trout was also caught. Pier anglers caught smallmouth bass and rock bass.

Bear River: Water levels were low. Very few fish were seen jumping at the dam but some anglers were still trying for a steelhead or coho when still-fishing with spawn, flies, or rubber eggs. Those using crawlers at the dam caught a couple small brown trout and one nice brook trout.

Charlevoix: Salmon are starting to show up in greater numbers but some boat anglers are still getting skunked. Many of the chinook were over 20 pounds. Try 50 to 80 feet down in 100 to 230 feet with spoons, dipseys, flies, squid and dodgers or meat rigs. Pier anglers are still catching smaller bass on leeches, crawlers or minnows.

Traverse City: The East Bay is producing chinook about 80 to 100 feet down. The bite was slow but those using meat rigs and flies seem to do best. Don't rule out the occasional lake trout or whitefish. Smallmouth bass were deep in 20 to 50 feet. In the West Bay, salmon were caught 80 feet down in waters 100 to 150 feet deep. Most are running spoons, flies, and meat rigs. Those jigging in 100 to 150 feet caught whitefish and lake trout.

Elk River: Anglers caught panfish and sub-legal smallmouth bass on live baits.

Boardman River: A couple salmon and steelhead were spotted near the Union Street Dam however they will not be there long with the warmer temperatures.

Frankfort: Anglers caught a good number of salmon between the Herring Hole and Platte Bay. Several large chinook were caught right along with coho ranging 10 pounds or more. They are trolling plugs 40 to 80 feet down in 100 to 180 feet. Fish were caught on magnum spoons 30 to 100 feet down in 200 to 240 feet. Steelhead were up near the surface. West Platte Bay has been very good for coho. Anglers are using high lines or boards. Fish were caught just in front of the piers when using blue, pearl or chartreuse plugs or spoons that glow. Pier anglers casting blue and glow wobblers or Cleo's caught a mix of chinook, coho and brown trout.

Betsie River: Has a few salmon and steelhead but no big numbers, it is too warm.

Onekama: Those fishing the "Barrel" have done well for lake trout and the occasional chinook or coho salmon. Those heading north to waters between 150 and 200 feet and trolling 40 to 80 feet down had some luck when they found bait fish. Early morning was best.

Portage Lake: Had good bluegill fishing along the weed beds in 12 to 18 feet. A few nice perch were also caught. Water temperatures were a bit cool in the early morning but anglers will want to head out to deeper water as the sun comes up.

Lake Cadillac: Is producing crappie, bluegills and bass. Walleye fishing was hit-or-miss. Some are trolling crawler harnesses or crank baits while others are still-fishing with a leech and slip bobber. Crappie were caught on the east end in the early morning.

Lake Mitchell: Is producing some nice bluegills in 8 to 12 feet of water. Try crickets, leaf worms, wax worms or butter worms.

Manistee: Fishing was slow but some large salmon over 25 pounds have been caught on glow spoons or plugs in the early morning. Salmon and steelhead were also caught 40 to 90 feet down in 80 to 200 feet. Try green flies and meat rigs as well as orange or green spoons. Pier anglers caught a couple salmon on spoons.

Manistee River: Was producing a decent number of summer steelhead up near Tippy Dam but warmer temperatures this week will once again slow catch rates.

Manistee Lake: Those trolling did catch some salmon however south winds this week will slow catch rates.

Ludington: The fish are scattered. Salmon can be found anywhere from 45 to 80 feet down in 50 to 300 feet. Try glow spoons and plugs or red and green meat rigs. Pier anglers caught the occasional salmon or freshwater drum when casting spoons.

Pere Marquette River: Has salmon but no big numbers yet.

Pentwater: Anglers caught salmon close to port. Some were taken 50 to 70 feet down in 80 to 90 feet or deeper in 150 to 180 feet. They are using green flashers and blue flies. Pier anglers were trying but few fish were caught. Smallmouth bass were hitting on live bait in the channel.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: The bite was hit-or-miss but trout and salmon were caught by those trolling from Sand Point to the red rocks and off Pequaming Point. Try spoons 25 to 75 feet down in 30 to 80 feet. Those jigging caught lake trout in 230 feet off Pequaming Point. From the South Portage Entry, anglers caught chinook, coho and lake trout when trolling near the Lighthouse, the reefs, the red rocks and the Mud Banks. Fewer fish were caught from Traverse Bay.

Marquette: Produced a few limit catches of lake trout. Average size was 6 pounds but some were 12 to 15 pounds. They are fishing at various depths in 110 to 220 feet of water between the white rocks and Granite Island. Try spoons and cut bait. A few coho were caught but no chinook. Shore anglers fishing near the mouth of the Chocolay River had poor results. Stannard Rock had good lake trout action for those jigging or casting spoons.

Menominee: Catch rates for salmon were very slow around Washington Island, Rock Island and Chambers Island. Walleye anglers are picking up a few fish especially at night. Try 20 to 30 feet when trolling north or south of the river. Fishing in Green Bay was slow.

Menominee River: Is producing walleye in the evening for those trolling crawler harnesses or stick baits. Smallmouth bass, bluegill, crappie and perch were caught.

Cedar River: Is still producing smallmouth bass for those drifting crawlers or casting stick baits.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers were targeting the Second Reef off Kipling, and the "Black Bottom" in 14 to 23 feet of water. They are using crawlers or minnows. Perch fishing was fair to good off the mouth of the Escanaba River and near Kipling in 22 to 29 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: A couple anglers were targeting walleye down near Round Island. Perch fishing was fair in 18 feet off Ansell's Point. In Fayette Harbor, perch were taken on minnows and crawlers in 8 to 14 feet. Smallmouth bass fishing was fair in Kate's Bay, off Ansell's Point and near the Bluff in 8 to 21 feet. Try minnows, crank baits or plastics. Catch rates for salmon improved off Fairport. Try spoons 35 to 65 feet down in 80 to 130 feet.

Au Train: Catch rates were slow but those willing to put in the time did catch a few east of Au Train Island and near Shelter Bay when fishing in 100 to 150 feet. Those fishing in deeper water out near the shipping channel and Wood Island had poor results. Surface water temperatures were in the low 60's near shore and upper 50's out deeper.

Munising: Boats targeting lake trout and salmon had fair results in Trout Bay and Murray's Bay in 100 feet of water or less. Those fishing the Big Reef reported good catches including several large fish coming in at 20 pounds. Pier fishing was light as catch rates were poor.

Grand Marais: The majority of lake trout anglers are fishing in 100 to 250 feet of water in the shipping channel. Fish between 3 and 10 pounds were caught off the Southwest Bank. Those targeting coho did well east and west of the bay. Try halfway down in 50 to 60 feet. Shore anglers caught pike near the boat launch.

St. Mary's River: Out from Raber Bay, walleye have been caught at the Canadian Rock Pile when jigging orange and brown twister tails in 6 to 10 feet. Early morning was best.

DeTour: Anglers continue to fish from Frying Pan Island to the #3 Green Can and to the #2 Red can near Drummond Island. They caught chinook, lake trout and steelhead. Hot colors were watermelon, purple, green or any color with white on it.

Drummond Island: Had a few reports of yellow perch were coming from the red buoy on the south end of Grape Island. They are drifting minnows in 8 to 12 feet in the early morning. Walleye fishing slowed however a few fish were taken on crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers in 12 to 14 feet on the northwest side of Peck Island.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch anglers did well off the Hessel Pier and the north end of the Snows Channel when using minnows or crawlers in 8 to 10 feet. Musky Bay, Middle Entrance and the Moscoe Channel are also producing good numbers of perch. Pike are there too for those still-fishing with chubs. Government Bay had excellent pike fishing in 10 to 16 feet. Good salmon fishing off Hessel in 70 feet or more.

St. Ignace: Boats are still heading from the city launch to the flats and over to the Coast Guard Station and water treatment plant. Trout and salmon were caught around Bois Blanc Island, Round Island and the backside of Mackinac Island.

August 29, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Attention Anglers: Starting September 5, the Weekly Fishing Report will be accessible through a new toll-free telephone number. Call 1-855-777-0908 to continue getting weekly updates regarding fishing conditions around the state.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: A few continue to fish for walleye but the majority are now perch fishing near the Raisin River Buoys 1 and 2, the humps around the Banana Dike or in 22 to 24 feet off Stony Point. No big numbers yet but those doing the best are moving around. Bass, white perch and freshwater drum have also been caught. Those launching out of Bolles Harbor were fishing in 17 to 20 feet around the E-Buoy and the Dumping Grounds. A good number of smallmouth bass have been caught in eight to 12 feet throughout the lake.

Huron River: Is producing some white bass, smallmouth bass and panfish.

Detroit River: Perch fishing has been spotty. A couple anglers did find fish along the south end of Celeron Island. A few walleye were caught by those jigging.

Lexington: Lake trout, steelhead and Chinook were caught in 105 to 140 feet of water. Salmon and steelhead are up high and the lake trout are at the bottom. Strong winds have stirred up the waters so it will take a few days for conditions to improve. Perch fishing was slow.

Harbor Beach: Recent storms have the fish scattered. Start shallow in 60 to 70 feet and work your way out deeper for salmon and steelhead. Try spoons off downriggers, lead lines with offshore boards. For lake trout, try using dodgers or cowbells with spin-gloves, peanuts and spoons just off the bottom. For walleye, try 70 to 90 feet with small body baits and small spoons or crawler harnesses. Bass were caught by those trolling spoons and body baits. Perch fishing is slow.

Port Austin: Those trolling have caught steelhead, salmon and lake trout along the outside of the Thumb however recent winds have turned the lake over so finding the right temperatures means a trip out to at least 140 feet.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye fishing was on the slow side and perch fishing is slowly getting started. A few walleye were taken in six to 10 feet off the state park, the mouth of the Kawkawlin River, or out near the Black Hole in 14 feet. Anglers were drifting crawler harnesses above the weeds. Walleye were caught from the Slot and off the Bar but the average was one fish per angler. Catfish were caught from the Hot Pond.

Saginaw River: Smallmouth bass have been caught near Essexville.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Salmon have been caught in 100 feet of water. Pier fishing was slow. Catch rates for perch were good south of the piers in 20 feet of water.

St. Joseph River: Has some steelhead. Target the deeper holes.

South Haven: Salmon fishing remains consistent. No limit catches to report but the size of the Chinook has been impressive. Boats are trolling in 100 to 130 feet. Catch rates for perch remain good north and south of the piers in 30 feet.

Holland: The better fishing was very early morning or at night. Try 45 to 80 feet down in 110 to 130 feet of water. Coppers are 300, 350, 400 and 450. Meat rigs are working best. Hot colors were blue and purple with 10 inch spinnies. Pier fishing is slow. Perch were caught on minnows in 35 to 45 feet.

Port Sheldon: Those fishing out near the "Bubbler" have caught perch.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers are fishing 60 to 95 feet down in 85-115 feet of water with glow plugs, green and yellow spoons and white paddles with a mirage fly. Perch fishing has slowed as the fish are moving out to deeper water. Pier anglers are struggling because of the warm water and the lack of baitfish.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Heavy rain should have pushed some steelhead and salmon up into the river. Walleye anglers were bouncing crawlers off the bottom. Catfish were hitting on cut bait. For bluegill and bass, try the bayous and backwaters.

Grand River at Lansing: Is producing catfish, carp, smallmouth bass and the occasional largemouth bass.

Lake Lansing: Is producing bass, bluegill and a few crappie.

Lake Interstate: Is producing bluegill.

Muskegon River: Water levels were low and water temperatures were at or near 70 degrees. Trout fishing will be slow during the current warm spell but this is a great time for bass fishing.

Whitehall: Trout and salmon fishing was slow with few fish taken. Anglers could travel north and look for cooler water. Early morning is the best time to head out. Try any lure that glows, J-plugs, lead core and dipseys.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

The inland lakes such as Grand, Long and Hubbard are producing some very nice smallmouth bass. This is grasshopper and cricket season on the smaller trout streams and those using imitations are doing well.

Rogers City: Adult Chinook are beginning to show up and they are good size. The better fishing was very early and after sunset when heading south towards Swan Bay and Adams Point but the fish are moving. Head to deeper water as the sun comes up while using downriggers, short segments of lead core, dipseys and copper with spoons, J-plugs, bombers and flashers with either squid or flies. Hot colors were green, blue, pearl, red, purple, orange with green or silver as well as black and white. Those fishing north and straight out of the harbor caught a mix of salmon, steelhead and walleye.

Presque Isle: Catch rates were slow but picking up. Anglers were hanging out in shallow waters 35 to 60 feet deep as they wait for the fish to come in and feed on the abundant baitfish. Try straight out or north between the two lighthouses and fish the top half of the water column.

Rockport: Is producing a few Chinook, lake trout and walleye. Walleye were also caught in to 20 to 40 feet.

Alpena: Few anglers were out but they did manage to catch a couple smallmouth bass and the occasional walleye in Thunder Bay. The trick is to move around until you find fish.

Thunder Bay River: Catch rates have improved for smallmouth bass that average 12 to 14 inches but some were as big as 17 inches. Freshwater drum, channel catfish, and rock bass were caught. Most are using crawlers but a few did well with crank baits. A few salmon are in the river but catch rates were poor. Cooler weather is needed.

Harrisville: The fish are scattered so anglers will have to work for them. The walleye are deep, 100 to 140 feet and most were caught by those targeting trout and salmon with spoons and body baits. A few salmon were caught in the harbor but these fish seem to be early runners.

Oscoda: Fish are on the move so finding them can be difficult. Walleye are deep and were caught with the trout and salmon. Pier anglers caught a few salmon with glow spoons in the early morning or evening.

Au Sable River: Fishing below Mio has been very good and the white fly hatch should continue through the Labor Day weekend. Water temperatures have been fairly cool below Mio which means the fish have been active and healthy. Catfish are moving in and out of the river.

Higgins Lake: Was producing perch near the Sunken Island and along the drop offs. No big numbers but the fish were nice size. Those trolling just off the bottom in 80 to 120 feet caught lake trout on the north end including the north side of Treasure Island. Those jigging found lake trout and whitefish in 80 to 100 feet. Anglers are still catching lots of rock bass. This is a great fishery for kids.

Houghton Lake: Catch rates were slow but steady. Those using crawlers, leeches and leaf worms caught bass, walleye, and panfish.

Tawas: Boat and pier fishing in the bay are slow. A few walleye were taken off Alabaster, Au Sable Point and Jerry's Marina but anglers need to fish deeper water. One angler targeting walleye actually caught a 15 pound Chinook in 80 feet of water when trolling a crawler harness.

Au Gres: A few walleye are still being caught straight out from the mouth of the river or six to eight miles south in 26 to 30 feet of water. Those targeting perch found a few in 30 to 40 feet four to eight miles to the south.

Au Gres River: Is producing a few catfish and freshwater drum.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Salmon fishing is going strong. At this point, offshore is the place to be, in depths deeper than 100 feet. Heavy south winds pushed the fish deep so the piers and drowned river mouth lakes have not been as productive.

Harbor Springs: Had a small number of salmon and lake trout in and around the harbor. Boat anglers were fishing around Harbor Point. Chinook were caught 70 to 90 feet down and lake trout 100 to 130 feet down. Try spoons, flies and squid. Green and white was the hot color.

Petoskey: Some boat anglers did catch the odd salmon or lake trout. Most were fishing from the water treatment plant and east to the buoy just past the pier. Salmon were caught 100 to 115 feet down on glow spoons, meat rigs and flies. A few lake trout were also caught.

Bear River: Had a few salmon moving in even with the low water levels. Those fishing up near the dam caught the occasional fish on spawn or yellow flies.

Charlevoix: Salmon fishing was still a bit slow as anglers were averaging maybe one fish per trip. Boats are trolling 60 to 85 feet down in 120 feet of water between North Point and South Point. Try plugs, spoons, meat rigs and dodgers with flies or squid. Lake trout were 80 to 125 feet down in 120 to 250 feet. Pier anglers are still

taking sub-legal bass but a good number were also keepers. Try just off the bottom with crawlers, leeches or minnows. Some nice rock bass were caught near the end of the piers.

Lake Charlevoix: Anglers are marking some large fish where Round Lake comes into Lake Charlevoix.

Traverse City: Those trolling in the East Bay caught Chinook 60 to 110 feet down in 80 to 200 feet. Try blue and green spoons with flies or glow spoons early and late. A few lake trout were caught. Those looking for smallmouth bass were fishing 20 to 50 feet or deeper. In the West Bay, salmon were found 40 to 100 feet down. Try spoons, plugs and meat rigs or flies with flashers. Those jigging in 110 feet caught the occasional whitefish or lake trout.

Elk River: Fishing was relatively slow with only smaller bass and panfish caught on crawlers or leeches. No large number of salmon yet.

Boardman River: Had a few salmon. Anglers were targeting Chinook with spawn, flies and stick baits.

Frankfort: Good numbers of large Chinook salmon have been caught between the piers, straight out and near the Herring Hole. The fish were starting to stage. Many are trolling 30 to 90 feet down in 200 to 225 feet. Platte Bay has coho running in 40 to 80 feet. Spoons work best. Pier fishing was good between 2:00 a.m. and daybreak for those casting wobblers. Green, orange and blue were good colors.

Betsie River: The Chinook are in and all the way up to the Homestead Dam.

Onekama: Had good fishing just outside the "Barrel" when trolling 40 to 80 feet down with J-plugs in chrome, splatter back and perch or meat rigs. Lake trout are hitting on cowbells and spin-gloves throughout the day.

Portage Lake: Continues to have good bass fishing for those working the weed beds and along the drop offs. A nice largemouth bass was caught off the wall in the channel. Panfish are hitting on worms along the weed beds in the morning and moving to deeper water by afternoon.

Lake Cadillac: Catch rates were very good for panfish and bass.

Lake Mitchell: Has also been good for bass and panfish.

Manistee: Salmon have been caught 40 to 80 feet down in 80 to 200 feet of water off the Shelf. Glow spoons and plugs worked well in low light, standard size spoons and meat rigs have produced during mid-day. Pier and harbor fishing was slow.

Manistee River: Anglers have caught a few salmon in the lower river. Try fishing the deeper holes as the fish will seek out colder water. Bass fishing slowed a bit but those fishing near the brush piles in the early morning or late evening should find some fish.

Ludington: Salmon are 40 to 90 feet down in 80 to 160 feet of water. Spoons, plugs and meat rigs are all taking fish. Pier and harbor fishing was slow.

Pentwater: Fishing was fair. Salmon were caught 50 to 70 feet down in 80 to 90 feet or as deep as 150 to 180 feet. Meat rigs were the ticket this week however fish were also taken on pearl colored J-plugs or spoons. Bass were caught by those using live bait in the channel.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Those heading out for trout and salmon had to work hard to get them. They caught a mix of Chinook, coho and lake trout 40 to 90 feet down in 50 to 100 feet of water from Carla's Restaurant north past the red rocks and off Pequaming Point. Those jigging for lake trout had little success. Near the South Portage Entry, a fair number of lake trout, Chinook and coho were taken near the lighthouse, the reefs and the Mud Banks. They are using a mix of spoons in a variety of colors. For Traverse Bay, lake trout action picked up some for those jigging in 170 to 220 feet off Gay Point and Big Louie's Point. Those trolling 60 to 145 feet down in 80 to 150 feet also caught fish.

Marquette: Most anglers are targeting lake trout but those using high lines for salmon and trout had mixed results. Lake trout were caught near the Clay Banks, Granite Island, and Shot Point in 120 to 130 feet. A couple small coho were caught. Surface water temperatures were in the low 60's. Those fishing near the mouth of the Chocolay River had poor results. **Anglers are being asked to participate with the creel census surveys that are being conducted in the area. The information you share plays a vital role in fisheries management on the Great Lakes.**

Menominee: Bay anglers were trolling for walleye near Green Island. Catch rates were fair to good. No trout or salmon were caught. Those targeting walleye did best in the evening when trolling rapalas in 20 to 30 feet of water. Salmon anglers tried closer to shore because of the high winds but no fish were caught.

Menominee River: Is producing a fair number of walleye for those trolling rapalas and crawler harnesses. Many were on the small side. Shore and boat anglers caught smallmouth bass when floating crawlers or casting crank baits.

Cedar River: Those floating crawlers caught smallmouth bass.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers had fair catch rates near Kipling. They are trolling or drifting crawlers and stick baits in 15 to 25 feet between the Second and the Center Reef and along the drop near Gladstone in 25 feet. Fair to good perch action was reported off the mouth of the Escanaba River when using minnows and crawlers in 20 to 25 feet or the Second Reef in eight to 17 feet. Smallmouth bass were caught on crawlers and crank baits near the mouth of the Ford River. A couple salmon were caught out near the Ford River Can when trolling spoons 60 to 70 feet down in 100 to 130 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: Had good smallmouth bass fishing for those using minnows or crank baits in 10 to 28 feet off Ansell's Point and the many shoals. Those trolling spoons or cut bait off Fairport did well 60 to 75 feet down in 120 to 130 feet of water.

Au Train: Lake trout anglers have had mixed results depending on wind direction. The hot spots were the edge of the flats and the humps near the shipping lanes east of AuTrain Island in 140 to 200 feet. Offshore surface water temperatures have risen to the low 60's. No salmon to report.

Munising: Catch rates for Chinook and coho were fair in Trout Bay and Munising Bay. Lake trout fishing continues north of Wood Island. A couple pier anglers were targeting splake but catch rates were slow.

Grand Marais: Lake trout anglers were fishing in 100 to 200 feet of water along the shipping channel, five to seven miles north of the bay. The fish have been feeding on insects and sculpin. Whitefish are feeding in the shallows. Coho anglers were fishing east or west of the bay in 50 to 60 feet. Shore anglers casting for pike had poor results.

St. Mary's River: Walleye fishing in Raber Bay has slowed in the shipping channel from Point Aux Frenes to the old bell buoy. A few pike were caught on the southwest end of Neebish Island, at the mouth of the Munuscong River or the southwest end of Kemps Point when trolling chrome spoons or black bucktail spinners. Anglers need to watch for low water levels when boating on the St. Mary's River and around Drummond Island.

DeTour: Anglers are still taking Chinook and lake trout between Frying Pan Island, the #3 green can and the #2 red can out near Drummond Island. Chinook salmon are ranging seven to 15 pounds. Hot colors are watermelon, green, purple and white.

Drummond Island: Wind direction did have an effect of walleye fishing. Fish were caught by those trolling crawler harnesses with bottom bouncers in 12 to 14 feet around Peck Island. Anglers had fair to good perch fishing in Maxton Bay. Most are drifting or still-fishing with medium size minnows near the red buoy located on the south end of Grape Island. A few nice pike were taken on the northwest side of the island when casting or trolling chrome spoons with a red eye in eight feet of water. Smallmouth bass are hitting tube jigs near Harbor Island or a crawler with a slip bobber on the west side of Peck Island. Brown and green tube jigs worked well.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch anglers have done well off the east end of the marina pier in Hessel Bay and off the public dock. They are using minnows or crawlers in eight to 12 feet. The south end of Hessel Bay had excellent pike fishing for those using chubs. Salmon were caught in 50 to 70 feet in Hessel Bay and the Yacht Entrance.

St. Ignace: Had no change. Lake trout and salmon are still being caught around Mackinac Island, Round Island, Bois Blanc Island, the flats and the Coast Guard Station.

September 5, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

With Labor Day behind us, the majority of anglers will now turn to salmon and trout fishing. The fish are starting to move in closer to shore as well as into some of the river systems. The inland lakes have been good for both large and smallmouth bass and panfish activity has picked up.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Perch fishing improved somewhat with the cooler nights. A decent number of fish were caught near the Raisin River Buoys 1 and 2 and off Toledo Beach in 14 to 16 feet of water. Emerald shiners seem to work best.

Huron River: Those fishing at the Belleville Dam caught bluegill and crappie. A few walleye were caught in Belleville Lake.

Detroit River: Walleye anglers are jigging chartreuse gulp. Some are hand-lining with flat fish in the Trenton Channel. As for perch, a few were caught at the Cross Dike and the south end of Celeron Island.

Lexington: When anglers can get out, those trolling have done well in waters 100 to 140 feet deep. A surprising number of chinook salmon have been caught along with lake trout, steelhead and walleye. Pier fishing was slow.

Harbor Beach: Look for salmon and steelhead when trolling spoons off downriggers and lead lines with offshore boards. Try J-plugs for salmon in 70 to 90 feet. Lake trout are scattered. Try cowbells with spin-gloves, peanuts or spoons just off the bottom. Catch rates for walleye were slow however a few fish were taken with the salmon in 70 to 90 feet. Try small spoons or body baits in the early morning or late evening and crawler harnesses at night.

Saginaw Bay: Anglers were still taking some walleye out in the deeper waters of the inner bay when trolling or drifting crawler harnesses with bottom bouncers. The trick is to go slow. Anglers are still waiting for the perch fishing to get started.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Perch anglers have done well south of the piers in 35 to 40 feet of water. Those targeting salmon were heading out to waters 100 to 150 feet deep

St. Joseph River: Approximately 2 miles of the river will be closed to all users starting Monday, September 9 at 11 p.m. through Wednesday, September 11, at 11 p.m. The Fisheries Division is developing a plan for Asian carp. Staff will be conducting an Early Detection and Prudent Response field exercise. The exercise will be stationed at the DNR's Jasper Dairy boating access site in Berrien County. The river will be closed about 1 mile upstream and 1 mile downstream of the boating access site. Click here for additional information.

<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364-311765--,00.html>

South Haven: Salmon anglers are trolling about halfway down in 100 to 130 feet of water. Catch rates for perch remain good north and south of the piers in 30 to 40 feet of water. Anglers are sorting out the small ones.

Kalamazoo River: Anglers are catching a few fish in the lower river as well as up near the Allegan Dam. A couple walleye were caught on Hot-n-Tots.

Grand Haven: Boats targeting salmon are starting in shallow waters then heading out deeper as the sun comes up. A few coho were caught around the piers.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Anglers are still waiting for that big push of fish to come into the river. Walleye were caught off the bridge at Fulton Street and Wealthy Street. Boat anglers are trolling crawler harnesses and rapalas. Catfish are hitting on crawlers and live bait. A good number of bass have been caught on shiners, crawlers, tube baits and spinners.

Grand River at Lansing: Is the place to go for catfish and smallmouth bass. Those fishing over at Fitzgerald Park in Grand Ledge were taking a fair number of pike and a few walleye.

Muskrat Lake: Anglers are catching bluegills but sorting out the small ones.

Morrison Lake: Is producing a few bigger bluegills.

Reeds Lake: Is producing bluegill, crappie and perch. Try leaf worms, minnows or wax worms.

Muskegon River: Is producing some nice smallmouth bass. No word on salmon yet but it should not be long.

Whitehall: Salmon fishing picked up for those trolling 50 feet down in 100 to 120 feet. The bite was best in the early morning hours. Most are using spoons and J-plugs that glow.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Northwest winds blew warm water back into the area. Try fishing high in the water column or shallow waters in the early morning or late evening with spoons, plugs, flashers or dodgers with flies and squid. Good colors were green, white, red and silver with blue or chartreuse. Fishing in Swan Bay should be quite good in the next couple weeks.

Presque Isle: Anglers are fishing straight out of the harbor and north. Fish the top half of the water column with spoons, plugs flashers and flies. Concentrate more on the baitfish and less on water temperature.

Rockport: Anglers have caught a few walleye and steelhead. Those heading out to deeper water caught a mix of chinook, lake trout and steelhead.

Alpena: Had a few boats looking for walleye in Thunder Bay but catches were limited. Bass fishing can be good this time of year. Look for rocks or deep structure.

Thunder Bay River: Has decent bass fishing. Try crawlers or crank baits. Anglers can also find freshwater drum, channel catfish, and the occasional walleye. Salmon are in the river, but no big numbers yet.

Harrisville: The fish were scattered. Lake trout, salmon and walleye were caught in waters 10 to 180 feet deep. When venturing out, be aware of shallow water just north of the harbor. The buoys may be removed soon.

Oscoda: Anglers had limited success. Trout, salmon and walleye were still being caught in deeper water 80 to 150 feet deep. Pier anglers have caught a limited number of salmon.

Au Sable River: Does have a low number of salmon and steelhead. No reports of walleye being caught in the river or at the mouth.

Tawas: Is still producing some walleye in the deep water south of Tawas Point.

Au Gres: Walleye have been caught straight off the mouth of the Au Gres River in 25 to 30 feet.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Salmon and lake trout were caught on the harbor side. Most anglers are fishing between Harbor Point and Forest Beach. Chinook were caught 70 to 90 feet down but the lake trout were a little deeper in 100 to 130 feet. Try spoons, flies and squid.

Petoskey: Catch rates did improve slightly as anglers caught chinook, coho and lake trout. The salmon were hitting on spoons, plugs and meat rigs 75 to 90 feet down in 120 to 160 feet.

Lake trout were more abundant and were caught 120 feet down. Boats were fishing from the buoy near the breakwall to Bay Harbor. A couple anglers caught fish with long lines and plugs in shallower waters. Pier anglers caught smallmouth bass on crawlers.

Bear River: Water levels were still very low but that has not stopped a few salmon from coming in. Try spawn bags, rubber eggs and small flies at the dam.

Charlevoix: Salmon fishing is still pretty slow. The fish were scattered but some were starting to stage near the mouth of the rivers. Many were fishing between North and South Point or near the Cement Plant but some were heading further south to Fisherman's Island. Try anywhere from 65 to 115 feet down in 70 to 150 feet of water. A white dodger and flies with red or blue beads worked best but fish were also caught on spoons. Lake trout were caught on spoons and meat rigs 130 feet down.

Lake Charlevoix: Salmon were starting to head to the Boyne River and the Jordan River. Anglers did well where Round Lake meets Lake Charlevoix. Most were using flies in 40 feet.

Traverse City: In the East Bay, chinook were caught on plugs 90 to 100 feet down in 100 to 150 feet of water. Smallmouth bass fishing was steady in 20 to 50 feet. In the West Bay, the number of salmon caught was not high but the fish are good size. Try 80 to 90 feet down in waters up to 150 feet deep with spoons, flies or plugs.

Elk River: Is producing the occasional steelhead or smallmouth bass. Try fresh spawn bags for the salmon.

Boardman River: A few salmon are in but the numbers are still low and few have been caught. Try drifting skein under a bobber. The weir grates are now in place.

Glen Arbor: Fishing has slowed as most of the fish have moved to the rivers. Anglers are finding both juvenile and mature kings in the harbor and off South Manitou Island.

Platte Bay: Is producing fish about 40 feet down in 50 to 70 feet of water in the East Bay. Anglers are using J-plugs. Those surfcasting caught fish on spinners or spawn. A dredge is now opening up the mouth of the river.

Frankfort: The Herring Hole has been doing very well for chinook salmon. Anglers are trolling 55 to 90 feet down in 100 to 120 feet with spoons and plugs. Hot colors were orange and blue. Several large chinook weighing over 27 pounds were caught off the piers by those using spawn or Cleo's that glow.

Betsie River: Was full of fast moving chinook salmon. Not many were seen on the beds or in the holes but fishing at the dam was good.

Onekama: Those heading out to the “Barrel” had good action throughout the day for chinook and coho. The chinook were deep in 120 to 150 feet but the coho were found in shallow waters. Both are hitting on spoons or plugs.

Portage Lake: Anglers are starting to see increasing numbers of bluegill, perch and bass now that cooler temperatures have arrived. Working 12 to 18 feet of water with worms around the weed beds has produced good catches.

Manistee: Boat anglers are catching salmon between the piers and 60 feet of water. Chrome, green and glow J-plugs worked well. Glow spoons were best in the early morning. Pier anglers casting spoons also caught fish.

Manistee River: Has a fair to good number of salmon.

Ludington: Salmon were caught inside the piers and out to 50 feet of water in the early morning. Chrome plugs worked best. Pier anglers caught a few chinook when casting spoons.

Pere Marquette River: Water levels were good. Salmon were caught on flat fish. Those fly fishing reported slow catch rates.

Pentwater: Had good fishing. Anglers are running lines 50 to 70 feet down in 120 to 150 feet near Silver Lake. Try pearl, green and silver J-plugs. Some large chinook and coho have been caught.

UPPER PENINSULA

Marquette: Lake trout action was fair with some limit catches reported from Shot Point, the Clay Banks, Little Presque Isle and east of the White Rocks in 100 to 140 feet. The occasional chinook or coho were caught near the mouth of the Carp River and the Chocolay River.

Little Bay De Noc: Catch rates for walleye were fair. Many were trolling or drifting crawlers in 18 to 27 feet near Kipling and the Second Reef. Try stick baits or crawlers in 25 feet off the east bank in Gladstone. Pike were hitting spinners and crank baits in the Yacht Harbor. Perch fishing was fair at Kipling in 8 to 19 feet or Gladstone in 14 to 25 feet with crawlers.

Big Bay De Noc: Perch were caught in 10 to 14 feet in Fayette Harbor and a few were starting to show up in Garden Bay. Smallmouth bass are hitting on minnows or spinners in 12 to 16 feet near the Big Bay Shoals. Good numbers of salmon were caught 50 to 70 feet down in 120 to 140 feet off Fairport. The fish were hitting on spoons or artificial cut bait.

Au Train: Catch rates for lake trout slowed considerably with only a few fish taken off the flats in Shelter Bay and east of Au Train Island. Try 120 to 150 feet with assorted spoons. Only a few chinook salmon were caught. Surface water temperatures were in the 50's.

Munising: Boat anglers targeting lake trout reported fair results while those fishing for chinook or coho had fair to good results. Most are fishing in Trout Bay. Smaller splake were caught in Munising Bay. Lake trout anglers are fishing north of Wood Island.

Grand Marais: A few boats were lake trout fishing 5 to 7 miles north of the bay. The fish were 2 to 5 pounds and were caught in 100 to 200 feet. Coho were caught about halfway down in 50 to 60 feet. Shore anglers had no luck.

St. Mary's River: Walleye fishing in the shipping channel has slowed. Carlton Creek is still producing lots of walleye for those trolling crawlers over the weed beds in the early morning. Musky were caught around Tea Cup Island. Use large body baits.

DeTour: Anglers are still fishing between Frying Pan Island, the #3 Green can and the #2 Red Can near Drummond Island. They are catching chinook between 7 and 15 pounds and some lake trout. Spoons worked best in white, green, orange, red silver or the hammered orange.

Drummond Island: Walleye were caught around Peck Island when trolling crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers in 12 to 14 feet. Gold and purple blades worked best. For yellow perch, try Maxton Bay when drifting or still-fishing minnows, the south end of Grape Island or Arrow Island in Sturgeon Bay. Pike were on the northwest side of Grape Island in 8 feet. Good smallmouth bass action for those using tube jigs in 6 to 8 feet. Fish were also taken on crawlers along the west side of Peck Island.

Cedarville and Hessel: There was good perch fishing off the end of the marina pier and the public dock at Hessel. Use minnows or crawlers in 8 to 12 feet. The south end of Hessel Bay had excellent pike fishing for those using chubs. Both the Yacht Entrance and Hessel Bay were producing salmon.

St. Ignace: Trout and salmon are being caught around the islands.

September 12, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Windy conditions have stopped many boats from heading out. The salmon runs are going strong on the northwest side of the state. Anglers are reminded that the season to take snapping turtles and softshell turtles will close on September 15th.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Perch fishing is slowly improving. The E Buoy, Stony Point and 22 feet of water in Brest Bay produced the best number of fish however anglers will still need to move around. Emerald shiners were the hot bait. A couple walleye were caught in 16 to 20 feet straight out from the beach at Sterling State Park. A good number of smallmouth bass are still being caught.

Detroit River: Is producing a few walleye in the lower river. Anglers are jigging crawlers or bottom bouncing in the Trenton Channel. A few perch were caught around Celeron Island, Sugar Island and the Cross Dike.

Lake St. Clair: Perch fishing has started to pick up. Some good catches were taken near the Grosse Point Yacht Club. Musky fishing was good.

St. Clair River: Smallmouth bass fishing has improved in the channels. Anglers are using jigs or the drop shot method with plastic baits. Walleye action was slow in the lower channel but those fishing up near Marysville and Port Huron did well when fishing at night.

Lexington: Few boats have been able to get out but those that did found the fish to be scattered in 60 to 80 feet or 100 to 140 feet. Pier fishing was slow.

Port Sanilac: Pier anglers caught a few smallmouth bass, pike and white bass.

Harbor Beach: The story is the same from here to Lexington. When boats can get out, they caught chinook, lake trout and steelhead in waters 60 to 140 feet deep. Because of all the wind, the thermocline is somewhat broken up and the fish are scattered.

Saginaw Bay: Windy conditions have kept most boats off the bay and southern Lake Huron. Walleye fishing is winding down.

Saginaw River: Shore anglers at Essexville caught some catfish, a couple walleye and a fair to good number of bass.

Quanicassee River: Shore anglers caught a few small perch.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Perch fishing is spotty. One day they catch fish and the next day nothing. Try 45 feet of water. Those fishing offshore are doing better than those fishing around the piers.

South Haven: Perch fishing continues to be good. The fish are moving in and out so target waters 18 to 50 feet deep. The occasional salmon has been caught around the piers but overall catch rates were still slow.

Holland: Boat anglers are starting shallow and moving to deeper waters as the sun comes up. Perch anglers did catch some fish in 12 to 35 feet of water. Pier fishing was slow. Anglers are using spawn, alewife or spoons.

Grand Haven: The State Park has closed the Fisherman's parking lot. Work has started to make room for more parking and upgrades. Anglers can still access the south pier by parking in the main lot at the State Park and walking to the pier. Fisherman's lot should re-open by November 4th. Salmon anglers have been fishing the channel with plugs. Good colors were white, pearl, silver with green or red. Pier fishing was slow.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Look for more fish to move in with the upcoming cooler temperatures. Try floating skein and crawlers or casting small spoons or spinners up near the dam in the early morning. Try the parks or backwaters for bluegill, crappie, bass, pike and catfish.

Grand River at Lansing: Some large flathead catfish have been caught below the Portland Dam. Live or cut bait worked best. A few walleye were caught in Fitzgerald Park in Grand Ledge. For pike, try sucker minnows or spinners.

Looking Glass River: Is a good place to target pike, bass and bowfin.

Muskegon River: Continues to provide some very good smallmouth bass fishing.

Whitehall: Salmon were taken 50 to 60 feet down in 100 to 120 feet. Early morning is best with anything that glows, J-plugs and lead core. Pier anglers started to catch salmon when casting body baits.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: More and more salmon are beginning to stage off Swan Bay. Fish were caught in shallow waters 10 to 30 feet deep with high-lines off boards, J-plugs and bombers. Salmon were also caught halfway down in 40 to 75 feet. Try spoons, plugs, and attractors with squid and flies. Some caught the occasional steelhead, walleye or lake trout. Baitfish were marked in shallow waters.

Presque Isle: When they get out, anglers will want to head straight out or north of the harbor and fish halfway down in 40 to 90 feet. Try spoons, J-plugs and attractors with squid or flies. Remember to look for the bait and not water temperatures.

Rockport: Only a few walleye have been caught and there is no set pattern for location or depth. Salmon and trout fishing were also slow with anglers fishing in waters between 10 feet and 100 feet or more.

Thunder Bay River: Angler pressure is increasing as chinook salmon are in the river. Catch rates are still slow but should pick up as we move further into September. Try spoons, crank baits, spawn bags, or skein. The occasional smallmouth bass and freshwater drum have also been caught.

Harrisville: Salmon are starting to come into the harbor. Early morning and late evening are the best times to fish. Shore anglers are casting spoons and body baits and those trolling are using long lines. Walleye are also coming into the harbor in the late evening. Try small spoons or body baits.

Oscoda: A few salmon were caught off the pier.

Au Sable River: More fish will be moving up into the river as soon as the water cools. Boats trolling the mouth had limited success.

Tawas: Pier fishing was very slow with only a few rock bass and small perch caught. A couple salmon were seen inside the harbor but none were caught. Those trolling caught a couple walleye near the weed beds off Jerry's Marina. A lot of fish were marked off Au Sable Point in 60 feet however they would not bite.

Au Gres: Was producing decent catches of perch in 26 to 30 feet off the hotel. Walleye fishing was very slow.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Salmon fishing on the big lake is winding down, at least for the big adult kings. Some are still being caught around the piers as well as Betsie Bay, Manistee Lake and Pere Marquette Lake.

Harbor Springs: Anglers are focusing on the waters near Harbor Point and straight out from the marina. Not a lot of fish however boats are usually bringing in one trout or salmon.

Petoskey: A few salmon were caught by those fishing the breakwall and the pier east of the boat launch. They are casting spoons and crank baits. Early morning and late night were best when using anything that glows. Boat anglers caught a few salmon, lake trout or whitefish in the early morning when using glow spoons, plugs or flies. Those trolling between the breakwall and Bay Harbor caught salmon 75 to 80 feet down or lake trout 80 to 100 feet down.

Bear River: Salmon are moving up into the river. Anglers caught fish at the dam and between the two bridges downstream. Most are using spawn bags. Green and yellow were good colors for beads, felt and flies.

Charlevoix: Boat anglers are fishing between the Can and North Point. Lake trout were in 80 to 120 feet just past North Point. Chinook were caught 70 to 75 feet down in 80 to 100 feet with spoons, plugs and flies. A few coho were also caught. Pier anglers caught smallmouth bass on leeches and crawlers. Fish have moved into Medusa Creek. A good number of fish were in the boat slip at the cement plant. Those wading and the shore anglers are casting spoons and crank baits.

Lake Charlevoix: Anglers are still fishing the area near the Coast Guard Station as well as into the lake. Catch rates for salmon were hit-or-miss. A couple salmon were caught in Round Lake.

Traverse City: Chinook along with the occasional coho and lake trout were caught on spoons, plugs and meat rigs 80 to 110 feet down. Smallmouth bass were in 20 to 40 feet. In the West Bay, chinook are staging in front of the Boardman River but the bite was slow. Those caught were about 80 feet down. Smallmouth bass are hitting in 20 to 40 feet.

Elk River: A few salmon are beginning to arrive and the number of fish should pick up by the weekend. Steelhead were hitting on spawn or crank baits.

Boardman River: Chinook salmon are in the river, but it is still a bit early for the run. Try drifting spawn or skein near the bottom.

Glen Arbor: Catch rates have slowed significantly. Those surfcasting did manage to catch a few chinook and coho on artic spinners and homemade hooks.

Platte River: Is producing a good number of fish down near the mouth. Anglers are using spawn and yarn in the fast water. Use light tackle and bright colors.

Frankfort: Water temperatures have been up and down over the last week. Boats heading out to deeper water caught steelhead along the "Shelf." Pier and shore anglers reported slow catch rates.

Betsie River: The salmon run has been fast and heavy. The fish are not holding in the holes for long.

Onekama: Anglers are heading out to waters 220 to 300 feet deep and fishing the top 80 feet with spoons or plugs. They are catching chinook, coho and steelhead.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers are doing very well for large and smallmouth bass in 20 to 25 feet of water. One angler landed a nice 7 pound smallmouth. Bluegill, perch and rock bass were caught on crawlers.

Manistee: Boat anglers were still taking a few salmon around the piers. Early morning is best with white and glow plugs. Pier anglers caught a few fish when casting green, glow or white spoons.

Manistee River: Salmon fishing improves as more fish have entered the river. Chinook and coho have been caught up near Tippy Dam.

Ludington: Boat anglers caught salmon and steelhead 40 to 80 feet down in 300 to 400 feet of water. Orange and green spoons were the ticket. Pier anglers casting glow plugs caught a few fish.

Pere Marquette River: Continues to produce salmon.

Pentwater: Salmon were caught 50 to 70 feet down in 120 to 150 feet of water near Silver Lake. Pearl colored J-plugs worked best but fish were also taken on cut bait. Those casting body baits off the pier caught bass.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: The bite was slow but anglers managed to pick up a mix of chinook, coho, lake trout and steelhead. No one area to target as the fish are scattered and hitting on spoons 40 to 120 feet down. Those jigging for lake trout found fish in 230 feet off Pequaming Point. Traverse Bay was a bit slower. Lake trout were taken by those jigging in 170 to 220 feet off Gay Point and Big Louie's Point. Salmon and lake trout were also caught.

Marquette: Lake trout action was fair to good. Early morning and evening were best near Little Presque Isle and Granite Island in 140 to 160 feet. Average size was between 4 and 10 pounds.

Dead River: Had light fishing pressure from the 550 Bridge to the mouth. Water levels below the dam were low as the gates were closed.

Carp River: Those fishing the mouth caught the occasional coho in the early morning. Crawlers worked better than spawn.

Chocolay River: Catch rates were slow with only a couple coho and brown trout caught on crawlers between M-28 and the mouth. Water levels are quite low. Those with boats larger than 14 feet should not try it until the water levels come up.

Menominee: Anglers trolling in 25 to 30 feet near Green Island caught a couple walleye on crawler harnesses or rapalas. Smallmouth bass were caught.

Menominee River: Is producing smallmouth bass for those drifting crawlers or casting spinners. The occasional walleye or channel catfish were also caught. Evenings were best.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye were caught by those trolling or drifting crawler harnesses in 18 to 24 feet near the Second and the Center Reefs or 20 to 30 feet off the East Bank near Gladstone. Bigger fish were taken on stick baits and crawlers in 10 to 14 feet near Round Island. Fair to good perch fishing near Gladstone and the Day's River. In Gladstone, anglers are using crawlers in 18 to 30 feet. At the Day's River, try crawlers in 14 to 20 feet near the green buoy. Pike were caught by those trolling crawlers or rapalas in 12 to 18 feet near the coal piles at the power plant.

Big Bay De Noc: Anglers are smallmouth bass fishing. Try minnows 15 to 25 feet down along the drop-off. Reports say the fish are smaller than previous years but the number of fish is good.

Manistique River: Has reports of salmon starting to move into the river.

Au Train: Had no salmon to report. Lake trout fishing was slow but fish were caught east of Au Train Island.

Munising: Catch rates were fair to poor for boat anglers in Trout Bay or Munising Bay. Catches in Trout Bay slowed over the last week with boats lucky to get one fish per hour of trolling. Pier fishing was also very slow.

Grand Marais: Had few anglers. Those heading out for lake trout were fishing 5 to 7 miles out in the shipping channel.

St. Mary's River: Walleye fishing slowed in Raber Bay and the shipping channel but a few fish were still taken by Carlton Creek when trolling crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers. Just upstream of the Gogomain River, a few musky were caught near Roach Point and Rocky Point. Fish 38 to 44 inches were caught by those trolling black bucktail spinners in 6 to 8 feet. In Barbeau, perch were caught below the rock cut and the green concrete buoy in the early morning. Try shiners in 8 to 12 feet of water.

Detour: Those fishing from Frying Pan Island to the #3 green can, around the lighthouse and to the #2 red can near Drummond Island caught chinook and lake trout. Hot colors were white, green, orange, red or hammered spoons in orange and silver.

Drummond Island: Yellow perch were caught in 12 feet of water around Peanut Island. Try shiners or small leaf worms. Perch were also caught on the south side of Grape Island near the red buoy. Most are drifting minnows in 8 feet in the early morning. The northwest side of Burnt Island is producing a good number of smallmouth bass in 18 to 20 feet.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch fishing is slowly improving in Musky Bay, Hessel Bay, and the east end of Cedarville Bay. Anglers are using minnows and crawlers. Pike fishing remains excellent for those still-fishing with chubs. A good number of largemouth bass have been caught along the weeds in shallow water. The Yacht Entrance and Hessel Bay are still producing salmon in 50 to 70 feet.

St. Ignace: Anglers are fishing from the city launch to the flats and over to the Coast Guard and Water Treatment Plant. The backside of Mackinac Island, Round Island and Bois Blanc Island are producing chinook and lake trout.

September 19, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

It is that time of year when angler pressure can drop however there is still some good fishing to be had. Salmon are in the rivers more so on the west side than the east side of the state. Inland lakes are fair to good for panfish, bass and pike.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Perch fishing was fair as catch rates were still spotty. Those doing best continue to move around. Many are fishing in 18 to 22 feet between the River Raisin and Stony Point or out near the Michigan-Ohio line. Some are starting to fish for walleye as the water temperatures cool. There are some algae blooms but cleaner water can be found north of Bolles Harbor.

Detroit River: Catch rates for walleye were slow in the lower river however perch anglers picked up some fish in 8 to 15 feet of water when using minnows.

Lake St. Clair: Had good bass fishing near the mouth of the channels.

Lexington: Has pier and shore fishing but catch rates were slow. No trout or salmon to report.

Harbor Beach: The few out trolling did manage to pick up the odd walleye and a couple lake trout. Try just off the bottom in 80 to 90 feet.

Saginaw Bay: Few anglers were out as fishing was almost at a stand-still with the wind and rain. There were rumors of perch caught off Standish and Pinconning. Boats were launching at Eagle Bay Marina. Perch were also caught off Bay Port. The occasional smallmouth bass were taken off the wall at Port Austin.

Saginaw River: Shore anglers at Essexville picked up a few catfish and some freshwater drum.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: With the windy conditions, most boats were fishing around the piers but catch rates were slow. Perch fishing was also slow.

St. Joseph River: Is producing some salmon between the mouth and the Berrien Springs Dam. Many are casting spoons. Try glow spoons in the early morning or late evening.

South Haven: Pier anglers caught salmon on small spoons. Boat anglers caught salmon in 100 feet of water. Perch fishing has slowed.

Black River: Has salmon. Boat anglers seem to do better than shore anglers.

Kalamazoo River: Has a good number of coho. The fencing at Allegan Dam is complete. The fishing platform below the tailrace is now open for use.

Duck Lake: In Calhoun County is producing some nice bass and a few panfish.

Holland: Had slow catch rates for those trolling near the channel and those heading out deeper for steelhead and young salmon. Most were trolling plugs.

Grand Haven: Catch rates were slow. Those targeting salmon were trolling in the channel with plugs. Colors were chrome and redhead, green or pearl with spots. Those heading out deeper for steelhead and young salmon were struggling to find fish. Pier anglers are using spoons, spawn or alewife.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has lots of coho. Some limit catches were reported. Try small spoons; wobble glows, spawn or crawlers under a bobber. For steelhead and brown trout, try spinners, small spoons or spawn. Look for walleye near the bridges. This is a good time of year to catch some big catfish. Try live or cut bait.

Grand River at Lansing: A couple steelhead were caught. Anglers are anxiously waiting for the salmon to arrive. Catfish were caught on live or cut bait.

Clinton County: Bass fishing has picked up but panfish action was slow on the inland lakes. Pike are starting to pick up.

Muskegon River: Has a light number of salmon throughout the river. Water temperatures were still a bit warm. Most anglers are fly fishing. Look for smallmouth bass around the weed beds and the brush piles.

Whitehall: A couple salmon were taken 35 feet down in 100 feet north of the pier. Those casting mega baits off the pier caught the occasional salmon.

White Lake: Had reports of salmon but they would not bite.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan River: Salmon fishing is starting to pick up with the rain and cooler temperatures. Those trolling will want to try plugs, spoons or flatfish.

Ocqueoc River: Is also producing a few salmon.

Rogers City: The adult chinook salmon are now staging off Swan Bay. Those trolling in 10 to 40 feet are catching fish on boards with bombers and J-plugs. A few were caught on spoons. Hot colors were green, blue, chartreuse, black and white or anything that glows early and late. Young chinook salmon were starting to show up and they are feeding heavily on young smelt. Steelhead and lake trout are also taking advantage of all the baitfish.

Presque Isle: The few boats out fishing caught salmon, steelhead and lake trout. The better fishing was straight out from the red can or north between the lighthouses. A lot of baitfish marked here as well.

Alpena: Very few anglers are fishing Thunder Bay. Those targeting walleye or salmon had very little or no luck.

Thunder Bay River: More fish have entered the river. Anglers are using a variety of baits including spoons, flies, crank baits, thundersticks and spawn bags.

Oscoda: Fishing was slow. The boats heading out had limited success.

Au Sable River: Fish are moving up into the river system. Those fishing in the flies only section between Burtons Landing and the Wakeley Bridge have caught brook and brown trout.

Tawas: A few salmon were seen inside the harbor but none were caught. Pier anglers took a limited number of small perch, rock bass and catfish.

Tawas River: Is producing a few salmon.

Au Gres: Those heading out for perch did not have much luck. They were marking large numbers of fish along with plenty of baitfish.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Petoskey: Anglers are targeting salmon off the breakwall, the Clock Dock and near the mouth of the river. Try crank baits during the day and switch to glow spoons and crank baits at night. Some are using spawn under a bobber near the mouth. Boat anglers picked up a few chinook and lake trout between the breakwall and the water treatment plant.

Bear River: The amount of salmon in the river has varied over the last week. Anglers are using spawn, yarn, flies and rubber eggs. Orange and yellow were the hot colors.

Charlevoix: Boat anglers are fishing at the Can near the cement plant or trolling near the freighter slip. Try 50 to 70 feet down in 100 to 120 feet. Those casting along the breakwall are using spoons and crank baits. Boats trolling inside the breakwall caught a few fish as did those casting glow spoons at night. Pier anglers are catching smallmouth bass on crawlers and leeches. Salmon were taken on glow spoons at night. Near Medusa Creek, anglers are shore fishing or wading near the cement plant.

Traverse City: Chinook and coho were caught in the East Bay. Try 40 to 80 feet down with spoons or plugs. Lake trout were taken by those trolling or jigging in 90 to 100 feet. Good smallmouth action in 20 to 40 feet. A few chinook were caught in the West Bay. Those casting glow spoons near the mouth of the river at night caught fish as well.

Elk River: Salmon were caught on spawn near the power dam. Hot colors were pink, orange and chartreuse.

Boardman River: Had a decent push of salmon last week. Those drifting skein under a bobber caught a few but overall the bite was slow.

Glen Arbor: The number of boat anglers continues to decline but those still heading out have caught a couple chinook off Sleeping Bear Point. The fish have found their way up into the Crystal River. Fish were seen at the tubes, along the gravel and near the log jams.

Platte River: This year's coho run arrived early and the number of fish is impressive. DNR staff estimate between 10,000 and 15,000 fish at the weir, and it sounds like there are many more in the lower river.

Frankfort: Salmon are in the bay but the bite was slow for those trolling around the breakwalls.

Betsie River: Anglers are doing well but the salmon are moving fast. A good number of males have been caught and the females with eggs were still tight.

Onkama: Catch rates were slow even for those trolling out near the Barrel. They were using spoons, plugs and meat rigs in the top 40 to 80 feet.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers continue to do very well for both large and smallmouth. Panfishing slowed a bit with the cooler temperatures. Anglers were struggling to find keeper size bluegill and perch.

Manistee River: Had a big push of fish. Anglers are catching some large fish when casting flies, crank baits and thundersticks. There is still a good number of fish staging in Manistee Lake.

Pere Marquette River: Has a good number of fish at the mouth as well as up near Custer and Walhalla. Anglers are casting flies, crank baits and thundersticks. Try anything that glows in the early morning and late evening.

Pentwater: Catch rates were slow. Charters were heading north and fishing along the shoreline but few fish were caught. Pier angler did manage to take a couple salmon. Hot colors were green and white or blue and silver.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Windy conditions made fishing difficult in all parts of the bay. The bite was slow with very few coho and lake trout taken.

Marquette: Boat anglers are trolling in shallow waters 60 to 100 feet deep. Catch rates for trout and salmon were slow. Surface water temperatures are in the mid 50's but warmer near the mouth of the rivers.

Dead River: Anglers were fishing between the 550 Bridge and the mouth or below the generating plant but catch rates were very slow.

Carp River: A couple coho were taken on small spoons, spinners or crawlers.

Chocoday River: Catch rates were slow with only a few coho and brown trout taken on crawlers or spinners. Water levels are still low for boat launching.

Menominee: Bay fishing was slow because of the high winds. Those able to get out were trolling for trout and salmon but none were caught.

Menominee River: Chinook salmon are moving up into the river but trying to get them to bite has not been easy. Most anglers were drifting spawn bags or casting small spoons. Shore anglers drifting crawlers caught smallmouth bass, rock bass, walleye, catfish and bluegill. Those targeting lake sturgeon caught fish near the Hattie Street Dam when using crawlers on the Michigan side and near the rock pile in the middle of the river. The area between the Hattie Street Dam and the mouth is catch and immediate release only.

Au Train: Had few anglers because of windy conditions. Surface water temperatures were in the mid 50's.

Au Train River: Had higher water levels.

Munising: Had fair catch rates for those trolling in Trout Bay and Munising Bay. Pier fishing has increased with anglers taking a fair to good number of splake and coho. Splake were hitting on spawn while coho were caught by those casting or floating spawn bags.

Grand Marais: Had few anglers. Some are still targeting lake trout in the shipping channel while others are trolling for coho. Catch rates were slow. Shore anglers targeting coho near the mouth of the Sucker River came up empty handed.

St. Mary's River: A few walleye were caught in Raber Bay by those trolling just north of the Lime Island dock in 14 feet. Purple Hot-n-Tots caught fish in the early morning. Off Barbeau, perch were caught on minnows and leaf worms in 8 to 12 feet near the green buoy and rock cut or upstream of Neebish Island in 12 to 16 feet.

Detour: Catch rates were slow for chinook however coho and pink salmon were caught around the #3 green can.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch fishing in Hessel continues to improve. Anglers are fishing off the pier, the east end of Hessel Bay, Snows Channel, Musky Bay, Middle Entrance, and Cedarville Bay. Most are drifting crawler harnesses. Anglers report great pike action for those still-fishing with chubs or casting in the weed beds. A good number of large and smallmouth bass have been caught and splake are moving into the Hessel Marina. Salmon are moving into Bush and Beavertail Creek.

Carp River: Chinook salmon are in. Harvest is taking place at the mouth and upstream at the McDonald Rapids. The fish are 15 to 18 pounds and were in good shape. Most are using spawn.

St. Ignace: Anglers are catching chinook between the Coast Guard Station and the flats. Orange and green lures were the ticket.

September 26, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Windy conditions have kept anglers in the harbors, rivers or on the inland lakes. With fewer anglers heading out, this is a great time of year for anglers to get out there and fish the inland lakes because overcrowding is not an issue.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Perch fishing was good. The better numbers came from the Michigan-Ohio line and between Stoney Point and the River Raisin buoys. A couple boats did well in 18 feet of water out from the River Raisin channel. A couple walleye were caught in shallow water along the beach at Sterling State Park.

Detroit River: Catch rates for walleye were slow in the lower river however perch anglers picked up some fish in 8 to 15 feet of water when using minnows.

Lexington: Pier anglers caught salmon on spoons. Some caught the occasional steelhead or brown trout. Large pike were also caught on spoons. Water temperatures were 64 degrees.

Port Sanilac: Pier anglers caught the occasional salmon, steelhead or brown trout when casting spoons or floating spawn under a bobber.

Harbor Beach: Is producing a few salmon in the Edison Channel. Anglers are casting rapalas from the Edison access site.

Saginaw Bay: Some perch were caught off the old Dumping Grounds which is north of the Saginaw River. Anglers will want to move around if it gets too crowded. Those trying to perch off Quanicassee were fishing from the last channel marker to waters 11 feet deep but catch rates were very slow.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph River: Is still showing good numbers of steelhead at the Berrien Springs fish ladder. The salmon run is picking up as water temperatures drop. Coho came in earlier but now the chinook salmon have moved upstream. The major chinook run usually begins when the water temperatures reach 63 degrees.

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

Black River: Anglers have caught a few salmon when casting spoons or spinners.

Kalamazoo River: Is producing coho and the occasional steelhead or walleye.

Holland: Pier anglers trying for salmon were casting spoons or spawn however spoons caught more fish. Hot colors were orange or red. Perch anglers are targeting waters 30 to 65 feet deep.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers fishing for salmon are struggling. Most are using plugs in the channels but some are still heading out for steelhead and young salmon. Pier anglers are using spoons, spawn and alewife but spoons worked best. Hot colors were orange, red and glow. Those looking for perch have found a few fish in the 60 foot holes but more goby than perch were caught.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has salmon and steelhead. Some are floating flies and spawn while others are using small spoons, plugs or wobble glows.

Grand River at Lansing: Coho salmon have been spotted up near the North Lansing Dam. Anglers will want to try spawn or spinners. Some are fishing near the Portland Dam. Anglers are still taking some smallmouth bass and some big catfish when using small bluegills or minnows.

Looking Glass River: Is producing northern pike and some were quite large. Try golden shiners or suckers.

Muskegon River: Salmon are slowly moving into the system. The better fishing was early morning or late evening.

Whitehall: Boat and pier anglers were pretty much non-existent. It appears the salmon action here might be done.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Chinook are in and around Swan Bay. Most of the fish are in shallow waters 5 to 30 feet deep. Anglers are high lining with bombers or plugs off planer boards. Some are still catching younger salmon, steelhead and lake trout out deeper. Try halfway down in 45 to 80 feet with spoons. Good colors were green, blue, white, purple, orange and silver, black and white or anything that glows. Most are fishing between the harbor and Forty Mile Point.

Presque Isle: Has lots of baitfish right along with younger salmon, steelhead and lake trout. Spoons are the ticket, halfway down in 45 to 80 feet.

Thunder Bay River: Salmon fishing has picked up. Catch rates were better on overcast days. Chinook were caught on spoons, crank baits, flies or spawn. Use anything that glows at night.

Harrisville: Salmon are coming into the harbor but catch rates were slow. Try spawn, spoons or body baits in the early morning or late evening. Walleye have started to show up but no big numbers yet.

Au Sable River: Salmon are moving in and out of the river however they do not seem to be running all the way up to the dam. Most of the fish caught were taken by pier anglers casting spoons or body baits. Walleye are moving into the river at night.

Tawas: Pier anglers caught a few walleye, pike and small perch. Salmon are in the harbor however they will not bite.

Tawas River: Continues to produce the occasional salmon. Try small spoons, body baits, spawn or flies.

Au Gres: Catch rates were slow. Boats anglers are marking lots of fish but the bite was not there. Perch fishing was hit-or-miss.

Au Gres River: Anglers are catching a few salmon at the mouth and the Singing Bridge. Traffic can be a problem especially with construction on the Singing Bridge.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Smallmouth bass anglers were fishing around Harbor Point and in front of Wequetonsing. A few lake trout were picked up on this side of the bay.

Petoskey: Salmon fishing was slow off the piers, but anglers are still casting crank baits and spoons. Boats trolling 70 to 90 feet down in 90 to 100 feet of water caught lake trout on green meat rigs.

Bear River: Still has salmon but not the numbers that we saw last year. Most are using flies, artificial eggs or spawn. There is the usual backup of fish at the dam and in the pools between the two bridges downstream.

Charlevoix: The few boats still heading out were trolling around the Can and into the slip at the cement plant. Catch rates were slow. Those casting near the breakwall and the creek can see fish but none were caught. Pier anglers are still taking smallmouth bass on crawlers and leeches. Those targeting salmon at night are using glow spoons. Angling pressure is still high near the Medusa Weir. Catch rates are unusually low. Spawn worked best followed by small crank baits, rattles or spoons.

Boyne River: Has reports of good fishing near the mouth and Dam Road for those casting from boats.

Traverse City: The East Bay is producing coho, lake trout and the occasional cisco. Anglers are trolling 80 feet down. Bass fishing remains good. In the West Bay, a couple salmon were caught near the mouth of the Boardman. Anglers are casting glow spoons after dark. A decent number of lake trout were caught by those jigging near Power Island.

Elk River: Salmon and small steelhead were caught near the power dam. Try pink or chartreuse spawn bags and light leaders.

Boardman River: Has a decent number of salmon. Chinook were caught by those drifting skein under a bobber.

Glen Arbor: Fishing has pretty much stopped. A few anglers are surfcasting near Shalda Creek. Chinook are running up the Crystal River.

Platte Bay: Fishing was slow off Platte Point. Those trolling in 12 to 18 feet of water east of the river picked up a couple chinook and coho on small green J-plugs with a ladder back. Those surfcasting seen a lot of fish at the mouth however they would not bite.

Platte River: Fish are still being harvested at the weir. Dredging at the mouth is ongoing.

Frankfort: Had a good number of chinook in Betsie Bay. Fish are moving into the bay and heading straight up the river. Anglers are using spawn. Those trolling have caught some big chinook.

Betsie River: Is producing salmon. Anglers are reminded that the mouth of the river is still closed to fishing because of the shallow water.

Portage Lake: Cooler temperatures pushed the bluegill and perch out to waters 18 to 22 feet deep. Bass anglers working the walls have found some good size large and smallmouth.

Manistee: Boats heading out to deeper waters caught salmon and steelhead in the top 60 feet. Salmon fishing was slow around the piers.

Manistee River: Is producing a good number of salmon.

Ludington: Salmon and trout fishing were slow. Try the top 50 feet in 60 to 150 feet with orange spoons. Pier fishing was slow but those surfcasting at the State Park caught a few fish.

Pere Marquette River: Is producing a fair to good number of salmon.

Pentwater: Boat anglers are marking large numbers of fish in 40 feet but they will not bite. Pier anglers caught salmon and brown trout however they are putting in their time to get them. Most are using orange body baits.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: The bite improved for those trolling for salmon, steelhead and lake trout. Most were going from the head of the bay north to Old Mission and fishing 15 to 40 feet down in 20 to 60 feet of water with spoons. Near the South Portage entry, coho and lake trout were caught by those trolling near the lighthouse, the Mud Banks, Farmers Reef and Newton's Reef. Try 20 to 40 feet down in 30 to 60 feet. Traverse Bay was good for coho and lake trout. Try 20 to 40 feet down in 30 to 50 feet between Gay Point and Big Louie's Point.

Marquette: A few trout and salmon were caught from the Lower Harbor breakwall. They are using assorted spoons and stick baits. Boat anglers did well for coho as some reported limit catches. They are trolling in waters less than 50 feet deep between the Lower Harbor breakwall and the Chocolay River. A few lake trout were also caught.

Dead River: Pink salmon have moved in for spawning so there was an increase in angler activity below the generating plant at the 550 Bridge. Most were catch and release fishing with spinners and flies. A couple salmon were hooked but not landed.

Carp River: Had a lot of anglers targeting coho. They are using spawn, crawlers or casting spoons.

Chocolay River: Had more anglers between M-28 and the mouth. Early morning was best though catch rates were still low.

Menominee River: Chinook, brown trout and steelhead can be seen up near the Hattie Street Dam. More anglers are showing up but catch rates were low. Sturgeon are still being caught and released near the rock pile. Those drifting crawlers caught smallmouth bass, channel catfish, bluegills, suckers and freshwater drum.

Little Bay De Noc: Was producing fair walleye catches with the better fishing along the Black Bottom. Anglers are trolling or drifting crawler harnesses in 12 to 23 feet. Perch fishing improved at Kipling in 10 to 23 feet, along the "Narrows" and off Gladstone Beach in 14 to 25 feet. Crawlers and minnows worked best. Salmon are in the Ford River and the Escanaba River. Anglers are casting spoons, spinners and crank baits.

Big Bay De Noc: Has lots of smallmouth anglers. They are trolling or drifting minnows in 15 to 35 feet along the break between Garden Bluff and Snake Island. The fish are a bit smaller this year but several large fish were still caught.

Au Train: Fishing activity was light. Anglers did catch a few coho near the mouth of the Rock River. There were no fish below the spillway. No activity at the mouth of the Au Train River.

Munising: Boat anglers are trolling in the early morning and evening. Catch rates for coho were fair to good with a couple limit catches reported. Pier fishing was fair to good for mainly coho followed by splake.

Grand Marais: Boat anglers trolling around the bay caught coho ranging 2 and 3 pounds. Shore anglers targeting coho near the mouth of the Sucker River had mixed results. Those casting caught more fish.

Two Hearted River: Has a fair to good number of salmon. Higher water levels made fishing a bit more difficult but fish are being caught.

St. Mary's River: Is still producing a few walleye in 12 to 14 feet near Carlton Creek. Try bottom bouncers with crawler harnesses, fire-tiger spinners and beads. Musky fishing will pick up as water temperatures cool.

Detour: Still has some very good opportunities for chinook, coho and pink salmon. Anglers are fishing from the city launch to Frying Pan Island, over to the #3 green can and near the lighthouse. Spoons were the ticket. Colors were pink and purple, green and gold, green and white or black and orange.

Drummond Island: Has excellent smallmouth bass fishing on the northwest side of Burnt Island. Try green and brown tube jigs along the rocky shelf in 16 to 18 feet of water. Good northern pike action off the southeast side of Grape Island. Anglers are trolling chrome spoons with a red eye in 6 to 10 feet. A few walleye were caught around Peck Island by those using bottom bouncers with gold and purple beads and spinners in 12 to 14 feet. Perch were caught just south of Harbor Island. Anglers used minnows or popcorn shrimp.

Cedarville and Hessel: Has fair to good perch fishing off the Hessel pier, Snows Channel, Musky Bay and Middle Entrance. Fish were caught by those trolling a crawler harness around Musky Bay and the east end of Cedarville Bay. Pike fishing was very good for those still-fishing with chubs or casting in the weed beds. Catch rates for bass were excellent. Splake were caught on spawn in the Hessel Marina. Salmon are starting to run in Bush Creek, Beavertail Creek and McKay Creek.

Carp River: Anglers are catching chinook and pink salmon from the mouth to the rapids. They are using spawn, small spoons or spinners.