

April 3, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

1-855-777-0908

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Shoreline ice is melting in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula however there is still plenty of ice to the north. Warmer temperatures and higher flow in the rivers is producing some good spring steelhead action.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Is no longer safe including Bolles Harbor and near Sterling State Park. Anglers are now waiting for all the floating ice to clear.

**Huron River:** Most of the ice has cleared and a small number of boats were fishing for steelhead.

**Detroit River:** Walleye anglers are launching in the lower river but anglers need to watch for ice flow coming down. Conditions can change quickly depending on wind speed and direction. Small boats can easily become stuck in ice flows.

**Lake St. Clair:** Has more open water day by day. The ramps at the Harley Ensign site are ice-free and boats could launch but none have. There is still a lot of ice on the lake but the shoreline ice is getting soft. Some are still fishing but caution needs to be used in areas where there is a current. Perch were biting but many were small.

**Clinton River:** Anglers reported steelhead at Yates Park but catch rates were slow.

**Saginaw Bay:** Ice fishing was still going strong but ice near the shoreline was getting bad. It is not a good idea to be drive or park on the ice. Spring run-off was starting to stain the water. The days of ice fishing are numbered but walleye are now moving closer. Those heading off White's Beach for walleye need to be careful near the pressure crack. Some perch were caught off the end of Newman Road and Townline Road. At Linwood, walleye were in 15 feet of water but the shoreline ice is getting bad. Walleye were caught in 3 to 9 feet off the Bay City State Park. Those venturing out from Sunset Bay Marina caught a few walleye from the Slot in 13 feet. Sebewaing was slow due to muddy water. No activity at Caseville.

**Saginaw River:** Had no reports but suckers should be available in the tributaries including the Shiawassee, Cass and Flint rivers. Be sure to consult the Fishing Guide for gear restrictions on these rivers during the period when walleye, pike and muskie season is closed.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Lake edges in the southern counties have open water.

**St. Joseph River:** Large numbers of steelhead are moving through the fish ladder at Berrien Springs. Water levels are high but still below flood stage. Water temperatures have risen 5 degrees since March 30<sup>th</sup> and were at 43 degrees.

**Branch County:** Anglers caught limits of bluegill and crappie on Union Lake. Most were fishing the cove in front of Hanks Landing. Anglers will take a canoe out to get on the ice because the fishing can be good this time of year.

**Kalamazoo River:** Steelhead are being caught below the Allegan Dam.

**Grand River in Grand Rapids:** Is producing some nice steelhead. Water levels were up due to rain and melting snow.

**Grand River in Lansing:** Fishing activity was steady. Anglers are catching steelhead as more fish move up into the Lansing area.

**Muskegon River:** Has good steelhead fishing in the lower river. Most are fishing below Newaygo with flies or spawn.

**White River:** Has a flood advisory in place as water levels were at bankfull.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Cheboygan River:** Anglers are beginning to catch the occasional steelhead.

**Alpena:** The boat ramps are frozen in so it is going to be a while before boats can get out. The only fishing in the area would be for panfish through the ice on the impoundments.

**Thunder Bay River:** Is still frozen below the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Dam however the ice is not safe for ice fishing.

**Fletchers Pond:** Was producing bluegill and sunfish. Some caught the occasional perch and crappie.

**Au Sable River:** Is finally open from the Dam to the mouth. The Rea Road access and the Whirlpool are open for launching. A 4-wheel drive is still needed but a few more days of warmer weather will make it easier to launch. Steelhead have been caught in the deep holes along the bends. Spawn, wax worms, spinner baits and small spoons have been working well. Keep an eye on the flow as it continues to pick up with rain and melt off. Anglers should avoid the ice shelves as they are not stable. The parking lot at the mouth is open but the skid piers are not in.

**Tawas:** Ice anglers inside the state harbor are catching small perch. Off Jerry's Marina, a few walleye were caught near Buoy #4 and off the mouth of the river during the evening hours.

**Tawas River:** Is open. Steelhead and suckers have been caught in the lower river.

**Rifle River:** Sucker dippers are setting up near Omer, but they may have a hard time until the ice flows move downstream. Suckers are in the river and are hitting on crawlers. Just find some open water.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

The inland lakes still have good ice but few are fishing. Be sure to use caution in areas that have even a small current. Steelhead fishing has really picked up with the rain and warmer temperatures.

**Torch Lake:** Is producing Atlantic salmon, whitefish and burbot.

**Platte River:** Is producing steelhead and brown trout in the upper section. Spawn and flies work best.

**Frankfort:** There is no boat access and both of the breakwalls are unfishable due to extensive ice.

**Lake Cadillac:** Those still ice fishing have caught some nice crappie and bluegills. Try minnows, wigglers and wax worms.

**Lake Mitchell:** Still has ice and was producing crappie and bluegills.

**Manistee River:** Steelhead fishing is going strong and some large fish have been caught. Anglers are using jigs with spawn, wax worms, wigglers or flies.

**Ludington:** It is going to be while before boats will be able to launch. The entire basin is still frozen solid.

**Pere Marquette River:** Steelhead fishing is going strong.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** Warmer temperatures and rain have turned the slush into standing water. Snow by the end of the week will once again cause difficult travel. Lake trout and whitefish action was slow. A couple chinook salmon were caught on tip-ups with minnows near the Falls River. Those jigging spoons also caught fish. Smelt fishing was spotty.

**Menominee River:** Anglers were targeting walleye or trout in open water on the Michigan side near the Hattie Street Dam and off Stephenson Island. Most are drifting yarn and spawn, casting rapalas or fly fishing. Catch rates were slow.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Warmer temperatures produced some nice perch for those fishing at Kipling and south to the "Narrows". Try jigging minnows or wigglers and #3 rapalas in 38 to 41 feet. Several nice jumbo perch were also caught. A lot of smaller fish were seen in shallow water but few were caught. Several whitefish were caught on minnows in 30 to 40 feet around the "Narrows".

**Munising:** Those fishing the bay reported catch rates as fair to poor. Because of rain, there was deep slush on top of the ice which made travel difficult. The ice was 20 to 40 inches thick in most areas. Most are targeting coho as they make their way into the bay. Some are still looking for splake, whitefish or smelt. A few salmon were caught between Sand Point and the Anna River. Anglers used jigging spoons 20 to 30 feet down. The best chance for a legal size splake has been off Sand Point or in front of the Anna River when using minnows. Smelt are in the bay however catch rates were poor. Fishing activity in Trout Bay was slow.

**Munuscong:** Nothing has changed. A few perch were caught near Grassy Island and west of Dan's Resort.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Perch fishing was slow and will be until spring gets here.

April 10, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Ice fishing in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula is pretty much done. As the ice melts, residents are finding large numbers of dead fish which is the result of "Winterkill", the most common type of fish kill especially in shallow lakes, streams and ponds. Michigan's harsh winter with thick ice and deep snow cover are the culprit. This type of fish kill typically does not affect the overall health of the fish populations or fishing quality.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Detroit River:** Still has ice flow coming down. Depending on wind direction, there can be open water or heavy flow ice. Anglers were walleye fishing on the days with a west wind because it will blow most of the drifting ice over to the Ontario side. Some walleye were caught in the Trenton Channel.

**Lake St. Clair:** Some of the boat ramps are ice free but the skid piers are not in. Anglers will have to launch and retrieve their boats without a dock.

**St. Clair River:** Has flow ice. Depending on the wind, there can be open water or heavy flow ice. Shore anglers have picked up a few brown trout, steelhead, and salmon near the Blue Water Bridge.

**Lexington:** The ice has broken up around the edges making ice fishing treacherous. The mouth of the harbor is now open.

**Harbor Beach:** Had an open channel by the north cut in the breakwall. Pier anglers casting hardware and plugs did catch a couple lake trout, steelhead, walleye or brown trout.

**Saginaw Bay:** Ice along the edge is gone to the point that anglers will need waders to get out. Keep in mind, if the wind shifts, you might not be able to get back. It would be best to put away the ice fishing gear and stay off the ice! A few guys with air-boats are still fishing but most are getting ready for spring.

Shore anglers are starting to fish for perch at the Quanicassee River, the Garner Road Drain, and off Kirk Road. Most caught small fish as the perch really have not come in yet. The Thomas Cut is just opening up. At Sebewaing, the river was fishable but nothing was caught. It appears the fish runs will peak about two weeks later than usual this year because of the harsh winter. We could see an unusually good walleye opener on the rivers because fewer fish will have left by the time the season opens on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph River:** Based on the current water temperature and the weather forecast, this should be a big week for steelhead movement. Flows are still well above average for this time of year. Anglers have caught coho and steelhead.

**Kalamazoo River:** Has good steelhead fishing at the Allegan Dam.

**Grand Haven:** Still has ice on the piers so use caution. There has been lake ice out to the lighthouse on the north and south side pier, so fishing has been difficult. Catch rates were slow but a couple brown trout were caught. Pier anglers are using spawn and boats trolling the channel were using planer boards.

**Grand River in Grand Rapids:** Water levels and flow were up. Boat anglers were using 80 to 100 pound anchors to keep stationary. It might even be a good idea to have a back-up anchor. Boat anglers are bottom bouncing yarn, flies and beads with a 4 to 6 foot leader. Some are floating a quarter size spawn bag. Hot colors were pink, chartreuse or white. Shore anglers fishing the east side near the dam are using pink and chartreuse yarn or wobble glows.

**Grand River in Lansing:** All the ladders are open. Water levels are too high to safely remove the boards however the fish can jump them. Some reported seeing steelhead in Grand Ledge.

**Muskegon:** Both the north and the south pier have ice on them, so use caution. The stub pier on the channel is ice free. Anglers are fishing from the south pier, the stub pier or from shore. They have caught steelhead and brown trout when using spawn.

**Muskegon Lake:** Still had ice so no boats were launching.

**Muskegon River:** Has good steelhead fishing below Newaygo.

**Whitehall:** Pier anglers caught coho, brown trout and steelhead when using spawn but the bite was slow. Ice flows coming off the lake still block the channel at times.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Harrisville:** The harbor was still iced in but with the warm weather and high winds it should open up soon.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead are making their way up into the river. Fish have been caught but most seem to have been in the river a while. Anglers are using spawn, wax worms, small spoons and body baits. Warmer weather has anglers out in good numbers but catch rates were down as the river was high and the flow was fast. Ice flows were still coming down and the water was cloudy. The launches are clearing out. Rea Road and Whirl Pool had plenty of parking.

**Higgins Lake:** Is still ice covered however no one is fishing.

**Houghton Lake:** Still has ice but those heading out need to use caution as the pressure cracks are starting to open up and ice along the shoreline is starting to go. A few diehards are still going out for bluegill, crappie and perch.

**Tawas:** Shore fishing has started off the mouth of the Tawas River where a light number of steelhead have been caught.

**Au Gres:** Surf anglers clamoring about on the icebergs have caught a couple steelhead and the odd brown trout off the mouth of Whitney Drain.

**Rifle River:** The sucker runs are just barely getting started. There is still a fair amount of floating ice still coming down the river.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Platte Bay:** Is open with a south wind but closed with ice flow during a north or west wind. The surf at the mouth of the river remains open.

**Platte River:** Anglers are finding dark fall run fish near the Post Office.

**Frankfort:** Lake Michigan including the bay is iced in so there is no access for fishing. There is open water in the channel near the Coast Guard Station.

**Betsie River:** Anglers are fishing at the Homestead Dam. A few fish were caught on spawn in the early morning.

**Onekama:** Had no open water and no fishing activity.

**Portage Lake:** Still has plenty of ice for fishing even though there is some open water near the shoreline. A few perch were caught on minnows and wigglers in the shallows or a bit deeper along the weed beds.

**Lake Cadillac:** Ice fishing is still possible as of right now but warm temperatures this week could render the ice unsafe by the weekend.

**Manistee:** Pier anglers caught a few brown trout on spawn. Boats were not able to access the big lake because of excessive ice in the harbor.

**Manistee River:** Continues to offer good steelhead fishing below Tippy Dam. Anglers are bottom bouncing or floating eggs or fly fishing.

**Ludington:** A few anglers were finally able to access the piers but no fish were caught. The ice has started to clear up in the harbor and one boat was attempting to head out.

**Pere Marquette River:** Is producing some nice steelhead.

**Pentwater:** Still has ice built up around the piers and there was an ice jam at the mouth of the channel. Ice flows have filled the channel quite frequently. Anglers caught a fair number of steelhead and brown trout.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** A few lake trout were caught off Pequaming and Whirl-I-Gig Road in waters 240 to 310 feet deep. Some caught smelt between Baraga and Bucks Marina. Try teardrops with wax worms at night. A mix of splake, whitefish, herring, salmon, steelhead and brown trout were caught near the Fall's River. Early morning was best when using Swedish pimples or a small jig with spawn or wax worms.

**Fall's River:** Is producing a small number of rainbow trout.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Warmer weather is melting the snow from last week's storm. The bay remains completely iced over and is 40 inches plus in some areas. Jumbo perch were still being caught near Kipling. Try minnows or wigglers in 18 to 45 feet. The Escanaba River is open to the first dam.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Appears to have bad travel conditions. The snow is melting pretty fast so this week could see better access for anglers. Some were heading out and fishing Kate's Bay. Fairport had no activity. The area is mostly frozen however there is some open water.

**Munising:** Ice fishing continues however anglers may find themselves breaking through the top crust of ice and slush. An area around Sand Point is beginning to show a few small pressure cracks and there are water pockets near the beach. A few coho were caught between Sand Point and the Anna River but catch rates were slow. Anglers were jigging spoons 20 to 30 feet down. Those targeting splake not only caught more fish but also caught bigger fish. Try minnows off Sand Point or just off the Anna River. For whitefish, try bouncing eggs off the bottom.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Some pretty nice perch are coming from Musky Bay, the east end of Hessel Bay, Cedarville Bay and Little Joe Island. The action is just starting however those with persistence have caught some very nice perch.

April 17, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

High water levels and strong flow are putting some rivers at dangerous levels. Some access sites are not accessible and the river banks may be saturated and unstable. Boat anglers will need to watch for floating debris.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Boat anglers are heading out but catch rates were slow.

**Huron River:** Is producing the occasional steelhead up near Flat Rock.

**Detroit River:** When the weather cooperates, walleye fishing is in full swing. A lot of limit catches were reported with numerous large females in the mix. The usual areas from the lower river at Trenton all the way up to Belle Isle are producing fish.

**Lake St. Clair:** Some docks are in at the access sites but windy conditions have kept anglers on shore. Anglers will also find muddy water conditions for a few days as the wind has really stirred things up.

**St. Clair River:** Some good walleye reports are coming from Port Huron and Algonac. Some have caught the occasional trout or salmon as well.

**Lexington:** The ice just went out of the harbor. Pier anglers have caught coho, steelhead and brown trout when casting small spoons. A lot of minnows are starting to enter the harbor which is a sure sign of spring.

**Harbor Beach:** The ice is gone. Anglers will want to get their boats on the water soon so they can take advantage of trout and salmon in close to shore. Pier anglers caught steelhead, coho and brown trout when casting small spoons.

**Saginaw Bay:** Fishing was just getting started with lots of suckers being caught in the rivers. Perch were caught in the cuts and canals and some walleye were taken off the mouth of several area rivers. Then the rain came...and now the rivers are at or above flood stage so fishing is just about impossible. Muddy water near the mouth of the rivers will make walleye fishing more difficult.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**St. Joseph River:** Limits of coho were caught at the mouth when boats can get out. Crappie fishing was fair to good near the dams.

**Kalamazoo River:** Has good steelhead fishing at the Allegan Dam.

**Calhoun County:** Suckers are running in area creeks.

**Grand Haven:** Ice around the piers is finally gone but fishing was slow with only the occasional brown trout caught. One boat was trolling the channel and around the piers.

**Grand River in Grand Rapids:** Is producing a fair to good number of steelhead below the Sixth Street Dam. Boat anglers are bottom bouncing with yarn and flies or floating spawn bags. Shore anglers are casting wobble glows. Pink, chartreuse and white were good colors.

**Grand River in Lansing:** More anglers are heading out but few fish were caught.

**Maple River:** Dip netting has begun and a few suckers are being caught. Water levels were up so anglers need to use caution.

**Muskegon:** Water around the piers has opened up. Those using spawn caught the occasional steelhead or brown trout.

**Muskegon Lake:** The Cottage Grove boat launch is closed due to dredging.

**Muskegon River:** Has extremely high water levels and the flow is fast and dangerous. Anglers should avoid the river until the water levels recede.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Rogers City:** The marina still had some ice but hopefully it will be open by the end of the week. The rocks still had ice but the end of the marina where the boats go out is one area where anglers could cast a line.

**Alpena:** Anglers are starting to come out however ice was still preventing access to the Lake Huron.

**Thunder Bay River:** Is open, all the ice is gone. The water was high, muddy and had debris coming down after the rain. The access site on Fletcher Street is open and a dock is in. The marina was still iced up but the ice is going fast. Steelhead are being caught but anglers are waiting for some fresh fish to come in.

**Harrisville:** The harbor has opened up enough to get small boats out. It will be hard to launch larger boats because the docks are not in yet. Steelhead and walleye should be in and around the harbor. The water level is up and there is a nice flow from the creek which seems to bring fish in.

**Oscoda:** A few walleye have been caught off the pier.

**Au Sable River:** Water levels are up and the current was fast. The bite was a bit on the slow side as it appears the fish seem to be holding out for something more appealing. Those in drift boats seem to have better luck. Anglers are using spawn, body baits, flies, spinners, spoons and wax worms.

**Higgins Lake:** The remaining ice is no longer safe. The shoreline has opened up.

**Houghton Lake:** Still has ice however it is no longer safe. The East Bay and the canals have opened up but no one is fishing as water temperatures are too cold.

**Rifle River:** Continues to produce a fair to good number of suckers.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

A few inland lakes were starting to open up but many were still 75 percent covered. Rivers and streams in the region were at or near flood stage. Fishing will be almost impossible until water levels recede.

**Traverse City:** The East Bay had too much ice cover for boats but not enough for ice fishing. On the West Bay, an area near the Boardman River had enough open water for those surfcasting or boats accessing via the river. Catch rates were slow.

**Elk River:** Steelhead fishing was slow. It looks like the spring run will likely be a couple weeks later than usual this year because of cold water temperatures. Elk Lake and Skegemog Lake still had ice.

**Boardman River:** Had slow fishing with only the occasional steelhead or brown trout caught on spawn bags or jigs tipped with wax worms, wigglers or scented plastics. High water levels will make fishing more difficult.

**Platte Bay:** Was open but that could change in a day's time.

**Platte River:** Is producing some of the darker hold-over fish between the bridge at Pioneer Road and Henry Street. Some fresh fish have moved in and were seen in the holes near the El Dorado Access site.

**Frankfort:** Betsie Bay is clear but there is still some ice moving around in the channel and between the piers. Anglers are fishing off both the Elberta and Frankfort piers when the wind allows. The boat launch is operational but the docks are not in. Those trolling body baits in the bay have caught some brown trout.

**Onekama:** Is unfishable. Ice flow has the channel and the piers locked up.

**Portage Lake:** Over half the lake is still covered in ice however it is not safe.

**Manistee:** Boats trolling the shoreline are catching brown trout on spoons and body baits. Orange and yellow were good colors. Pier anglers using spawn have caught a few brown trout. The dock was in at the Arthur Street ramp but not the First Street ramp.

**Manistee River:** Continues to offer good steelhead fishing below Tippy Dam. Anglers are bottom bouncing and floating eggs or fly fishing.

**Ludington:** Brown trout have been caught by pier anglers using spawn and by those trolling the shoreline with orange spoons or body baits. The docks are not in yet at the Loomis Street Launch.

**Pere Marquette River:** Had high water levels but steelhead were still caught.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** The bite was slow but those fishing out from the Falls River did catch a few whitefish and burbot. The occasional perch or splake were caught at the head of the bay and a couple lake trout were taken out from the old Tire Shop.

**Fall's River:** Is producing a few rainbow trout for those using spawn bags. Water temperatures were still cold at 33 degrees.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Spring like weather did start to show signs that the ice was starting to break up. Ice around the shoreline was starting to open up but there was still enough ice for fishing. Perch fishing was fair near Kipling which is the only area being fished at this time. Try minnows or wigglers in six to 35 feet. Rivers in the area are starting to break up. The Rapid River and the Day's River are cresting or near flood stage.

**Ford River:** Water levels are very high with large ice dams throughout. The gates are open at the 1<sup>st</sup> Dam so water flow is very fast. Avoid the river at this time.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Had no angler reports. Travel on the ice was difficult. The Sturgeon, Fish Dam and Ogontz Rivers are partially breaking up with high water levels. At Fairport, there is open water in the middle but the launches are not open.

**Munising:** Catch rates were fair to poor. Those out fishing need to use caution when walking on the ice. Numerous holes especially near the Anna River and Sand Point may be hidden by thin layers of ice and snow. Open water near the beach at Sand Point was expanding. Salmon were caught in the eastern half of the bay. Try jigging spoons 20 to 30 feet down. Recent reports indicate that some bigger whitefish were

moving into the shallows. For splake, try near Sand Point or the Anna River. Catch rates in Trout Bay were poor.

**Two Hearted River:** Was producing an occasional steelhead.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Still has ice fishing in Hessel Bay. Catch rates were fair to good in six to 10 feet along the east end and off the north shore. Musky Bay has improved with bigger perch hitting.

April 24, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

This coming Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> marks the opening day of trout season on the Type 1 and Type 2 streams as well as the walleye, northern pike and muskellunge opener on the Lower Peninsula inland waters. The "Catch and Immediate Release" bass season for all the Lower Peninsula waters including the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River and the Detroit River will also open this coming Saturday. Sucker spearing and fishing was good on many rivers and tributaries.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Some walleye were caught in 10 to 12 feet by those jigging blade baits and hair jigs. Those trolling Brest Bay and the Dumping Grounds have also caught fish the shallows when jigging minnows and crawlers. Windy conditions have made it difficult to navigate. Good numbers of largemouth, smallmouth and white bass have been caught in the Hot Ponds and near the launch at Bolles Harbor. Surface water temperatures were in the high 40's.

**Detroit River:** Has excellent walleye fishing with limit catches reported throughout the entire river. Anglers are jigging plastic baits or live minnows.

**Lake St. Clair:** Despite cold water temperatures and windy conditions, the catch and release bass opener was productive with some very good reports from those fishing off the Mile Roads in the area of St. Clair Shores. Bass fishing will improve as water temperatures warm. Those shore fishing at the mouth of the Clinton River caught a few rock bass.

**St. Clair River:** Walleye fishing continues to be good at Port Huron and is improving near Algonac. Most anglers are jigging plastics or live minnows. A few trout and salmon continue to show up as well.

**Lexington:** Salmon anglers started hitting the water and most did pretty well when trolling in 10 to 18 feet south of the harbor off Lexington Heights. They reported 3 to 4 fish per boat when trolling crank baits or spoons with long lines off planer boards. A mixed bag of chinook, coho, steelhead, brown trout and lake trout were taken by those using downriggers. Pier fishing was slow.

**Harbor Beach:** Is open and the docks are in.

**Saginaw Bay:** Perch fishing was spotty in the cuts near Palmer Road. Walleye were caught by those trolling crank baits in 16 to 18 feet off Linwood and off the mouth of the Saginaw River. Those jigging minnows off the mouth also caught fish. Area rivers are finally receding and clearing up however perch fishing in the Quanicassee, Sebewaing, and Pigeon was spotty and a lot of the fish were small. Perch fishing is usually best between dawn and 11am. Suckers can also be found.

**Saginaw River:** Was back in its banks for the most part. No doubt a fair number of fish chose to ride the flooding back to Saginaw Bay when they were done spawning but there should still be enough fish for a good opener on Saturday. Spawning occurred about two weeks later than normal this year so there was two weeks less for the fish to drop back to the bay. Barring another major rain event, the walleye opener should be a good one.

**Tittabawassee River:** Water levels are down. The walleye opener should be good.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Trout fishing in the northern part of the unit was slower due to high water. With the cold weather, fly hatches are behind this year and spawning will most likely be delayed. Water temperatures on the inland lakes were still cold. Anglers were finding bass, crappie and bluegills in deeper water.

**St. Joseph:** Is producing coho especially for boat anglers. Catch rates were slower for pier anglers.

**St. Joseph River:** Steelhead fishing continues. Trout streams in the watershed were in good shape and catch rates were fair. Try spinners, spoons, plugs or worms.

**South Haven:** Boat anglers are catching coho and some brown trout when trolling along the shoreline. Pier anglers have taken a few fish when casting spoons, spinners or plugs.

**Kalamazoo River:** Trout streams in the watershed were in good condition. Catch rates were fair for those using spinners, plugs and worms. Anglers are still catching steelhead up near the Allegan Dam. Suckers are also being caught.

**Grand Haven:** Boat anglers are catching brown trout when trolling the shoreline. Pier anglers are also taking fish when casting spoons. Orange has been the hot color for both pier and boat anglers.

**Grand River in Grand Rapids:** Still has some steelhead available. Most are fishing up near the Sixth Street Dam. Walleye season opens on Saturday and anglers should find some nice post spawn fish. Suckers are still running on the Grand and Kalamazoo rivers.

**Grand River closer to Lansing:** Steelhead have been caught at the Portland Dam, Webber Dam and the Lyons Dam. Most are using live bait or spawn under a bobber.

**Muskegon:** Pier fishing for brown trout has been slow but the fish caught were taken on spawn. Boat anglers continue to do well when trolling spoons or body baits along the shoreline. Orange and chartreuse were good colors.

**Muskegon River:** Water levels are receding but the water is still stained. Steelhead are being caught and anglers are finding fresh fish.

**Whitehall:** The steelhead run is over here so anglers are targeting steelhead in the rivers now. Those trolling the channel with body baits are now catching brown trout. Pier anglers are also getting a few brown trout, walleye and pike.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Temperatures were cold for the walleye opener. Everything to do with fishing is running behind this year and will continue to do so until it warms up. Lake trout season in the waters of Lake Huron between Cheboygan and the Black River opens today, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Rogers City:** Has pretty much opened up. The ice has left the harbor but there was still some in and around the marina slips. Anglers may want to start casting for Atlantic salmon off the wall. Smaller boats that don't need a dock can launch.

**Thunder Bay River:** All the gates but one have finally been closed at the dam. Those fishing at or below the dam had limited success for steelhead. More fish should start moving in now that the current has receded. Those bottom bouncing spawn and flies or floating spawn under a bobber have caught fish. The steelhead run is just getting started.

**Harrisville:** The harbor is open and one dock is in so boats can now launch. Steelhead and the occasional walleye have been seen in and around the harbor over the last week. Try floating spawn or casting small spoons and body baits.

**Au Sable River:** Water levels were almost back to normal. Steelhead have been caught between the mouth and Foote Dam. Anglers are bottom bouncing, drifting or floating a mix of baits including fly's, wax worms, spawn, spoons and small spinners. Fish were also caught in Van Etten Creek.

**Houghton Lake:** The ice is finally gone! A few crappie have been caught in the canals but that's about it. Water temperatures are still cold.

**Tawas:** Did not have much in the way of boat action because there is still a lot of ice floating around the piers and the docks are not in yet. Those casting off the wall caught the occasional steelhead or walleye.

**Tawas River:** Is producing a good number of suckers and some steelhead. Those wading or casting off the mouth at night have caught walleye.

**Au Gres:** Boat anglers trolling rapalas in 10 to 15 feet off the mouth of the river were catching good numbers of walleye including some limit catches.

**Au Gres River:** Remains muddy so perch and sucker fishing were slow. On the East Branch, water near the Singing Bridge was finally clearing up but catch rates were still slow. Steelhead were caught further up between Au Gres and M-55.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Tough opener here. Cold, windy on the lakes and high cold water on the rivers. Need some warmth to get the lakes fired up and the trout eating, but it's not in the near forecast.

Steelhead fishing is still good on the Little Manistee River and the Manistee River near Tippy Dam. Both of those rivers, and the PM and Betsie as well, will have steelhead in them well into May. Lake Michigan has continued to be very good for brown trout in the nearshore waters off Frankfort, Manistee, and Ludington. Both boat and pier anglers have caught them. A few kings have even begun to show off Ludington. Hope that helps!

**Traverse City:** A few boats were out trolling or jigging for trout but catch rates were slow. Those surfcasting spawn had limited success for steelhead. Catch rates were slow for those jigging in the West Bay. Those fishing spawn bags near the mouth of the Boardman River did catch some steelhead.

**Elk River:** A couple steelhead were caught on spawn bags or jigs and wax worms.

**Boardman River:** Steelhead fishing picked up but catch rates were still relatively low. Most are using fresh spawn or floating jigs and wax worms under a bobber. Warm water species like pike, smallmouth bass, walleye and suckers are starting to show up.

**Platte River:** Is producing some fresh steelhead especially between El Dorado and the mouth. Darker fish along with some walleye were caught up near Goose Road and Haze Road. Fish were on and off the gravel. Try orange spawn bags. Some walleye were also caught up near the M-22 Bridge. Try artificial baits.

**Crystal Lake:** Most of the ice gone and Beulah Beach has open water.

**Frankfort:** Boat anglers trolling in the harbor and along the shoreline have caught a good number of brown trout on chartreuse spoons and body baits. Black and gold or black and silver were also taking some fish. Pier anglers have caught steelhead and the occasional chinook when floating spawn.

**Betsie River:** There will be plenty of steelhead around for the trout opener.

**Portage Lake:** The walleye and pike opener was nothing short of poor due to cold temperatures and the lake was still 40 percent covered with drifting ice. Those that tried had no luck.

**Onekama:** Some were venturing out on the south breakwall and trying for brown trout. The water was very cold and clear so anglers could see brown trout swimming around the edge of the rocks. Those casting body baits did somewhat better than those using spawn.

**Lakes Cadillac & Mitchell:** Are finally ice free and fishable.

**Manistee:** Is producing brown trout for those trolling the shoreline with orange spoons. Black and silver or fire-tiger body baits caught fish. Pier anglers caught the occasional steelhead or brown trout when using spawn.

**Manistee River:** Has a good number of steelhead. Catch rates were good even with the high water levels. Anglers are bottom bouncing spawn with trout beads.

**Little Manistee River:** Should have plenty of steelhead for the trout opener.

**Ludington:** Is also producing brown trout for those trolling orange spoons or body baits. Pier anglers are getting a few brown trout when using spawn.

**Pere Marquette River:** Is producing some nice chrome steelhead and brown trout. Water levels were still high but receding.

**Pentwater:** Boat and pier anglers are now catching brown trout. Boats are trolling in the channel and along the Lake Michigan shoreline with body baits. Pier anglers are picking up brown trout, walleye and a few pike.

## UPPER PENINSULA

Conditions for this weekend's trout opener will be challenging due to high water and snow pack in many places. Seasonal access roads in many areas may not be passible due to the snow conditions. Areas in the extreme southern and eastern portions may have better accessibility. Trout lakes will have ice cover. Anglers are reminded that ice conditions are rapidly deteriorating due to warming temperatures and should not be considered safe.

**Keweenaw Bay:** The bite has been very slow because of cold temperatures, rain and spring runoff. Some are putting in a lot of hours with little or no luck. Only a couple rainbow trout were caught at the mouth of the Fall's River. A couple coho, chinook and rainbow trout were picked up off the rock dock next to the L'Anse Marina.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Ice on the Bay continues to break up and the head of the Bay is now open between the Whitefish River and the Day's River. The Gladstone area is

open from the Kipling Flats south for several hundred yards past the Terrace Bay Inn as well as just south of the Escanaba River leading out to the waters of Green Bay. Ice fishing is now done as the Bay transitions over to open water fishing. The rivers are all open and the current is very fast. Some were fishing the Day's River but no steelhead were caught.

**Rapid River:** Boats can be launched in Rapid River although the docks are not in.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Is receding slower than the Little Bay. The edges make entering the ice difficult and possibly dangerous. Boats are not able to launch yet but should be soon. The rivers here are also open and the currents are fast. Trout fishing will be a challenge with the high fast water. Fairport had no anglers reports on perch.

**Munising:** Catch rates in the bay were fair to poor. Warmer weather and rain has uncovered old holes and softened the ice. Anglers should use caution around the Anna River and Sand Point. Open water pockets and cracks around Sand Point have expanded quickly over the last week. Shoreline ice was starting to breakup but most areas around the bay still had thick ice. Many anglers are targeting coho but catch rates were poor. Those looking for whitefish were jigging eggs just off the bottom. The fish range 12 to 17 inches. Catch rates for splake were slow. There is enough open water to fish around the Anna River pier. Trout Bay was slow.

**Luce County:** Still had ice on the inland lakes. Trout streams are extremely high and there is still a lot of snow in the woods and swamps. Seasonal roads may not be accessible.

**Two Hearted River:** Due to the high snow pack, access to the mouth may not be possible for the trout opener.

**St. Mary's River:** All the boat launches between the Locks in Sault Ste. Marie and Detour are iced in.

**Detour:** Anglers are fishing Lake Huron just west of Albany Creek. Those fishing off the rocks have caught steelhead when using spawn bags.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** There was no angler pressure in Hessel Bay even though the north shore and east end should be producing some perch. Musky Bay is good for perch and they are migrating towards Duck Bay in 6 to 8 feet. Bigger fish are being caught but anglers were still catching lots of small ones.

**Carp River:** Is ice free but no smelt action yet. Water temperatures need to warm up first.

**St. Ignace:** The Coast Guard will open the waters between St. Ignace and Mackinac Island, effective 8:00am on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The Coast Guard would like to remind all recreational ice users to plan their activities carefully, use caution on the ice, and stay away from the shipping channels.



May 1, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The walleye opener was very good for much of the Lower Peninsula. Steelhead are still active in most of the rivers and streams. Cooler temperatures are keeping panfish out in deeper waters.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Walleye were caught in 10 to 12 feet by those jigging blade baits and hair jigs. Those trolling Brest Bay and the Dumping Grounds caught fish in the shallows when jigging minnows and crawlers. Good numbers of largemouth, smallmouth and white bass have been caught in the Hot Ponds and near the launch at Bolles Harbor. Surface water temperatures were in the high 40's.

**Huron River:** Has good walleye action in Flat Rock.

**Detroit River:** Has excellent walleye fishing with limit catches reported throughout the entire river. Anglers are jigging plastic baits or live minnows.

**Lake St. Clair:** Despite cold water temperatures and windy conditions, the catch and release bass opener was productive with some very good reports from those fishing off the Mile Roads. Those shore fishing at the mouth of the Clinton River caught a few rock bass.

**St. Clair River:** Walleye fishing continues to be good at Port Huron and is improving near Algonac. Most anglers are jigging plastics or live minnows. A few trout and salmon continue to show up as well.

**Lexington and Port Sanilac:** Salmon and trout fishing was good when anglers can get out. They caught a good number of coho with a mix of chinook, steelhead, brown trout and Atlantic salmon. Try crank baits and spoons off downriggers, dipseys, planer boards and long lines in 10 to 18 feet. Coho were 3 pounds, chinook 8 to 14.

**Harbor Beach:** Had a couple anglers fishing at the north gap in the breakwall and a couple boats way out. Those looking for steelhead might want to try the old Detroit Edison Channel where there is an excellent shore fishing site.

**Saginaw Bay:** Had good walleye action for those trolling crank baits in 14 to 16 feet off Linwood. Perch fishing in the cut at Palmer Road was starting to wind down and most of the fish caught were spawned out. Walleye fishing was very good off the mouth of the Saginaw River and east of Spoils Island when trolling or jigging with jigs tipped with minnows or crawlers. At Port Austin, dredging and harbor renovations continue and the ramp is closed.

**Tittabawassee River:** Had very good walleye fishing from the Dow Dam all the way downstream to the confluence with the Saginaw.

**Saginaw River:** The walleye opener on the rivers was just outstanding, with lots of anglers and limit catches the rule. Catch rates were good throughout the river including between Essexville and the mouth. Most were vertical jigging with jigs tipped with minnows or crawlers. A few boats trolling crank baits also did well. Walleye fishing in the rivers should be good for at least another couple of weeks.

**Quanicassee River:** Perch fishing was about done, but anglers were catching channel catfish, walleye and a few pike.

**Sebewaing River:** Was producing a few perch but some were small.

**Pigeon River:** Was slow with only a couple walleye taken.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Trout fishing in the northern part of the unit was slower due to high water. With the cold weather, fly hatches are behind this year and spawning will most likely be delayed.

**St. Joseph:** Is producing coho especially for boat anglers. Catch rates were slower for pier anglers.

**St. Joseph River:** Steelhead fishing appears to be winding down but there are still a few fresh fish moving through the ladder at Berrien Springs. Flows have dropped but water levels have not declined to the point where navigation is impeded.

**South Haven:** Boat anglers are catching coho and some brown trout when trolling along the shoreline. Pier anglers have taken a few fish when casting spoons, spinners or plugs.

**Kalamazoo River:** Catch rates were fair for those using spinners, plugs and worms. Anglers are still catching steelhead up near the Allegan Dam. Suckers are also being caught.

**Grand Haven:** Boat anglers are catching brown trout when trolling the shoreline. Pier anglers are also taking fish when casting spoons. Orange has been the hot color for both.

**Grand River in Grand Rapids:** Anglers have caught steelhead, walleye and suckers. Steelhead are hitting on spawn, spinners, and small spoons. For walleye, try a jig and crawler or body baits.

**Grand River closer to Lansing:** Steelhead can still be found near the Portland Dam, Webber Dam and the Lyons Dam. Those targeting suckers are starting to catch fish.

**Maple River:** Catch rates were slow but a few suckers have been caught. A good number of steelhead were in Fish Creek near the Hubbardston Dam.

**Muskegon:** Pier fishing for brown trout has been slow but the fish caught were taken on spawn. Boat anglers continue to do well when trolling spoons or body baits along the shoreline. Orange and chartreuse were good colors.

**Muskegon River:** Continues to produce steelhead and brown trout.

**Whitehall:** The steelhead run is over here so anglers are targeting steelhead in the rivers now. Those trolling the channel with body baits are now catching brown trout. Pier anglers are also getting a few brown trout, walleye and pike.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

Temperatures were cold for the walleye opener. Lake trout season in the waters of Lake Huron between Cheboygan and the Black River opens today, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Black Lake:** Shore anglers have caught some nice walleye. The Upper Black River was good for brook trout.

**Rogers City:** Is pretty much open however some flow ice was still blocking the marina. One of the docks is in but the bathroom and cleaning station are not open. Fish should be in close to shore where the warmer water is. Look for lake trout and Atlantic salmon around the pier or Swan Bay. Try small spoons or body baits in bright colors.

**Alpena:** Anglers can now get out into the bay. A few were going behind the plant to fish for Atlantic salmon or smallmouth bass. Anglers should find Atlantic salmon and lake trout when trolling in the shallows along the shoreline or near structure. The docks are in at the River Street launch and the public marina. The fish cleaning station and the bathrooms are not open yet.

**Thunder Bay River:** Had most of the walleye action. Boats were drifting and working with jigs. Steelhead fishing was slow for those drifting flies or spawn up near the dam. Suckers are also being caught.

**Harrisville:** Is now open and the docks are in. Atlantic salmon, steelhead, brown trout and walleye are in and around the harbor.

Boat and shore anglers are catching fish. Try the channels and outside the rock wall in the early morning and late evening with small spoons, spinners or body baits.

**Oscoda:** Rough water has kept many inside the river. Those able to get out have caught fish. Atlantic salmon are showing up around the mouth of the river. Steelhead numbers are on the rise.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead are gaining in numbers and hopefully water temperatures will be warm enough to put fish on the beds soon. As of now, steelhead are holding in the deeper holes between the mouth and the dam. Most have caught fish on spawn, wax worms, fly's or combinations of natural and artificial baits. Walleye have been caught between the mouth and the dam. Some say the bite was best at night. Try crawlers or body baits.

**Tawas:** Perch anglers are catching a lot of small ones and the occasional keeper in the harbor. Minnows are thick inside the harbor. Those fishing the lake side have caught steelhead, brown trout and walleye. Some are casting spoons and crank baits while others are drifting spawn and minnows. A good number of walleye have been caught by those trolling in 10 to 20 feet of water between the mouth of the Tawas River and Alabaster.

**Au Gres:** Has been very busy due to the excellent walleye fishing. A good number of limit catches were taken by those trolling in 15 to 25 feet between Pointe Au Gres and Point Lookout.

**Au Gres River:** Steelhead have been caught in the East Branch near the Singing Bridge. Most are drifting spawn or floating spawn sacks. Those wading in the surf at night have caught walleye when casting rapalas.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Torch Lake:** Was producing a fair number of Atlantic salmon.

**Traverse City:** A few boats were out trolling or jigging for trout but catch rates were slow. Those surfcasting spawn had limited success for steelhead. Catch rates were slow for those jigging in the West Bay. Those fishing spawn bags near the mouth of the Boardman River did catch some steelhead.

**Elk River:** A couple steelhead were caught on spawn bags or jigs and wax worms.

**Boardman River:** Steelhead fishing picked up but catch rates were still relatively low. Most are using fresh spawn or floating jigs and wax worms under a bobber. Pike, smallmouth bass, walleye and suckers are starting to show up.

**Platte River:** Is producing some fresh steelhead especially El Dorado and the mouth. Darker fish were caught near Goose Road and Haze Road. Fish were on and off the gravel. Try orange spawn bags. Walleye were caught up near the M-22 Bridge. Try artificial baits.

**Crystal Lake:** Most of the ice is gone and Beulah Beach has open water.

**Frankfort:** Boat anglers trolling in the harbor and along the shoreline have caught a good number of brown trout on chartreuse spoons and body baits. Black and gold or black and silver were also taking fish. Pier anglers have caught steelhead and the occasional chinook when floating spawn.

**Portage Lake:** The walleye and pike opener was poor due to cold temperatures and the lake was still 40 percent covered with drifting ice. Those that tried had no luck.

**Onkama:** Some were venturing out on the south breakwall and trying for brown trout. The water was very cold and clear so anglers could see brown trout swimming around the edge of the rocks. Those casting body baits did somewhat better than those using spawn.

**Manistee** Lake Michigan has continued to be very good for brown trout close to shore. Boats are trolling spoons. Pier anglers have done well when using spawn.

**Manistee River:** Has good steelhead fishing up near Tippy Dam. Fishing should be good right into May.

**Little Manistee River:** Has good steelhead fishing which should continue.

**Ludington:** Has good brown trout fishing near shore. Boat and pier anglers have caught them. A few chinook salmon have started to show up.

**Pere Marquette River:** Still has fresh steelhead moving up into the river. Catch rates should be good for the next few weeks. Some caught brown trout.

**Pentwater:** Boat and pier anglers are now catching brown trout. Boats are trolling in the channel and along the Lake Michigan shoreline with body baits. Pier anglers are picking up brown trout, walleye and a few pike.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** The bite has been very slow because of cold temperatures, rain and spring runoff. Some are putting in a lot of hours with little or no luck. Only a couple rainbow trout were caught at the mouth of the Fall's River. A couple coho, chinook and rainbow trout were caught off the rock dock next to the L'Anse Marina.

**Marquette:** The Lower Harbor had no reports. The breakwall was ice free up to the first bend. The Upper Harbor still had ice that was shifting near the bubblers. Docks at the launch were uprooted by the ice but have been fixed and ready to go when the lake opens up. Pier anglers might be able to fish off the breakwall. Those fishing at the bubblers and the mouth of the Dead River had little success.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Ice on the Bay continues to break up and the head of the Bay is now open between the Whitefish River and the Day's River.

The Gladstone area is open from the Kipling Flats south for several hundred yards past the Terrace Bay Inn as well as just south of the Escanaba River. Ice fishing is now done as the Bay transitions over to open water fishing. The rivers are all open and the current is very fast. Some were fishing the Day's River but no steelhead were caught.

**Rapid River:** Boats can be launched but the docks are not in.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Is receding slower than Little Bay. The edges make entering the ice difficult and possibly dangerous. Boats are not able to launch yet but should be soon. The rivers here are also open and the currents are fast. Trout fishing will be a challenge with the high fast water. Fairport had no reports on perch.

**Au Train:** Still had ice over the bay. The only open water was at the mouth of the Rock River and the Au Train River. Pressure was light and catch rates were poor. Only the occasional steelhead has been caught because of the ice and cold water.

**St. Mary's River:** The ice is beginning to break up from Osborn Park in Sault Ste. Marie down to the DeTour Passage. Near Munuscong, those fishing under the ice in 2 feet of water in Fowler Bay have caught a few yellow perch. Early morning is best with minnows. Back at Sault Ste. Marie, rainbow trout and smaller coho were caught off the canal bridge at the Cloverland Power Plant. Use 2 to 4 ounce sinkers in the fast current. Try red and chrome flatfish, crank baits or spawn bags.

**DeTour:** The boat launches are not open.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** The ice is starting to deteriorate. Anglers will need to use extreme caution. The west end of Musky Bay was good for perch and some bigger fish are starting to show up but anglers will still have to sort through all the small ones. Perch were also caught along the north shore in 10 to 14 feet.

**Carp River:** Smelt started last weekend both here and in Nunn's Creek however the run is very slow. Those targeting trout are using green and orange yarn or spawn.

May 8, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Another week of roller coaster temperatures and windy conditions has hampered fishing. Inland lake fishing is slow due to the cooler water temperatures.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Water temperatures were in the low 50's but strong winds have resulted in poor water clarity. Walleye are being caught in the early morning or at dusk near Turtle Island in 10 to 12 feet or Brest Bay and Stony Pointe in eight to 10 feet. Try using hair jigs in John Deer green or black and white patterns as well as trolling minnows or jerk baits. Good numbers of catfish and bass have been caught from the Hot Ponds. Some big largemouth bass were caught off Bolles Harbor.

**Huron River:** Is producing white bass and some walleye. Many are fishing up near Flat Rock. The steelhead action has slowed.

**Detroit River:** Is producing walleye for those hand-lining or jigging in the lower river and the Trenton Channel. Most are using Wyandotte worms with a big minnow. Hot colors were orange, chartreuse or antifreeze. No word on perch.

**Portage Lake:** Near Pinckney had few anglers. The opener of the catch and release bass season was slow. Bluegills and crappie were caught on small jigs with minnows in the canals of Portage and Zukey Lake.

**Lake St. Clair:** The catch and release bass fishing has been good even with the cold water and windy conditions. Rock bass are starting to bite near the mouth of the Clinton River. DNR survey nets in Anchor Bay are showing good numbers of large channel catfish and pike.

**St. Clair River:** Anglers are catching a good number of walleye. Some also caught the occasional coho and steelhead.

**Lexington:** Anglers have taken good catches of lake trout, chinook, coho, brown trout and the occasional rainbow trout, Atlantic salmon and walleye in 15 to 30 feet on bombers and spoons. Bullhead were caught off the docks.

**Port Sanilac:** Is producing good numbers of trout and salmon in 15 to 30 feet. Those fishing off the north wall caught Atlantic, coho and brown trout.

**Harbor Beach:** Anglers are catching trout, salmon and a few walleye when trolling green and orange bombers in 20 to 50 feet. Pier fishing was slow.

**Saginaw Bay:** Walleye have been caught by those trolling crank baits in 16 feet off Linwood and by those trolling or jigging around the rocks at Spoils Island. A few walleye were taken on crawler harnesses between Quanicassee and Fish Point. Very few walleye were caught between Sebewaing and Caseville. A couple channel catfish were caught in the marina.

**Tittabawassee River:** Fish were still caught upstream of Gordonville Road near the railroad bridge and downstream of Freeland when trolling rapalas. Fire-tiger and clown colors were good. Shore anglers near Freeland did well with jigs, twisters and crawlers. Walleye were caught near M-46 and downstream toward Green Point as well as near the Tittabawassee, Shiawassee and Saginaw confluence. A few white bass are starting to show up.

**Saginaw River:** Walleye were caught by those trolling or drifting from the Coast Guard Station to the mouth. No perch to report.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** The weather has made fishing a challenge. Pier fishing was slow however boat anglers had better luck. Anglers have caught a mixed bag of Chinook, coho and brown trout on small spoons in 40 to 60 feet.

**South Haven:** Both boat and piers anglers reported tough fishing conditions. A few salmon were caught in 20 feet and lake trout in 60 feet.

**Grand Haven:** A few Chinook salmon and some brown trout have showed up. Fish were caught off downriggers set 24 feet down in 30 to 45 feet. Some are using planer boards to fish the top water. Pier anglers are casting spoons for brown trout but some are also using alewife. Perch fishing was good along the holes south of the southern pier in 60 feet. Minnows, spikes and wigglers are all working. Night fishing for walleye was very slow off the piers.

**Reeds Lake:** Is producing some crappie, bluegill and perch.

**Grand River in Grand Rapids:** Is still producing some steelhead and the occasional walleye. A good number of smallmouth bass have been caught and released. Catfish action is picking up. Flatheads are hitting on live suckers or a crawler and leech combo. Channel cats are hitting on cut bait, crawlers or chicken liver. Crappie fishing was good.

**Grand River closer to Lansing:** Has a good number of steelhead at Moore's Park. They are slow to bite so try spawn and flies under a bobber. Channel catfish are also hitting on live bait, crawlers and spawn. Those near the Brenke fish ladder are catching lots of pike on shiners. A few walleye along with occasional steelhead were also caught.

**Maple River:** Is producing catfish and suckers.

**Muskegon:** Boat anglers are trolling the basin and around the piers for Chinook, brown trout and walleye. Pier fishing was slow. The Cottage Grove boat launch was still closed.

**Muskegon River:** Water temperatures were in the upper 40's. The river is still producing steelhead including some fresh fish.

**Whitehall:** Pier anglers are still catching brown trout when still-fishing with spawn. Some have caught fresh steelhead. Catch rates for walleye were slow but a few were caught from the piers and the channel when casting lures.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Ocqueoc River:** Is starting to see some steelhead. Fish were caught by those drifting a spawn bag in the deeper holes.

**Rogers City:** When anglers can get out they have caught Atlantic, brown trout and lake trout when using stick baits. Bright colors were best like orange, fire-tiger or orange and yellow. Swan Bay and Calcite Harbor should be good as lake trout start to show up any day now. Target the shallows with high-lines and cowbells or out a little deeper with spin glows and cowbells.

**Rockport:** A limit of lake trout were caught around Middle Island.

**Alpena:** The docks are in and the fish cleaning station is open however the restrooms were still closed. A few anglers fishing just outside the river mouth picked up the occasional walleye day or night.

**Thunder Bay River:** Walleye fishing was very good day or night for those drifting and jigging. Most were averaging three to four fish per boat but some had limit catches. Fishing up near the dam was difficult because of high water levels and dealing with suckers constantly hitting their lines.

**Harrisville:** The water is up, the docks are in and the fish are in. Atlantic salmon, lake trout, steelhead and walleye are in and around the harbor. Fish are being caught day and night on spawn, body baits, small spoons or spinners in 20 to 40 feet.

**Oscoda:** The pier has been productive early morning or late evening. Walleye are coming in limited numbers. They are good size and healthy. Crawlers, jig's and body baits have worked best.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead are now moving into the river in good numbers. A lot of anglers are hooking up but some are having a hard time landing them. From the mouth to the dam, the river is high and the current is fast. New snags have moved into some of the areas holding fish.

**Houghton Lake:** Cold gusty winds have kept anglers off the lake. Those fishing the canals have caught a few crappie or the occasional bluegill.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Charlevoix:** Had no boats out. The docks are in at the Ferry Beach launch, but no boats on Lake Charlevoix yet. A few anglers were fishing the Medusa Cement Plant slip, but nothing was caught. Others were fishing the channel during the day but no fish were caught. Look for walleye in the channel at night.

**Petoskey:** The docks are in at the launch site however there were still some large pieces of ice floating around in Little Traverse Bay. The end of the pier was still covered with deep snow and ice.

**Bear River:** Is running high and fast. A couple steelhead were caught near the dam but no big numbers yet.

**Harbor Springs:** The boat launch is currently being dredged.

**Traverse City:** The East Bay was producing some lake trout and cisco for those jigging. In the West Bay, lake trout and cisco were caught by those jigging in 60 to 150 feet of water. Lake trout and steelhead were taken on spawn or lures near the mouth of the Boardman.

**Elk River:** Catch rates were slow with only a couple steelhead caught on spawn bags or a jig and wax worms.

**Boardman River:** Steelhead fishing was slow with a few fish caught on spawn or wax worms. Anglers will also find walleye, suckers, northern pike, and smallmouth bass.

**Platte Bay:** Those trolling are seeing some of the best brown trout action they have seen in years. Most are using black and chrome rapalas.

**Platte River:** Rain increased water levels and water temperatures. Steelhead fishing is very good and fresh fish are on the gravel. Most are using orange fly eggs. In Honor, the water was high but clear. Those fishing at South Street caught suckers on worms. Anglers have seen some nice brown trout and steelhead. Water levels were high and temperatures were at 44 degrees at the M-22 Bridge. Anglers are catching walleye on plastic baits. Look for fish between the outlet of Platte Lake and Loon Lake. A good number of suckers can be found in the holes down near the mouth. They will take an egg sucking leech or anything you put in front of them.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** Are producing some walleye, pike and bullhead. Bluegill and crappie are slow.

**Manistee:** Brown trout fishing has been excellent for boat and pier anglers. Some early chinook salmon are also starting to show up. Boat anglers are trolling small spoons or body baits and pier anglers are using spawn.

**Manistee River:** Steelhead fishing continues to be strong at Tippy Dam. The cold spring has really prolonged the run. Brown trout and a few walleye have also been caught. Try spoons, crank baits, flies or spawn.

**Ludington:** Has good brown trout fishing near shore. Boat anglers are trolling body baits in natural color patterns. Pier fishing was slower.

**Pere Marquette River:** Still has very good steelhead fishing.

**Pentwater:** Pier anglers were still catching some brown trout and the occasional steelhead on spawn. A few walleye were taken from the piers and the channels. Pier anglers also caught a good number of sizable large and smallmouth bass. Those casting caught pike. Catfish are starting to bite.

## UPPER PENINSULA

Lake Superior still had ice from Keweenaw Bay to Whitefish Point with most of the Canadian side and towards Duluth with open water. Winds have been primarily from the north and pushing the ice.

**Keweenaw Bay:** Catch rates are still extremely slow. Anglers fishing off the rock dock next to the L'Anse Marina did manage to catch a couple Chinook, coho or rainbow trout. There are rumors of a handful of smelt taken in the Silver River and the Ravine River.

**Marquette:** Ice is still present in the Lower Harbor. Some areas are starting to show some black ice near shore and by the fishing pier at Mattson Park. Shore anglers at Mattson Park have caught lake trout in the pockets of open water near the breakwall when jigging or casting spoons. Water levels were high and catch rates were poor at the mouth of the Carp River.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Rapid River, Gladstone and the Ford River launches all have docks in. The rest should be in this week with the exception of Aronson Island as the Harbor is still iced over. Rain fell most of the week adding to the rivers already overflowing situation. Perch anglers launching out of Rapid River reported fair catches out from the Day's River using minnows or crawlers in 13 to 24 feet. Those fishing near Strawberry Island reported a few catches when using crawlers in six to 14 feet. Anglers were marking perch about 30 feet down in the "Narrows" however few fish were caught.

**Big Bay De Noc:** The docks are in at Garden, Fish Dam and Ogontz. The rest should be in this week. Garden Bay is open and perch anglers have done well near Hermes Fish House. They are using minnows in six to eight feet. Though lots of small ones have been caught several limit catches were also reported. Perch anglers heading out to deeper water near the mouth of the Bay in the early morning reported fair to good catches with minnows in 20 to 30 feet.

**Au Train:** Ice along the shore of the rivers is slowly starting to melt. Anglers fishing the mouth of the rivers for coho and steelhead had little success except for a couple coho taken on spoons. Those trying spawn or a single egg for whitefish had no luck.

**Munising:** The bay had few anglers and slow catch rates. Ice remains throughout the bay but was not fishable. The only fishing activity has been around the mouth of the Anna River and Bay Furnace Creek. Small boats floating out and jigging along the ice did catch a few whitefish, splake or small steelhead.

**Grand Marais:** Was still pretty much iced in. Pier anglers were fishing the north pier however north winds will push ice into the area. Catch rates were slow. A few fishing the mouth of the Sucker River did catch a couple trout and salmon. Streams in the area are running high and stained.

**Two Hearted River:** Access roads are open. Steelhead are in the river however the high dark water makes fishing difficult.

**St. Mary's River:** A few coho and rainbow trout were caught off the canal bridge at the power plant. Anglers are using two to four ounce sinkers with a 24 inch leader above the sinker and frozen spawn. Some are drifting red and chrome flatfish near the railroad ties on the west bank. The city docks are in however boat anglers need to watch for large chunks of ice floating on the upper river between the City Park and the Sugar Island Ferry Boat. Both docks are in at Raber Bay but there was still some ice just out from the docks.

**DeTour:** Anglers were catching steelhead just west of the Albany Creek.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** The ice is out of Musky Bay but the west end of Hessel Bay was still frozen. Pier anglers are watching for trout and salmon. Perch have been caught in the west end of Musky Bay and along the north shore in 10 to 14 feet.

**Carp River:** Anglers reported some smelt. Water levels are still a bit high, but receding.

**Black River:** In Mackinac County has steelhead and some smelt. High water levels are making it difficult to fish.

May 15, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Walleye, pike and muskellunge season for the Upper Peninsula Great Lakes, St. Mary's River and the inland lakes will open on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The catch and immediate release bass season for all Upper Peninsula waters including the Great Lakes will also open on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Walleye were scattered and moving into deeper water. Surface temperatures were in the high 50's and low 60's. Catch rates near Turtle Island were beginning to slow. Walleye were caught in Brest Bay and off Stoney Point. Try crawler harnesses with bottom bouncers in 20 feet or deeper. Purple beads were also good. Bass and catfish were hitting near Bolles Harbor and the Hot Ponds. A few walleye were caught but it is still a bit early for large numbers of fish.

**Detroit River:** Continues to be excellent for walleye and white bass are beginning to show up too, especially in the lower river. Walleye anglers are catching and releasing quite a few smallmouth bass. Shore anglers are taking white bass in Wyandotte and Ecorse.

**Portage Chain-of-Lakes:** Near Pinckney are producing bluegill and crappie. Fish the canals and shallow flats with minnows and jigs. Bass were on the beds and those targeting them have done well along the weed beds in shallow water and around structure. A few pike were taken along the drop-offs on Zukey and Portage.

**Lake St. Clair:** Water temperatures in Anchor Bay were between 51 and 57 degrees. Catch rates for smallmouth bass in the DNR trap nets have gone way up as the bass have started moving into shallow waters to spawn. Those fishing south along the Mile Roads caught bass in the warmer water.

**St. Clair River:** Is producing some walleye near Algonac, Marine City and Port Huron. Jigging artificial minnows has been productive. Some are starting to use bottom bouncers and crawlers.

**Lexington:** Trollers are taking a mixed bag of trout and salmon. Shore fishing was limited to small perch and bullhead. A couple big pike were also caught.

**Port Sanilac:** Those trolling caught chinook, coho, lake trout and brown trout in 8 to 40 feet. Spoons and body baits worked best.

**Harbor Beach:** Fish are scattered because of changes in wind direction. For lake trout, boat anglers will want to head north, south or straight out with dodgers or cowbells with spin glows, peanuts, and spoons just off the bottom or spoons 65 to 70 feet down. For salmon, brown trout and steelhead try spoons off downriggers, 2 or 3 colored lines and offshore boards. Use bright colors when working the mud lines. A few walleye were taken by those casting small body baits from the wall either early or late. Water levels are good.

**Grindstone City:** Had good catch and release bass fishing.

**Saginaw Bay:** Has good numbers of walleye being taken in 6 to 16 feet off Linwood and Pinconning by those trolling harnesses. Very good walleye action was cited off Jones Road in 4 to 6 feet or Quanicassee in 6 to 7 feet. Further up the Slot, walleye were hitting crawler harnesses with spinners in 10 to 15 feet off Sunset Bay Marina. Good colors were white, purple, green, chartreuse or brass. A good number of channel catfish have been caught. Shore anglers at Quanicassee and Sebewaing caught freshwater drum or catfish. At Caseville, shore fishing was slow with a few rock bass and the odd walleye. Catch and release bass fishing has been very good.

**Tittabawassee River:** Walleye fishing is slowing with the average catch per trip between one and three fish. Anglers are casting or trolling blue and silver body baits around Mapleton. Look for white bass in the lower river near Center Road.

**Saginaw River:** Walleye are hitting on jigs with crawlers or minnows between Essexville and the mouth. This is a place to try if the winds are too strong to get out on the bay.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Kalamazoo River:** Is producing steelhead and smallmouth bass at the Allegan Dam. Suckers and catfish are also being caught.

**Grand Haven:** Boat anglers have their choice between salmon or perch. For salmon, most are trolling in waters out to 60 feet deep however 35 to 45 feet seems to produce the most fish when using 3, 5 and 7 color lead core. Set downriggers 20 to 35 feet with orange and gold spoons. Perch anglers are still taking fish in the 60 foot hole just south of the south pier. Try minnows, spikes or wigglers. Pier fishing was slow for those casting spoons.

**Grand River in Grand Rapids:** Steelhead are still being caught at the Sixth Street Dam. Walleye were caught on crawlers and body baits. A fair to good number of flathead and channel catfish have been caught on live suckers, cut bait or chicken liver. A few pike were caught on large sucker minnows, spinners or body baits.

**Rogue River:** Is producing some steelhead at the Rockford Dam.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Still has some steelhead. Those fishing live bait have caught catfish and pike. A few walleye were caught at Moore's Park.

**Maple River:** Continues to produce catfish and suckers.

**Muskegon:** Boat anglers are trolling for walleye and brown trout in 30 to 70 feet around the piers but the fish were scattered. Try fishing the stained water where temperatures are a bit warmer. Orange and gold spoons or spoons with a gold blade were the ticket. Pier anglers are casting or jigging for walleye but catch rates were slow. The fish cleaning station at the State Park is closed because of a water main break. There is no reopen date at this time.

**Muskegon Lake:** The Cottage Grove launch has one ramp that is open for those looking to launch a boat.

**Muskegon River:** Has elevated water levels but anglers will still find a fair to good number of steelhead.

**Whitehall:** Boat anglers trolling for brown trout had little success. A few small brown trout were caught off the pier. Those fishing the channel did manage to catch some walleye when casting plugs. Muddy water has slowed catch rates.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Rogers City:** The few boats starting to head out have caught a couple trout or salmon. The water is still pretty cold. Most are heading south towards Swan Bay, Adams Point and Calcite Harbor but staying inside 30 feet of water. Look for the mud line because that is where the warmer water is. For Atlantic salmon and brown trout, use planer boards with spoons and body baits. For lake trout, try dodgers and spin glows near the bottom out deep or high-lining in shallow waters.

**Alpena:** Fishing in the bay has picked up with anglers taking a mixed bag of walleye, chinook, lake trout or the occasional Atlantic salmon. Most are trolling spoons or body baits in less than 30 feet in the early morning or evening. Use bright colors as the water is stained. Hot spots were near the mouth of the Thunder Bay River or in front of the marina. The fish cleaning station is open but the restrooms were not.

**Thunder Bay River:** Fishing has slowed but anglers may still find a stray walleye or steelhead. Anglers at the dam are catching lots of suckers and the occasional steelhead. It seems the run is just about done.

**Harrisville:** Fishing is good inside and outside the harbor for walleye and steelhead. Morning and evening were best but don't rule out mid-day. Spoons and body baits were best but fly's and spawn are worth trying.

**Oscoda:** Pier anglers are catching good numbers of walleye and the occasional Atlantic salmon. Crawlers or body baits worked best.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead are on the beds and most of the fish seem to be fresh. High Banks, the Boy Scout Camp and below the dam are holding the most fish. Try spawn, fly's or wax worms.

**Tawas:** Pier anglers are taking Atlantic, chinook, brown trout and pike outside the wall during the day while night anglers are taking walleye and channel catfish. Minnows and body baits work best. Boat anglers caught good numbers of walleye in 15 to 24 feet between Tawas Point and Alabaster. Chinook salmon were caught in 30 feet. Walleye have been caught off the mouth of the Tawas River when casting body baits at night.

**Au Gres:** Had excellent walleye fishing between Point Lookout and Point Au Gres. Limit catches were taken in 15 to 25 feet.

**Au Gres River:** Night anglers are catching channel cats. A few walleye were caught at night near the mouth of Whitney Drain.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Charlevoix:** Still no boats were seen on Lake Michigan. Those fishing the channel at night for walleye caught few fish. Water temperature in the channel was 36 degrees. Some are trying to find perch in Lake Charlevoix but no one had any luck.

**Petoskey:** Boat anglers are just starting to head out for steelhead and brown trout but no fish were caught. Anglers may want to target lake trout.

**Bear River:** Continues to flow high and fast. Look for steelhead and suckers at the dam. Fish were hitting on orange and pink spawn bags or fly's and yarn. The females still had eggs.

**Harbor Springs:** The boat launch is currently being dredged.

**Traverse City:** Only a few boats were out on the East Bay. Smallmouth bass were caught in 30 feet but catch rates were slow. Lake trout were caught at various depths. Shore anglers caught a few fish when surfcasting with spawn. On the West Bay, cisco, steelhead and lake trout were caught near the mouth of the Boardman. Boats were trolling shallow water for lake trout.

**Elk River:** Has a decent number of steelhead. Try spawn or jigs with wax worms.

**Boardman River:** The spring steelhead run has likely peaked. A few fish were caught on spawn or wigglers near the dam. Pike, walleye, suckers, and smallmouth can also be found.

**Platte Bay:** Fishing is red hot! Those trolling dark colored spoons about a mile out have caught some big lake trout. Brown trout were caught by those trolling rapalas near the mouth of the river. Black and chrome were hot colors.

**Platte River:** Anglers have found lots of large steelhead just up from the mouth. Fish are on the gravel. White suckers are also here and sitting on the gravel or in the holes up near El Dorado. Walleye were seen below the M-22 Bridge. The area inside the National Park is a favorite spot for women and small children because of the slow flow, the clear water and few obstructions. Near Honor, a good number of suckers are holding downstream of the bridge tubes. The upper stretch near Haze Road still has some dark males waiting for fresh hens to show up.

**Frankfort:** Trolling slow in between the break walls is producing brown trout, walleye and the occasional chinook. Water temperatures are still cool so browns were hitting on body baits. Black and silver or black and gold were hot colors. Jointed rapalas worked better in the morning.

**Onekama:** Those trolling the shoreline in the morning caught brown trout and walleye on spoons. Try 10 to 12 feet down in 15 to 20 feet of water.

**Portage Lake:** Bass are hitting on spinners, plugs, wax worms or grubs.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** Are good for catch and immediate release bass fishing. Walleye anglers are targeting shallow waters at night. Good pike action for those using suckers, crank baits or spinners. Bluegills were still very slow.

**Manistee:** Brown trout action has slowed compared to the last few weeks. Those trolling are still catching a few on spoons or body baits. Orange and chartreuse were good colors. Pier anglers caught a couple fish when casting or floating spawn.

**Manistee River:** Steelhead fishing remains good although the run should begin to wind down soon.

**Ludington:** Those trolling along the shoreline caught brown trout on orange spoons or black and silver body baits. Pier fishing was slow.

**Pere Marquette River:** Is still producing some steelhead.

**Pentwater:** Boat anglers caught brown trout and lake trout when trolling. Hot colors were orange, yellow or chartreuse. Pier fishing was very slow. The water is muddy after all the rain.

## UPPER PENINSULA

Most of the lakes are open now. Access to most is pretty good but some still have snow on the ground. Water levels are high at this time. Conditions for the walleye opener look to be cold water temperatures and high water levels.

**Keweenaw Bay:** The ice has drifted north leaving most of the bay open. Boats able to get out and start trolling caught a few salmon. Those fishing off of the Rock Dock next to the L'Anse Marina and at the mouth of Linden Creek had a couple good days catching splake but many were small. Chinook, coho and rainbow were also caught. A couple rainbow trout were caught in the Falls River but the water is still cold. Smelt were found in the Ravine River, Silver River, Linden Creek and the Falls River however the action was hit-or-miss.

**Lake Antoine:** In Dickenson County has just opened up. The docks were not in at the boat launches. Lake Antoine Road is under construction.

**Marquette:** Was almost ice free however easterly winds blew ice back into the area. The Lower Harbor still has ice and beyond the breakwalls is a large amount of ice. Shore anglers fishing the mouth of the Carp River caught a couple small coho or steelhead. There are a number of research projects where lake trout have been tagged in Lake Superior. Anglers are reminded that the return of tag information provides valuable feedback for future fisheries management in the area.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Water levels are high compared to last year. All the boat launches are open and ready for use. Catch rates for perch were slow. The best area was off the east bank at Kipling in 20 to 30 feet. Perch were taken northwest of Butler Island when using minnows or crawlers in 12 to 20 feet however many were small. The walleye opener should be good. DNR staff collecting eggs reported good numbers of fish. A good place to fish will be between the mouth of the Whitefish River and Gladstone. The southern bay should also produce good catches along the "Black Bottom", the Lighthouse, and from Breezy Point to the Ford River. Water temperatures were between 40 and 48 degrees.

**Ford River:** Steelhead were caught up past the Gulf Course.

**Big Bay De Noc:** The launches are open and ready for boat anglers. Perch anglers reported good catches in Garden Bay. The area where the fish congregate is quite small so angler patience is the key to success. Many are using minnows in 6 to 8 feet off Hermes Fishery. The walleye outlook compares to last year's opener. Best area to fish should be the head of the bay, up the Fish Dam River and south to Porcupine Point and the "Boot". Walleye anglers will want to try near the Ogontz River and over by the old campground northwest of the launch in 12 to 14 feet.

**Manistique River:** Is running high and fast.

**Au Train:** The Brownstone launch was ice free however easterly winds pushed ice back into the area and the launch site is now solid ice. Ice remains beyond Au Train Island. Catch rates were poor at the mouth of the Rock River.

**Munising:** Ice in the bay is finally gone! The docks are in at the city launch. The launch at Sand Point has been dredged of sand however it is only suitable for small craft. Pier anglers had fair to good results for a mix of splake, coho, whitefish and the odd steelhead. Several limit catches of splake were reported. Try casting spawn or worms. Water levels are running high in the Anna River.

**Grand Marais:** The ice is gone and the boat launch can now be used. A majority of ice at the end of the pier has melted. Pier anglers are catching coho, whitefish and a couple steelhead. Shore anglers fishing at the mouth of the Sucker River have caught a fair to good number of coho. Boat anglers heading out caught primarily coho.

**Two Hearted River:** Water levels were extremely high and the current was fast. Very few steelhead have been caught.

**Tahquamenon River:** Was producing smelt at the mouth.

**St. Mary's River:** The ice is gone at the boat launches and some docks are in. Water temperatures are still cold at 38 to 42 degrees. Those fishing the discharge side of the Electric Power Plant have caught steelhead. Try spawn bags tied above a one or two ounce sinker drifted in the discharge.

**Detour:** The launch off M-134 across from DNR Field Office and the launch in De Tour Village are open but no docks are in yet.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Boats can launch in Hessel Bay, but the dock is not in yet. There is no perch activity; however splake are hitting off the pier.

**Carp River:** Anglers are targeting steelhead with spawn or spinners. The river is running very fast and is very dirty. The smelt run appears to be done.

**St. Ignace:** The ice is finally gone however the docks are not in yet.

May 22, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

This coming Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> is the opening day of bass season on the Great Lakes and all inland waters except Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River and the Detroit River which do not open until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June. The early catch and release season has been excellent so the opener should be good.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Inconsistent weather has caused walleye to scatter and move into deeper water. Most of the fish caught were taken in 18 to 22 feet near Brest Bay and Stony Point. At Bolles Harbor, catch rates were good for large and smallmouth bass. Walleye were caught near the launch and in 20 feet near the stacks. Try bottom bouncing with crawler harnesses or using jerk baits. Good colors were chartreuse, neon green or purple. Some are using planer boards. Catfish and bass were caught in the Hot Ponds. Anglers are drifting or trolling as slow as possible and staying close to the bottom to avoid white bass and perch.

**Detroit River:** Still has good walleye fishing but the average size has dropped as most of the bigger fish have moved out of the river. White bass numbers are going up and the fishing should really take off with warmer temperatures. Target the lower and middle river this coming weekend. Smallmouth bass fishing remains very good in the middle and upper sections.

**Portage Chain-of-Lakes:** Near Pinckney had slow crappie fishing but those fishing the canals and along the shoreline did well for bluegill. Good bass action along the flats and in the coves. Try soft jerk baits or casting jigs near structure. Water levels were up after the rain so many of the fish were taken in areas with a current.

**Lake St. Clair:** Cooler water temperatures are keeping the smallmouth bass in deeper water in Anchor Bay. Good smallmouth bass fishing was reported along the Mile Roads and along the shoreline off Grosse Pointe. Good largemouth action in the canals and marinas.

**St. Clair River:** Walleye fishing was hit-or-miss. The better catches were reported near Algonac and Marine City. The occasional trout and salmon were still being caught by shore anglers at Port Huron.

**Clinton River:** Has excellent rock bass fishing.

**Lexington:** Boat anglers reported a mix of chinook, coho, lake trout and steelhead. Though fish were caught, the action was hit-or-miss. Pier anglers caught small perch, rock bass, bullhead and a couple bluegills.

**Port Sanilac:** Pier anglers floating large minnows under a bobber caught coho, lake trout, steelhead and even an Atlantic salmon. Those trolling caught a mix of trout and salmon however success was hit-or-miss.

**Harbor Beach:** Has fair to good lake trout fishing in 60 to 80 feet straight out, north or south of the harbor. Try dodgers or cowbells with spin glows just off the bottom or spoons 50 to 70 feet down. Salmon and steelhead were taken in 40 to 80 feet with spoons and downriggers or offshore boards with 2 or 3 colored lines. Try orange and black, purple or bright colors. A couple walleye were taken by those casting body baits off the wall. There is plenty of water at the ramps, docks and the channel.

**Grindstone City:** Had excellent smallmouth bass fishing in the harbor. Most anglers were casting tube jigs.

**Saginaw Bay:** Had a lot of walleye activity on the west side. Boat anglers were trolling in 15 feet off Pinconning or 13 to 18 feet off Linwood. Crawler harnesses and body baits in purple, blue or wonderbread worked best. A handful of walleye were caught northwest of Spoils Island. Catch rates off Finn Road were slow but walleye were taken north of Quanicassee, even some limit catches. The hot spot was 10 to 14 feet of water in the Slot. Hot colors were purple, green and chartreuse.

**Tittabawassee River:** The water has been fast and muddy so fishing was just about impossible.

**Saginaw River:** A few walleye were still being caught in the lower river at Smith Park. Shore anglers are casting jigs.

**Quanicassee River:** Boat anglers fishing upstream did catch a few walleye.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Grand Haven:** Chinook salmon fishing is heating up. Anglers were fishing 30 to 70 feet with most fish caught in 40 to 55 feet. Most are working the mud line and the clean water just outside it. Try 3 colors of lead off downriggers set about 43 feet down with mini or regular spoons. Colors of orange, gold, mixed veggie or UV baits are working well. Perch fishing has slowed and pier anglers are struggling.

**Grand River in Grand Rapids:** The steelhead action is pretty much done but walleye should be hitting. Try suckers, crawlers or cut bait for catfish. For pike, anglers are using large sucker minnows, spinners or body baits. Check out the parks and the backwaters for panfish.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Water levels are high but fishable. Those fishing the bottom will want to use extra weight. Anglers have done well for pike and bass. Bluegill and rock bass have also been caught.

**Looking Glass River:** Has high water levels.

**Maple River:** Has high water levels.

**Muskegon:** Is a little slower than Grand Haven but fish have been caught in 40 to 50 feet or targeting top water down to 25 feet with spoons. Pier fishing is very slow. Anglers casting and jigging for walleye had little success.

**Muskegon River:** Is running a little high but anglers are still taking a good number of steelhead and the occasional brown trout. Anglers are floating spawn and fly's or swinging streamers near the holes.

**Whitehall:** Pier anglers were catching brown trout on spawn until a south wind slowed the bite and washed some weeds in. Even with the south wind, anglers were catching some walleye on body baits, wigglers or artificial wigglers. Most fish were taken in the channel but pier anglers also caught fish.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Rogers City:** Boat anglers are just starting to pick up a few lake trout when trolling along the bottom in 10 feet or 20 to 60 feet. Cowbells with spin glows or dodgers with spin glows are getting fish. Some trolling the shallows are high-lining with a little weight added to the line while others are trolling stick baits in bright colors. Some caught the occasional Atlantic salmon or chinook. The stained water is warming up but the lake water was low to mid 40's.

**Alpena:** Is producing a mix of trout and salmon for those trolling. Walleye fishing was better in the evening while trout and salmon were caught morning and evening. Try near the mouth of the river, out from the marina or near Thunder Bay Island when fishing in shallow waters with stick baits and spoons, cowbells or dodgers with spin glows for lake trout. Use anything bright in the stained water. Pier anglers night fishing caught a few walleye when casting stick baits that resemble smelt. The fish cleaning station and the public restrooms are now open.

**Thunder Bay River:** Is producing the occasional steelhead or Atlantic salmon. Try drifting artificial beads and spawn or casting body baits. Atlantic salmon were feeding on steelhead eggs or mayfly larvae. The occasional walleye was caught by those drifting or jigging. Lots of smallmouth bass were caught and released. Those targeting walleye did catch a few pike.

**Harrisville:** Is producing steelhead, lake trout, chinook, walleye and Atlantic salmon. Early morning and mid to late evening was best for all species both inside and outside the harbor. Fish the rocks for walleye and the deeper channels for trout.

Boat anglers targeting walleye did well around Sturgeon Point, the rock wall and the State Park. Body baits, spoons, fly's, crawlers and spawn are all working. Look for trout and salmon in 20 to 50 feet and walleye in 8 to 20.

**Oscoda:** Pier anglers are catching a good mix of Atlantic and chinook salmon, steelhead, brown trout and lake trout. Walleye are coming in from the lake in good numbers. Crawlers and body baits were the ticket.

**Au Sable River:** Water levels are up and fast but the fish are coming in good numbers. Steelhead are being caught between the dam and the piers. Those fishing up on the beds are doing well with spawn, fly's and wax worms.

**Houghton Lake:** Is producing walleye and some crappie. Walleye can be found around the weed beds and the crappie have come out of the canals.

**Lake St. Helen:** Is producing crappie and pike. Not much in the way of bluegills yet but soon. Bass fishing was good in the deeper holes as cooler water temperatures were keeping the fish from spawning.

**Tawas:** Perch fishing is pretty much done for pier anglers however they are now catching Atlantic salmon when using large minnows outside the pier. A good number of walleye and a few pike were also taken. Boat anglers trolling between the mouth of the Tawas River and Alabaster are taking a fair number of fish. Chinook, brown trout, lake trout and walleye were taken in 36 to 50 feet out near Buoy #2. Shore anglers and those wading the mouth of the river caught walleye and bass.

**Au Gres:** Had lots of boat activity. Anglers are taking walleye in 25 to 35 feet. Some limit catches were reported.

**Au Gres River:** Was high and muddy. Few were fishing but those that were did manage to catch a couple catfish.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Trout fishing is still tough due to rivers that remain very high. Smaller streams are fishable now, so anglers should target headwater areas. Inland lake fishing is slowly improving, but cold fronts were setbacks.

**Charlevoix:** Boat anglers looking for lake trout off South Point caught no fish. Some are still waiting for walleye to show up in the channel. They are heading out at sunset or later and using soft plastics with jigs or body baits. Surface water temperatures were still in the mid 30's.

**Petoskey:** Had a few boats heading out for lake trout but none were caught. Those fishing up near Bay Harbor were marking fish 100 to 120 feet down but they would not bite. Anglers targeting steelhead off the breakwall did not have much luck however a couple walleye and smallmouth bass were taken. Try crawlers, spinners or jigs with soft plastics.

**Bear River:** Most shore fishing was at the dam or the mouth. Most are using spawn bags or fly's. Recent rain should bring some fresh fish into the river. Fish were caught at the dam or downstream between the bridges.

**Traverse City:** The East Bay was producing cisco, lake trout and whitefish for those jigging in 40 to 120 feet. Those trolling caught lake and brown trout. Smallmouth bass fishing should pick up as waters warms. In the West Bay, anglers caught lake trout when trolling in 30 to 50 feet or jigging in 140 feet. Some caught the occasional steelhead, brown trout or chinook when trolling.

**Elk River:** Steelhead fishing has been steady below the power dam. The majority of fish were caught on spawn bags or jigs.

**Boardman River:** Is still producing the occasional steelhead. Northern pike, smallmouth bass and suckers can also be found.

**Platte Bay:** Has good brown trout fishing depending on water temperature. Anglers are trolling black and chrome rapalas just off the mouth of the river. Dredging last year has kept the mouth open and navigable. Lake trout were taken in 20 to 60 feet.

**Platte River:** Was high with water over the banks. Steelhead fishing was good between the mouth and El Dorado. White suckers and walleye were also caught.

**Frankfort:** Brown trout are hitting inside the harbor and along the shoreline. Try body baits in the morning. Lake trout and pike were also caught.

**Onekama:** Those trolling the shoreline are taking brown trout, lake trout and walleye when trolling spoons 8 to 14 feet down in 15 to 22 feet of water. Trolling speeds were between 1.8 and 2.2 mph.

**Portage Lake:** Perch fishing slowed with the cooler temperatures but should pick back up for the weekend. Large and smallmouth bass are hitting on anything.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** Northern pike and crappie have started to bite. A few walleye and largemouth bass were caught.

**Manistee:** Chinook salmon have started to show up. Pockets of stained water and areas with slight temperature difference are holding fish. Boat anglers trolling between the shoreline and 40 feet caught chinook, brown trout, lake trout and steelhead. Blue and orange spoons worked best. Pier anglers caught a few perch.

**Manistee River:** Continues to warm up with temperatures in the low to mid 50's. The steelhead run is winding down however some nice fish are still being caught near Tippy Dam. Brown trout fishing continues to improve. Anglers are casting rapalas. No word on walleye.

**Ludington:** The fish cleaning station at the Loomis Street Launch is now open. Chinook, lake trout and brown trout have been caught by those trolling between the

shoreline and water 50 feet deep with orange, yellow or green spoons. Pier fishing was slow.

**Pere Marquette River:** Has steelhead but the run is winding down. Anglers are catching some nice brown trout. Fly hatches are starting and the fish are becoming more active.

**Pentwater:** Had a few boats catching brown trout and lake trout close to shore. Pier anglers caught walleye late at night.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** Float ice moved back into the bay making it impossible for anglers to launch or troll. Fishing off the rock docks and Sand Point in Baraga was also hindered. A few more rainbow trout were taken but the bite remains slow. Before the ice moved back in, those fishing off of the rock dock next to the L'Anse Marina and the mouth of Linden Creek had a couple good days of catching splake but many were small. Those looking for smelt did find some in the Ravine River, Silver River on Skanee Road, Linden Creek and the Falls River but catch rates were still hit-or-miss.

**Lake Antoine:** In Dickenson County is producing a good number of bluegills for those jigging or still-fishing with live bait in the shallows. Many are small but some nice fish were caught right along with a few perch and crappie. Both docks are in at the launch. Lake Antoine Road is down to one lane because of construction.

**Marquette:** Strong winds have blown ice into both the upper and lower launch ramps. Chances are by this weekend launching will not be possible without some very strong west winds to blow the ice out of the harbors. Shore anglers fishing for steelhead and coho have done poorly.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Had a good start to the walleye season despite poor weather conditions. Anglers caught a good number of large fish but many were released because no more than one walleye over 23 inches may be possessed. Fish were caught throughout however the northern bay was the best. Most are trolling stick baits or crawlers in 6 to 24 feet between the Second and Third Reef. Shallow water was best in the early morning. Some did well off the mouth the Whitefish River in 8 to 14 feet and off the mouth of the Ford River with crank baits or crawlers in 8 to 16 feet. The waters are stained because of run-off so walleye should be around for a while. Perch fishing was fair along the "Narrows" with crawlers in 35 feet and off the mouth of the Escanaba River in 25 feet.

**Day's River:** Is also producing some steelhead up past the Gulf Course.

**Escanaba River:** Is producing walleye for those trolling crank baits.

**Ford River:** Is producing steelhead up near Hyde. Shore anglers caught several large walleye when casting rapalas.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Had few anglers for the walleye opener. A few fish were caught at the head of the bay between the Fish Dam Rivers and Valentine Creek when trolling crank baits or crawler harnesses in 8 to 15 feet. The better fishing was in Ogontz Bay when trolling crank baits in 6 to 8 feet. Limit catches were reported. Catch and release bass anglers reported good number of fish. The fish are staging despite the cold water temperatures. Perch fishing was fair to good in Garden Bay. Spawning is just about completed so anglers will find large numbers of small fish on the northwest bank by the Fishery. Try crawlers or minnows in 6 to 8 feet.

**Manistique Lake:** Had good walleye fishing. Try the southern portion near Burnt Island with crawlers and leeches.

**Munising:** The ice has left the bay but remains a factor as wind conditions can pack both channels with flow ice and keep boats inside the bay. Fishing has started to pick up and catch rates were fair inside the bay where a mix of coho, splake and smaller chinook salmon were caught. Coho were averaging 15 inches and 1 pound. Shore anglers reported fair catch rates for splake but steelhead were hard to come by. Pier anglers caught splake, coho, whitefish, menominee and the occasional steelhead when casting spawn or worms.

**Grand Marais:** Had more anglers but catch rates varied with some taking limit catches while others only caught a few. Most are catching coho followed by steelhead, small chinook and brown trout. The pier is almost ice free. Anglers there caught a few menominee, whitefish and coho. Shore anglers fishing near the mouth of the Sucker River caught coho but not many steelhead.

**Two Hearted River:** Water levels are still high so anglers are limited. Steelhead are there and were caught.

**Luce County:** Trout lakes are open with access to all areas. Roads are muddy.

**St. Mary's River:** A few anglers were trolling Raber Bay and the north end of Lime Island for walleye. Fishing has not been productive since opening day because water temperatures need to warm up. Raber Bay was 38 to 40 degrees. No reports of yellow perch in the Upper River near Sherman Park and no walleye in Brimley Bay.

**Drummond Island:** A few yellow perch are being caught off the Monahan Dock which is at the end of Tourist Road. Try minnows under a bobber in the early morning. A few anglers in smaller boats caught perch in Maxton Bay. Try shiners in 4 to 6 feet in the early morning off Sportsman Club Point.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Pike fishing is fair for those trolling or casting in Hessel Bay, Cedarville Bay, Musky Bay or Moscoe Channel. Smallmouth bass ranging 4 to 5 pounds were caught in Hessel Bay, Musky Bay, Duck Bay and Mackinaw Bay. Splake were caught off the pier in Hessel when still-fishing with smelt.

**Carp River:** Steelhead were caught upstream near the McDonald Rapids. Suckers are still in the river.

May 29, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Fishing patterns are slowly moving into the summer mode. Water temperatures on the Great Lakes are still cold especially Lake Superior which still has ice. The inland lakes are warming at a very slow pace.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Walleye fishing was still sporadic, but starting to heat up. Stony Pointe is producing in 18 to 24 feet and near the mouth of the River Raisin in 16 to 20 feet. Fish were caught near the E-Buoy, the C-Buoy and the stacks. Try purple and chartreuse crawler harnesses especially early and late. During the day, try suspending jerk baits or reef runners. Black and silver were good colors. Bass anglers are still taking largemouth or the occasional smallmouth near the launch at Bolles Harbor.

**Detroit River:** Walleye fishing remains very good in the river, but walleye anglers are also getting white bass and smallmouth bass. White bass fishing should be excellent by this weekend.

**Portage Chain-of-Lakes:** Was producing a good number of bluegill, sunfish and bass. Bluegill and bass were on the beds. Those fishing the sandy flats have done well. Anglers are still taking some crappie along the weed beds in shallow water. Pike were caught along the drop-offs. The gates at the Portage Lake state launch will only be open between the hours of 8am until 10pm.

**Lake St. Clair:** Has very good smallmouth bass fishing in Anchor Bay and along the shoreline off the Mile Roads. Some white bass are starting to show up. Walleye fishing was spotty.

**St. Clair River:** Has good walleye fishing. A variety of methods have been producing fish with jigging and bottom bouncing producing during the day, and whipping producing after dark.

**Lexington:** Boat anglers are taking trout and salmon. Pier anglers caught walleye at night when casting body baits or still-fishing with large minnows. Kids fishing inside the harbor have caught some big rock bass on crawlers.

**Port Sanilac:** Is producing a mix of lake trout, Atlantic salmon, steelhead, chinook, coho and pink salmon. The fish are scattered but most were fishing in 60 to 70 feet with spoons. Many fish were caught about halfway down. Pier anglers caught coho, steelhead and Atlantic salmon. Walleye were caught at night when casting body baits or still-fishing with large minnows.

**Harbor Beach:** Is producing some steelhead and salmon in 25 to 80 feet. Try spoons off downriggers and 2 or 3 colored lines with offshore boards. Hot colors were orange and black, purple and black, gold or bright colors. For lake trout, head straight out or south and fish in 60 to 90 feet. Try dodgers or cowbells with spin glows and spoons just off the bottom. A few walleye were caught off the wall early or late when casting small spoons or body baits.

**Grindstone City:** Is producing a good mix of trout and salmon. Those trolling are taking a mix of trout and salmon out near the wreck of the Philadelphia. Near Lighthouse Park, those trolling for walleye in 12 feet did well.

**Port Austin:** Did not have much activity as harbor renovations are on-going.

**Saginaw Bay:** Anglers trolling for walleye are switching from body baits to crawler harnesses. That's a good sign that the early spring pattern is ending and the summer pattern is setting up. Good walleye catches reported from a variety of locations. Limit catches were also reported. Some general hot spots were 21 feet at the Black Hole, 20 feet off Linwood, 16 feet off Pinconning and 21 feet just east of the Dumping Ground. Fish were also caught in 4 to 8 feet east of Spoils Island and along the Callahan Reef, 4 to 16 feet in the Slot between Fish Point and Quanicassee or the Slot between Heisterman Island and the tip of Sand Point. Good colors for crawler harness spinners were purple, green or anti-freeze and gold.

**Saginaw River:** Walleye were still being caught in the lower river between the mouth and the Independence Bridge. Anglers are trolling, vertical jigging or casting jigs.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Bass and bluegills are finally showing up in the shallows for most lakes. For bluegills, anglers are doing best in 2 to 8 feet when using beetle spins, flies, wax worms, and red worms. The large and deeper lakes are still running behind.

**St. Joseph:** Salmon fishing was very good in 80 to 100 feet with spoons. The catch is mostly chinook with an occasional lake trout. Perch and pier fishing were slow.

**South Haven:** Boat anglers are catching a good number of trout and salmon. Chinook were caught in 60 to 100 feet and lake trout in 60 feet. Spoons worked best. Perch fishing was slow.

**Holland:** Was producing good catches of chinook and steelhead in 70 feet.

**Port Sheldon:** Had good catches of chinook and steelhead in 145 to 165 feet.

**Grand Haven:** Salmon anglers are fishing 25 to 50 feet down in 120 to 160 feet of water. They are using mini or regular spoons with 3 to 12 colors of leadcore. Hot colors were orange and bright green. Perch fishing has slowed since stained water moved into the perch holes. Pier fishing was slow unless anglers can catch alewife.

**Grand River in Grand Rapids:** Continues to produce the occasional steelhead. Walleye and smallmouth bass were caught by those casting crank baits or drifting crawlers. Good action for both channel cats and flatheads. Try live suckers, cut bait, crawlers or leeches. Bluegill and crappie have been caught on minnows, leaf worms and wax worms.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Smallmouth bass fishing has picked up. Try minnows, crawlers, crank baits or curly tail jigs. This is a good time to target channel catfish as they don't mind the cold and dirty water. Check out the backwaters for panfish.

**Looking Glass River:** Is producing some pike. Water levels were still high.

**Muskegon:** Salmon anglers are targeting 100 to 130 feet of water and fishing anywhere from top water to 50 feet down. Try bright orange or green spoons. Some were using a spinnie/fly combo 120 feet back. No pier or perch reports.

**Muskegon River:** Fly hatches are just getting started. Those fly fishing have caught some nice brown trout. Water levels were still a bit high and fast.

**Whitehall:** Boat anglers found chinook, steelhead and lake trout along the shoreline in 25 to 50 feet. Use bright colored lures. Orange was a hot color.

**White Lake:** Was producing bluegill and sunfish near the end of the channel. Anglers were still-fishing or casting artificial crayfish.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Rogers City:** Surface water temperatures were still in the low to mid 40's. Fish the stained water which is warmer. Those targeting lake trout caught fish up near Forty Mile Point, the State Park and Adams Point when using cowbells or dodgers with spin glows 5 to 10 feet off the bottom in waters up to 60 feet deep. Try casting off the breakwalls or trolling around them for Atlantic salmon. Some caught the occasional chinook on green, orange or blue spoons. The midge hatch is ongoing and should attract fish.

**Alpena:** Some are fishing near the mouth of the river and the harbor for walleye, lake trout, Atlantic or the occasional brown trout while others were fishing around Thunder Bay Island. Try spoons or body baits at all depths as the fish are scattered. Cowbells or dodgers with spin glows are taking lake trout. The midge hatch is in full swing. This should bring some Atlantic salmon closer to the breakwall. Try orange or silver with chartreuse crocodiles.

**Thunder Bay River:** Is producing plenty of smallmouth bass and a few walleye. There is also a fair number of steelhead up near the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Dam. Atlantics are showing up and feeding on steelhead eggs or mayfly larvae. Try drifting spawn under a bobber or artificial baits.

**Harrisville:** Had good fishing for steelhead, lake trout, walleye and the occasional salmon. Lake trout are moving towards 80 to 100 feet of water. Fish the lower two thirds of the water column. Steelhead are in the upper third of 60 to 80 feet. Spoons, body baits, fly's on lead core, dipsey's, planner boards and downriggers are all working. Walleye are in and around the harbor. Shore anglers can fish off the breakwall and the beach. Boats are fishing straight out, north or south of the harbor in 12 to 20 feet with crawler harnesses or body baits.

**Oscoda:** Boats are finally heading out and catching a good number of steelhead, salmon, lake trout and walleye. Lake trout are in 90 to 120 feet and hitting on spoons. Salmon and steelhead were in 60 to 80 feet and hitting on spoons and body baits. Good colors were orange or combinations of black and blue.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead are still making their way up to the beds. Anglers have done well with spawn, wax worms and fly's. Walleye are being caught off the pier and by those drifting at the mouth. Try crawlers and leeches.

**Houghton Lake:** Anglers have caught walleye and crappie but are still waiting for the bluegill bite to get started. Water temperatures are still on the cold side.

**Tawas:** Daytime fishing off the pier was kind of slow. A few carp and bass were caught inside the harbor and a couple salmon were caught on large shiners on the outside. Night fishing off the pier was more productive for walleye by those casting body baits or still-fishing with large shiners. Walleye were caught by those trolling crawler harnesses between the tip of Tawas Point and Buoy #2.

**Tawas River:** Shore anglers caught mostly smallmouth bass.

**Au Gres:** A good number of limit catches were reported in 20 to 35 feet between Point Lookout and Pointe Au Gres. A few boats heading further south did very well off the Saganing Bar.

**Au Gres River:** Shore anglers fishing at night caught channel cats.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

The trout streams are finally receding and clearing up. Inland lake fishing has improved with the warmer temperatures. Crappies are actively spawning, although bluegills and bass had not yet started. Bass fishing is very good right now as they are pre-spawn and actively feeding.

**Harbor Springs:** The dredging was close enough to be doing that the boat launch was opened. Anglers were focusing on lake trout around the Point and smallmouth bass along the shoreline. Try tube baits for smallmouth.

**Petoskey:** Had reports of few lake trout taken in 50 to 60 feet. Pier anglers were trying but had no luck. Look for smallmouth bass near the rocks and off the breakwalls soon.

**Charlevoix:** Boat anglers caught lake trout in 40 to 50 feet around North Point. Most are using spoons and cowbells. Those targeting walleye in the channel at night caught a few fish on jigs with soft plastics or crank baits. Those using crawlers in the Pine River Channel had no luck.

**Lake Charlevoix:** Boat anglers have caught yellow perch however the schools of fish are small and scattered.

**Bear River:** Is finally receding. Steelhead can still be found at the dam. A pre-spawn female was caught so spawning continues. Anglers did best with spawn bags.

**Torch Lake:** Was producing a small number of Atlantic salmon.

**Traverse City:** In the East Bay, lake trout were caught anywhere from 30 to 115 feet. Good catches of cisco were taken by those jigging in 60 to 90 feet. Smallmouth bass fishing was hit-or-miss but should continue to improve as the waters warm. In the West Bay, lake trout were caught in various depths but the bite was slow. Try waters 30 and 120 feet deep.

**Elk River:** Steelhead were caught on spawn or jigs below the power dam. There are also plenty of suckers in the river and smallmouth bass fishing should start to pick up.

**Boardman River:** Steelhead remain in the river, but the run is winding down. There are plenty of suckers, a few carp and smallmouth bass in the river.

**Platte Bay:** Brown trout fishing has slowed because of the cold lake water turning over. A few lake trout were taken on brown spoons in 60 feet.

**Platte River:** Fishing has slowed with only small trout caught between the hatchery and the Goose Road Campground. Most of the steelhead are gone. Suckers are spawning between the mouth and the Lower Weir. Loon Lake is producing smallmouth bass and carp are on a spawning frenzy.

**Frankfort:** Brown trout are still hitting inside and outside the piers. Try #7 and #9 rapalas jointed or not. Black and silver were the hot colors. Chinook were caught on spoons outside the breakwalls.

**Onkama:** Is producing a good number of chinook salmon. Heading south was the key to filling the coolers. Find the warmer water.

**Portage Lake:** Had very good bass fishing. Largemouth bass were starting to move toward the beds. Smallmouth bass were caught inside and outside the channel. Perch and walleye were hard to find.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** Cold water temperatures have delayed spawning this year. A fair to good number of large and smallmouth bass were caught. Anglers have caught bluegill, crappie, rock bass and pike.

**Manistee:** Boat anglers are taking chinook, lake trout and the occasional steelhead 40 to 100 feet down in 80 to 100 feet of water. Most are using orange and green spoons along with purple and green meat rigs. Pier fishing was slow.

**Ludington:** Is also producing salmon and trout. Boat anglers are fishing 30 to 100 feet down in 100 to 180 feet with orange or green spoons and purple, red or green meat rigs. Fish spoons up higher and meat rigs down lower in the water column. Pier fishing was slow.

**Pentwater:** Is producing a good number of chinook and steelhead. Some were trolling along the shoreline in 25 to 40 feet while others were heading out and fishing 30 to 50 feet down in 140 feet. Bright colored lures were the ticket. A few lake trout were also caught.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** Still had ice however there was enough open water for anglers to try trolling. There is still a lot of ice so those heading out need to use caution because the ice can blow back in and block the bay. A mix of chinook, coho, rainbow, brown trout and splake were taken in 30 to 60 feet when using spoons or body baits in a variety of colors. Those fishing off the rock dock near the L'Anse Marina or the mouth of Linden Creek caught splake on spinners, cleo's and crawlers. Many were throw backs but some keepers were recorded. Those putting in at the Traverse Bay Marina were targeting lake trout off Big Louie's Point and Gay Point but the bite was slow. Try spoons in 130 to 180 feet.

**Lake Antoine:** A good number of bluegills were caught in the shallows. Wax worms and crawlers worked best. Perch, crappie and rock bass were also taken. Boat anglers casting crank baits caught some nice large and smallmouth bass. Many fish were seen in the shallows. Pike were also caught on crank baits. Lake Antoine Road is still under construction.

**Marquette:** Ice continues to hamper boat anglers at both the Upper and Lower Harbors. The ice extends out for miles and can blow in or out depending on the wind. A couple boats were able to get out but catch rates were poor for those trolling spoons. A couple small coho or splake were caught by shore anglers near the Carp River.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Had good to excellent smallmouth bass fishing near the mouth of the Ford River and the surrounding shoreline. Anglers did well when casting spinners, crank baits or crawlers in 3 to 6 feet. For walleye, anglers reported few catches at the head of the bay but good catches in the southern section from Breezy Point south to No-See-Um Creek. Fish were caught by those trolling or drifting crawlers harnesses in 8 to 10 feet off Breezy Point but the better action was between the mouth of the Ford River and No-See-Um Creek in 10 feet. Evenings and night fishing were best. The north bay had good numbers of fish but fewer catches. Perch fishing was fair to good off Gladstone Beach when using crawlers in 14 to 30 feet.

**Big Bay De Noc:** The bass opener was fantastic with a lot of fish caught. Smallmouth were staging and quite aggressive in 4 to 8 feet. Anglers used live bait, spinners or crank baits. Although many participate in “catch and release” high numbers of limit catches were also reported. The head of the bay near the Fish Dam River, Ogontz, Martin Bay, Puffy Bay, South River Bay, Porcupine Point and the sand pit near Nahma all had similar results. Only a few anglers have taken advantage of the good walleye catches up near the river in Ogontz Bay. Most are trolling or drifting crawler harnesses in 4 to 8 feet. The fish will be moving out sooner than later. Perch fishing in Garden Bay is pretty much done.

**Au Train:** A few anglers were shore fishing near the Rock River but no fish were caught. Ice continues to flow in and out of the bay. A couple boats were able to troll around the ice flows for coho but no fish were caught.

**Munising:** Anglers need to pay close attention to wind direction because it can cause the ice to return and block the channels. Pier anglers caught a mix of coho, splake, menominee, whitefish or steelhead when casting spawn or worms. Several limit catches of splake were reported. More boats were starting to fish inside the bay for trout and salmon. Chinook were 3 to 5 pounds but a couple fish were as high as 10 pounds. Shore anglers had fair to poor catch rates for splake.

**Grand Marais:** Pier anglers dealt with ice flows continually moving in and out over the past week causing a major disruption. When the pier was fishable, anglers caught a mix of coho, menominee and whitefish. Steelhead numbers were low. Boat anglers did well taking a mix of steelhead, chinook and brown trout. Shore anglers were focusing near the mouth of the Sucker River.

**St. Mary's River:** Anglers were targeting walleye in Brimley Bay but the bite was slow because of cold water coming down from Lake Superior. Once the water warms, walleye fishing should be good. Yellow perch fishing was excellent in the upper river. Anglers were launching from Sherman Park. Try 25 to 30 feet in the shipping channel near the red buoy. Lake George is producing walleye 19 to 23 inches when trolling crank baits in 4 to 6 feet. Lake Nicolet is producing some large pike 32 to 36 inches in the early morning or evening. Most are trolling crank baits.

**Detour:** Anglers are catching Atlantic, chinook, steelhead and lake trout around the lighthouse.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Pike fishing is slow throughout the islands. There are a few pockets, but overall, the harvest is low. Smallmouth bass fishing was great during catch and release, but was slow recently. Splake are still near the Hessel Pier and the marina had a good number of perch averaging 7 to 9 inches. Water temperatures are still cool, 47 to 52 degrees.

**Carp River:** Anglers are targeting steelhead and suckers at the Carp River Bridge and McDonald Rapids. The water is still fast and muddy but anglers are harvesting fish using spawn or spinners with orange, green or red yarn.

June 5, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT



It's here! Michigan's annual "Summer Free Fishing Weekend" will be observed this Saturday, June 7th and Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Both residents and non-residents can fish without a license however all regulations still apply. This is a great opportunity to introduce someone new to the sport of fishing so don't miss out, call a family member, friend or neighbor and take them fishing!

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Walleye were caught southwest of Stony Point in 18 to 24 feet and near the River Raisin buoys in 16 to 22 feet. Fish were also caught in 18 to 22 feet out near the C-Buoy and the stacks as well as straight out from the campground at Sterling State Park. Anglers are trolling spoons or purple and pink crawler harnesses early or hard jerk baits mid-day. Fewer bass were caught at Bolles Harbor however anglers did catch some big largemouth.

**Detroit River:** The white bass run is on and fishing has been very good along the entire river. Walleye are still in the river and some anglers are having decent luck pulling wire after dark. Muskie season opens on Saturday.

**Portage Chain-of-Lakes:** Anglers are doing well catching bluegill and bass. The bluegills are on their beds in the shallow sandy shorelines and sunken islands throughout the lake system. Bass are being caught in the weedy flats and along the drop-offs. Carp are starting to show up in good numbers in the shallows and along the rivers so this is a great time for bow fishing.

**Lake St. Clair:** Has good walleye fishing near Metro Beach. White bass fishing has been very good near Huron Point and at the mouth of the Clinton River. Good smallmouth action in Anchor Bay and off the Mile Roads. Muskie season opens on Saturday.

**St. Clair River:** Continues to have very good walleye fishing. Anglers are bottom bouncing, jigging and whipping.

**Lexington:** Is producing lake trout and steelhead in waters up to 80 feet deep. Boats are targeting 40 feet in the early morning and moving deeper as the sun comes up. Pier anglers are catching rock bass and the occasional pike.

**Port Sanilac:** Is also producing some large lake trout and steelhead. Most are fishing within 40 to 80 feet. Lake trout are just off the bottom but steelhead are higher in the water column as they are surface feeding for insects. Pier anglers caught rock bass and pike.

**Harbor Beach:** Boats trolling in 40 to 80 feet are getting large lake trout near the bottom and steelhead off high lines. The steelhead are eating June bugs and other insects off the surface. Start in 40 feet early in the morning and move deeper as the sun comes up. Those fishing off the breakwall at night caught walleye.

**Port Austin:** Walleye have been caught off the breakwall at night.

**Saginaw Bay:** Had excellent walleye fishing and limit catches were the rule. Anglers did very well off Pinconning, Linwood, the Bay City State Park, off the mouth of the Kawkawlin River, north and east of Spoils Island, the Callahan Reef off Finn Road, around both Spark Plugs and in the Slot between Quanicassee and North Island. Depths range from 5 to 30 feet deep. As a rule of thumb, the shallows are best in the early morning and deeper water later in the day. Crawler harnesses were the go-to bait, with spinner colors of purple, white, gold, silver, or chartreuse. Those trolling deeper caught walleye on spoons or crank baits. Hot colors for crank baits were yellow perch and a goby pattern.

**Tittabawassee River:** Is still producing decent catches of walleye near Mapleton. A few bass and pike were also caught.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Bluegills were on the beds. Male bass are still guarding the beds because females are vacating the shallow waters.

**St. Joseph:** Salmon are being caught on spoons in 80 to 100 feet however fishing was still spotty. Pier fishing was slow except for a couple freshwater drum taken on spoons. Perch fishing is slow with only a few fish taken in waters 50 feet or deeper.

**South Haven:** Salmon fishing is slow with only a couple chinook or lake trout taken in 60 feet. Pier and perch fishing remain slow.

**Grand Haven:** Has good salmon fishing. Chinook were caught in 80 to 140 feet and steelhead out deeper. Anglers are running spoons, spin/fly combos and meat rigs 20 to 80 feet down. Hot colors were orange, blue, green or mixed veggie. Pier anglers can catch plenty of alewife for bait but the only fish biting were freshwater drum.

**Grand River in Grand Rapids:** Has been good for both channel and flathead catfish. Try cut bait, live sucker minnows, crawlers or leeches on the bottom. Bluegills have been caught on leaf worms and wax worms. Smallmouth bass are hitting on tube baits, crank baits and live bait. A few walleye were taken on crank baits, crawlers and leeches. Millennium Park was good for panfish and bass.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Has good smallmouth action. Try tube baits, leeches, crawlers or minnows. Anglers are catching lots of rock bass on crawlers, red worms or beetle spinners.

**Muskrat Lake:** Is producing some crappie. Try spec minnows, wax worms or small twister grubs.

**Morrison Lake:** Anglers are catching bluegill and largemouth bass. Crappie are hitting on wax worms, spec minnows or small twister grubs.

**Reeds Lake:** Is producing panfish and pike.

**Muskegon:** Has good fishing especially north of the port in 130 to 150 feet. Steelhead and smaller chinook were in the top 40 feet while the bigger salmon were between 80 feet and the bottom. Use spoons up high and paddles or meat rigs down low. Try orange, U.V and mix veggie for spoons, white paddles with green flies or purple meat rigs.

**Muskegon River:** Water levels are good and water temperatures are warming. Fly hatches are underway so those fly fishing are doing well.

**Whitehall:** Pier anglers fishing the channel caught a few walleye and panfish. Boat anglers caught mainly steelhead in 50 to 60 feet with bright colored lures. Orange was the hot color.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Rogers City:** Lake trout are everywhere. Fish have been caught on dodgers or cowbells with spin glows in the bottom 10 feet of waters 35 to 60 feet deep. Those fishing higher in the water column caught the occasional Atlantic, chinook or pink salmon and steelhead. Spoons also caught fish. Good colors were green, blue and orange with silver on them. Use glow spoons early or late and dark colors on cloudy days. Those trolling body baits in the shallows had limited success. Look for Atlantic salmon off the marinas and breakwalls.

**Alpena:** Is producing a good number of lake trout and a few salmon around Thunder Bay Island and the Nine Mile Can. Try the top half of waters 40 to 90 feet deep with the same lures and colors they are using at Rogers City. Walleye fishing was slow but should pick up soon. Try early morning or late evening with crawler harnesses or body baits.

**Thunder Bay River:** The steelhead action continues to slow as warm weather will push them back out into Lake Huron. Anglers may find a few Atlantic salmon feeding on steelhead eggs. Try drifting or floating artificial beads and flies on the bottom. Anglers are catching plenty of smallmouth bass and panfish. Once the minnows move back into the river the walleye should follow.

**Harrisville:** Had good fishing. Lake trout were 80 to 100 feet but steelhead and salmon were 50 to 70 feet. Spoons, body baits, fly's and cut bait all caught fish. Downriggers, dipseys, lead core, copper line and planer boards were all producing. Walleye were caught around the harbor walls and north towards Sturgeon Point. Try crawler harnesses or body baits.

**Oscoda:** Boats that have made it out on the big lake had good success for lake trout steelhead and the occasional salmon. Lake trout are in 100 feet but steelhead are closer to 60 and 80 feet. Spoons and body baits off down riggers, lead core, copper line and planer boards are all working well.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead continue to run up the river and can be found on the beds. The Boy Scout Camp and High Banks had the most activity. Spawn, fly's and small spinners are producing the most fish. Pier anglers caught a mix of steelhead, Atlantic and walleye throughout the day and evening.

**Houghton Lake:** Is producing walleye and crappie for those using minnows or leeches. Not much on bluegill yet but anglers are catching some bass.

**Lake St. Helen:** Bluegill are finally starting to show signs up spawning. Crappie are out of the canals and are being caught in the lakes. A few walleye were caught. A good number of pike were caught on spinners and spoons.

**Tawas:** Pier fishing has slowed as we move into summer. Not much is happening on the inside but walleye, smallmouth bass and channel catfish have been caught at night on the outside of the wall. Those trolling from the tip of Tawas Point and Buoy #2 caught a few walleye in 15 to 30 feet.

**Au Gres:** Had most of the walleye action with a lot of boats fishing between Point Lookout and Pointe Au Gres but some were running 8 to 10 miles south of Pointe Au Gres and fishing in 10 to 25 feet off the mouth of the Pine River.

**Au Gres River:** Catfish anglers are doing well in the lower river.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Bluegills are starting to show up and make beds in the shallows. It should be good fishing going into this weekend.

**Harbor Springs:** Lake trout were caught in 80 to 120 feet off the point. Smallmouth bass are moving into the shallows near the State Park.

**Petoskey:** A couple boats were lake trout fishing near Bay Harbor. Pier anglers on the D Pier caught smallmouth bass and carp. Bass are hitting on crank baits. Those fishing off the beach near the breakwall caught smallmouth bass in the morning.

**Charlevoix:** For lake trout, try 40 to 50 feet around North Point. A couple boats were trolling for walleye at night in the channel, Round Lake and into Lake Michigan. Try crank baits on the bottom. Smallmouth bass are starting to show up in the channel and a few were caught on soft scented rubber baits.

**Lake Charlevoix:** Was producing walleye in the Narrows near Ironton and pike near the point in Loeb Bay.

**Bear River:** Was a bit low with the lack of rain. Anglers are still picking up the occasional steelhead near the dam however most of the fish are now upstream and spawning or have gone back out to Lake Michigan. Suckers are in the river and have been caught up near the dam.

**Traverse City:** The East Bay is producing lake trout for those jigging in 90 feet. Cisco were caught by those jigging in 60 to 70 feet and smallmouth bass were taken in 5 to 30 feet. In the West Bay, anglers caught lake trout in 90 feet. Smallmouth bass fishing should be good in the shallows or along the drop-offs.

**Elk River:** Steelhead remain in the river. Smallmouth bass fishing was fair. Try worms, leeches or artificial baits.

**Boardman River:** Continues to produce a couple steelhead even though the spring run is just about done. Smallmouth bass are hitting on live or artificial baits near the Union Street Dam and the mouth.

**Platte Bay:** Is producing some brown trout off the mouth of the river. Black and chrome rapalas were the ticket. A few walleye were also caught. Lake trout are still out a mile to the west or the north and hitting on brown or copper spoons.

**Platte River:** Fishing has slowed however trout were caught between the hatchery and Goose Road Campground by those using Blue wing Olives and Hendrickson's. Carp and suckers are in the river between the hatchery and the big lake. Smallmouth bass can be found between the M-22 Bridge and Loon Lake.

**Frankfort:** Chinook salmon have arrived. Those trolling the Herring Hole caught fish 70 to 90 feet down in 160 to 200 feet of water. Most are using smaller copper colored spoons or meat rigs. Brown trout are still hitting between the piers. Try black and silver or black and gold body baits.

**Onkama:** Had no activity as anglers were heading to Manistee or Ludington.

**Portage Lake:** Bluegill and largemouth bass are on the beds in the shallows. Perch are hitting on wigglers near the mouth of the channel in the morning but anglers will have to sort through the small ones.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** The bluegills and bass were finally on the beds. Anglers have done well when floating live bait or casting lures.

**Manistee:** Boats have been catching salmon and trout in 60 to 160 feet. Most are using orange, green or yellow spoons in the top 70 feet. Pier anglers are catching a few brown trout on spoons and live bait.

**Ludington:** Chinook salmon and steelhead have been caught in the top 60 feet of waters 80 to 180 feet deep. Orange and green spoons work best.

**Pentwater:** Had few anglers but those able to get out should find some trout and salmon in 40 to 60 feet. Fishing across from the Silver Lake Sand Dunes is usually a safe bet. Target the top portion of the water column or about 30 to 50 feet down with bright colored lures.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Ontonagon:** The ice is just about gone. With all the rain, anglers will need to use caution in the river and watch for debris coming down. Fishing has been good. Anglers have taken a mix of lake trout, brown trout, chinook, coho and steelhead when trolling in waters between 6 and 35 feet deep. Many are using lead core and stick baits but fish were also on planer boards with spoons or body baits.

**Keweenaw Bay:** Still had ice but it is thinning out. Boat anglers were able to launch at the L'Anse Marina and start trolling however watch the north wind which could blow ice back into the bay. Those trolling in 30 to 60 feet caught chinook, coho, steelhead, brown trout and splake on spoons and body baits in a variety of colors. Most of the splake were caught in shallow water 4 to 15 feet off the rock dock near the L'Anse Marina and off the mouth of Linden Creek. Try spinners, cleo's or crawlers. Lake trout action was a little better off Big Louie's Point and Gay Point. Spoons worked best in 130 to 180 feet.

**Lake Antoine:** Boat anglers are getting some bigger crappie, bluegill and perch when drifting or still-fishing crawlers and wax worms. They also caught a good number of smallmouth bass and pike when casting or trolling crank baits. Lake Antoine Road is still under construction with only one lane open.

**Marquette:** Most of the ice has blown out of bay leaving a few lingering ice masses. Boat anglers should be able to troll some areas from the harbor to the Carp River and the Chocoy River with little trouble. Some caught steelhead with a mix of coho and chinook. Water temperatures are still extremely cold at 40 degrees. Shore anglers at the mouth of the Carp River did catch small splake, a few coho and steelhead on spawn or small spoons.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers reported catches throughout the bay with the Ford River area being best for those trolling or drifting crawlers in 8 to 16 feet from Breezy Point south to Round Island.

Catch rates were fair from the First and Third Reefs in 10 to 20 feet. Walleye are leaving the Whitefish River. There are good numbers of smaller fish. Good bass fishing near the Ford River. Shore and boat anglers are using plastics, spinners, crank baits and crawlers along the shoreline and around the mouth in 4 to 8 feet. Perch anglers reported several good catches when using crawlers in 8 to 14 feet in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor.

**Escanaba River:** Had fair walleye catches on crawler harnesses in 8 to 12 feet.

**Big Bay De Noc:** The walleye action near Ogontz has slowed but a few fish were still caught on crawler harnesses in 10 to 14 feet. The head of the bay up by Valentine Creek was best in 8 to 10 feet. Smallmouth bass are still very active and nesting. Good catches reported throughout the bay with Ogontz and the Fish Dam Rivers area being fished the most. Anglers are casting or trolling crank baits, plastics or crawlers in 4 to 8 feet. Those bow fishing are targeting carp near Ogontz. Higher water levels have made it a bit more difficult but several fish were still taken. Fairport had no salmon reports as water temperatures are too cold.

**Au Train:** Had light fishing activity in the bay and only a few shore anglers at the Rock River and the Au Train River. Most of the ice has left but there are still a few lingering ice flows. A few coho were seen near shore during a fly hatch. Boat anglers had poor results for chinook and coho.

**Munising:** Still had some ice flows hanging around but inside the bay was open. Boat anglers have done well taking a mix of chinook, coho, splake and steelhead. Pier anglers had fair results for splake, menominee and steelhead when casting or when using spawn and worms. Those able to hook splake reported 15 to 18 inch fish. Shore anglers had poor results.

**Grand Marais:** The ice has diminished quite a bit but still caused a few issues on certain days. Boat anglers caught mainly coho along with the occasional chinook or steelhead. Most of the steelhead head caught are spawned out and turning dark. Pier anglers reported fair to very good catches of whitefish, coho, and menominee. Fish in the 2 and 3 pound range were caught. Very few steelhead were taken. No report from shore anglers as activity at the mouth of the Sucker River has quit.

**St. Mary's River:** Is producing some yellow perch ranging 8 to 11 inches. Anglers are launching out of Sherman Park and perch fishing in 25 to 30 feet of water along the shipping channel near the first red buoy. Most are using shiners. Good walleye fishing at the mouth of the Gogomain River. Crawler harnesses, and rubber tail body baits are working good. Again there were no weeds in any of the bays so this is a good time to fish. Walleye were slow in and around Lime Island and Raber Bay.

**Detour:** Anglers continue to catch trout and salmon around the lighthouse.

**Drummond Island:** Had excellent walleye fishing in Scott Bay. Anglers are trolling blue and chrome crank baits or crawler harnesses in 4 to 8 feet.

Planer boards seem to work best however bottom bouncers used with crawler harnesses are also working well. There are no weeds to fish around at this time so anglers are enjoying their time on the water. Smallmouth were caught in Maxton Bay.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Perch are in the Hessel Marina. Some perch were up near 11 inches however there is still a lot of undersized fish to keep it fun. Pike fishing has picked up in Government Bay, Musky Bay, Middle Entrance, and off the pier at Hessel. Bass are around, but you will have to work to find them.

**Carp River:** Anglers are still trying for steelhead and suckers at the Carp River Bridge and McDonald Rapids.

June 12, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

As we head further into summer, catch rates are finally improving. Anglers are doing well on the inland lakes for bluegill, crappie, bass, walleye, pike and some perch. The Great Lakes are producing trout and salmon.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Walleye are still being caught in 18 to 24 feet near the Raisin River Buoys and 14 to 20 feet straight out from the beach at Sterling State Park. Perch and walleye were caught in 25 feet between Brest Bay and Stony Point and in 19 to 21 feet straight out from Bolles Harbor and into Ohio waters, especially around West Sister Island. Anglers are bottom bouncing bright colored crawler harnesses or trolling spoons on jet divers in deeper water. Try trolling hard jerk baits for walleye suspending in shallower waters mid-day.

**Detroit River:** Walleye fishing is still good, but white bass continue to pester walleye anglers. White bass fishing was excellent and smallmouth fishing was very good.

**Portage Chain-of-Lakes:** Has good bluegill action for those using crawlers. Beds can be found along most of the sandbars throughout the lakes. The bass are done spawning and hitting on soft plastics, worms and swim baits along the weedy flats. Because of heavy boat traffic on the weekends, fishing is better during the week.

**Lake St. Clair:** Muskie reports from the opener were mixed but some large fish were caught near Metro Beach and the 400 Club. Smallmouth fishing was good near Selfridge and the Mile Roads. Pike continue to show up in Anchor Bay. Try the shallow weed beds near Fair Haven and the Salt River.

**St. Clair River:** Had very good walleye fishing at Port Huron, Marine City, and the South Channel at Harsens Island. Bottom bouncing, whipping and jigging were producing good catches of walleye.

**Lexington:** Those trolling have taken a mix of trout and salmon in 40 to 90 feet. Pier anglers were catching lots of rock bass on worms, small minnows or small hardware.

**Port Sanilac:** A couple steelhead were taken on large minnows under a bobber. Boat anglers are getting trout and salmon when trolling in waters up to 90 feet deep. Pier anglers are catching some large rock bass.

**Harbor Beach:** Walleye fishing is slow, but a few were caught by those casting off the wall. Try small spoons or body baits in the early morning or late evening. Some took limit catches of lake trout in 80 to 110 feet of water. Use dodgers or cowbells with spin glows just off the bottom or spoons 40 to 85 feet deep. Salmon and steelhead are in 50 to 120 feet straight out or north of the port. Try spoons off downriggers, 5, 8 and 10 colored lead lines with offshore boards. Anglers can also look for mud lines and fish there. Hot colors were orange and black, purple and gold or bright colors. There is plenty of water at the launch and out the channel.

**Grindstone City:** Those wading caught smallmouth bass in Eagle Bay and the Grindstone City harbor.

**Saginaw Bay:** Is producing walleye in a number of places including 21 to 24 feet around the Spark Plug (Buoys 11 & 12), 21 feet near the Dumping Grounds, 8 feet off the Pinconning Bar, 14 feet east of Spoils Island, and 14 to 16 feet in the Slot between Quanicassee and the tip of Sand Point. Most anglers are using crawler harnesses with purple, green or brass blades. Catch rates were good from most access points including Sebewaing and Bay Port. Fishing at Caseville was slow but will pick up as the water gets warmer.

**Saginaw River:** Anglers trolling the lower river between the mouth and the Coast Guard Station have caught quite a few walleye including some limit catches on silver and blue crank baits.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Salmon fishing was fair with fish taken on spoons in 70 feet. Pier anglers caught a few freshwater drum but no steelhead or salmon. Perch fishing was just getting started but was still slow. A few fish were taken in 50 feet.

**South Haven:** Salmon were caught on spoons in 80 to 90 feet however catch rates were spotty. Pier and perch fishing remain slow.

**Grand Haven:** Water temperatures have cooled once again. Salmon are now around the piers and have been caught between the surface and 40 feet down. Try small spoons or spinnie/fly combos. Orange has been the hot color. Pier anglers caught alewife but the salmon were just outside their reach.

**Grand River in Grand Rapids:** Is producing channel catfish for those using cut baits, crawlers or leeches. Flatheads are also being caught on fresh cut bait, live suckers, crawlers or leeches. Some are getting walleye when drifting or vertical jigging. Check out the backwaters for bluegill and crappie.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Is producing a good number of smallmouth bass for those using minnows, crawlers or leeches. Catfish have been caught below the dams.

**Lake Lansing:** Is producing panfish.

**Ingham County:** Anglers are out fishing and several have taken limit catches of panfish.

**Jackson County:** Lakes are producing bluegill, crappie, bass, pike and rock bass.

**Calhoun County:** Boat anglers are on the water. Bluegill and bass are being caught in good numbers with some approaching limit catches.

**Muskegon:** Water temperatures were in the mid to low 40's. Look for salmon closer to shore. Pier anglers may also find fish in the early morning. The fish cleaning station at the Snug Harbor Launch is now open.

**Whitehall:** Anglers were catching trout and salmon in 120 to 150 feet however cold water has moved in and those fishing deep were no longer marking fish. Try 60 to 80 feet with spoons. Orange and blue were good colors.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Rogers City:** Lake trout are starting to show up in decent numbers up near Forty Mile Point and the State Park or south between Calcite and the Dyno Shack. Try the bottom 10 feet in waters 45 to 60 feet with cowbells or dodgers with spin glows. Some caught the occasional Atlantic, chinook or steelhead in the top 45 feet of waters 60 to 90 feet deep with lead core, copper and downriggers. Hot colors were green glow, orange and green, orange and silver, blue or anything that glows early and late. The salmon are still scattered. Minnows around the breakwall should attract Atlantic salmon, lake trout or a possible walleye. Try casting bright colored spoons or body baits in orange or chartreuse with silver.

**Alpena:** Is starting to produce some walleye in the bay but those trolling along the shoreline caught the most fish on crawler harnesses and body baits. Hot colors were chartreuse, purple and perch. Those heading out to the Nine Mile Can and Thunder Bay Island caught lake trout and the occasional chinook, pink or Atlantic salmon. Lake trout are just off the bottom and hitting on cowbells or dodgers with spin glows. A few were caught on spoons near the bottom. The salmon are higher in the top 50 feet. Hot colors were green, yellow, orange and blue.

**Thunder Bay River:** Walleyes are once again showing up as they move in and out of the river. They are most likely following the food source. Most are casting live bait or body baits from the Ninth Street Bridge. They also caught lots of smallmouth bass. Those trolling caught a mix of walleye, smallmouth bass and pike. The steelhead are pretty much done but a few Atlantic salmon were feeding on steelhead eggs.

**Harrisville:** Had good lake trout fishing with fish up near 20 pounds harvested. Salmon and steelhead were also caught. Boats were trolling close to shore early and heading out deeper as the day progressed. Fish were taken in waters 20 to 120 feet deep by those using a range of baits from spoons, fly's, cut bait, squid or spin-glow.

**Oscoda:** Most anglers are targeting walleye near the mouth and in the river. Pier fishing was good in the early morning and throughout the night. Some are targeting catfish but few were caught. Wait for water temperatures to come up.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead are still making their way up into the river. Those fishing the Boy Scout Camp, High Banks and up near the dam had good success.

**Higgins Lake:** Some perch were caught in 30 to 40 feet near the Main Island and the Sunken Island. Try minnows or wax worms. Rock bass have been caught along the drop-off. Those jigging in 80 to 100 feet caught a good number of lake trout out from the Conference Center and the North State Park. Rainbow trout were caught along the drop-off in 20 to 40 feet.

**Houghton Lake:** With a fly hatch underway the fish are feeding. Anglers are catching some bluegill, crappie, walleye and bass.

**Tawas:** Only a few were trolling for walleye as most of the locals were trailering their boats down to Au Gres. A couple fish were caught out past Buoy #2 in 35 feet. Pier anglers caught a mixed bag of smallmouth bass, rock bass, crappie, catfish and carp.

**Tawas River:** Shore anglers caught bluegills, smallmouth bass, freshwater drum and channel cats.

**Au Gres:** Has had a lot fishing pressure and a lot of walleye caught. With over 150 boats out, more than half of those checked had limit catches. Good fishing in 25 to 35 feet between Point Lookout and Pointe Au Gres. Some were heading as far south as Pinconning.

**Au Gres River:** Fishing was slow with only a few channel cats caught.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Harbor Springs:** Smallmouth bass anglers were focusing their efforts near the permanent structures east of Wequetonsing (the pier at Roaring Brook) and the north shore of Petoskey State Park. Many fish were still on the beds. Anglers saw large schools of fish in shallow waters near Harbor Point which could be cisco.

**Petoskey:** Surface water temperatures were between 37 and 49 degrees in Little Traverse Bay. Those heading out did catch lake trout in 40 to 50 feet with rigs using peanuts and winged glow bobbers. A midge hatch made fishing off the breakwall a challenge but those near the mouth of the Bear River caught smallmouth bass, rock bass, carp and freshwater drum. Try crawlers, soft plastics and spinners.

**Charlevoix:** Surface temperatures were 48 degrees. No sign of salmon yet but good numbers of lake trout were marked in 40 feet near the Can and the Cement Plant. Fishing was good in 40 to 50 feet around North Point. Some fish were suspended and some were on the bottom. A large midge hatch made pier fishing a challenge. A couple smallmouth bass were caught in the channel. Use crawlers and soft plastics during the day and crank baits near sunset. Pier anglers caught lake trout on spoons or crank baits. Catch rates for walleye in the channel improved for those fishing around sunset and into the night from both sides of the pier. Try crank baits and jigs with soft plastics on the bottom.

**Lake Charlevoix:** Anglers have done well for smallmouth bass in 12 to 14 feet. The bass are still full of eggs and not on the beds yet.

**Bear River:** Is still running a bit low. No steelhead were seen above the dam but fish were jumping at the dam. Those using spawn are still picking up a few.

**Traverse City:** Those fishing in the East Bay caught a fair number of smallmouth bass on tube baits in 5 to 15 feet of water. Catch rates will improve as water temperatures rise. Some caught cisco but the lake trout seem to be scattered in waters 20 to 90 feet deep. Those trolling or jigging in the West Bay caught lake trout in 20 to 115 feet. Smallmouth bass could be found in shallow waters.

**Elk River:** Still has the occasional steelhead being caught however most anglers are now targeting smallmouth bass. Try crawlers, leeches or tube baits.

**Boardman River:** Is producing smallmouth bass, suckers and carp. Most of the action came on live bait fished near the Union Street Dam.

**Platte Bay:** Some big lake trout have been caught by those trolling spoons about 2 miles out and northwest of the port. They are using spoons in brown, orange, copper and green with a black ladder back.

**Platte River:** Fishing has slowed with the exodus of the steelhead and brown trout. A few smaller fish were caught up near the hatchery and down near Honor off South Street. A couple smallmouth bass were caught near the mouth and up at Loon Lake.

**Frankfort:** Had great fishing for chinook salmon in front of the piers and from the Herring Hole. There are plenty of alewife in the area and the salmon are taking advantage it. The early morning bite was the best when trolling 50 to 80 feet down in 120 to 180 feet with mini or slim spoons and meat rigs. Green and mixed fruit were the hot colors.

**Onekama:** Those heading straight out and trolling 40 to 70 feet down in 120 to 170 feet have caught chinook and steelhead on orange and green mini or slim spoons.

**Portage Lake:** Is producing nice catches of bluegill and bass. Bluegills are hitting on worms in 6 to 12 feet. Bass were caught along the drop-offs in 13 to 18 feet. Walleye anglers are picking up a few at night but the season is off to a slow start.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** Had some bluegills on the beds. Anglers are catching a good number of bass. Those trolling crawler harnesses in deeper water have found a few walleye.

**Manistee:** Salmon are being caught 20 to 70 feet down in 60 to 160 feet of water. Orange and yellow spoons worked well. Purple and Green meat rigs have done better deeper in the water column. Pier anglers are catching a few brown trout on live bait or spoons.

**Ludington:** Trout and salmon are being caught in waters 50 to 150 feet deep. Most of the fish are coming in the top 60 feet and hitting on bright colored spoons. A few were also taken on purple or red meat rigs.

## UPPER PENINSULA

Boat anglers heading out into Lake Superior still need to use caution because of scattered ice flows and believe it or not, icebergs. With surface water temperatures in the low 40's, the ice could be there until the end of the month.

**Ontonagon:** Had fair fishing with a mixed bag of lake trout, brown trout, chinook, coho, walleye and rainbow trout taken by those trolling in 15 to 55 feet. They are using lead core and stick baits. Some also did well when trolling boards with spoons or body baits.

**Ontonagon River:** Had a few nice catches of walleye ranging 15 to 18 inches. Anglers are trolling body baits.

**Keweenaw Bay:** Had only a couple pieces of ice in the bay. Those trolling in 30 to 60 feet did manage to catch a few trout and salmon. Splake were caught shallow in 4 to 15 feet with spoons or body baits in a variety of colors. Splake were caught off the rock dock near the L'Anse Marina and at the mouth of Linden Creek. Lake trout were caught by those jigging off the Whirl-I-Gig, Old Mission and off Pequaming. Try 180 to 260 feet of water with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce jig head and cut baits such as a sucker. In Traverse Bay, anglers are trolling for lake trout in 130 to 180 feet off Big Louie's and Gay Point or jigging in 20 to 260 feet off Big Louie's. Try spoons in a variety of colors. The bite from the South Portage Entry has picked up. Lake trout were taken 50 to 100 feet down in 60 to 130 feet when trolling spoons or body baits. Best speed was between 1.5 and 1.8 mph. Those jigging also caught some nice lake trout.

**Lake Antoine:** Shore anglers caught bluegills, perch, rock bass and crappie when still-fishing or drifting crawlers, minnows and wax worms. Bass anglers have done well when casting crank baits or trolling artificial baits.

**Marquette:** Boat anglers heading out 15 to 20 miles or more will need to use caution because of scattered ice flows including some large icebergs still in the area. Catch rates were fair to good. Surface water temperatures remain in the low 40's. Chinook were hitting on spoons in less than 50 feet near the Carp River, Chocoley and Sand River areas. Most are using planer boards and high lines.

Lake trout were caught mainly north of the White Rocks to Granite Island and towards Little Presque Isle in 150 to 200 feet or deeper. Try spoons with cut bait in the morning. Catch rates for coho were poor.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Had fair to good walleye catches from the Whitefish River south to the Center Reef when trolling or drifting crawler harnesses with crawlers in 14 to 24 feet as well as between the Second Reef and the east bank at Gladstone when trolling or jigging crawlers in 18 to 30 feet. Walleye fishing was very good off Breezy Point for those using crawlers with harnesses in 8 to 10 feet. While some big fish have been caught many are now catching younger fish that range 16 to 19 inches. Smallmouth bass anglers report very good fishing throughout the bay especially near the Ford River. Most of the fish caught were males guarding the beds. Try casting, jigging or trolling plastic crank baits or crawlers along the edge and near structure in 3 to 7 feet. Perch fishing was fair along the beach at Gladstone in 11 to 25 feet and near Kipling in 12 to 23 feet. Crawlers or minnows worked best.

**Escanaba River:** Reported fair walleye catches for those using crank baits or crawlers along the weed beds in 12 to 20 feet. Pier anglers fishing the river reported several catches when still-fishing with crawlers.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Walleye catches were good between Valentine Creek and Kate's Bay for those trolling or drifting harnesses with crawlers in 10 to 20 feet. Some did well when jigging along the weeds in shallow water off the northern end of Kate's Bay. Good to excellent smallmouth action at the head of bay, near Ogontz and the South River area. Anglers are casting, trolling or jigging plastics, crank baits or crawlers in 3 to 8 feet. At Fairport, some of the slips are just being filled as the season is just getting underway. No salmon reports as of yet but the water is cold.

**Au Train:** Catch rates increased for those targeting trout and salmon. Few coho were taken but small chinook were caught in waters less than 40 feet deep in the mornings. Surface water temperatures were extremely cold at 40 degrees but warmer near the mouth of the Au Train River and the Rock River. Those trolling between the Brownstone Launch and the Au Train River did best. Lake trout have been caught east of Au Train Island, near the shipping channel and the Wood Island Reef in 150 to 200 feet. A number of lake trout were feeding on freshwater shrimp and insects and were seen surface feeding at night and pre-dawn.

**St. Mary's River:** Near Sault Ste. Marie, northern pike action was good for those trolling spoons and bucktail spinners in Bay De Wasau. Catch rates for walleye were excellent on the north end of Munuscong Bay near the mouth of the Munuscong River in 4 to 6 feet. The weeds are not up in most of the bays so this is a good time to catch walleye in shallow water. Raber Bay and Lime Island were slow for walleye and pike. A few walleye were taken near Carlton Creek when trolling crawler harnesses in 4 to 6 feet. The water is still cold in Raber Bay.

**Detour:** Anglers caught steelhead, Atlantic and chinook salmon around the lighthouse. Try spoons and body baits in orange, watermelon, gold or green.

**Drummond Island:** Walleye fishing was still very good in the early morning or late evening in Scott Bay. Anglers are using planer boards and bottom bouncers with crawler harnesses in 4 to 8 feet or long-lining with a tiny split shot ahead of a night crawler.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** The report is the same as last week. Perch are in the Hessel Marina but many are small. Pike are being caught in Government Bay, Musky Bay, Middle Entrance, and off the pier at Hessel.

**Carp River:** Anglers are fishing the Carp River Bridge and McDonald Rapids for steelhead and suckers. The water is still fast and muddy, but anglers are harvesting fish on spawn, red or green spinners and orange yarn.

June 19, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Bass season on Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River, the Detroit River and the Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary waters will open this coming Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> and the opener looks to be a good one. The summer fishing season is finally upon us.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Walleye are moving to deeper water near the Michigan/Ohio border. Fish have been caught from Stony Point to just south of the Fermi Power Plant in 27 feet and straight out from Brest Bay and Bolles Harbor or in 17 feet near the Banana Dike. West Sister Island in Ohio waters is producing a lot of walleye. Try bottom bouncing pink or purple crawler harnesses or trolling spoons on jet divers. Perch numbers are increasing in Brest Bay and along Stony Point for those jigging minnows in 24 feet.

**Huron River:** Has been good for smallmouth bass and catfish.

**Detroit River:** The white bass are slowing down which means walleye fishing has improved. The better fishing has been south of Grosse Ile and down near the mouth for those trolling crawler harnesses or jigging with crawlers.

**Portage Chain-of-Lakes:** Fishing remains good. Bluegills are being caught along the sand bars and drop offs. Those targeting bass and pike are fishing the weedy flats and river mouths using crank baits and soft plastics. Those looking for walleye should target waters 15 to 30 feet deep.

**Lexington:** Is producing trout and salmon in waters up to 150 feet deep. Pier anglers are getting a few walleye at night when casting crank baits or floating big minnows under a bobber.

**Port Sanilac:** Those trolling have caught chinook, steelhead, lake trout and pink salmon about 80 to 120 feet down in waters up to 150 feet deep. The pink salmon are running small with most fish averaging ½ pound. A few trout and salmon were still being caught by pier anglers fishing outside the wall. Walleye were caught at night on crank baits or big minnows under a bobber.

**Harbor Beach:** Those trolling caught big lake trout and a mix of chinook, coho, steelhead and pink salmon.

**Grindstone City:** A few walleye are starting to show up here and off Lighthouse Park.

**Saginaw Bay:** Has had excellent walleye fishing at a variety of locations including 22 feet off Pinconning, 20 feet off Linwood with purple spoons, 20 feet northwest of the Dumping Grounds, off the mouth of the Kawkawlin River, the Callahan Reef and in the Slot between Quanicassee and Bay Port. Some are starting to cross the Bar from Sebewaing and fish deeper water near the shipping channel. Most people are using crawler harnesses with purple, orange, pink or fire-tiger blades. Some were also doing well with spoons or crank baits. The good news, everyone was getting some fish.

**Saginaw River:** Some walleye were still being caught in the lower river when trolling crank baits.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Salmon fishing slowed over the last week but a few were still caught in 80 to 100 feet. Perch fishing was also slow with a few caught in 50 feet. Pier anglers are taking lots of freshwater drum but steelhead fishing was slow.

**South Haven:** Salmon fishing was inconsistent. Those fishing in 100 feet with spoons did catch a few. Perch and pier fishing were slow.

**Gull Lake:** Is producing bass. Try 10 to 15 feet along the rocks or weed beds and drop-offs in the bays.

**Grand Haven:** Salmon have been caught in 180 to 220 feet when using 75 to 300 feet of copper and 3 to 10 colors of lead. Try mini or regular spoons in orange, UV patterns of orange, blue and yellow. Some were using a spin/fly combo. Pier fishing was slow for trout and salmon but lots of freshwater drum have been caught. Anglers are getting alewife for bait. No perch were caught.

**Grand River in Grand Rapids:** With the warmer water, anglers are picking up a few summer steelhead up near the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Dam. They are drifting crawlers and spawn bags or casting spinners. Pike, walleye, smallmouth bass and a good number of catfish have also been caught.

**Rogue River:** Anglers caught the occasional summer steelhead or smallmouth bass.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Is producing a fair to good number of channel cats. Anglers are using minnows, small bluegills, crawlers and leeches. Those fishing are also catching a fair to good number of smallmouth bass and some large rock bass.

**Muskegon:** The better salmon fishing was north of the port in 100 feet. No perch.

**Whitehall:** Fishing was spotty but the boats that managed to find salmon came back with coolers full of chinook salmon. Try 50 feet down in 90 to 115 feet across from Duck Lake.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Burt Lake:** Was producing some walleye in the evening.

**Rogers City:** Is producing more chinook salmon along with a mixed bag of Atlantic, pink, coho, steelhead and lake trout. Most are fishing up towards Forty Mile Point and the State Park or down near Swan Bay and Adams Point. Some are using short segments of lead core in 1,2,3 or 5 colors or segments of copper less than 150 feet. Fish were taken on downriggers fished up and down the water column. Lake trout were caught on spoons and attractors with spin glows or peanuts. Salmon are hitting spoons. Hot colors were orange, silver, blues, greens and yellow or anything that glows early and late. Most were trolling vertical in 40 to 80 feet. Atlantic salmon were caught in the top 20 of waters 40 feet deep with bright orange or silver.

**Alpena:** Walleye fishing was spotty. A lot of anglers are trolling crawler harnesses or body baits at night. Those trolling along Mischiwis Beach when the winds are right did catch a few walleye early in the day. Those fishing the Nine Mile Can and Thunder Bay Island caught chinook and pink salmon, steelhead and lake trout on a variety of spoons, attractors, spin glows or peanuts. Good colors were green, orange, blue and silver.

**Harrisville:** Fishing was steady with salmon, trout and walleye caught north of the harbor to the lighthouse. Lake trout, salmon and steelhead were caught in 50 to 100 feet with downriggers, dipseys, lead core and planer boards with spoons, cut bait or body baits in a variety of colors. Walleye were caught around the harbor walls and shallow waters early or late on crawler harnesses or body baits.

**Oscoda:** Salmon and lake trout are being caught in 60 to 120 feet. Spoons, body baits and cut bait are all producing. Pier anglers are picking up some channel cats off the end of the pier in the late evening.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead are still making their way up in good numbers and can be found on the beds. Walleye are being caught in the early morning or late evening. Try crawlers, leeches or body baits.

**Higgins Lake:** Is producing lots of rock bass along the drop-offs in 30 to 40 feet near the Sunken Island and the Main Island. Try minnows, wax worms or crawlers. Perch were caught in the same area however deeper in 40 to 50 feet. Lake trout were caught just off the bottom in 80 to 100 feet by those trolling body baits and cowbells or when vertical jigging Swedish pimples or crocodiles. A few whitefish were also caught by those jigging. Good smallmouth bass fishing near the rocks around the Main Island when drifting crawlers.

**Houghton Lake:** Anglers are getting the occasional walleye in 6 to 8 feet along the weeds. Most are drifting leeches and crawler harnesses. A few bass were caught in canals and the bluegills are done spawning and have moved to deeper water.

**Tawas:** Pier fishing is in 'summer mode' with an assortment of largemouth and smallmouth bass, rock bass and carp being caught. It might still be possible to catch a walleye outside the walleye at night. Most boats were still heading to Au Gres.

**Tawas River:** Is producing some catfish, smallmouth bass and freshwater drum for shore anglers fishing near the mouth.

**Au Gres:** Continues to have high fishing pressure. Anglers have caught lots of walleye between Point Lookout and Pointe Au Gres or two to three miles south of Pointe Au Gres. Some of the bigger walleye were caught north of the Charity Islands in 50 to 60 feet. Many are taking limit catches. A few bass anglers were heading out to the Charity Islands to fish for smallmouth.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Harbor Springs:** Lake Trout anglers are fishing both inside and outside of Harbor Point. Lake trout were caught in shallow waters by those using dipseys. Bass anglers are fishing near permanent structures east of Wequeotonsing (the pier at Roaring Brook) and the north shore of Petoskey State Park. Smallmouth bass were also caught inside the harbor. Try crank baits and soft plastic worms. Smallmouth bass were still on the beds and beginning to pair up. The females caught were full of eggs.

**Petoskey:** Strong winds must have turned the water over because surface temperatures dropped from 51 to 45 degrees. A few boats heading out did catch lake trout 15 to 80 feet down in a variety of depths. Fish were caught in 40 feet near Bay Harbor. Spoons and cowbells or yellow peanuts worked best. Those fishing near the mouth of the Bear River on the D Pier caught smallmouth, rock bass, freshwater drum and carp. Try crawlers, soft plastics or spinners for bass.

**Charlevoix:** Boat fishing did pick up. A good number of lake trout were caught in a variety of depths from North Point to the Cement Plant. Many are trolling the drop-off with dodgers and spoons. A couple chinook salmon were caught near Cathead Bay which is near the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula. Walleye fishing was slow in the channel. Pier anglers managed to catch a couple lake trout and cisco on crank baits. Smallmouth bass are in the area but catch rates were slow. Carp are moving through the channel.

**Lake Charlevoix:** Tournament anglers reported a large number of cisco around Hemingway Point and Loeb Bay.

**Bear River:** Water levels were still a bit low and few anglers were fishing. Those trying have caught the occasional steelhead near the dam. Try spawn bags.

**Traverse City:** The East Bay is producing lake trout and whitefish in 20 to 60 feet. Smallmouth bass action was hit-or-miss. Look for warmer water and try tube baits. Good colors were green and brown. In the West Bay, smallmouth bass were caught on tube baits and other artificials in shallow water. Lake trout were taken by those trolling in 40 to 70 feet.

**Elk River:** Had fair smallmouth bass fishing. Try crawlers, leeches or plastics.

**Boardman River:** Has plenty of carp and smallmouth bass. Most of the bass were caught on live bait but plastics and crank baits were also producing.

**Frankfort:** Water temperatures ranged 44 to 48 degrees in some areas. This was good news for brown trout anglers as several were caught in the harbor. Hot colors were gold and black or silver and black. Chinook salmon fishing was good but the baitfish were shallow or deep depending on wind direction.

**Onekama:** Anglers had good catches of chinook, steelhead, brown trout and lake trout in the top 75 feet of waters 105 to 140 feet deep with green or blue spoons.

**Portage Lake:** The mayfly hatch was in full bloom so anglers were having trouble finding fish that were not full. Bass anglers did well in 14 to 18 feet along the drop-off. Walleye anglers caught a few fish near the Portage Point Inn on crawler harnesses or body baits.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** Are producing bluegill, crappie and even some perch. The better fishing in Lake Mitchell is usually in the coves. Leeches are good bait this time of year. Those fishing the weed beds early and late or the drop-offs are taking some bass. Try leeches, minnows, crawlers, crank baits or spinners.

**Manistee:** Boat anglers are doing well for trout and salmon 30 to 80 feet down in 80 to 160 feet of water with orange or green spoons and red or purple meat rigs. Pier anglers using live bait have caught a few chinook or brown trout.

**Manistee River:** Is producing steelhead below Tippy Dam. Anglers are using flies, spinners and rapalas. Those fishing the backwaters have caught panfish and smallmouth bass.

**Ludington:** Boat anglers are getting trout and salmon 20 to 70 feet down in 60 to 160 feet. Most are using orange, green or blue spoons.

**Pere Marquette River:** Is also producing steelhead and brown trout. With all the fly hatches, this is the time for fly fishing but fish have also been caught on small spinners or rapalas.

**Pentwater:** Lake Michigan anglers had a hard time finding fish. The ones that did caught mostly coho about 49 feet down in 70 to 90 feet straight out from the piers. Overall fishing was slow. Those heading to Silver Lake Sand Dunes and Little Sable Point caught only a few chinook or steelhead.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** The ice is finally gone and the bite is slow but steady for chinook, coho, rainbow trout and splake. Anglers are trolling in 20 to 60 feet with a mix of spoons and body baits in a variety of colors. Lake trout were caught by those jigging off the Whirl-I-Gig, Old Mission on US-41 and Pequaming. Try 180 to 260 feet with a ¾ to 1.5 ounce jig with cut bait. Lake trout anglers in Traverse Bay caught fish off Big Louie's and Gay Point when trolling spoons in 130 to 180 feet. Those jigging off Big Louie's Point caught fish in 20 to 260 feet. The South Portage Entry was good for lake trout off Farmers, Newton's and the Big Reef when trolling 50 to 100 feet down in 60 to 130 feet. Try spoons or body baits. Salmon were caught by those trolling 15 to 25 feet down in 20 to 30 feet along US-41.

**Lake Antoine:** Was producing some nice bluegills and perch. Anglers had to move around to find them but once they did, catch rates were fair. Most are drifting crawlers or a jig and crawler. Bass anglers are happy with the number of fish caught and the size. Most are casting crank baits from a boat. Shore anglers are catching lots of panfish but most are running small. No word on pike.

**Marquette:** Had good lake trout action but the chinook, brown trout and splake were a little slower. Lake trout are hitting on assorted spoons east of the port, north of Granite Island and near Little Presque Isle. Best area for chinook and brown trout was east of the Chocoday River towards Sand River and Shot Point. Surface water temperatures were in the upper 40's but low 50's closer to shore. Those shore fishing at the Carp River reported slow fishing.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Had fair to good walleye action throughout. Several fly hatches may have slowed catch rates but overall fishing was good in 18 to 30 feet along the Kipling Flats and the Second Reef or 12 to 18 feet off Garth Point. Some also caught fish near the Escanaba River and the Ford River. Smallmouth bass anglers reported good catches near the mouth of the Ford River when using plastics, crank baits or crawlers in 3 to 7 feet. Perch anglers had mixed results. The better fishing was in 18 to 23 feet near Kipling or 16 to 34 feet near Gladstone. Crawlers and minnows were the ticket.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers reported good catches at the head of the Bay. Anglers were trolling crawler harnesses in 13 to 18 feet just north of the "Boot" and into Kate's Bay. Smallmouth bass fishing had mixed results. Fish were caught in Kate's Bay, Garden Bay, the Fish Dam River the South River area and most of the fish were males. Anglers used plastics, crank baits and crawlers in 3 to 10 feet when casting or trolling. Several nice catches of pike were taken between Ansell's Point and Kate's Bay by those trolling crawler harnesses or crank baits in 10 to 14 feet. At Fairport, a few anglers have started salmon fishing. The better catches came 60 to 80 feet down in 90 feet in the "Gap" when using dipseys and spoons. It is still early and water temperatures were 46 to 50 degrees.

**Au Train:** Fishing pressure increased for lake trout in the early morning. Most were averaging five to ten fish per trip. Chinook were also caught.

Lake trout anglers are fishing east of Au Train Island, along the shipping channel and around Wood Island Reef in 150 to 200 feet. Fish were caught on spoons, flies or cut bait within 25 feet of the bottom. Chinook were caught in the early morning near the rivers, the east end of Shelter Bay and near Laughing Whitefish Point.

**St. Mary's River:** The walleye bite has been very slow along the upper reaches. Northern pike and a few bass were caught in and around Lake Nicolet. Some nice rainbow trout were taken on the discharge side of the Cloverland Electric Power House. Fish ranging 6 to 8 pounds were taken by those casting or trolling crank baits in the early morning especially on overcast days. Water temperatures are still cold at 48 to 52 degrees in Raber Bay and Lime Island. No walleye to report. Look for bays with southern exposure and baitfish in warmer waters. Water levels are up from last year however boat anglers are reminded to watch for rocks and reefs.

**Detour:** Was still producing Atlantic, chinook, lake trout and steelhead around the green can. Hot colors were orange, red, blue, green or combinations of silver.

**Drummond Island:** The walleye bite is still good in Scott Bay for those trolling planer boards or long-lining with crank baits early or late.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Has good pike action when still-fishing with chubs in Hessel Bay, Musky Bay, Middle Entrance, and the north shore of Government Bay or when casting in the Moscoe Channel. Perch ranging 7 to 10 inches were caught in Cedarville Bay. Bass anglers are targeting shallow waters.

**St. Ignace:** Anglers have caught chinook and lake trout behind Mackinac Island. Hot colors were orange, red, blue, green and silver.

June 26, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

For those trout and salmon fishing, it looks like some areas are heading into that mid-summer slow-down while areas to the north are starting to pick-up. Catch rates on the inland lakes continue to improve.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Walleye are still being taken in Ohio waters around West Sister Island, along the Michigan-Ohio border, straight out from Stony Point and up near the Fermi Power Plant. Fish were caught in 24 to 30 feet with most coming from 27 feet when using crawler harnesses and spoons with divers. Try purple or copper on all presentations. Perch numbers are increasing in Brest Bay but were even better near Stony Point in 24 feet of water. Try jigging minnows.

**Detroit River:** Is producing walleye in the Trenton Channel near Humbug and Calf Island. Anglers are jigging or trolling crawler harnesses. Perch were caught around Sugar Island.

**Portage Chain-of-Lakes:** Water levels are up. Bluegills are starting to pull off their beds. Pike and bass are being caught around the points and weedy flats. The drop-off around the sunken island on Baseline Lake is producing good numbers of bass and bluegill. For bass try a blue or green jig with a trailer and pitch the deep weed beds. Carp and gar are in the shallows so this is a great time for bow-fishing.

**Port Sanilac:** Boat anglers are getting a mix of trout and salmon. Chinook, coho and pink salmon were taken about halfway down in 70 to 100 feet. Steelhead are in the top 10 to 15 feet and lake trout were caught just off the bottom. Pink salmon seem to be everywhere this year but they are running small. A few perch were caught by those drift fishing. Anglers averaged 10 to 12 keepers per boat. The weed beds are coming up slow this year because of the late spring and cold water temperatures.

**Harbor Beach:** Lake trout are can be found in 60 to 140 feet. Try dodgers or spin doctors with spin-gloves just off the bottom or spoons 50 to 100 feet down. Salmon and steelhead are hitting on spoons. Fly hatches are taking place and the fish are eating them up. Hot colors were orange or purple with black, gold with orange and black, silver or black with glow. Walleye fishing is still slow, but a few were taken from the wall or trolling close to shore. Try early morning and late evening casting small body baits and spoons for best results. Perch colors and silver with black were good. Bass were caught inside the harbor but otherwise pier fishing was slow.

**Grindstone City:** Is producing good catches of steelhead and lake trout in 60 to 80 feet and limit catches lake trout just off the bottom in 140 feet.

**Port Austin:** The boat launch and ramp are finally open!

**Saginaw Bay:** Had good to excellent walleye fishing. Anglers have done well in 10 feet off the Pinconning Bar, 16 feet off Gambil's Marina, Buoys 1 & 2, the old Dumping Grounds, in 20 feet two miles east of the Spark Plug, 6 to 8 feet off Finn Road and the Callahan Reef, 12 to 16 feet along the Slot from Sunset Bay Marina to North Island, 10 to 20 feet along the west side of The Bar, and Wildfowl Bay. Some are taking limit catches but most are getting some fish every trip. Crawler harnesses work best but Hot-n-Tots have also taken fish. Hot colors were blue and chrome, black and orange backs, black and gold or purple.

**Saginaw River:** Those trolling in the lower river between the mouth and the Coast Guard Station are catching walleye. Shore anglers at Smith Park caught catfish, freshwater drum and the occasional smallmouth bass.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Salmon fishing has slowed. Anglers are targeting waters 100 feet or deeper. Perch fishing is slow but a few were taken in 40 to 50 feet. Pier anglers continue to catch freshwater drum and catfish.

**South Haven:** Boat anglers say salmon fishing is very inconsistent. Most are targeting waters between 60 to 100 feet or more. Pier anglers are taking good catches of freshwater drum but steelhead fishing was slow. Perch fishing is slow.

**Kalamazoo River:** Is producing pike and bass. The occasional walleye was caught.

**Grand Haven:** Salmon were caught 50 to 70 feet down in 80 to 100 feet. Try mini or regular spoons in blue or green or spinnie/fly bites. Pier fishing was hit-or-miss. Anglers are still catching alewife but chinook and steelhead were few and far between. Most have caught freshwater drum and channel cats. No perch to report.

**Grand River in Grand Rapids:** Is producing a fair to good number of channel and flathead catfish. Live baits work best. Skamania were caught on eggs and fly's. A few walleye were taken on body baits, crawlers and minnows. Millennium Park had good bass fishing.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Continues to provide fair to good fishing for channel catfish, smallmouth bass, rock bass and even some bluegills.

**Ingham County:** Fishing and boating activity has been high especially on the weekends. Anglers were taking more limit catches of panfish on the inland lakes and rivers.

**Reeds Lake:** Was producing some nice bass. Try tube baits, spinners or crawlers.

**Muskegon:** Boat anglers are taking salmon 50 to 70 feet down in 80 to 100 feet. A good number of salmon were holding near Duck Lake. Anglers are using mini and regular spoons in blue and green.

**Muskegon River:** Has active mayfly and blue winged olive hatches. Rainbow trout and brown trout have been caught below Croton Dam. Those targeting smallmouth bass have caught fish.

**Whitehall:** Catch rates were very slow. What few fish were found were in the top 50 feet of waters 80 to 120 feet deep.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Rogers City:** Is producing lake trout. The fish are both on the bottom and scattered throughout the water column. The better fishing was in 45 to 65 feet. Try cowbells or dodgers with spin glows or spoons. Good colors were green, white, blue and silver. Chinook and steelhead are starting to show up but no real numbers yet. Those targeting them are only getting a couple fish straight out or south of the harbor and up near Seagull Point. Some are heading up past Forty Mile Point and fishing the structure or south past the Dynamite Shack and fishing 40 to 90 feet. Lead core is good up high for steelhead. For spoons try orange, purple and silver, green and blue, green and orange, blue and silver or anything that glows early and late. Several Atlantic salmon were caught this past week.

**Long Lake:** Fishing activity has started to pick up with some walleye caught. Bass and panfish spawning were slow.

**Alpena:** Had a lot of boats heading out at night and fishing for walleye. The best results were in shallow water along the city shoreline or Sulphur Island with body baits or crawler harnesses. Those heading out in the morning had limited success when trolling for walleye. One day will be really good and the next day will be slow because of water temperatures. Thunder Bay Island has been great for lake trout. Anglers are fishing the bottom half of the water column with spoons, dodgers and cowbells with spin glows. Those fishing higher in the water column caught the occasional chinook salmon.

**Thunder Bay River:** Anglers are getting the occasional smallmouth bass, rock bass or walleye.

**Hubbard Lake:** Was producing a good number of walleye.

**Harrisville:** Is producing walleye, trout and salmon. Walleye were caught in 12 to 25 feet on body baits and crawler harnesses off planer boards and long lines. For lake trout, fish 80 to 120 feet with spoons, cut bait and flies. Salmon and steelhead are 20 to 50 feet down in 60 to 80 feet. Try lead core, planer boards and downriggers. Hot colors were blue, orange or black and pearl.

**Oscoda:** Boat anglers are doing well for steelhead and salmon in 40 to 80 feet with spoons, body baits or spin-glow. Lake trout are suspended off the bottom in 70 to 100 feet. Spoons with flashers seem to be the best attractants. Pier anglers did well early and late.

**Au Sable River:** Walleye are moving into the river in good numbers. Boats drifting from the bridge to the mouth are doing very well. Most are using crawlers and leeches with split shot to adjust for the current.

**Higgins Lake:** Continues to provide good rock bass fishing for anglers of all ages. Try minnows, crawlers or wax worms. Those trolling have done well for lake trout in 80 to 100 feet with body baits.

**Houghton Lake:** Was producing walleye, crappie and even a few jumbo perch.

**Tawas:** Boat anglers are running to the north side of Big Charity Island and getting walleyes in 30 to 35 feet. A few fish were also taken near Buoy #2. A couple boats were heading south around the tip of Tawas Point and then going north for salmon and lake trout. Chinook and lake trout were caught in 50 feet. Pier fishing was slow with only a few large or smallmouth bass and rock bass caught.

**Tawas River:** Shore anglers fishing the lower river caught a few smallmouth bass. Catfish were caught at night.

**Au Gres:** Has a lot of boats, a lot of people and a lot of walleye coming in. Some are getting limit catches. They are fishing in 30 to 40 feet between the points, south of Pointe Au Gres, and north of Big Charity Island. Crawler harnesses were best but crank baits also caught fish.

**Au Gres River:** Night anglers are catching channel catfish.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Harbor Springs:** Boat anglers usually target lake trout outside Harbor Point. Those looking for smallmouth bass were fishing near the permanent structures east of Wequetonsing (the pier at Roaring Brook) and near the north shore of Petoskey State Park. They also did well fishing in shallow water around the docks. Anglers report that smallmouth bass are finally starting to bed. Try crank baits or soft plastic worms.

**Petoskey:** Surface water temperatures dropped to 47 degrees. Boat pressure was low with only a few out trolling 25 to 90 feet down for lake trout. Most of the fish caught were under the legal limit of 20 inches. Boats were trolling Bay Shore, in front of Bay Harbor, and east towards Petoskey State Park. While most smallmouth bass anglers were fishing the Harbor Springs side of the bay, one boat did well near the Bay View Pier. Those fishing near the mouth of the Bear River caught smallmouth bass and rock bass on crawlers, soft plastics and spinners. Rumor has it a couple walleye were caught after dark. Pier anglers caught the occasional smallmouth bass and pike. Try small crank baits or a jig with a twisty tail.

**Charlevoix:** Boat fishing was still slow with only a few lake trout taken in 40 to 70 feet. The fish are still suspended and scattered but most say 10 feet off the bottom is usually good. Walleye fishing was slow in the channel but a few were taken on crank baits after dark. Pier anglers caught a couple lake trout off the end when using spoons or crank baits. Catch rates are improving in the channel for smallmouth early or late. Try crank baits or jigs with soft plastics. Cisco were caught in the channel at various times of the day and carp are still cruising.

**Bear River:** Anglers caught a couple steelhead on spawn. A 16 inch smallmouth bass was caught up near the dam.

**Traverse City:** The East Bay has good smallmouth bass fishing. Bass were spotted on the beds. Try 2 to 10 feet of water with spinners, tube baits, or plastics. Lake trout were caught by those trolling spoons or spin-gloves in 10 to 50 feet. The West Bay also has good smallmouth action in shallow waters especially in rocky areas. Lake trout were caught by those trolling spoons in 15 to 60 feet.

**Elk River:** Had good smallmouth bass fishing between the dam and the mouth. Crawlers, leeches, and tube baits worked best.

**Boardman River:** Is producing smallmouth bass, rock bass, carp, and the occasional perch near the Union Street Dam. Live baits work best.

**Platte Bay:** Fishing has slowed. Some were still finding lake trout two miles out. Those surfcasting with body baits caught steelhead and walleye.

**Platte River:** Smallmouth bass are spawning upstream from Loon Lake. Suckers can be found between the hatchery and the lake.

**Frankfort:** Had great fishing from the Herring Hole to the Point. Chinook were hitting like crazy 25 to 60 feet down in 50 to 120 feet. Chinook and steelhead were hitting on greens, blues and orange. The bigger chinook seem to be hitting meat rigs later in the day. Brown trout are still in the harbor and pier anglers have caught them on alewife. Those trolling around the piers did well on gold and black body baits.

**Onkama:** Anglers heading straight out from the piers and trolling 30 to 60 feet down in 90 to 130 feet caught some nice chinook in the early morning. Slim or mini lures in green or blue worked best.

**Portage Lake:** The mayfly hatch is done so bass and panfish are starting to hit in 14 to 19 feet. Working the drop-offs and weed beds has produced some nice bass. Water temperatures are up and walleye anglers caught a few fish when trolling crawler harnesses and body baits in the early morning or at night.

**Manistee:** Boat anglers are doing well for salmon and steelhead. Try 30 to 80 feet down in 80 to 180 feet with orange and green spoons or red and green meat rigs. Pier fishing for brown trout is slow.

**Manistee River:** The hex hatch has been ongoing. It is late this year due to the cold spring we had. Anglers caught some nice fish when the bugs do come off.

**Ludington:** Salmon and steelhead are being caught 20 to 80 feet down in 80 to 160 feet with orange and blue spoons or green and blue meat rigs. Pier fishing is slow

**Pere Marquette River:** Patience is the key during the fly hatch. Anglers have caught some nice fish when the bugs do come off.

**Pentwater:** Was producing some fish a mile or two north of the pier. Most were fishing 40 to 50 feet down in 100 to 140 feet deep. While some boats did fairly well others came in with empty coolers.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** Had good fishing with anglers taking a mix of coho, chinook, rainbow trout, lake trout, splake and brown trout when trolling 30 to 50 feet down in 40 to 60 feet of water. Most are trolling between the Baraga Marina or the L'Anse Marina and the head of the bay. Some were trolling as far north as Carla's Restaurant on U.S.-41. Trolling speed was between 1.8 and 2.3 mph. In Traverse Bay, anglers fished off Big Louie's and Gay Point for lake trout in 130 to 180 feet with spoons but the bite was slow. A couple fish were taken by those jigging in waters 20 to 260 feet deep off Big Louie's Point. No report for the South Portage Entry.

**Lake Antoine:** Pier, shore and boat anglers have caught a good number of panfish when still-fishing or drifting with live bait. Most of the fish were smaller but boat anglers did catch some very nice bluegills, yellow perch and crappie. The bass fishery is still producing some nice large and smallmouth for those casting crank baits near the weeds.

**Marquette:** Dense patchy fog is making it hard to anglers to get out. A couple steelhead were caught at the mouth of the Carp River. Catch rates for salmon dropped with only a few chinook or coho taken. Lake trout action was fair. A few anglers had good catches near the Sand River and Shot Point when using spoons in 100 to 160 feet. Those fishing deeper had little success. Catch rates were slow for those fishing near the Sand Hole and north of Granite Island towards the "Clay Banks". Surface water temperatures were in the low to mid 40's.

**Little Bay De Noc:** South to southeast winds created good walleye conditions between the Ford River and Breezy Point. Walleye anglers reported good to excellent catches using crawler's with harnesses in 8 to 10 feet. Some went south down by Round Island and reported the same in 6 to 14 feet. The rest of the Bay reported less action although catches were reported at the mouth of the Escanaba River, the east bank in Gladstone and the First and Second Reefs in Kipling. Most catches were in 14 to 28 feet with crawler harnesses. Smallmouth catches were down and fewer anglers were fishing them. The Ford River area is still best with fair catches in 6 to 8 feet with plastics, spinners and crawlers. A few largemouth bass were caught in Kipling along the West Bank using spinners in 10 to 14 feet. Perch fishing was fair with minnows or crawlers in 10 to 14 feet at Kipling, 20 to 26 feet along the Narrows and 14 to 20 feet up by the Days River. No salmon to report.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Smallmouth bass catches were down. Garden Bay, South River, Ogontz and up near the Fish Dam Rivers all reported similar results for those casting and trolling plastics, crank baits, spinners or crawlers in 6 to 12 feet. The walleye started moving south and catch rates were fair. Fish can still be found at the "Boot" and out to Kate's Bay but some are further south by Garden Bluff. Best catches were in 8 to 18 feet using crawlers with harnesses. Fairport had a few anglers trying to salmon but catch rates slow. Water temperatures remain cold with surface temperatures in the mid 50's but 70 to 80 feet down were in the mid to high 30's.

**Au Train:** Boat anglers launching at the Brownstone landing continue to do best for lake trout with catches averaging from one to some parties limiting out. Fish were caught from the Shelter Bay flats along the edge in 140 to 180 feet to east of Au Train Island and near Wood Island. Most are using downriggers but some are using planer boards or dipseys and high-lines for salmon. Catch rates for chinook did drop off over the past week but a few were still targeting them near the mouth of the Au Train River and along the shore near Scott Falls. Dense fog due to cold water temperatures has restricted anglers from venturing too far from shore.

**Munising:** Boat anglers caught a mix of chinook, splake and lake trout but catch rates have slowed. Most are fishing in Munising Bay and around Grand Island. Surface water temperatures were 45 to 52 degrees. Pier angling was slow and catch rates were poor with only a couple small splake taken on worms or spawn.

**Grand Marais:** Pier angling dropped off as catch rates decreased dramatically. The average size of whitefish also decreased. Some did catch the occasional coho, pike or menominee. Evening was better than morning fishing. Boat angling activity has shifted mainly to lake trout fishing. Excellent catches were reported north and west of the bay from three to six miles out in the shipping channels and near Sable Point. Most of the fish were between 2 and 4 pounds but a few bigger ones were also caught and several reported limit catches. Shore anglers near the marina reported slow catch rates with only a few coho, pike or steelhead caught.

**St. Mary's River:** Fishing is getting better for Atlantic salmon as we approach the month of July. Eight and ten pound fish are being caught throughout the day casting fly type baits or trolling slender crank baits 4 to 6 feet below the surface along the entire length of the discharge side of the power plant.

Lake whitefish are also being caught drifting wax worms on the discharge side. In the bay off Lake Nicolet, a few walleye were caught in the evening in 4 to 6 feet when using bottom bouncers, gold spinner blades with crawler harnesses. Lake George had excellent pike fishing when trolling 6 inch crank baits in and around Gem Island and Hay Pointe. It seems the walleye fishing has slowed. The water is still cold in Raber Bay and near Lime Island. No walleye to report. Maud Bay is producing some nice smallmouth bass 16 to 18 inches. Try jigging tube baits off the rocky points in 4 to 6 feet.

**Detour:** Had no reports on walleye off Sweets Point. Again, cold water temperatures seem to slow the bite. Those heading out caught a few Atlantic salmon, lake trout and chinook around the lighthouse when using blue, green and white or gold spoons.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Those fishing with chubs for pike are doing well along the south and east shores of Hessel Bay and off the marina pier early or late, in Musky Bay, Middle Entrance, and along the north shore of Government Bay. Perch fishing in Cedarville Bay is fair, and bass fishing remains good. Try casting spinner baits in shallow water.

**St. Ignace:** The city launch and the Carp River have been slow.