

October 3, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Salmon runs are nearing their peak in some locations. **Once again anglers need to be reminded that snagging is illegal.** It is unlawful to snag or retain a fish not legally hooked in the mouth. Anglers are reminded that all Type 1 and Type 2 rivers and streams as well as all Type A and Type D inland lakes closed to fishing on September 30th. Lake trout season on the waters of Lake Huron and northern Lake Michigan also closed on September 30th. The waters of Lake Michigan between Arcadia and New Buffalo remain open for lake trout until October 31st.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Catch rates for perch are slowly improving. Some limit catches were reported out near Stony Point in 24 feet and off the DTE Plant in 18 to 22 feet. Glow or chartreuse beads on hooks worked best.

Detroit River: Perch have been caught south of Celeron Island, south of Sugar Island, and east of Rat Island. Anglers are using minnows and perch rigs in 10 feet. Orange was the hot color. Those jigging crawlers near the Cross Dike caught a couple walleye. A fair to good number of bass have been caught.

Lake St. Clair: Yellow perch fishing is steadily picking up. Minnows worked best for those fishing on the Ontario side of the lake. Some good catches were also reported near the Dumping Grounds and off the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. Smallmouth bass fishing was good as perch anglers are catching them. Muskie fishing was steady.

St. Clair River: Shore anglers at Port Huron have caught trout and salmon. A few were taken by walleye anglers trolling crawler harnesses. Walleye fishing is good from Port Huron all the way down into the Delta Channels. Most are trolling or jigging. The season to harvest lake sturgeon closed on September 30th but the catch and immediate release season remains open through the end of November.

Harbor Beach: The few boats still heading out are taking the occasional steelhead about 80 feet down in 90 feet of water. Near shore water temperatures were on the warm side. A couple walleye were caught in the harbor.

Saginaw Bay: Had good perch action in 8 to 10 feet off the Pinconning Bar and near the H Buoy. They are sorting the small ones but still taking 8 to 10 inch fish. Those fishing off the mouth of the Saginaw River caught few perch but did get a couple walleye on minnows. At Quanicassee, boat anglers caught a few perch out near the last channel marker buoys in 11 feet of water. At Sebewaing, a few small bluegills and the odd perch were caught off the docks inside the municipal marina. Bay Port is producing smallmouth bass in shallow waters 2 to 4 feet around North Island. Perch anglers are heading to the west side of the bay. At Caseville, a few boats fishing off Oak Point found some perch averaging 10 to 12 inches.

Saginaw River: Those fishing at Essexville have caught catfish, freshwater drum, smallmouth bass, and small perch.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph River: Continues to produce a fair to good number of salmon and steelhead up near the Berrien Springs Dam. Try small spoons, spinners or spawn.

Kalamazoo River: Is producing chinook and coho up near the Allegan Dam. Some are casting spoons and spinners while others are floating spawn and crawlers. Some have caught the occasional steelhead.

Calhoun County: Prairie Lake and Ackley Lake were producing some nice bluegills. Duck Lake was good for pike and panfish.

Holland: Pier anglers are struggling when casting or using spawn and alewife. Boat anglers targeting salmon found fish in 100 to 120 feet when trolling spoons and body baits. No perch to report.

Grand Haven: Salmon anglers are fishing in waters between 50 and 250 feet deep however most fish were caught in the 100 foot range with downriggers 30 to 90 feet down. Spoons and body baits were the favorite. Orange and green were best in shallower waters but dark colors like purple and black worked better out deeper.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Salmon and steelhead are being caught on spoons, spinners, spawn, wobble glows or flies. Look for brown trout in the next week or two.

Grand River at Lansing: More anglers are out as salmon are moving into both the Grand and the Red Cedar. Low water levels have resulted in a lower number of salmon.

Muskegon River: Has a good number of chinook salmon throughout the river. While many are turning dark, anglers will still find some fresh fish.

Whitehall: Boats out trolling in waters 100 to 180 feet or more caught steelhead 30 to 70 feet down. Yellow and red spoons were the ticket. A few salmon were still being caught by pier anglers casting orange and red body baits.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Adult salmon are still in and around the bay. Those going out at 3am and fishing until sun up have caught fish. Once the sun comes up, the bite quits. Most are using bombers off boards. Those fishing off the breakwall caught a few when casting spoons and body baits or floating spawn. Young salmon were caught between Swan Bay and Adams Point. Try halfway down in 40 to 80 feet with smaller spoons. Hot colors were green, blue, orange and silver, black and silver, or purple and white. They are running sliders off the main lines and getting two fish on one rod. Lake trout season closed on September 30th.

Presque Isle: Anglers are doing well for young chinook along with a limited number of steelhead and walleye straight out or north between the lighthouses, off Black Point and north of North Bay. Try halfway down in 40 to 90 feet with smaller spoons.

Thunder Bay River: Has chinook salmon but some have already turned. Try casting spoons and crank baits or floating spawn. Use glow spoons after dark.

Harrisville: Fish are making their way in and out of the harbor but catch rates were slow with the warm water temperatures. When the fish are there, they seem to be in good numbers but would not bite. Try floating spawn or casting spoons and body baits late at night. Spawn is working during the day if the fish are there.

Oscoda: Pier fishing was hit-or-miss because of the warm water. Try spoons or body baits at night.

Au Sable River: Very few fish have made their way up into the river. Watch for cooler temperatures and winds from the north or east which will bring the fish in.

Lake Margrethe: Fishing was good for perch and panfish during the warm spell.

Lake St. Helen: Is producing bluegill and sunfish in 3 to 5 feet of water. Pike are active and can be found around the weed beds. Some are still catching bass.

Tawas: Pier anglers managed to catch one salmon, some bullhead, the odd walleye or a few small perch.

Tawas River: Those fishing at night caught a couple salmon.

Au Gres: Fishing was slow. Those trying for perch had limited success. They were fishing straight out from the mouth of the river in 20 to 25 feet. Catch rates were better further down the bay.

Au Gres River: Down at Singing Bridge, a light number of salmon have been caught in the surf. Fish can be seen offshore. A brown trout was caught.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Petoskey: Salmon fishing was slow for pier anglers casting spoons or crank baits but those surfcasting near the breakwall caught the occasional fish on spoons. Salmon can be seen near the mouth of the river but they are not interested in anything being thrown at them. Boat anglers reported slow fishing.

Bear River: Had a large run of fish. Anglers have caught chinook and coho at the dam. Most were using flies but yarn, artificial eggs and spawn have also caught fish.

Charlevoix: The few boats heading out did catch fish around the Can and in the slip at the cement plant. They did best between 2am and 7am when casting spoons or crank baits. Smallmouth bass were caught on crawlers and leeches in the channel. Angling pressure was still high near the Medusa Weir. Catch rates were still a bit slow but should improve with rain and cooler temperatures. Anglers are wading and casting spoons, crank baits or spawn. Best time to fish is early morning or at night.

Traverse City: Lake trout season is now closed in both bays. Coho and cisco have been caught in the East Bay. Anglers are trolling spoons about 80 feet down. A few perch were caught by those still-fishing with minnows and wigglers. In the West Bay, cisco were caught by those trolling. A small number of boats were perch fishing along the weed beds in 20 to 30 feet. Salmon were caught after dark by those casting glow spoons near the mouth of the Boardman. Both bays had good smallmouth bass fishing.

Elk River: Fishing has been hit-or-miss but chinook and coho have been caught near the dam. Young steelhead were also caught.

Boardman River: Has a decent number of salmon however the run is likely past the peak. The bite was slow but a few were taken by those drifting skein under a bobber.

Glen Arbor: Fishing has pretty much stopped as the kings are heading up into the Crystal River and Shalda Creek.

Platte Bay: Fishing at Platte Point is slow but a few were taken by those surfcasting with glow spoons before sunrise. There are chinook and coho at the mouth but they do not want to bite.

Betsie River: Is full of chinook salmon and plenty of anglers are taking advantage of the opportunities at hand. Anglers are reminded that snagging is illegal.

Onkama: Had no fishing activity because of dredging in the channel.

Portage Lake: Those trolling J-plugs caught a few chinook and coho along the west side of the lake. Bass anglers are working hard but some good size fish have been caught along the breakwalls and drop-offs.

Manistee: Pier anglers and those surfcasting have caught the occasional steelhead. Boat anglers caught young salmon and steelhead in the top 60 feet of waters 300 to 600 feet deep. Orange spoons were the ticket.

Manistee River: The salmon run is near its peak. Anglers are reminded that snagging is illegal. Foul hooked fish must be released.

Ludington: Some boats have found salmon and steelhead. They are using short coppers and lead core with orange and green spoons. No steelhead to report.

Pere Marquette River: Is producing some big chinook right along with a few brown trout and steelhead.

Pentwater: The salmon are pretty much done though a couple fish were caught by pier anglers casting orange and red body baits. A few were trolling along the shoreline but no fish were caught.

UPPER PENINSULA

Marquette: Anglers report good coho action with a couple limit catches reported. A few chinook and lake trout were mixed in. Anglers are trolling in waters less than 40 feet deep outside the Lower Harbor breakwall and the Carp and Chocolay Rivers.

Dead River: Is producing pink salmon between the mouth and the 550 Bridge.

Carp River: Catch rates were fair with a few coho caught on crawlers or stick baits in the early morning. No chinook salmon to report.

Chocolay River: Is producing a fair to good number of coho for those using spoons, stick baits or spawn sacks between M-28 and the mouth.

Menominee: Bay anglers were trolling for trout, salmon, and walleye in 25 to 35 feet. For trout and salmon try spoons and for walleye try rapalas or crawler harnesses. Catch rates for walleye were slow but a few trout and salmon were caught near the Menominee Marina.

Menominee River: Most anglers targeting trout and salmon are upstream between Stephenson Island and the Hattie Street Dam. They are drifting spawn and yarn or casting small spoons. Some walleye were caught in the early morning or evening when trolling rapalas, crawler harnesses or jigs with crawlers. Shore anglers drifting crawlers or minnows continue to catch smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, channel cats, suckers, bluegill and perch. Sturgeon season closed on September 30th.

Little Bay De Noc: Windy conditions have kept many boats at bay. A few walleye were caught along the Black Bottom and the East Bank in Gladstone when trolling or drifting crawlers in 18 to 27 feet. Perch anglers did well in Kipling and near the mouth of the Day's River with crawlers in 13 to 16 feet of water.

Escanaba River: Is producing good numbers of chinook salmon. Most are wading out near the 1st Dam and casting spoons, spinners or crank baits along the rapids.

Big Bay De Noc: Continues to see plenty of smallmouth bass anglers fishing between Snake Island and Snail Shell Harbor. Most are drifting minnows in 15 to 30 feet. No walleye to report. A few perch were caught off the mouth of Garden Bay in 18 to 25 feet. Crawlers worked best.

Au Train: The few boats heading out did catch coho and lake trout. Salmon were caught in less than 30 feet of water near the Rock River and lake trout were taken along the drop-off east of Au Train Island.

Two Hearted River: Has a fair to good number of salmon. Those surfcasting at the mouth caught chinook and coho. The occasional steelhead has been caught.

St. Mary's River: Most of the walleye anglers are now targeting perch however a few walleye were still being caught on the east side of Lime Island where the channel narrows down between Hart Island and Lime Island. They are using bottom bouncers and crawler harnesses in 12 to 18 feet. Muskie were caught by those trolling large black and yellow bucktail spinners in 8 to 10 feet along the rock ledges on the east side of Lime Island. In Sault St. Marie, anglers trolling bottom bouncers with purple beads and smiley blades caught fish off 6-Mile Road.

Drummond Island: Perch are schooling in and around most of the Islands in Scott Bay. Fish were caught on the south end of Ashman Island, just out from the yellow house in 12 to 14 feet. Minnows and popcorn shrimp worked best. Those drifting minnows along the south end of Grape Island caught a few walleye in 12 feet of water off the red buoy. Smallmouth bass were suspended in 12 to 14 feet on the northwest side of Burnt Island. Anglers are jigging green and brown tube baits just off the rock ledges.

Cedarville and Hessel: Few anglers were in Hessel Bay but the perch fishing was good along the east end and in Government Bay. At Cedarville, perch fishing was excellent in Musky Bay and Snows Channel for those using minnows and worms in 6 to 10 feet of water. Pike fishing remains very good for those casting along the weed beds or fishing with chubs. Bass fishing has been excellent. Lake trout and splake season closed on September 30th.

Carp River: Has a lot of anglers and they are harvesting a good number of fish. Chinook and pink salmon are hitting on small Cleo's or spawn bags. Some of the fish were 20 pounds or more.

October 10, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

As the salmon runs on the west side of the state wind down, steelhead and brown trout are slowly starting to move in. Water levels were somewhat better after the last rain. Very few are fishing the inland lakes.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Perch fishing continues to get better as water temperatures cool. Fish have been caught out from the River Raisin and north to Stony Point in 20 to 24 feet. Most of the limit catches were reported out near the Michigan/Ohio line.

Detroit River: has not changed much. Perch are still being caught south of Celeron Island and Sugar Island by those using minnows and perch rigs in 10 to 12 feet of water. As for walleye, few have been caught.

Lake St. Clair: has good perch fishing for those using minnows. Some say the smallmouth bass are chasing the schools of perch away. Muskie fishing has been good and should continue to improve as water temperatures drop. Smallmouth bass fishing was slow but some were caught in shallow waters.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing has been good in the river and the channels. Some limit catches were taken up near Port Huron. Catch and release sturgeon fishing has been good in the North Channel.

Lexington: Salmon are rolling and jumping in the harbor but they will not bite.

Port Sanilac: Boat anglers out trolling reported warm water temperatures at least 90 feet down. No fish were caught. A brown trout was caught on a spinner.

Harbor Beach: A couple brown trout and one very dark chinook salmon were caught in the Edison Channel when casting rapalas.

Saginaw Bay: A few perch were caught off the Pinconning Bar which is straight off Pinconning in 9 to 12 feet and off Linwood. A walleye and some channel cats were caught in the Hot Ponds which are just east of the mouth of the Saginaw River. On the east side of the bay, several shore anglers caught bluegill, crappie, rock bass and a few perch. Smallmouth bass were caught in Wildfowl Bay but most of the boats out there are duck hunters. Just north of Caseville, perch fishing was slow off Oak Point.

Saginaw River: Fishing is slow and will probably stay that way for a few days after several inches of rain fell in the watershed.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: A decent number of perch have been caught in 50 feet of water north and south of the piers. Pier fishing was slow. When they can get out, boat anglers have caught salmon in 90 feet of water.

Kalamazoo River: Is producing chinook and coho up near the Allegan Dam. Some are casting spoons and spinners while others are floating spawn and crawlers. The occasional steelhead has also been caught.

Grand River at Lansing: Salmon can be found, however the bite is slow. Very few were caught at Moore's Park or the Point where the Grand meets the Red Cedar. The few caught seem to attack bright spinners with feathers. A few walleye were caught over at Moore's Park and catfish continue to hit on live bait.

Muskegon River: The recent rain did help to push what might be the last of the chinook salmon into the river. Anglers were starting to see some steelhead.

Whitehall: Pier Anglers are taking a few steelhead on spoons and on spawn.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Still has adult chinook salmon in and around Swan Bay. Try anchoring and casting spoons or body baits. Some are trolling high lines off boards with bombers. Pier anglers are getting a few when casting spoons or body baits in the early morning or late evening. Younger salmon have been caught halfway down in waters 40 to 90 feet deep with spoons. Hot colors are still green, white, purple, blue and silver, black and white or blue and green. Boats are fishing Swan Bay or north towards the State Park and Forty Mile Point.

Presque Isle: Has good fishing straight out of the harbor between the red can and the lighthouses. A decent number of young chinook salmon have been caught by those fishing summer patterns halfway down in 40 to 90 feet and using the same colors as Rogers City. The key is to find the baitfish.

Thunder Bay River: Has salmon. Many have turned dark and some are spawning. Catch rates were better in the evening or early morning before the sun comes up. Try spawn or crank baits.

Harrisville: Salmon continue to trickle in and around the harbor. Most anglers are floating spawn or casting spoons just before daylight and throughout the evening. Wind direction makes a difference so watch for winds from the north to east.

Oscoda: Salmon have been caught off the pier, but again seem to be coming in and out of the river. The majority of fish seem to be fresh.

Au Sable River: Few salmon have made it up into the river. Anglers are hoping rain will cool the water temperatures and improve the flow.

Tawas: Those fishing from the pier and inside the harbor have caught a few small perch and some rock bass. One angler did catch a 26 pound chinook salmon.

Tawas River: A few salmon were caught in the lower river at night.

Au Gres: Perch fishing was spotty but a few decent catches were taken in 45 feet of water off the Northport Marina, which is just to the north of Au Gres.

Au Gres River: Anglers fishing the East Branch can be found near the Singing Bridge. Salmon can be seen in the surf and the lower river however they will not bite.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Petoskey: Had dredging in the marina. The boat launch has been closed and the dock has been pulled out. Those surfcasting inside the breakwall did manage to catch a couple salmon on crank baits. A couple steelhead were caught on spawn.

Bear River: Has a lot of salmon after the recent rains. Anglers caught mainly chinook followed by coho and steelhead. They are using flies, skeins, spawn bags or yellow and green yarn.

Charlevoix: Boats are fishing inside the Cement Plant breakwall and into the boat slip. Most are casting crank baits or spoons but some are still-fishing with spawn. Smallmouth fishing was good in the channel. Try crawlers or leeches. A lot of anglers are salmon fishing near the Medusa Weir. Catch rates were up after the rain. Anglers wading near the slip did well with spawn during the day. Those fishing at sunrise and sunset did best with crank baits in a green tiger pattern. Those fishing at night used anything that glows.

Traverse City: The East Bay is producing smallmouth bass for those using live bait or plastics. Cisco have also been caught. In the West Bay, anglers have caught smallmouth bass and perch. They are fishing along the edge of the weeds with minnows, wigglers or shrimp. Those putting in the effort to locate the fish and stay on them have taken some decent catches of perch ranging 8 to 10 inches.

Elk River: Chinook and coho have been caught near the power dam. Coho were hitting on small spawn bags and the chinook were hitting on skein, spawn bags, deep diving crank baits and beads.

Boardman River: The chinook salmon run is nearing the end. Those drifting skein under a bobber were still picking up the occasional fish. Anglers are reminded that snagging is illegal. Look for coho and steelhead to start moving in.

Platte Bay: Fishing in the bay has slowed as most of the fish are now up into the river. Those surfcasting with spinners or spawn have still caught the occasional fish.

Platte River: Chinook and coho have been caught below the weir and the canoe landing. Try yarn flies or rubber eggs.

Frankfort: Boats heading out in waters between 190 to 250 feet and trolling 80 to 120 feet down caught coho and young chinook on spoons and plugs. Pier anglers at Frankfort and Elberta have caught steelhead on fresh spawn.

Betsie River: Still has a good number of chinook salmon but many are now quite dark in color.

Onekama: Dredging should be done sometime this week. Coho could be seen off the north pier but the fish were not willing to hit.

Portage Lake: Is producing some good catches of large and smallmouth bass. Perch and bluegill fishing slowed with the change in weather.

Manistee: Boats are catching chinook and coho salmon 80 to 130 feet down in 120 to 200 feet of water. Green flies and blue spoons have been working well. Steelhead action is slow off the piers and surf.

Manistee River: The recent rain pushed some steelhead into the river. Anglers are fly fishing or using spawn.

Ludington: A few steelhead and salmon have been caught in 100 to 200 feet of water. Steelhead have been biting on orange spoons higher in the water column. Salmon have been coming 70 to 100 feet down on blue spoons or flies. Pier anglers targeting steelhead have found the action to be slow but it should pick up soon.

Pere Marquette River: Is still producing some big chinook though many have turned dark. A couple steelhead and a few brown trout have also been caught.

Pentwater: Pier anglers are reporting catches of brown trout, steelhead and coho salmon on spawn.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Those casting spoons from Sand Point and out from the L'Anse Marina have caught coho. Those fishing Traverse Bay might find leaving a little more difficult as the last storm pushed a lot of sand into the harbor. River fishing around the bay has started to pick up with coho caught on a daily basis.

Marquette: Boat anglers had good action with three to five fish and some limit catches of coho taken outside the lower harbor breakwall in 40 to 50 feet or trolling near the mouth of the Carp River and the Chocolay River. Those fishing off the breakwall caught coho and lake trout. The coho are not quite ripe yet and the lake trout are still a couple weeks away from moving in close for spawning. The fish cleaning station in the Lower Harbor is closed for maintenance.

Dead River: The pink salmon are done spawning and the chinook salmon have moved into the area. Fishing pressure has increased as several chinook have been caught.

Carp River: Has good action with anglers catching good numbers of coho and the occasional steelhead. Early morning is best with stick baits, crank baits, spoons, crawlers and spawn bags.

Chocolay River: Boat anglers are averaging zero to five coho. Shore anglers and those wading had good action with one to five fish per trip. They are using spoons, spinners, small stick baits or spawn bags.

Menominee: Those targeting trout and salmon were casting spoons off the lighthouse pier. The marina pier is closed to fishing due to work being done on the docks and dredging.

Menominee River: Most of the trout and salmon action has been just below the Hattie Street Dam. The fish are active but the catch rate was on the slow side. Anglers are drifting spawn or casting spoons and crank baits. Shore anglers have caught walleye, smallmouth bass, bluegill and perch when drifting crawlers near the Mystery Ship Marina and off Stephenson Island.

Little Bay De Noc: Windy conditions have kept walleye anglers in the north end of the bay. Fish were caught but many were sub-legal. Perch anglers have done fair to good near the mouth of the Day's River in 13 to 16 feet or east of Butler Island in 20 to 25 feet.

Escanaba River: Shore anglers up near the 1st Dam have caught salmon when casting spoons, spinners and crank baits. The fish are turning dark as the season winds down.

Big Bay De Noc: Due to windy conditions, perch anglers were not able to reach their destinations. Smallmouth bass action was fair as fewer anglers were catching them. Try just off the break in 10 to 35 feet between Garden Bluff and Snake Island with minnows, crank baits or plastics.

Two Hearted River: Has coho, a few chinook and the occasional steelhead. The high water levels could make fishing a bit of a challenge however.

Munising: reports a good amount of fishing activity over the past week. Boat angling effort has remained fairly active targeting coho salmon almost exclusively this week with fair to good results on coho with several limit catches being reported. Pier fishing activity has remained steady but slightly down from its peak with anglers fishing various times of the day targeting coho and splake. Shore angling effort was very light but those trying reported fair to good results.

Grand Marais: Shore anglers reported fair results this past week targeting coho salmon and steelhead at the mouth of the Sucker River. Steelhead were caught primarily on spawn under windy conditions while coho continue to be mainly caught while casting.

St. Mary's River: A few nice walleye were caught in Raber Bay by those drifting and trolling in the early evening up until dark. Use floatation devices to keep the crawler harness above the weeds. Hot colors were orange, chartreuse and yellow fire-tiger. A few smallmouth bass were caught on the north end of Munuscong Bay, east of Kemps Point, and on the south side of Moon Island. Try jigging tube baits near the rock piles in 14 to 18 feet.

DeTour: The fish cleaning station is closed for the season.

Drummond Island: Anglers are fishing for walleye, northern pike, and smallmouth bass. Yellow perch fishing was fair around most of the islands. Anglers are using shiners and wire spreaders in waters 14 feet or deeper. Perch 9 to 11 inches were reported off the south side of Harbor Island in 20 feet. Try jigging shiners just off the bottom.

Cedarville and Hessel: Yellow perch have been caught on the east end of Hessel Bay, Snows Channel, and Musky Bay. Try crawlers or minnows in 6 to 11 feet of water. Pike fishing has been great for those still-fishing with chubs or casting into the weed beds in shallow water. Largemouth and smallmouth bass fishing remains excellent. Salmon can be found in Bush Creek and Beavertail Creek.

St. Ignace: Boat anglers heading out have caught chinook and pink salmon. One angler was pleasantly surprised with a chinook measuring 40.5 inches. The action in Nunns Creek slowed but the rain should have pushed more fish into the area.

October 17, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

As salmon fishing winds down anglers are turning their attention to the fall steelhead run. Few anglers are fishing the inland lakes however this is a great time of year to target panfish, bass and pike. Fall is when these fish go on a feeding frenzy before the really cold weather moves in.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Perch fishing has been hit-or-miss. The majority of catches came near the Fermi Power Plant in 24 to 26 feet however fish were also caught around Turtle Island, buoys 3 and 4 off the River Raisin and the Dumping Grounds, which are east of Luna Pier in 11 to 15 feet of water. Try husky jerks and body baits.

Detroit River: Anglers caught perch near the Cross-Dike across from Sugar Island.

Lake St. Clair: Has very good smallmouth bass fishing. Perch fishing continues to get better between Nine Mile Road and Twelve Mile Road and off Grosse Pointe.

St. Clair River: Has good walleye fishing at Port Huron. Anglers are vertical jigging late at night. Catch and release sturgeon anglers are doing well near Algonac.

Lexington: Salmon are in the harbor but they will not bite. Those fishing at night have managed to catch the occasional salmon or brown trout. Boat anglers report large schools of baitfish in 30 to 35 feet.

Saginaw Bay: Catch rates for perch have increased somewhat off Linwood in 15 to 18 feet. Some reported 30 to 35 fish per boat however they are sorting out the small ones. No shore fishing for perch yet as that usually picks up right around deer season in November. Boat anglers fishing off Quanicassee caught a few perch. A few boats launching from Bay Port and heading across the bay to Au Gres were bringing back about 30 perch. At Caseville, dredging in the channel continues so fishing was slow. Those perch fishing off Oak Point did well one day but caught nothing the next. A majority of the boats were duck hunters.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Kalamazoo River: Continues to produce chinook and coho up near the Allegan Dam. Many are turning dark. Steelhead are starting to show up.

Calhoun County: Fishing is slow on most of the inland lakes. Duck Lake and Gang Lake were producing a few nice panfish. Prairie Lake had bluegills and perch.

Holland: Water temperatures were still on warm side so the trout and salmon are out in waters 120 to 150 feet. Pier anglers are floating spawn for steelhead however catch rates were slow because of the warm water.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers were fishing in waters 100 to 160 feet. Most fish were taken in the 120 to 150 range. Fish have been caught on magnum or small spoons, spinnies and flies. Hot colors were green, blue and orange. Pier anglers are trying for steelhead however the warm water makes fishing more difficult.

Grand River at Lansing: Has salmon however anglers are having little success.

Looking Glass River: Is producing a few panfish and bass. A good number of pike have been caught near Babcock's Landing.

Jackson County: Inland lakes were producing bluegills.

Muskegon River: Is still producing some large chinook salmon though many are turning dark. Catch rates for steelhead are increasing as more fish move in. A few nice brown trout have also been caught.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: The adult salmon run is pretty much done however those still heading out have done well for younger salmon and steelhead when trolling small spoons halfway down in 50 to 90 feet. Lead core of 3, 5, and 7 colors worked well. Good colors are green, blue, orange, black or white with silver, red and white or anything that glows early or late. The bite was best the last couple hours of daylight or just as the sun comes up in Swan Bay or between US-23 and Forty Mile Point.

Presque Isle: Boat anglers will want to try straight out of the harbor and north between the two lighthouses. Try halfway down in 50 to 90 feet the last couple hours before dark or as the sun comes up.

Thunder Bay River: A large number of salmon are very dark and spawning. Fish are still being caught by those drifting flies or spawn along the bottom.

Harrisville: Salmon are working their way into the harbor slowly but consistently. Some are still fairly fresh, but most are starting to turn. Early morning and evening was the best time to fish with spawn, spoons or body baits. Walleye are coming into the harbor in the late evening. Fish were caught on body baits.

Oscoda: Fish caught from the pier are still in good shape and hitting on spoons or body baits. The occasional walleye has been picked up by anglers targeting salmon or steelhead.

Au Sable River: More anglers are heading upriver now that the Foote Dam area is open. Fish up near the dam are starting to turn dark but were still in good shape. Try floating spawn. Steelhead are making their way into the river and the number of fish will only increase as we move towards November.

Tawas: Had very little boat activity. Fishing in the harbor and off the piers was slow.

Tawas River: Is still producing salmon in the lower river at night.

Au Gres: Perch fishing picked up with anglers taking up to 25 fish ranging 7 to 11 inches. Most were caught out near the shipping channel in 35 to 45 feet.

Au Gres River: Is producing salmon and steelhead down at the Singing Bridge and for those surfcasting. For the steelhead, try drifting spawn.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Petoskey: Had very few anglers. The marina is still being dredged and the dock has been pulled. A couple steelhead were caught on spawn near the mouth of the river.

Bear River: Catch rates for chinook have dropped. The leftover fish are in pretty rough shape. A limited number of coho and steelhead were caught on fresh spawn.

Charlevoix: Smallmouth bass fishing is still good in the channel. Try crawlers, leeches, or scented rubber baits. Perch anglers were straight out from the pier in 80 feet but all they caught was gobies. The few fish in Medusa Creek are in bad shape.

Traverse City: The East Bay has steady smallmouth bass fishing. Try plastics such as darters or tube baits in 20 to 40 feet. A few perch and cisco were caught. Perch fishing was slow in the West Bay but smallmouth bass were caught in 25 to 35 feet.

Elk River: The chinook salmon run is past its peak. Steelhead and the occasional coho and lake trout were caught on spawn bags near the power dam. Salmon have also hit on deep diving crank baits.

Boardman River: The salmon run is winding down. Anglers are now catching the occasional steelhead or lake trout when drifting spawn.

Frankfort: Water temperatures are starting to drop. Steelhead were caught on fresh spawn. Try to keep the weeds off your line.

Betsie River: Is still producing chinook and coho however catch rates have slowed.

Onekama: Dredging in the channel is done. Anglers are now targeting coho and steelhead in front of the piers.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers are still picking up large and smallmouth along the south wall and the drop-offs. Strong winds made it hard for those pan fishing.

Manistee: Pier anglers and those surfcasting are starting to catch steelhead on spawn. Boat anglers are catching salmon and steelhead 80 to 140 feet down in 300 to 500 feet of water when using green or blue spoons. A couple steelhead were caught on orange spoons in the top 40 feet.

Manistee River: More steelhead are starting to show up.

Ludington: Pier anglers are starting to catch steelhead on spawn. Those heading out to waters 200 to 400 feet deep found fish 80 to 130 feet down when using green flies or spoons.

Pere Marquette River: Is still producing some big chinook though many have turned dark. More steelhead are starting to show up.

UPPER PENINSULA

Marquette: Boat anglers caught chinook, coho, steelhead and lake trout just outside the lower harbor breakwall in 40 to 50 feet or up near the mouth of the rivers with spoons, stick baits or crank baits. Pier anglers caught coho and lake trout.

Dead River: Fishing pressure decreased as catch rates slowed.

Carp River: Shore anglers reported fair catches of coho. A couple steelhead were caught. Most are casting spoons and crank baits or floating spawn.

Chocolay River: Is still producing some coho in certain sections of the river. Anglers are using spinners or stick baits. Those using spawn bags had no luck.

Menominee: Walleye were caught off the Cedar River when trolling crawler harnesses or rapalas. Channel cats, pike and smallmouth bass were caught. A few were salmon fishing near the rapids in the river but none were caught.

Menominee River: Those targeting trout and salmon are fishing off Stephenson Island and up near the Hattie Street Dam. Some are drifting spawn and yarn while others are casting spoons. Shore anglers downstream of Stephenson Island caught channel cats, smallmouth bass and yellow perch when drifting crawlers. Those trolling after dark caught some walleye on crawler harnesses or stick baits.

Little Bay De Noc: Those pre-fishing for the walleye tournament caught fish but they would not say where. Perch fishing was fair near Kipling in 10 to 23 feet, and off Brach's Cabins in 14 to 17 feet. Try crawlers and minnows. Good smallmouth action off the Farmer's Dock in 18 to 35 feet with minnows, tube baits, or spinners.

Escanaba River: Shore anglers caught salmon near the 1st Dam. A good number of fish are making their way up into the river. Most are casting spoons, spinners or crank baits. Rock bass were also caught.

Big Bay De Noc: No walleye to report but smallmouth bass fishing was fair to good off Garden Bluff. Anglers are drifting minnows 15 to 30 feet down along the drop-off.

Munising: Boat anglers targeting coho reported fair catch rates. Some were able to get one or two fish but some returned empty-handed. Pier anglers caught coho, splake and the occasional steelhead. Splake were hitting primarily on spawn.

Grand Marais: Pier fishing was light and unproductive. Those trolling near the mouth of the Sucker River caught the occasional coho or steelhead. Shore anglers fishing the mouth of the Sucker River report low catch rates.

St. Mary's River: Had fair perch fishing. Extra water being released from the power plant in Sault Ste. Marie is forcing perch away from the main channel and into the bays off the shipping channel.

DeTour: Boat anglers are targeting walleye along the reefs and Moon Island. A few limit catches of yellow perch were reported.

Drummond Island: Anglers are catching yellow perch in 12 to 14 feet of water around Ashman Island, Grape Island and Peck Island. Most are using shiners.

Cedarville and Hessel: Yellow perch are biting on the east end of Hessel Bay, Snows Channel, Middle Entrance and Musky Bay. Try crawlers or minnows in 6 to 11 feet of water. Pike fishing has been very good for those casting chubs in shallow water. Bass fishing continues to be good.

Carp River: Anglers are fishing from the mouth upstream to the McDonald Rapids. They are catching chinook and steelhead though the chinook are starting to deteriorate.

October 24, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The fall steelhead run always starts about the same time the salmon run is winding down. The fish are starting to show up in bigger numbers. The inland lakes are doing fair to good for bluegill, crappie and perch. Try minnows or crawlers along the drop offs.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Perch seem to be holding in waters 24 to 26 feet deep southeast of Stoney Point. A few walleye were caught between the beach at Sterling State Park and the mouth of the River Raisin. Crank baits worked best. Water temperatures are dropping at a good rate so catch rates should continue to improve.

Detroit River: Is producing smallmouth bass, a few walleye, and the occasional muskie. For perch, try the Cross-Dike, the south end of Grosse Ile or around Celeron Island with minnows or crawlers.

Lake St. Clair: Smallmouth bass fishing has slowed as anglers struggle to find them. Cooling water temperatures should bring the fish back into shallower waters. Muskie anglers have done well which is typical for fall fishing. Yellow perch fishing was spotty but fish were caught near the Dumping Grounds, Grosse Point Yacht Club and the shipping channel.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing has been very good at Port Huron. Anglers are jigging or wire line trolling. Walleye fishing was good in the lower river and the channels near Algonac.

Lexington: Those fishing off the breakwalls and the docks have caught the occasional chinook, steelhead or brown trout. There are a lot of emerald shiners in the harbor.

Port Sanilac: Is also producing trout and salmon for those shore and pier fishing. A few pike were also caught.

Harbor Beach: Those fishing at night have caught walleye off the north wall between 1 AM and 5 AM. Only a few brown trout were caught in the Edison Channel.

Saginaw Bay: When they can get out, boat anglers reported decent catches of perch in 20 feet off Gambil's Marina which is up near Pinconning, near Buoy 22 along the shipping channel, or northeast of Spoils Island which is the large island straight off the mouth of the Saginaw River. The bite is best from dawn until about 10:30AM. At Quanicassee, a few were caught but most boats had to stay in the river. At Sebewaing, a few guys fishing from the docks in the marina caught bluegills and a few crappie. The boats are gone so the docks at Bay Shore Marina, near Bay Port and the docks in the Caseville City Harbor are now open to shore anglers. Dredging continues in the channel at Caseville.

Saginaw River: Had nothing going on in the lower river.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Salmon are still being caught out in 120 feet. Pier anglers have caught a fair number of steelhead.

St. Joseph River: A few salmon are moving through the ladder but the fish are dark. The steelhead run has been slow. It could take a cold rain to get the fish moving because they prefer water temperatures between the upper 40's or low 50's.

South Haven: Boat anglers are still taking salmon in waters 100 feet deep. Pier fishing was slow but they are getting the occasional steelhead.

Kalamazoo River: The salmon action is pretty much done but anglers are catching steelhead and brown trout up near the Allegan Dam.

Holland: Boat anglers caught steelhead in 80 to 140 feet. Downriggers were set 70 to 120 feet down. Fish were hitting on magnum spoons with a silver back.

Grand Haven: Fishing was slow. No boats were out but pier anglers managed to take a couple steelhead when fishing spawn before daylight.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Anglers should find steelhead and the occasional brown trout up near the Sixth Street Dam. Try spawn bags, a jig and wax worm or small spoons such as Cleo's.

Muskegon River: Anglers are still catching the occasional salmon. Steelhead are in the river and eating the abundance of salmon eggs. Try drifting fresh spawn, fish egg patterns or a jig and wax worm.

Whitehall: Pier anglers are catching steelhead on spawn but they are putting in some time to get a few fish.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Boat fishing has almost come to a stand-still. The marina, the restrooms and the fish cleaning station are now closed for the season. Dredging is still scheduled for this fall. Those fishing off the wall caught a couple salmon but the fish are dark. A fair number of brown trout are in the marina and were caught by those casting spoons and body baits or floating spawn.

Presque Isle: All the boats are gone. The marina and restrooms are closed.

Thunder Bay River: The salmon are actively spawning and turning very dark. Anglers will not find few fresh fish at this point. Not many steelhead yet.

Harrisville: Anglers are still catching a few salmon on spawn, spoons and body baits. Fish have been caught day and night as times vary when the fish are moving into the harbor.

Oscoda: Pier anglers have caught some walleye on spoons or body baits.

Au Sable River: Most of the salmon seem to be up at the dam but a few stragglers are still coming in. Many are turning dark and are spawned out. The good news is fresh steelhead are now moving into the river and those floating spawn or flies are catching fish.

Tawas: Pier fishing was slow. A large number of emerald shiners are moving into the harbor and small perch ranging 4 to 7 inches are following them. A couple boats were trolling near the mouth of the river.

Tawas River: Is still producing a chinook salmon here and there but the run is definitely past the peak.

Au Gres: Boat anglers caught perch in 20 to 35 feet of water straight off the river or up near the Gravelly Shoal which is between Pt. Au Gres and the Charity Islands.

Au Gres River: Salmon and steelhead fishing has been hit-or-miss down near the Singing Bridge. Steelhead are just starting to show up.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Petoskey: Dredging in the marina is done and most likely the docks will remain out of the water until next season. Pier fishing was slow. A couple chinook or steelhead were caught on spawn bags near the mouth of the river. Most are now waiting for the steelhead run to get started.

Bear River: Still has the occasional chinook up near the dam or downstream. Fish were caught between the bridges below the dam. Try spawn or yarn. A couple coho and steelhead were caught on spawn near the dam.

Charlevoix: Smallmouth bass fishing slowed but a few largemouth bass were caught on crawlers, minnows, and scented rubber baits. Those fishing near Medusa Creek reported no fish caught.

Traverse City: Those fishing the East Bay caught cisco and the occasional whitefish when jigging in 80 to 130 feet. Smallmouth bass can be found in 10 to 30 feet and a few perch were caught on live bait in 30 feet. Very few boats were out on the West Bay. Look for perch and bass in 20 to 35 feet.

Elk River: Steelhead, coho, and a few lake trout were caught on spawn bags near the dam but catch rates were slow.

Boardman River: Anglers caught a couple steelhead on spawn, jigs or trout beads. Lake trout are hitting on spawn bags. The salmon are in bad shape.

Platte Bay: Those surfcasting with spawn have caught steelhead near the mouth.

Frankfort: Steelhead anglers were landing some very nice fish. They were using fresh spawn or gold and orange wobblers. Pier anglers caught some nice fish including a 13 pound coho.

Portage Lake: The boat launch in town is closed for dredging this week but the DNR site at the west end is still open. With the wind and rain, anglers were not having any luck for bass or panfish.

Lake Cadillac: Is producing a few walleye, bass and pike.

Manistee: Pier anglers and those surfcasting have caught salmon and steelhead. Most are using spawn.

Manistee River: Is producing steelhead all the way up to Tippy Dam. Chinook can still be found up near the dam however the fish are in bad shape. Cold rain did push some coho up into the river. Anglers are floating fresh spawn, fly fishing with egg patterns or floating a jig and wax worm.

Ludington: No boats have been out. Pier anglers and those surfcasting are catching some steelhead. Fresh spawn worked best.

Pere Marquette River: While the salmon run is winding down, anglers are still catching the occasional coho. Steelhead are moving in on a daily basis. Some nice brown trout were caught.

Pentwater: Pier anglers are catching coho when still-fishing with spawn. Steelhead should also be in but none were caught yet.

UPPER PENINSULA

Anglers are reminded that it is unlawful to take fish for the sole purpose of removing the eggs.

Marquette: Catch rates varied as boat anglers caught mainly coho and lake trout. Those targeting the breakwalls in the Lower Harbor had no success. The lake trout out further in the lake are close to spawning so catch rates should pick up with the onset of colder weather.

Dead River: Had no chinook to report but anglers did catch a few coho.

Carp River: Shore anglers reported fair catch rates for coho near the mouth. The coho run has peaked. Anglers are using spinners or floating spawn bags.

Chocolay River: The coho are spawning so catch rates have slowed. Try spinners, stick baits or spawn bags.

Menominee: Those trolling off the Cedar River in 12 to 30 feet caught a few walleye after dark. Those fishing the Cedar River caught smallmouth bass when casting crank baits. Those targeting trout were casting spinners or floating spawn bags up near the first rapids, but no fish were caught.

Menominee River: Anglers are fishing just below the Hattie Street Dam on both the Michigan and Wisconsin side. Salmon were still being caught but the bite has slowed. Some nice yellow perch have been caught between the mouth and Stephenson Island. Boat and shore anglers are drifting or still-fishing with minnows or crawlers. Walleye and smallmouth bass were caught early or late.

Little Bay De Noc: Has lots of perch anglers. Catch rates ranged from fair to excellent. Most were fishing north of the "Narrows" or between the Kipling Flats and the Day's River with minnows or crawlers in 10 to 24 feet. Catch rates were better in shallower waters. Some caught the incidental northern pike.

Big Bay De Noc: Has plenty of smallmouth bass anglers. They are fishing minnows 15 to 30 feet down out near Snake Island or 14 to 24 feet off Ansell's Point. Some were also looking for perch but very few were caught.

Munising: Boat anglers have decreased as those targeting coho were lucky to get one fish. It appears the late arriving fish will most likely be caught while staging off the Anna River. Pier anglers caught coho and splake. Coho were caught by those casting or floating spawn bags. Splake were caught primarily on spawn. The salmon are running smaller this year. They range 2 to 3 pounds.

Grand Marais: Those trolling for trout and salmon had poor results. Pier fishing was slow. Shore anglers had little success when casting spoons or floating spawn.

St. Mary's River: Anglers fishing the east side of Lime Island caught walleye when trolling crank baits in 12 to 18 feet. In Munuscong Bay, those jigging dark green or brown tube jigs in 4 to 8 feet caught smallmouth bass over the rock piles near Moon Island.

DeTour: Had poor weather and low angler pressure.

Drummond Island: Those able to get out did catch a few perch in 8 to 11 feet in Scotts Bay and in 12 to 14 feet on the south end of Ashman Island or the west side of Rutland Island. Try crank baits off the bottom with spreaders and shiners. A couple walleye were caught on the northwest side of Peck Island by those trolling medium size crank baits in chrome or fire-tiger. Rattle traps also caught fish.

Cedarville and Hessel: The weather has been poor. There are no bass or pike anglers, and the perch are not hitting in the bays.

Carp River: Anglers are targeting steelhead but none were caught.

November 7, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The October 2013 edition of "Reel in Michigan's Fisheries" can now be found on our web site. This new online publication highlights work that the Fisheries Division is doing on the inland lakes and streams. To view this publication click here: [October's edition](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52259-306572--,00.html). http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52259-306572--,00.html

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Boat anglers are trolling husky jerks for walleye off the River Raisin Channel in 12 to 16 feet. Perch anglers were just south of the launch at Bolles Harbor and off Stony Point. Rumor has it a couple walleye were caught by shore anglers off Luna Pier and Sterling State Park.

Huron River: Is starting to produce some steelhead. Most of the fish were caught in the deeper holes. Try a jig and wax worm, Hot-n-Tots or spinners.

Detroit River: Had good walleye action in the lower Trenton Channel and near Sugar Island. Anglers are jigging or hand-lining with bigger rapalas. Mid-day was best. Yellow perch fishing was on and off in the canals near Gibraltar.

Lake St. Clair: Is once again producing smallmouth bass.

St. Clair River: Is still producing some walleye up near Port Huron. Salmon have been caught in Mill Creek which flows into the Black River.

Lexington: Had no boats however a couple pier anglers caught the occasional chinook or brown trout. Those tight lining in the middle of night caught chinook but the fish are really dark.

Port Sanilac: Pier anglers caught the odd salmon and a few brown trout. Steelhead are starting to show up as the fish planted usually come back in November and December. Fishing inside the harbors should be good until freeze-up.

Harbor Beach: No boats were out, just shore and pier anglers. Those fishing all day did manage to catch a couple brown trout in the Edison Channel.

Saginaw Bay: Perch fishing was slow however a few walleye were caught by those wading in the Hot Ponds and casting jigs. A couple boats trolling for walleye in 18 feet of water off Linwood caught some nice fish on rapalas. The occasional limit catch was reported but most boats came back with 5 or 6 fish. Crappie were caught in the marina at Sebewaing. Dredging continues at Caseville.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Pier anglers fishing spawn on the bottom caught steelhead. A few whitefish are now being caught.

St. Joseph River: Steelhead fishing is slow at the Berrien Springs Dam as very few fish are in the ladder. Water temperatures are in the correct range however flows were below normal. Rain is needed to get more fish up into the river.

South Haven: Pier anglers caught a couple steelhead with spawn on the bottom.

Black River: Had low angler pressure even though some have caught steelhead.

Kalamazoo River: Is producing steelhead, walleye and catfish below the Allegan Dam. The occasional brown trout has also been caught.

Holland: A few boats were still heading out for steelhead. Pier anglers have caught a few whitefish and steelhead.

Grand Haven: Pier anglers have caught the occasional steelhead and whitefish on spawn. The water is not quite cold enough yet.

Grand River at Lansing: Salmon were caught but most of the fish are gone except for a few still hanging around in isolated spots.

Muskegon River: Pike fishing has picked up with some nice fish caught in Hardy Pond. Steelhead are in the river. Try fresh spawn or a jig and wax worm.

Whitehall: Pier anglers are catching steelhead when floating spawn.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Boat fishing is pretty much done. The marinas, restrooms and the fish cleaning stations are closed for the season. The docks at the launch ramps are still in and should be for another week or two. Those pier fishing had little to no success. Brown trout were reported in the marina however they would not bite.

Thunder Bay River: Most of the salmon have spawned and are now in the final stages of life. Steelhead fishing is still slow. Anglers are starting to catch a few perch but many are small.

Harrisville: Angler pressure has dropped off which means fewer fish are being caught. Watch for the fall steelhead to start showing up and walleye should start moving in closer to shore.

Oscoda: Pier anglers are picking up a few walleye late at night and just before sunrise. Small spoons and body baits seem to be work best.

Au Sable River: Salmon are still trickling into the river but the numbers are small and the fish are not in very good shape. Steelhead are moving in slowly. Fish were caught on spawn or flies.

Tawas: Fishing was slow because of the weather and the large number of minnows inside the harbor.

Au Gres: A few anglers ventured out for perch but catch rates were generally poor. The water was quite dirty from all the wind and wave action.

Au Gres River: Fishing pressure was very light at the Singing Bridge.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: The dock at the boat launch has been pulled.

Petoskey: Pier anglers are catching steelhead with spawn bags off the Clock Dock, the D Pier and the Bay View breakwall. Most are fishing in the early morning with spawn, spinners or small spoons.

Bear River: Only had a handful of people at the dam trying for the last salmon or one of the steelhead coming in. Those fishing down near the mouth caught steelhead on spawn bags. Water levels were high and fast.

Charlevoix: Windy conditions kept smallmouth anglers in the channel. A couple anglers fishing the slip near Medusa were targeting steelhead and round whitefish. Try a single egg just off the bottom.

Traverse City: Few boats have been out in either bay because of the weather. Those that were able to get out did manage to catch a few smallmouth bass.

Elk River: Fishing has been good for lake trout, steelhead, and the occasional salmon. Try drifting orange or pink spawn bags below the power dam.

Boardman River: Lake trout and steelhead fishing was fair. The majority of fish were caught on spawn bags however wet flies were also productive.

Glen Lake: Was producing some nice yellow perch.

Frankfort: Pier fishing here and Elberta has been very good for steelhead and the occasional coho. Spawn worked best. Some of the steelhead were over 10 pounds. Those surfcasting caught steelhead.

Manistee: Pier anglers and those surfcasting have done well some days but not so good on other days.

Manistee River: Has fair steelhead fishing. The river is low and clear right now so light line and small presentations are a must.

Ludington: Pier anglers and those surfcasting are taking some steelhead in the early morning.

Pere Marquette River: Catch rates are fair for steelhead. Water levels were low and clear which makes trout fishing a bit more difficult.

Pentwater: Pier and channel anglers were unable to fish for several days because of a large mass of weeds.

Pentwater Lake: Boat anglers reported decent steelhead action when trolling flatfish. The best speed was between 1.3 and 1.5 mph otherwise the lines will tangle.

UPPER PENINSULA

Marquette: Lake trout fishing was fair as the fish move in closer to shore. Most are fishing off the Lower Harbor Breakwall. Some have caught a couple lake whitefish or menominee off the black rocks in the Upper Harbor. Coho and steelhead were also taken. Surface water temperatures have dropped to the upper 40's.

Carp River: Anglers are still catching a few coho near the mouth. Try spinners or spawn bags. No steelhead to report.

Chocolay River: Boat and shore anglers are catching a few coho. Most of the fish are dark males but some have caught the occasional silver fish. They are using stick baits, small spoons, spinners and spawn bags. Some caught steelhead or brown.

Menominee: A few walleye were caught at night in 15 to 25 feet of water when trolling north and south of the river. Smallmouth bass were also caught.

Cedar River: Shore anglers were casting spoons or drifting spawn. Salmon were seen but no fish were caught. Boat anglers caught smallmouth bass near the boat launch and under the interstate bridge.

Menominee River: Catch rates were fair to good for perch. Anglers are drifting crawlers or minnows between the mouth and Stephenson Island. Lake trout and salmon anglers wading near the Hattie Street Dam reported slow catch rates when drifting spawn. Some were starting to target walleye off the Cat Walk but none were caught. A recent survey did show steelhead and brown trout moving up into the river.

Little Bay De Noc: Those able to get out were mainly perch fishing. Most were targeting waters 8 and 23 feet deep around Butler Island, Brach's Cabins or the flats. Minnows and crawlers worked best. Northern pike are still being caught.

Big Bay De Noc: Had no walleye reports however smallmouth bass anglers were active in Garden Bay. Fish were caught in 15 to 38 feet off the Bluff. Minnows worked best. Only a few perch were caught.

Munising: Look for late arriving coho in front of the Anna River. Catch rates for pier anglers were very slow for coho, splake and steelhead. Coho were hitting on spawn bags and splake were hitting on a single egg. Salmon were smaller this year and most of the coho were females.

Anna River: Those fishing upstream reported good catch rates for coho and splake.

Grand Marais: Fishing was generally slow for those trolling near the mouth of the Sucker River, pier anglers and shore anglers. A couple steelhead were taken by those drifting spawn or casting.

Big Manistique Lake: Had good walleye and perch fishing.

Two Hearted River: Was still producing the occasional coho.

Tahquamenon River: Had good walleye and musky fishing.

St. Mary's River: Walleye are still good at the Dumping Grounds just south of Kemps Point, and Moon Island. Catches were made by those trolling rattle traps and reef runner crank baits in 8 to 12 feet. Smallmouth bass have been caught by those trolling or jigging tube jigs just off the rock ledges at Birch Point and just north of the Gogomain River in 6 to 8 feet.

Drummond Island: A few perch were caught by those drifting minnows between the south end of James Island and the Drummond Island Sportsmen Club in Maxton Bay.

Cedarville and Hessel: Had good perch fishing in Musky Bay.

Carp River: Is producing coho and pink salmon. Those targeting steelhead were having a good time. One lucky angler harvested one weighing 10 pounds.

St. Ignace: Salmon were hanging out near the city launch but the fish are deteriorating quickly.

November 7, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Cooler temperatures and rain should push steelhead up into the rivers. Those fishing the inland lakes are finding pike, walleye, bluegills and bass. Catch rates increase during the month of November because fish go on a feeding frenzy before winter comes.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Perch have been caught off Stony Point, the Fermi Plant and Rat Island, which is the smallest island off the mouth of the Huron River.

Huron River: Is producing some steelhead in the lower river.

Detroit River: Continues to produce a fair number of walleye in the lower Trenton Channel. Perch have been caught on minnows and crawlers around Sugar Island.

Lake St. Clair: Boat anglers are catching muskie when they can get out on the lake. Perch anglers were targeting the waters near the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

Port Sanilac: Pier anglers caught a few brown trout and steelhead when casting spoons and spinners in the harbor.

Saginaw Bay: Trolling for large walleye off the mouth of the Saginaw River could be productive when the weather allows. For those looking for perch, start hitting the river mouths around the opener of deer season and keep at it until ice forms. The better fishing is usually between dawn and 11 AM.

Kawkawlin River: Anglers are just starting to target perch. Some were fishing off the bridge on State Park Drive.

Saginaw River: Had anglers fishing for perch or walleye near Veterans Park.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Pier anglers are catching some steelhead and a few whitefish.

St. Joseph River: Steelhead fishing should be good by the end of the week as rain will help bring water levels up.

Kalamazoo River: Has a fair to good number of steelhead all the way up to the Allegan Dam. Those casting spinners or flatfish have done well.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is producing a few walleye for those fishing off the wall and off the bridges. Steelhead are in the river and hitting on spawn, Hot-n-Tots or a jig and wax worm. Boat anglers were back bouncing with spawn.

Looking Glass River: Those using minnows or small bluegills caught the occasional pike off Babcock's Landing.

Muskegon River: Water levels were up and steelhead are being caught. Try spawn, flies or flatfish.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Still has some fish to catch. Anglers are reporting chinook between 3 and 5 pounds and also some lake trout that must be released immediately. Fish were caught off the point south of the port in 85 to 100 feet. Anglers will also want to try north off the State Park when the weather permits. The key is to find the baitfish.

Thunder Bay River: Should have more steelhead moving into the river by the weekend.

Harrisville: Salmon were caught by those floating spawn or casting body baits. Look for steelhead to start making their way into the harbor. Try spawn, small spoons or body baits.

Oscoda: Pier anglers have caught steelhead. Walleye were caught late at night.

Au Sable River: As the salmon wind down, steelhead are hanging out around the mouth and making their way up into the river. Anglers have caught fish from the pier all the way up to the dam. Those scouting the holes can them flashing on the beds. Spawn, flies and small spinners are producing fish. There have been reports of walleye being caught late at night between the pier and the bridge. Small glow spoons or body baits worked best.

Au Gres River: Watch for steelhead to be moving up into the river. Those fishing the East Branch will want to try casting near the Singing Bridge.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Bear River: Should have more steelhead moving up towards the dam. Try spawn, yarn, crawlers or a jig and wax worm.

Elk River: Is producing the occasional coho and some steelhead. Anglers are floating spawn or casting spoons and spinners.

Boardman River: Is producing steelhead between the mouth and Sabin Dam. Recent rain helped to bring more fish into the river system.

Frankfort: The steelhead action has been very good. Boat anglers are trolling the shoreline with orange spoons and pier anglers are using spawn.

Betsie River: Is producing a good number of steelhead.

Manistee: Pier anglers and those surfcasting are taking steelhead when the winds allow. Most are floating spawn or casting small spoons and spinners.

Manistee River: Rain helped to bring the water levels back up. Anglers will find a good number of steelhead in the river. Some are drifting spawn while others are casting small spoons or flies.

Ludington: Pier anglers and those surfcasting are catching steelhead.

Pere Marquette River: Rain has brought some fresh steelhead into the river.

UPPER PENINSULA

Fall's River: Is producing some steelhead. Try drifting crawlers and spawn or casting small spoons and spinners.

Cedar River: Is producing smallmouth bass for those fishing in the deep hole under the Interstate Bridge. Casting crank baits and drifting crawlers were the ticket. Those trying for trout and salmon near the first rapids had little success.

Menominee River: Those trying for trout and salmon near the rocks on the Michigan side said the bite was slow. Walleye have finally made it up into the river. Anglers were casting rapalas off the Cat Walk. Yellow perch fishing was good for shore anglers behind the City Campground and near the Mystery Ship boat launch.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye fishing picked up especially for those fishing at night. Most are trolling stick baits in 10 to 23 feet along the reefs near Kipling. Daytime anglers fished the reefs in the early morning then moved out to deeper waters while trolling stick baits or crawler harnesses in 19 to 30 feet. Perch fishing was fair for those using minnows or crawlers in 10 to 25 feet around Butler Island. The Escanaba Yacht Harbor opened up again but watch for more dredging in the future.

November 21, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

It is that time of year when fishing reports are harder to come by as most anglers turn their attention to deer hunting. Those heading out for the opening day of gun season are reminded to take along a fishing pole! There is no better time of year to enjoy the opportunities of "blast and cast". Hunt during the day then target steelhead and whitefish in the evening. Already got your deer, remember late fall and early winter can offer some prime fishing on the inland lakes. You will find big perch, bluegill and crappie as well as walleye, bass and pike.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Strong winds and gale warnings have limited the opportunities for boat anglers. Pier anglers caught a few walleye when using minnows or bombers off Luna Pier. Perch were caught by boat anglers.

Huron River: Those steelhead fishing had limited success. Quite a few gizzard shad were reported up near Huroc Park.

Detroit River: Anglers are still picking up a few walleye in the Trenton Channel. They are hand-lining or jigging. No report this week however those fishing off Horse Island last week caught a few perch.

Lake St. Clair: Windy conditions have made fishing a challenge however muskie anglers are still heading out and have caught some big fish.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing has been very good if anglers can get out. The number of days with decent weather has been limited. Steelhead were caught by those fishing off the wall at Port Huron.

Saginaw River: Usually offers some good walleye fishing this time of year. Fish move up as far as the Tittabawassee River and beyond. Try jigs with minnows and wax worms. Boat anglers will want to try bouncing spawn off the bottom.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Pier anglers are catching steelhead and a few whitefish when the weather permits.

St. Joseph River: Flows are about normal for this time of year. Water temperatures have declined rapidly with the onset of cold weather. At Niles, the water temperature was 43 degrees. The cold weather has slowed the upstream movement of steelhead however anglers are catching some nice walleye.

Kalamazoo River: Steelhead action has slowed. Anglers will want to target the deeper holes during the cold spells.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has good steelhead fishing. Anglers are floating a jig and wax worm, bouncing spawn on the bottom, floating white flies or casting chartreuse and hot pink spinners. Walleye have been caught by those casting floating rapalas or trolling. Some caught walleye on twister tails. White and chartreuse were good colors.

Grand River at Lansing: No report on steelhead yet. Walleye were caught over by the Moore's Park Dam. Those fishing below the dams might hook a large catfish or pike.

Muskegon River: Is producing steelhead all the way up to Newaygo and Croton Dam. With the cold weather, check the deeper holes.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Thunder Bay River: The opening day of deer season marks what is usually the best week of whitefish action for both pier or river anglers and the whitefish are in. Target the lower river below the 9th Street Dam with ice jigs or other small tackle and wax worms. Anglers can hunt during the day and target whitefish in the evening.

Otsego Lake: Shore anglers caught a few walleye.

Oscoda: Pier anglers have caught the most steelhead. Walleye have also been caught late at night or early in the morning. Try spoons or body baits.

Au Sable River: Steelhead are moving in and out between the pier and Foote Dam. Fish are being caught all hours of the day or night. The fish are healthy and putting up a good fight. Spawn has been the most productive, but small spoons, body baits and plugs are also taking fish. The better fishing was off the pier but those moving up into the river should start to see more fish holding in the deeper holes.

Tawas: Starting with the deer opener on Friday, anglers should be able to find some good catches of whitefish. Pier anglers will want to try ice jigs with a wax worm. A good number of walleye anglers were reported.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Boardman River: Is producing steelhead between the mouth and Sabin Dam.

Betsie River: Those braving the cold have caught a good number of steelhead.

Manistee: Those steelhead fishing off the piers or while surfcasting have done well depending on the day.

Manistee River: It's all about steelhead fishing right now. Catch rates were very good on both the Big and the Little Manistee River.

Ludington: Pier anglers and those surfcasting are catching steelhead. Try floating spawn or casting small spoons and spinners.

Pere Marquette River: Has fresh fish and good catch rates for steelhead.

UPPER PENINSULA

Menominee River: With one gate open at the Hattie Street Dam, anglers were catching walleye and whitefish when using jigs with crawlers or minnows in the current. There are plenty of whitefish in the river. Those night fishing off the Cat Walk caught walleye on large rapalas and thundersticks fished in the current.

Little Bay De Noc: Water temperatures are averaging the mid to low 40's. Most anglers are fishing north of the "Narrows", the Kipling Flats or the Second and Third Reefs. The better walleye fishing was at night. Anglers are trolling stick baits in waters 8 to 23 feet deep. Some are still getting a few perch along the north end of Butler Island. Try still-fishing with minnows in 10 to 20 feet.

Manistique River: Does not have much in the way of salmon however steelhead are in the river.

November 21, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The report is limited this week due in part to deer hunting and bad weather. Those heading out to fish the rivers and streams need to use caution and watch for unstable trees along the banks and floating debris.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Strong winds have muddied up the water. The only report this week is some panfish caught in the Metro Park Marina.

Huron River: Water levels are up and steelhead are in the river. Catch rates should pick up by the end of the week.

Detroit River: Water levels are coming up but the water is muddy after all the rain and strong winds. Very few anglers have been able to get out. A few perch have been around the islands by those using minnows and wax worms.

Lake St. Clair: Strong winds have the lake stirred up and muddy. These conditions continue to make fishing a challenge.

Saginaw River: Walleye fishing slowed with the warmer weather but catch rates should pick up by the weekend. Water flow is up after all rain. Be sure to watch for floating debris.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Had good steelhead fishing for pier and shore anglers when the weather permits.

St. Joseph River: Water levels are coming up but anglers will have to watch for a lot of debris after the storm. Steelhead fishing has been good and walleye are still being caught.

South Haven: Is producing whitefish for those fishing at night. Good steelhead action for both pier anglers and those surfcasting.

Kalamazoo River: Has good steelhead fishing but anglers will need to navigate carefully and watch for floating debris.

Saugatuck: Is also producing steelhead for pier and shore anglers.

Grand Haven: Pier anglers and those surfcasting are catching steelhead. Whitefish are also being caught at night.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Water levels are coming up and steelhead fishing continues to be good. Anglers will need to watch for debris coming down the river.

Grand River near Lansing: Anglers are catching steelhead in Prairie Creek near Ionia and near Lyons. Try spawn, wax worm or crawlers. No word yet on steelhead in Lansing.

Muskegon: Pier anglers are catching whitefish at night when floating a single egg.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

This is the best time of year for whitefish action especially for Alpena, Oscoda and Tawas. The number of fish may be down from previous years but anglers should still find some good fishing right now.

Thunder Bay River: Is producing whitefish. Try floating a single egg or wax worm. Good catches of small perch were reported in the river and the Alpena Boat Harbor.

Oscoda: Walleye are still being caught off the pier. Best time to fish is between late evening and early morning with small spoons or body baits. No word on whitefish.

Au Sable River: The water is high and fast. Anglers need to use caution when wading or fishing off the banks. Strong winds have weakened trees along the river. Watch for broken branches or trees that could come down at any time. Steelhead fishing seems to be getting better and better. A good number of fish have been caught near the mouth however more fish are moving up into the river and were caught up near Foote Dam. Spawn, wax worms, spoons and body baits have produced fish.

Au Gres River: Has steelhead in the East Branch.

Rifle River: Also has a number of steelhead up into the river.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Boardman River: Had good steelhead fishing all the way up to Sabin Dam. Try flies, spoons, spawn or crawlers.

Betsie River: Continues to produce a good number of steelhead.

Manistee: Pier and surf anglers continue to catch steelhead when the weather permits.

Manistee River: Has a good number of steelhead. The water is high and dark but as it comes down fishing will be good. Anglers will need to watch for debris coming down the river.

Pere Marquette River: Catch rates may slow a bit but will resume as water levels come down.

UPPER PENINSULA

Little Bay De Noc: Few anglers have been out but those targeting walleye at night have caught fish from the reefs near Kipling. They are trolling stick baits in 10 to 24 feet of water at night or crawler harnesses with crawlers during the day in 18 to 30 feet. A few perch were caught on minnows in 10 to 20 feet around Butler Island. Water temperatures were holding in the low 40's.

November 28, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Please note: The Fisheries Division Lansing office has moved and our phone number has changed. The new number is 517-284-5830. We are now located in Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan St. Lansing Michigan 48933.

River anglers are out however others are getting their ice fishing gear ready to go as they wait for the transition from open water to ice fishing. Some of the lakes are starting to get skim ice however there is no safe ice yet.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Bluegills are being caught in the Metro Park Marina. For perch, try near Fermi and Stony Point.

Huron River: Continues to produce steelhead.

Detroit River: Walleye are being caught in the lower Trenton Channel. Try hand-lining with rapalas or long-lining with husky jerks. Perch anglers are targeting Rat Island, Sugar Island and Stony Point.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Had good steelhead fishing for pier and shore anglers. Whitefish are in around the piers. Try a single egg just off the bottom.

St. Joseph River: Is still producing steelhead. With the colder weather, try smaller presentations and light line. The fish ladders are now closed as movement declines significantly when the water temperature drops below 45 degrees.

South Haven: Is producing whitefish for those fishing at night. Good steelhead action for both pier anglers and those surfcasting.

Kalamazoo River: Has good steelhead fishing with fresh fish in the system.

Grand Haven: Pier anglers and those surfcasting are catching steelhead. Whitefish are in and around the piers. Better fishing is usually at night or early morning.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Most of the ladders along the Grand are now closed however the ladder at Sixth Street is always open. Steelhead are still being caught including some bright silver fish. Anglers will want to use smaller lures and light line especially in the colder weather.

Grand River near Lansing: The fish ladders at Portland, Grand Ledge, Lyons and the Webber Dam are now closed. They will re-open in March or when water temperatures are above 39 degrees in the spring. Lansing remains open all year.

Muskegon: Pier anglers are catching whitefish.

Muskegon River: Has good steelhead fishing with lots of fresh fish. Some are floating spawn while others are fly fishing.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Thunder Bay River: Anglers are catching some perch in the river and boat harbor. No word on whitefish this week but anglers should still find some.

Oscoda: Steelhead have been caught by pier anglers floating spawn or using small spoons and body baits. The occasional walleye was caught near the mouth however it is hard to get a read on the volume of walleye that might be present because few anglers are targeting them.

Au Sable River: Has a good number of steelhead moving in. Fish have been caught all the way up to the Whirlpool and Foote Dam. There are plenty of fish and they are good size. Boat and shore anglers are taking fish. Shore anglers are drifting or floating spawn up toward the dam.

Tawas: Those fishing off the state dock were still taking the occasional whitefish and some perch. Try teardrops with wax worms or minnows.

Au Gres River: Has steelhead. Those surfcasting near the Singing Bridge are taking a few fish on spawn or small spoons.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Not much to report this week as winter has hit full force. The inland lakes are starting to ice up however there is no safe ice yet.

Boardman River: Steelhead are still around for those seeking trout.

Betsie River: Has good steelhead fishing. Anglers are using trout beads and a single egg. The best fishing was between the Homestead Dam and US-31.

Manistee: Pier and surf anglers are taking steelhead. Some are casting small spoons and spinners while others are floating spawn.

Manistee River: Water levels were dropping and clarity was improving. Steelhead are being caught in both the Big Manistee and the Little Manistee.

Pere Marquette River: Still has a good number of steelhead and some brown trout.

UPPER PENINSULA

Little Bay De Noc: This will be the final report for 2013. Very cold temperatures have started the ice making process. Anglers are waiting and if the cold weather persists, ice fishing will not be too far off.

December 12, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

A good number of lakes in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula have ice. There may be ice in southern Michigan however most of it was not safe yet. Those starting to head out are reminded that first ice can be dangerous so be careful. Snowfall will insulate the ice and slow the freezing process.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Bluegills were caught in the Metro Park Marin but thin ice has stopped anglers from fishing.

Huron River: Is one of the better options right now as steelhead are still being caught.

Detroit River: Not much to report this week. A few boat anglers were out but cold temperatures have kept most at home.

Lake St. Clair: Cold temperatures are making ice but not a lot of safe ice yet. Some are ice fishing in the canals and marinas. They are catching bluegills, sunfish and a few perch but muddy water conditions are limiting success. A few perch were caught near Fair Haven.

Saginaw Bay: Has some ice fishing opportunities. Anglers are going out from Whites Beach and Palmer Road but catch rates were slow.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Ice is forming but there is no safe ice yet. The far west counties have about 6 to 8 inches of snow. This will make ice conditions hazardous. A few have already fallen through the ice which should be a warning to those anxious to head out.

St. Joseph River: Is producing steelhead below the Berrien Springs Dam. Try fishing the deeper holes with wigglers, flat fish or spawn.

Kalamazoo River: Steelhead fishing did slow but fish were still being caught on spawn and plugs below the Allegan Dam. Anglers reported good walleye fishing below the dam. Try crawlers or Hot-n-Tots.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Steelhead are in the river and will be wintering in the deeper holes during the cold weather. Try small white jigs with a couple wax worms or pink and chartreuse spawn bags. Walleye are hitting on husky jerks and bucktail jigs. Some are bouncing a jighead with a minnow on the bottom.

Grand River near Lansing: It sounds like steelhead are in and around the area. Anglers reported seeing a number of fish in the river and one large fish was taken near Lansing.

Muskegon River: Contains a good number of steelhead. The fish are good size and in good shape. Anglers are casting flies or floating spawn. Steelhead fishing should be good throughout the winter.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Ice conditions are slowly improving especially on the smaller lakes. Those starting to fish have caught a fair number of walleye, pike and panfish. Be sure to check the ice before venturing out as ice thickness will vary.

Au Sable River: Steelhead are still moving into the river in good numbers. Catch rates were good between the mouth and Foote Dam. Spawn, body baits, and wax worms seem to be the most popular. Fish the deeper holes along the river bends. This fishery seems to be getting better and better, so look for an increase in fish numbers throughout the winter. As water flow goes up and down, new snags are emerging throughout the river.

Higgins Lake: Ice is trying to form but windy conditions keep blowing the ice out.

Houghton Lake: Is making ice however there are no shanties on the lake yet. Anglers are starting to fish off the north end of the East Bay.

Lake Margrethe: Has ice and rumors of anglers out fishing.

Rifle River: Is iced over but no safe ice yet.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Charlevoix: A few people are fishing on smaller lakes in the area.

Manistee Lake: Near Kalkaska has ice and anglers are starting to fish.

Lake Cadillac: Has ice but no reports on fishing.

Lake Mitchell: Has ice. A few walleye were caught off the State Park access site.

Lake Missaukee: Ice fishing has started but no word on ice thickness or catch rates.

Manistee River: Artic conditions have pretty much shut down the steelhead fishing. The fish are still there for those brave enough to try.

Pere Marquette River: Still has a good number of steelhead including lots of fresh fish for the taking. Cold weather has slowed angler participation but good fishing should continue through the winter. Most anglers are swinging flies or floating spawn.

UPPER PENINSULA

Little Bay De Noc: Ice is forming along the head of the bay. Some are out fishing however anglers need to use caution as ice thickness will vary.

Manistique Lake: Ice fishing has begun and a few walleye were caught.

Munuscong Bay: Is producing some walleye.

December 19, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

This will be the final report for 2013. There will be no updates for the next two weeks due to the holidays. Anglers are reminded that large and smallmouth bass season closes on all waters of the state on December 31st. If the weather holds, anglers should be ice fishing through the holiday season.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Those fishing in the Metro Park Marina were catching bluegills when using small teardrops with spikes or wax worms. Anglers might want to check out the Banana Dike.

Huron River: Has some shelf ice. The river is fishable but use caution. Steelhead are still being caught. Try Hot-n-Tots or a black jig with a wax worm.

Detroit River: As of this report, anglers were fishing Airport Bay which is along the south end of Grosse Isle. Though catch rates were slow, anglers were starting to catch a few perch. Try small spoons or teardrops with minnows.

Oakland County: Has ice fishing with anglers reported on Green, Oxbow, Cass, Cooley and Long Lake. A few crappie were taken on wax worms.

Lake St. Clair: Has ice but heavy snow is not helping with the freezing process. There are numerous bad spots with thin ice and slush so ice thickness is not uniform by any means. About the only reports coming in were a few perch caught at Fair Haven.

Saginaw Bay: Ice is forming out in the bay and it seems the fish are scattered as those going out had not caught any fish.

Saginaw River: The Coast Guard is bringing an ice breaker up into the river to make way for a barge. Anglers should stay off the ice along the upper river and also in bay near the mouth until it freezes back up.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

There is some ice fishing on the small lakes, mostly in the bays, small channels or along the shoreline. Ice thickness is not uniform so anglers need to use extreme caution.

St. Joseph River: Continues to produce steelhead below Berrien Springs.

Kalamazoo River: Steelhead action was fair below the Allegan Dam. Try spoons, plugs or spawn. A few walleye have also been caught.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Continues to produce steelhead and walleye. For steelhead, try white jigs with wax worms or bright colored spawn bags. For walleye try Hot-n-Tots, husky jerks, bucktail jigs or minnows under a bobber.

Muskegon River: Continues to produce some nice steelhead. There is some shelf ice along the banks and access can be tricky as the launch sites are snow covered and slippery.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Grand Lake: Should have good ice but use caution.

Long Lake: Should have good ice but use caution.

Fletchers Pond: Has fair to good ice and providing some good opportunities for anglers. Those using spikes and minnows have caught bluegill and perch. A few pike were taken on tip-ups.

Hubbard Lake: Takes longer to freeze because it is much deeper. Anglers should wait a bit longer before they start to venture out.

Au Sable River: Has a good number of steelhead. As of this report, the ramps at Rea and Whirlpool were usable but those launching are encouraged to have 4-wheel drive and some rock salt or gravel just in case. The river near Oscoda is forming ice, so floating may be limited to the upper river below Foote Dam.

Higgins Lake: Had some ice out to the drop-off but there is snow on the ice so anglers should stay off. The ice is not ready yet.

Houghton Lake: Ice continues to build thanks to arctic temperatures in the region. The lake is snow covered so anglers need to use caution and watch for pressure cracks. Some are starting to take ice shanties out. Most are catching pike and a few walleye however bluegills should also be available.

Lake Margrethe: Has ice and anglers are fishing for panfish.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Cadillac: Ice fishing is on for the west side of the lake however the east side takes longer to freeze. Anglers need to use caution and check the ice carefully. Panfish action has been slow to get started. Those using tip-ups are getting some pike. Those jigging small spoons or rapalas are taking some walleye. Those targeting crappie have done well with wax worms or spikes.

Lake Mitchell: Those ice fishing are taking a good number of panfish. Slush is forming under the snow so anglers need to be careful. Fish have been caught in the coves and off the State Park.

Lake Missaukee: Has ice and some good action for panfish.

Manistee River: Those braving the cold have caught some nice steelhead below Tippy Dam. The lower part of the river near M-55 is iced over so anglers will have to fish further upstream.

Pere Marquette River: Fishing was a bit slower but anglers are still taking some nice steelhead and a few brown trout. Some are bottom bouncing flies or spawn while others are swinging flies.

UPPER PENINSULA

Ice anglers are fishing the inland lakes for bluegill, crappie, perch, walleye and pike.

Munising: The bay has ice and some are taking their shanties out. Anglers are reminded to use extreme caution.